

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

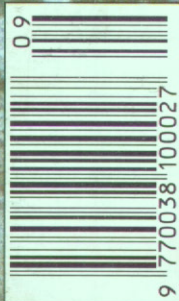
September 1998 £1.60

SOLDIER

**White water,
white knuckles**

ALSO INSIDE

- Chay Blyth: My ultimate challenge
- Our men in Washington
- Smallest army in the world?





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Incorporating the
Territorial Army Magazine



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Time to be seen
again in uniform?

SOLDIER to soldier

You will
probably
tell us...

NOT MANY journalists will admit it, but we are upset not so much by occasional publication of minor mistakes, but by readers bringing them to the notice of the world.

This is why we sometimes use little fact-fudgers: words like *probably* or *allegedly*. Question marks are also useful, as in our feature about the Falkland Islands Defence Force (Page 18): *The smallest army in the world?*

Thanks to this we can say when challenged that we were only suggesting the FIDF *might* be the smallest army.

Journalistic fudging notwithstanding, we must now anticipate those letters telling us that there is, in fact, one smaller army on Pitcairn Island or the like.

So we'll see you on the letters page, and don't hold back – as if we needed to tell you.

Prime target

For decades the nuclear warheads of the USSR were pointed towards strategic targets in the west. The Russians considered the most important of these to be Ground Zero – a place in the middle of the Pentagon which they thought was the main control centre.

When the Iron Curtain came down and Mr Gorbachev visited Washington, he went to Ground Zero and was highly amused to find that the prime target for all those years had actually been a café where staff buy their "Pentagon Burgers" and Cokes.
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Our men in Washington

On the other side of the Atlantic, military staff working in the British Embassy, Washington have to be diplomats as well as soldiers

Reports: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE SMALL green outline of the British Isles next to a map of America was a startling reminder of the difference in size between the two countries.

The image was behind the desk of the Military Attaché to Washington, Brig Dick Baly. The United States of America is 40 times larger than its former colonial master, and the whole of the UK could fit comfortably into the state of Texas with room to spare. But in the 220 years since America declared itself independent of its British cousin, the relationship between the two countries has gone from strength to strength. This is particularly true from a military point of view.

"They regard us as extremely good allies," said Brig Baly at what is probably Britain's most important embassy in the world. "They admire the British Army's ability to perform well and when there is an international crisis it is always the British and Americans who go in together. We have a very close relationship, and it is our job to make sure the Atlantic bridge is a firm one."

The Military Attaché (MA) and his staff provide the headquarters for the British Army in America, giving support and back-up for exchange and liaison officers spread out across the country working mainly in US Army bases. On behalf of the Chief of the General Staff they provide a continuous two-way flow of information between the two nations' armies.

DIPLOMATS

Brig Baly, who works closely with the Pentagon, is responsible for giving military advice to the Ambassador, keeping him up-to-date on what the British Army is doing and what relevance it has on Anglo-American relations. These are military people carrying out military jobs, but they must remember to be diplomats as well.

"We may be America's number one ally, but we can't afford to take that for granted," he explained. "We have to work at it. That is why we have high-quality people here. The Washington staff and liaison

and exchange officers are hand-picked for their abilities, and are not people who are going to upset the relationship.

"You have to be diplomatic – part of the job is within the diplomatic community. We are not just dealing with Americans but have to interface with the other nations as well."

The importance of that relationship is paramount to the work carried out by the seven soldiers working on the British Army Staff at the Embassy. Above the Army staff sits the tri-service Defence Attaché, Maj Gen Charles Vyvyan, head of the British Defence Staff. This, including the procurement, supply, intelligence, science and equipment departments, the 18 British liaison officers and 40 exchange officers posted all around America, as well as Royal Navy and Royal

Air Force staff, amounts to nearly 600 people.

These are the people "tucking in tight" alongside the American military, as Col Martin Vine, the Assistant Military Attaché (AMA), puts it. With strong historical, cultural, economic and political links, it naturally follows that the two countries have a good defence relation-

ship as well. "We are America's key coalition partner," Col Vine said. "NATO is the mainstay of our national defence policy, and Article 5 cements the two countries to one another. We want to be fully interoperable when we go to war – in the same way we were during Desert Storm."

"Interoperability" is the current buzzword in the military corridors of the Embassy. It means that the British Army must be able to keep up with the American Army in technology and doctrine, so that, in the event of a war, they can slot in seamlessly next to each other on the battlefield.

MISSION

This is echoed in the British Defence Staff's mission statement, which is: "To further UK interests in the US and thereby contribute to the delivery of a more effective operational capability."

By the very nature of their jobs, Col Vine says, there are "more chiefs than Indians". Not that there is much of the Wild West in the leafy neighbourhood where the embassy is situated. Most of the 150 foreign embassies in Washington are on Massachusetts Avenue, known as "Embassy Row", and the British Embassy occupies one of the prime sites.

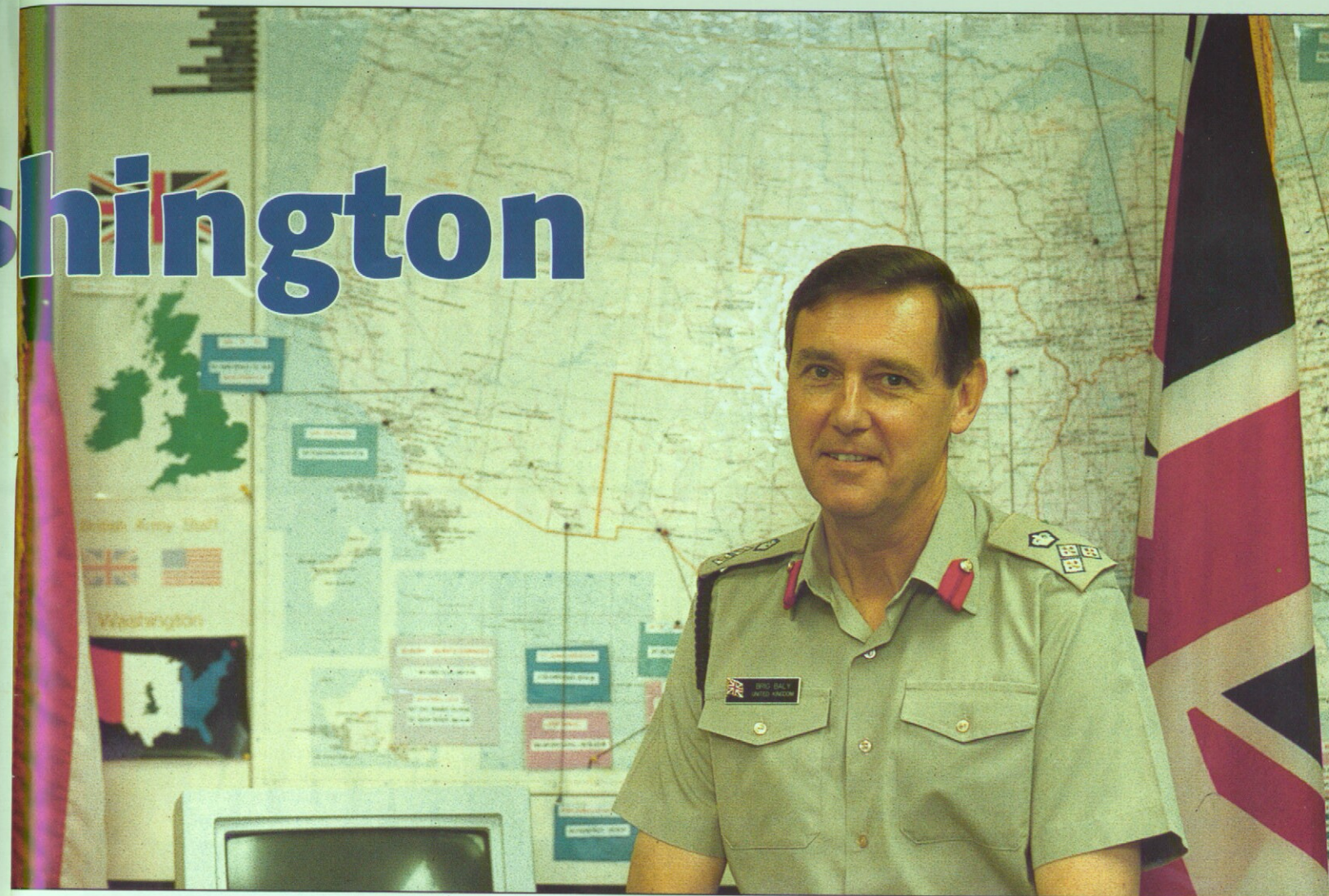
The modern office building is next to a

Post haste for first address

POSTAL staff at the British Embassy in Washington deal with up to 300 kilos of mail a day.

Each morning about 27 bags of letters and parcels go through the post room, which is run by WO2 Rick Freeman, RLC, centre. These include politically sensitive dispatches arriving in the diplomatic bag delivered twice a week by a courier from London. All mail for the 18 British liaison officers and 40 exchange officers based around America goes through the embassy. Also working in the post room are two other RLC soldiers, Sgt Mandy Bartle, left, and Cpl Brian Jones, right.

Now there are no longer British troops in Hong Kong, Washington has the lowest British Forces Post Office number – BFPO 2.



Flying the flag: Brig Dick Baly with the outline of the UK next to a map of the USA

On the spot: Left, Maj Daren Bowyer, Capt Jonathan Biggart and Maj Kevin Stafford



beautiful old mansion house which is the Ambassador's residence. A statue of Winston Churchill stands outside with one foot on British soil and the other on American, symbolising his American and British lineage.

The MA and AMA are assisted by two majors, a captain and two senior NCOs. Maj Darren Bowyer, RE is the Chief of Staff. He keeps a watching brief on military and political developments which could be significant. Information is a two-way flow to and from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the MoD in London, and is fed up through the chain to the Defence Attaché.

Maj Kevin Stafford, AGC (SPS), is in charge of personnel, and as well as dealing with conditions of service, budgets and the Investors in People programme, is particularly involved in the welfare of the British liaison and exchange officers working in America. The liaison officers are colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors, reporting to the MA and tasked by the British Army. The exchange officers, who range from lieutenant colonels to WO2s, are completely embedded in the American Army and to all intents and purposes belong to it for the duration of their postings. There are reciprocal exchanges to the UK.

"We are very lucky with the type of person who comes here," Maj Stafford said. "They are very self-sufficient and come out well-prepared, but it is important that they are not disadvantaged by being here."

"A single British family in Fort Irwin, California, with the husband away at least 20 days a month, has to know there is a support structure to fall back on. It would be very rare however for the Americans not to look after them, but we do tell the wives that we are only a telephone call or an e-mail away, even though it's thousands of miles and several time zones."

The MA and the AMA visit each station at least once a year and they are contacted weekly, usually by e-mail. A British Army staff conference is held at the Embassy once a year when they are all brought together and briefed.

More than 3,000 British soldiers a year train in America. These activities range from major exercises such as Trumpet Dance to adventurous training like the recent ill-fated Mt McKinley expedition.

Capt Jonathan Biggart, Scots DG, the SO3 at the Embassy, acts as the co-ordinator for all training in the US. Once British soldiers arrive in America they automatically become the MA's legal responsibility. There are approximately 20 military exercises a year and 50 adventure training exercises.

"I use local knowledge to check whether adventure training is feasible, and that people are suitably qualified," explained Capt Biggart. "I provide political clearance on behalf of the Foreign Office and act as a point of contact."

The embassy itself has between two and three thousand military and government visits a year, and the chief clerk, SSgt Cammy Cameron, AGC (SPS),

● Turn to Page 7

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Special report

Corridors of power

BECAUSE of the transparency and trust between the US and UK, two British officers are working in the Pentagon – the only two non-American Army Liaison Officers among 23,000 employees.

Lt Col Mike Parish, Kings, is the British Liaison Officer (BLO) Force Development, working with the US Army on Force XXI, the concept of what the Army will be like by the year 2010, and beyond to 2025 with Army After Next (AAN).

Linchpin of this is digitisation – using the most up-to-date technology – which is forcing dramatic changes in the processes, structures, training and doctrine of the US Army.

The British Army feels this work is so important that Lt Col Parish will shortly be setting up a new department at the MoD to continue the work he started at the Pentagon.

Lt Col Graeme Hazlewood, RLC

is the BLO for personnel and logistic matters, and part of his job is to observe how the US Army deals with such matters as sexual harassment, equality and racism and reports back to the Adjutant General.

"The Americans are extremely positive and very helpful to work with," he said. "There is a good groundswell of pro-British feeling, but the first thing to understand is that although we are lucky enough to speak the same language, this is a totally different culture."

EXCHANGE

Working in the Office of the Director Information Systems for Command Control Communications in the Pentagon is Maj Graham Le Fevre, Int Corps. As a British exchange officer he works in a job usually carried out by an American officer, and a reciprocal exchange takes place in Britain.

"The British Army is about three years behind the US in the technology stakes," he said. "The Americans really had to advance because their Army is so big."

The three men are working in a building which is almost a city in itself. Its construction was completed in 1943 and it is one of the world's largest office buildings.

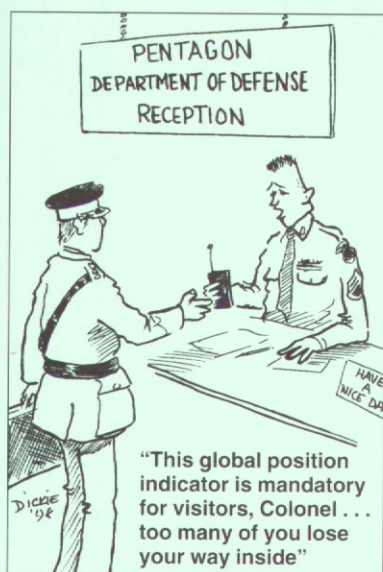
The Pentagon, headquarters of the Department of Defense, has its own subway station, 200 acres of lawn, 16 car parks, 691 water fountains, one dining room, two cafeterias, seven snack bars, 131 stairways, 19 lifts and 3,705,793 square feet of office space. Despite the 17½ miles of corridor it has been designed so that it will take only seven minutes to walk between any two points in the building.

world's only giant super-power. And although the small green map of the UK is dwarfed by the one of America, that relationship is important to both countries.

As Col Vine said: "Since the revolution, although we have had our ups and downs, the British have arguably been America's closest allies."



On the steps of the Pentagon: From bottom, liaison officer Lt Col Graeme Hazlewood, Lt Col Mike Parish, Maj Nick Holland, and Maj Graham Le Fevre



Our men in Washington

● From Page 5

spends much of his time helping to organise them, as well as making sure the administration of the British Army Staff runs smoothly.

These soldier-diplomats are playing a vital role in the special relationship between the UK and the

Sapper builds Pentagon clinic

A Royal Engineer has been helping to build a medical clinic deep under the Pentagon.

Thanks to Maj Nick Holland, when future American defence chiefs, or maybe even the President himself, trap fingers in a desk drawer or trip downstairs, all the vital services such as air-conditioning, water, drainage and heating, will be working in the clinic where they are treated.

Maj Holland, a student at the Royal School of Military Engineering, has been taking part in professional engineer training to gain his master's degree and become professionally qualified as a chartered engineer. He is the fifth British soldier to have been involved with renovation on the Pentagon.

The clinic is situated in what used to be an underground car park and will provide medical and dental facilities for the 23,000 employees working in the Pentagon. Up to 200 rooms will occupy 60,000 sq ft, and include a full tele-medicine emergency suite, X-ray rooms, immunisation departments, GP clinics, a lead-lined room for dental radiology and a pharmacy.

Maj Holland has been responsible for installing all the services such as air-conditioning, heating, compressed air, domestic water, electricity and telephone lines.

People, places, events



Picture: Sgt Paul Taylor

The Prince of Wales talks to men of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment at their barracks in Omagh, which he visited during a tour of the town devastated by a terrorist bomb. From left are Capt Eric Lowton, Capt Steve Darlington and WO2 John Harker, who were among those who volunteered to help with difficult and sensitive tasks in the aftermath of the explosion

Omagh bomb: QLR soldiers help in tragic aftermath

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, based at Lisanelly Barracks, backed up by members of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, played a vital role in supporting the police, hospital authorities and other emergency services in the bloody aftermath of the August 15 bombing in Omagh, Northern Ireland.

Twenty-eight people were killed and 220 injured when the 300lb bomb was detonated. It the worst such incident in the history of the Troubles.

There were no military patrols on the streets of Omagh when the bomb detonated, but the soldiers mobilised within minutes. The medical unit went to the scene immediately and became fully involved in giving first aid and helping ambulance crews. Soldiers provided vital security to the police and worked with RAF Puma helicopter crews to ferry the wounded to hospitals.

The battalion established a temporary mortuary within its base, and gave as much support as possible to the families of the victims who visited the facility. As the full scale of the tragedy became apparent and pleas for qualified medical assistance were broadcast by the local radio station, a number of officers' wives who are doctors went to the nearby hospital to help.

Lt Col David James, CO 1 QLR, shared the shock of many, when he said: "This was a tragic event in a small market town where the battalion has been made to feel welcome over the last year. Our thoughts are with those who suffered as a result of this terrible act." He said it was "miraculous" no one from the battalion was caught in the blast.

He briefed the Prince of Wales, who visited the stricken town four days later, on the operation.

Cyprus families lose all in fires

Commander's residence destroyed as bush blaze hits Episkopi Garrison

A RAGING inferno has swept through part of Episkopi Garrison, destroying 13 officers' quarters and the official residence of the Commander of British Forces Cyprus, Maj Gen Angus Ramsay.

It started as a small bush fire in the early afternoon of August 10 but, fanned by a strong wind, quickly spread and headed straight for the British military housing areas in North and South Paramali.

More than 700 people, including many children home for the summer holidays, were evacuated from 386 quarters.

"It was sweeping through the estate so fast people were leaping into their cars and driving away from the flames, sometimes through them," said Capt Jon Brown, of the British Forces Public Information Office. "The people whose houses were gutted have lost all their belongings, absolutely everything."

A small bungalow belonging to a member of staff of the commander was also burned down. Many other houses were damaged by the heat and it was to be at least three days before the occupants could return to live in them.

Air House, Maj Gen Ramsay's residence, has been the home of British commanders in Cyprus since 1956. Situated on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean, it contained oil paintings, Persian carpets



Soldiers from 1 LI wait to board an Argentinian Huey from the UN Flight in Nicosia during damping-down operations after the big fire at Episkopi Garrison

and gifts from royal guests. Maj Gen Ramsay, who also lost all his belongings in the blaze, told fire-fighters not to endanger their lives saving the house.

He described the fire as "devastating" and said everything would be done to help those people who had lost their houses and possessions. He paid tribute to all the fire-fighters.

The Defence Fire Service was helped by about 600 soldiers from the Sovereign Base and others in the island on a Lion Sun exercise, and

fire engines from the Cypriot Fire Brigade and United Nations. An 84 Squadron RAF helicopter under-slung with a large water container flew over the area continuously. It took 12 hours to contain the blaze, and the following day was spent beating out small outbreaks of fire and carrying out damping-down operations.

An urgent request was sent to all divisions for forest-fire beaters for Cyprus. The manufacturers could not provide enough for three weeks.

Naafi strikes Germany deal

NAAFI has won a £500 million contract to provide catering and services support for 25,000 Army personnel and dependants in Germany.

The organisation, which has been providing food, drink and leisure facilities for Britain's Armed Forces since 1921, won the seven-year contract jointly with Eurest Support Services in competition with 34 other companies. About 100 new jobs will be created.

The deal will go a long way towards ensuring Naafi's long-term future after serious financial problems. It came less than 18 months after the company lost a similar contract to supply food to the Armed Forces in Britain.

"I am confident that our alliance with Eurest Support Services, as part of our new approach of using leaders in particular business areas, coupled with our understanding of the Armed Forces, will ensure we continue to provide a world class value-for-money service," said Geoffrey Dart, Naafi chief executive.

The contract will be run by Naafi Support Services, a division of Naafi. It will supply catering, cleaning and, where relevant, front-of-house services to 114 messes and 38 Service schools in 150 locations across Germany.

IN BRIEF

A detachment of Scots Guards from London-based F Company provided the first British guard of honour to greet a visiting head of the Irish Defence Forces when Lt Gen Gerard McMahon, the Chief of Staff, visited Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, at the MoD.

● About 1,000 troops from Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade "invaded"

Devon and Cornwall last month during their ten-day Exercise Gryphon's Eye. Brigade Commander Brig Mark Elcomb said the West Country had proved an excellent location for airmobile training.

● Vosper Thornycroft, the ship-building group, has begun a five-year, multi-million pound contract to provide a range of training, maintenance and administra-

tive services at the Army's School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon, Hants.

● Formal certificates of appreciation have been issued by the Lower Saxony Government to 7 Armoured Brigade units involved in the rescue operations following the high-speed rail crash at Eschede near Celle on June 3.

● Nearly 1,200 British Servicemen and women and cadets took part in the 82nd Nijmegen Marches in Holland. A team from 3 Armoured Field Ambulance RAMC provided medical back-up.

● Soldiers from 58 (Eyre's) Battery, 12 Regiment RA on duty at Drumcree gave first aid to a young mother found unconscious in her home at Portadown.

Colin's sword of honour

LCpl Colin Fuller, pictured, proudly shows off the Cutler's Sword which he won in a new competition sponsored by the Director of Infantry, Brig the Hon Seymour Monro, to encourage drummers in Infantry battalions.

LCpl Fuller, who was serving with the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, at Canterbury, transposed hymn music to accompany singing at the battalion's memorial service for the Princess of Wales, and played individual pieces during the presentation of new Colours and on other ceremonial occasions.

The competition, a first for the drums platoons of English and Welsh line regiments and the Foot Guards, is named in honour of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, who agreed to donate an 1895-pattern drummer's sword each year as a prize. It will identify individuals who have demonstrated flair and ability, shown the greatest potential musically and militarily, and reached the highest ranks in drumming.



The buck stops here . . .

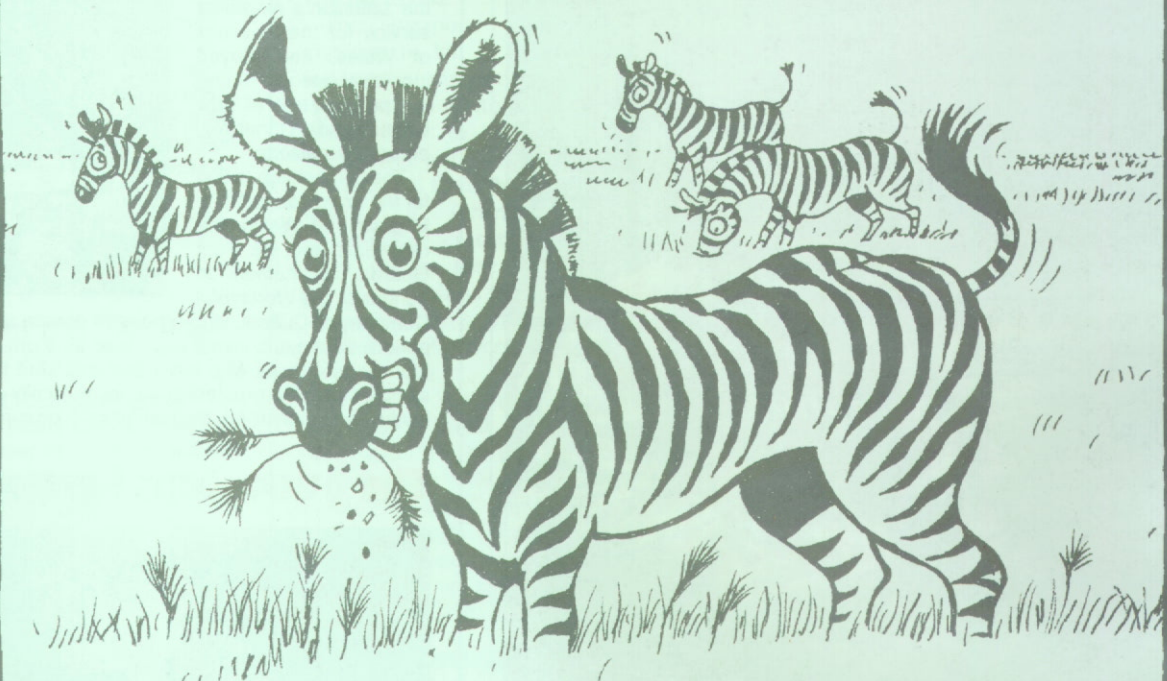


Mascot handler Sgt Paul Martin, left, and Capt John Stott, the adjutant, both attached to 5 RRF, introduce five-week-old Bobby VIII, the brand new Indian black buck mascot of the The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Bobby is one of the few wild animals kept as a mascot in the British Army. He will always be accompanied by two handlers when on parade. Although Indian black bucks normally live for ten years in the wild, Bobby VII was 15 when he died.

The antelope was adopted as the regimental mascot in 1968. It appeared on the cap badge of The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers, one of the regiments amalgamated that year to form the RRF.

Picture: Mike Weston

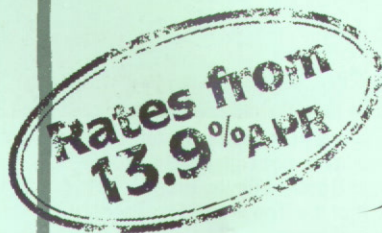
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SY318

People, places, events

Paras jump into Albania

BRITISH parachutists jumped into southern Albania at the beginning of a NATO exercise which involved more than 1,700 soldiers from 14 nations.

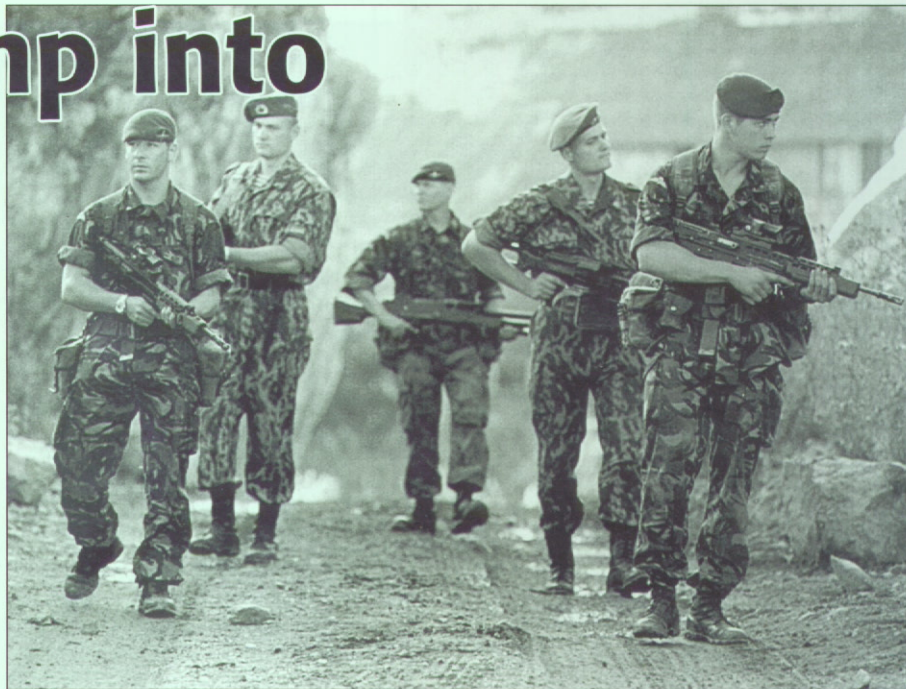
The Partnership for Peace exercise, called Co-operative Assembly, was aimed at improving inter-operability between the exercising forces as well as promoting peace and stability in the region and emphasising NATO's interest in the area.

Seventy soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment spearheaded the British contingent, parachuting on to the Bize training area as part of a force demonstration.

Company commander Maj James Bashell said: "Our aim is to improve and exchange light infantry skills at platoon level in a variety of typical peacekeeping settings.

"We're hoping to foster understanding on a range of peace support operation skills, including humanitarian assistance, medical and infrastructure repair operations, as well as airlift and air supply."

It was the third PFP exercise in Albania.



Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

Together: British and Russian paras patrol together during Exercise Co-Operative Assembly at Bize in southern Albania. Seventy men of 2 Para jumped on to the training area

Services go it alone on global sail race

WITH THE start of the Transglobe ocean sailing race less than three months away, the Services have split from their civilian partner, the Royal Ocean Racing Club. It will now be a purely military event.

The RORC withdrew because insufficient civilian crews signed up, but military organisers, based at the Combined Service Sailing Centre in Gosport, decided to go ahead. Now Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Army boats are being prepared to compete against each other in some of the most difficult sailing conditions.

The route remains much as planned, with crew exchange and re-supply stops at eight ports on most continents. The start and finishing lines have been moved from the Caribbean to the UK. Three yachts will cross the Solent start line on November 7, returning to Britain shortly before New Year 1999 and crossing the finishing line within sight of the Millennium Dome.

Responsibility for organising the year-long adventure is now that of a small, exclusively military team, including Army

representative Capt John Broadley. Princess Anne, a keen sailor, has agreed to be the race's patron. Links have been established with the Royal British Legion and the start will tie in with the Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance.

Corporate sponsorship remains a challenge, but the team received a welcome boost to its confidence when Personal Accident Insurance contributed £20,000.

Nearly 700 Servicemen and women, half of them soldiers, applied to crew the boats.

HC wins peace sword

THE Household Cavalry has been awarded the 1997 Wilkinson Sword of Peace for humanitarian work in Bosnia.

Noting that the regiment's presence in the region has become "almost a tradition", Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General and chairman of the selection committee, said: "The regiment really has made a great contribution to maintaining peace in Bosnia."

EOD expert dies on Vimy Ridge

AN ARMY officer with a remarkable career in Northern Ireland bomb disposal died while excavating the entrance to a tunnel system beneath a First World War battlefield.

Lt Col Michael Watkins of the Royal Logistic Corps was working with fellow members of an association dedicated to surveying tunnels when one side of the deep pit in which he was working collapsed. He had just located the opening to a tunnel.

A colleague, Lt Col (Retd) Philip Robinson, was buried up to his chest, but survived.

Lt Col Watkins, head of safety at the Directorate of Land Service Ammunition at Didcot, Oxfordshire, was exploring the site while on leave, but as part of an approved Army exercise, Deep Charge 5. The team's work had the blessing of the French authorities and the Canadian Government, which owns Vimy Ridge.

Surveying the battlefield tunnels, some of which have been undisturbed for 80 years, is considered important because they were often filled with explosives.

As a leading bomb disposal officer with years of experience in Northern Ireland, Lt Col Watkins had rendered many terrorist bombs safe and saved many lives.

Sex-change RSM awaits medical decision

A REGIMENTAL sergeant major could make military history by becoming the first transsexual to serve in the Army.

Sgt Maj Joe Rushton, of 6 Battalion REME based in Tidworth, has begun a course of hormone replacement therapy and is planning a full sex change to become a woman. He is

waiting for the results of a medical board to see whether he remains fit enough to do his job.

The Army has no policy of excluding transsexuals from being recruited or serving in the Armed Forces and considers the matter to be a personal one between Sgt Maj Rushton and his employer.

People, places, events



Picture: Cassidy and Leigh

Club mates: Eric Tomkins, left, and WO2 Holmes

Saved... on 17th green

AN off-duty soldier kept a golfer alive for 25 minutes with artificial respiration and heart massage after the man had a massive heart attack.

WO2 Rick Holmes, a dog trainer with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, was playing against 60-year-old Eric Tomkins in a competition at Alder-shot Army Golf Club.

"There was no warning at all," said WO2 Holmes. "There were four of us playing in pairs, and we were all-square on the 17th hole. It was my shot and he offered to hold the flag for me, looking as fit as a fiddle."

"I was just about to putt for a birdie, which would have put us in a very strong position for the match, when he collapsed heavily and crashed to the ground."

WO2 Holmes put Mr Tomkins in the recovery position and observed him while his partner went for help. Suddenly Mr Tomkins's pulse and breathing stopped and WO2 Holmes started mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He continued until the ambulance crew arrived 20 minutes later.

"At the end I was exhausted," he said. "I was doing the resuscitation on my own. I don't have any special medical training, just what the Army teaches us for the annual first-aid test we all have to do. It was an automatic reaction, I didn't think about it at the time, but I'm very pleased. I just knew I had to keep going until the ambulancemen got there."

"When they arrived they immediately got to work on him. They did a great job and had to use the defibrillator several times to get the heart working, but they said I had kept him alive."

WO2 Holmes was called by Mr Tomkins's wife later that evening who said that her husband had recovered. The doctors told her that he had not suffered brain damage because resuscitation was started immediately.

● How Army training saves lives – Page 63

Soldiers in Kenya save bomb trio

NOTHING had prepared Capt Rhyl Jones RE for the sight that greeted him when he arrived at the US Embassy in Nairobi shortly after a massive bomb had blown it to pieces.

"It was just total devastation," he told *Soldier*. "Nothing prepares you for that sort of thing."

Yet, amid the carnage which claimed the lives of 247 and injured more than 5,000, British soldiers found three people alive.

Capt Jones said: "One man was called Moses. He looked in a bad way when we got him out, but we have been told that he is going to recover."

The men who saved his life were Sgt Gus Thompson RE, Cpl Adam Davidson REME and LCpl Paul Jones REME.

Soldiers from the British Army Training Liaison Team in Kenya, based at Kahawa Barracks on the

northern outskirts of the city, recovered 25 bodies from the rubble.

"The whole place was in complete confusion. Thousands of people were trying to assist. Helicopters from the media were causing chaos and the traffic was all choked up. It was absolutely devastating."

Capt Jones, BATLSTK garrison engineer, quickly appraised the situation. "There was no real organisation. Not until we arrived," he said.

Capt Jones put up a cordon and carried out a risk assessment "to see if anything else was going to collapse".

Next he organised teams of his soldiers, civilian engineers from the High Commission and US personnel. They were equipped with pumps, hoses, cutting equipment, lifting gear, blankets and medical equipment.

British soldiers continued working until US and Israeli troops arrived.



Picture: Mike Weston

In columns: Officer cadets rehearse for the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Academy, Sandhurst. This view of the parade ground is from above the Grand Entrance during the General's Inspection by the Commandant, Maj Gen Arthur Denaro. The Sovereign's Parade itself was taken by Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord

IN BRIEF

SEVEN soldiers from Bulford-based 249 Signal Squadron (AMF(L)) saved a climber after an 80ft fall left him with a broken pelvis and fractured skull. The troops, on exercise on Buachaille Etive Mor in Glencoe, Scotland, gave first aid, alerted rescue services, and helped carry the stretcher 900ft down the mountain.

● A charity concert was staged by 14

Supply Regiment RLC at Dulman to mark the final chapter in the unit's history as it approached disbandment. The regiment also exercised its Freedom of Dulman by parading through the town, and held a special ceremony in Tower Barracks.

● Welsh Guardsmen celebrated their Freedom of Swansea on July 30 by marching through the city. Old comrades



Standard practice: The Royal Dragoon Guards proudly receive their new standard during a royal ceremony staged in heavy rain at Tidworth

RDG sets standard for the 21st century

DESPITE appalling weather, more than 1,000 people watched the Prince of Wales present a new standard to The Royal Dragoon Guards at Tidworth.

Soldiers, bandmen and pipers braved driving rain during the parade, which VIPs and old comrades had travelled from all over Britain to see. Prince Charles, the Colonel-in-Chief, and the Duchess of Kent, Colonel of the regiment, flew in by helicopter and travelled from the landing site to the polo field parade ground in a horse-drawn open-top carriage. The Duchess was protected from the elements by a see-through "bubble" umbrella, but the Prince, in uniform, made no concession to the weather.

The red-and-gold standard was consecrated and then presented by the Prince of Wales. During his

speech he paid tribute to the regiment, which although formed only in 1992, has a long history with the two amalgamated regiments of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, dating back to the 18th century.

"I always enjoy my visits to the regiment and feel I have some understanding of the very high standard of the Dragoons which has been reflected in this parade," said the Prince. "The regiment will carry this standard with pride and fighting spirit into the 21st century."

With battle honours including Blenheim, Waterloo, Balaklava, Ladysmith, Mons, the Somme, Dunkirk, the Normandy landings and Korea, the soldiers of the regiment have always been "the heavies of the British Army", he said.

and members of the Swansea branch of the Welsh Guards Association also took part in the parade. It was the 50th anniversary of the regiment being granted the honour.

● The 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers marched through Carmarthen to mark their honour of the Right of Entry to the town.

● Territorial Army soldiers from The London Regiment have completed a two-week Lion Star exercise in Cyprus.

● A framed friendship scroll has been presented by the city of Dundee to 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance (V). The scroll, marking the unit's 50 years in the city, was received by the commanding officer, Lt Col Ray Moodie.

Bassingbourn war paint



Camming up at the Army exhibition for schools at Bassingbourn is Samantha Patis from Francis Bardley School, Romford, Essex. Applying the camouflage is Sgt John Richards, SEME Bordon. Mobile display teams from the AGC, RA, RE, REME, Infantry, RLC, AAC, Household Cavalry, RAC and Parachute Regiment provided a range of events for the children, including inter-active stands, obstacle courses and paintballing. There were also football, volleyball and .22 shooting competitions.

The Tigers freefall display team of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Flying Gunners and massed bands put on an arena display and a battle scene was acted out by the Royal Anglians. Army musicians organised a workshop.

Picture: Mike Weston

Baptism of fire

Battlefield weapons are sophisticated and deadly but they will never replace the most lethal weapon of all... the infantryman who uses them. We visited the infantry training centre where platoon leaders hone their skills

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

PUT it down to bad luck or bad planning, but of all the places the Argentines could have chosen to invade, they had to pick the one which most closely resembles the Brecon Beacons – home to the Infantry Training Centre, Wales.

So when British troops were called upon to liberate the Falklands, the soldiers knew what to expect. For it is on Brecon's hills that platoon leaders learn their craft; the skills needed to succeed on the battlefield. Instructors try and make training as realistic as possible. Brecon is their baptism of fire.

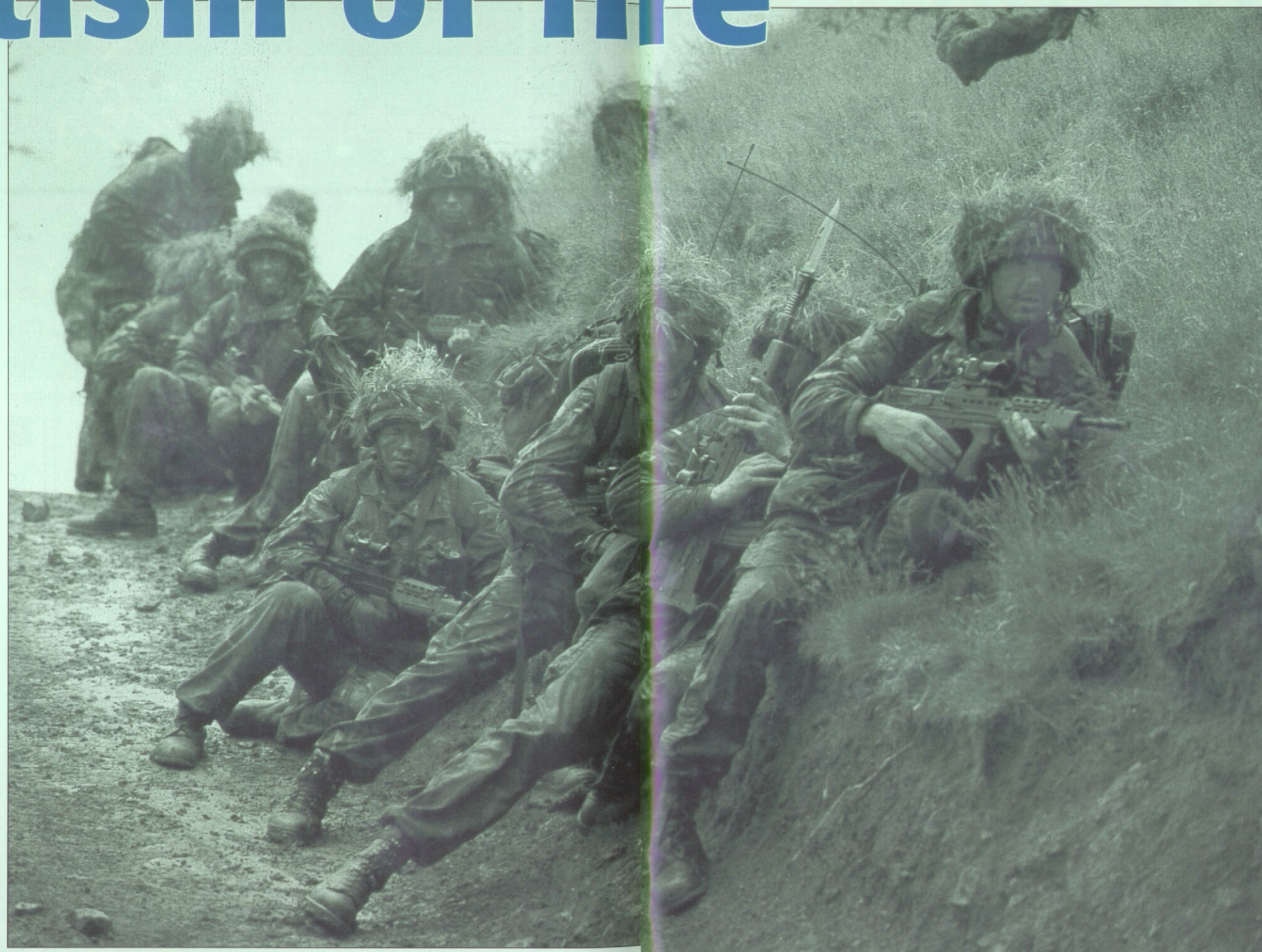
The soldiers pictured here were taking part in the final exercise on the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course Phase 1 (Tactics). This exercise takes place three times a year on Sennybridge Training Area. The company had to advance to contact, drawing on an assortment of assets including GPMG, 81 and 51 mortars and Milan. Throughout, live rounds were used.

TORNADO HIT

Additionally the company was given support from two Tornados which hit dug-in positions before the advance.

Lt Col Pat Butler, a Para who is in charge of training policy at the centre, said: "This establishment is unique because we are the only school in the British Army which specialises in teaching tactics and leadership to the junior commander, the corporal, the sergeant.

"We are also unique in the world for the way in which we go about that training with a heavy emphasis on dismounted close combat. And we are trying to give the students as much exposure to the real-



Uphill struggle: Soldiers advance on the enemy during an exercise in the Beacons

ities of war as it is possible to do in a safe teaching environment."

Soldiers soon got a taste of this "exposure" as they hit the ground running after they were dropped in by Lynx helicopters. The adrenaline was pumping almost as fast as the bullets as the troops advanced towards the enemy. Mortars were lobbed

in to soften up the targets, while battle commanders calculated the best way to reach their objectives.

The weapons and kit are modern but otherwise things have not changed very much on the battlefield for 500 years. After the air support, mortars and artillery have done their job, the infantryman comes into his own.

"Someone observing this kind of situation used the term medieval," said Lt Col

Butler. "Actually it is not far off the mark. From this point on not a lot has changed.

"We still have to close and kill the enemy. They still have a bayonet at the end of a rifle. The weights they are carrying are still virtually the same as they were in the First World War. All that we do is use ground, we think, a little better than some of our predecessors."

It's one thing to sit in a classroom and to conduct a deep and meaningful debate

about the most advantageous way to take out a machine-gun position. Quite another when it's cold, wet, pitch black, you've been in the field for three days and the whiz-bangs are going off all around you.

It is only in this type of pressure situation that lessons are learned that could mean the difference between victory or defeat, life or death. And there's no better teacher than ITC Wales.

Living memorial to gallant heroes

IT was Lt Col Pat Butler's idea to build a living memorial to soldiers who have passed through the infantry training school and gone on to win gallantry awards.

The plan is to raise £130,000 for the erection of the statue which will be mounted on an outcrop of Welsh rock. If everything goes to plan the statue will be unveiled for the millennium.

To get a feel for her subject, sculptor Anita Lafford has spent a lot of time on the Sennybridge Training area watching battle-field courses. The sculpture will consist of two figures which capture the energy, challenge and determination of leadership.

Sgt Danny Coyle of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, currently serving at ITC Wales, has been selected to model for the statue, a task for which he is well suited. He has served in the infantry for the past 13 years in Canada, Kenya and Germany, comes from Blackwood and recently moved to Brecon.



Lt Col Pat Butler

He said: "I know £130,000 is a lot of money, but as an NCO in a Welsh regiment I feel this statue is a tremendous tribute to a great tradition."

The Infantry Training Centre Wales has its antecedents in 1961 when the Parachute Regiment battle school was formed there.

Lt Col Butler told *Soldier*: "There has been a terrific throughput of students and with the rebuilding of the site a lot of the character and history of the place has been lost to an extent. "It seemed it would be a good idea that we bring together the old and the new and establish some form of inspirational design which new students could use to focus themselves on.

"For that reason we decided to erect a statue and to incorporate a wall on which can be recorded all the names of students, former and those to come in the future, who have gained medals for gallantry during their service after they have been here as a student.

"All sorts of ideas were discussed. But it seemed to us that by getting a statue we could utilise a memorial that the town can identify with, that Wales can identify with, and which the whole army can identify with."

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Bosnia briefing

From kennel to kitchen

USING skills that would have impressed Wild West ranchers, three Pioneers based in Bosnia have built a log cabin extension for an elderly Serb refugee couple.

They used recycled wooden planks from the Army dog compound in Banja Luka, and made a door from one of the old kennels.

Ptes Ian Stopford, John Billington and Brian Durkin of 518 Pioneer Squadron, RLC, decided to help Marko Bajic and his partner, Bosa Jacic, both in their late 60s, when they learnt they were living in one room no larger than an average garage. It took three days of hard work, but by the time the soldiers had finished, the extension almost doubled the living space available, providing a cooking and storage area.

Marko and Bosa met in a refugee centre after fleeing their homes during the war and have been together ever since.

"The couple were very hands-on," said Pte Stopford. "They helped us out with the sawing and hammering. They were very happy when we finished and a few tears of thanks were shed at the end."

The Pioneers' main task is to guard the headquarters of the British-led Multi-National Division based in the huge metal factory at Banja Luka. But they also patrol the surrounding area in a "hearts-and-minds" role, and while



There's no place like home: Pte John Billington, 518 Pioneer Squadron, puts the finishing touches to the log cabin extension he helped to build in Bosnia

doing this saw the plight of the two refugees.

The floor took a long time to level and old metal panels from the soldiers' own temporary accommodation were used to finish it off. Army electricians have connected them to the mains and sorted out their electrics.

"The soldiers have been a great help," said Marko. "What they have done means a great deal to us. They will always be welcome."

Welcome home packs

BRITISH soldiers have been storing and delivering "return" packs to refugees returning to their old homes in the Livno/Glamoc area.

As more and more people move back to the area, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees announced it had problems with delivering the aid packages, and 16 Sandhams (Company) Battery, 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery, offered their help.

The battery held six ISO containers containing 75 packs which will each support a family of four. They contain a small wood-burning stove, four beds with mattresses and blankets, pots, pans and kitchen utensils, large rolls of thick transparent plastic sheeting to act as temporary windows, and tents if required.

The soldiers of 16 Battery delivered more than 100 kits before ending their tour in August.



Welcome back: Soldiers of 16 Sandhams (Company) Battery, 26 Regt, RA, help refugees to move back into their home after an appeal from the UN

From baby food to party balloons

SIX years ago Cpl Nick Pettit was helping a local midwife deliver baby food to mothers with newborn babies in the Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf at the height of the civil war.

He is now back in the town as a staff sergeant with 37 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, and has helped to arrange a fun day for the very children whose lives he helped to save.

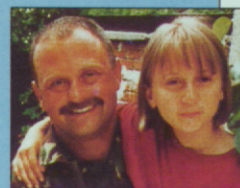
When he was last there as a section commander in 1992, the brutal war was in progress and people were starving. The local Croats and Muslims were fighting each other, and almost every house in the town was damaged or destroyed.

"When I left in June 1993 there were battles raging across the valley with artillery and mortar fire and houses in flames," said SSgt Pettit. "Now the scene is very different. There is no shooting, children are attending schools and shops are open."

He has been reunited with many of the people he met when carrying out his mercy runs with the midwife.

"Coming back and seeing friends is wonderful," he said. "But there are still problems between the two communities. The children cross the divide – the parents don't like it, but they still do."

It was because of this suspicion that Nick helped organise a fun day for the children in the Precision Factory where the engineers are based. The children came from the town's Omladinske Youth Centre, which is situated right on the former front line so that both sides can attend without having to enter one another's territory.



Hello again: SSgt Nick Pettit is reunited with a Bosnian friend made on his 1992 tour

The smallest army in the world?

Fresh from a comprehensive review, the part-time soldiers of the tiny Falkland Islands Defence Force are working closely with their Regular counterparts in the defence of their home

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE FALKLAND Islands Defence Force (FIDF) is perhaps the smallest army in the world. Man for man (and woman) this citizens' militia, an eclectic group of part-timers boasting professions which range from shepherding to dentistry, is smaller than the Vatican's largely ceremonial Swiss Guard.

But there the comparison must end, because what the Falklands' finest lack in number, they make up for in a surprisingly high degree of training, motivation and modern weaponry, all of which is tailored to an important role.

The FIDF, just 60 or so of them, but growing, and based in the capital, Stanley, works closely with the Regular garrison at nearby Mount Pleasant. There a reinforced company of Regular infantry, supported by engineers and logistics units, take on the brunt of the land-based defences. But increasingly these soldiers are looking to the FIDF for the kind of local knowledge and skills which a visitor cannot acquire during a brief tour.

It is clear that in the Falklands it is quality not quantity that counts.

FIDF force commander Maj Marvin Clark – Stanley's Fire Chief in civilian life – believes that it is a sense of purpose which enables his soldiers to, as he says, "hold their own with the best". He strongly believes that, in the light of Argentina's continuing claim over the islands, a job of deterrence still needs to

be done. "We do not believe in being complacent," he said.

There has been such a deterrence since the end of the 1982 war, but the FIDF was not always part of it. The force has been through troubled times; years when membership, morale and acceptance by Regular troops were dangerously low. Some even questioned the wisdom of the Falkland Islands Government continuing to fund the force.

The decline was turned around when new staff officers at Mt Pleasant realised that a viable militia would be good for the spirit of the islanders and, more importantly, could contribute expert local knowledge and skills to the garrison.

The civilian governor, the FIDF's commander-in-chief, agreed that the Regulars should carry out an urgent review. The result was a completely re-structured and re-roled force; one which faced some demanding goals. Not least of these was the need to increase recruitment. Maj Clark was told to increase membership four-fold; from less than 30 active members to around 120.

It was, and remains, a tall order in a community which numbers just 2,400 people, including babes-in-arms and grandparents. But, some two years on from the review, both the FIDF and their Regular partners are happy with progress.

As many as 15 young men and a few women are recruited for each winter training programme, and although a proportion drop out when they realise that FIDF service is seriously demanding on their time and physical fitness, enough



Mother-in-war: Pte Denise McPhee

stay on to ensure steady growth. Now just over 40 highly-active younger members form an operational platoon and a small HQ platoon, turning out for one evening of training each week and for occasional weekend exercises. Some 20 older soldiers have been enrolled in the new reserve platoon.

The reserves include a few ex-Regulars and Royal Marines who married locally and stayed on in the islands. They attend training sessions as required, passing on the wisdom of their experience to younger soldiers.

The allocation of a specific and important role has done much to focus and motivate the FIDF. Appropriately, because this is where most FIDF members live, the force is responsible for the defence of Stanley, particularly such key points as the small domestic airport, Government House (the scene of the crucial



Harbour patrol: a section of the Falkland Islands Defence Force on exercise near Government House, the scene of fierce fighting in 1982

battle during the invasion of 1982) and the communications centres. Coping with such responsibility with so few soldiers means operating on the principle of a rapid-reaction force. Observation posts are maintained, reinforced or moved using a troop of Land Rovers and Japanese all-terrain quad bikes – the same machines recently trialled by airborne forces in Britain.

Weaponry is relatively lightweight but appropriate to the role. Unlike their Regular counterparts, FIDF members are equipped with Austrian Steyr rifles and light automatic support weapons. (Several systems were trialled, including the British SA80, but the Steyr was found to be most suited to Falklands conditions.)

In addition, the force packs light anti-armour shoulder-launched missiles and .5in Browning heavy machine-guns. These formidable weapons can be used in an anti-aircraft role, and may soon be fitted with mountings for optional use on the Land Rovers.

Re-equipping has been expensive, but Maj Clark is optimistic that the force will continue to receive the funding it needs. The Falkland Islands Government, financially independent from London, has shown its commitment to the FIDF by increasing its annual budget from a pre-

review level of less than £100,000 to almost £400,000. The FIDF of today contrasts starkly with that of the old days, when no member could totally deny its popular Dad's Army image. It was tested in action just once – in 1982, when members responded to the invasion alarm and did their best to help the small group of Royal Marines defenders.

But with some members armed only with Second World War Lee Enfield rifles and lacking radios, the widely-dispersed islanders often found themselves caught in the cross-fire between the Marines and the Argentines.

MUSEUM PIECE

It was painfully obvious that the FIDF could not provide any real opposition and they were lucky to suffer no casualties. The several thousand-strong Argentine invasion force simply took their weapons and uniforms and sent them home. An ancient Vickers machine-gun belonging to the FIDF later found its way to a museum in Buenos Aires.

No one wants to see a re-run of the invasion, although few doubt that the outcome would be very different today. The FIDF would rather prove themselves by demonstrating the ability to work closely, even compete, with their Regular partners.

In this they seem to be succeeding. The locals are fully integrated in large scale tri-service exercises which range across the islands and they frequently defeat the Regulars in inter-unit march-and-shoot competitions. Some Regulars grumble a little about the islanders having the "unfair" benefit of local knowledge, but many more respect Defence Force soldiers for their toughness.

Capt Peter Biggs (a Treasury official by day) is in charge of training, and he regularly leads winning march-and-shoot teams. In his typically restrained Falklands way, he is proud of the way his soldiers compete. "I like to think that our achievements are not so much a reflection of the Regulars doing badly as of us doing well," he said. "We train properly and it shows what we are capable of."

Not surprisingly there are plenty of indications that in the new FIDF, morale is high. As a woman and a mother in the force, Denise McPhee is hardly typical, but her sentiments are. "We're small, but we're important," she said, looking up from the Steyr which she was oiling enthusiastically. "I love it, but my main motivation is knowing that if we are not seen to be taking part in the defence of our own islands, then we can't expect others to do the job for us."

Dock and load

Soldiers from 165 Port Regiment RLC (V) were tasked with taking over the operation of Marchwood Military Port while the Regulars were on a field training exercise. The Terriers spend all year training for such a situation. So could they do it for real?

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

WO2 JIMMY Russell was having a busy morning. His men had just finished loading 2,300 tonnes on to the Sea Crusader bound for Split in Bosnia when his mobile phone started ringing. There was to be a last-minute change. A slight matter of 41 extra pallets.

WO2 Russell finished the phone call and started walking briskly towards the ship, bellowing out instructions in a voice that could be heard a couple of nautical miles off-shore. "To be a quay foreman you've got to be the type of person who is not afraid to make decisions," he told *Soldier*. "You may upset people but at the end of the day you have got to get the job done."

And getting the job done was what is was all about for the soldiers of 165 Port Regiment RLC (V). They had taken over the running of Marchwood in its entirety from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC. This time the TA soldiers were not being used as back-up. They were doing the job for real.

As foreman, WO2 Russell was charged with the day-to-day running of the port. But he was quite used to the responsibility. In civvy street he does the same job at Liverpool Docks.

The quay foreman's job is crucial to the smooth running of the docks. Nothing moves through Marchwood without his being aware of it. "There's always something going on," he said, as he fielded



Removal men: Sgt Mo Joiner, left, who works as a ganger, and quay foreman WO2 Russell take in the view from the top deck of the Sea Crusader, which was being loaded for Split

another call on his way back to the control room.

Marchwood is a unique establishment. It is the only secure military port in the country. It can handle consignments by rail and by road. Its importance was underlined during the Falklands War and more recently during the Bosnia crisis.



Lt Col Mathias

Lt Col David Mathias, CO of 165 Port Regt RLC (V), said that as far as he was aware it was the first time a TA regiment had taken over from Regular Army soldiers to carry out their duties.

"For this period we have taken over the running of the port lock, stock and barrel. We have also taken over the running of the garrison and the station, a unique occasion."

"We are actually moving Falkland Island cargoes, we are loading and unloading the Bosnia supply ship, and we are unloading a ship from Antwerp coming back from the British Army in Germany. We are dealing with vehicles, aggregate and equipment."

The sheer weight of tonnage being moved through the docks was staggering. The quay foreman works closely with a

ganger who decides where the cargo will sit in the ship, and a mover who checks everything is in place.

"As far as possible we mirror the capability of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment," Lt Col Mathias said. "We supplement the Regulars and/or replace them in the field. The benefit really is to have a highly-flexible port and maritime organisation, half of which is Regular, half Reservist, which can supplement one another or replace one another."

"The benefit that this gives to the defence of the nation is vastly out of proportion to the number of people we are talking about."



Maj Siebenaller

These multi-skilled troops have taken their expertise around the world. WO2 Russell has been to Split four times, the last as a surge team commander.

"The full range of logistic specialisations and skills can be found here," said Lt Col David Mathias. "So you've got drivers, cooks, seamen, navigators, engineers, store managers and stevedores."

This versatility makes the regiment extremely cost-effective. Recruitment is carried out nationwide but a high percentage of personnel come from Liverpool and Southampton.

There is also a maritime element to the



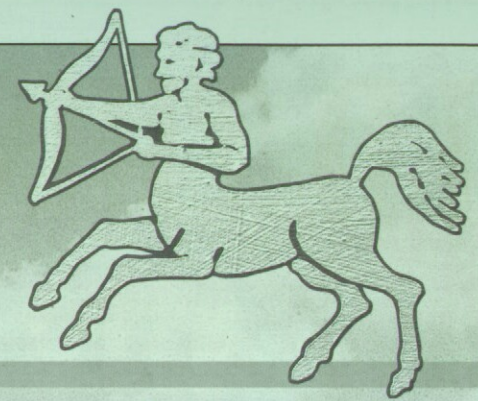
Crane takes the strain: LCpl Tom Gary, inset, prepares to hoist a container with the assistance of Pte John Williams and LCpl Mike Cruse

port. Soldiers are trained in the application of the Mexeflote, a combination powered raft system designed to transfer vehicles and materials from ship to shore. They could also be used to help rearrange cargo once it has been loaded on board.

The strong relationship between the Regulars and the TA means there is a lot of traffic between the regiments. When a soldier leaves the Regulars he could find himself doing a similar job in familiar surroundings if he joined his TA colleagues.

The Marchwood deployment was a success. Maj Mark Siebenaller, OC 266 Port Squadron, was pleased with the seamless transition between the Regulars and the TA. "The men have acquitted themselves superbly," he said.

Centaur's lead charge



Air defence brigade deploys on its first major exercise since re-formation

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Terry Champion

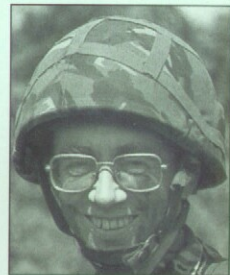
IF we go to war the outcome could be decided by men like Bdr Kevin Campbell. It would be his job to stop enemy aircraft getting through. As an operator of Rapier Field Standard C (FSC), he would play a vital role in 7 Air Defence Brigade's integration into the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Bdr Campbell and the rest of 16 Regiment RA were given an opportunity for the re-formed 7 AD Bde to show what it can do in its first major exercise, Centaur's Charge.

Five air defence regiments were involved, consisting of 2,000 men and 800 vehicles. The exercise moved from Sennybridge to Thetford, Norfolk, and then up the east coast of England through Lincolnshire, Otterburn and on to the border regions of Scotland, deploying to more than 40 sites along the way.

Maj Andy Astbury, Deputy Chief of Staff, HQ 7AD Bde, told *Soldier* the brigade's role in a time of war is to provide air defence for ARRC.

"This exercise is really about assessing the effectiveness of the brigade to be able to communicate, move and also for the detachments to live and work in the field, moving considerable distances."



Maj Andy Astbury

INTEGRATED

Maj Astbury praised the way the TA elements of the brigade integrated with the Regulars on the exercise. "They are enthusiastic. They are here because they want to be."

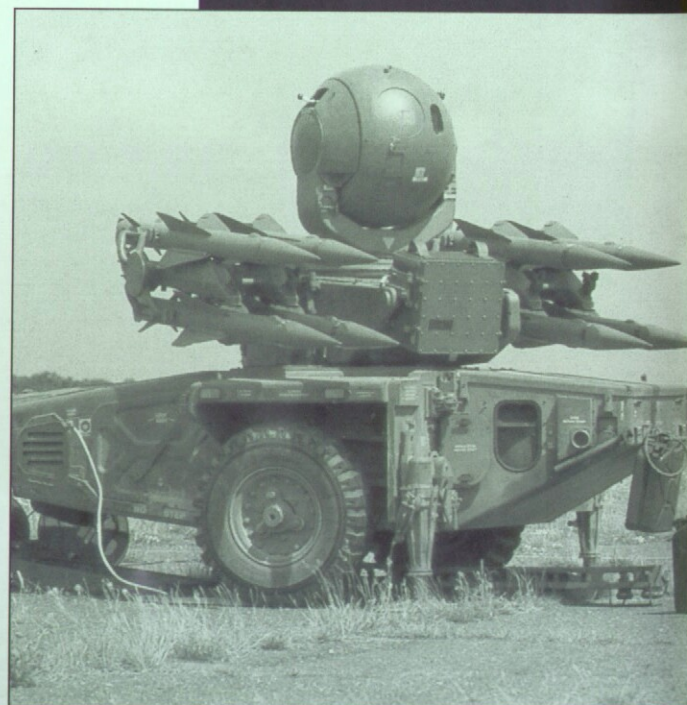
The brigade's badge is a centaur, hence the name of the exercise. This choice of emblem is appropriate because the centaur, a Greek mythological figure, was



My aim is true: Bdr Campbell, above

Incoming: Javelin operators Gnr Grant Edmundson and Sgt John Davidson, right, of 105 Regiment RA, spot an intruder during Centaur's Charge

Ready to fire: Rapier Field Standard C, below, is part of the brigade's backbone



Brigade's incongruous union reflects diverse strengths

THE 7th Air Defence Brigade was re-formed on April 1, 1997 close to the 20th anniversary of the disbandment of 7th Artillery Brigade. The air defence designation was deemed appropriate as it indicates the brigade's primary role to provide corps-level air defence to NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps.

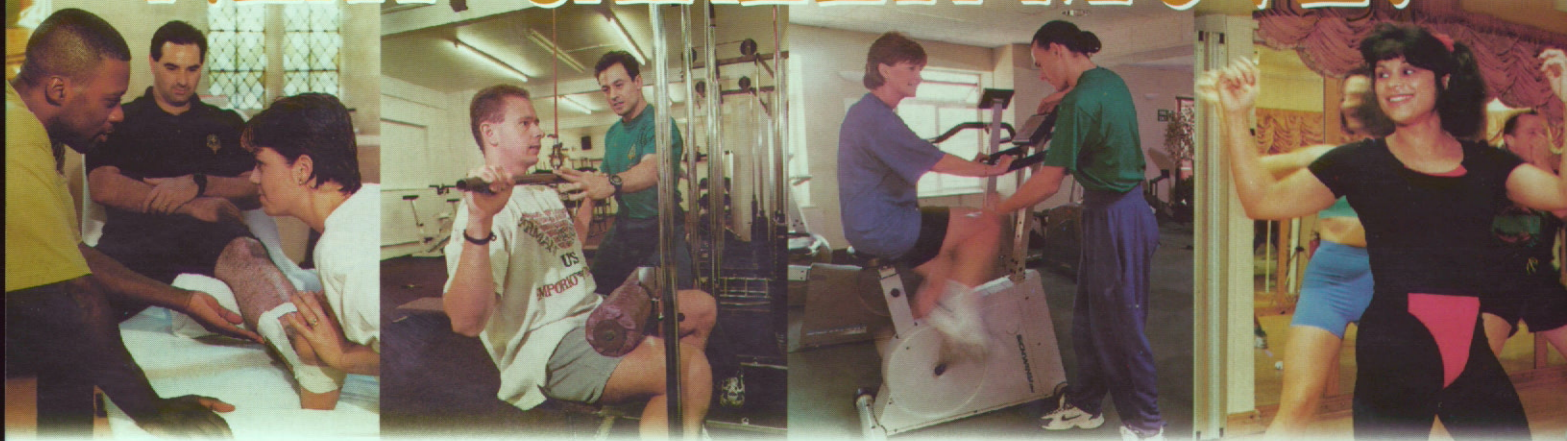
It has operational command of the five United Kingdom theatre-level air defence regiments - 16 Regiment RA, based in Woolwich and equipped with Rapier Field Standard C; 22 Regiment RA, based in Kirton-in-Lindsey and equipped with Rapier Field Standard B2; and the three Territorial Army Javelin regiments:

103, based in Lancashire; 104, based in South Wales and the West Midlands; and 105, based in Scotland with a battery in Northern Ireland and equipped with Javelin.

Brigade HQ is collocated with Headquarters Land Command in Wilton and its vehicles held in Woolwich with 16 Regt. Other posts are provided by 104 Regt and Central Volunteer HQ RA.

The headquarters also provides the focus for air defence doctrine, organisation and deployment and equipment issues in HQ Land. It also furnishes the basis for Army air defence command and control on national contingency operations.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Feature

An ex-soldier has found that military planning is as useful in the hostile world of business as it is on the battlefield

Report: Graham Bound
Picture: Mark Owen

MODEL-MAKING is a fine pursuit for boys. It keeps the hands busy and the mind healthy. But at about the same time as they start shaving, most lads accept that it is time to ditch the last Airfix Spitfire, steer the Flying Scotsman into one final Hornby 00 gauge pile-up and make amends with mother for the years of glue on the carpet. Less healthy things beckon.

However Neil Ballantyne, 37½, never did forget his liking for things miniature. The one-time officer in The King's Own Scottish Borderers and The Parachute Regiment has turned model-making into a highly successful business, employing 25 craftsmen and women who churn out more than a battalion's-worth of sculpted and painted model soldiers each month.

But these are no toys. The highly-intricate and hand-painted resin figurines, most bearing the uniforms and regalia of great British regiments, are destined for owners prepared to pay for the pleasure of having perfect little soldiers marching across their mantelpieces.

Forty per cent of the statuettes are bought by soldiers through Naafi and regimental PRIs, while others are sold through prestige outlets like Harrods in London and Jenners in Edinburgh or shipped to collectors around the world.

USA SHUTTLE

As the founder and managing director of Ballantynes of Walkerburn Ltd, Neil spends much of his busy life shuttling between his factory on the Scottish Borders, his recently-opened sales office in the USA, and other marketplaces where his models find their devoted owners.

He is (pun irresistible) a model businessman, working hard to increase his market share and maintain the loyalty of his clients. It is all textbook stuff, but Neil has not had a single day of formal business education. He insists his success stems from the experience, skills and down-to-earth common sense he acquired as a soldier. Indeed it was during his final months in the Army, while involved with fund-raising work for the



Military precision:
Neil Ballantyne
proudly inspects
one of his
company's
model soldiers

The model businessman

Paras' 50th anniversary celebrations, that his idea came to him.

The fund-raisers needed a high-quality and reasonably-priced model of a Para holding an SA80, but finding the right product was difficult. "There were models available," Neil said, "but I realised that to make money they really had to be manufactured in volume rather than by a craft business."

The idea was born, and in 1991 he did what every entrepreneur must do at some time: he went looking for money. "It was not easy. I went to the bank manager and said I wanted to make model soldiers. He just fell about laughing."

Then military thinking kicked in. "I'd learned to present my ideas well, and eventually I convinced the bank that there was very little risk, and it was worth a try."

"Since then, I've treated my business very much like a military operation. We have strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, just as in the Army. And the qualities I was taught during my Army career are paramount to running my busi-

ness: discipline, attention to detail, economy of effort, fixing a goal, dealing fairly with people... they're all vital."

Neil has done his best to maintain his Army links. His production manager and right-hand man is an ex-King's Own Scottish Borderer, and he enjoys a mutually-profitable relationship with the old soldiers of the Lord Roberts Workshops, a charity which operates under the SSAFA-Forces Help banner. Over the years, Ballantynes has paid the craftsmen there nearly £250,000 for the production of wooden plinths.

Neil is occasionally asked whether he was a model soldier. His response is a big smile and the modest admission that he was nothing particularly special. He says he misses the Army but adds quickly that he's happy with the way civilian life has worked out.

As well he might be. With an annual turnover in excess of £500,000 and a 50 per cent share of the miniature soldier market, the future looks good for this ex-soldier and his model army.

From Westminster to Wapping

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

More women are signing on

MORE women than ever – 15,777 – are serving in the three Services. Most of them, 7,471 to be exact, are employed by the Army, forming almost 15 per cent of personnel. During 1997-98 alone, 1,807 female soldiers enrolled. A further 655 have enlisted so far this financial year.

The range of Army posts now open to both sexes was increased earlier this year at the same time as the Ministry of Defence announced measures to combat sexual discrimination and harassment.

Junior Defence Minister John Spellar said: "To have the best armed forces in the world, we need the best people for the job, regardless of gender."

● Almost 18 per cent of Regular Army recruits in 1997-98 had served in the Army Cadet Force or Combined Cadet Force. More than five per cent were former TA personnel and the rest school leavers and others. It was the best year for recruiting since 1991.

Other points from Parliament:

Death penalty to end? After a lengthy and painstaking review, the Government has expressed "deep regret" over First World War executions for cowardice and desertion – and Parliament is to be invited to abolish the death penalty for military offences such as mutiny in the British Armed Forces, in peace and war.

In the Commons in July Dr John Reid, the then Armed Forces Minister, said surviving evidence did not enable a formal, legal pardon to be granted for those executed in 1914-18, who were "victims, with millions of others, of a cataclysmic and ghastly war". Accepting that some injustices may have occurred, he hoped missing names would be added to books of remembrance and memorials.

Quarantine: Agriculture Minister Lord Donoghue said on July 22 that the Advisory Group on Quarantine was due to report to ministers soon, followed by up to three months' consultation before decisions were taken. One option was a system of identification, vaccination and blood testing for pets with no exemption for Service families bringing pets home from places such as Cyprus, which is rabies-free.



Apache training: Air and ground crews for the Army's 48 new WAH-64 Apache attack helicopter will be trained by a joint venture company formed by GKN Westland Helicopters Ltd and the Boeing Company. A 30-year, £650 million partnership deal has been struck with Aviation Training International Ltd (ATIL) to prepare for the helicopter's entry into service in December 2000.

Training facilities including advanced simulators will be established at Army Air Corps bases at Middle Wallop, Watisham and Dishforth and at REME Arborfield. The three Apache regiments will each comprise two squadrons of eight aircraft.

Landmine ban: A total ban has been imposed on British use of anti-personnel landmines. Instructions have been issued to command HQs and training establishments.

● Doug Henderson moved from the Foreign Office in late July to take over as Armed Forces Minister from Dr John Reid, who was promoted to Transport Minister.

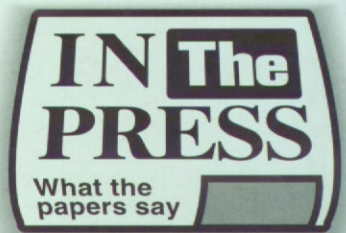
Gulf illnesses: Prof Harry Lee, a specialist in general and renal medicine and infectious diseases, has been appointed head of the Gulf Veterans' Medical Assessment Programme (MAP). He was due to start work on September 1.

BMATT extended: Britain will extend the mandate of the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) in South Africa until 2001. Set up in 1994, the team acts as an independent referee to monitor the transformation and restructuring of the SA Armed Forces.

Kneller Hall: There are no plans to move the Royal School of Military Music from Kneller Hall. But the site is among those to be considered under a Greater London development plan to identify opportunities for the most cost-effective uses of the defence estate.



Big guns: No decision has yet been taken on where the new AS90 regiment will be based, but it will be in the UK, Parliament was told. The five existing regiments will remain at Tidworth and Topcliffe in the UK and Hohne, Gutersloh and Osnabruck in Germany. Training will take place on Salisbury Plain and at Otterburn, Bergen Hohne and Graffenwehr as well as in Poland and Canada



□ According to a leaked consultative document, it is proposed that 140 TA centres will be closed, infantry locations will be cut from 182 to 53 and engineer and armoured units will be reduced by about half. – *Sunday Telegraph*

□ The Ministry of Defence is investigating evidence that pheasants have feathers that could protect soldiers from high-velocity ammunition by being used to line bullet-proof jackets. – *Sunday Times*

□ A new book, *My Boy Jack?*, says the 1992 identification of the grave of Rudyard Kipling's son, killed at Loos in 1915 aged 18, was mistaken. But the Commonwealth War Graves Commission stood by its claim that the grave is his. – *Guardian*

□ The Bloody Sunday inquiry is to subpoena government departments in order to trace scores of soldiers who were on duty in Londonderry that day but have failed to offer themselves as witnesses. – *The Times*

□ Steven Spielberg's latest film, *Saving Private Ryan*, has caused a storm because of its criticism of Fd Marshal Montgomery's conduct of the D-Day operation. – *The Express*. Dozens of American D-Day veterans have sought emotional counselling after seeing the film. – *The Times*

□ Members of the SAS have been secretly laying wreaths on comrades' graves in cemeteries around the world as part of a plan to pay tribute to all 404 killed in action since 1941. – *Sunday Telegraph*

□ Police in Devon and Cornwall have asked for military help during a predicted invasion of six million visitors on August 11 next year to view a total eclipse of the sun. Cornwall's "eclipse co-ordinator", Brig Gage Williams, said 85 per cent of accommodation was booked. – *Sunday Telegraph*

□ The MoD would have difficulty mobilising for war because it is not sure exactly where or how ready £10 billion of equipment stocks (including Army vehicles) are, according to the National Audit Office. – *The Times*

□ Files newly released by the Public Record Office show that Maj Gen Edward J Montagu Stuart-Wortley, commander of the 46th (North Midlands) Division, was sacked by the C-in-C, Sir Douglas Haig, because not enough of his men were killed on the first day of the Somme. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Australian soldiers are to change their leather combat boots for a calf-length variety made of kangaroo skin. Leather boots will still be worn on parade. – *Daily Mail*



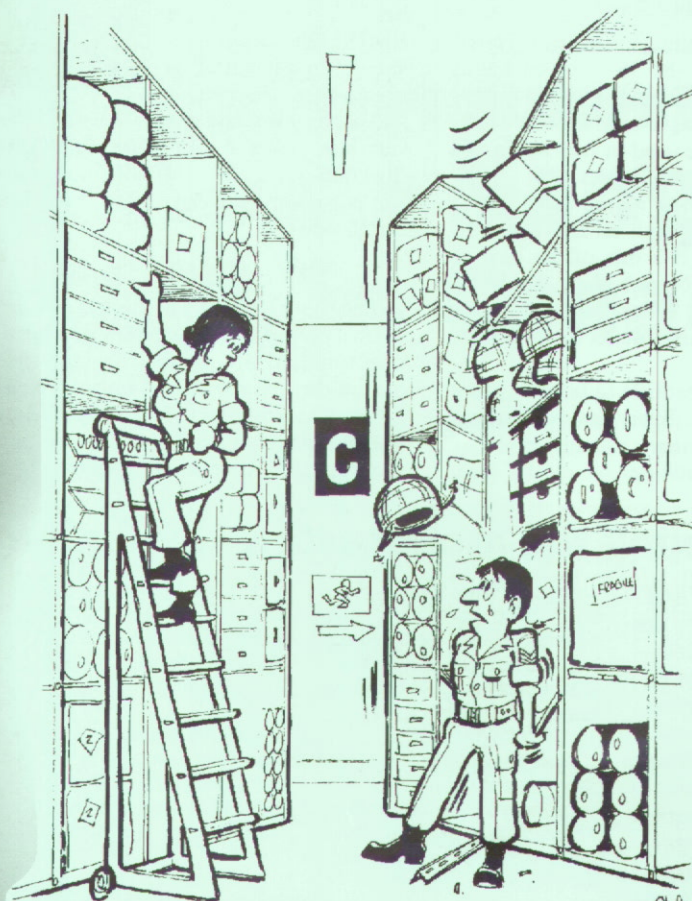
Chuckle with Chip

"They need a little more preparation than perhaps you are used to, my dear sir... but they are absolutely delicious."

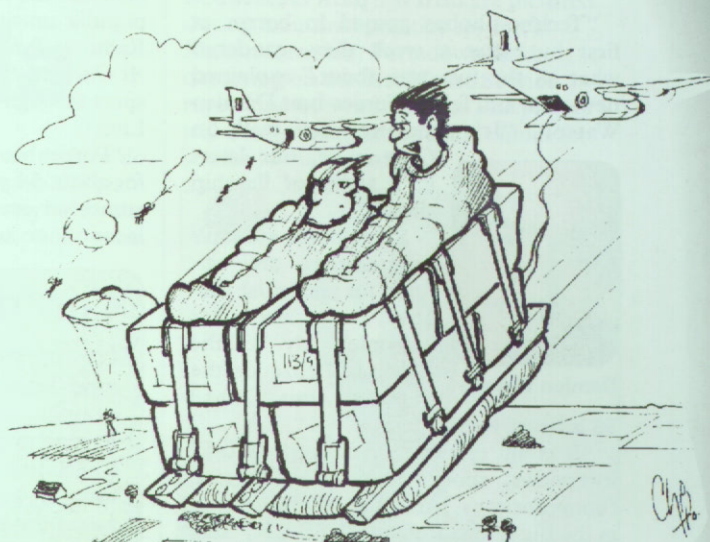
Logistic logic



"The Consul wishes me to express his thanks to you for personally delivering his Barclaycard statement last month, but wonders if you shouldn't be back at Mill Hill by now?"



"No, I don't know the part number of the missing bolt!"



"Trust me, you said... I've got a mate in Movements, you said... we'll indulge to Cyprus for the weekend, you said!"

Putting you in the picture

FROM their hi-tech studios in the Buckinghamshire countryside, dedicated teams of disc jockeys, cameramen, reporters, producers and controllers serve a daily dose of "back home" to thousands of Servicemen and women overseas.

Peter McDonagh describes himself as a Service brat. He is also Director of BFBS.

"Styles change but broadcasting has always been and will always be about one thing and that is about people telling stories, either in music or in words, either in fact or in fiction," he said. "That's what people have been doing for generations, keeping each other amused, entertained and informed and that is where BFBS is and where it always will be."

On the radio side, BFBS is the most advanced station in the UK with its state-of-the-art digital technology.

HORROR

"Techno-phobes gasped in horror at first but after a week they wondered what all the fuss was about," explained newsman and fellow Forces-brat Damien Watson. "It's working very well on



Damien Watson

Connect 98, our latest in a series of flagship shows."

Some of the station's programmes are tailored for particular theatres, broadcasting for example only to the Balkans, Belize or the Falklands, but *Connect 98* is heard everywhere. "It is an 'info-tainment' show. Music, interviews, sport, politics, big stories, funny stories... a magazine show really. It is the big daily hit from BFBS UK," said Damien. "It goes to nine countries, with a massive audience, so it has to be flexible. And it's live."

"On our final day in Hong Kong - June 30 last year - we opened the phone lines to all listeners, not just the Forces," Damien recalls. "The amount of calls from ex-pats, the Chinese, everybody,



Peter McDonagh

BFBS TV and radio prepare for the next century

caught us by surprise. It was astonishing. Many said the one thing they were going to miss about British rule was BFBS. They were getting UK news, live sport, the current top 40 and *The Archers*."

Official figures in Germany put the audience at 90,000; independent research puts it closer to four million.

MAIN GUNS

The two main guns in the radio arsenal are BFBS 1 and 2. BFBS 1 is a rock and pop radio station providing radio entertainment to a younger audience in a way that they would be used to hearing in the UK but with a British Forces slant.

BFBS 2, launched in the mid-1980s, provides the forces with an alternative to popular music. It is a mix of the best of Radio 4: *Today*, *Woman's Hour*, *The World At One* and *PM*. It is the main station for sport through arrangements with Radio 5 Live.

"Forces broadcasting has been in place for about 54 years. Every few years along comes an evolutionary change in either location or technology, or as we have



Alan Phillips

recently seen, both," said Alan Phillips, an executive producer.

"If you join BFBS you are expected to be able to go to Bosnia tomorrow to interview the Defence Secretary, or go on air and do a straight music show with no interviews to keep it going."

A guest DJ is David Rodigan, stalwart of cutting-edge music. "Maybe it's because they are away from home, but when we play gigs the response is amazing," he said.

"I'm also an Army brat. I was born in BMH Hanover. On my show I'm playing garage, house, reggae, R and B, hip-hop and the very latest stuff in that genre. They know they can get it all on BFBS. I am a passionate record collector, and have been for 30 years."



David Rodigan

OPERATIONAL SNIFF

The theory is that all listeners, wherever they are, get a certain show at a particular time. BFBS rightly considers itself part of the military community overseas.

"Broadcasting has moved from Army Welfare, which it used to be known as 50 years ago, into broadcasting with an oper-

Confronting the broadcasting revolution

COMPETITION and new technology are bringing unprecedented changes to BFBS. This Government agency has faced the challenges with investments in cutting-edge equipment, new strategies and modern management, some of which are outlined here.

Digital: More than £1,000,000 has been spent on new quality-enhancing equipment. BFBS has beaten the BBC to the post in the race to become fully "digital".

Rapid reaction: Portable satellite receivers and re-broadcast equipment enable Forces deployed anywhere in the world to receive "bespoke" television and radio within hours of arrival.

Live and global: More pro-

grammes than ever are being transmitted live to garrisons, such as the Falklands and Belize, once considered to be out on a broadcasting limb.

Streaming: By maintaining several simultaneous "streams", global audiences can receive programmes tailored to their special needs.

UK radio: UK garrison radio stations may soon be a reality. BFBS's experimental stations have proved there is demand.



Lights, camera, action: The BFBS production team of Room 785 - from left, cameraman Mark Gosling, presenter Fred Harris with Huxley, Sharron Taylor, Liz Hopkins, Scott Rose and Harry Bradley

ational sniff to it," said Peter McDonagh.

"If you send a multi-national force to, say, Africa, you can plonk a quick get-you-in kit down and give them radio and television in the desert, the swamp or the jungle."

The radio technology is mirrored on the television side, which is moving slowly but surely towards digital.

"The main area of progress is getting a wider area of transmission for radio and television. Once you get a TV signal, the radio carrier goes along with it," Peter explained.

"The acquisition of live-link TV to the Falklands has not only meant live TV and the second radio channel to the islands but also the capability of getting into Saudi Arabia and Africa because of the nature of the satellite footprint.

"MoD makes the decision about who provides what and where. Now we are under contract to the MoD the statement of requirement is written so specifically that we certainly can't attempt to follow the forces around the world."

"We try to anticipate by having things ready, as in the Gulf War, when we had a lot of hardware, software and humanware in place waiting for the call."

Richard Hulme, senior TV programme organiser for BFBS, looks through the confidential information that details what will

be transmitted by the various terrestrial networks that the station has access to - BBC 1 and 2, ITV, Channels 4 and 5 and Sky Sports. If BFBS has rights to those programmes he chooses which to record, checks the schedule and slots them in.

"What makes the job harder is that we do not have rights to everything, even if it is shown on British television. Live sport is a real headache. The copyrights and rights negotiations can go on for months."

UK STANDARD

Stephen Mylles, Controller of Forces Television, said: "The challenge is being able to give our audience the standard of television that they are used to back in the UK. British television is the best, the brightest, best presented, best packaged and most diverse television in the world. What we try to do is



Steve Mylles

package things in such a way that the audience can think they are sitting at home watching BBC or ITV.

"Obviously, our budgets are vastly different but we spend wisely and, with a small staff, we achieve a great deal."

Items are gathered from all over the world to produce the flagship of the television network, *Scene Here*.

"We are local television for the Forces, but our local audience is worldwide," said Caroline Young, a key member of the

Scene Here team who has seven visits to Bosnia under her belt. "We tell the Forces about the Forces worldwide. Whatever they are doing and wherever they are going, we will be there."

"If it is top of the international news headlines, like Northern Ireland or the Gulf, we will usually have an in-depth angle on it."

Richard Jones, the *Scene Here* programme editor, said: "It goes out live for two reasons: everything is edited right up to deadline because we like to run things as close to when they happened as possible, and we are preceded immediately by an ITN news bulletin."

At one time *Scene Here* was only for British Forces Germany, but satellite technology allowed the programme to be beamed into Cyprus.

"We are in a much better position to represent the whole Forces picture and to do it with an intimate inside knowledge that you can't get if you are not a Forces' journalist," said Caroline, who joined BFBS from the BBC in 1989.

As the rows of satellite dishes beyond her window pointed silently into the afternoon sky, BFBS continued to provide a unique service to the Armed Forces.



Caroline Young



Richard Jones



Richard Hulme

Not too late to learn

Life-long learning opportunities have never been so varied and valuable. Here are a few options. If you would like to share a problem, write to Cari c/o *Soldier*, or BFBS, BFPO 786.

Dear Cari, I AM thinking of trying to get some qualifications. I've heard that some people do correspondence courses but I am not sure I want to study for a degree. How do I find out more?
— Mrs B (BFG)

Cari replies: You can study all sorts of things by correspondence for pleasure and to get a qualification. The Association of British Correspondence Colleges will send you a helpful guide. To obtain one, write to 6 Francis Grove, London SW19 4DT.

Another source of information is the Open University. Many people like working with them because you can carry on your course work overseas with a lot of support. It also allows you to work at your own pace and build up to whatever level of qualification you feel comfortable with.

Your local education centre will have an address or you can call the brochure hotline number, 01908 85 85 85.

The EU has produced an interesting leaflet called *Studying, Training and Doing Research in Another Country* which has some useful notes.

Whatever you decide to do, my only word of advice would be to set your sights as high as you like but be prepared to stick at it. Studying on your own takes a lot of self-discipline and it will take time, but the rewards are great.

Do tell your family that you are serious and make a space for yourself where you know you can keep all your course material organised.

Dear Cari, BY the end of the school holidays I find myself getting very irritated with the children. By the time they go back to school we are all at each others' throats and I send them off feeling really guilty. How can I keep the peace the next time they come back? — Mrs K (BFG)

Cari replies: The market is flooded with self-help books for parents and they all claim to have the solution. One of the best of the most recent crop is called *The Secret of Happy Children* by Steve Biddulph, published in paperback at £8.99.

Among the subjects covered are stopping tantrums before they start, the skills of fathering, how to cure whinging kids, kids and TV, and food and behaviour. It is a lively book written by a man who has worked as a family therapist for 20 years and his suggestions are practical.

Personally, I would just say that you will not be the only parent in this position and I favour honesty about your feelings at all times. Keep telling them that you love them and that having an argument about untidiness or silly behaviour won't change that.

Stay in touch too, during the times when you don't see them. Send them short letters — even if they don't write as often as you'd wish — and reassure them that they are still a part of family life while you are away.

Lifelong learning is beginning to take off. For some time now those working in education have been trying to get people to think about it as an on-going process and the message seems to be getting through. More and more we see the workplace changing with an ever-increasing need for skilled people. If we are to keep up with the demand we all have to carry on learning. We are also seeing an increase in leisure time. Many people are coming to see learning as a leisure pursuit. Language courses are popular — and if you are living in Europe



Cari Roberts

Dear Cari, I AM thinking of changing my image. I am trying to get a job but I think I just look mumsy or boring because I get called for interviews but never seem to get the job. — Mrs L (UK)

Cari replies: We hear a lot about image these days. Much as I hate to admit it I think we have to face the fact that decisions are often made on the flimsiest of evidence and so changing your image might be worth a try. Image consultants vary in their approaches and their fees.

If you are thinking of approaching one of them, do ask about prices first. Some charge for consultations but expect you to go on and buy make-up and clothes from their company. Make sure you know what you are agreeing to. Having sounded a cautious note I would say that I have met a number of women for whom this kind of thing has been a life-saver. I suppose whatever you feel gives you that extra spark of confidence is worth it. You could also approach someone whose style you admire and ask their advice. It might not be your clothes. You might be behaving in a particular way.

One woman I know was turned down for a job because, said the panel chairman, she appeared to be too confident about her ability to do it. Frankly I would see that as more his problem than hers, but you might need to change the way you portray yourself.

it's an ideal time to learn — and more people are studying art and literature. Even the increased emphasis on career development promised in the SDR reflects the mood. For service people and their families the support of distance learning is excellent and for many service spouses the periods of enforced unemployment provide the time needed. If you have ever thought about broadening your horizons, now is a very good time to start.

*Cari Roberts presents Counterpoint on BFBS Radio

Cari comments

The Junior Ranks Mess at the **Rhine Support Unit** in Germany has joined forces with British Gas to test the latest version of a system already saving thousands of pounds a year in energy costs in Army kitchens.

The **Armed Forces Financial Advisory**



Seeing is believing: Actor Richard Wilson of *One Foot in the Grave* fame meets Servicemen during a visit to a careers show at the National Hotel, north London. With

him, from left to right, are Sig Simon Rowe, Sgt Karl Overton and WO2 Ali Chuahan. Sgt Overton is the Royal Signals Recruiting Sergeant in London.

Service leavers to get new deal on resettlement help

A NEW organisation which will help Servicemen and women take their first steps back into civvy street is to start work in the autumn.

The Career Transition Partnership (CTP), one of the corner-stones of the Policy for People announced in the Strategic Defence Review, will offer an individual package of counselling, training and job-finding assistance.

A contract to establish the CTP has been awarded by the MoD to Coutts Consulting Group plc.

Transitional support services are currently provided by the Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation, which will cease to exist.

Under the revised arrangements, a new MoD directorate, the Directorate of Military Outplacement Services (DMOS), will be created to work with Coutts.

"By forming a partnership between the military and the civilian sides of the resettlement equation, we will be able to provide the best possible support to our Service leavers," said Brig Rodney Walker, the Director of Resettlement.

The new deal offers eligible Service leavers — mainly those who have been in uniform for more than five years — a package which includes:

- A single registration system through which a career transition service will be provided regionally throughout the UK at nine regional resettlement centres. Separate arrangements will be made for those stationed overseas.

- Individual and unlimited career counselling from up to 2½ years for the Royal Navy and two years for the Army and Royal Air Force prior to discharge, and up to two years for all Services post-discharge.

- A three-day career transition workshop, and assistance focused on Service leavers and employment needs, which could include additional workshops, seminars and training.

- A full job-finding service.
- Full support for those wishing to retire or move to part-time employment or occupational training.

For Service leavers with between three and five years' eligible service, help will be restricted to an enhanced and unified job-finding service, available up to six months before discharge.

There will be no changes in the eligibility rules for resettlement. The role of the single-Service resettlement staffs will remain largely unchanged under the CTP, and the individual resettlement

Home from home for single parents

SINGLE soldier-parents having difficulty seeing their children can take advantage of a new facility at Woodbridge Army training area in Suffolk.

Peninsula House, a fully-furnished three-bedroom bungalow, has been set up by the Army Welfare Service as an affordable, comfortable place where Service personnel can take their children for stays of up to two weeks. The former married quarter was acquired from the Defence Housing Executive and furnished with grants from Army Central Welfare Funds and the Annington Trust. Help also came from the Woodbridge estate thrift shop, SSAFA and the WRVS.

Anyone interested in staying there should telephone 01394 461218 or 461091.

training costs grant, administered by the single Services, will continue to be available to help fund training.

The concept of the Services Employment Network (SEN) will be retained but will be operated by Coutts using the Officers' Association and Regular Forces Employment Association Ltd as its sub-contractors.

The charitable services of the OA and RFEA will be retained independently, providing life-long job-finding support for ex-Service personnel who have served for more than three years.

Start date for the new service is October 12, following the installation of a network computer system linking all nine regional resettlement centres, the resettlement centre at Aldershot and the CTP headquarters in London.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
Confidential support line:
 UK 0800 731 4880
 Germany 0131 827 395
 Cyprus 080 91065
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 0181 376 2144
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
WRVS 01235 442954

In brief

JAMES Hopkins (39), a former Life Guards officer, has been appointed Chief Executive of Annington Homes Limited, which bought the MoD married quarters estate in England and Wales. After service in the Army he became a property specialist and was managing director of Hanson Land before joining Anningtons.

Winner of the **HIVE national volunteer week** star prize, a three-day family break donated by Legoland, was Mrs Debbie Hopkins from Laarbruck. HIVE co-ordinators in Germany nominated volunteers whose dedication and commitment should be recognised, and Debbie's name was drawn out of the hat.

Who dares . . .

White water, white knuckles

Canoes and kayaks can take almost anything that the wet side of nature can throw at them. And on a white water slalom course, nature throws it all at them *big-time*. Pity no one told our writer before he joined the Army canoeing team for a training session

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

I WAS being lulled into a false sense of security. Not intentionally perhaps, but as we sat in the little café at the National Water Sports Centre near Nottingham there was no hint of the horrors to come.

Certainly my two hosts, Lt Pete Francis and Maj Colin Colderwood, did not give much away. Fair enough, I suppose. I had said that I was up for a challenge. And to them, two of the Army's canoeing stars, a slalom course, even one of the fastest in Britain, was nothing to worry about.

Pete, training hard for a place on the British Olympic team, and Colin, secretary of the Army Canoeing Union, chatted amiably about the joys of the water and I seemed to imbibe their laid-back confidence with my tea. I felt I had got the long straw. A summer day away from the office communing with ducks and the other delightful creatures of the river bank.

"I'd advise you to have a few glasses of Coke before we go," said Pete, interrupting my reverie. "It neutralises the bacteria in your stomach. Can't do much about Weils disease, though, so try not to swallow too much water."

My eyes popped wide open. To hell with *Wind in the Willows*! Weils disease is the distinctly nasty illness contracted occasionally when humans swim in the same water as rats. And the bacteria, explained Pete, was only to be expected in a lowland river. The Trent is not yet ready for selling in fancy green bottles.

"Get the Cokes in then," I said with a degree of swagger. "Let's get on with it."



Wet run: "Next time we'll try it with a boat." Andy Eaton, left, puts our writer through his paces

Twenty minutes later Pete and Colin were helping me into my tiny plastic kayak. By now I was helmeted, wet-suited and sporting a fetching rubber skirt which became a water-excluding flange over the opening in the boat. One of my hosts gave me a push and I was off, bobbing and wobbling, but quickly getting a feel for the special kind of balance which canoeing demands. "Easy and fun," I thought.

PADDLER

Pete said that I had to learn how to rescue myself from capsizes. "Will there be many . . .?" I didn't like the sound of this. "Yeah, and if you can't rescue yourself this is as far as we go."

We did the "T-rescue" first. I watched as a young paddler called John threw his body to one side and vanished beneath the water. His arms appeared, Lady of the Lake-style, waving above the surface. The hands first banged on the upturned hull to get our attention and then searched for the sharp end of another canoe.

Pete was there in a flash, his boat meeting the inverted one to form a T shape. John grabbed him and, with a quick swivel, was upright again, streaming water

but quite happy.

"Your turn," shouted Pete. "Don't worry, it's easy."

I did worry, but went for it anyway. Less gracefully, but I levered myself upright, did a quick scan for rats, and felt very relieved.

There was more. "This is the really important bit," said Pete. "If we can't get to you, you have to be able to get out of the boat alone. Simply pull the spray cover off, push yourself out of the opening and bob to the top."

Floating beneath this backwater of the Trent, I had the spray cover ripped off before anyone could say "artificial resuscitation" and

pushed myself out. Not nice, but OK. Now things got really interesting – and much more difficult. We paddled under a low bridge and into the mainstream of the partially-diverted river. There, to my

horror, appeared the gates of a watery hell. Through them the river disappeared into a foaming hole. This entrance could not have appeared more terrifying if the slaving, two-headed dog Cerberus himself had been standing over it.

"Head straight at it," shouted Pete. "Don't worry . . ." His voice trailed off as

I went furiously at the maelstrom. The following few minutes were a blur. I made a furious attempt to avoid the eddies and whirlpools formed by the massive concrete barriers obstructing and confusing the flow. Survival was my only priority. *About ten people a year die in this sport, and I did not intend to be one of them.*

I capsized within the first 20 yards. I banged once or twice on the hull and felt for a boat. Pete was there.

For a few memorable moments, I shared a plunging whirlpool with two other canoes. We were entangled like a giant game of pick-up sticks and there was only one way out. I capsized again.

PANIC

Suspended beneath the water, breath running out, and unable to feel a rescue boat, I detected the first stirring of panic. Time to get out, I told myself, still coherently. A quick tug on the spray cover, a swivel and I was up, gasping for air before being pulled back into an eddy.

It wasn't pleasant but, strangely, this was one of the most satisfying moments of my canoeing experience. If I could save myself in this nightmare scenario, everything else had to be tolerable.

And the next step was. I was to join WO1 Andy Eaton, who took me down the river-of-hell in a two-man Canadian canoe. These are larger boats in which you kneel uncomfortably with your thighs strapped to the hull.

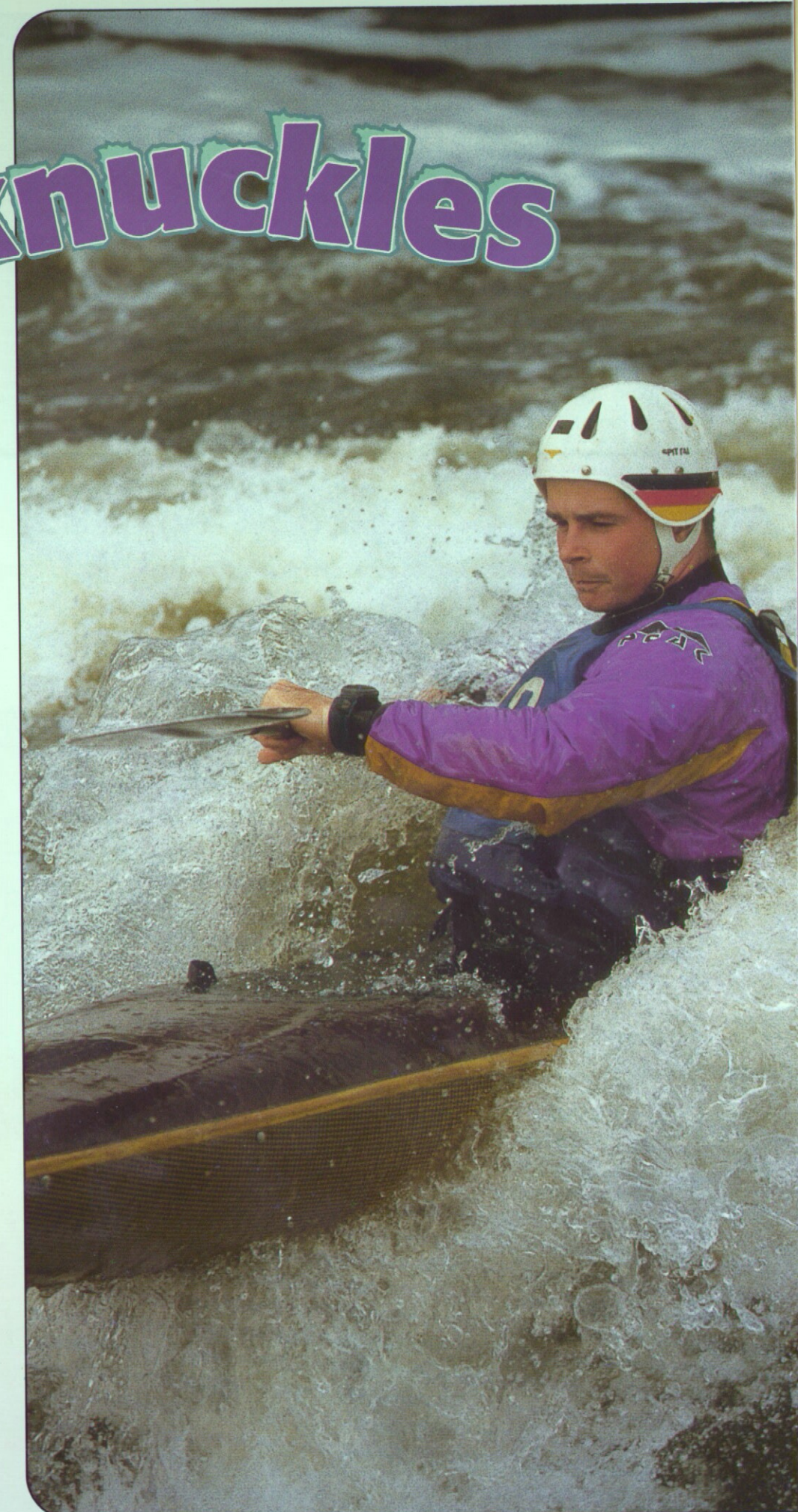
"Take your brain out before you get into that," yelled one wag. But I was happy enough. Andy had been paddling for 21 years and had been the Combined Services champion on several occasions. With his skills, and his bulk for ballast, I felt sure we would stay upright.

PANACHE

Big Andy took us in and out of the whirlpools, surfing the confluence of currents and backwash. We swooped into the placid pool at the end of the white-water course with some panache.

It was a great way to end my two days of white-water canoeing, a learning experience which reminded me of the way I learned Spanish: total immersion.

Would I do it again? Probably, but not before I cough up the last dregs of the Trent. And then I might be tempted to try some of the other varieties of canoeing. There is always canoe polo, racing, sea kayaking, marathon and even sailing. One thing is for sure: canoeing is not a boring sport.



Olympic hope: Lt Pete Francis shows the white-water way

My Army: SIR CHAY BLYTH

Thirty years of challenge

Report: Graham Bound
Main picture: Mike Weston

"CHALLENGE!" barked the beefy, fit looking man each time the phone rang in his office. He stabbed buttons trying in vain to divert calls to staff who could help the callers, but clearly Sir Chay Blyth is better at manning the pumps than he is the telephones.

Once upon a time, the single word uttered with that distinctive Scottish burr might have been telephone shorthand for "What apparently impossible task involving small boats and hostile oceans would you like me to do now?" These days, though, it is more likely to mean, "What would you like me to help *you* do? Sail the wrong way around the world, or take a boat into the Arctic Ocean, perhaps? Maybe even row the Atlantic?"

Making it possible for relatively ordinary people to do all of these things and more is what Chay and his company, The Challenge Business, are all about.

REMARKABLE RACE

Fresh from organising the successful BT Global Challenge, which in ten months took a fleet of amateur-crewed yachts around the world against winds and currents, and a remarkable transatlantic rowing race, the company is now organising sailing expeditions to the Arctic Ocean and recruiting crews for the next Global Challenge race in the year 2000.

It's a full workload for 31 staff, but on the day *Soldier* visited, most of these landlubbers, the real telephone experts, were off to the coast, learning the rudiments of yachting wisdom aboard the fleet of new boats being prepared for the big race. Hence Chay's barely-concealed frustration with the telephones.

Any sign of tetchiness evaporates, however, when he is asked about the amateur adventurers who are now his clients. He selects all participants for the Challenge Business projects personally, laying the pattern of his own character on theirs and checking that they fit.

"I love this work," says the new-style corporate adventurer, beaming a broad smile which complements his characteris-

Britain's best-known yachtsman and one-time Para is now bringing high adventure to ordinary people



Sgt Chay Blyth is honoured at a mess dinner after his transatlantic rowing adventure

tic shock of white curly hair. "But I'm only doing it for the crew volunteers. It's a religion for them; the same as it was for me. When I started sailing I couldn't get any sponsorship and, like some of them, I had to sell my house."

Back in those days of heroic adventure, finding the money was always a problem, but a demanding Army career from 1958 to 1967 gave him most of the personal qualities needed for a career in adventure.

Chay joined the Parachute Regiment and was promoted fairly rapidly to sergeant. The regime was, he says, "a shock to the system," but it helped him to develop strength, stamina and a capacity for careful planning.

He had to wait to test his character in those epic battles against nature, but in the early to mid-60s there were some grim operational tours during which the young Chay, by this time a platoon leader, was able to prove his mettle.

When he speaks of that time, the unpleasant memories of the Aden campaign are largely concealed behind flip-pant words: "A bunch of Arabs who owned the area were the bad guys and they were doing naughty things to the British. Therefore we had to go in and have a few words with them."

As is so often the case with soldiers, he has more than passing respect for his one-time enemy.

"They were actually quite brave people. The hill Arabs have been fighting since time began and they are still fighting. The unfortunate thing was that they didn't surrender. You had to kill the buggers."

Was he a good soldier? "I did my bit," he says quietly. It was another time and another place, and Chay Blyth has always been good at completing one chapter of his life and moving on.

In the Paras in 1966 moving on meant a spell back at the depot; something no one enjoyed. Chay desperately looked for a way out; *any* way out. When John Ridgway, then an officer in the regiment, suggested an attempt to row across the Atlantic, Chay stepped forward. "No one was particularly keen to go with John, but I had been his platoon commander and I'd also done canoeing with him. I said I'd give it a whirl."

The "whirl" involved defying the grim predictions of almost everyone on both sides of the Atlantic, and enduring many weeks of physical discomfort, hunger and mental torture. They wrote of this cockleshell existence in their shared account of the voyage: "Three feet on either side of you and the rest is simply death." Para training was invaluable. Their endless duties at the oars reminded the two men of being on stag: two hours on, two hours off.



Stretching himself: From his company headquarters, Sir Chay now brings adventure to others but still seeks the "ultimate challenge"

Chay maintains that there was a divine element to their success as well. "When we were at sea, we saw some extraordinary things. People will explain them with science, but for me..." His voice trailed off, unable to put the spiritual feeling into words.

Since then he has prayed every day when at sea. "What I say is that every time I'm on TV or have a chance for any publicity, I'll give Him a plug. And He looks after me in return. It's a good deal and it works."

INSTANT FAME

When Chay and John arrived back in Britain both men achieved instant fame, and Chay, having already given his notice to the Army, gained the impetus he needed to seek ever-greater adventures in the civilian world.

There is some bitterness in his voice when he talks about the way the Army establishment treated him after the great voyage. Both men were ordered to help recruitment by going on a speaking tour. Chay laughs rather coldly when he remembers the rigid social framework which meant John was to tour the grammar schools and he was to do the humble secondary moderns. Insult was added to injury when it came the time for gongs. John was to receive the higher award, the

MBE, from the Queen at Buckingham Palace, while Chay was to receive a BEM from a general in Aldershot.

He loved it when the Queen herself pricked this class bubble. According to Chay, she said: "Who was the other man? For heaven's sake, the two rowed across the Atlantic. What's going on here?" Both men attended Buckingham Palace, and any lasting resentment there may have been was totally assuaged when Chay met the Queen again in 1997: this time to be knighted.

When the gates of the barracks slammed shut behind Chay Blyth in 1967, he embarked on a series of remarkable sailing achievements, often shared with serving or ex-Paras because "I knew they were fit, dedicated and tough, and they would do almost anything asked of them."

Among this catalogue of adventures: the first solo round-the-world voyage against winds and currents in the yacht *British Steel*; first British yacht home in the 1981-82 Whitbread race and victory in the 1978 Round Britain Race.

There were close shaves with death, too. Chay's trimaran was run down by a ship in the English channel, and while sailing with Para Eric Blunn on another trimaran, the boat capsized off Cape Horn. They spent 18 hours in the upturned hull before being rescued by the Chileans.

Chay's inspirational ocean adventures ended 10 years ago, mainly because he ran out of worthwhile goals, and without these sailing had little appeal. It is a shock to realise that he does not like sailing for the sake of it, and perhaps never did. It has always been the challenge of doing something first that drives him. "People are now racing against time and that doesn't have the same glamour for me."

SPIRIT

Now his challenge lies in making it possible for other people to discover and enjoy the same spirit which took him through three decades of challenge.

But is business, no matter how unconventional, really enough for this man? Probably in the short term, but he hints that his days of hands-on adventuring are not quite over. Choosing his words carefully because there is always the risk that someone else will steal the idea, he spoke enigmatically of "the ultimate challenge".

"It's out there staring everyone in the face, but they can't think of it. It will be my last ever project." He added happily: "All I can tell you is that it has *nothing* to do with the sea."

He would be happier still if it had nothing to do with telephones, but that is too much to ask.

A walk back in history

The Battle of Brandywine was one of a surprisingly large number of victories the British won in the American Revolutionary Wars. Soldier joined a battlefield tour to the Pennsylvania site of what has become one of Britain's "forgotten" conflicts

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

A SMALL road sign at the top of a leafy hill above Pennsylvania's Brandywine River valley holds a clue to the area's military history.

To the casual visitor, "General Howe Drive" would mean very little. But it may surprise them to know that the ground where they were standing was the site of one of the most ferocious battles during the American War of Independence, and that the British, led by Gen Sir William Howe, won it decisively.

The Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, although involving more soldiers than any other single action in the war, has faded into the mists of time. Despite the bravery and tactical ingenuity of the British troops and their allies, few reliable histories exist of the conflict and no battle honours were awarded.

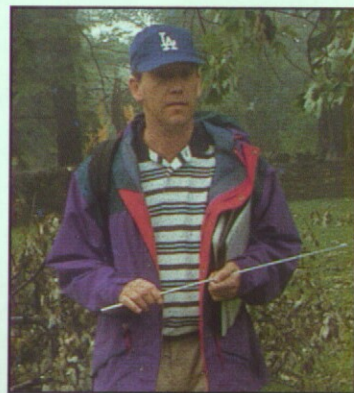
It was this that caught the imagination of Lt Col Graeme Hazlewood RLC, a British liaison officer working at the Pentagon. He decided to carry out a battlefield tour for British military staff working in the Pentagon and embassy to look at the event from a purely military position, and what soldiering was like in the 18th century.

"I have always liked history," he explained, "and this is one of those periods in history which is so badly understood. It is important, as lessons learnt during the American War of Independence helped us during the Napoleonic wars. Most records were written by the Americans - it's always the winners who write the history - so this



Right on: American battle re-enactors add colour to the Brandywine Battlefield tour

The way it was: Lt Col Graeme Hazlewood, left, explains battle tactics



was a bit of a blank period and I became fascinated."

That fascination led Lt Col Hazlewood to

carry out extensive research into the Battle of Brandywine. So much so, that by the time the group of military and civilian personnel set off from Washington for a day in Pennsylvania to follow the original route, they had a full and detailed brief of the battle and profiles of the personalities who took part.

Gen Howe was the commander of the British Army in the American colonies during the war. The American Revolution had already been fought for more than two years when he decided on the ambitious plan to seize the rebels' capital city, Philadelphia, from the south. This, he felt, would be a stunning blow to the Americans

and would encourage waverers and loyalists over to the British side.

The Brandywine valley lies to the southwest of Philadelphia, and it was here that George Washington decided to place his troops in defence of the city. They were positioned by the lower fords across the Brandywine river, which were, he thought, the only places to cross. The area in those days would have been heavily wooded and very marshy. But Howe had done his homework and, using local knowledge, was aware there were also good crossings over the northern reaches of the river. It was then he devised his "cunning plan".

He ordered one of his generals, Wilhelm von Knyphausen, to mount a holding attack with 5,000 men against Washington's army. He then embarked on a wide flank march with the remainder of his troops, crossing the river by its upper



fords, and fell on the American right flank, causing Washington to move units from his centre to meet the threat. At this point Knyphausen turned his feint into a real attack, stormed the lower fords and defeated the troops covering them.

VICTORY

The Americans retreated and Howe had won the battle, but not the war. For reasons which remain a mystery he did not pursue Washington's army and destroy it, and the Americans were able to regroup and fight another day. But the Battle of Brandywine was a great victory for the British against the Americans' strongest army to date.

Those taking part in the battlefield tour, led by Lt Col Hazlewood, followed the routes taken by the opposing armies, and analysed and discussed the tactics. Also talking them through the battle were Dr

Bob Wright, an expert on colonial history, and Brig Gen John Mountcastle, from the US Army Centre of Military History.

Despite a gap of more than 200 years, and the fact that the United States and Britain are now great allies, some old rivalries, albeit good-humoured, emerged from the British and American interpretation of events. But Lt Col Hazlewood had no doubt in his mind. "The British and Hessian troops and their officers had performed faultlessly," he said.

The battlefield visitors were accompanied by a group of re-enactors dressed in the uniforms which would have been worn by the British and rebel soldiers of the 18th century. The British troops who fought in the Battle of Brandywine included the 28th, 23rd and 64th of Foot, the 71st Highlanders, and the Light Infantry.

They want to be British...

FROM New England, down across the Eastern Seaboard to Florida they come. Otherwise perfectly normal people who just happen to enjoy dressing up.

They are the American War of Independence re-enactors, but what makes them slightly more unusual is that they dress up as the enemy, the British Brigade.

The 100 men, 25 women and various children who make up the soldiers and camp followers of the 43rd Regiment of Foot, just one of the many "British" regiments, call their hobby a way of life.

Paul Loane, the commanding officer of the regiment, has been a re-enactor for 26 years. When he takes off the scarlet jacket, buckled shoes and tricorne hat, and puts on his suit and tie he goes back to being the Alumni Director for Rutgers University, the state university of New Jersey.

AUTHENTIC

The costumes they wear are made to be as authentic as possible. Jackets and tunics are copied from original patterns from the National Army Museum in London, with three shades of red wool being used for enlisted men, sergeants and officers. Material for officers' jackets are bought from a specialist company in the UK.

Attention to detail extends to the buttons, which were copies of originals excavated around New York, and belt plates, the originals of which were dug up near York Town, Virginia. Buckled shoes are made by the Kow Hoo Shoe Company in Hong Kong and the muskets come from Italy or Japan.

It costs about \$1,200 for a private to buy all his uniform, with an extra \$650 for the musket. He would also pay for insurance and gunpowder.

Brandywine flash not from battle

MANY British regiments wear the "Brandywine flash", but the small piece of red cloth behind beret badges has nothing to do with the battle and in fact originated at the Battle of Paoli, ten days later.

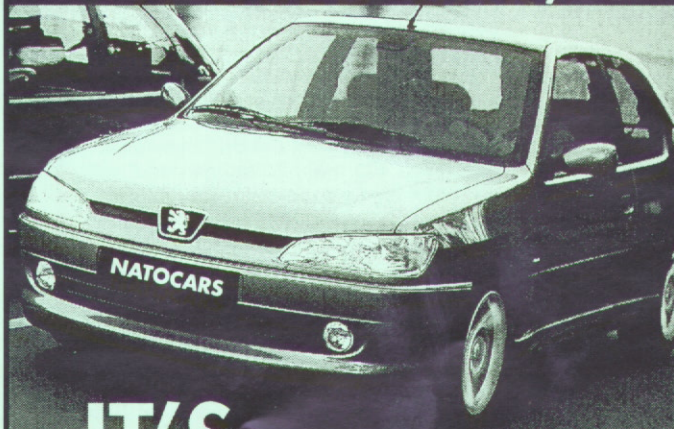
On September 21, 1777 a brigade, made up mainly of Light Infantry and 49th of Foot (later to become the Royal Berkshires), under the command of Maj Gen "No-Flint" Grey, was tasked by Gen Howe to attack American troops led by Maj Gen "Mad" Anthony Wayne.

The heavily-outnumbered British troops caught up with the Americans as they were resting by their camp fires near Paoli. Gen Grey ordered his men to unload their weapons - hence "no flints" - before falling on them in silence and bayoneting them to death.

The Americans alleged the British had murdered their troops while sleeping, and announced that in future they would "give no quarter" to any British soldiers they captured. As a result, the British units responsible dipped a piece of cloth into red dye to identify themselves as being at the Battle of Paoli and to separate themselves from other British troops.

Far from being a badge of shame, the red cloth became one of pride, and the tradition has passed down to the present day.

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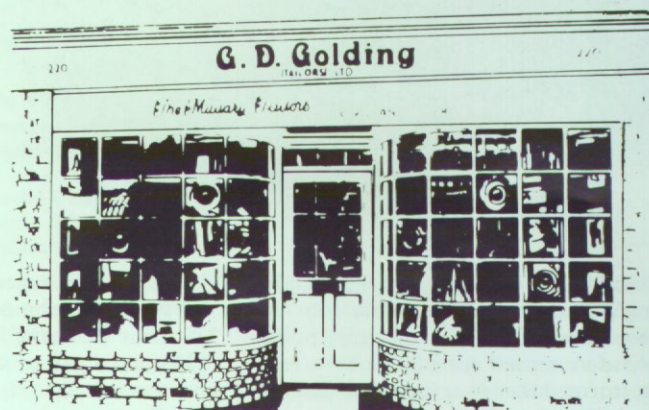
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Virtual Apache

Flying the cyber 'copter

Reports: Graham Bound

APACHE, the Army's planned new helicopter, is a sinister battlefield prowler boasting truly terrifying tank-busting capabilities.

Not surprisingly, only the very best of the best flyers and crews are going to get their hands on Apache, so heartfelt commiserations to those who fancy themselves as the ultimate chopper aces. The odds are stacked against you.

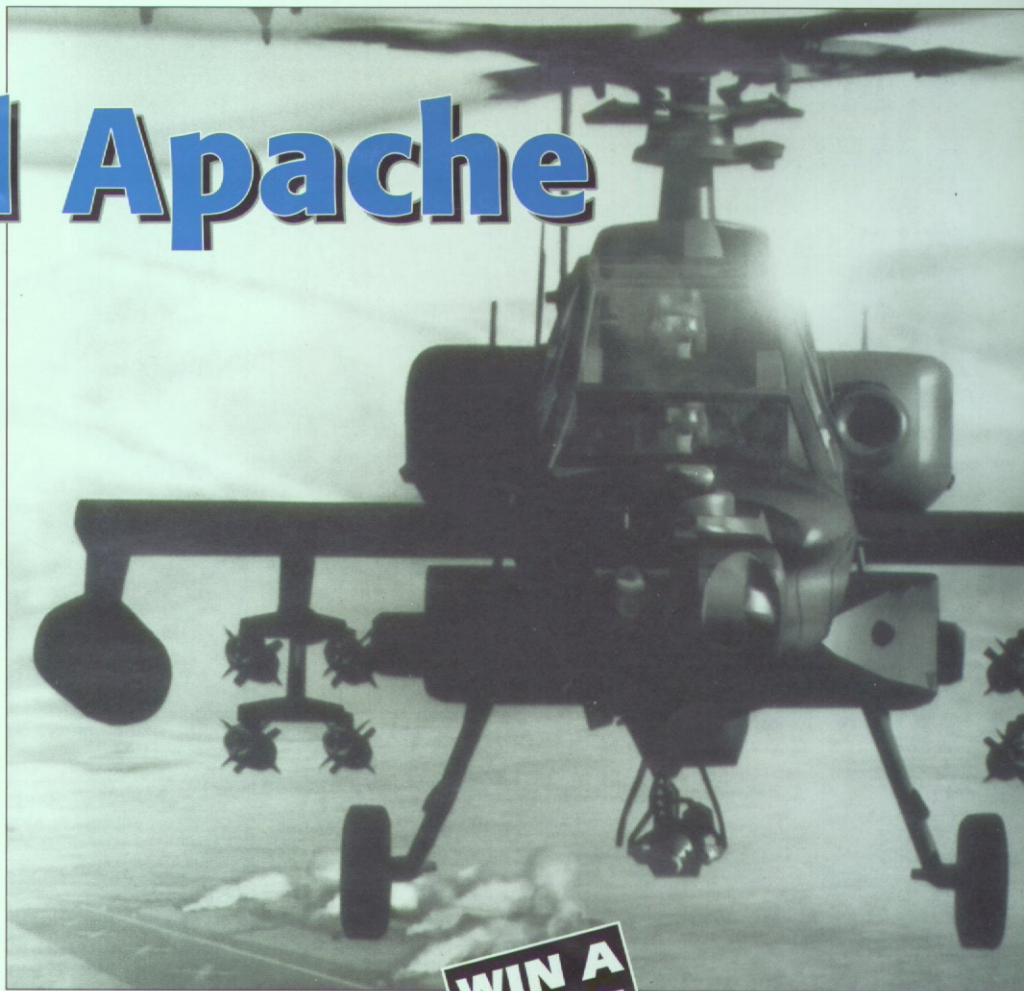
Never mind. We bring news of a desirable consolation prize: a breathtakingly realistic new computer game which, according to the manufacturers, is not far short of a professional simulator.

Team Apache, available from computer games specialists Mindscape, is said to have been designed with the help of American Apache pilots.

Although it is not modelled strictly on the British Longbow variant, the speed and graphics of this game are realistic and exciting enough to make the point merely academic.

The software includes "missions" ranging from anti-narcotics operations against Colombian drugs barons to full-scale combat in the republics of the former USSR.

An "interactive flight environment"



WIN A GAME

Set your sights on Team Apache

We have one of these great games to give away. Just answer this question:
Which British Army Corps will operate Apache?

Entries marked *Apache* on a postcard to *Soldier* by September 30.

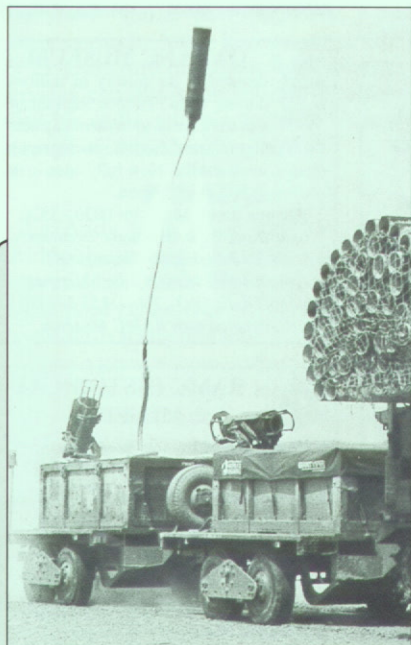
First correct answer out of the hat wins and our decision is final. Find our address on Page 70.

enables two or more players to compete against each other, possibly even over the internet. The sensations of turbulence and explosion are also monitor-tremblingly real.

Crew management comes into the game plan. Chief pilots have to take care of team recruitment, training and morale.

It is only a game, remember, but "flying" this bit of software (which you can do on any PC fitted with windows 95 and a CD ROM drive) is probably the next best thing to flying a real Apache.

Soldier and Mindscape have one copy of the computer game to give away (see right) but if you don't feel lucky, then just put £40 in your pocket and head for your nearest games dealer. Otherwise, give distributors Hallmark a ring on 01664 481563.



Make mine a Python

PICTURED left is Python, a new rocket-launched battlefield mine clearance system which has been successfully fired for the first time on a military range in Canada.

According to the Ministry of Defence, when further tests have been completed, the Royal Engineers will be equipped with one of the best pieces of equipment of its type in the world. The new kit uses a single rocket to propel an explosive-

filled hose up to 230 metres across a minefield. The subsequent detonation can clear a path seven metres wide.

Python operates on a similar principle to the 1950s-vintage Viper, which it replaces, but does so with greater accuracy and range. Up to two trailer-mounted Pythons can be deployed simultaneously by the Engineers' Chieftain Assault Vehicle (CHAVRE), giving them the ability to clear paths more than 400 metres wide.

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MUSEUMS

guide

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CRICKET

Champions again

In a commanding performance, the Army triumphed in the Inter-Service cricket festival in Portsmouth, retaining the title for the third consecutive year



Pictures: Mike Weston

First-class delivery: Maj Jim Cotterill finds his line while RAF batsman SAC Paul Turner looks on

RAF v Army

THE first day of the Inter-Service festival started well for the Royal Air Force but ended badly. They won the toss and decided to bat, with the Lumb/Bray partnership, which has so often in the past been the deciding factor in RAF and Combined Services games, starting in ominously good form.

A smart piece of fielding accounted for Glyn Lumb, who just failed to scabble home in a close run-out decision. This started the rot, and, despite 31 from Flt Sgt Brian Phillips, RAF wickets fell at crucial stages to some tight Army fielding and bowling. The final total of 180 for seven never really looked enough.

Things are not always as they look and two quick wickets added a bit of spice to the match. However, skipper Capt Chris

St George crafted a finely-judged innings, made all the better by his knowing that previous Army batting performances had been brittle once he departed.

With help from Sgt Nick Palmer and a fine exhibition of power and guile from Sig Keith Ford, the Army won the game in the 41st over. Chris St George won the Man of the Match award.

RAF 180-7 (50 overs) (SAC M Bray 77).

Army 182 for 4 (41 overs) (Capt Chris St George 72 not out. Sig Ford 58 not out. Army won by six wickets.

Royal Navy v RAF

Royal Navy won by 34 runs

Army v Royal Navy

The prospects of a close and exciting match on the final day looked on as both

the Royal Navy and Army teams had shown what good competitors they were. In the end the Army comfortably won a match that did not fluctuate much out of their favour.

The Royal Navy openers got off to a good start but then tight bowling and good fielding restricted the total to 213. Maj James Carr-Smith took 4 for 38.

Capt Adrian Grinonneau and Cpl Steve Hole put on 130 for the first wicket which virtually destroyed any hope of a Royal Navy victory.

The Army recorded a third consecutive Inter-Service championship triumph in the 46th over. Cpl Hole was named Man of the Match and Maj Carr-Smith Man of the Series for his fine bowling.

Army won by six wickets.



Silly point: The umpire takes evasive action during the Army's victory over the RAF in Portsmouth in the Inter-Service cricket festival

Vroom at the top

CAPT Jamie Clarke knows a thing or two about adrenalin sports. A former Combined Services Alpine skier and former Army Alpine champion, he has tried his hand at some of the most exhilarating around.

"But none of them are anything on this," he told *Soldier*. "It's absolutely barking."

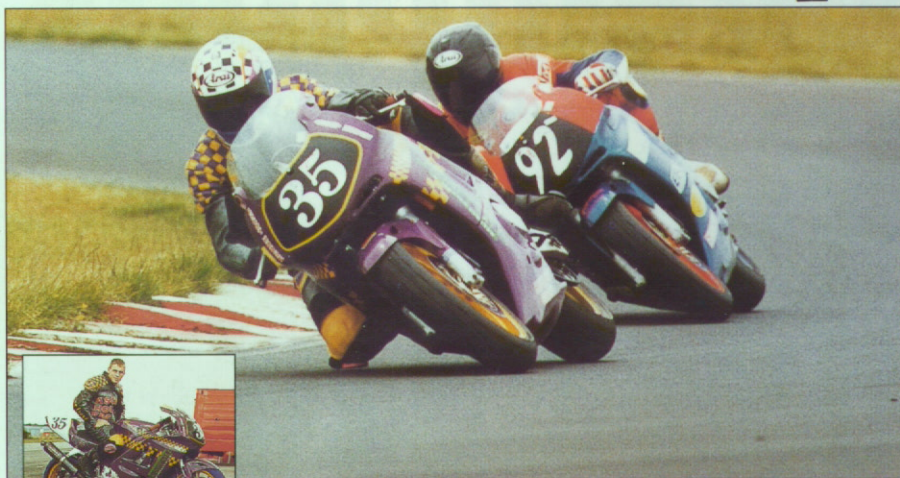
Clarke, of 27 Transport Regt RLC, hits speeds of 160mph plus when he races in the ultra-competitive Formula 600 super-sport series.

"After a slow start to the season with problems setting up the new bike, I am now running in the top six or seven out of an average grid size of 35 to 40," he said.

Although he has been riding motor cycles for ten years, he started racing only last year. "My best yet was a second place at Snetterton in June. It has taken a lot of hard work and dedication to improve to this standard."

Clarke has had two spills at more than 100mph this year, but managed to walk away from them both. "The bike required a little more attention than I did," he said.

"I have another three or four meetings this season at various circuits around the



Fast lane: Capt Jamie Clarke, inset, takes a bend in front of a rival

UK. After this the bike will need a complete strip-down and rebuild to include the addition of some improvements to power and handling.

"Having completed a full season, we now know all the tracks and have built up enough experience and information to mount a realistic challenge for the cham-

pionship next year. By mid-season next year we hope to be at a level where we could have a go at qualifying for a few national supercup meetings, as seen on television.

"This is obviously dependent on funding, sponsorship and how quick we are running at the time."

FOOTBALL



Fan club: RLC TA PTI WO2 Sue Smith, with Cpl Gordon Greene, left, and Cpl Jason Boston, show off their favourite side's colours

Thrilled with thrashing

RLC Territorial Army PT experts were thrilled when their team received a walloping from Grantham Town FC. This year the professional footballers put their training into the hands of the military at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham.

WO2 Sue Smith and her six-strong team of instructors spent two hours a day honing the side's fitness agility and fighting spirit. Just how good a job they had done became clear when the "Gingerbreads" took on the soldiers' comrades in a pre-season friendly. The RLC TA team remained glorious even in their 14-0 defeat. The tactics Smith and her team of specialists used included weight-training, assault courses and basketball.



Combined Services (UK) and Army skipper WO2 Alan Higgins (R Sigs) holds aloft the Kentish Cup won by the Combined Services

Kentish Cup winners

NO wonder he looks happy. WO2 Alan Higgins is pictured after receiving the Kentish Cup for the only European Forces soccer competition.

Originally the Kentish Cup involved the Belgian and French Armed Forces with those in the UK.

The Dutch replaced the French about ten years ago, changing the balance of the competition because the Belgians and the Dutch were able to draw on star players who were doing National Service.

UK Combined Services won the trophy last season with 3-1 and 4-0 wins against the Belgians and Netherlands respectively.

Let us sleigh



Cool customer: Chill out learning the winter sports of luge, bobsleigh and skeleton

YOU'RE on the slippery slope when you get a taste for this sort of thing and here is your chance to try it.

The Army Winter Sports Association is holding its 1998 ice camp at the former Olympic venue of Lillehammer, Norway, from October 15 to 22 and 22

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SHOOTING

Shooters bang on target in Canada

DESPITE a mix-up over their ammunition, the British Army combat shooting team was bang on target during the Canadian Forces Skill-at-Arms competition held at Connaught Ranges and Primary Training Centre, Ottawa.

The marksmen were hoping to use up the balance of the 5.56mm ammunition left over by last year's team. But staff at the training centre destroyed it before the team arrived.

The problem was compounded by Canadian Customs' refusal to allow the main consignment, held in Montreal, to be released to Ottawa for the stipulated delivery deadline.

It was eventually released 60 hours before the main competition started. Although by this time most of the team had sighted in with C77 and were understandably reluctant to change to British ammunition, the decision was made to do so. Some hurried re-zeroing and sighting

was carried out. There was no time to do the same for the sniper rifles, so the team captain's decision was to stay with the commercial-sourced Norma 168 grain 7.62mm.

The team was based on nine firers selected from 1 RGR, the winners of the 1997 major units' Tickle competition, and the balance from the Army squad.

Team captain was Lt Col (Retd) Patrick Chambers, coach Tony Bexon SASC and adjutant Lt (QGO) Yembahadur Rana, 1 RGR.

Lt Col Chambers said: "The Exercise Sharpshooter team had a successful foray to Canada, winning 75 per cent of the eligible individual rifle and sniper rifle matches, making a clean sweep of the LMG matches and winning all but one of the rifle team matches.

"A new, psychological approach to Service competition shooting was trialled, arguably with success."

SHORTS

Silver lining

ARMY Rowing Club pair Lt Kate Templeton and Capt Caroline Kirman won silver and bronze medals at the national rowing championships of Great Britain.

The Intelligence Corps duo, winners at the Henley women's regatta in June, earned their bronze medals first in a composite eight crew with Thames RC.

Appalling weather conditions delayed the race and contributed to the collapse of one crew member with hypothermia.

In the final of the women's coxless pairs, the Army were fastest over the first 1000m, however Great Britain's selected world championship pair pushed past in the last 500m to win by a length.

Templeton and Kirman are in training for GB squad trials this winter and are hoping to attract a sponsor to enable Int Corps to purchase a new racing shell.

Women's rugby

WOMEN'S rugby is about to scrum down for its second season. WO2 Ian Neil, Army women's coach, is optimistic about the prospects. "We have two coaches this year and I feel that we are going to do pretty well." He is hoping for an improvement on the first season's results – five wins and three defeats. This year a senior XV and a development XV will be fielded. The seniors will play against clubs, county and representative sides and the development team will play most of the best university sides.

Pack drill

SOLDIERS from 3 R Irish are pictured during their final practice session at Mahon Barracks, Portadown before departing on the first Home Service rugby tour of South Africa. The players will also be holding coaching clinics for youths in the townships.



SAILING

Longbow hits target

Treacherous seas and force seven gales were the companions of Maj Nick Fenton (QDG) and Capt Hugh Martin (Scots DG) when they entered the Round Britain and Ireland Race

THE opportunity to race more than 2,000 miles around Britain and Ireland is a challenging task for a full crew, writes **Maj Nick Fenton**. To do it with only two is either one of the great British yacht races or complete madness. Four stop-overs were incorporated to give crews the chance to maintain their boats and get some sleep.

With 40 other yachts (30ft to 60ft) entered, there was an excellent level of sportsmanship as competitors assembled at Plymouth.

Everything was checked. Although the yachts were never more than 80 miles off-shore, a serious gear failure could be potentially disastrous. We minimised the risks by careful practice and a healthy respect for the elements.

The first leg was 320 miles to Cork in southern Ireland. Howling winds blew through the rigging as the weather grew worse. Neither of us felt great and we knew that it would probably take most of the first leg to clear sea-sickness. The size of waves became a concern and one

ripped a life-belt off the stern. Luckily *Longbow*, with both her hatches in place, stayed relatively dry below decks although the cabin resembled the inside of a spin-dryer the following morning.

Strong winds continued to blow during the compulsory 48-hour stop in Cork and abated only as the second leg started. The route, around the southern edge of Ireland, went past some dramatic scenery – lighthouses perched on inaccessible rocky peaks with cliffs towering up from the sea. More than 400 miles away, the Outer Hebrides (Barra), was our next stop, and for a while the wind was southerly, giving a fast spinnaker run up the west Irish coast. Delays occurred when the spinnaker collapsed around the forestay in heavy seas. After struggling at the top of the mast to save the sail, the battle was lost with a resounding rip. The wind was back up to a force seven and the coastline vanished as Galway Bay passed by.

In rough conditions watches would last a maximum of two hours before whoever was on duty handed over and retired to dry out below. This would stretch to six hours in better weather, allowing time for proper rest. Meals were at times the only real contact with each other.

The nights became shorter as the Shetlands approached and the marine-life flourished. Dolphins would blow a fine mist of water into the cockpit as they jumped out of the water close to the hull. Colourful puffins, with beaks full of fish, would try unsuccessfully to fly out of the way and opt



Maj Nick Fenton, front, and Capt Hugh Martin next to *Longbow*, which was sponsored by *Soldier* for the race

for diving underwater instead. Gannets, fulmars and Arctic terns were the only companions for days.

Lerwick in the Shetlands was reached by passing Muckle Flugga – the most northern tip of the British Isles. We arrived at 3am on the summer solstice to an excellent reception, even though the thick fog meant the approach had been visible by radar only.

The wind was not good for the trip back to Plymouth but our position had improved and we were now third in our class.

VICIOUS SQUALL

Before Lowestoft appeared on the horizon and the last of the North Sea oil rigs had been passed, the wind increased to a vicious squall. It passed through at speed, leaving us with a handkerchief for sails and waves that towered above.

This was only bettered by negotiating the Dover Straits three nights later. With less wind, but little visibility, the high numbers of merchant ships made for a tense passage.

The finish was a quiet one and typical of the race – 3am. However, *Longbow* was in one piece, we were still third in our class and seventh overall. The race had been seriously testing alongside professional and amateur crews and one that combined many levels of seamanship.

As for doing it again, there are four years to make that decision: the next race will be 2002.



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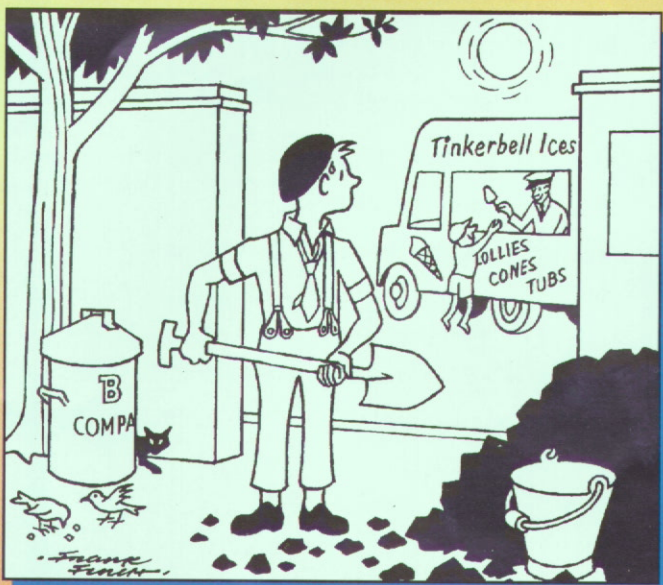


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For those who do not wish to cut their magazine, a photocopy is acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.

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Competition 680 (July issue): First correct entry drawn was from Mr J F Lett (ex-RE), of Catford, London, who wins £100. Runners-up are Mrs J White, of Lancaster, and Mr O J Riddle, of Wareham, Dorset, who each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: top of mast, pattern on sail, number and hull of second sailboard from left; left-hand boardsailor's leg; foreground figure's left arm; gantry and railing of ship; sea around ship; ripple to right of capsized sailboard.

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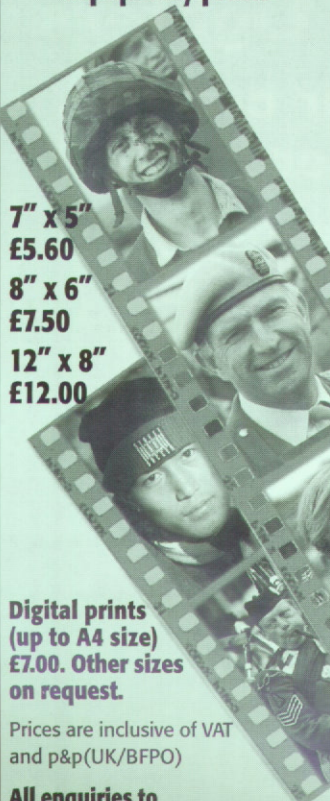
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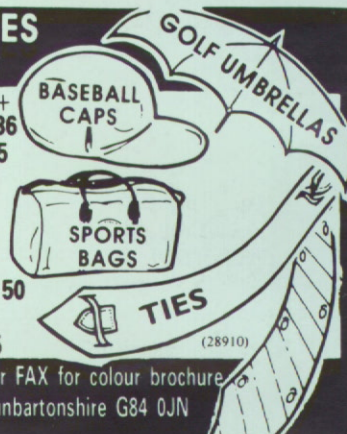
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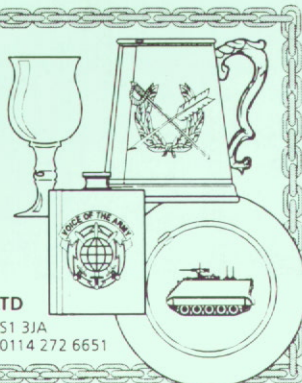
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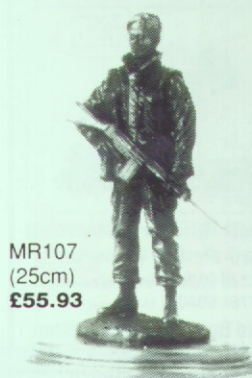
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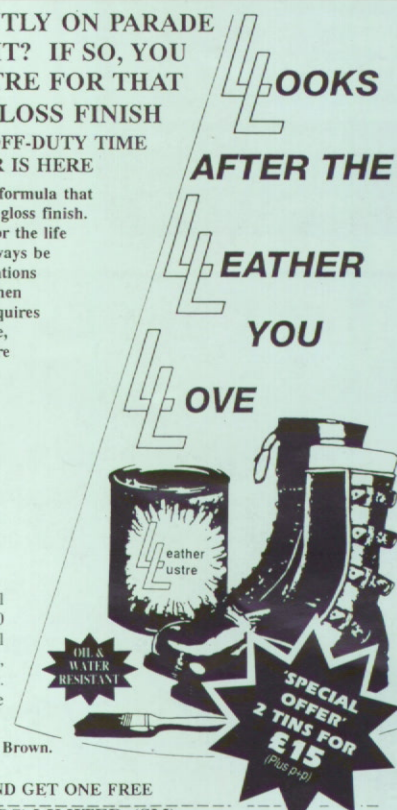
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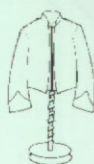
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Gemma, 16, 5'4", blue-eyed blonde. Enjoys watching and playing football and listening to all types of music. Seeking male pen pals with GSOH. All letters answered. **P319**

Sue, 37, 5'3", a slim brunette with brown eyes and GSOH. Interests include swimming, walking, pubs and clubs, eating out, ten pin bowling and keep fit. Seeking squaddies, 30-38, at home or abroad to write to. **P320**

Ellen, a young, petite and attractive blonde in her forties who enjoys keep fit, reading and travel and has a GSOH. Seeking male pen pals, 40+. Genuine replies only please. **P321**

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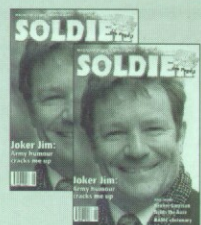
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JULY 25, 1998

First prize (469 runs, £3,200): WO2 GW Bruce, ATSA Malvern.
Second prize (457 runs, £1,600): Cpl JP Phillips, 220 Signal Sqn, Laarbruch.
Third prize (452 runs, £1,200): LCpl A McInnes, 16 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Fallingbommel.
Fourth prize (443 runs, £900): WO2 S Hillman, 1 RRW, Paderborn.
Fifth prize (433 runs, £600): SSgt LA Davis, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, Bielefeld.
Sixth prize (431 runs, £400): SSgt G Mason, MOD, London.
Seventh prize (424 runs, £300): Cpl A Usher, BATSU Belize.
Eighth prize (418 runs, £200): Cpl SM Thompson, 15 Signal Regt.
Ninth prize (412 runs, £100): CSgt MP Hibbs, 1 RRW, Paderborn.

The prize money increased to £9,000 per week with effect from August 1, 1998 - only three months after the last increase. This is because ticket sales passed the 24,000 mark. The top prize remains £3,200 but an additional £500 prize has been introduced.

AUGUST 1, 1998

First prize (305 runs, £3,200): CSgt A Munroe, 2 R Anglian, Dhekelia.
Second prize (304 runs, £1,600): LCpl TW White, 2 LI.
Third prize (298 runs, £1,200): WO2 JH Howard.

AUGUST 8, 1998

Fourth prize (296 runs, £900): WO2 W Tait, School of Army Aviation, Middle Wallop.
Fifth prize (295 runs, £600): SSgt E Taylor, 5/8 Kings (V), Warrington.
Sixth prize (278 runs, £500): SSgt G Colville, HQ Dhekelia Garrison.
Seventh prize (277 runs, £400): Pte D Rhodan, 1 A and SH, Edinburgh.
Eighth prize (276 runs, £300): CSgt JW McGregor, 1 RRF.
Two-way tie for ninth prize (275 runs, £150): LCpl M Gillett, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; Sgt TE Wright, 3 Armd Fd Amb, Sennelager.

AUGUST 8, 1998

First prize (266 runs, £3,200): Capt SJ Donoghue, 5 Regt RA, Catterick.
Second prize (265 runs, £1,600): WO2 IG Dale, ATDU, Bovington.
Third prize (252 runs, £1,200): LCpl N McKenzie, 26 Tpt Sqn RLC.
Two-way tie for fourth prize (248 runs, £750): Sgt GN Allerton, AFPA, Worthy Down; WO1 R Murdy, Royal Hospital Haslar.
Sixth prize (242 runs, £500): Capt NC Brogan, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, Catterick.
Seventh prize (241 runs, £400): Sgt J Tebbutt, SEAE, Arborfield.
Eighth prize (235 runs, £300): Sgt Rastra Rai, ASPT, Aldershot.
Two-way tie for ninth prize (234 runs, £150): Sgt JM Hutchinson, MCTC, Colchester; WO2 D Middleton, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford.

AUGUST 15, 1998

First prize (371 runs, £3,200): LCpl G Wilkinson, The Light Dragoons, Hohne.
Second prize (365 runs, £1,600): Sgt SD Berryman, 1 Coldm Gds, Windsor.
Third prize (360 runs, £1,200): Sgt IA Brookwell, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Fourth prize (359 runs, £900): Lt Col NC Millen, RAC Gny Wing, Hohne.
Fifth prize (354 runs, £600): Sgt LA Edwards, AFCA Cardiff.
Sixth prize (349 runs, £500): Capt AA Tilley, HQBF Falkland Islands.
Seventh prize (348 runs, £400 each): Lt CE Craven, QDG, Catterick.
Eighth prize (343 runs, £300): Sgt CA Pearson, 25 Engr Regt.
Ninth prize (342 runs, £200): SSgt MA Wright, ATR Lichfield.
Tenth prize (341 runs, £100): SSgt JH Longman, 5 AB Bde Log Bn, Aldershot.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Owing to the non-participation of premier league clubs on September 5, 1998 the lottery on that date will be based on cricket scores. The championship match Sussex v Glamorgan starting on Sunday, August 30 will count, if needed, towards the lottery on August 29 and not September 5 - that is, if neither county has an innings during the week August 24-29.

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The Publishers shall not be liable for errors occurring after the first insertion of an advertisement in a series. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to inform the Publishers of any such error in sufficient time to allow the amendment. A voucher copy will not be supplied.

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World of wheels

Style with substance

SEAT'S Ibiza is the small car that lacks nothing, **writes Syd Taylor.**

It has a style to turn heads and attract admiring glances on the high street – and it is available in a choice of unusually striking and youthful colours.

The smooth bonnet line rises to a sharply-raked windscreen with flowing lines producing a feeling of forward motion and power. The chic styling and sheer jauntness give it an irresistible charm, but unlike some rivals the Ibiza's attraction goes much deeper.

Tight panel gaps and a flawless paint finish signal top quality and it's not surprising that Seat give a three-year unlimited mileage warranty. This is a tough, well-put-together car which promises durability and longevity.

The short bonnet and long cabin proportions indicate the space within while deep screen and expansive side glass suggest a light and airy interior – and it's no illusion. Big doors give excellent access and there's room for five – just, with plenty for four – and a deep boot.

RATTLE-FREE

Practicality starts with high-quality fixtures and fittings that promise miles of squeak- and rattle-free integrity, as you would expect from a car produced by the Volkswagen Group.

The five-door TDi version tested is particularly well-equipped and you get power steering, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, electric front windows and door mirrors, tilt-and-slide glass sunroof, driver's airbag, tinted glass and a good stereo radio cassette.

The dictum that a comfortable driver is a safe one has been thoroughly embraced in the Ibiza and at the wheel – whatever your shape and size – everything adjusts to fit. Driver seat height, steering column and seat belt height are all adjustable. You settle into a well-shaped and high-backed seat which is supportive and comfortable.

Wheel and pedals are properly aligned, so the driving position should meet with approval from any osteopath. In fact it's far more comfortable on a long run than many supposed "luxury" saloons.

The big news with the TDi Ibiza is the remark-



Road test: Seat Ibiza TDi Five-Door

Tech Spec

ENGINE Front transverse 1896cc, four-cylinder turbo diesel; 90 bhp at 4000 rpm, 149 lb/ft. at 1900 rpm.
TRANSMISSION Five-speed manual, FWD.

STEERING Power, rack-and-pinion.

BRAKES Disc front, drum rear.

KERB WEIGHT 1070 kg.

PERFORMANCE Maximum speed, 112 mph; 0 - 62 mph, 11.9 sec.

MPG. Out-of-town 70.6, combined 58.9.

PRICE £11,995.

able 1.9 litre direct-injection turbo-charged and intercooled diesel engine. The pulling-power from low speeds makes this supermini feel really rapid where it counts most – in real-world driving conditions and particularly in main road overtaking situations.

You never need to over-use the slick five-speed gearbox: you just press the "fly-by-wire" throttle and you surge confi-

dently past other traffic with ease. With this kind of usable performance on tap you soon find yourself cutting journey times without even trying – and it's so much fun, too.

Some sacrifice in economy would be expected for all this, but since the VW engine is thought to be one of the most thermally efficient units in production, there's no loss of mpg – and it's Bio Diesel

compatible too. The lively performance is matched by first-class dynamics and the responsive and perfectly-weighted steering adds to the exceptional driver appeal. With powerful brakes, you are firmly in control of every situation. Tenacious road-holding inspires complete confidence.

The TDi Ibiza is a very special car indeed which has redefined the meaning of diesel-driving by setting new standards.

Looked at separately, each area of the TDi Ibiza is outstanding. Looked at as a whole, it is simply brilliant.



Protectionist policy: For those whose occupation or social position make them vulnerable to attack, the BMW 540i Protection is a lightweight, discreet option. Aramide fibre mats in

strategic positions and security-glazed windows render its passenger cell safe against handguns up to .44 Magnum calibre. And it weighs only 130kg more than the standard 540i.

Pension advance scheme 'rip-off'

LET'S hear it for Kenneth Wilson ("Don't commute", June). I strongly echo his sentiments regarding the famous commutation facility. My message to all unsuspecting leavers is to be cautious – can you afford to commute your pension?

I was discharged in 1981 after 22 years and like Kenneth was encouraged to commute the maximum permissible percentage of my pension to assist with house purchase and resettlement. The commuted sum was £4,500. I "repaid" the advance over the next 15 years at £630 per annum, thus repaying some £9,450.

When I sought the advice of the RAPC, a faceless staff officer told me that "if I wisely invested the commuted portion of my pension, it would earn me far more than I was having to repay the MoD, so I would have come out of the deal ahead, even after repayments".

What world was he living in? The money needed to be used for the immedi-

ate housing of my family, not for the amusement or luxury of playing the stock market.

It seems immoral and unjust that the MoD should have apparently ripped-off soldiers. Banks, finance companies or even loan sharks do not charge 100 per cent interest.

Over the years the ministry must have recouped huge sums in revenue from "double commutations" and I would be interested to know where the money has gone. – **G Davies, Crawley, W Sussex.**

Write us a prize letter

HOT under the collar? Want to take issue on a serious topic? Need to settle a difference of opinion on a burning question?

Or do you just want to share a good story with thousands of other readers around the world?

As ever, *Soldier* welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90.

All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point.

We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, names and addresses (not necessarily for publication) should be in block capitals.

A prize from *Soldier's* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Was this the only commemoration?

SO FAR as I am aware, the only service of commemoration marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Palestine Campaign (1945-48) was held in the beautiful Bath Abbey on Sunday, July 19.

More than 1,000 veterans were on parade and the aisle was lined with standards of the Royal British Legion and regimental associations from all over the UK.

Gerald Burr (ex-Royal Artillery) was the initiator, helped by the excellent organisation of RBL North Somerset Branch.

Among dignitaries present were the Lord Lieutenant, mayor and local MP. The retiring collection was in aid of the training of Palestinian nurses.

Readers will have noticed in the media details of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Why the conclusion of the League of Nations Mandate was not similarly reported I cannot imagine. – **C J Wareing (ex-Sgt RE), Redditch, Wores.**

Lottery idea support

I SUPPORT the suggestion from Lt Col W A Lyons (Aug) for a National Lottery grant for a 1939-45 roll of honour for those who gave their lives.

Names are sadly lacking on most war memorials. – **A R Blake, Northfleet, Kent.**



Draining work: This *Soldier* photograph from June, 1965 shows men building a culvert at the Loeng Nok-Tha airstrip site. Drainage was a big challenge during Op Crown (see below)

British soldiers in Vietnam war zone

IN 1966-67 I served a tour of duty in Thailand on Op Crown with a troop of RCT, Royal Engineers, REME and a detachment of Australian Medical Corps.

I can find no written record of the job. Were we not supposed to be there because of our closeness to the Laos border during the Vietnam War?

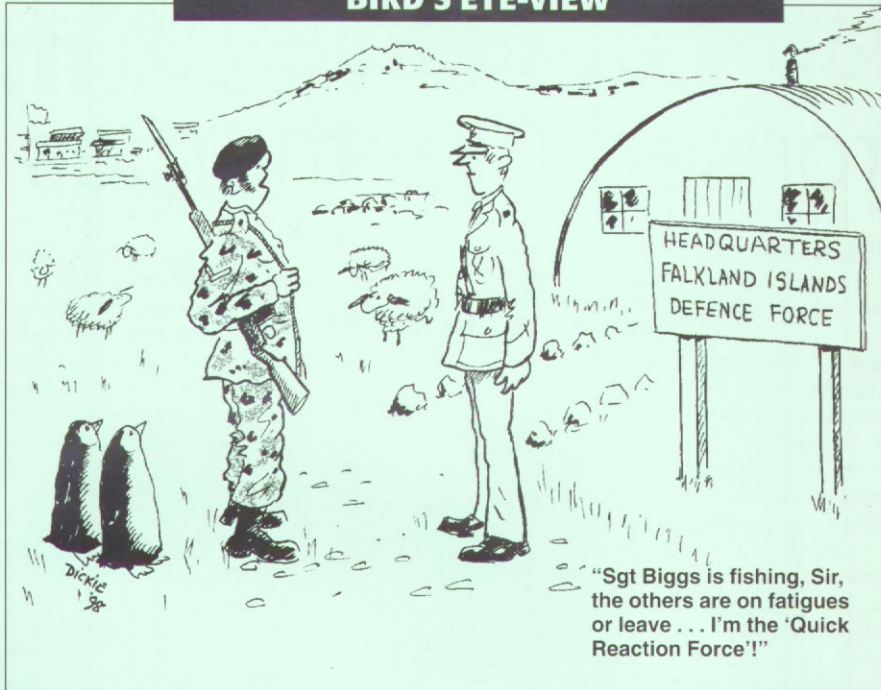
The airfield we were building was supposed to be an emergency airstrip for civil aircraft but we only ever saw USAF Phantoms and Caribou transporters.

The Thai Government wanted to award us all Gold and Silver Star medals for service to their country, but our Government turned them down. As we were serving in a war zone, why were we not decorated?

My 23 years and 147 days' service were the best part of my life. If Jim Mottram (Thailand), Tich Wilson (Duisberg and Minden) and John Cartledge (Duisberg) are reading this, I would like to hear from them. – **Maurice Moroney, 2 Sharnbrook Court, High Street, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire MK44 1PG.**

● If the Army did it, *Soldier* covered it. Operation Crown, which started in December 1963 (building Loeng Nok-Tha airfield) and Op Post Crown (road-building, January 1967-April 1968) were featured extensively in this magazine in the June 1965, August 1967 and July 1968 editions. The earlier operation was the first major task for British soldiers in Thailand since the infamous Burma-Siam death railway.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Smallest Army in the world? – Pages 18-19

We fight on, say nuclear veterans

AS READERS will be aware (*Soldier*, July) the British nuclear veterans' case for official compensation for the effects of exposure to radiation during the Christmas Island tests 40 years ago was overturned by the European Court of Human Rights in June.

The vote in Strasbourg, after eight months of deliberation, was the closest possible, with four of the nine judges arguing that the men's human rights had indeed been violated.

Three criticised the UK Government of the day for failing to monitor the health of Servicemen, despite being aware of the threat of radiation sickness.

It was a great disappointment for the

many veterans and their families who have suffered since the tests.

Despite this setback, the British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association intends to fight on, stung by the fact that they were beaten on a legal technicality surrounding the claimants' accessibility to classified documents. – **Jim Haggas, Stockton-On-Tees.**

• A revised version of Jim Haggas's book, *Christmas Island: The Wrong Place at the Wrong Time* (reviewed in *Soldier* in March), with new eye-witness accounts, is available from him at 7, Battersby Close, Yarm, Stockton-On-Tees, TS15 9RX (tel 01642 784357) at £4.99, adding 65p (UK) and £2.50 (overseas) for p&p.

How Army training can save lives

YOUR heartwarming story of the sea rescue by surfing soldiers in the Adriatic (Aug) shows the value of fitness, training and quick reaction. When it comes to our turn to hear the cry for help, will we respond in the right way?

I and seven fellow members of the London Fire Brigade Diving Club were on the English south coast when we saw an elderly man trying to beach a large fishing whaler in a violent surf, with a man on shore trying to yell instructions.

A freak wave lifted the boat and occupied bodily upwards some 15ft and, turn-

ing it upside-down, hurled it and its contents back towards the surf. Without thought, we all waded into the sea, got the boat righted in the few seconds' respite the sea allowed, and carried the old gent up the shingle to a hut, where medical help was summoned. – **Jerry Davies (RAPC, HAC and LFB), Anglesey.**

THE book *The Uniforms of 1798-1803* (Four Courts Press, Dublin), is £9.95 in paperback, not £14.95 (Aug). It is available at most good bookshops in Britain. – Ronan Gallagher, Four Courts Press, Dublin 8.

PS...

Mons WAS hard

I WAS more than a little surprised by I R Donald's letter about Mons OCS (Aug). It takes some believing that ANY of my distinguished predecessors such as RSMs Tibby Brittain, Charlie Smy, Desmond Lynch and Stanley Blake allowed staff members to perform "virtually no duties"!

Certainly during my two tours in 1967-68 and 1969-72 the staff – particularly the sergeants' mess members – had a very hard and busy life. The course for officer cadets was extremely tough and produced many first-class officers. – Maj Peter Horsfall, Southgate, London.

Remember us, too

YOUR article on Malaya (July) brought back memories, but given the length of the emergency and the number of Servicemen involved I feel a longer and more detailed feature could have been presented.

Having been in the REME attached to the Royal Scots Fusiliers myself, I noticed that none of the support regiments was mentioned (I can think of nine). Now that most of the corps no longer exist as they were then, or indeed the regiments, I suppose we are to remain forgotten. Please remember, without all the back-up the fighting regiments would not be so successful. – J Pester, Wokingham, Berks.

IN MALAYA, 3 Coy RASC was with 2nd Guards Brigade (not 2 Coy RASC) and no mention was made in your article of the Royal Marine Commando Brigade, which was under Army command. – Frank Johnson (3 Coy RASC, Malaya, Aug 1949-Aug 1952), Bawtry, S Yorks.

• For space reasons, we had to concentrate on Commonwealth major Army units. No disrespect to support units was intended.

No consistency

THERE seems little or no consistency with the issue of medals ('Smouldering grievance of Canal Zone veterans', July).

For example, the South Atlantic "Falklands" Medal was awarded to members of the Royal Air Force serving in Ascension Island, 4,000 miles from any danger.

I am an ardent reader of *Soldier*, even though I served in the Royal Navy during the Suez Crisis in 1956 on board HMS *Crane*. – B C Lilley, Llantwit Major, S Glam.

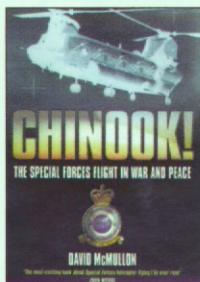
Gentlemen, please!

AS a member of the British Ex-Services Association in Australia I should like to commend you on *Soldier*, which is well read here. I am also a former member of the now-defunct Dunkirk Association. On leave in 1940 after that operation, in which I served with the 2nd Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers, I bought a book called *Gentlemen of Dunkirk*. Does anyone else remember this or still possess a copy? – Henry Power, Unit 3-17 Browne Street, New Farm, Brisbane, Queensland.

Books

Chinook-eye view of Special Forces ops

DAVID McMullon served with the RAF in the Falklands and the Gulf. His Chinook team searched

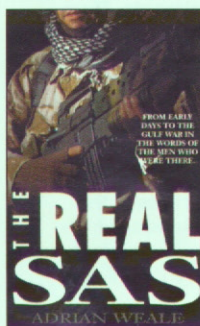


for Bravo Two Zero and he believes he and his wife lost a baby due to Gulf War illness. He was a colleague of the two airmen accused of "pilot error"

after the Mull of Kintyre Chinook crash. All good reasons why his candid book **Chinook! The Special Forces Flight in War and Peace** (Simon & Schuster, hardback, £16.99) will be devoured by all with an interest in the supposedly more "glamorous" areas of military life.

Life in the SAS – in their own words

FORMER Int Corps officer Adrian Weale has compiled an impression of "the way the SAS

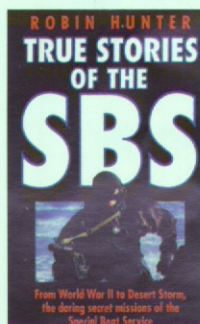


works and what it is like to be in it, through the accounts of men who have served in and with the unit: official, autobiographical and informal". Whether the resulting illustrated

"oral history", published by Sidgwick & Jackson in hardback at £20, is indeed **The Real SAS** is for others to judge; what is certain is that part of the author's royalty will be donated to the SAS Association.

From early frogmen to Gulf saboteurs

ANOTHER one for those with insatiable appetites for Special Forces info (especially if it is



"authentic") is **True Stories of the SBS** by Robin Hunter (Virgin, paperback, £5.99). Again using first-hand accounts of participants, this ex-commando traces the unit's history from the

earliest frogmen to the sabotage missions behind the lines in the Gulf War, taking in the human torpedoes, D-Day and the Falklands along the way.

Deadly butterflies that terrorised Cleethorpes

LANDMINES and their grim human toll are high on the public agenda at the moment, and rightly so.

But weapons with the capacity to kill or maim the innocent at random are nothing new, as Britons on the home front in the Second World War were well aware.

Some fell from the sky. The towns of Grimsby and Cleethorpes almost came to a standstill on June 13, 1943 when, as well as high explosives, hundreds of anti-personnel bombs were dropped in an air raid.

When No 3 Bomb Disposal Company, Royal Engineers was called in, the first officer on the scene found these so-called "butterfly" bombs lying about on roads, gates, fences and telephone wires. Some had landed in attics, others had penetrated ceilings.

MOVEMENT

As the experts were to discover, the slightest movement could set them off. Yet to defuse each one it was necessary to get within an inch of it.

When the areas were finally given the "all-clear" about 2,500 butterfly bombs were counted. Fourteen people had been killed in the initial raid but the deadly devices, with half their 2kg weight consisting of explosive that could kill at 50 yards, claimed a further 43.

A schoolboy picked one up in a Cleethorpes garden a week after the raid and carried it for half a mile before hand-

The Lonely War by Lt Col (Retd) Eric Wakeling. B D Publishing, 6 Wendover Road, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5NT, paperback, £9 (cheques to E Wakeling).



Dangerous world of UXBs: Lt Col (Retd) Eric Wakeling

ing it to a warden. Seconds later, placed out of danger to human life, it blew up.

For the men of Bomb Disposal – forerunners of today's 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) – the butterflies were just one threat in the continuous battle to keep British towns and cities safe. Another was the menace of the minefields laid around the coastal shores. Metal fatigue made them an ever-increasing danger as the war went on.

In one 1944 incident it took only a stray dog to set off a mine which in turn detonated others in the area, killing two bomb disposal experts.

When the time came to count the war's cost, 394 officers and men of the Bomb Disposal companies had been killed and 207 wounded. Thirteen George Crosses and

115 George Medals were awarded, and many MBEs.

Unfortunately, recognition of such gallantry was uneven. When it was suggested that the Bomb Disposal men should receive the 1939-45 Star, they were told that if they got it, the Anti-Aircraft Gunners should get it, too – and the gunners were said to be no more at risk than the rest of the civil population...

In his fascinating book telling the story of wartime bomb disposal, Lt Col Eric Wakeling writes: "When we celebrated the anniversary of our formation, we had a commemorative service in St Paul's Cathedral.

"It was well attended by the 'Old and Bold' wearing their gallantry awards.

NO MEDAL

"However, it begged the question, where did these men fight to get their awards? There was no indication that they had ever been in a war as they didn't have a campaign medal to show where they had fought."

Col Wakeling's 1994 book, reprinted by public demand, is an excellent account of the men who pitted their wits against the skill of enemy boffins.

The Germans knew that an unexploded bomb could hold up the war effort if no one was prepared to deal with it. They had reckoned without the resolve of the men of the Bomb Disposal companies of the Royal Engineers. – AG

Arnhem tribute will aid museums

COUNTLESS words have been written about the actions at Arnhem in September 1944 and subsequently at Oosterbeek.

Arnhem Sacrifice, compiled and edited by Colin Cummings, a retired wing commander, is a tribute to those who took part. He provides facts about the organisation of the air and ground forces not always easily accessible and lists – he believes for the first time – all British, Dutch, Polish and US gallantry awards and the citations

for almost all the British medals. He also includes a roll of honour of men of the Polish Parachute Brigade, the aircrews and RASC air dispatchers.

This well-researched paperback is published at £15.99 (plus £2 p&p) by Nimbus Publishing, PO Box 3, Yelvertoft, Northampton NN6 6ZE.

Cheques should be made payable to the author, who is donating any profits to the Museum of Army Flying, the Airborne Forces Museum and Airborne Museum, Oosterbeek.



Tributes help ex-Forces group

APART from their connection with the Second World War, the four paperbacks shown here have other things in common – all are from the extensive catalogue of A Lane Publishers, of Stockport, which produces books of interest to (and, indeed, written by) former members of the Forces, and all help to raise money for the National Ex-Services Association (NESA).

D-Day veteran Leslie Burns's memoir *For Gunners' Sake*, shown on the right, and *A Green Hill Far Away* (not shown) by Fred Hirst, formerly 2/5th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, are two of the latest

titles, both of which are priced at £12.

Many other books pay tribute to those who suffered as prisoners-of-war of the Japanese, including more than a dozen by ex-PoW Arthur Lane, organiser of NESA, formed in June 1996 with just 40 members. The association now has more than 1,000 on its books and its newspaper, *NESA News*, is dispatched to more than 5,000 readers.

More information on the book catalogue can be obtained from A Lane Publishers, 61 Charles Street, Stockport, SK1 3JR (tel 0161 477 2681).

South Albertas stand out in VC hall of fame

CANADA'S part in the Second World War is all too often overshadowed by its bigger partners. Its forces were included under "British" and its production efforts under "North American".

Also, many regiments were based on part-time forces and disbanded soon after the war, so losing a vital thread in recording their history.

Not all was lost, though, and the passing of time does not stop detailed accounts being produced.

One such story is this, which covers the South Alberta Regiment from September, 1939, when it was short of almost everything except enthusiasm, to the extent that uniforms produced to its own pattern were worn before offi-

South Albertas: A Canadian Regiment at War by Donald E Graves. Published in hardback by Robin Brass Studio, 10 Blantyre Avenue, Toronto, Canada M1N 2R4, \$59.95 Canadian, \$47.95 US. UK distributors: Spellmount, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0NX.

cial ones were provided. An infantry unit until the end of 1941, when it became the 29th Canadian Armoured Regiment, it travelled with its parent 4th Armoured Division to England in mid-1942 and continued training, becoming the division's Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment late the same year.

Landing in France in July 1944, its soldiers took part in the breakout from Normandy. During the actions to encircle

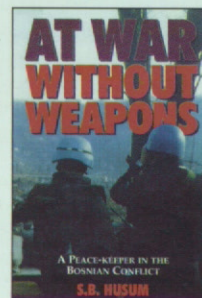
the German forces in the Falaise pocket, a close-fought battle at Lambert-sur-Dives resulted in the only award of a Victoria Cross to a Canadian in Normandy, which was also the only one awarded to a Canadian armoured unit during the Second World War.

After that it advanced through Belgium and Holland and into Germany via the Reichswald Forest, acting as needed in reconnaissance, armoured, infantry support, artillery or any other role.

The detailed story includes interviews with, and letter and diary extracts written by, those who took part, as well as photographs and maps. It is a worthy tribute to Canadians who deserve their own place in history. – PB

Outstanding diary of a human tragedy

DESCRIPTIVE writing of some brilliance brings the human tragedy of the former Yugoslavia sharply into focus in **At War Without Weapons: A Peace-keeper in the Bosnia Conflict** (Air-life, hardback, £19.95). Soren Bo Husum, a Danish officer, kept a diary while serving unarmed as a UN military observer in Mostar, Zadar and the Bihac Pocket and his examination of the impact of the fighting on the civilian population is particularly impressive.



Life in the raw for Rhodesian at war

IN 1976, Chris Cocks joined the Rhodesian Light Infantry and did 18 months' national service.

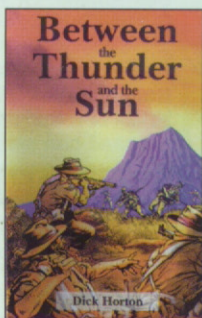
Then instead of going to university in England as planned he signed on as a regular for another two years which changed his life. **Fireforce** (Covos Books, hardback, £22.50 plus £2 p&p from Enthusiasts Library, 55 Hewitt Road, London N8 0BS) is a personal diary of a bloody bush war fought mostly at very close quarters. The action is served up raw... this is gripping stuff if you want to read a foot-soldier's view of life at the sharp end.



Guerrilla warfare in the Solomon Islands

DICK Horton was district officer of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands and a member of their defence force

when the Japanese invaded. The final part of his history of the Solomons, **Between the Thunder and the Sun** (The Book Guild, hardback, £14.95), covers the Allied guerrilla campaign against the occupation forces in Bougainville. He later served in US, Australian and British forces and was a civil servant in Malaya during the emergency.



Bulletin Board

SEARCHLINE

Serving and ex-members of the **Airborne Engineers** are invited to join a soon-to-be-formed Scottish Branch of the AE Association. Contact James Barton, 82 Broombank Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 7NY (0131 466 1085).

Ted Harrison, ex-RN (HMS *Consort* 1953), wishes to hear from former friends from the **East Yorks** with whom he served on attachment at Paloh in 1953. Contact him at 37 Ford Park Road, Mutley, Plymouth PL4 6NU (01752 235470).

T Killen wishes to contact **Capt Alex Ferguson RE** and his wife **Roseanne**, whose last-known address was in Tidworth Garrison. Replies to 102 Clyfton Close, Broxbourne, Herts EN10 6NY.

Robert J Gilmour wishes to hear from anyone who served with his uncle, **Lt James Hunter Gilmour**, a CANLOAN officer attached to the **1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders** in April 1944. He died of wounds in Normandy on June 18, 1944 and is buried at Ranville War Cemetery. Replies to 236 John Bowser Crescent, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 7N5, Canada ((905) 895 9203).

Author researching **34 Armoured Brigade** wishes to contact ex-members of **9 RTR, 107, 147 and 153 Regiments RAC** and brigade combat service support units. Contact Robert d'Elia, 12 Allée Hector Berlioz, 78000 Versailles, France.

Author preparing book on the children's camp at **Prestatyn**, Wales seeks information on the period 1939-46 when it was used by Army units. Replies to Bill Wilkinson, 41 Wesley Street, Swinton, Manchester M27 6AD.

Wayne Davies seeks details of **urban camouflage pattern** used on Berlin Brigade Land Rovers and tanks in the 1960s and 1970s. Replies to 17 Archie Street, Harrogate HG1 2DD (01423 526642 or mobile 0374 961251).

T P Sargeant, ex-Gren Gds, seeks details of the **Royal Irish Invalids**, with whom a distant relative served and was wounded in 1797, perhaps in St Lucia or a similar-sounding town or country. Replies to Les Galleterios, Route Des Adams, St Pierre Du Bois, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

German journalist is trying to trace **Sgt Ronald Frank Field**, or news of him, on behalf of a woman whose life he saved when

she was a 14-year-old girl at Schwerte, Germany in 1945. Contact Boris Gathar, Detmolder Str 23, D-42389, Wuppertal, Germany (0049 202 603035).

Phil Harris, who served with the **UK Service Liaison Staff, Pretoria (1950-53)** and was subsequently posted to HQ Northumbrian District at Catterick, would like to hear from former mission colleagues. Replies to P O Box 28179, Sunnyside, Pretoria 0132, Republic of South Africa.

Martyn W Stone seeks First World War unit, service, medal details of his grandfathers, **Fredrick George Row** of Dartmouth, who survived the Battle of the Somme, and **Fredrick James Stone**, who served in the Somerset Light Infantry and Hampshire Regiment in France. Replies to 3 Gissons Lane, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7UB (01392 832920).

The New Forest Branch of the Normandy Veterans Association is appealing for funds to help with a large-scale pilgrimage by its members, the youngest of whom are in their seventies, to mark next year's 55th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Anyone who can help is asked to contact Normandy veteran Gordon Berryman at The Quantocks, 35 Maple Close, Barton-on-Sea, Hants BH25 7AR, tel 01425 617369.

D Kington is searching for old comrades of his late grandfather, **2136361 Spr Edward (Ted) Kington**, from Bristol, who served with No 700 Gen Const Coy RE (1941-43) in Scotland, Algeria, Tunisia and Sicily. Also 58 Bomb Disposal Section RE (1944-46) in Barret, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Replies to 48a Compton Crescent, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2HB (0181 397 9516 home, 0181 481 3004 office).

REUNIONS

Tal Handaq School, Malta (1947-78): Third reunion of RN School Tal Handaq will be held in Bicester, Oxford on Sept 26. Past staff and pupils welcome. Details from Viv Daly on 01752 894846.

Ex-pupils (1958-62) from **Chobham School**, Surrey, many of whom were from Army families stationed at Blackdown and Deepcut, sought for a reunion in October. Replies to Mrs R Ross, 5 Woodside Close, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2DD.

Arborfield Old Boys' Association: Reunion at Arborfield, Oct 23-25. Details: Bob Hambly, 19/20 St Mary's Butts, Reading, Berks RG1 2LN (0118 9594533, fax 0118 9569020).

5 Kings/2 T Force OCA: Reunion dinner and AGM in Stoke on Trent, Oct 24-25. Details from K V G Moore, The Granary, Bacton, Norwich NR12 0JP (01692 651086).

212 AD Bty RA (V): Highland Gunners are holding a SNCOs' reunion in Arbroath on Oct 31. Ex-Sergeants' Mess members wishing to attend should contact the Battery on 01241 875754 or SSgt A Sangster on 01382 901365.

120 Light Battery RA (Oct 1951-Feb 1955): All who served in Korea invited to reunion at Cranfield University, May 25-26, 1999. Details from David Drinkwater on 01330 860351.

Arborfield (Army) Apprentices, Intakes 50A and 50B: 50th anniversary reunion planned for Oct 2000. Contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.



Auf wiedersehen to Wulfen's railwaymen

Whistle-stop: Germany Detachment of 79 Railway Squadron RLC, commanded by Sgt Matt Lane, will bid farewell when it locks up the Wulfen loco shed on September 15, marking the end of the line for British Army railwaymen in continental Europe.

The four-man detachment has been outloading MLRS ammunition from BAD Wulfen for 12 Supply Regiment RLC, which is also due to shut up shop later this year. From left are LCpl Simon Holdsworth, Sgt Matt Lane, Pte Adrian Robinson and Cpl Alan Norris.

Closure will bring to an end a long tradition of Army railway units in Germany, including the famous Berlin Military Train and the ambulance train of the Cold War years.

Main body of 79 Squadron deployed from Moenchengladbach to Marchwood, near Southampton, last year, leaving just four men behind to complete the Wulfen outload for UKSC(G). The squadron has become part of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC and is in the process of reorganising itself to provide a light rail capability ready for worldwide deployment as part of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force. One of its first tasks may take it back to Germany, supporting next year's Exercise Ulan Eagle.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: J R Brown - To Comdt DMSTC, Aug 21; R I Talbot - To Service Attaché, Riyadh, Aug 23.

Colonels: A F Davidson - To Service Attaché, Prague; R N Wertheim - To Colonel Training HQ RAC.

Lieutenant Colonels: G T Baldwin QDG - To SHAPE, Jan 4; C Brundle RA - To BMM Kuwait, Jan 20; C H D Darell KRH - To HQ Land, Nov 30; N R Drayton REME - To HQ ARRC, Jan 4; T P M Forster RLC - To HQ NI,

Oct 19; P A Gray REME - To DGES(A), Jan 11; A N Morphet, R Signals - To APC PN, Nov 30; R Robinson RLC - To DGES(A), Sept 28; D J L Swann QRH - To JSCSC, Feb 1; R D Boden AGC - To ACDS (Overseas); A P W Campbell, A and SH - To MS4 APC; I M Dowdswell RA - To D Pol (ICS).

Retirements

Colonels: E J K O'Brien, late QDG, Aug 13; A C Taylor, late R Anglian, Aug 16.



Fd Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall inspects members of the "Khaki Chums", a group of re-enactment specialists who dressed in Malayan Campaign kit to mark the 50th anniversary of both the Emergency and National Service. They were taking part in a special exhibition organised by The Green Howards Regimental Museum in Richmond. Fd Marshal Bagnall was reunited with former Green Howards who served with him when he was a captain in Malaya, including Maj Jack Riordan, second left, who was his signaller during the campaign

Story-tellers given Armistice deadline

HAVE you a story to tell? Combat Stress ask us to remind you that entries for their 1998 short story competition close on November 11.

Appropriately for Armistice Day, the themes for the competition are Remembrance, Combat Stress and My War. Entry is open to everyone, particularly Forces families, and manuscripts should be no more than 1,000 words.

Each entry should be accompanied by a donation of at least £5 plus £1 to cover administration and should be sent to the Competition Secretary, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL.

Last year's event, also sponsored by Combat Stress and the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, attracted more than 700 entries, many of which have been published in *Peace & War 1997*, a hardback anthology.

In addition to the three main prizes totalling £1,050, the best script received by the end of each month will win £100.

❑ *Manchester and Salford Universities' Officers' Training Corps celebrated its centenary with a civic reception, displays and assault course competition. A volunteer rifle company – Owens College Company – was*

raised from undergraduates in 1898 as part of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Manchester Regiment, and a year later raised volunteers for the Boer War.

❑ **The Duchess of Gloucester visited the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester for the first time since becoming Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the Adjutant General's Corps.**

❑ *Waterloo Band of 5 (V) RGf and Bodicote Royal British Legion Youth Band will join forces for a concert on September 6 to raise funds for the youth band. The venue is the General Foods Sports and Social Club, Spiceball, Banbury. Tickets: 01295 252871.*

❑ **Aldershot Militaria Society holds its annual exhibition and fair at The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey on October 4. Winchester and District Militaria Society's fair is at Winchester Guildhall on September 13.**

❑ A reception for The London Regiment was hosted by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Richard Nichols, to mark the unveiling of an heraldic plaque to commemorate the granting of the status of Privileged Regiment to the Londons.

Falklands' field squadron makes way for RE Group

FIRST in and last out is the claim of 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, which was sent to the Falkland Islands in the immediate aftermath of the 1982 war and this year deployed as the last Falkland Islands field squadron.

The Gurkha sappers' most recent tour in the South Atlantic was to oversee the drawdown of the islands' field squadron which made way for the new Royal Engineer Group, manned by 42 Field Squadron.

Much of their efforts were taken up with backloading equipment and reorganising stores and workshops, but they still found time to meet their operational commitments and take part in exercises and construction tasks.

Return to site of Yorktown battle for Royal Welch

OFFICERS and men serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers broke off from a training exercise in Virginia, USA to visit Yorktown, where their forebears fought in the last major battle of the American Revolution.

Last to leave the redoubt despite being heavily outnumbered by the combined American and French armies, the Welch Fusiliers enhanced their reputation during the battle in 1781.

The visit by 3 RWF, hosted by the Maryland National Guard at Fort Pickett, Virginia, for urban warfare training, was the first by the fusiliers since the 200th anniversary celebrations of the battle. They were greeted by members of the historical re-enactment group of the Royal Welch Fusiliers Association of America, dressed in scarlet and white tunics.

Record investment

AN Investment in People Award gained in record time has been presented to Headquarters Quartermaster General at Andover. The 16 months taken to achieve the award is said to be a record for a large organisation and well below the national average. Hampshire Training and Enterprise Council described it as an "immense achievement".

Caldicot Castle military pageant, near Newport, South Wales, on September 6 will feature arms and armour through the ages, ranging from the medieval to a QDG Challenger 1 main battle tank. Details on 01633 880463.

Diary Noted . . .

THE Duke of Westminster, subject of our "My Army" interview in the May edition, has presented a new standard to the **Army PoW Escape Club**. This august institution was founded in 1946 for ex-Servicemen who had escaped from secure enemy custody. It was "discontinued" as its members became older, before being resurrected in 1989 by Des Jones, who can be contacted at 23 Waterside View, Gorse Stacks, Chester CH1 3EA.

Entries for the **Arborfield Old Boys' Association** £50 essay competition have to be in by September 18. Send them to the Secretary, AOBA, 19/20 St Mary's Butts, Reading, Berks RG1 2LN. Essays of between 1,000 and 3,000 words should be on the subject of "Memories of the Army Apprentice".

Why is a spell on guard duty referred to as a "stag"? Nothing to do with a male deer, it transpires, but an abbreviation of **ST**anding **A**rmed **G**uard, according to a letter-writer to the *Daily Mail*. Obvious, really.

The Corps of Drums of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment took part in an International Military Music Festival in Krakow, Poland.

The Cirencester-based **Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Band** of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry raised the profile of British Army music in Malta during a well-received tour of the George Cross island. While there, they paid tribute in the Naval Cemetery at Kalkara to Maj the Lord Apsley, an officer in the 1st Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, who was killed in 1942 in an air crash while returning from a tour of duty with the Arab Legion.

The **Western Front Association** is holding its national meeting at the Central Library Lecture Theatre in Birmingham on October 17.

Sennybridge Field Training Centre, Brecon has received the MoD Sanctuary Award for 1997 in recognition for setting up a conservation centre with access for the public. It was presented to the commandant, Lt Col Russ Stafford-Tolley, by junior defence minister John Spellar during a visit to Sennybridge.

The Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI) is to receive a National Lottery grant of £76,360 to restore books and computerise its 167-year-old library in Whitehall. It has 16,000 volumes on military history and a comprehensive collection of British regimental histories.

DATES

SEPTEMBER

5-6: Berwick Military Tattoo, Berwick-upon-Tweed, in aid of Service charities. Tickets on 01289 307427, credit cards 01289 307113.
19: Minley Show, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley.

OCTOBER

31: Concert by Waterloo Band, 5 RGJ (V), in aid of Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, at



Back in the saddle

Former military policeman Harry Morton celebrated his 95th birthday with a surprise party. It was thrown for him in Huddersfield by RMP Association friends with help from the Automobile Association. Harry, who joined the AA as a patrolman in 1927, was one of many from the motoring organisation to sign up with the Corps of Military Police as the Second World War loomed.

He was involved in the evacuation at Dunkirk where he sabotaged British military vehicles, including his own motor cycle, so that they would be useless to the Germans. He was also one of the first to enter Belsen-Bergen concentration camp after it was liberated near the end of the war. He later returned to the AA.

RWF celebrate fallen with granite obelisk

A GRANITE obelisk with a Welsh slate tablet inscribed in Welsh, English and French has been unveiled in Normandy to commemorate the 243 officers and men of The Royal Welch Fusiliers killed in action there between June 6 and August 30, 1944.

Most of those who died in the weeks following D-Day served with the three Territorial battalions of the regiment, the 4th (Denbighshire), the 6th (Caernarfon and Anglesey) and the 7th (Merioneth and Montgomeryshire).

The memorial is sited outside the vil-

A special exhibition to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War is being put on by the **Imperial War Museum** from September 19 to December 28. It includes the story of the Unknown Soldier and the way in which the war was recorded by artists, writers, composers and film-makers.

● **Soldier's** November issue will mark the 80th anniversary of the Armistice with special features and interviews.

lage of Evrecy, 12km south-west of Caen, where, on July 16 and 17, 1944, the three battalions lost 120 men killed and many more wounded or missing in action.

Brig David Ross, Colonel of the regiment and Commander of 160 (Wales) Brigade, unveiled the obelisk at a dedication service on July 17. More than 300 serving and retired members of the RWF and their families, including 30 Normandy veterans, attended the ceremony.

Spice power boosts Poppy Appeal

The 1997 Poppy Appeal, launched in a huge wave of publicity by the Spice Girls and Dame Vera Lynn, raised a record £17.3 million, an increase of £1.2 million on 1996.

Two museums 'designated'

THE Royal Engineers Museum in Brompton Barracks, Chatham, and the Tank Museum at Bovington have been awarded designated status in the second round of the scheme administered by the Museum and Galleries Commission.

Designation formally recognises the excellence of a collection and the institution that houses it.

As well as public recognition of quality, designation should also give priority for Heritage Lottery Fund applications.

The RE and Tank Museums are the only military museums among the 43 to be designated.

● With the donation of another sapper Victoria Cross to its collection, the

Chatham museum has brought its total to 25. The medal was won by Spr Adam Archibald while serving with 218 Field Company RE in the last days of the First World War.

Under artillery and machine-gun fire, he and his company commander restored a foot bridge over the Sambre-Oise Canal on November 4, 1918. Both were awarded VCs. Three DCMs and two MMs were won in the same action, and, apart from Spr Archibald and the officer, Maj (later Sir) Arnold Waters, every soldier in the unit was killed, wounded or gassed.

Maj Waters's VC was given to the museum on the death of his widow in 1981.

Charity seeks Army commandos in need

A LONDON-based charity is concerned that Second World War Army commandos and their families now in need of help may be unaware of what it can offer them.

The Commandos' Benevolent Fund was established in 1945 to help commandos, their wives and their dependants. Over the years, hundreds of deserving cases have received assistance in various ways.

But surviving commando veterans feel that some of their former 1940-45 comrades, or their wives or widows, who are not members of the Commando Association may be unaware of the fund.

Instigated and championed by Winston Churchill as Britain prepared for a Nazi invasion during the summer of 1940, the Army's elite commandos were raised exclusively from volunteers drawn from every unit in the Army.

For the next two years they carried out daring raids in Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa and the Middle East. One commando, No 2, became the first military parachute unit, paving the way for the formation of The Parachute Regiment. From 1942 their numbers were swelled by Royal Marines, who have their own benevolent fund.

The Army commandos were disbanded at the end of the war.

For more information, write to The Secretary, The Commando Benevolent Fund, 190 Hammersmith Road, London W6 7DL.

Everest: summit views from 1933

REMARKABLE photographs taken by an Army colonel during the first flight over Everest have become available as a limited series of 20 fine art prints.

Now owned by *The Times*, the original negatives were taken by Col LVS Blacker, a Indian Army officer, during the Houston scientific expedition of 1933. They include the first shots of the summit and were taken for a survey of the then uncharted area south of Everest to assist climbing expeditions.

A catalogue of the prints is available from the Discovery Gallery, Jubilee House, 10-12 Lombard Road, London SW19 3TZ, priced £3. Also available from the same address are a few copies of the now out-of-print *Roof of the World*, by James Douglas-Hamilton, which gives the background to the expedition and contains many of the photographs and illustrations. It costs £19.95 plus £3 p&p.

Treasures of the National Army Museum



3

Dog Collar (Chitral Field Force 1895)



Heroine on four legs

THIS collar was worn by Biddy, a fox terrier belonging to Lt S M Edwardes, 2nd (Prince of Wales's Own) Bombay Infantry (Grenadiers).

Biddy accompanied her master during the Chitral campaign on the North West Frontier of India, a campaign prompted by the siege of the British garrison at Chitral by local tribesmen under Sher Afzal.

The garrison itself was a small mud fort occupied by only a few hundred men. Unaware that their destination was under siege, Lt Edwardes and Lt John Fowler were on their way to Chitral with supplies for the garrison when they were attacked. Biddy was wounded by a bullet which passed through her chest.

TREACHERY

Their attackers called for a truce and treacherously invited the two officers to watch a polo match to celebrate the resumption of peace.

When the match ended the two officers – and Biddy – were seized and became prisoners-of-war. After a month in captivity Edwardes and Biddy were released. The Chitral garrison was eventually relieved after a siege of six weeks.

Although her master received the Distinguished Service Order, Biddy had to be content with the Indian Medal 1895 with clasp Relief of Chitral 1895, which Edwardes also received.

Biddy's collar is on display in the museum's "Soldiers of the Raj" Exhibition.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, SEPTEMBER 1948

ARMY REBUILDS MERCS

"New cars for old" best sums up the job done by REME Workshops in BAOR. REME controls the auxiliary and contract workshops in which Germany's best-known pre-war car, the Mercedes-Benz, is reconditioned for Services and Control Commission work. The Mercs arrive battered and worn and leave in full working order and more-or-less pristine condition.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1973

NEW AND DEADLY

This month a group of soldiers sets off to race around the world in the yacht *British Soldier*, which is Chay Blyth's "west-about" circumnavigation record-maker, *British Steel*, refitted and renamed. Blyth, who loaned his yacht for the race, is skippering another entry, crewed by men from The Parachute Regiment.

● Chay Blyth's Army, Pages 34-35

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Has the time come for soldiers to go back on the streets in uniform?

Earlier this year the Duke of Westminster called for a return to soldiers wearing uniform in public. As block leave started and thousands of soldiers headed home for their holidays we asked some if the time had come for uniforms to come out from behind the wire.

Pte Rebecca Connolly, 4 Fd Amb

I really am proud of being in the Army and my cap badge, but that is work. When I go home I want to wear more feminine clothes. I wouldn't feel safe travelling on a train or walking through a town I didn't know in uniform.



LBdr Mark Adams 7 Para Regt, RHA



I can't see any problem wearing uniforms in garrison towns. You can spot a squaddy a mile away anyway whether they're wearing uniform or not. But I wouldn't feel happy travelling on public transport. I can see a

scenario of a soldier on a train with his kitbag and a crowd of jobless youths coming up and causing trouble.

LCpl Damian Hemsworth, 4 Fd Amb

From a security point of view it's not a good idea. There is still a threat and it's not just from terrorist groups – a lot of people have a dislike of the Army. It's hard enough keeping a low profile but if we were in uniform it would be even worse.



Cpl Sheena Coldwell, Royal Sigs

Obviously it wouldn't be possible in Northern Ireland, but it's a regulation that could be

done away with on the mainland. I live in the garrison, so I can walk to work in uniform, but if I want to go to the shops or the bank at lunchtime, I need to change. Also, if we were to wear uniforms in public, it might encourage more people to join up.



Pte Andrew Robinson, RLC

It would help recruiting but I think it is still too dodgy. I would not like to travel home to Glasgow in uniform, although it's OK for nipping to the bank. The yob element is

too dangerous, they would think you're hard and want to pick a fight.

Sgt Stuart Ross, RLC

It's a well-founded rule, but my view is that because I am based in a garrison area, and everyone knows it, there's no need to ban uniforms. If you go to an area where there is no military establishment, then obviously it's needed, but in this area it's just a bind.



Sig Simon Cooper, Royal Sigs

It's a security thing, but in a garrison town like Aldershot, it's not really necessary. Everyone knows who you are anyway. We always feel proud when we are on parade, so I think there'd be an element of pride involved if we were able to wear uniform in the local community.



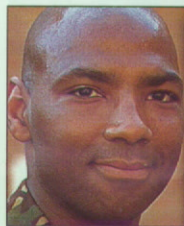
Gnr Andrew Gulley, 7 Para Regt RHA

I wouldn't feel happy wearing uniform in big cities such as London or Manchester. It's OK in a place like Aldershot. I know peace talks are going on, but there is still a threat.



WO1 Sulle Alhaji, PT Corps

It's obvious that in the current climate we can't wear uniforms off base. But it would be nice if we could. We used to when I joined in 1978. I would go to Newcastle on leave, and if I was wearing uniform, I never had any trouble getting a lift. I'd like to see a return to those days but with the security threat it wouldn't be practical.



Gnr Chris Pritchard, 7 Para Regt RHA

I would feel quite proud wearing my uniform in public. People can see I've achieved something. People can always tell who the squaddies are, anyway.



Pte Peter Currie, RLC



Security is something to be concerned about, but it is a bit of a nuisance. It would make us feel proud if we could go out and let everyone see us in uniform. But at the end of the day we can't do it, and with good reason.

Interviews: Karen Moseley, Graham Bound Pictures: Terry Champion, Mike Weston

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Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 2355 Editor John Elliott 2356
Assistant Editors Graham Bound, 2362 Karen Moseley
(340753 civil) 5753, Anthony Stone (340462 civil) 5462
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Advertising Manager Sheila Little 2352
Business Manager Andi Clarkson 2353 Fax 2358

Distribution queries: 01252 347353
E-mail address: solmag@btinternet.com

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