

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

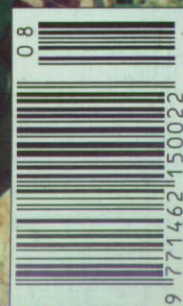
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4-5 COVER STORY

No way through: LSgt Brian Heriot, left, LCpl Stuart McKay, centre, and Piper Ross McCrindle, all members of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, took part in the massive operation to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary at Drumcree following a ban on the annual Orange Order parade down the Garvaghy Road at Drumcree

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SOLDIER to soldier

A special group of soldiers

SOLDIERS are not averse to the occasional whinge, sometimes with good cause. If they feel they are taken for granted they get it off their chests, perhaps by going down to the local pub. Some soldiers, however, can't do that.

In the following pages we publish a special report on the Army's preparations for this year's Drumcree parade.

That the situation did not explode into violence was in no small measure down to the flexibility of the soldiers of the locally-based 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment (and, of course, thousands of other soldiers and RUC officers).

Like other home service battalions based in Northern Ireland, 3 R Irish has a mix of full- and part-time soldiers, and a high proportion of them live in the community they protect.

DISCREET

Given the volatile situation in Northern Ireland over the past three decades, they have to be discreet about the nature of their work. Often neighbours and friends, sometimes members of their own families, have no idea what they do for a living.

Even when off duty they have to be vigilant, taking the security of their families and themselves very seriously every day of their lives. These are men — and women — who cannot go to the pub for a whinge. Someone might be listening.

They do the job because they want to build a land safe for their children.

Despite all this, you won't meet a friendlier group anywhere in the world. Northern Ireland's home service soldiers have a tough job. If you meet one, buy him a pint... discreetly.

Huge policing operation pays off

Preparing for the annual Drumcree parade at Portadown has become an all-year-round task for the soldiers of 3rd Infantry Brigade

Reports: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Army Information Service, Northern Ireland and Ray Routledge

THE much-anticipated and publicised confrontation at Drumcree in Portadown failed to materialise in the face of a massive Royal Ulster Constabulary and Army presence.

When the Parades Commission outlawed the Orange Order march down the nationalist Garvaghy Road a week before the annual Drumcree parade, long-term plans by the Army to support the RUC in upholding the law were put into action.

Police have maintained a close watch on the road since the violence of 1998 when the Orange Order marchers were prevented from entering the Nationalist area of Portadown. Many lessons were learned from that confrontation.

The giant barrier which proved so effective last year was improved and repositioned and, combined with reinforcements of troops to support the RUC, left marchers and troublemakers in no doubt that the Security Forces meant business.

Hosting the Army's input at Portadown was the 3rd (County Down and County Armagh) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. Its base, Mahon Barracks, was the scene of frantic activity as the 3rd Infantry Brigade brought in reinforcements which included the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards;

1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards; 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment; The Royal Dragoon Guards; 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps; 21 Logistic Support Regiment, RLC; and 33 Field Squadron, 25 Engineer Regiment.

They were backed up by a variety of units and sub-units, including 15 Signal Regiment.

Lt Col Angus Loudon, CO 3 R Irish, told *Soldier* the parade route was altered in 1986 because the area had become more nationalist and so potentially more dangerous to the marchers. But the real problems did not start until ten years later.

PERMANENT PRESENCE

"The present difficulties started in 1996 when there were protests about the route," he said. "Since last year's march was banned, there has been a permanent presence by the Orange Order on the hill near Drumcree Church and they have held numerous small parades up to the church."

"Public order is very much a police responsibility and in general terms they can cope with most things that come their way. But in some cases they do not have the numbers or the equipment with which to deal with these events satisfactorily.

Tactical analysis: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders discuss the Drumcree march route

They come to the Army looking for public order-trained troops or specialist equipment support such as engineering and vehicles.

"Our job is to support the RUC in their role of implementing the decision of the Parades Commission."

Capt Graham Dunlop, the 3 R Irish operations officer, experienced the 1998 Drumcree march at first hand. He explained that the Security Forces had learned a lot from that confrontation.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

"Although this is a brigade operation, they still rely on us for continuity and local knowledge, as do the other battalions who come in," he said. "I am lucky with my staff, for some of whom this is their fifth Drumcree. They help me a lot."

As well as the reinforcing Army units, Mahon Barracks is a permanent headquarters for the RUC's southern region, and played host to an equivalent number of RUC reinforcements. All of which put much extra work on the quartermaster and his staff.

"For 3 R Irish, Drumcree has now become a year-round military operation," said WO2 (RQMS(T)) David Turner.



Tactical analysis: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders discuss the Drumcree march route



Vigilant: A Grenadier Guardsman patrols the streets

"The whole action is supported by 3 R Irish's QM department. We are responsible for supporting all brigade troops who come in. All the materiel for the major and minor units, such as loan stores, tents, ammunition, rations, fuel, everything that is required to support those troops, comes through us.

"We are now supporting 3,500 troops, which is quite a big operation for us."

In the build-up, Sgt Turner's small team has handled more than 100 tents



Watching their backs: Two Scots Guardsmen during the Drumcree parade

and 800 camp beds and tables, issued about 4,000 litres of petrol and 1,000 litres of diesel a day and ordered basic but vital items of equipment such as portable toilets and 500 bales of toilet rolls.

The cookhouse also got through an extraordinary amount of food. Nearly 2,500 kilos of steaks, 2,236 kilos of pork chops, 52,000 rashers of bacon, and 36,000 sausages were ordered the weekend before Drumcree. On the Friday before the march Sgt Turner's department ordered 500 loaves of bread and 10,000 baps for packed meals. There were 240 kilos of pears, apples and bananas, and 1,000 oranges, and the temporary residents of Mahon Barracks were also getting through 9,000 eggs a day and hundreds of gallons of milk.

Meals for 2,200 people were prepared by ten chefs from 3 R Irish with a helping hand from 1 A and SH and the Royal Engineers. There was also a field kitchen.

The medical centre also braced itself for an onslaught which, thankfully, never came. Maj Tony Finn, the medical officer, could not afford to take chances and drafted in extra medical staff.

The R Irish home service battalions each have an area of responsibility and taking them away for an operation such as

Drumcree has to be avoided, hence the reinforcements.

While those at battalion headquarters were supporting operations in Portadown, other companies kept a watchful eye on potential trouble spots.

Men from B Company at Ballykilner worked out of the RUC station at Castlewellan while others from C Company were at Rathfriland RUC station and F Company were prepared for trouble spots around Lurgan.

Maj Colin Miller, OC B Coy, said: "We have been left behind to support police in G Division. It was bad here last year but just because everything is focused on Portadown, it does not mean we are not alert elsewhere."

PROFESSIONALISM

He paid tribute to the professionalism of his men. "I am a Highlander on loan and took over 18 months ago. I have a mature company of soldiers who know their own minds."

Capt Tim Rogan, acting OC of C Coy at Rathfriland, said his soldiers were charged with keeping main transit routes open as well as being alert for the ever-present, although currently diminished, terrorist threat. He was equally complimentary about his soldiers. "Our state of awareness is very high," he said.

At Lurgan, soldiers of F Company were on stand-by under Maj Neil McCullough. "Morale is very high," he said, adding with a grin: "In off-duty periods we have started up a volleyball mini-league and competition is fierce."



Tent city: Temporary accommodation for reinforcements drafted into Mahon Barracks

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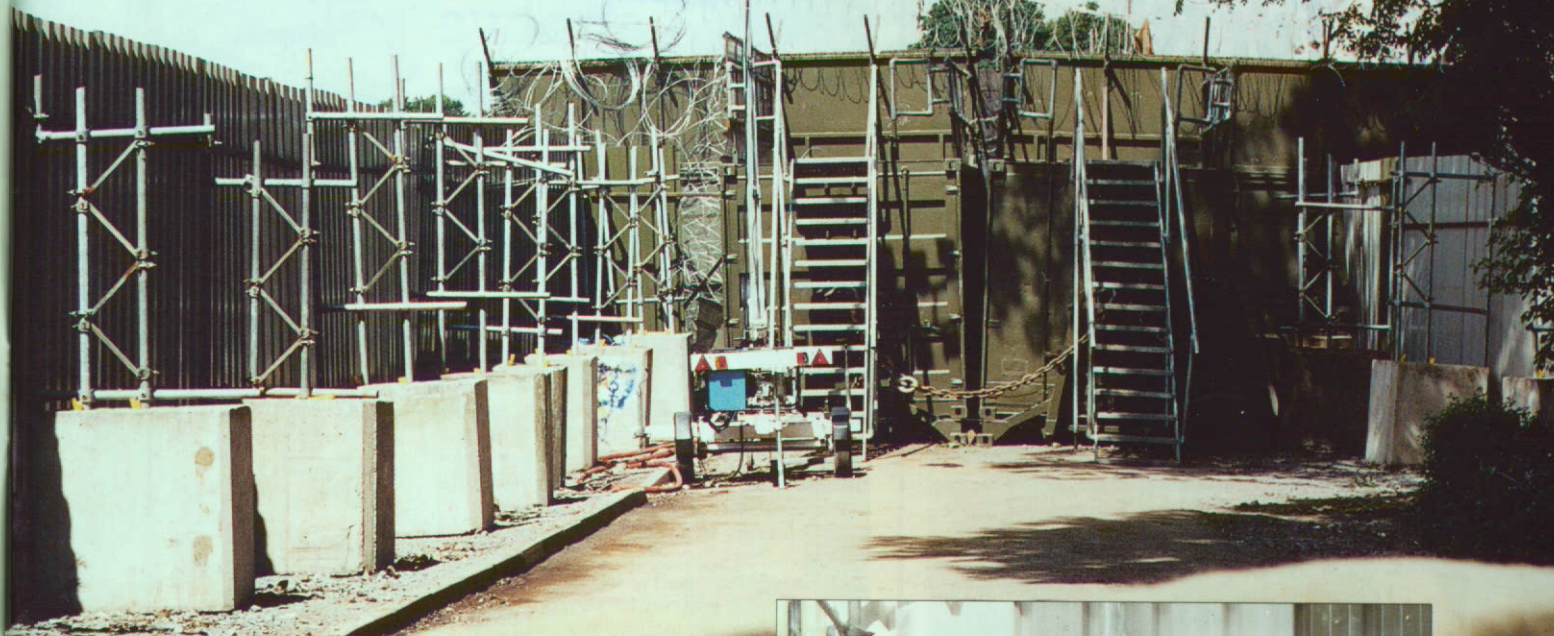
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Special report: Drumcree



The barricade across the road leading from Drumcree Church

Sappers close the door

MUCH was made in the media of the increased number of obstacles which prevented Orange Order marchers entering the nationalist area of Portadown this year.

The new barriers, which included a ploughed and boggy field, a moat, and the much-photographed razor wire, were the work of 33 Field Squadron RE under Maj Gary Jackson. He told *Soldier* about the challenge he and his men faced after the Orange Order petition was handed to the RUC through the barricade.

"It was important that the petition be delivered and so we facilitated that by making sure that the right wing of the crowd-control obstacle on the road could be opened," he said.

ANGRY CROWD

"As soon as the petition had been handed over we had to get the door shut and seal up the gaps.

"In sealing those gaps I had a section of men who had to jump out over the side of the bridge, at which point they were exposed to an angry crowd.



Ever vigilant: Two Scots Guardsmen patrol at the huge barricade

"Last year was a very clear success. We used it as the start point for this year's planning."

The layers of defence were to provide protection for the RUC and to make sure that peaceful protesters were not endangered.

"We put in a 20-metre ploughed zone on the far bank, an enhanced, deepened and widened ditch and a single concertina

of barbed wire on the home bank. This was another statement of intent, spelling out that this was the point of no return. We had signs saying that."

The razor wire was a last line of defence.

"The unit worked very hard and it paid off," said Maj Jackson. "The barricade looks horrible but it's effective . . . and all credit to my guys."

Troops return to mainland

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders returned to their base in Edinburgh on July 14 after two weeks in Northern Ireland.

The battalion, currently the UK Standby Battalion, arrived in Northern Ireland at the beginning of the month to support the RUC in maintaining law and order as the marching season began. It was the only additional battalion allocated to GOC Northern Ireland's command and was deployed to Drumcree on public order duties.

Release of the 400 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was made possible by the relative absence of trouble at Drumcree and during the Twelfth of July parades, and the lower level of support required by the RUC.

For the time being, 1,300 other soldiers recently recalled by the GOC from their bases in Great Britain to Northern Ireland will remain in the Province. The security situation is kept under constant review and the Army remains ready to provide whatever support the RUC requires.

People, places, events

TA for Kosovo mobilisation was on cards

AS Nato's campaign in Kosovo intensified the British Government began the process leading to the call-out of the Territorial Army, Defence Secretary George Robertson revealed in an address to the Royal United Services Institute in London.

Speaking on the allies' determination that Slobodan Milosevic should not have a veto on the deployment of an international military force, Mr Robertson said: "... we were prepared to do what was necessary to keep options open."

"That is why we put many more forces than we eventually deployed on a reduced notice to move, including 3 Commando Brigade. If we had needed to deploy these extra forces, we would have done. We also started the process leading to the call-out of the Territorial Army."

"If we had needed to call them out, we would have done. And if the need arose in the future, we would do so."



George Robertson: ready

He said it had become increasingly clear that Milosevic's sudden capitulation resulted from the recognition that Nato was prepared to do whatever was necessary to ensure compliance with its demands.

On the lessons which the UK and Europe had to learn from Kosovo, the Defence Secretary said it had dramatically confirmed last year's foreign policy-led Strategic Defence Review. "The need for rapidly-deployable, flexible, sustainable forces ready to handle the kind of crisis to be thrown up in the post-Cold War world has been decisively underlined by the Kosovo crisis."

FASTER, MORE EFFECTIVE

"Even before the review had been implemented in full, Britain was able to deploy faster and more effectively than most other allies, and that ability was vital in ensuring that KFOR was able to fill quickly the security vacuum created by the withdrawal of Serb forces."

One lesson learned was that there was still "some way to go before we have as robust a European defence capability as I would like to see".

"While Kosovo showed how far Europe has come since Bosnia in responding to conflicts on its own doorstep, it also embarrassingly highlighted the collective weakness of European defence capabilities when it came to willing the means as opposed to the ends."

The fact that 80 per cent of the relevant air power had had to be supplied by the US had driven home the message of how critical it was that Europe tackle its own capability shortfalls.

● Kosovo section – Pages 14-23

Paras' goodbye

Farewell to arms: Soldiers of the 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V) make their final parade through the streets of London. A victim of last year's Territorial Army restructuring, the battalion held a service at St Lawrence Jewry before marching to a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor in the Mansion House.

More than 100 veterans, some in wheelchairs, took part in the parade to pay their respects to the battalion.

Every year since the Second World War, paratroopers from 10 Para, which supported the 2nd Battalion at Arnhem, where Capt Lionel Queripel won the Victoria Cross, have jumped into the town to attend a special parade. This year, 55 years after the battle, Regular soldiers will take the unit's battle honours to Arnhem to be laid up in a church.

Lt Col Simon Barry, CO 10 Para, said: "This is a very sad day for the battalion and The Parachute Regiment, but we must be positive and look forward to the challenges of the future for 4 Para, who will have a company based in London."

Picture: Media Ops (V)



NEW MEASURES INTENDED TO ALLEVIATE ARMY'S CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

This will make life easier

A PACKAGE of measures designed to alleviate the effects of the exceptionally high operational commitments currently faced by soldiers and their families has been welcomed by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler.

It includes **reducing commitments** by bringing home elements of KFOR. Reductions of troop numbers in Northern Ireland may follow a political settlement.

Work is in hand to increase the use of contracts and **locally-employed civilians in-theatre** to release military manpower and to use **Military Provost Guard Service** personnel to guard military establishments in the UK (see Westminster report, Page 29).

COMING HOME: The 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles and their support elements, will return from Kosovo later this month, with the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards following in mid-October.

As part of a normal rotation, 101 Logistics Brigade and 4th Armoured Brigade will return during August, to be replaced by 102 Logistics Brigade and 19 Mechanised Brigade. These movements will reduce the number of UK troops on KFOR operations from 10,000 to 8,000 by the end of the month and to 7,000 by mid-October.

Defence Secretary George Robertson said: "All the returning troops have done a superlative job and deserve a break. We are indebted to those returning home for the courageous and professional way in which they have represented the nation."

Approval has been given for the Army to spend £350,000 on more **physiotherapy services** to fast-track soldiers back to duty.

A second **Queen's Gurkha Engineer Squadron** is to be established at Maidstone next year so that the fifth

engineer logistic squadron planned under the Strategic Defence Review can be formed early to reduce overstretch in the Royal Engineers.

The Adjutant General has developed urgent measures to reflect the fact that the target average tour interval of 24 months has not been met across the Army for some time.

These include four weeks of guaranteed **post-operational tour leave** (see Page 45) and new **concessionary travel** arrangements under which families of Service personnel deployed on operations from overseas bases may visit family and friends in the UK and have their travel costs met in full by the MoD.

"Soldiers are our greatest asset and we must do all we can to support them and their families in recognition of the commitment they are being asked to make," said Gen Wheeler in a message to the Army.

He said work was in progress to identify other measures that would compensate those on operational duty.

In a separate initiative, troops serving in Kosovo are to be given **Internet terminals and digital video cameras** as another means of keeping in touch with families and reducing the impact of separation. The Army Central Fund has provided nearly £19,000 for the equipment.

While mail and the telephone will continue to be the main method of communication, many will welcome the opportunity to send and receive up-to-the minute information and live or recorded images. It is hoped to extend the system to all unit locations.

The computers and digital cameras should be in place by the end of August and will remain in place for 19 Mechanised Brigade personnel on Operation Agricola 2.

● Electronic blues – Page 45

IN BRIEF

● Gen Sir Charles Guthrie has agreed to stay on as **Chief of the Defence Staff** until January 2001. He took up the appointment in April 1997 and would have been expected to serve for three years in the post.

● British **rapid reaction forces** are to be made available to the United Nations

under a memorandum of understanding announced by Defence Secretary George Robertson and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. The agreement will give the UN access to some of the UK's best, most rapidly-deployable units.

● The 1st Royal Tank Regiment was honoured with a German *fahnenband*

(banner) to mark its long period of duty in Germany. Stationed at Paderborn for the past three years, 1 RTR is returning to the UK to adapt to its new role as the Army's first NBC Regiment based at RAF Honington. Lt Col David Eccles received the honour from Maj Gen Gert Gudera of the 7th German Armoured Brigade, on behalf of the Minister of Defence.

● The **British Forces Post Office** – more familiar as BFPO – is the new name for the agency responsible for the MoD's mail distribution service. The Defence Postal and Courier Services Agency (DPCSA) has adopted the name to gain wider recognition inside and outside the Services. It will operate within the new Defence Logistics Organisation.

It's a disaster!



Seventeen-year-old **Rebecca Livesey**, right, a new recruit to 212 Field Hospital RAMC(V), found herself on a disaster exercise at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire soon after signing up. The Derby schoolgirl was shown the ropes by **Pte Julia Smith**, left, a medical physicist from Nottingham. Rebecca wants to be an officer in the Regular REME. Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Well paced



Keeping up with the pace: This four-man team from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch are the 1999 Scottish pace sticking champions. In a contest organised by CSM Steve Hall of the Army Training Regiment Glencorse in Midlothian, the winning team of (from left) **Sgt Steve Bonella**, **Sgt George Moles**, **CSgt Spats Baxter** and **CSgt Davie Morton**, beat the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders into second place. Minor team winners were D Company ATR Glencorse, who beat A Company into second place.

SSgt Sandy Bird became the first Adjutant General's Corps representative to "stick" and also the first woman to compete in the championships.

● Two teams from the Honourable Artillery Company competed in the world pace-sticking championships at Sandhurst last month.

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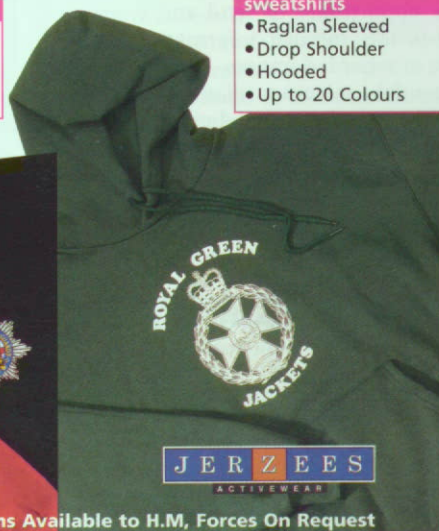


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People, places, events



The first of many: WAH#3 is taken off the transporter which carried it to RNAS Yeovilton

First WAH-Apache makes UK debut

THE first WAH-64 Apache to arrive in the United Kingdom was delivered to the Yeovil-based factory of GKN Westland Helicopters a month ahead of schedule. The aircraft, ZJ168, is one of 67 ordered by the MoD and destined for the Army Air Corps under a £2 billion contract.

While the first eight WAH-64s are being built by Boeing at its facility at Mesa, Arizona and transported to the UK for final assembly and test by GKN Westland, the company's own line will begin full-scale production later this year.

ZJ168, the third aircraft off the Mesa line, is designated WAH#3. The first, WAH#1, is involved in engine integration trials in the US to qualify the Rolls Royce Turbomeca RTM322 engines which will power the British Apache in preference to the General Electric GE T-700 powerplant fitted to US versions.

WAH#2 is being used to train GKN Westland test pilots and AAC instructors

before the UK Apache training centres commission in the second quarter of next year.

Nine aircraft will be delivered to the UK by the end of 2000. First flight of WAH#3 is expected this month, after which the aircraft will begin an extended lay-up while REME specialists complete a series of logistic and maintainability demonstrations to prove the validity of their procedures and manuals.

The first WAH-64 is due to be delivered to the AAC next spring and the last by the end of 2003.

Presidential approval

A HARBOUR built by British sappers for fishermen at Dhekelia received an official visit from the President of the Republic of Cyprus. The shelter for 12 boats was constructed by men of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE. President Clerides also visited a nearby church on which the sappers had worked.

Well done, son



Picture: Mike Weston

Proud father: WO1 Dave Read RAMC, staff assistant in the Army Medical Directorate at Keogh Barracks near Aldershot, presents son Pte Denis Read with a first-aid Safety at Work certificate which he qualified for at the Defence Medical Services Training Centre at the barracks.

Free to march



March on: Soldiers of 124 (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Recovery Company from Newton Aycliffe parade through the town for the first time as part of 102 Battalion REME. They were exercising their Freedom of Newton Aycliffe granted in 1987.

IN BRIEF

- Prince Michael of Kent visited HQ Allied Command Europe's **Rapid Reaction Corps** (ARRC) at JHQ Rheindahlen, where he met wives of Servicemen deployed in the Balkans.

- Plans for greater interoperability between the **British and French armies** have taken a major step forward with the signing of a twinning charter by Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land, and his French counterparts.

- The **Duke of York's Headquarters** in Chelsea is to be sold to Cadogan Estates. The site will be largely vacated by March next year with only a small enclave for Territorial Army and cadet occupation retained for a further three years.

- On July 1 two Welsh Territorial Army battalions amalgamated to form a single infantry battalion. **The Royal Welsh Regiment**, with

headquarters at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, was formed from the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers in the north and the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales in the south.

- Bovington Training Area Conservation Group received the annual **Sanctuary Award** for the best conservation project on MoD Land from Defence Minister John Spellar.

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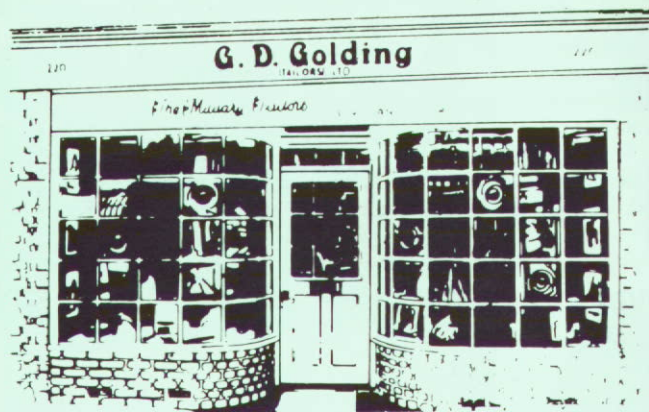
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People, places, events

Imjin Battery takes leave of Highland Gunners

SOLDIERS of 25/170 (Imjin) Battery, Royal Artillery paraded at Colchester to mark their departure to Thorney Island on the South Coast to begin a new role under the Strategic Defence Review.

Imjin Battery is leaving 19th Regiment RA (The Highland Gunners) to re-role from field gunnery to air defence with 47th (Air Defence) Regiment RA.

The battery's Presidential Citation of the Battle at Solma-Ri, from which its honour title is taken, was paraded for the final time at Colchester. It marks the stand taken by 170th Independent Mortar Battery at the Battle of the Imjin River during the Korean War.

Maj Jonathan Calder-Smith, who commanded Imjin Battery on peacekeeping duties with 19 Regt in Cyprus last year, led the parade. He will remain with 19 Regt, commanding 28/143 Battery (Tombs's Troop). Capt (Retd) Paddy Breene, the gun position officer of C Troop, 170 Ind Mortar Bty at



Farewell to the light gun: After a year serving as United Nations peacekeepers in Cyprus, the soldiers of 19th Regiment RA carried out an exercise to bring themselves up to speed for their role as the fire support element of 24 Airmobile Brigade. Exercise Expert Hatch on Salisbury Plain was, for many of the Highland Gunners' new soldiers, their first experience of field gunnery. With the regiment due to re-role to AS90, it was also the gunners' final chance to use their familiar L118 105mm light guns. The exercise ended with all 18 guns lined up for the last time on the Plain with their respective batteries formed up to the rear.

Two military festivals will replace Royal Tournament

TWO new military spectacles are to be launched in 2001 following the demise of the Royal Tournament, on which the curtain will fall following the final performance on August 2. As previously announced, a major one-off Royal Military Tattoo 2000 is to be staged on Horse Guards Parade next year to mark the Millennium.

Plans for a successor to the annual Royal Tournament at Earls Court, outlined by Defence Secretary George Robertson, include a "showcase" military tattoo to be staged every summer on Horse Guards from 2001 and an annual military festival which will be held over a long weekend at different locations outside London.

The Millennium tattoo will run from July 10 to 15 next year, with one performance each evening. Theme of the hi-tech, 90-minute show will be Defence of the Realm, past, present and future.

First of the military festivals will be held in 2001 in Portsmouth, where the Royal Navy is already planning a maritime festival. In future years each of the three Services will take it in turns to host the event.

Mr Robertson said it was "time to reinvent and reinvigorate the shop window of Britain's military mission".

● The Navy's final field gun competition, an event staged since 1913 to commemorate the relief of Ladysmith during the Boer War by naval gunners, took place at the Royal Tournament.

Veteran: Capt Breene meets Bdr Peter Trotter on his inspection

Solma-Ri, was the inspecting officer.

● 19 Regt provided a tactical group for the four-day Exercise Globe Trot on Salisbury Plain. Run by the Combined Arms Training Centre at Warminster, the exercise is used to test future sub-unit commanders in the all arms battle. Infantry from the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment provided a complete battle-group.

IN BRIEF

● A three-man team from 45 Field Support Squadron, part of 21 Engineer Regiment, crossed the line first in the 40th Berne Swiss 80km military march. Lt Bryan Gifford, LCpl George Scott and Spr Eric Hay finished an hour before the organisers expected them. A second 45 Sqn team also finished strongly.

● The British approach to defence diplomacy is to be taught in a new MSc course being launched by Cranfield University at the Royal Military College of Science. The MoD will use the course to train its high-fliers.

● One hundred and thirty-three soldiers from 4/5 Green Howards took part in a two-week Lion Star exercise in Cyprus. They were supported by a platoon from 7 LI. Following the exercise, 4/5, 7 LI and 6 RRF were amalgamated to form the new Tyne-Tees Regiment.

● As this edition was being prepared nine soldiers from 1 RGBW based in Colchester were attempting to scale unclimbed peaks up to 7,000ft on Habert's Glacier, Iceland. They were carrying rifles as protection against polar bears on the vast ice cap.

● Two hundred soldiers from 34 (Northern) Signal Regiment based in Middlesbrough marched through the town to exercise their Freedom rights, first granted in 1969. They were led by the regimental band and the parade was commanded by Lt Col David Hargreaves, the commanding officer.

● Headquarters London District has received an Investors in People award. The plaque was presented to Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter, GOC London District, by the Prince of Wales.

Liberation of Kosovo

Objective: Podujevo

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE LONG-SUFFERING Albanians of Podujevo must have thought they had been forgotten. They watched and waited as Nato troops crossed the border and occupied the regional capital Pristina, 30 kilometres to the south. But there, it seemed, the advance had stopped.

The estimated 40,000 Albanians, 95 per cent of the town's population, were far from forgotten, least of all by the troops of The King's Royal Hussars battle-group, whose Challenger tanks and Warrior-born infantry had been tasked to take the town from the Serb army. It was just a matter of timing.

Podujevo, unlike Pristina, is in the northern sector of Kosovo, and the Serb army and police had been granted a later deadline to withdraw from this zone. KFOR had to be right behind the Serbs as they moved out, both to discourage a final blitz of killing and looting, and to ensure that the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) did not move into the area to attack the retreating enemy. A miscalculation could have meant a bloodbath... and there had been enough of those in Podujevo.

LEISURELY WITHDRAWAL

Two days before the deadline for withdrawal, Commander KFOR flashed the green light. The Serbs were still making a leisurely withdrawal – some undoubtedly packing the last of their loot – and the persecuted Albanians were still hiding in their homes. It was to be a swift advance and, with luck, the British force would be in the town before the Serbs woke up to what had happened.

As dawn broke the column of British vehicles began rumbling north.

With Lt Col Jonathan Powell, CO KRH, in command, the tracked recon vehicles led the way, closely followed by 28 Warriors packed with troops from 1 Company, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards and A Company of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

Somewhere in column were several vehicles full of Royal Engineers – the booby trap and mines experts essential for any large-scale movement in Kosovo – a vulnerable white mini-bus packed with journalists and, somewhat strangely, the KRH padre's Land Rover, full of fluffy toys. The children, he reckoned, would need some special treats.

At the rear came the real persuaders: 12 Challenger 1 main battle tanks, fearsome

British heavy armour and armoured personnel carriers entered Podujevo in a carefully-planned operation. A *Soldier* team was with troops welcomed as liberating heroes



Flowers for Gdsm Red Kerwick, IG. As the British troops arrived, surprised people of Podujevo spilled on to the roads and made their feelings clear

High tension: Facing the threat of snipers, Gdsm Daz Mealin, IG, right, maintains a high state of alert



And then "KLA! KLA! KLA!"

When Canadian Bell helicopters clattered low overhead, perhaps searching for the rumoured snipers, the roar of the crowd became a crescendo.

With several thousands Serb soldiers still occupying part of the town a confrontation was likely. It occurred at a central junction where a pair of nervous soldiers armed with AK47s attempted to stop the tidal advance of cheering and jeering Albanians from reaching the main Serb barracks.

The Serbs, clearly nervous and shouting to be heard above the chants for the KLA, were losing control. One raised his rifle. For a moment it appeared he was going to shoot, either above the heads of the crowd or into it. Had he done so, the crowd, no longer intimidated, would probably have lynched him. The situation was saved by the arrival of a squad of Irish Guards, closely followed by a Warrior



Little room for manoeuvre: Crowds converged on the British armour. Enjoying the moment are LSgt Alan Harvey, left, and LSgt Gary Hunsdale, IG

find the house shaking from the impact of tracked armour. "We said 'wake up everyone, it's Nato. They have arrived'."

Her beaming smile disappeared, however, when she spoke of the Serb soldiers and police. They had, she said, raped, robbed and shot.

But now everything was better. "We thank every country who sent their boys here... now the school will start again." She asked a soldier if he could let her into the

ing the initials of the Kosovo Liberation Army, a gesture which might have had them shot just a few days before.

Many Serbs were arrogant to the last, speeding through the streets or staring directly at their enemies while dragging deeply on cigarettes.

Only when a British Warrior fitted with loudspeakers began broadcasting appeals for civilians to clear the streets did the people of Podujevo cheerfully disperse – for a little while anyway. "Thank you for your welcome," blared the loudspeakers. "We are honoured by your emotion, but now please clear the streets as we have many large vehicles..."

SMOKESCREEN

The last of the Serb tanks roared out of the town, heading north along a route that had been cleared of the happy, goading Albanians. Even as a defeated and humbled force, they flashed their three-fingered salutes. One tank kept its machine-gun trained on a group of journalists as it rumbled by. Passing a TV crew, another tank unleashed a smokescreen that enveloped the cameramen and the following vehicles.

The clumsy attempt to conceal seemed appropriate. But the truth is that no amount of smoke will hide the cruelty of their occupation.

and, grinding apparently impossibly down the narrow street, the huge profile of a Challenger tank.

An Irish Guardsman, CSgt Stu Dunsmore, persuaded the Serbs to retreat and placed his own men at the entrance to the street. The situation was defused.

English speakers in the crowd wanted to tell of the sheer joy they now felt – and of the horror of the last few months. "I don't have words to explain how happy we are," said Sadie Rudari-Mehmeti, a mother of four and English teacher whom the Serb authorities had banned from her school. She had awoken that morning to

school. No, replied the Irish Guardsman, he had heard there was a sniper in the building and there was the risk of booby traps. "Maybe later."

The soldiers too were overwhelmed by the emotion of the day. "All my mates have been talking about the relief on people's faces," said LCpl Adam Beresford, IG. "People are crying, they are so happy. This isn't make-believe; it's for real."

The sheer happiness of Podujevo's people was tempered only by their bitterness. They lined the streets to taunt the retreating Serb police and soldiers, chant-

Liberation of Kosovo

Gurkhas protect Moscow's men

A thin white line of British troops deterred the KLA from attacking Russian forces at Pristina's airport



Report: Graham Bound
Picture: Mike Weston

RUSSIAN troops stole a march on Nato during the first days of the Kosovo operation by rushing south from Bosnia and occupying Pristina's airport.

But Moscow's relatively small and lightly-armed force of men had over-extended themselves. Isolated and acting independently of the much better equipped KFOR, the Russians came under almost nightly sniper fire from the Kosovo Liberation Army. Moscow's men had to call on British troops to shore up their defences.

It took the presence of two companies of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, a few Challenger tanks of The King's Royal Hussars and artillery observers capable of calling in fire from the light guns of 7 Parachute Royal Horse Artillery and the giant AS90s of 4 Regiment RA to provide the security the Russians needed.

The three to four hundred Russians doggedly holding the airport came under sniper attack for the first ten days of the operation. Remarkably, there were no casualties, but it was probably only the presence of the Gurkhas and the big guns on the perimeters of the airport that stopped larger-scale attacks.

ORDERS

With orders to disarm any KLA fighters they encountered, the Gurkhas deployed two companies north and south of the airport, leaving a third company as reserve troops for Commander KFOR. Some KLA men were encountered and successfully disarmed, but patrolling in the hills above the city was severely limited by the threat of mines.

Relations between Nato and the Russians may have been somewhat frosty at a political level, but there was little or no

tension between the British soldiers and their Russian counterparts on either side of the airport perimeter fence.

A Russian-speaking liaison officer, detached from the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group, reduced the potential for dangerous misunderstandings. And the wearing of white bands around helmets clearly distinguished British soldiers from the irregulars of the KLA. "We want to be seen by everybody, including the Russians," explained Maj Adrian Griffith. "They're a bit twitchy."

EVENING BRIEF

A Gurkha company commander entered the Russian enclave each evening to brief the senior Russian officer (said to be of field marshal rank, having been promoted by President Boris Yeltsin on the way to Kosovo) about events in the outside world. "It prevents misunderstanding," explained the Gurkha's CO, Lt Col Sean Crane. "Things get tense when people don't understand what is going on so the more information passed to the Russians, the better."

Patrolling the airport perimeter was one thing, but even the Gurkhas were surprised when they were asked to ride shotgun with a Russian re-supply convoy as it headed back to Bosnia through Serbia.

Four stripped-down recce Land Rovers laden with soldiers and light support weapons escorted the Russian trucks on the journey from Pristina to Serbia, deterring KLA attacks as the convoy cut through territory that few Nato troops had explored. The recce platoon even entered Serbia itself, although it was a brief visit – no more than half an hour – and the Serbs apparently approved of their presence with the Russians.

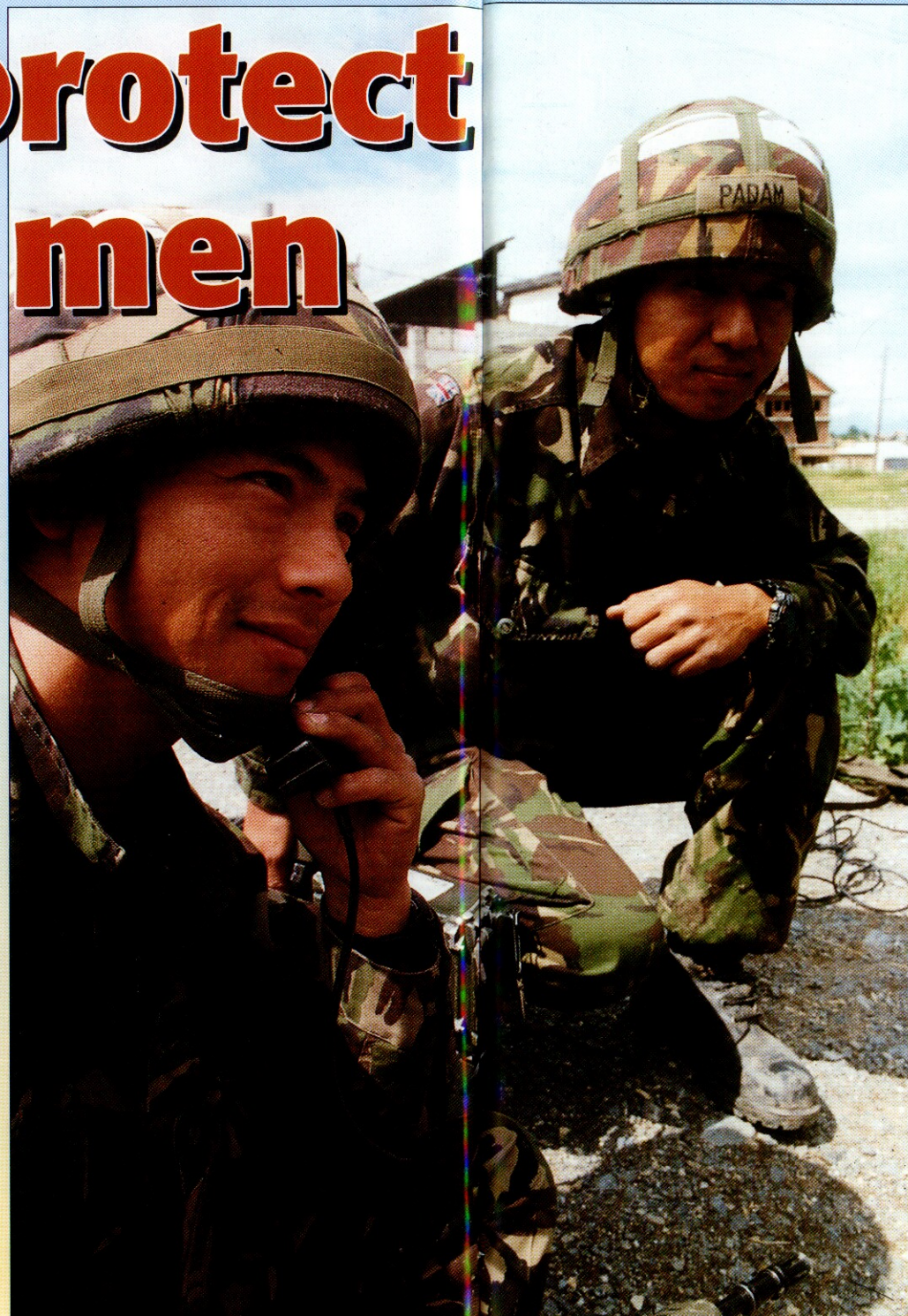
A photo of the recce troops and their vehicle in Serbia itself would have made a unique souvenir, and the thought did cross the mind of the platoon leader, Capt Fraser Rea. But he thought better of it: waving a camera might have been gesture too far for defeated Serbian troops. Instead he had to rely on his memories of a highly unconventional mission and of Russian soldiers who were, as he described it with a note of surprise in his voice, "actually very friendly". "You get

the feeling that they respect the British Army," he said.

What did the Nepalese soldiers think of this unconventional deployment and, for that matter, what did the Russians think of them? "The Gurkhas are amazingly flexible," explained Lt Col Crane. "They make friends easily."

"The Russians had lots of questions at first." Then, in his best Slav accent, the CO added: "but now they understand who 'the Goorkas' are."

Friendly forces: White bands on the helmets of Cpl Bkta Bahadur Malla, left, and Sig Padam Gurling, both serving with 1 RGR, told the Russians camped at Pristina airport that the Gurkhas were on their side



Gurkha engineers killed

THE ARMY suffered its first deaths in Kosovo when two engineers died while clearing munitions from an area previously occupied by the Serb Army.

Lt Gareth Evans and Sgt Balam Rai, members of 69 Queen's Gurkha Engineer Squadron, part of 36 Engineer Regiment, were killed while disposing of munitions from a school at Negrovce, 30km west of Pristina. Two Kosovar civilians also died.

An accident investigation is under way, but it is thought that the men died when an unexploded Nato

cluster bomblet, dropped on the one-time Serb Army site, detonated.

Colleagues spoke of the two men in glowing terms. At the 69 Sqn base in Maidstone, Kent, Maj Damar Ghale described 35-year-old Sgt Rai as "a fine soldier, one of the high-flyers".

Maj Andy Edington said of Lt Evans: "He was an excellent officer and a super bloke who loved working with his Gurkhas."

President Clinton telephoned Prime Minister Tony Blair to express his sympathy.

Defence Secretary George Robertson said: "My deepest sympathy goes to the families of these fine men, killed while helping to make this small part of Europe a safer and better place."

Sgt Rai's death led to a sad first for the Gurkhas. In past conflicts the bodies of fallen Gurkhas have been buried near the battlefields or in Britain. The body of Sgt Rai was the first to be flown back to Nepal for burial.

Lt Evans was buried with full military honours in the military cemetery at Gillingham, Kent.

Airborne Gunners' dual assignment

Report: Graham Bound

"WE can fire at any moment, but we are also doing some vital hearts-and-minds work," was how Lt Col Mark Bonham, commanding two batteries of 7 Parachute Royal Horse Artillery deployed in the countryside surrounding Pristina, summarised the dual task facing his augmented force of 120 gunners.

The two batteries of airborne artillery, operating from Lipjina and a few tiny villages a dozen kilometres or so from Pristina, provided artillery support to 1 Para and 5 Airborne Brigade operating in and around Kosovo's capital city. In the rural locations, where 12 guns stood ready for action, there was every indication that the soldiers were ready to fulfil their CO's assessment of their readiness.

In the meantime, there was plenty of "hearts-and-minds work" to be done. At Nuvo Rujce and Maglay, once pretty villages now scarred with burned houses, the troops had set up their 105mm light guns and were patrolling night and day. They gathered accounts of alleged massacres and mass graves, discouraged looting, disarmed KLA fighters, and protected Serb families facing the threat of revenge attacks.

Albanians in Nuvo Rockje told the soldiers there had been a massacre in the village and showed them a mass grave.

In Maglay, the gunners heard how Serb troops would select an occupied home,

murder the head of the family and torch the building. This information and much more like it was passed up the line to war crimes investigators.

The gunners kept in close contact with one traumatised family in the nearby village of Mali Alas. A mother and daughter survived a visit by the Serb police, the dreaded MUP. Three brothers and their father lie in a mass grave.

Capt Simon Betty spoke for the gunners: "I'm glad we can help them, at least a little. We've been collecting the names of the dead and giving the Red Cross grid references for the graves."

SURVIVORS

It is the survivors – from both sides – who receive the most attention. Simon Betty explained that his men had just delivered what he called "a Red Cross parcel" of rations, "whatever we could get together", to a group of 24 Albanian men, women and children living in a tiny shed. Their four houses had been burned to the ground.

Lt Chris Morgan of C Troop told how an elderly Serb had come to the gunners for help. KLA fighters (or at least Albanians claiming to be KLA) had beaten him up. His wife had also been badly hurt when she tried to stop them. "Go to Belgrade," they were told.

"The hardest thing is getting the local Serbs to ignore that message and stay,"

● Turn to next page

Liberation of Kosovo

Dual role **Clearing the way**

● From Page 17

said Sgt Bob Frapwell. "But we can achieve something by putting ourselves about and showing a friendly face."

Sgt Frapwell is known as "Big Bob" to the dozens of village children who fuss around the guns looking for smiles and entertainment. Bdr John Horsefall recalled that when his troops arrived at Nuvo Rujce the kids "just watched us from dawn to dusk. When we dug a latrine they were even straight into that, although they jumped out again pretty sharpish when we explained what it was for."

Bdr Horsefall had been teaching the children English, using an up-ended camp bed as a chalkboard, and basic gymnastics.

Medics in hospital firefight

BRITISH medics confronted armed men conducting a ferocious firefight in Pristina's main hospital and disarmed them without themselves firing a shot.

Armed Royal Army Medical Corps soldiers guarding the hospital responded to the sound of gunfire and found that a civilian security guard and an orderly had been injured. The men had apparently got in the way of Serbs seeking revenge for the death of a family member, allegedly shot by Albanians.

SKIRMISH

Following an earlier skirmish, wounded members of both families had been admitted to the hospital. The Serb had died of his wounds and members of his family rampaged through the hospital apparently intent on revenge. In the rush to admit the patients, security guards had failed to find several guns and hand grenades in the Serb car.

Maj Tam Tervit, RAMC, armed with a 9mm pistol, and Pte John Ward, carrying an SA80 rifle, cornered the gunmen and disarmed them.

RAMC staff based at Pristina's large hospital are working closely with medical staff from both ethnic groups.

Defence Secretary in Balkans

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson spent three days visiting Service personnel and politicians in Bosnia, Macedonia and Kosovo.

Clearing the way

It takes troops on the ground to make peace in Kosovo a reality. Among them are soldiers of The Royal Irish Regiment



Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

FAUGH-A-BALLAGH, Gaelic motto of The Royal Irish Regiment, meaning "Clear the Way", is particularly appropriate for the Kosovo posting of the regiment's 1st Battalion. That is exactly what the Royal Irish are doing: clearing the way for refugees to make their way home, for fighters to disarm and return to civilian life and for communities on both sides of the ethnic divide to begin living together again.

But, as the soldiers have found, "the way" is particularly difficult and not a little dangerous.

From their base at the strangely-named Chicken Farm, just south of liberated Pristina, the Royal Irish battle-group – which includes a company from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment – uses Saxon armoured personnel carriers and Sabre recce vehicles to radiate in an ever increasing circle.

They work closely with the Royal Engineers to open roads and establish contact

with settlements isolated by the civil war. In many cases hamlets and villages had been virtually emptied as Serb police and troops drove the inhabitants into the hills. But as the routes were cleared, the people began returning, among them Kosovo Liberation Army fighters who needed to be disarmed.

The work demands a delicate balance of sensitivity and severity. Traumatized civilians need to be reassured that they are safe and that the Army is a neutral player in the bitter ethnic dispute. Guerrilla fighters, however, need to be treated firmly. It is not always a message they like, but the KLA can only return to their homes if they give up their weapons and uniforms.

FLORAL WELCOME

It helps that the mainly Albanian people, who make up the majority of Kosovars, welcome the soldiers. "It's not quite like de Gaulle entering Paris in 1945," said Capt Malcolm Beck, "but people have been greeting us with bunches of flowers and food."

Flowers are fine, even if they look a little out of place on a Saxon. The food, however, is something else. Like everyone else in British uniforms, the battalion's soldiers have relied heavily on compo rations, and gifts of bread and fruit could not have been more appreciated.

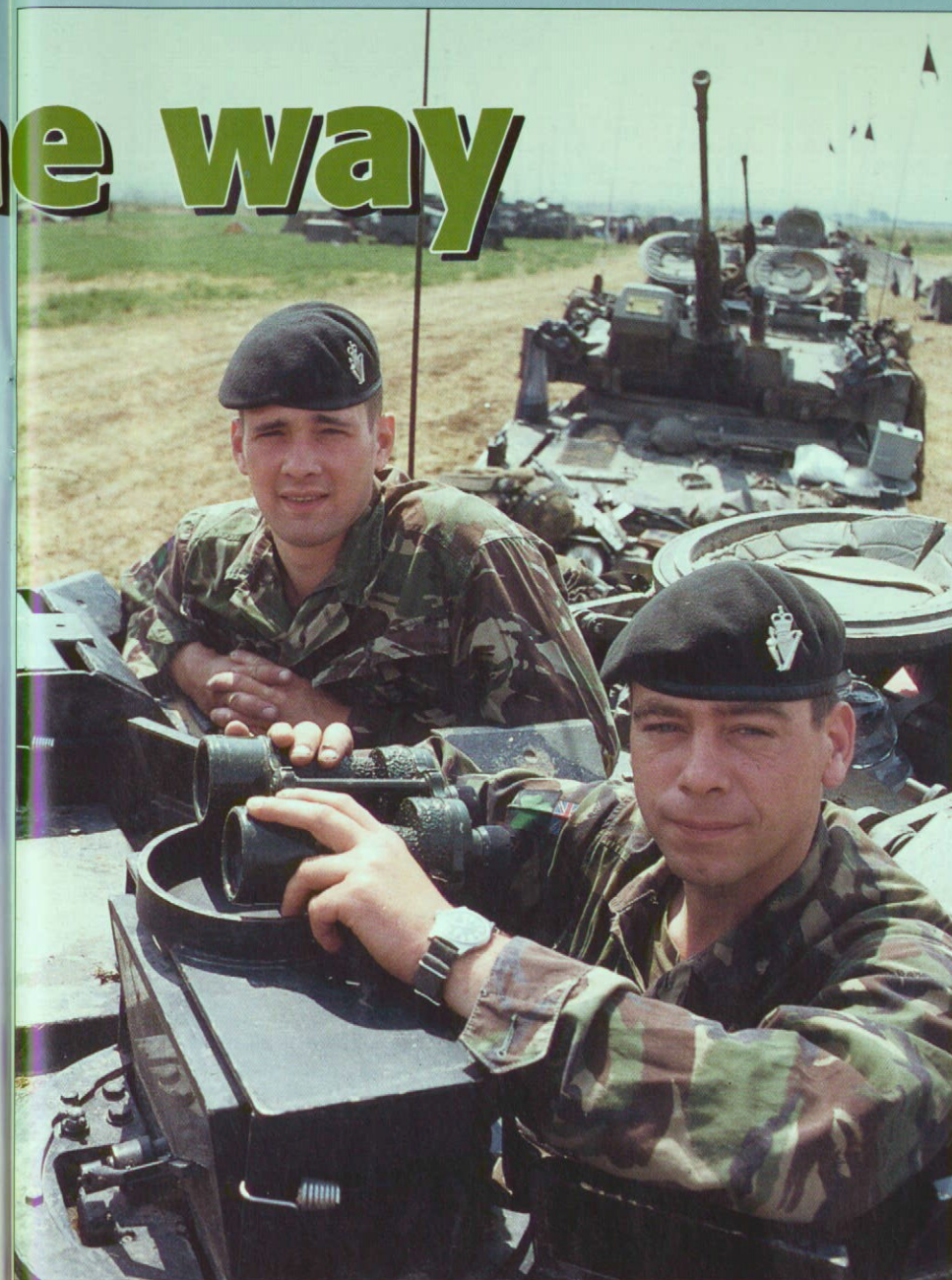
Even more importantly, local people are generous with their information. Albanians have offered vital tips leading to the recovery of weapons either abandoned by the Serbian army or still in the possession of the KLA and police.

Displaying a collection of AK47 assault rifles and a motley assortment of hunting rifles and automatics, Rgr Keith Jenkins explained that locals had directed his patrol to the abandoned cache. Now the serial numbers and other details of the weapons were being recorded in case the information could help war crimes investigators.

Not all such arms recovery operations are easy. Sometimes the gunmen themselves – usually KLA irregulars or civilians – have to be confronted in tense



Weapons in safe hands: As the KLA is disarmed, the guns are carefully listed by WO2 Norman Hunter, R Irish, before disposal



Patrol: LCpl Jed Eddas, left, and Cpl Stuart Brown, of 1 R Irish Recce Platoon, in the turret of their Scimitar tracked recce vehicle, return to the Chicken Farm

encounters. Vehicle checkpoints on the newly-opened routes, similar to those employed in Northern Ireland, produce results. Anyone who pretends that a solution to the problems of Kosovo is just a matter of applying the right degree of sensitivity or severity is mistaken. Now the refugee pendulum has swung the other way thousands of Serbs, many as innocent as any Albanian, are leaving the province in droves, afraid of the returning KLA.

They are even burning their houses behind them.

With the guerrillas being effectively disarmed, this is unlikely to happen, but try telling that to a Serb – as the Royal Irish are. But perhaps, if they and the other neutral troops in Kosovo say it long and loud enough, people will begin to listen.

A timely operation

SWARMS of helicopter-borne forces crossing the border into Kosovo and swiftly deploying north to secure Pristina will be one of the war's most abiding memories.

Now about 500 men of 5 Airborne Brigade's headquarters and associated arms who made that dramatic move possible have returned to Britain. They have left behind them with 4th Armoured Brigade men of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, who will continue to police Pristina and the southern part of the British zone.

Back in his Aldershot office, Brig Adrian Freer, the brigade commander, reflected with satisfaction on an operation which he believes demonstrated the value of light, mobile forces.

"Arguably Kosovo could not have come at a better time," he said. "We have shown that if you want to get among the people, you need to be on your feet. You can't do that sitting on top of a 50-tonne battle tank with a helmet and headset on."

Firm but sensitive policing of Kosovo's volatile communities became the bread-and-butter work of his airborne troops, who began their deployment with a classic manoeuvre – taking and securing the vital route from the Macedonian border, through the Kacanik Gorge to Pristina.

DAUNTING TASK

With numerous bridges and tunnels which Serb troops could have destroyed, this was a daunting task. "We went in at first light on June 12," recalled Brig Freer. "It was a fascinating day; all action. We landed Chinooks on the road and on the bridges and then covered the high ground with artillery observation posts and tactical air control parties."

The brigadier was with the party of Paras that confronted the Russians at Pristina airport. "It was a bit gritty," he said of the three-day stand-off. "The Russians were not prepared to give much ground and it was a question of working out how far we could push them. But as time went on they were clearly posturing more than anything else."

He was impressed by the resilience of the predominantly Albanian local population. "They soon got back into their fields and had their farms up and running. Driving around and seeing happy faces when their houses have been burned to cinders was really very humbling."

Units which have returned include the Brigade HQ; Pathfinder Platoon; CO and Fire Support Co-ordinating Centre of 7 Para RHA, including survey and meteorological sections; three Pumas and four Chinooks and their support staff; a high velocity missile battery; Para Field Ambulance; a movement control detachment; 5 Armoured Field Ambulance; RHQ 36 Engineer Regiment; 9 Parachute Squadron; and 5 AB Combat Service Support Battalion.



Brig Adrian Freer

Gunman shot in Lipljina

SOLDIERS from 9 Parachute Squadron RE, part of 5 Airborne Brigade, patrolling the town of Lipljina, south of Pristina, shot a Serb gunman dead when the man pointed a pistol and made ready to fire. He was the second gunman to die after threatening British troops, who, along with other units, were acting as a de facto police force in the British-administered zone.

The first shooting occurred on the day the Paras arrived in Pristina when a Serb policeman shot at a patrol and ignored orders to drop his weapon.

Shortly before this incident, American troops policing Kosovo's southern zone were shot at by men armed with AK47 rifles. In the ensuing firefight, the Americans killed at least two of their attackers. In a more peaceful encounter, also in Lipljina, troops with 5 Airborne Brigade assisted the Royal Military Police to arrest two men suspected of mass murder.

Upholding law in disorder

'Open up!' – and he did

CPL Marcus Williams knocked on the door of the block of flats and told the suspect to open up. The wanted man did just that, with a 7.62 machine gun and a 9mm pistol. The shots went straight through the door.

"The bullets missed my head by inches," Cpl Williams told *Soldier*, speaking from the police station in Lipljina, Kosovo, from where members of 5 Brigade Provo Unit operate.



This was one of the first contacts in theatre for the Royal Military Police. Minutes before the shooting, Cpl Williams had arrived at the flats with an interpreter and clearly identified himself as a Nato policeman. That's when the bullets started flying. He grabbed the interpreter, who was frozen to a spot in terror, and they took cover behind a Lada, "a car not noted for its bullet-stopping power", he said wryly.

FURTHER SHOTS

The gunman ran to an upstairs window and further shots rang out. Cpl Williams believed there was a second gunman shooting from the building. The policeman did not want to return fire because he could see other figures behind the suspects, two women, possibly the gunmen's wives.

Again he shouted "KFOR, Nato police." The gunmen were nervous and maybe very hard of hearing.

"They thought we were UCK. I moved out and showed them my insignia. It was quite a hairy moment, I can tell you."

The suspects were arrested, a stash of weapons recovered, and in the garden, the remains of charred, bloodstained paramilitary trousers.

Having made the arrest, Cpl Williams then gave oral evidence to the local prosecutor, who had no difficulty bringing charges.

When the bullets were flying, Cpl Williams did not have time to be frightened. "It was later when I was filling out the paperwork that I realised how close I had come to not seeing my wife again."

Royal Military Police are dealing with crimes ranging from theft to mass murder. We join them on one of the toughest beats in the world



Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

MAJ John Wooldridge had been up all night. So had the killers. By dawn four Serbs had been murdered in the city, including a couple in their 70s, shot in the head. That brought the tally to five in 24 hours.

"We once had 11 in a 12-hour period," Maj Wooldridge said. "I am used to people having motives for murder, like robbery, jealousy or revenge. Not this."

It was just after breakfast and Maj Wooldridge, OC 92 Section, Special Investigation Branch RMP, based at Pristina police station, was on his way to a post mortem. It was going to be a particularly unpleasant start to the day as the refrigeration system at the mortuary had packed in and they were sweeping maggots down the drains.

When KFOR surged into Kosovo and the hated MUP Serbian police fled, the RMP filled the vacuum. As the only trained policing agency within the British sector, the RMP and the RAF police are working to get things back to normal before handing over to a UN police force.

Provost Marshal Lt Col Paul Watton said: "We have dealt with the whole spectrum of offences allegedly committed by the local population, from minor thefts to murder and war crimes. In dealing with these crimes we have policed all elements of society fairly and with impartiality."

"I am very proud of the way in which my young soldiers in particular

have dealt with some horrific scenes."

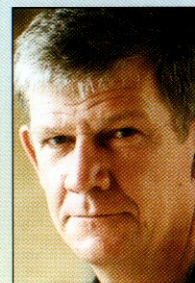
The young soldiers grow up quickly on the streets of Pristina. You don't need to be a forensic scientist to know that many of the victims had been tortured before death. Some of the bodies are discovered days later in a putrid state.

INUNDATED

Two other police stations have been set up to provide contacts for locals, one at Lipljina and the other at Podujevo. Villagers inundate the police with requests for help and information.

The workload is enormous. In Lipljina 60 police cover an area the size of north-east Hampshire. When *Soldier* visited they had already dealt with 60 murders and arrested two suspected war criminals.

The RMPs follow the same painstaking procedures used by police



Keeping the peace:
Maj Wooldridge



By consent:
Provost Marshal Lt
Col Paul Watton



Murder scene: Nagip Ismajli points to the spot where his mother was shot and his father died



Remembering the nightmare: Zejnepe Ismajli awoke to find tanks outside her house. It was the prelude to a bloody morning of butchery when the Serbs ethnically cleansed the village of Ribari Vogel. With the help of an interpreter, Cpl Kiwi Ormsby, RMP, explains that he would like her to try to identify the killers. Cpl Janet McMillan RAF (P), left, said: "It is difficult to imagine what she has been through"

in England and Wales. Eye-witness accounts of atrocities are an important source of evidence and it was this that brought Cpl Kiwi Ormsby, 5 Brigade

Provo Unit, to a village 4km west of Lipljina. He had come to collect an elderly Albanian woman, who might hold vital clues to those involved in a massacre.

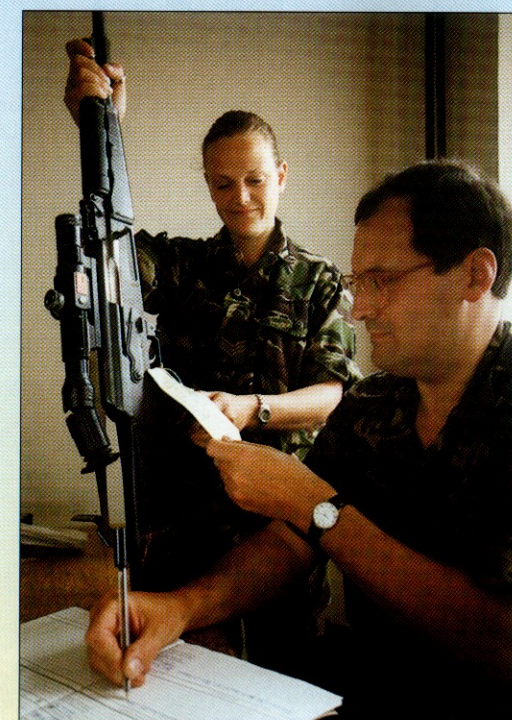
When the ethnic cleansing was at its height, Zejnepe Ismajli awoke one morning to the sound of tanks outside her house. The old woman, who has a paralysed leg, fled across the fields with others from the village. She was wounded, her husband killed in front of her. When the shooting stopped 25 were dead, she said.

At the police station the old woman looked at mugshots of suspects. She recognised many of the faces, but the men were not there that fateful morning, she said.

Cpl Ormsby had another set of photographs on his desk. These had been confiscated from arrested Serbs and showed young men drinking beer, cheering and waving guns.

Many times she would come back to the same two pictures and look at them intently.

"I am not sure," she said. "That morning I could not see clearly. My eyes were filled with tears."



Tools of terror: Sgt Paula Davison, SIB, and Sgt Ian Pratt, RAF (SI), look in a confiscated Dragonoff sniper rifle at 4 BPU's Pristina police station base

A night in the life of a Pristina policeman

British troops attached to 4 Brigade Provost Unit are bringing security to streets on which murder is a nightly occurrence

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

IT was a rough neighbourhood, but the patrol knew what to expect. They had seen their share of ugliness in the days immediately after the end of the war. Brutal murders were a nightly occurrence.

Pristina is a maze of identical tower blocks and addresses are notoriously difficult to find, especially at night when the power fails. Tunnels and walkways are heaped with burning rubbish and packs of wild dogs scavenge for scraps of food.

This is the patch that Bdr Danny Daniels, LBdr James McCallion, Gnr Martin Lacey and Gnr Andy Armstrong of P Troop, 47 Regiment RA were allocated. With RMP LCpl Debbie Fletcher they spend 16 hours a day responding to appeals for help. They have their work cut out.

It was just after 2200 hours when the patrol arrived outside the block of flats in



response to their latest call. It was hot and humid and a violent lightning storm strafed the sky.

The patrol had been to this neighbourhood before. Every other night they were called to a "domestic" dispute, invariably with an ethnic theme.

Bdr Danny Daniels led the way to the top of the tower, up 15 flights of stairs. As the patrol passed, suspicious neighbours poked their heads out of doorways. When they saw who it was they went back inside, reassured.

The soldiers stopped outside number 43. Bdr Daniels knocked on the door. "Nato police," he said. The occupant checked out his late-night visitors through a spyhole before opening up. Lack of vigilance on his part could mean a bullet in the head.

It was a small, tidy flat with four adult Albanian occupants. They had called the police because they were being threatened and had been told to get out.

The Nato interpreter, who always accompanies the patrol, translated. The Albanian was adamant: it was his flat and he had the documents to prove it. No one was going to force him out. The Albanian waved some papers at Bdr Daniels and asked the soldiers to help him.



Reassuring presence: The man on the right has been threatened and told to leave his flat in a bitter dispute over tenancy. Before leaving LCpl Debbie Fletcher, above, puts a notice on the door saying the flat is under the protection of Nato



LCpl Fletcher took a notice from her pocket and told him to put it on the door. It said the flat was under Nato protection. But the family was still frightened, believing it would take more than a piece of paper to stop them being kicked out when their tormentor returned at 0900.

"OK. We will try and be back here tomorrow morning when he comes knocking," Bdr Daniels said.

That was what they wanted to hear. The man and his family were reassured and the members of the 4 Brigade Provo Unit patrol were back on the streets heading for their next call.

Policing Pristina is dangerous and difficult, but the overwhelming majority of people are pleased to see troops on the streets.

"The vast majority of the local population are law-abiding citizens who want us here," Provost Marshal Lt Col Paul Watton said. "We are policing by consent."

Squaddies guard murder suspects

WHEN the Serbs ran it, Lipljina prison had a brutal reputation that had spread far beyond the blood-splattered walls of the building, instilling fear in the surrounding villages. Very bad things were said to have happened there.

Now the prison has a new governor and a new regime. The Army runs it as a detention centre for those arrested by RMPs in the British-controlled sector or lifted by the battle-group.

The fear factor is evident when new arrivals pass through the gates, not knowing what to expect. "You can see it in their eyes when some of them walk in," said Capt Corky Corcoran AGC (MPS), the governor. Their anxieties are quickly dispelled.

The centre, set up by 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, is the first British-run facility of its type since the Second World War. On the day *Soldier* visited there were 52 detainees, a mix of Serbs and Albanians.



On guard:
Capt Corcoran



Street life: LBdr James McCallion, LCpl Debbie Fletcher and Bdr Danny Daniels keep the peace in Pristina. For 16 hours a day, soldiers attached to 4 BPU answer a succession of pleas for help. They deal with everything from arson and looting to intimidation and murder

The highest number had been 71. The men are segregated at all times. If they weren't they would probably kill one another. It is a potential powder keg of violence.

Keeping a lid on it were soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment mortar platoon, working six-hour shifts around the clock.

"We take the military correction practices as used in Colchester and apply them to Lipljina," said Capt Corcoran. "The reason the regime works is that we treat them fairly without the violence they were used to."

"There has not been any drama. We listen if they have complaints, although we cannot always address them. I am aware of what they might have done, but I do not judge."

To make this a little easier, when Capt Corcoran admitted a new suspect he



Behind bars: Suspects being held in the British-run detention centre look out over the exercise yard. The Serbs and the Albanian prisoners are segregated at all times

deliberately avoided reading details of what they were alleged to have done. It was sufficient to know they were accused of crimes ranging from murder to arson and looting.

Their guilt or innocence would be decided by a judicial process, involving a mix of Serbs and Albanians with a presiding magistrate. While waiting for justice,

prisoners were being fed the same food as British soldiers. They had three exercise periods a day and were allowed family visits. Sick prisoners were seen by medics of 22 Field Hospital and a dentist was also on hand. Prisoners have access to lawyers. The detainees are given washing and shaving kits, towels, toothbrushes and a ration of five cigarettes a day. All this was being achieved with just 12 soldiers.

Rgr Killen David, 1 R Irish, said: "I have never done anything like it before. It is not as bad as I thought. They all respect the captain and will go and talk to him when they see him."

It was all very different from a few weeks before. In the over-grown garden where the detainees took their exercise, there was a reminder of how things used to be. Built into a south-facing wall were the broken remnants of a lockdown box. Inside, the prisoner had space only to stand or crouch. The door was made of reinforced glass to magnify the sun's rays. The summer temperature is well over 30 degrees.

● See Vox pop - Page 70

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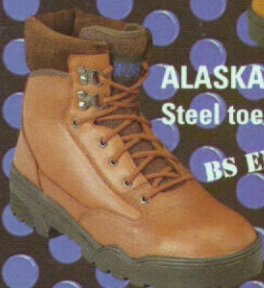
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Army of fans hits the net

The British Army's Internet site is one of the best in the world, says a leading computer magazine

Report: Anthony Stone

NOT so long ago, if you had typed www.army.mod.uk people would have assumed you were dyslexic and hadn't worked out how to use the capitals on the keyboard.

How quickly things change. Now everyone and his granny has their own Web page, with more people logging on than you would find at a lumberjack convention.

The British Army's site is at the forefront of the cyber information revolution and has been chosen as one of the top 300 in the world by a team of specialists on *PC Magazine*. Other accolades for the site include Sky TV's website of the week in June, runner-up (to BBC Online) in the *Financial Times* business website of the year last year, and the Association of Graduate Recruiters' recruitment website for the second year running.

The key to its success is an expert blend of information, graphics, pictures and "infotainment". Once into the site it is hard to leave because there is so much to see. For anyone thinking of a career in the Army, it's a great place to start.

The advice on offer is aimed at a broad cross-section, from school-leavers to graduates, from people who have years of working experience behind them, to those who have none.

As Britain's largest employer, the Army has more than 15,000 vacancies annually for people of all ages, abilities and educational standards.

Col David Bone, Colonel Communications at the Directorate of Public Relations (Army), acknowledges that the site is proving an invaluable tool for recruitment. "More than 20 per cent of officer

recruitment enquiries are now via the Internet," he said.

For those tempted to find out more, the pages offer a taste of Army lifestyle: leadership and management, tactics and weapons training, fitness, sport, expeditions... and life-long friendships.

Nothing succeeds like success and the site is going from strength to strength. On an average day, 3,700 user sessions are tracked. That adds up to an incredible 111,000 a month.

Most exciting development for Army recruiters is that 850 individuals visit the careers section every day, and the conversion rate to genuinely interested enquiries is astonishingly high.

GENERATED

Maj Alasdair Goulden, PWRR, responsible for officer recruiting and the website in the Army's Recruiting Group, said that in June alone 1,295 applications for further information were generated by the site. That broke down to 279 officer, 456 soldier, 238 TA and 269 further education enquiries. More than 50 officer application forms were filled in.

"If you are not effective on the Internet, you are now considered to be generationally irrelevant," he said. "We cannot afford to be irrelevant and our efforts are pulling in dividends. Officer applications were up 34 per cent in June."

Particularly popular on the site is Army Challenge, an interactive game that offers the player a choice of theatres of operation. The would-be soldier is faced with a

SOLDIER

June 1999



Read the views of soldiers on a topical issue

Crisis in Kosovo (Two articles)

Ready and Waiting

Read on >>>

All dressed up and nowhere to go

Read on >>>

Invisible Killer

Elusive and terrifying, a sniper can hold down a strong force almost indefinitely. *Soldier* joined 1 PWO's trainees in this black art as they learned its difficult skills

Read on >>>



British

troops in Macedonia are using a mixture of old and new technologies to stay in touch with friends and family. They are now entitled to one free ten-minute phone call each week. We asked soldiers with the Irish Guards battle-group how they managed to stay in touch.

Read the comments and send us your views

Read on >>>

Soldier on the web: How the magazine appears on the Army site

number of life-or-death choices, similar to the TV advertising campaign: four men in a Land Rover, one blanket and freezing conditions outside. Who gets the blanket?

Army merchandise is also selling well on the Web, with a range of combat-style outdoor and leisurewear planned soon. It is also a useful resource for anyone who wants to find out more about the wider Army community. Links and contacts put the visitor in touch with, for example, the Royal British Legion, clubs, sports associations, the Territorial Army, Army cadets and Army bands.

The site showcases articles from *Soldier*. Our photographs are accessible through the Web, as are a selection of gripping images at www.army.picture-library.com... the most popular part of the website with the Army and the public.

For a fee civilians can download images, but the service is free to members of the Army and the media.

Col Bone is in no doubt about the value of the Internet as a recruiting tool. "The Web is a growth area, hugely attractive to bright young people, and we are putting even greater effort and resources into the site. The potential is enormous," he said.

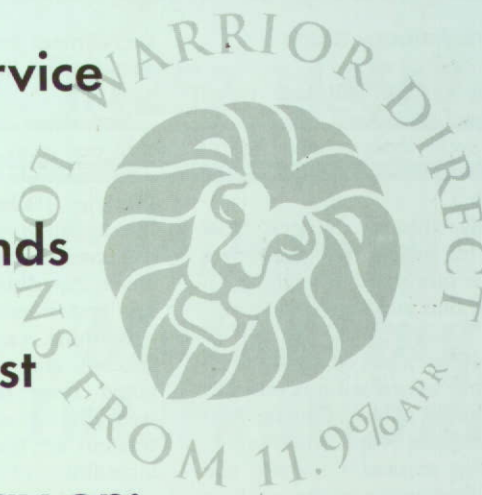


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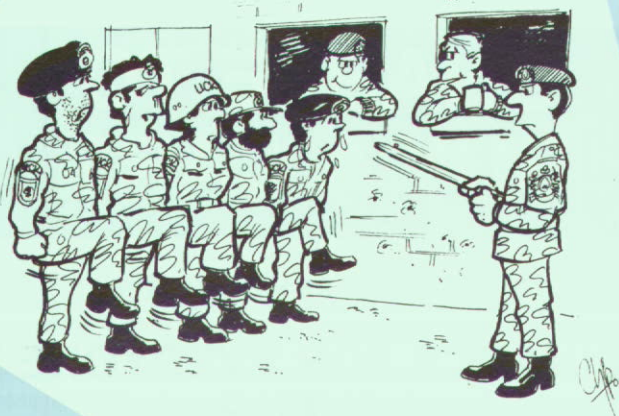
Chuckle with Chip



"Go on ...
demand our
guns back!"



"Oh, and tell
Jamie that
whatever
else he's
saved, Slobo
is now des-
perately
short of
wheelie
bins ..."



"Another couple of hours of the Sergeant Major's 'assistance'
and they'll be voting for immediate disbandment."



"A tow to the airport, old chap? I think not."

Lighter side of Kosovo



"Returning refugees? Hell, no ... it's bus-loads of politicians
wanting to claim the credit for the repatriation ..."

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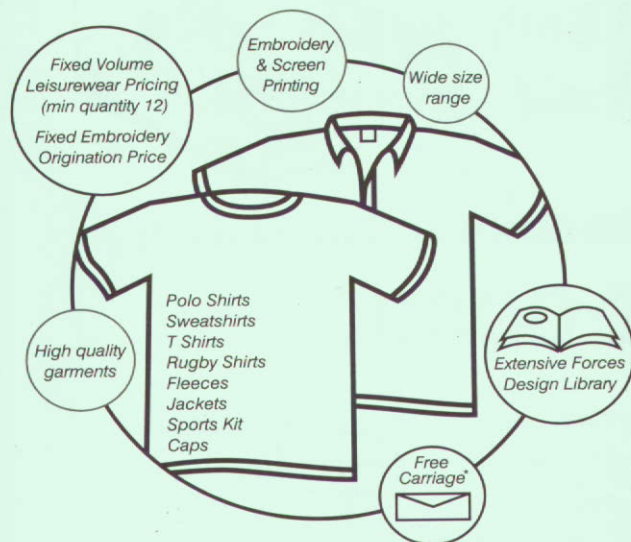
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From Westminster to Wapping

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

Gurkha pensions to be scrutinised

PENSION payments made to British Gurkhas are to be examined following the death of a Gurkha NCO in Kosovo.

Announcing the review during the Personnel Defence debate in the Commons, Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson said: "The death of Sgt Balam has called into question death-in-service payments and the pension arrangements for British Gurkhas."

"I am examining the pensions and gratuities paid to British Gurkhas, which are regularly reviewed within the context of the tri-partite agreement between Nepal, India and the UK."

"The tri-partite agreement has proved to be a flexible agreement over the years and provides the basis for Gurkha pensions, which are paid in line with the cost of living in Nepal."

Because Nepal is one of the poorest nations in the world, Gurkha pensions are much lower than those of British soldiers.

Guard duty: The Military Provost Guard Service is to be expanded to release soldiers from guard duty. Mr Henderson said there were currently 1,400 soldiers in the UK undertaking guard duties which were "not generally relished by many of our young soldiers". The measure will free them up to join their units in the field and is designed to increase recruitment and improve retention.

NHS trusts: Seven NHS trusts have been shortlisted for consideration as partners for the new Centre for Defence Medicine. Following the closure of the Royal Hospital Haslar, the centre will be a focus for medical professionals in the Armed Forces, associated with a civilian centre of excellence. Planned to be running by April 1, 2001, it will also provide a research and training centre for Defence Medical Services.

Recruitment: Recruitment in the Army was ten per cent up in the last financial year. Recruitment of women showed a steady improvement and the MoD made a good start towards achieving its target of raising to five per cent the number of recruits from black and Asian communities.

And I quote...

Mr Bruce George MP (Walsall South): "The collective image of the Armed Forces is infinitely greater in public esteem than our own profession. They are at one end of the scale and we are, perhaps, deservedly, at the other." – Armed Forces Personnel debate



Pension parade: An old Gurkha completes the formalities before collecting his pension at Syangja welfare centre in Nepal

Other points from Parliament:

Medical pay: Medical and dental officers will receive a general 4.5 per cent increase in basic pay, backdated to April 1.

Army strength: The forecast of trained strength of the Army, including Gurkhas, over the next three years is: April 2000, 100,271; April 2001, 102,058; April 2002, 103,670.

Compensation: In 1994-95 the MoD paid out £11.9 million in compensation to Armed Forces personnel for injuries

sustained during service. The figure rose to £12.1 million in 1995-96, £14.5 million in 1996-97, £25.3 million in 1997-98 and £26.7 million in the last financial year.

Bowman: The Army's Bowman communications system is expected to enter service in March 2002 at a cost of about £2.8 billion.

Hospital waiting times: Fifty per cent of new referral Service outpatients requiring secondary treatment at military hospital units at Peterborough, Frimley Park, Derriford and Northallerton will have been seen within four weeks and 90 per cent within 13 weeks under a revised agreement with the NHS. Eighty per cent of in-patients requiring treatment will be seen within three months of the decision to treat. A procedure is in place to fast-track through the system Service personnel required for urgent operational deployments.

On operations: Of the Army, 28.6 per cent are actually deployed on operations. The total percentage of those committed to operations, including those preparing for imminent deployment and those in post-deployment recovery, is 47 per cent.



● Undercover squads of former SAS soldiers, gamekeepers and estate managers are to tackle a wave of rural crime which is costing farmers and landowners more than £100 million a year. The new service aims to identify and track down poachers, rustlers and organised gangs of burglars from towns and cities who raid country homes or steal expensive machinery from farms. – *Daily Telegraph*

● The 24 Apaches sent to Albania amid predictions that they would hit Serbian artillery positions and tank columns from close quarters were woefully under-equipped and the pilots under-trained, according to an after-action report by one of the US Army's most respected helicopter pilots. – *Times*

● A shortage of manpower in the armed forces of all 19 Nato members has forced the Alliance to consider halving its Bosnian peacekeeping force to meet commitments elsewhere. – *Daily Telegraph*

● The MoD is assessing two advanced weapon systems to fill gaps in its armoury as America and Britain scramble to replenish after the Balkan conflict. – *Independent*

● Christian groups called for a boycott on serving in the armed forces following a decision by the Pentagon to recognise witchcraft as an organised religion which can be openly practised on American military bases. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● Young unemployed people are to be encouraged to join the Army in an extension of the Government's New Deal programme. – *Independent on Sunday*

● The England rugby team has called in the Royal Marines to get in shape for this year's World Cup. The national squad will pay a number of visits to the Marines' Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, Devon, home of the tough commando course. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● Military top brass are digging in for a battle over pressure being put on them to give up the Armed Forces' exemption from disability discrimination rules. – *Guardian*

● The head of the Czech armed forces has told his staff to learn English to enable them to hold meetings with their new Nato colleagues, or face the sack. They have until January to get by in English or their bonuses will be cut. They have been banned from using interpreters. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Readers are reminded that views expressed or reported in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

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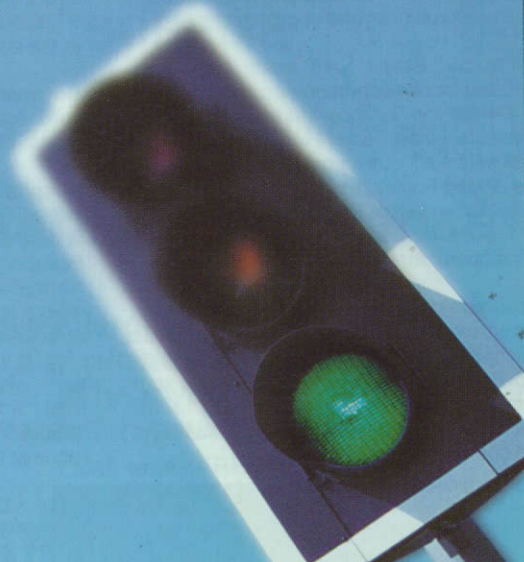
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Working under pressure

Oxygen can help heal broken bodies. At the Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport, Service medics are leading the way in hyperbaric therapy

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

IT has been used to treat everything from plague to piles. Michael Jackson (Wacko, not the general) and Elizabeth Taylor have extolled its youth-preserving qualities.

But this technology is not the latest gimmick from America's West Coast. In one form or another the apparatus has been around for centuries, and today, at the Royal Hospital Haslar in Gosport, it is being used to treat a range of serious conditions, from carbon monoxide poisoning to gas gangrene infections.

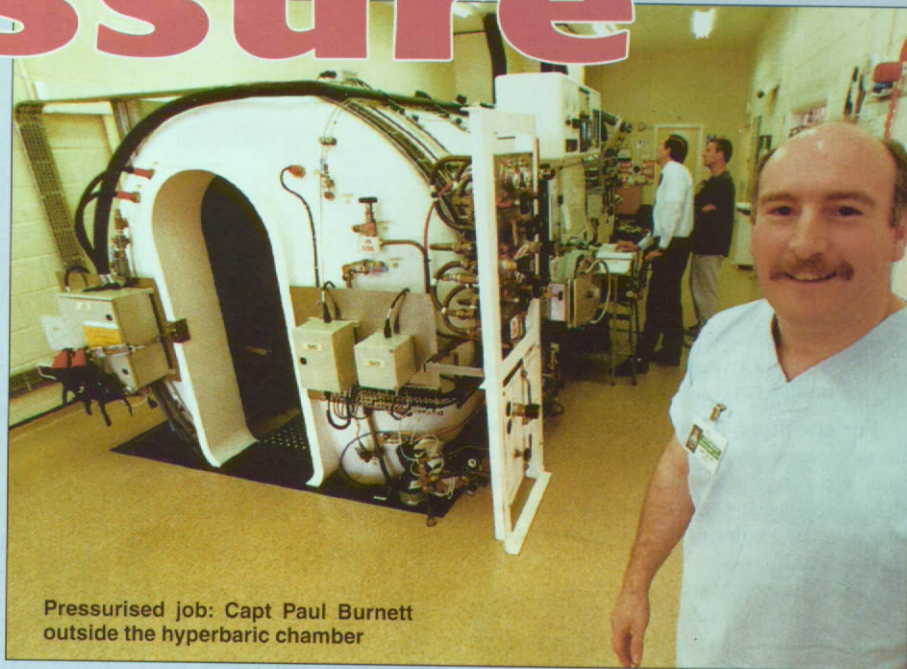
The tri-Service hospital, earmarked for closure by the Government, has one of the finest hyperbaric medical units in the country. The type of treatment it offers, known as hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), helps people with wounds that will not heal, certain types of poisoning, crush injuries and divers with the bends.

HBOT has proven military applications, explained Capt Paul Burnett, QARANC, officer-in-charge of nursing at the unit.

"It was first used extensively during the Korean War by the Americans to treat battlefield injury, especially if complicated by gas gangrene," said Capt Burnett.

Bugs that cause gas gangrene are found naturally in the gut and also in soil. In normal circumstances they are harmless. However, things turn nasty if a battlefield injury is caused by shrapnel contaminated with soil. Then gas gangrene can set in.

But the bug does not like oxygen, so by saturating the tissues it is possible to kill it off and reduce the spread of infection. Patients are treated in a chamber resembling a miniature submarine in which pressure is gradually increased to the



Pressurised job: Capt Paul Burnett outside the hyperbaric chamber

● It is ironic that it was the Army which first taught the Royal Navy how to dive. In 1839 Gen Sir Charles Pasley of the Royal Engineers was asked to clear several wrecks off Spithead, Portsmouth. His men trained their naval counterparts and the combined teams took five years to clear three wrecks.

Pasley used a new invention of his own called a voltaic battery to fire the charges. Experiments continued for nearly 30 years before the first RE Submarine Mining Companies were formed in 1871 to protect naval bases at home and overseas.

equivalent of being 14 to 18 metres under water. The therapy is painless and patients don't get their feet wet.

In the chamber, which can accommodate up to eight people, patients wear an oxygen mask or a plastic hood. Both the mask and the hood have two hoses attached, one to give 100 per cent oxygen and the other to take away exhaled and excess gases.

TREATMENT TIME

A routine treatment takes about an hour and 45 minutes, excluding time to get up to the treatment pressure.

At least one attendant is present in the chamber for every treatment. Patients having therapy for carbon monoxide poisoning or divers with the bends may need to be treated only once or twice; others may need more than 30 days' treatment.

At Haslar the unit is staffed by specially-trained military and civilian nurses. The chamber itself was built by MARA

Ltd in 1995 and is owned and operated by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA). The unique unit has been designated a category one national referral centre – the top slot – for military and civilian casualties requiring recompression and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Because of the close proximity of an intensive care unit, the adapted chamber means that even critically-ill patients can be treated.

As the treatments take place in a potentially oxygen-rich environment, fire is the main danger. To reduce the risk patients may not take in with them lighters or matches, while other prohibited items are less obvious. The banned list includes synthetic clothing, lipstick, hairspray, ointments, hair oil and wigs.

Capt Burnett is well qualified for the post.

"The job became available and I fitted the bill," he said. "I had burns and plastic surgery qualifications, so I could look after the wound care element. I also had a critical care background, so I could look after the acutely ill. And I had a teaching background, so I was able to impart the knowledge about hyperbaric medicine to those who visit, not only from our own forces and medical teams but also from overseas."

British Army medics all over the world often work under intense and hostile conditions. But very few of them demonstrate such caring professionalism under this kind of pressure.

Street fighting men

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Terry Champion

IT combines the technology of Disneyland with the rigour of an assault course. Set in 26 acres inside Fort Knox, Kentucky, the mounted urban combat training site has the appearance of a small town.

But despite the fact that it contains everything you would expect to find in a town in a developed country – sports stadium, school, market, shops, TV and radio station, houses and factories – you would not want to live there.

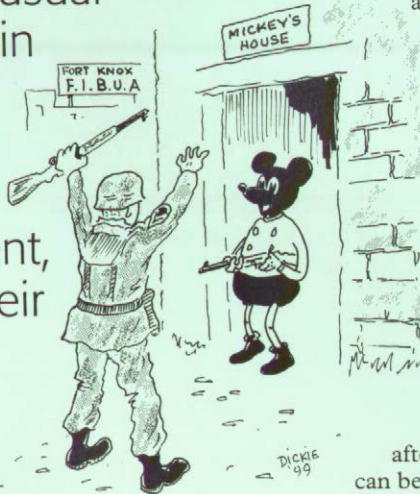
For one thing, it looks as if a bomb has hit it. Several, in fact. Many of the buildings are partly demolished and burning debris litters the streets. Outside an office block, a car explodes as the flames reach the fuel tank.

As for the neighbours...

The project is scheduled for completion this autumn at a cost of about \$15 million and is being eyed with interest by British military observers. The complex will be used to train armoured and dismounted forces in all aspects of mid-intensity urban conflict.

It is similar to the British Army's fight-

Inside Fort Knox the Americans have built an unusual town to train soldiers to fight in an urban environment, both on their feet and in tanks



ing in built-up areas (FIBUA) facility at Copehill Down on Salisbury Plain, except that the American version has some extra – very expensive – knobs and can cope with armour.

Theme-park technology has given the site a bayonet-sharp edge of realism.

Audio tapes of gun and artillery fire can be directed at any of the buildings. Smoke and enemy weapons simulators can be brought into play, either by remote sensors or else deliberately directed at the attacking troops.

Attention to detail is thorough. Overhead power cables and street lights mark the roads. There is even a railway with a train. The bridge that spans the river can be programmed to detonate and burn.

Many structures have blast panels which blow away when fired at by target simulators.

All the action is captured on video cameras and computers so that after the exercises soldiers can be taken through it blow-by-blow to determine what they did right or wrong.

The facilities are impressive. If the American version proves a success, could this be the future of battlefield training for British tankies?



Sniper's eye view: The mounted urban combat training site under construction inside Fort Knox has all the facilities of a small town



Warm welcome: An instructor drops a "grenade" into the embassy basement

What soldiers can expect...

THE platoon was given little time to plan the mission. Intelligence was sparse, time was at a premium. The soldiers were lifted by helicopter to the drop zone a couple of miles from the town. Tanks would be coming in from the opposite direction.

Their objective was to secure the safe release of the ambassador, held hostage in the embassy.

As soldiers picked their way through the rubble, burning buildings and tanks, they searched for snipers and booby traps.

SEWERS

The rescue platoon used the sewer system to gain access to the embassy basement. They started off by wading knee-deep through simulated effluent. It was worryingly realistic. Suddenly the water rose to chest level. Not pleasant, but they made it.

Now the rescuers had to negotiate flights of stairs in the dark. The lead soldier was six steps from the top when he heard the sound of a grenade rolling towards him.

The platoon leader survived, but three of his men did not. As he burst into the hostage room, he was confronted by eight figures. A robotic hand was raised. Decision time. Should he shoot from the hip or wait that extra millisecond for a clearer look? He let the mannequin have it. Bad call... he had just shot the ambassador's wife.



State of collapse: An exhausted soldier is helped by colleagues on a route march during a Territorial Army exercise staged in high temperatures on Ascension Island in 1992

Beware: Heat illness can kill

New guidelines identify lack of judgement as a factor in many cases

ON average in recent years, just over 100 soldiers a year have been admitted to hospital suffering from heat illness. Casualties have ranged from those requiring rest and fluids to fatalities.

Now, with heat illness regarded as a recognised hazard of military training, new guidelines on its prevention and treatment have been published in Defence Council Instructions (DCI JS 59/99). Prevention is seen as a command responsibility and analysis of past incidents has identified errors of judgement by commanders to be a frequent contributing factor.

Military personnel are at risk because of their exposure to a combination of high-intensity physical training, high environmental heat loads and protective clothing (such as NBC kit and body armour). Heat illness embraces both heat exhaustion and heat stroke, both of which can trigger a potentially dangerous rise in core body temperature.

Sunburn is also identified as a cause of performance-degrading heat illness.

The key to prevention is awareness of the risks involved. If commanders are in doubt about levels of heat stress in a situation, they are advised to expose themselves to the same conditions as their soldiers.

Human tolerance to heat stress varies widely and is affected by factors such as obesity, lack of fitness and sleep, recent alcohol intake, mild illness such as diarrhoea, cold or fever, dehydration and medication or illegal

drug use. "Soldiering on" through a minor illness is said to be ill-advised.

Personnel who are overweight or unfit should not be pushed during high-risk activities if it is clear they are struggling, say the guidelines. Their suitability for deployment to hot environments should also be questioned. Research in the USA has shown that recruits whose 1½-mile run times were greater than 12 minutes were three times more likely to become heat casualties than those whose run time was less than ten minutes.

Water intake before, during and after a high-risk activity is the most important preventative measure. Troops continually exposed to a hot environment or an intense physical course lasting several days are advised to drink enough water to ensure their urine remains colourless.

STAGGERING

Symptoms of heat illness include dizziness or confusion, nausea or vomiting, staggering, disturbed vision and confusion, collapse or loss of consciousness. A single case may be a warning that a large number of personnel are at risk.

Emergency treatment should include stopping or even cancelling the activity, placing the casualty in the shade and stripping them to their underwear before sponging or spraying the whole body with water. Fanning the skin to improve evaporation helps and water should be given if the casualty is fully conscious.

If the soldier is unconscious, he or she should be put in the recovery position because vomiting is likely to occur, and medical care should be sought as quickly as possible.

Distant relatives

Writer and broadcaster Melvyn Bragg – now Lord Bragg – talked to *Soldier* about his new novel dealing with families awaiting the return of loved-ones from the Second World War, and the expectations of those returning

Interview : Ray Routledge
Pictures : Terry Champion

MELVYN Bragg was still in short trousers when the Second World War ended and his father returned, one of four-and-a-half million men who came home.

Did they come home to a land fit for heroes? Maybe, but they had changed, and so had those they were coming home to.

The men had left as masters of their homes. Many had faced death and deprivation. They had seen comrades killed or cruelly injured. Some had been prisoners and some tortured. But they had survived. They were coming home – but to a home that would never again be as it was before they left.

Melvyn's father had been in the Royal Air Force during hostilities and the young lad didn't really know him. Dad didn't know Melvyn, either.

Now Melvyn has written a book, *The Soldier's Return*, which tells the story of an ex-corporal who returns home in 1946 from the war in Burma. Although the book is a novel, much of it is based on the experiences of the young Melvyn, who grew up to be Lord Bragg, becoming one of the most respected members of the British television establishment.

The book is set in Wigton, Cumbria, his home town.

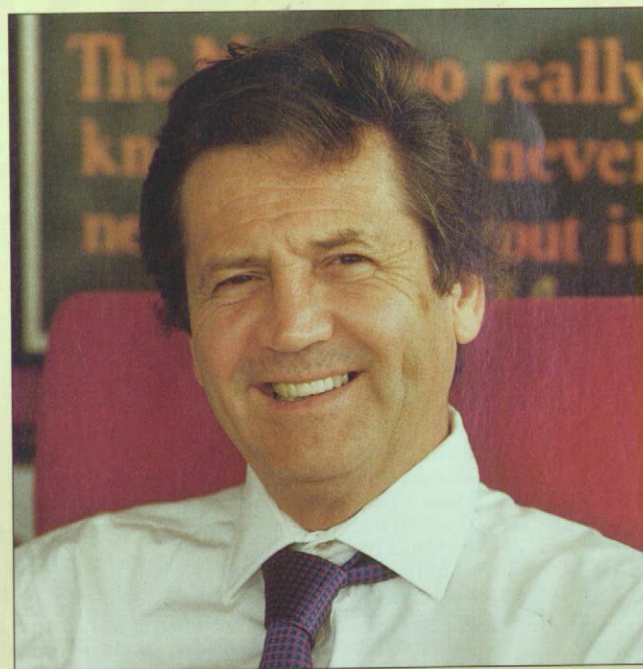
"There is an autobiographical element," he explained. "My father was in the Royal Air Force and trained to be a navigator but he burst an ear-drum, so that was that. He was away for a number of years so I didn't really know him until I was about six or seven.

"He came back after the war and he hadn't seen my mother in four or five years and that's basically the story in *The*

Soldier's Return. Someone coming back from the war in a distant part of the world, in this case Burma, to a tiny, old-fashioned town where some of the streets hadn't changed for generations."

Melvyn explained why he made the character a soldier.

"I chose the Army because my previous novel, *Credo*, is set in the Dark Ages and the fighting was hand-to-hand. I read a lot about hand-to-hand combat. That



The boy from Wigton: Melvyn Bragg, Controller of Arts at LWT

also happened in Burma, so I chose the Army as the Service for my main character because there were 'real' battles and because to the soldiers from Wigton, it was so alien."

He also had his own experience and memories.

"The Border Regiments, who were very strong in the part of the world where I grew up, served in Burma and I'd heard all sorts of stories. One of my Dad's best friends had been in Burma, and I was

acquainted with a man who had been a prisoner-of-war there, although he never talked about it. It was obvious that some of them had a really bad time.

"These chaps from that small-town background were suddenly hoisted off to Burma, with elephants and pagodas, to face the Japanese, who were a particularly nasty, vicious enemy. It must have been one of the roughest campaigns of the war.

"So I researched Burma and went and talked to a lot of people like the Burma Star Association. One of the things about writing novels is that you do as much research as you can and then you take time for the information to ferment, then you draw on it for the story. Remember, with a novel you have to make invented people seem real."

Melvyn undertook research into what happened when Servicemen returned. "Something like four million men came back and that is an incredible number of people. I think this novel is part of a story millions of people can relate to.

"And then what happened? There were tensions, jealousies and difficulties as families reunited. That is what the book is about."

In his research, he turned to other stories.

"There is a very good book called *When Daddy Came Home* by Barry Turner. He collected items of social history and talked to a lot of people who had come back from the war and their wives. It covered the usual spectrum... wives had been unfaithful, soldiers had been unfaithful, wives had been writing to husbands and then one day, these husbands who had become strangers suddenly turned up. It was a very good book."

Melvyn reckons that the return of the Servicemen was the biggest invasion the country ever had.

"The men would have changed enormously, and they had endured circumstances that they could not have previously imagined. Communication for them was difficult most of the time, unlike today's soldiers who use mobile phones to contact home.

"Also, the women at home would have changed because they had been left alone to fend for themselves. They were often drawn into jobs that would previously not



Oxford Circus: "The biggest difference at Oxford University was between those who had done National Service, and those who hadn't"

have been open to them. They had to work out what they were going to do with their lives without the breadwinner about. And they had the children to bring up on their own.

"These women made the biggest change in their lives that they were ever going to make while the husbands were away.

"They got married thinking they were going to go through life and experience together, and the exact opposite had happened.

SOCIAL HISTORY

"This is a novel, though, and is merely based on part of our social history. I would imagine that both sides, soldiers and wives, had probably worked up a fair degree of fantasy about how their homecomings would happen and reality rarely is like that. How do people cope with that?"

"My mother said that in Wigton the war didn't end with the fall of Germany. People there didn't go dancing in the streets because most of the men were still away.

"I didn't include any of that in the book, but what I do in the book with the central character, Cpl Richardson, is show that not only is the war over for him, but so is the celebration. There is no bunting because he is six or nine months late... he's missed it all. People at home are by now tired of these blokes coming back."

Melvyn Bragg did not enter the armed services, something he regrets. Like many of his generation, he expected to do

RICH REWARDS FOR A WIGTON LAD

AFTER being brought up in Wigton, Cumbria, and reading history at Oxford, Melvyn Bragg has spent most of his life in broadcasting.

He has hosted the TV arts programme *The South Bank Show* since 1978 and for ten years presented Radio 4's *Start the Week*.

He currently presents *In Our Time*, also on Radio 4. *The Soldier's Return* is his 17th novel and he has written many screenplays including *Isadora* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He also wrote an acclaimed biography of Richard Burton, *Rich*, and another of Laurence Olivier.

Melvyn has been Controller of Arts at London Weekend Television since 1990 and is President of the National Campaign for the Arts. A member of the Arts Council, he was made a life peer in 1998.

The Soldier's Return is published on September 1 in hardback by Hodder and Stoughton at £16.99.

National Service – he was born in October 1939 – but for him it didn't happen that way.

"I received a scholarship to university but fully expected to have to undertake National Service," he explained. "But I received a letter to say that National Service for people of my birthday had been abolished so I applied for another scholarship straight away and got into Oxford. I think I missed out in a way."

He recalled that students who had

undertaken National Service were more mature.

"Oxford in the late fifties was much more dominated by public school than it is today and there were more men than women. But I found the biggest difference was between those who had done National Service and those who hadn't."

"They were not only two years older, but they had experience. Some of them had been in the West African Rifles and they had been in a war. They came to university with a much more adult sense of humour than we had. And they were tougher. They were much more mature."

NATIONAL SERVICE

"Two years' National Service would have made a man of me," he added with a smile. "I think National Service did a lot of good for people in this country and I can understand why people say we are not as well off without it."

Asked how he finds the time to write novels among all his other work, he said: "I've never really done anything else. I started writing when I was about 20. I think the advantage I had is that I had a job that I liked a lot. I won a scholarship to the BBC when I was 21 and worked in radio and I really enjoyed it. I think if you've got a job that you really enjoy, you have some energy left over."

"In my father's generation, I can't think of any job that they wanted to do."

"People's expectations are so much different today. But I think if we got into a war situation where people had to go away for a long time, then I suppose people would accept it."

History in the making



In tune: The Lowland Band of the Scottish Division, below, provides a colourful musical display on Edinburgh Castle's famous Esplanade



Marching: The Highland Band of the Scottish Division, above, sets off during the ceremony to mark the opening of the Scottish Parliament

Bayonets fixed: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, left, escort the Crown of Scotland. Behind them is the Duke of Hamilton riding in the Queen's Rolls-Royce



On parade: The 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, above, on the Royal Mile

Escort: The Life Guards Squadron of The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, right, provide a travelling escort for the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Rothesay as they proceed up the Royal Mile



Open carriage: The Royal party makes its way up the crowded Royal Mile from Holyrood Palace



Greetings: Members of 19, 40 and 105 Regiments RA fire a 21-gun salute from Mills Mount Battery on Edinburgh Castle to mark the Queen's arrival

Scotland marches into the future

Report: Lesley Edgar
Pictures: John Owens Photography and Mark Owens, Media Ops

MORE than 500 uniformed Service personnel, mainly soldiers, helped to make history when the Queen opened Scotland's first parliament for 300 years. Servicemen and women were central to the pageantry of Scotland's big day.

As the ceremony began, the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders escorted the ancient Crown of Scotland as it was moved

from Edinburgh Castle to the General Assembly Building, which will be the home of the new parliament until a permanent building is completed in about two years' time. As it made its way through Scotland's capital city, the procession was cheered by large crowds.

Then it was the turn of the Pipes and Drums of the The Black Watch to be the centre of attention, as they led the newly-elected members of the Scottish Parliament along the route to the General Assembly Building.

However, for the sheer quality of tradi-

Army lends colour and pageantry as new national parliament opens in Edinburgh

tional pageantry, the royal party's escort, the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, stole the show. Twenty members of the Life Guards rode beside the carriage carrying the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Rothesay (Prince Charles's official Scottish title).

There was a reminder that ceremonial guards can have a very serious security

role. Several mounted soldiers were called upon to protect the royal party when a group of protesters, believed to have Irish republican links, broke through the police cordon. Access to the parade was barred by quick-thinking cavalymen.

As the procession made its way from the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's Scottish residence, up Edinburgh's famous

Royal Mile, the sound of a 21-gun salute rang across the city. The salute, from 25-pounder guns at Mills Mount Battery at Edinburgh Castle, was fired by 19 Regiment RA (The Highland Gunners), 40 Regiment RA (The Lowland Gunners) and 105 Regiment RA (Volunteers).

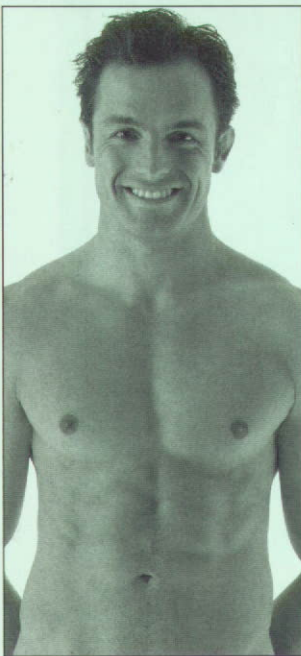
There was pageantry in the sky too. An unscheduled surprise was provided by the Golden Lions, Scotland's Infantry free-fall parachute team, who dropped in on Edinburgh's Calton Hill shortly before the ceremonial events began. Later, as the day drew to a close, Concorde and the Royal

Air Force's Red Arrows display team flew over the city in an aerial salute.

Celebrations came back down to earth when 1,600 children from all over Scotland formed a procession past the Queen. The Highland and Lowland Bands of The Scottish Division helped the children to keep in step.

Other Army units had important, if rather more low-key, roles to play in Scotland's big day. Street liners were drawn from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch and Scotland's two Territorial Army infantry battalions.

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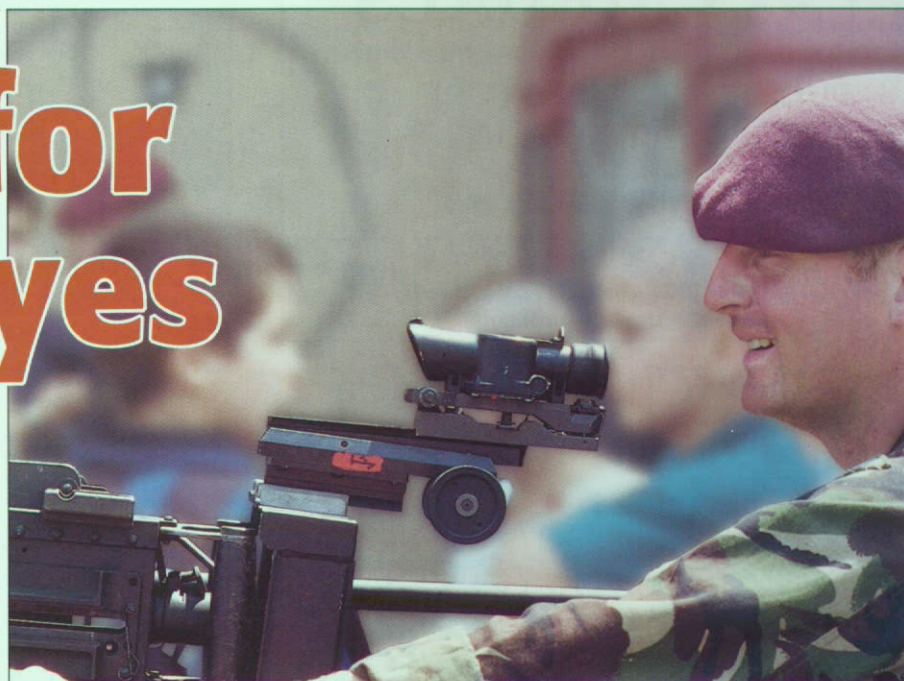
Report: Graham Bound

PARAS enforcing the peace in Kosovo have been equipped with a new version of an old favourite: the .5in calibre L1A2 heavy machine-gun.

The weapon is based on the American Browning which first saw service before the Second World War.

Much beloved of generations of infantrymen the world over (not to mention makers of gung-ho war films), the basic gun is a fearsome if relatively indiscriminate weapon. The Browning's recoil and vibration made it difficult to control and increasingly unsuitable for fighting in areas where there is a high level of risk to civilians. Now new sights and a recoil-absorbing mounting have made the weapon much more accurate – and given it a new lease of life.

A “soft” mounting, designed by British company Manray Engineering, and fitted to models issued to Special Forces and the Paras in Kosovo, absorbs much of the gun's recoil energy, making it easier to



Picture: Mike Weston

Sight for sore eyes: A soldier of 1 Para mans a .5in heavy machine-gun on the streets of Pristina. The “new” optical sight with its soft mounting replaces the old ironmongery

keep on target. The reduced recoil has made it possible to replace the old ironmongery on top of the weapon with a relatively sensitive optical reflex sight.

Radically reduced recoil combined with the accuracy of the new sight, which was originally designed for anti-aircraft weapons, makes the L1A2 more suited for use in built-up areas such as Pristina, where the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment is based. Lashed on to the soldiers' Pinz Gauer lightweight utility vehi-

cles, the new Browning is a common sight on the streets of Kosovo's capital city. The troops believe that it is a powerful deterrent against paramilitary action and they are reassured to know that if push came to shove, the reborn Browning could lay down carefully-targeted and very heavy fire.

The gun's evolution is by no means over. The next generation of the .5 will be fitted with a barrel that can be detached and replaced within seconds.

Cadets on target with new rifle

CADET forces are looking forward to a return to top-class full-bore rifle shooting competition following the procurement of a re-designed 7.62 rifle.

Over the next year, 3,250 of the single-shot, bolt-action rifles, which spokesmen for the MoD and manufacturers Parker Hale described as “a quantum leap forward in design”, will be distributed to cadet forces throughout the UK.

The rifle is, however, not completely new. An earlier model, the L81A, had been in use with the cadets since 1983. When potentially dangerous fractures were discovered in a small number in 1994, the entire stock was removed from service.

Young target-shooters were forced to use the cadet variant of the Army's SA80. Although robust and reliable, the gun is not designed for marksmanship, and target shooting was therefore limited to 300yd ranges.

Parker Hale's re-design work led to the up-graded L81A2. Following exhaustive

On target: Sgt Shane Pope (17) below, from Epsom College, with the new cadet rifle at Bisley



Picture: Chris Fletcher

testing which put some of the weapons through the equivalent of ten years' normal use, the re-engineered rifles are now being returned to the MoD and re-issued.

Apart from rectifying the weakness in the loading mechanism, Parker Hale also

redesigned the sights, making the L81A2 far more accurate than its predecessor.

“Superficially, it may look like the same rifle,” said Maj Peter McCutcheon, of the Quartermaster General's Combat Support Equipment Department. Referring to the sophisticated removable sights, he added: “We've actually moved from a rifle to a shooting system.”

As Parker Hale was developing the L81A2, the company also worked on an even more modern version for the civilian market. With a longer barrel made of stainless steel, the Elite, as the civilian weapon has been designated, also has a re-sculptured and ergonomically-designed stock.

A select number of cadets will also be able to try the Elite, as Parker Hale have donated 20 of the weapons, valued at about £1,000 each, to the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting.

The council hopes that both the L81A2 and the smaller number of Elites will be winning prizes for the cadets at Bisley next year over distances up to 1,000 yards.



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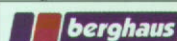
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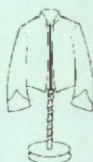
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All you need to know about the new system

In April a radical new pay system is to replace the current, 30-year-old procedure. Read on for a potted guide to Pay 2000

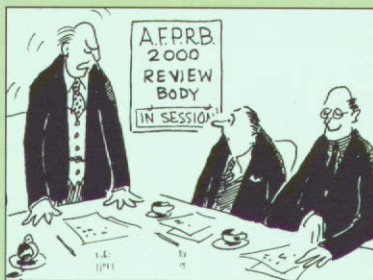
FOR several years the Armed Forces Pay Review Body has been beating the drum for a better, fairer system of rewarding Servicemen and women. Its esteemed members themselves found the current arrangements rather over-complicated and reported widespread support among Service personnel for change.

Nearly five years ago the independent Bett Review recommended a new system be put in place.

There were internal pressures, too, for giving soldiers an incremental pay structure similar to the officer system, but that was impossible under the constraints of the old arrangements.

Just about everyone in the Regular Army will switch to Pay 2000 next year, although not all at once. The Royal Irish (Home Service), Gurkhas, Territorial Army, reservists, doctors and dentists, vets, padres, late entry officers, Military Provost Guard Service and Royal Gibraltar Regiment will be integrated later, with most groups transferring in 2001.

It is not a cost-saving measure. While some people's entitlement will go up under the new system, others will go



"The term 'guns before butter' is hardly relevant in this review, Frobisher!"

down. To protect their interests during the transitional period, and also to move everyone on to the new system, a large sum of money has been set aside. In the longer term Pay 2000 is designed to cost the same as the system it replaces.

How much will you earn after the switch? Detail is still being worked out and will not be available until the end of the year. When the figures become available they will be published.

This feature offers a simple guide to the questions most asked about Pay 2000.

What next?

ALL Service personnel will move to an incremental point on the new system equal to or next above their basic rate of pay on March 31, 2000. No one will take a pay cut and it is expected that nearly everyone will get a pay rise, although the level of rises will vary.

The AFPRB is to produce "shadow" rates of pay this year, which in effect will be the rates for 1999-2000 as they would have been if the new system were to have been introduced this year. All personnel will transfer to the shadow rates in April 2000 and the 2000 AFPRB award will be paid in May, backdated to April 1.

● Turn to next page

What is job evaluation?

Job evaluation (JE) is a method of measuring the size or worth of each post or trade in the Army at each rank. All jobs are measured against a set of common criteria known as the Factor Plan, each factor is given a score and the total provides the score for the job. If there is more than one pay range at a rank (as there is for soldiers and senior officers), the scores provide a guide to which pay range the post or trade should be in.

How is this information gathered?

For soldiers, Arm and Service directors provide the basic information. For each trade a selection of soldiers from typical employ-

ments is interviewed by trained job analysts (all experienced warrant officers), a detailed job description is written, checked and prepared for judging. A similar procedure is in place for officers.

Who does the judging?

Each Service provides a judge of full colonel (or equivalent) rank, who works with the other judges and a chairman (a senior civil servant). They agree a score in the presence of

trade representatives who are there to answer any questions and make sure there are no misunderstandings.

Then what happens?

The Army is notified of the scores and recommended pay ranges, all the results are published and the Army has the chance to challenge any it considers to be undervalued or misunderstood.

How many pay ranges will there be?

Two at each soldier rank and one at each officer rank up to and including brigadier. Beyond that, jobs are individually assessed. The number of ranges at each soldier rank will be kept under review.

Job evaluation

Your questions answered

Soldiers

INSTEAD of single spot rates of pay, all soldiers will be paid on an incremental system. The number of increments will vary slightly by rank, and progression upwards from one increment to the next will usually be on an annual basis.

There will be two pay ranges at each rank (higher and lower), replacing the current system of three (corporals and below) and four (sergeants and above) pay bands.

Under Pay 2000 there will be seven increments for privates, five for lance corporals, seven each for corporals, sergeants and staff sergeants, five for Warrant Officer (WO) 2s and seven for WO1s. The difference in the number of increments is to accommodate all three Services (the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force have, for

example, no equivalents of lance corporal and WO2).

How much is an increment worth?

We won't know until the AFPRB publishes the rates. We can expect that the earlier incremental rises will be worth more than those earned later on. This is because Army non-commissioned ranks in general spend less time in rank than their RN and RAF counterparts, so having evenly valued increments would have benefited the other Services at the Army's expense. Long-service increments will be scrapped.

Do pay ranges overlap between ranks?

There will be overlap between Pte and LCpl and between SSgt and WO2. There may be overlap between other ranks. But this does not mean there may not be a pay rise on promotion. There will always be a rise on promotion of at least two per cent of salary. Most will get considerably more than this but the two per cent floor has been built in to guarantee a rise where pay overlaps.

Will those joining up start on the lowest rate for private?

No. There is to be a new training rate of pay for every new entrant for the first 26 weeks of training or until they finish Phase 2 training. After that they move up to the first increment on either the higher



Bars are conditions which deny incremental progress

or lower range, depending on trade.

Can someone be in the higher range at one rank and the lower at another rank?

Yes. There are some trades where JE shows that jobs are more heavily weighted at corporal rank than at sergeant.

How do I move up the increments?

Progress is based on experience (time) in rank, qualifications and satisfactory progress. Once awarded, increments cannot be removed.

What are bars and incentives?

Bars are conditions that would deny incremental progression beyond a specified level unless certain qualifications are held. Incentives are qualifications that permit individuals to move up the incremental system faster than annually. It is likely that a total of 24 months' advancement will be available to be awarded during a career, to be awarded in two tranches of 12 months.

Does the new system mean there will always be two rises each year?

Yes, for the vast majority, who will be paid an increment and the AFPRB award, although some already on the top increment for their rank will receive only the AFPRB award. It is theoretically possible for a soldier to receive four pay rises in a year.

What about Commitment Bonuses?

The five- and eight-year bonuses will not be affected in the short term although their continued validity is being examined as part of an overall review of retention measures.



"... so he'd like to see us dig two more slit trenches, then do a couple of runs over the assault course. I'd rather stick to the old pay system."

What next?

● From previous page

Individuals who move to a higher incremental level than they are entitled to by seniority will stay at that level until their seniority entitles them to move up. Those who move to an incremental level equal or lower than their entitlement will start to move up the scale in accordance with their seniority, with their first move on the anniversary of their enlistment or promotion.

Individuals who cannot move to an increment because their pay on April 1, 2000 is already higher than the highest increment available to them on the new structure will continue to receive the rate of pay they already have (to be called a "Specially Determined Rate" under the new system).

UNFAIR

Potential criticism of this transfer system as being unfair to those with greater seniority is countered by the argument that recognising in pay terms the greater seniority of the few immediately would mean taking account of the lack of seniority of the majority. If the extra cash available for transition was not to be exceeded, it was recognised that large pay rises for some could not be paid without reducing in real terms the pay of others.

From April 1 substitution pay will be paid on the "on appointment" rate for the next rank up.



How it was: Airborne troops who took part in the first landings in Normandy in June 1944 pictured on pay parade. They received their first pay on French soil in French currency

Officers

What are the main features?

One incremental range at each rank up to brigadier. There will be little noticeable change from the current system except that at brigadier the incremental range will replace the current spot rate.

How many increments will there be?

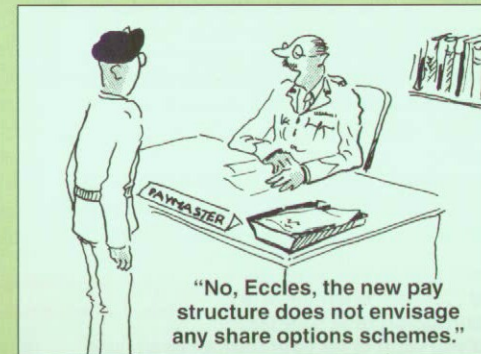
Up to and including lieutenant there will be a general scale which caters for the differing entry and training time requirements of the three Services. This general scale contains 14 rates of pay, so the individual Services will be able to apply those which suit them best. In effect, there will be little difference. Above this there will be seven increments at captain, nine at each of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel, and five at brigadier. All increments will be payable annually.

How do I move up the increments?

Progress is based on experience (time) in rank, qualifications and satisfactory performance.

What other changes are there?

The current system of basing starting rates of pay when promoted to lieutenant colonel on whole Army service will cease. All those promoted to lieutenant colonel will start on the "on appoint-



ment" rate, as do all the other ranks.

Why the change?

The current system, which applies only on promotion to lieutenant colonel, was introduced just after the Second World War to equalise the whole career earnings of officers in the three Services who, at the time, were subject to vastly different promotion speeds. These career differences gradually disappeared but the pay structure was not changed to reflect this. This is an opportune moment to remove what has been for some time an anomaly.

Will officers have a system of bars and incentives?

It is hoped to introduce a similar structure to that for soldiers, but development is not so far advanced.

Pension points to ponder

PENSIONS will continue to be based on rank and length of service and on a single representative rate for each rank that will have to be recalculated as the rates of pay on which they are based now will no longer exist.

Individuals are expected to be at least as well off under the revised calculation as on the current system. Pensions, preserved pensions and resettlement grants will continue to be awarded on the same basis as today.

SAME RATE

Individuals who find themselves in the higher range will not get a bigger pension than those in the lower range because pension rates will continue to be based on a single representative rate at each rank.

Those paying Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) may need to review the need for them if they end up in one of the top pay bands or get some form of additional pay. If the AVC is no longer justified, the individual will be able to stop making payments, although payments already made will not be repaid.

Further advice will be issued once the pay rates have been set.

RESERVED RIGHTS

The ongoing Pension Review may identify changes to the way in which pensions are calculated or earned but it will be some time before recommendations are published or accepted by the Government. If there are any changes, they are unlikely to be introduced before 2002.

What is certain is that current members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme will have reserved rights to stay in the scheme as it is presently constituted.

Issues

Pay problem on way back to normality

FOLLOWING the widespread errors that affected soldiers' pay slips in March and April, payments were far more accurate in May and were expected to be back to normal as this edition went to press.

A signal from the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Alex Harley, to all commanders, warned that the June statements would pick up the errors of the previous three months and contain retrospective corrections, leading to a perception that the system had not been rectified.

"Some soldiers will have larger-than-normal credits, but some will also have larger-than-normal charges," the signal said. Measures had been taken for individual soldiers to be briefed about these circumstances and, in the case of significant retrospective charges, allowance made for them to be spread over several months. Provision was also being made for separated families.

APOLOGISED

Gen Harley said that the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPA) and Electronic Data Systems (EDS), which manage the pay systems, had apologised for the errors and given an assurance that major programming errors on Local Overseas

Allowance, married quarters, fuel and light, Longer Separated Service Allowance, Tax, Additional Voluntary Contributions and food and accommodation charges had been resolved.

"Much has been learned from this thoroughly unprofessional exercise, which I know has caused considerable worry to soldiers and their families, particularly those involved with operational deployments," said the Adjutant General's signal.

"I am also aware that Army Personnel Centre and Regimental Administration Office staff, whose fault this is definitely not, have worked very hard to limit the damage and worry."

IN BRIEF

● Defence Secretary George Robertson thanked families of soldiers serving in Kosovo for their support when he visited their home base in Osnabrück, Germany. "They deserve our thanks and they should be proud of their loved ones out in Kosovo," he said.

● The **Satisfied Soldier Bounty Scheme** (SSBS), under which soldiers receive £250 before tax for recruiting new people to shortfall areas in the Army, has

Evils of gossip

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

Dear Cari I'm fed up with all the gossip. My husband is away a lot and I've just found out that someone I thought was a friend has been telling people that I'm having an affair. A family friend comes to see me and the kids and helps with driving us on days out. My husband knows all about it and there is no way I'd have an affair. How can I stop the gossip? - Young wife in Germany.

Cari replies: Gossip is very destructive (see my comments below) but you must accept that small communities provide a fertile breeding ground for it. As a precaution why not arrange days out with other mothers on their own so that you are not always alone with your family friend. I know it's a bore but it will save you potential and needless heartache.

Dear Cari I am getting married to a soldier soon and we are moving to Germany almost straight away. I have so many questions and don't know if there's anything I should be doing. There isn't any information and my fiancé doesn't tell me anything. - Fiancée in UK.

Cari replies: You are not alone. I can't tell you how often I've heard this story. There is, actually, quite a lot of information and

Gossip can break relationships... even when there is no foundation to it. The last thing you want is for your partner to get one of those letters from a "friend" telling him "something I think you should know" while he is far from home. Spiteful people often try to cloak gossip by saying that they don't believe the stories but think they should be passed on nevertheless.

When we are vulnerable and away from home it doesn't take much for a seed of doubt to blossom into full-blown suspicion,

I'm sending you details of the Army Families Federation and Army Families Advice Bureau and other addresses, although I think your fiancé is being very remiss. He should have introduced you to spouses in the unit who could have helped you through the transition from girlfriend to wife. He could also be a lot more helpful about explaining the move. If he doesn't know the answers, gently nag him into finding out from his unit. He can't expect you to tag along, hoping that you'll pick up anything you need to know along the way.



Cari Roberts

Dear Cari We've got a computer and I'm just wondering how to use it to work from home. I heard one of your *Counterpoint* programmes about it ages ago but I can't remember the details. The thing is, I don't know if I will be good enough with it. - Soldier's wife, Germany.

Cari replies: Get hold of the Army Families Journal summer 1999 edition, which has an excellent article by Danusia Malina chronicling her experiences with a computer. She also lists a number of very useful web sites which can help you get your ideas off the ground - or at least she'll make you feel more optimistic. Once you've got the hang of e-mail, get in touch with Danusia at d.malina@tess.ac.uk and also the Army Families Federation at armyfamiliesfed@uniform.net, which might get you off to a flying start. I've interviewed so many people who have discovered that they can have a portable career with a little technical help. You really shouldn't have a problem.

Cari comments

even in the most solid relationship. Gossip is destructive. In a small community it is pure poison. I know you shouldn't have to but, if you are a temporary lone parent, use a bit of discretion to protect yourself from the lonely people who use it to brighten their sad lives. And, while we all enjoy a bit of a gossip, the next time you're tempted to pass something on, ask yourself this. Is what I'm about to say likely to hurt someone if it is passed on and embroidered? If the answer is yes, keep it to yourself.

been extended to include REME vehicle mechanics (VMs), RLC Pioneers and AGC clerks. Other areas covered by the scheme are the Household Cavalry, RAC, RA, R Signals, Infantry (less Gurkhas and R Irish (Home Service part-time), AAC, RAMC, RAVC, RADC, QARANC and CAMUS.

● Although many families find the HIVE network an invaluable point of contact for information to help them settle down in

unfamiliar surroundings, the 30 HIVEs in British Forces Germany carry a wealth of useful advice to help single soldiers adjust to life in Germany. HIVEs know what garrisons and stations have to offer and can provide details of local amenities, banks and services, sporting and leisure opportunities and further education opportunities.

● Legal proceeding taken by Lt Toby Heath in respect of alleged clinical



Hard-hatted: Tamara Pratt, left, Joanne Lister and young Sammy Lister don the appropriate headgear before inspecting new Service housing in Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus. The £10 million married quarters estate, comprising 120 three- and four-bedroom houses and two bungalows for families with special needs, was unveiled by the Commander British Forces in Cyprus, Maj Gen Angus Ramsay.

Future occupants were impressed by the spacious layout of the houses and gardens, and in particular by the quality and style of the fitted kitchens and bedrooms. New furniture issued by the Army Supply Unit was also well received. The first 46 quarters will be ready for occupation by the end of the year, with more completed by May next year and the final phase by August 2000.

All troops to get 20 days' post-ops leave

ALL soldiers returning from operational tours of six months are to receive post-tour leave of 20 working days. The new arrangement is over and above the recently-announced annual leave allowance of 30 working days.

For roulement tours shorter or longer than six months, Post-Operational Tour Leave (POTL) is to be granted in proportion to the tour length. At the commanding officer's discretion it may also be increased by the use of days from the annual allowance.

In the light of the volume of commitments currently facing the Army, the new arrangement is seen as a way of giving greater structure and certainty to post-tour leave arrangements to all troops deployed on operations.

Commanders have been told, with immediate effect, to ensure individuals are given leave as soon as possible, and no later than a month, after an individual's return from operations.

Guidelines encourage commanders to

build in to post-tour arrangements an acclimatisation period of at least five working days in barracks before the start of POTL to allow soldiers to adjust and complete necessary administration. They also stipulate that POTL is to be taken while the individual is on the strength of the unit with which he or she deployed.

Exceptional circumstances under which post-deployment leave may be postponed include courses critical to an individual's career, but delays must be agreed by the soldier or officer concerned and POTL should be taken within a month of the end of the course.

Brig Andrew Ritchie, Director of Personal Services, said: "This additional leave allowance is a highly visible way of recognising the contribution of all deployed soldiers to the level of operational commitments which the Army is currently undertaking."

"The overriding principle to be applied is fairness. Post-tour leave is not to be sacrificed for management reasons."

in war studies are available from the Publicity Office, School of Continuing Studies, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT (tel 0121 414 5607).

● The National Lottery Charities Board has awarded £165,000 to support SSAFA Forces Help with its volunteer recruitment campaign. The forces charity is aiming to attract 1,000 new volunteers over the next year, rising to 2,800 over a two-year period.

Cyber-bluey takes off to Balkans

ANYONE with access to the Internet can now send a message to British soldiers deployed in Kosovo, Macedonia or Bosnia... and the easy-to-use system is expected to generate a gigantic cyber mailbag for troops serving in the Balkans.

If trials with the system are a success, electronic blueys could eventually be used by British forces around the world. Forces e-mail, launched by Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson at the Post Office's headquarters in London, is expected to be a massive hit, especially with children using computers at home and in school.

Once the message has been sent it is automatically printed out and sealed in a red envelope before being dispatched for delivery in theatre. "It will not be long before these bright red envelopes become as common a sight as the traditional light blue aerogrammes from home," said Mr Henderson.

The new service uses the Royal Mail's RelayOne Internet post delivery system following close liaison between the Royal Mail and the Defence Postal and Courier Services Agency, soon to be renamed the British Forces Post Office (BFPO).

To send messages to soldiers in Kosovo by e-mail visit the new Internet site at www.royalmail.co.uk/bfpo-relayone. Users will need to type in the name, rank and unit of the person who is to receive the message.

Royal Mail says messages sent by this means are secure.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
Confidential support lines:
UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0800 1827 395
Cyprus 080 91065
Bosnia 0800 731 4880
Others UK 1980 630854
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333
Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249; Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
SSAFA Forces Help housing advisory service 01722 436400
Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302
War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

SHORTS

Rugby veterans dominate

THE Army's rugby-playing "pensioners" won the Inter-Service veterans' tournament for the first time since its conception four years ago. They beat the Royal Air Force 27-10 and hammered the Royal Navy by 77 points to six.

Zimbabwe tour

TOP footballers from British Army (Germany) played five games against some of the best teams in Zimbabwe during a 15-day tour. The 19-man squad travelled thousands of miles in a coach belonging to the Black Rhinos, a top team in the Zimbabwean premiership.

"This was been the chance of a lifetime," said Cpl Tony Gould, of the Queen's Royal Lancers. "It has been brilliant. The Zimbabwean scenery will stay in my mind forever."

Kings of the islands

FIVE men from the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, representing the Army, won the Pathfinder Trophy for the first forces team home in the 1999 Scottish Islands Peaks Race.

The team, led by Maj Gary Deakin and consisting of Maj Simon Hutchinson, Capt Simon Routledge, Capt Simon Barry and Sgt John Jones, chartered the yacht *Kingsman*, a Sigma 362, to take part in the race around the Western Isles.

Billed as the ultimate challenge for teams of five hill runners and sailors, the 160-mile course, including the fierce tides and overfalls of the Corryvreckan and the Mull of Kintyre, was interrupted by stops on the islands of Mull, Jura and Arran where two or three of the crew covered 60 miles and 11,500ft of climbing.

Kingsman beat teams from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and police to win the Services competition. The 1 Kings entry was third in class and 16th overall.

In at the deep end

THE Army water-skiing championships will be held at the British Water Ski Federation national training site in Nottingham on September 16-17. Contact is Capt G P Whitehead, 705 Squadron AAC, Defence Helicopter Flying School (tel: 01939 250351 ext 7298).

Swimming championships

THIS year's Inter-Corps swimming and water polo championships will be at the Arborfield Garrison Pool on December 2. Details from Capt Ian Corroyer on Arborfield (94251) 2432.

ATHLETICS

Mayo makes up lost time

Middle-distance track star is running into international form

RISING middle-distance runner Lt James Mayo, of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, is threatening to become the hottest Army track star since Sgt Kelly Holmes scorched her way into the records, writes Anthony Stone.

He posted one of the fastest 800m times in the UK this year, briefly making him the British number one, and at the Inter-Services championships he equalled the 12-year-old record of 1min 50.1sec. The Army record, held by SSgt (SSI) Malcolm Edwards (APTC), stands at 1:46.72.

Mayo remains focused on the greatest prize in athletics. "Everything this year is geared towards getting a good time and putting my name back on the books," he said while taking a break from training. "Next year all I want is an Olympic gold."

The Army has given him every chance to concentrate on running and he hopes to repay the support. "After college I wondered what to do," he said. "My father, who was in the RAF, suggested if I wanted to run I should join the Army, so that's what I did."

International athletes have slightly different perspectives on fitness from the rest of us, which goes some way to explaining Mayo's contention that he did "no running at Sandhurst". That is if you exclude setting new standards for the two-miler and the basic fitness test.

After RMAS he was selected to compete on the South African Grand Prix circuit. "I had a really good pre-season in South Africa, where I ran just over 1min 48sec, and I am now getting my strength back after two years of doing nothing."

"Everything this season focuses on the three AAAs. I am surprised at how well I am doing because I did not expect anything this year simply because of the time I have been out. To be number one in



Picture: Mike Weston

Up and running: Lt James Mayo has very clear aims

Britain so soon after coming back was really pleasing. My coach is over the moon, which makes for a happy relationship." Just as well really, because James's coach is his father.

It is not the first time a member of the Mayo family has sought Olympic glory. Mayo's uncle won a silver in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics in the 4x400m relay.

The Olympic qualifying time is 1:46.3. "I have a year to do it. I think I am in about 1:47 shape at the moment, judging by training. Two seconds is not that much for 800m. Everything depends on injury."

● The Army men's team were second to the RAF in the Inter-Services athletics championships at Portsmouth, while the women's team won their competition.

PARAGLIDING



No go: Army fliers hoping to swoop down and collect the honours at the team event in the Inter-Services Alpine paragliding championships were foiled again by the RAF, who retained the title.

The championships were held at the British Forces Paragliding Centre at Wertach in the Allgäu region of Bavaria. A top-class competition attracted 41 paragliders from Germany as well as fliers from as far afield as Kinross, Crickhowell and Devon.

Competitors ranged from major general to private and in experience from elementary pilot to those with more than 2,000

logged hours. A day's refresher training was held before the racing began.

Capt Ian MacLachlan briefly led the open class and CSgt Harry Harrison and SSgt Billy Diamond also made notable contributions. Capt Simon Tinning, Sig Al Berry, Maj Alex St Mathew-Daniel, SSgt Alf Noke and Cpl Tim Fowler featured well in the intermediate class, while SSgt Andy Corlett, Bdr Greg Gregory and Pte Joy Brown took the first three places in the novice competition.

Details of paragliding are available from the centres at Wertach and Crickhowell.

ICE HOCKEY

Ice work for RLC soldier

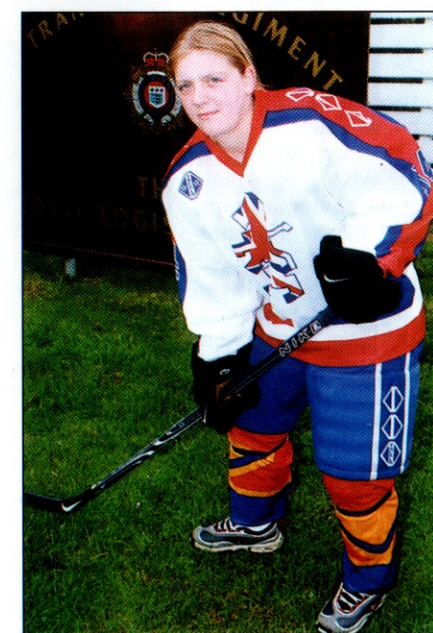
PTE Teresa Lewis (8 Transport Regiment, RLC) is a cool customer. The Catterick-based soldier plays ice hockey for Great Britain and the Sunderland Scorpions.

First selected to play for Britain at 14 (she took up the sport aged seven), Lewis helped the national side to second place in the European championships in Hungary, scoring four times against South Africa and twice against Hungary.

She also won the most valuable player award against French champions Cergy while representing the Sunderland Scorpions at a tournament in the Czech Republic.

Lewis landed the MVP award against ESC Planegg from Germany, scored her team's only goal against EHC Bozen of Italy and picked up her third MVP award in the final match against Herlev of Denmark.

Next item in her busy international timetable is another GB selection for a tournament in France later this year.



Best of puck: Ice queen Pte Teresa Lewis

SHORTS

Cheviots bite back

THREE teams of Army runners were among 75 Service athletes who completed the Cheviot 2000 fell race in the worst weather conditions in the event's 12-year history. The military teams were from 3 AAC Workshop REME, Wattisham, and 7 Battalion REME. The 22-mile course in the Cheviot hills of the Northumbria National Park was run at heights over 2,000ft in thick mist and driving rain, with visibility often down to 20ft. All three teams completed the race in under eight hours, a great achievement since none had competed the race before or trained together.

Paddle power surge

THE Army's sprint and marathon canoe teams are ready for the Inter-Service championships in Nottingham in September having honed their techniques at the Army's own meeting in Monmouth. RMCS won the senior ABC K1/K2 sprint team competition with RMAS taking the senior 345 novice sprint. The junior K1/K2 sprint and the junior 345 novice went to the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield and the women's 345 novice was won by RMAS.

As you were

IT was a case of retaining and regaining at the Army decathlon, heptathlon and 10,000m championships at Aldershot. Maj Terry Gyorffy retained the decathlon title and WO2 Steff Paul regained her heptathlon crown. Sgt Andy Arrand retained the 10,000m title, as did Capt Steve Lonnen in the veteran's race.

Rugby triumph in Hungary

BF(G)'s rugby union team returned triumphant from a seven-a-side multi-national tournament held in Budapest after beating Moldova 28-4 in the final. Forwards Capt Simon Butt, Maj Steve Burton and Cpl Smudger Smith ensured plenty of possession and Cpl Kevin Maddox at the back was in outstanding form. The players, who lost to Georgia in the semi-final of the German international competition two weeks earlier, are preparing to take part in the Singapore international event in November.

Laying strong foundations

YOUNG rugby league players from the Army Foundation College completed a successful first tour in the south of France. Rugby league is one of the main team sports at the college and the Army academy team has developed from it.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

It's getting tense at the top

TWO-thirds of the way through the Army mountain bike series and there is still all to play for. The six-round competition is run in conjunction with the southern area series and about 80 riders from each of the Services take part, the vast majority being from the Army.

The series is split into two disciplines, downhill and cross-country, with the cross-country riders competing over an 18-mile course designed to a national standard.

Spr Phil Sparrow (39 Engr Regt) in the sport category and CSgt Phil Marland (1 D and D) in the master's category, won the first round at Checkendon.

Since then the tables have turned with LCpl Mike Fletcher (1 RSME) in the sport category and Cpl Martin Smith (ATR Bassingbourn) in the masters, winning rounds two, three and four.

Maj Kenny Brown (BDMT) is proving that the over-40s can mix it with the rest in the veterans and has won the first four rounds.

First round of the women's race was won by 2nd Lt Fiona Scotter (1 RSME) but Capt Liz Stileman (Army School of Catering) took the next three rounds.

The downhill competition takes place on fast technical courses alongside world-class riders. Cfn Duncan Jamison (1 D and D LAD) won the first two rounds and the fourth CSgt Tony Penhaligan (1 D and D) won round three.

There is still time to enter the last races of the season on September 11 and 12. To get involved contact Army secretary Capt Ian Comerford on (9)4251 2277.

Run for fun in Split

A FUN run of 10km for men and 7km for women is planned for August 28 near Split. Organised by 10 (UK) Log Regt RLC, it will be held in the Trogir hills 20km west of Split. The organisers are looking for up to 500 military personnel serving in Bosnia and Croatia to take part. Money raised will go to orphan and refugee centres in Split and Sarajevo and the Lexdon School for the disabled in Colchester.

Contact Lt Miriam West, at Divulje Barracks, BFPO 544.

BOXING

Bessey leads rush for gold

BOXER Cpl Chris Bessey (27 Tpt Regt RLC) aims to be on top of the world this autumn when he competes in the World Championships in Houston, Texas, writes Ray Routledge.

The five times ABA champion will be joined by Army coach Sgt Neil McCallum at the England squad's acclimatisation and training camp in Tallahassee, Florida before the championships in August.

McCallum told *Soldier* he was delighted with the Army squad's performance during last season and that Bessey's selection for the World Championships was well deserved. He reckons that Bessey's chances for a medal are good.

"He is rated number six at light-middleweight in the world and at his best there are few in the world who can touch him," he said. "I feel Chris could come back with a medal."

McCallum, himself a senior ABA coach, will be at the championships as one of the England squad trainers.

"As far as I know there has only ever been one other Army boxer who has competed at the World Championships and that was LCpl John McLean (RE), who boxed for Scotland. He is now a civilian.

"After the World Championships we have the Olympic and European qualifying competitions," he said.

McCallum added that apart from Bessey, none of the present squad has a realistic chance of qualifying for those tournaments. However, Gnr Dave Smith



Champion: Cpl Chris Bessey RLC



England coach: Sgt Neil McCallum

(7 Para RHA) is a firm prospect for the future. "He is only 18 and has phenomenal potential."

McCallum reflected that the Army squad had had a busy time at the end of the 1998-99 season.

"We had a Combined Services competition in Cyprus and followed that up with a 4-1 win over the Scottish Federation at Linlithgow," he said. "For the second match in succession, David Smith won the best boxer of the evening, having also achieved it in the Combined Services contest."

Between November and June the Army squad took part in 30 shows up and down Britain, from Cornwall to Scotland, and in Cyprus. They contested a total of 156 bouts, winning 97 of them. LCpl David Phillips (2 Para) scored victories in all five of his contests.

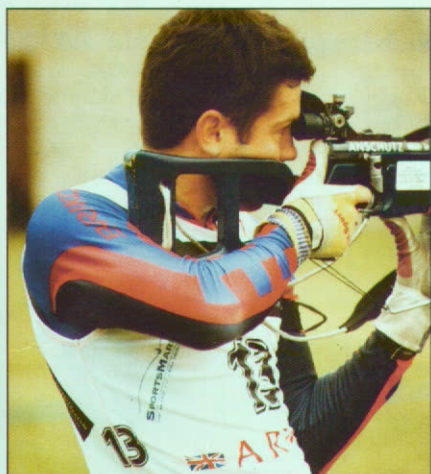
The new season kicks off on September 1 with a month-long training camp at Aldershot. The first competitive matches are due to take place from the middle of October onwards.

McCallum is optimistic. "I have already sent in the names of the boxers I would like to see here for trials in

September," he said. "I am looking for potential."

● Sgt McCallum's own boxing career continues to flourish. A former England international, he has qualified as an ABA senior coach and hopes to be a regional national coach by the time of the 2004 Olympics. He is also a Grade One referee.

SUMMER BIATHLON



Top man: British champ LCpl Tom Clemens

Marines strut their stuff

ARMY and Royal Marine biathletes took the honours at the inaugural Wilsons Hogg Robinson Army summer biathlon at Ash Ranges, Aldershot.

In almost perfect conditions for summer biathlon (cross-country running and shooting), the top six places in both races went to current or recent members of the British national teams. World Cup racer LCpl Tom Clemens (1 D and D), the British champion, was the top Army athlete in both the 5km and 8km races.

Cpl Marc Walker (1 GS Regt RLC) and LCpl Brett Hellyer (35 Engr Regt) followed him home, just as they had on

snow last winter. Champion novice was Pte Connolly (1 GS Regt) while the junior honours were shared by Pte Watson and Jackson of 1 Green Howards.

There was an excellent performance from the guest team from 45 Commando RM based at Arbroath. Mnes Kurt Sumner and Martin Blackley were the overall winners on the 5km and 8km races.

The Marines convincingly won the team events, followed by Gütersloh-based 1 GS Regt RLC. The Marines' shooting was a particularly strong element of their impressive performance.

CRICKET

Cornhill and KP set up win over county

Army v Middlesex 2nd XI

MIDDLESEX 2nd XI were at almost full strength with just one probationer in the side, so it was always on the cards that contracted professionals would again be successful at Aldershot. But at 51-5, the county looked in trouble against accurate and hostile bowling by Cpl Steve Cornhill and LCpl "KP" Knowles-Pfeiffer. The pros dug deep and closed at 227-8.

After the loss of two early wickets, St George and Hole looked to have done enough to see the Army home by a considerable margin. Their dismissals caused a few flutters before Maj Jim Cotterill saw the Army home to a fine victory.

Middlesex 227-8 (50 overs). Army 229-7 (48 overs, St George 69, Hole 68). Army won by three wickets.

Army v Sussex 2nd XI

The Army's lack of a penetrative bowler to tie up the final overs let Sussex off the hook and allowed them to reach a formidable total on their return to Worthing for the first time since 1963. In their turn, the Army batsmen looked frail against some good bowling despite another good knock from skipper Capt Chris St George, supported by Maj O'Kelly, and Sgt Nick Palmer.

Sussex 304-9 (50 overs). Army 229 (St George 82). Sussex won by 75 runs.

Army v Kent 2nd XI

After restricting Kent to 181-8 in the 40th over, the Army let the county off the hook, the ninth wicket putting on 46 valuable runs before the overs ran out. The loss of St George and Ford cheaply was a blow when the Army batted and they finished 14 short, beaten but not disgraced.

Kent 227-9 (50 overs, Knowles-Pfeiffer 4-52). Army 213 (49 overs, Palmer 56). Kent won by 14 runs.

Army v MCC Young Cricketers

After a poor start in the field, the Army smartened up to restrict the MCC Young Cricketers to a very gettable 223. St George and Ford made sure of the first Army victory in this fixture for many years.

MCC YC 223-8 (50 overs). Army 226-4 (48 overs, St George 99 not, Ford 48). Army won by six wickets.

BA(G) Inter-Corps

The BA(G) Inter-Corps cricket tournament, held at JHQ Rheindahlen, was won for the second year running by

REME, whose name now appears more than any other corps on the Famous Grouse Trophy. REME were clearly the strongest team, which manifested itself in them posting scores in excess of six runs per over in each of their qualifying matches. The sappers did not win any of their qualifying matches. The AGC overcame R Signals to reach the final, where they were bowled out for 57 when chasing REME's total of 121.

Combined Services v Oxford University

The Parks provided both bounce and turn for bowlers who put the effort in and a true, fast track for batsmen. The university batting looked quite solid if a little laboured (98 overs for 331 runs) before Chris St George, with an undefeated hundred, again demonstrated how much he likes batting at Oxford. He declared 60 behind but well up on time to lull Oxford into leaving a chaseable declaration total. Set a target of just over 300, the Services won by six wickets thanks to some fine second innings batting by the top order.

Oxford University 331-8 dec and 242-0 dec. Combined Services 271-7 dec (St George 101 not) and 308-4 (St George 91 not, Sig K Ford 73 not, LCpl T Burt 56). Combined Services won by six wickets.

TUG OF WAR



Men of Marchwood: A great clean sweep for the 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC teams

Marchwood gold

TEAMS from the UK and Germany went on the pull at the Land Command tug-of-war championships.

At the end of a fiercely-contested 600kg class, two teams – WO2 Pete Symes's 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC and their close rivals, SSgt Ronnie Barker's 40 Regiment RA – were still on maximum points.

The spectators were not disappointed by the final as both teams worked hard from the drop. In the end 17 Regt's pressure-pulling overcame the gunners' driving style to take the gold medals. Tied for third place behind them were 47 AD Squadron RLC and 14 Regiment RA.

Next came the big boys with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, despite giving away 25kg, again taking the gold. Their win was not without its scares. Although 40 Regt RA took silver it was WO2 Bill Webber's 1 RHA who nearly caused the

upset of the day by getting 17 Regt to the line, only to be dragged all the way back. It was at this weight that 1 Armd Fd Amb from Germany gained the first of their two third places.

The 560kg class was fairly predictable, with the medal-winners of the previous weight again emerging victorious. In the women's events, 16 Regt RA, coached by WO2 John Gracie, were too strong for their opponents, 1 Armd Fd Amb, in both the 560 and 520kg classes.

Two unbeaten teams were locked in action in the premier weight, the 640kg class. Although 40 Regt RA battled to the end they could not stop the Marchwood loggies making it a clean sweep.

Tug-of-war secretary Maj (Retd) Dick Field said: "Despite the difficulties with operational commitments, tug of war continues to thrive and is one of the most successful sports in the Army."



Take the strain: 40 Regt RA in action

SHORTS

Rugby draw makes £10,000

GEN Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff and President of the Army Rugby Union, pulled out the winning tickets in the 1999 tri-Service rugby draw, which raised more than £10,000 for the three Service rugby unions. Prizes, which included tickets for internationals at home and abroad, were donated by British Aerospace Land and Sea Systems.

Berlin battlers



On their marks: These Army members of a tri-Service team will be running in the Berlin Marathon in September to raise money for Children Nationwide, the Royal British Legion and Macmillan Nurses Cancer Research. Pictured are (back row, from left) WO2 Mel Chappell (RE), SSgt Pat Millar (R Signals), Cpl Paul Nesbitt (RE); (front) WO1 (SSM) Mark Elliott (AGC (SPS)), SSgt Dave Rose (RE) and Cpl Duncan Moy (AGC(SPS)). If you would like to sponsor them, contact Cpl Moy, Policy and Requirements Division, SHAPE, BFPO 26.

Rock sponsors

BRITISH Forces in Gibraltar are sponsoring three athletes at the Special Olympics summer world games in America. Gibraltar's senior Army officer, Col John Sankey, recently hosted the athletes and their families on a visit to the Tower and the Naval Dockyard.

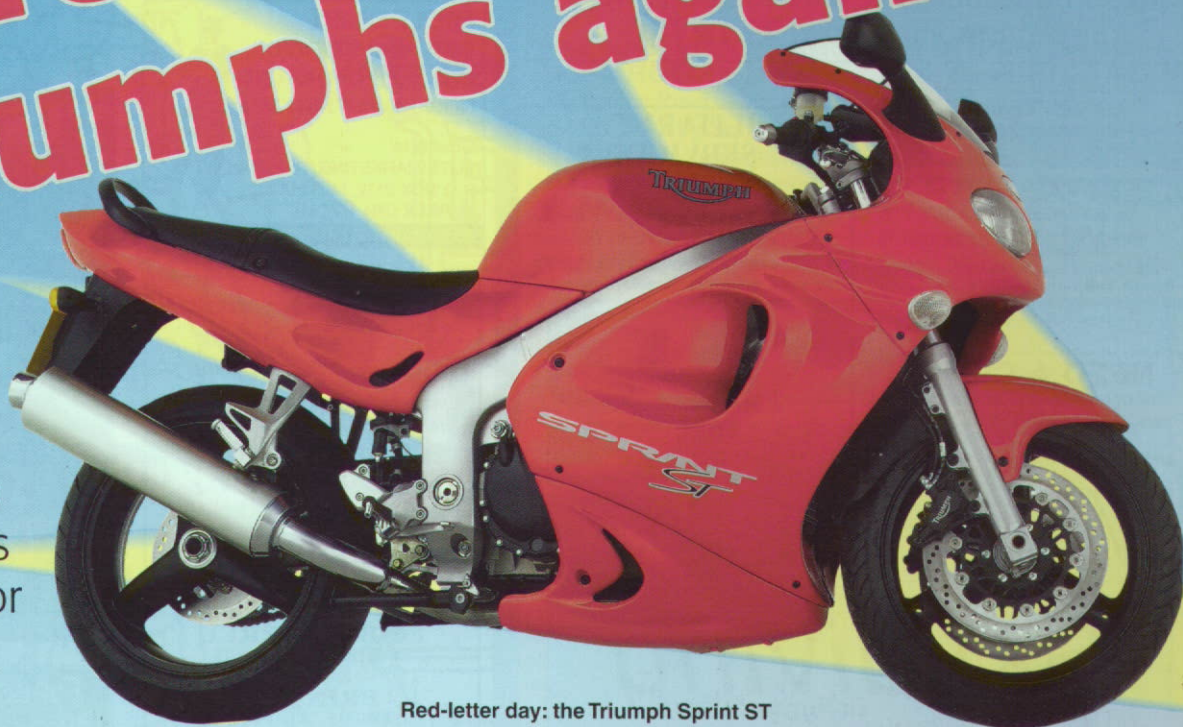
Hitting the trail

GLASGOW and Strathclyde Universities Officers' Training Corps won the Trailwalker (UK) South Downs Way 100km mixed team prize and set a new record of 12hr 59min. The race is a 100km point-to-point across the South Downs from Petersfield to Brighton in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The event, organised by the Queen's Gurkha Signals, traces its history to Hong Kong. Since 1997 it has been held in the UK. The team was 2nd Lt Lesley McCafferty, an RADC potential officer; JUO Nicola MacLeod, an RAMC potential officer; OCdt Richard Picton, and Mike James, an RGR sponsored potential officer.

Superbike road test

Pure class triumphs again

Syd Taylor found milestones turning into smilestones on a bike for all seasons



Red-letter day: the Triumph Sprint ST

ON A fine summer evening, sitting outside a country inn, we listened as the landlord – a TT star of the Sixties – talked of bikes past and present, while the lustrous red paint of the Triumph Sprint ST glowed in the light of the setting sun.

We had arrived at this place in the rural heart of England on an English bike... a new model from Triumph, with mettlesome looks, first-class mechanicals, and paintwork as subtle as the evening glow.

The new Sprint ST adds another dimension to the best-selling Triumph range. Visually stunning, with beautifully-integrated bodywork combined with excellent ergonomics, it is proof that Triumph can build something special in this world of compromise and mass production. It is their contribution to the increasingly important and influential sports tourer sector, a market fiercely contested by the major manufacturers.

Everywhere you look on the new Triumph, high-build quality shines through. Parts fit precisely and fastidious attention to detail abounds. The finish is superb, radiating a classic quality, yet it is a truly modern product that works with clinical efficiency, a bike for all seasons.

At its heart is a lusty, powerful and willing motor. The liquid-cooled DOHC 955cc, three-cylinder fuel-injected unit is a modular Triumph engine common to the ultra-sporting Daytona and the naked Speed Triple. It perfectly matches the machine's dynamics and its sports tourer status.

Although 108 bhp might not seem a lot

by the standards of some of today's superbikes, when you consider the light weight of 456lb and the huge spread of torque at quite low engine speeds, you soon realise that the formula works. This translates into more usable power for everyday riding.

Whereas most superbikes are radically focused projectiles requiring "ten tenths" from their pilots, the Sprint ST is a bike for the real world of traffic, public roads and riders of average ability. In fact, it is one of the very few bikes that are totally in tune with most needs. Top speed is high enough at 155 mph, but if you really want that extra edge, Triumph offers a performance "aftermarket" silencer plus the accompanying re-mapping of the engine management system.

ALL-ROUND POWER

It might not be as fast against the stopwatch as the current crop of radical race replicas, but it's got performance that will mean much more for day-to-day road riders. There's the kind of power you use all the time – not just for a quick adrenalin rush.

Power delivery is effortless and deceptive. Riding a fast 120-mile trip across country on the Sprint ST alongside a friend on a ZX9R and another on a Fireblade, I arrived at the destination just as quickly – and a lot less stressed. You can ride this bike fast, but it's not hard work as milestones turn into smilestones. You'll also be interested to learn that there's a very useful 200-mile plus tour-

ing range thanks to economy of around 45 mpg.

If the engine is a revelation the lightweight aluminium chassis is excellent too.

It's not a race-track orientated bike, but it's very sure-footed, neutral and nimble and you're always nicely in control. Unworried by bumps and dips, it doesn't step out of line and never threatens to become unstuck.

This Triumph's manners are impeccable and, with the summer sun beating down, and rolling hills to ride on, I found myself elated as sweeping bend merged into sweeping bend. Brakes are reassuringly up to the performance.

At speed the fairing gives protection from the nastier elements, but the amount of wind which it lets past the low screen meant that for this 6ft rider, there was rather a lot of pressure on chest and head. This is disconcerting on a bike that will cruise effortlessly at 100 mph plus (where permitted).

Triumph offers an optional higher screen, so it would be interesting to see if this works or merely substitutes windblast for buffeting. Wind-tunnel testing is expensive, but attention to this should be a priority.

At £8,349 on-the-road, a Sprint ST is expensive, but that's the price of excellence. This bike is at the cutting edge of modern design and is an inspired example of motor-cycle engineering born of a passion found in bikes once again bearing the proud emblem of the Triumph marque.

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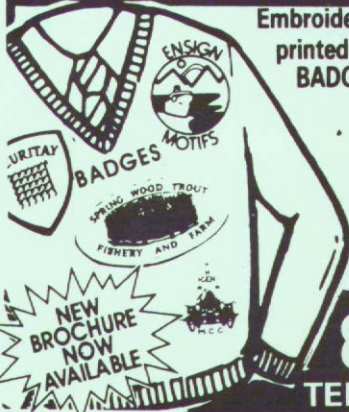
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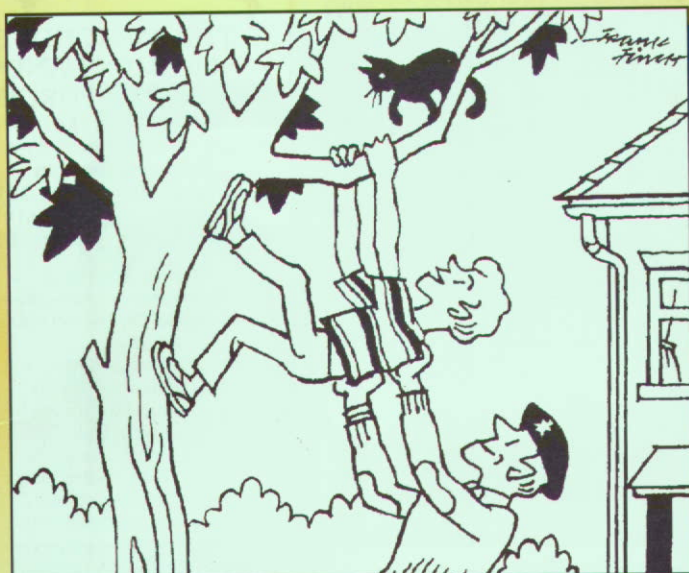
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A photocopy is acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

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June issue result (No 691): First correct entry drawn was from Mr R Smith, of Preston, who wins £100. Runners-up Mrs P Crandles, of Edinburgh, and Mrs A Cavanagh, of Larkfield, Kent, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: Gull's beak; cloud on left; "N" in sign; attendant's neckline; line of surf; young man's foot; girl's shoe strap; light-bulb in cabin; doorstep; interior of boat.

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Editor John Elliott 347356 (2356)
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Chief Photographer Mike Weston 347357 (2357) **Art Editor** Les Gwyer 347169 (2169)
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Advertising Manager Sheila Little 347352 (2352) **Business Manager** Andi Clarkson 347353 (2353)

Distribution queries: 01252 347353 (2353)

Fax 347358 (2358)

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Essex Regiment Museum



Chelmsford & Essex Museum

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Museum Guide

Sussex

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Open at other times by appointment. Closed
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NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM
 CHELSEA

New Gallery on today's
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 opens at the
 National Army Museum

Chelsea's National Army Museum is well known for its coverage of British military history and featured in its galleries are colourful displays on the English Civil War, the Battle of Waterloo, the Charge of the Light Brigade, the Zulu War and the two world wars. The museum's new Modern Army Gallery brings the story right up-to-date.

The gallery describes how today's British Army is organised, equipped and deployed and features some of its latest kit including the new Phoenix remote-controlled observation plane which is currently being deployed in the skies above Kosovo. Exhibits on show include vehicles, weapons, uniforms and specialist equipment in use. The exhibition will also include donated items by some of the Army's key sports personalities such as Kris Akabusi and Kelly Holmes.

The exhibition gives an overview of the Army's activities since 1968 and features exhibits from the Falklands, the Gulf, Northern Ireland and the Balkans. Many of the items relating to the British Army's activities in the Balkans were collected by museum staff on special expeditions to the area.

The displays will show the skills that soldiers need to survive and fight in different environments and the training they undergo. Reconstructions include a jungle encampment, an SAS soldier abseiling into the gallery and a 40 sq ft model showing an armoured battle group in action.

Visitors will have the opportunity to test their map-reading skills while computer challenges will give them the chance to try their hand at weapon assembly, rank recognition and jungle survival.

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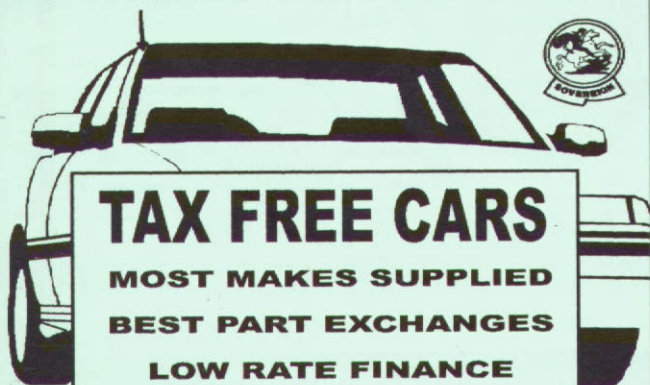
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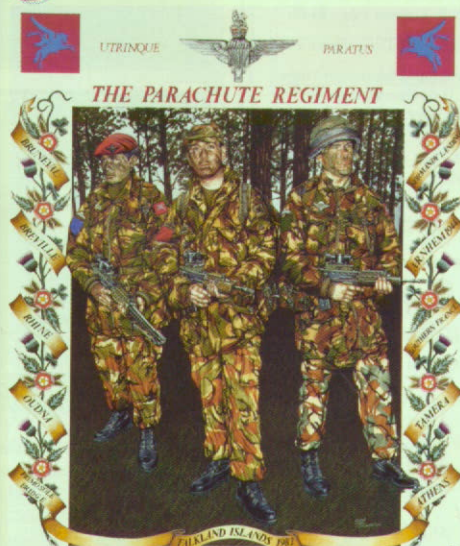
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PEN PALS

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

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Beth, 19, 5'3", blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build. Works in nursing and enjoys having a good laugh, music, travelling, cooking and occasional clubbing. Would like to hear from pen pals, 19-24. **P522**

Nick, 25-year-old, blonde stick insect (married) with nutty sense of humour. Enjoys Formula 1, alternative fashion, storms, tornadoes, rock music, horror films and anything with a Gothic theme. Seeking pen pals, 24-30. **P523**

Caroline, 28, 5'3", slim with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys keep fit and going out and would like to hear from male, single pen pals, 28-35. **P524**

Jacqueline, 38, 5'4". Shy and sensitive, single mother of three, looking for a good pen friend, 30+, to bring out my fun side. Interests include eating out, walking, swimming, the cinema and cooking. **P525**

Sarah, 5'6", 29-year-old blue-eyed blonde. Non-smoker who likes family outings, country pubs, music and reading. Seeking tall, rugged, non-smoking pen pals, 28-34. Photo appreciated. **P526**

Julie, slim, attractive, spontaneous 30-year-old. Loves to go clubbing and would like to hear from fun, friendly pen pals, 27-35, with GSOH, no ties and who are game for a laugh. **P527**

Niki, 34, 5'5", blue eyes and reddish hair. Friendly and bubbly personality with GSOH. Interests include cooking, astrology, aromatherapy, Shiatsu and alternative therapies. Seeking pen pals, 28-45. **P528**

Mags, 5'7", 46-year-old nurse. Interests include meals out, the theatre, art, clubbing and music. Would like to correspond with male pen pals, 40-50. **P529**

Denise, 32, 5'5", divorced, slim, bubbly, bright and very attractive. Likes fine food, outdoor pursuits and enjoying life. Would like to hear from pen pals, 32-40. **P530**

40 - now I'm waiting for life to begin. This lively, 5'8", non-smoking, single mother would like to hear from genuine Servicemen of similar age for pen-friendship. **P531**

Val, 48, 5'7", English/Australian, blue eyes and brown hair. Independent, single female with GSOH who likes horse-riding, hiking, camping, driving and travelling. Seeking pen pals, 35-45. **P532**

Debra, 5'10", attractive blonde with

bubbly personality. Owns own horse and enjoys watersports, Boxercise, pubs, clubs and travel and would like to correspond with pen pals, 28+. **P533**

Carol, 37-year-old divorcee (no children) with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys music, socialising and writing letters and is seeking pen pals, 35-48 - preferably with a wicked sense of humour - for friendship. **P534**

Sherlye, 39, 5'1", fair hair and blue eyes. Divorced mother of two young boys. Interests include medieval history, exploring castles, wildlife, reading and the American Civil War. Offering family life news to caring person. **P535**

Sue, 38-year-old brunette, with GSOH and brown eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs, eating out, the cinema, ten-pin bowling, writing letters and keeping fit. Requires soldiers, 34-38, at home and abroad to write to. **P536**

Kerry, 25, 5'7", long, dark hair and dark eyes. Likes swimming, clubs, dance music, horse-riding and going out with friends. Lives alone and drives her own car. Seeking pen pals, 22-29. **P537**

Yvonne, 5'6", blonde, slim and attractive secretary with very GSOH and outgoing personality. Seeking pen pals, 35-45, to put some fun back in her life. **P538**

Donna-Maree, 20, 5'8", slim, brown-eyed, beautiful brunette. Enjoys pubs, clubbing, music, dancing, holidays abroad and weekends away. Seeking pen pals of any age. All letters guarantee a reply. **P539**

Chelle, 27, 5'7", independent divorced mum of two. Interests include quiet nights in, lively nights out, the cinema, travelling, socialising and swimming. Seeking honest, single soldiers, 28-33, for correspondence. Photo guarantees reply. **P540**

Diane, 25, 5'2", single, bonnie, Libran, semi-tamed wild cat. Enjoys swimming, weight training, cycling, camping, walking and socialising. Would like to write to male soldiers, 25-35, with similar interests. **P541**

Hi, my name's Anne. Did you write to me from the May issue (P473) of *Soldier*? If so, and you don't mind, please write back. Thank you.

Are you a Warrant Officer or above, a non-smoker, single and looking for for an attractive, sophisticated lady to correspond with? If yes, write to me and tell me about you. **P542**

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Charities:

1. The Soldiers' Dependents Fund
2. The Officers' Dependents Fund

Reference: LT-KAT-122965-CD(T)

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Building 43, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wiltshire SN9 6BE, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today - August 1, 1999.

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A reunion is to be held at
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Contact:
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JUNE 26, 1999

First (388 runs, £3,800): Pte RJ Davies, 6 Bn REME, Tidworth.
Second (386 runs, £1,900): Pte MT Flower, 2 PWRR, Tidworth.
Third (381 runs, £1,300): LCpl KJ Williams, ATR Winchester.
Fourth (378 runs, £900): WO1 MD Organ, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh.
Fifth (377 runs, £600): CSgt RM Etherington, 2 RGJ, Paderborn.
Sixth (376 runs, £500): Sgt RJ Hope, 5 Regt RA, Catterick.
Seventh (374 runs, £300 each): Lt EMC Kemp, 32 Regt RA, Larkhill; WO2 WL Lewis, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Maj MJS Weir, 2 RTR, Fallingb.ostel.
Tenth (373 runs, £50): Cpl FW Filmer, 1 RGJ; Gdsm AW McHugh, 1 WG, London.

JULY 3, 1999

First (306 runs, £3,800): SSgt SM Pooley, KRH, Münster.
Second (299 runs, £1,900): Sgt KW Twigger, 215 Signal Sqn, Tidworth.
Third (298 runs, £1,300): Cpl S Campbell, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

Fourth (297 runs, £900): Capt CJ Chapman, HQ RAMC, Ash Vale.
Fifth (296 runs, £550 each): SSgt BV Ehlen, UKDSU Heidelberg; Sgt MB McKee, HQ MND (C), Rheindahlen.
Seventh (294 runs, £400): SSgt SJ Candlin, HQ DRAC, Bovington.
Eighth (291 runs, £250 each): Sgt WJ Busby, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge; Cpl NR Fretwell, 3 Para, Dover.
Tenth (288 runs, £100): Fus JP Anderson, 2 RRF, Celle.

JULY 10, 1999

First (360 runs, £3,800): Cpl RA Bennett, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford.
Second (354 runs, £1,900): Maj A Larner, SHAPE.
Third (348 runs, £1,300): LCpl DD Crook, ITC Catterick.
Fourth (342 runs, £900): Sgt GJ McAndrew, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln.
Fifth (340 runs, £600): LCpl JD Colbert, 2 RRF, Celle.
Sixth (339 runs, £500): WO1 GS Turner, BAD Longtown.
Seventh (338 runs, £400): Cpl AJ Sneddon, HQ 3 Inf Bde.

Eighth (337 runs, £300): Cpl SR Cumberland, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot.
Ninth (334 runs, £150): Capt D Nichol, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham.

JULY 17, 1999

First (649 runs, £3,800): SSgt CG Inman, QDG, Catterick.
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Third (3607 runs, £1,300): Capt AM Thurgood, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh.
Fourth (600 runs, £900): Sgt A Martin, JSSU Digby.
Fifth (598 runs, £600): LCpl WA Poar, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippenham.
Sixth (590 runs, £500): Pte RG McAulay, Army Foundation College, Harrogate.
Seventh (581 runs, £400): SSgt DM Bates, Falkland Islands Admin Unit.
Eighth (580 runs, £300): Capt IT Caldwell, 4 R Irish.
Ninth (571 runs, £200): Cpl AJ Clarkson, DG D & D, Upavon.
Tenth (570 runs, £100): Sgt MR Cussons, HQ AFCENT.

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Diary

Folkestone remembers its Canadians

THREE hundred Kent children took part in a colourful ceremony on July 1 to mark Canada Day and remember Canadian soldiers from the First World War who are buried in the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery at Folkestone.

Boys and girls from a dozen schools on the Channel coast laid posies on the graves in a ceremony which dates back to 1919. In many cases, children from the same families have carried out the small act of remembrance in a tradition handed down from one generation to the next.

Among those present where the Commander of the Dover-Shorncliffe Garrison, Brig Trevor Minter, civic leaders, old comrades' associations and representatives from the Canadian High Commission. Buglers from 5 PWRR sounded the *Last Post* and *Reveille* from a ridge high above the cemetery.

At the outbreak of the First World War, 40,000 Canadian soldiers underwent training in the Folkestone area. Many learned to go "over the top" in trenches dug near Sandling station.

● Chefs from Gutersloh-based 1 Regiment Army, Air Corps were put on the spot when 651 Squadron wives challenged them to a competition based on the *Ready, Steady, Cook* TV programme. Dot Lyon and Linda Morris did the shopping and WO2 (SQMS) Mick Ault and Sgt Steve Hood were given 30 minutes to produce a traditional Indian meal. The audience did the tasting and voted the lamb rogan josh with aromatic rice and Bombay potatoes made by Sgt Hood and Mrs Lyon ahead of the chicken korma, rice and naan bread cooked by WO2 Ault and Mrs Morris.

● Slough Sikh leaders presented a symbolic sword to Lt Col Mike Motum, representing the RGBW, and Col Piers Bateman from Berkshire's TAVRA as a follow-up to the successful Army and Territorial Army presence at the Sikh celebration of Khalsa Panth in April.

DATES

AUGUST

4: Military concert (WG, Queen's Normandy), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

6-28: Edinburgh Tattoo.

28-30: Essex classic military vehicle show, Tilbury Fort, including firings of 25-pounder, Abbot and 3.7in anti-aircraft guns.

SEPTEMBER

4-5: Minley Show, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey.

4-5: Berwick Military Tattoo, Berwick upon Tweed. Tickets on 01289 307113.

26: Aldershot Militaria Society annual exhibition, The Maltings, Farnham, 1015-1600.

● To include public events, contact the Editor.

Hussar Beevor's triple whammy

APART from commercial success and the fame it brings with it, former 11th Hussars officer Antony Beevor has won three literary awards for *Stalingrad*, his best-selling account of the six-month siege of the Soviet city by the Germans in the Second World War.

The book, praised by a succession of critics from Alan Clark MP to Ben Elton, has sold more than 50,000 copies in hardback and soared to the top of the paperback non-fiction chart.

Beevor, 52, who served in the Army for five years, has picked up prizes totalling more than £50,000, including one for the best history book of the past year.

He was also short-listed for the Westminster Medal for the year's best military history – an honour which went to his eminent contemporary, John Keegan, for another best-selling work, *The First World War*.

The medal was presented to Keegan by the Duke of Westminster at a ceremony at the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall, London.

With this SA80 I thee wed ...

When Pte Leigh Popple and Pte Rob Ellis laid down their weapons at the end of an exercise in Cyprus they told their amazed colleagues that they had had a marvellous, unforgettable honeymoon! The happy couple were among 31 soldiers from Canterbury-based 5th Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment who flew to Cyprus to learn, perhaps inappropriately for the newly-weds, how to fight in urban areas.

The 5 PWRR exercise had to be hastily rearranged after the original trip to Gibraltar was cancelled on the day the advance party were due to leave because their flights were re-routed to Kosovo. Leigh and Rob got married the day before the group left Canterbury.

Just like father ...

Eighteen-year-old Carl Boyd got quite a surprise on his first day in the Army when he was welcomed by his father, Capt Tony Boyd. Tony, who is stationed in Northern Ireland, managed to arrange a trip to the Army Training Regiment at Basingstoke to present Carl with the famous badge and hackle of the Fusiliers.

Capt Boyd, formerly the RSM of the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers based at Alnwick, was commissioned and posted to the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland. Carl hopes to follow in his father's footsteps to 1 RRF after completing his infantry training.

All for one on Tyne-Tees

Three-into-one: Pte Russell Featonby, left, from the 4th/5th Battalion, The Green Howards, Fus Craig Wright, centre, from the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Pte Graham Davidson from the 7th Battalion, The (Durham) Light Infantry are wearing three cap badges with something in common. On July 1 their Territorial Army units were merged to form the new Tyne-Tees Regiment, which will have its headquarters in Durham.



Blood hound: Brig Andrew Roache, right, Director of the Defence Veterinary and Remount Services, meets tracker dog Jerome and handler SSgt Paul Williams during a visit to the Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit at Episkopi Garrison. The day before the VIP visit, Jerome had given blood to save the life of a fellow working canine

... thanks, Dad

There was a family slant to Oundle School CCF's passing out parade when Col Stuart Bennett, Director of the Army Base Storage and Distribution Agency, carried out the annual inspection and presentation of awards. He handed over the award for outstanding service to the corps to his daughter, Cadet RSM Georgina Bennett, only the second girl to reach the rank. Son Richard, a cadet sergeant, was also on parade.

Volunteers mark 200th year of their Kensington Colours

The Duchess of Gloucester joined soldiers from the 31st (City of London) Signal Regiment (V) at a reception at Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall to mark the 200th anniversary of the presentation of the Princess Louise of Kensington Colours, inherited from the Kensington Volunteers, first formed in 1799. The regiment, which has soldiers based in Chelsea, Coulsdon, Southfields and Eastbourne, is unique in the Royal Signals for having its own Colours, usually the preserve of the Infantry.

On the beaches

Facsimile documents and maps from D-Day make up the latest "Battlefront" pack from the Public Record Office. The folder includes a personal message from Winston Churchill to President Theodore Roosevelt, detailed coloured maps of German defences in the Gold beach area, an eye-witness account of the Omaha landings, the Omaha landing plan, extracts from the war diary of 6th Airborne Division and a safe-conduct pass dropped on German positions. Priced at £9.99, the folder is available from the PRO, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU. More details of this and other titles from the National Archives are available on 0181 392 5271, e-mail bookshop@pro.gov.uk or internet <http://www.pro.gov.uk>.

Bounced into touch

Four historic bouncing bombs recovered by the Army from the sea near Reculver two years ago have been handed over to preservationists. The biggest of the bombs,

the 8,000lb Upkeep, a prototype of those used in the famous Dambusters raid on the Mohne Dam in May 1943, was delivered to the Barnes Wallis collection at the Elvington Museum in York by 219 Transport Squadron.

The other bombs, conceived by Barnes Wallis while he was playing "ducks and drakes" with his son, will go to the De Havilland Museum in Hertfordshire and to Herne Bay, Kent, one of the towns involved in their wartime testing.

The Army is to fund 20 places for

Raleighing around

disadvantaged young people on Raleigh International's "at risk" programme of international adventurous expeditions. Young men and women from ethnic minorities will be actively encouraged to take up the places.

Closing date for Millennium and other Travelling fellowships

applications to the Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships scheme is October 22. The unique grants offer citizens of the United Kingdom the chance of a lifetime to undertake study projects overseas related to their trade, craft or profession. For full details of the scheme, send a stamped addressed envelope to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR. You can also telephone on 0171 584 9315, e-mail on office@wcmt.org.uk or visit the website at www.wcmt.org.uk

Legends of the regiments and corps

2 Abington Park Museum, Northampton



Saved: The Colours of The Northamptonshire Regiment

Colours in action

IN bygone days an infantry regiment's Colours provided a rallying point in battle, particularly at critical moments. Men would give their utmost to save them from the enemy.

The last occasion this occurred was on January 28, 1881 during the First Boer War, when the 58th (Rutlandshire) Regiment attacked up the steep slopes of Laing's Nek in Natal, South Africa. In the centre were the Colours, carried by Lts Peel and Baillie.

The 58th's right flank should have been secured by other troops but their attack failed and the regiment came under heavy Boer fire from the front and the right. Peel and Baillie both fell.

VICTORIA CROSS

Lt Hill won the VC for rescuing Baillie and two other soldiers, while Sgt Bridgestock received the DCM for carrying both Colours to safety. Without support, the 58th had no option but to retire.

Six months later the 58th became the 2nd Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment. The Colours, first presented in 1860, remained in service with the regiment until 1962 when, because of their importance, they were displayed in the National Army Museum. Today they are at home in their own regiment's Northampton museum.

● The Colours are displayed in Abington Park Museum, Northampton. Open Tues-Sun and Bank Holiday Mondays, 1pm to 5pm.

Bulletin board

1776 and all that

IF you rather like the military uniforms of the American War of Independence and have a bit of time in the summer, the Association of Crown Forces would like to hear from you. Formed in 1981, it is a military re-enactment group depicting British infantry and artillery soldiers of 1776.

Members have an active summer season up and down the country and are looking for volunteers to swell the ranks.

Most of the uniforms and equipment used in their displays are made within the society, the major exception being the muskets they use.

Volunteers may wear the colours of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards or the Light Infantry, and they must learn to handle a musket. Some don the blue and crew a light three-pounder cannon. Drummers and fifers are always welcome.

Details from Kennel House, 150, Chapel Street, Capel le Feme, Folkestone.

SEARCHLINE

Ex-pupils and teachers of **Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven 1947-72** sought for a reunion in August. Anyone who went to the mixed boarding school for the children of Servicemen based in Germany after the Second World War is asked to contact Pat Underhill, 14 Alexander Close, Clifton, Beds SG17 5RB (tel/fax 01462 816472).

History of **132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop), 39 Regiment RA** being researched by Battery Sergeant Major. Anyone with information on the formation of the battery is asked to contact WO2 (BSM) Highfield, 132 Bty, 39 Regt RA, Albermarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, Newcastle NE15 0RF.

Mrs G E Hooker, 32 Ebbel Crescent, Warminster, Wilts BA12 9PF has a drawing done in blue ink on the side of a meal sack and signed "Douglas C Rice, PoW Italy, 2 May 42 for Gnr E R Reynolds 109063, 2nd AA Regt". She wishes to trace both men.

The **Military Heraldry Society** was formed in 1951 to bring together those interested in col-

lecting cloth formation signs and badges and to encourage research and the exchange of information. For details of its quarterly journal about cloth insignia on uniforms and other subjects write to the Publicity Officer, Military Heraldry Society, 77 Chiltern Garden, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire TF4 2QH.

Royal Military Police link-up, with more than 1,000 ex-CMP, MMP, RMP, Airborne Provost, SIB and ATS-WRAC Provost enrolled, will enable you to contact your former comrades. Contact D Palmer, 10 Main Road, Woolverstone, Suffolk IP9 1AL, tel 01473 780881 or e-mail derrick.palmer@telinco.co.uk

Author researching Canadian Navy's three **Prince-class ships** seeks soldiers who landed on or just after D-Day, June 6, 1944, from HMCS **Prince David** (26 men of 5 (Hackney) Bn, Royal Berkshire Regt) or **Prince Henry** (men of 8 Kings, 85 Fd Coy RE (102 Beach Group), 234 Fd Coy RE, 1st Fd Dressing Station RAMC) and RAPC). Also personnel of Refugee Transit Camp. Replies to Cdr F M McKee, Box 3, Markdale, Ontario, Canada NOC 1H0 or e-mail fmckee@bmts.com

Information on **Army Cyclist Corps** sought by grandson of soldier who served with the corps during the First World War. Replies to D Collins, 26 Gower Road, Haywards Heath, W Sussex RH16 4PN.

Does anyone know what happened to the **Comet tank** used as a gate guard outside the 54 Command Workshop at Sek Kong Camp in Hong Kong? Replies to Alfred Lai on e-mail laia4@tdbank.ca

PRIZE-WINNERS

WINNER of the amazing storm kettle (June competition) is Pte Don 25029482, 1 A and SH, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh. Congratulations to him, and the storm kettle is on its way.

● **Catterick Garrison's** prize draw, in aid of Army and civilian charities, was won by Claire Mawson of Darlington (SYM motor scooter). Second was RQMS(G), ITC Catterick (£75), third was Tpr McHoul, QDG (dinner for two) and fourth was Darren Leach of Colburn (£40).



Bridging the gap: Territorial Army volunteers with 108 Field Support Squadron, Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) have built a new 11m footbridge to replace an unsafe and ageing structure spanning a fast-flowing river in a narrow valley in South Wales. The unit turned out after a request for help from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: I D T McGill to be Comd ITG HQ ITG, June 14.

Colonel: N D A Seymour to be Military Adviser UK Mil Mission UN New York, June 18.

Lieutenant Colonels: J V Ashton, PWRR - To ACDS(OR) Land, Aug 23; G J Cary, R Signals - To HQ 2 Sig Bde, June 1; I G R Collins, REME - To DGE(A), Aug 32; The Lord Crofton, 9/12L - To DERA, Dec 6; M F Dixon, REME - To DGE(A), July 19; C J Drapper, REME - To DGE(A), Apr 19; J M Edwards, REME - To TDT REME, Aug 2; B Hewitt, R Signals - To Nato C3 Agency, June 14; P A Hinds, REME - To DGE(A), Feb 1; D Hopwood, AGC - To HQ DI Trg Pol(A), July 19; R L Jagger, REME - To APC, July 26; D M Leigh, Para - To BATSU Belize, Sept 28.

M A Little, R Signals - To SHAPE, Aug 28; J S Lloyd, Gren Gds - To HQ London District, Oct 11; P D Morris, RLC - To DPCS, May 17; P Norrington Davies, RRW - To PPCM

Warminster, Aug 30; P Parfitt, R Signals - To RSS, May 4; J R J Sernberg, AGC - To HQ AG, Aug 3; G Smith, R Signals - To HQ DCSA, May 14; N R S Sparks, REME - To HQ Land, June 7; C R M Stagg, Scots DG - To DNAME, Oct 4; I A R Stenning, AGC - To APC, May 17; A F Thomson, REME - To DEME(A), Sept 27; A K Welsh, REME - To BDLS Canada, Sept 22.

L J D Callow, R Irish - To HQ Land, Sept 25; T J Camp, R Irish - To HQ Landcent, Sept 13; P T Cross, RRF - To DASD, July 1; N P Humpherson, RLC - To ACDS(OR) Land, Jan 5; M P King, D & D - To RCB, Nov 24; W J F Kingdon, RA - To PJHQ(UK), July 26; T C Mathew, REME - To AHIST, Aug 8; P A H Poole, RE - To DIPT, Sept 6; A L Reid, RHF - To SHAPE, Sept 9; J W Rollins, R Irish - To SHAPE, Oct 18; M B D Smith, RGJ - To RCDS, July 1; P M Smith, RLC - To RMCS, June 21.

J G Askew RLC - To DRCL, Apr 1; P C Crossman RLC - To ADMIS, Sept 1; A P De Ritter, LG - To CACTG, Sept 6; C A Dixon,

RLC - To DGE(A), Aug 9; M I Dolamore, RLC - To DRCL, July 19; D J Eadie, QRL - To HQ 3 (UK) Div, Nov 1; J F Falzon, RA - To JSCSC, Aug 23; N R Forrestal, RE - To HQ 4 Div, July 20; D A Gibson, AGC - To MAS(A), June 28; K Hodgson, R Irish - To HQ 5 Div, Nov 17; R C J Martin RGJ - To HQ SFOR, Nov 17; T H Morris, RA - To AWC, Sept 13; G E W T Raikes, AGC - To HQ 2 Div, July 5; P Richards, R Signals - To HQ R Signals, May 17; A P Sharpe, AAC - To DGD&D, Nov 1; D A Sullivan, R Signals - To DGE(A), May 17; C J Wensley, RLC - To HQ LISA, June 14.

Retirements

Brigadiers: R J Heywood, late Coldm Gds, June 11; J M Arigho, late QARANC, June 17.

Colonels: E G Mercer, late Int Corps, June 13; D W Wonson, late AGC(PRO), June 25; R D Kinsella-Bevan, late 5 Innis DG, June 29; T C R B Purdon, late WG, June 30; S E Reynolds, late AGC(PS), June 30.



Model citizens: Mrs Susan Francis, the Mayor of Brecon, accompanied by parade commander Maj Yambahadur Rai (with sword) and Lt Col Andrew Marriott, commanding officer of the Infantry Training Centre Wales, left, inspects men of the Gurkha Demonstration Company during their annual parade to celebrate their honorary citizenship of Brecon. This year's event also marked the 25th anniversary of

the arrival of the Gurkha unit in the town. After the parade, the soldiers enjoyed a fund-raising curry supper and a concert in the town theatre.

The concert included traditional kukri and Nepalese folk and children's dances performed in between music played by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

REUNIONS

Regimental Association of Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (PWRR): Annual reunions at Canterbury, Aug 1, and Maidstone on Sept 5. Details from Veronica Joel Newton (0181 888 9739).

Regimental Association of Queen's Own Buffs (PWRR): Reunions on Aug 1 at Canterbury and Sept 5 at Maidstone. Members of the Buffs, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, Queen's Own Buffs and 2 Queens welcome. Details from Assn Sec, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (tel 01227 818052).

The Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion on Sept 11, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (see please).

132 Battery (The Bengal Rocket Troop), 39 Regiment RA: All ranks reunion on Sept 18 in Newcastle. Ex-members welcome. Contact WO2 (BSM) Highfield, 132 Bty, 39 Regt RA, Albermarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, Newcastle NE15 0RF.

6 Boys Training Regiment, Beverley: Reunion in Victory Services Club, London on Sept 25. Ring Tony Hull on 01202 770261 or Ray Toyne on 01904 765137.

18 Tpt and Mov Sqn RLC and 43 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT: Reunion to be held at Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe, on Sept 25. Contact Adam Brint on 01303 225054 or P Epps on 01303 225055.

Armoured Engineer Regiment: Reunion on Oct 23 at Bridlington, North Yorkshire. For

details contact Keith on 01232 285325 or e-mail kmilne186@yahoo.com

South Notts Hussars Association: Former members wishing to attend reunion dinner at Bulwell, Nottingham on Nov 13 should contact Capt G E Aldridge, 6 Goodwood Drive, Toton, Notts NG9 6HX (tel 0115 9725909).

74 Battery (The Battle Axe Company) RA: Anyone who served with or was attached to 74 Bty is invited to attend the Battle Axe Day Parade on Feb 24, 2000 at Larkhill, Salisbury. Contact the BSM, 74 Bty, 32nd Regiment RA, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QU (tel 01980 675307, fax 01980 675230).

Slim School, Cameron Highlands, Malaya: Former pupils and teachers who attended this Army boarding school sought for a reunion planned to take place in Oct next year. E-mail Gloriagomm@aol.com or tel 01453 545771.

VC book competition

THERE is still time to enter our July competition to win a set of the two-volume *Monuments to Courage*, about VCs and their graves.

The magnificent boxed set is signed by the author, David Harvey, and Eric Wilson VC.

Just answer this question: **In which year was the Victoria Cross instituted?**

Send your answer to *Soldier* on a postcard marked "Monuments to Courage". Do not forget to put your own name and address on the entry. The first correct entry drawn wins the prize and the Editor's decision is final.

Because of an error in the original text the closing date has been extended to August 13.

New Nuffield Centre is just the place for families

THERE was strong emphasis on Service families during the opening of a new multi-million pound holiday centre in Anglesey for members of the Armed Forces and their dependants.

The facility at Indefatigable, Llanfair PG, collocated with the new Joint Service Mountain Training Centre, has been provided out of a 60th anniversary grant of £1.3 million from the Nuffield Trust.

The Duke of Westminster, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Nuffield Trust, unveiled a plaque at the site and said the main thrust of the trust would be "towards the families, their welfare and their well-being". Military guests at the opening included the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Alex Harley, and Gen Sir Michael Wilkes, a trustee.

MILLION SHARES

Since its inception in 1939, when Lord Nuffield gave one million shares in Morris Minor to the Forces, the Nuffield Trust has provided more than £25 million for welfare projects.

The new Nuffield Centre in Anglesey boasts six four-bed family rooms with en-suite bathrooms. One has disabled facilities and another can accommodate up to six. There are fully-equipped, centralised self-catering kitchens and dining rooms for the family rooms. Dormitory-style accommodation can take up to 52 people in rooms of two to six.

CAMPING SITE

There is also room for 30 on a camping site within the centre.

Nearby facilities include a new sailing club situated next to the Menai Straits, an indoor climbing wall, and a small indoor swimming pool and fitness centre.

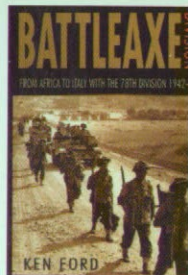
Charges range from £20 for a family room for a night to £35 for a weekend or £70 a week. Dormitories are £2 a night per person and the camp site charge is £2 a tent a night. To book or find out more details, ring the warden on 01248 715635 or Mil 95581 7900.



Picture postcard: The view over the Menai Strait from the Nuffield Centre sailing club

Battleaxe Division story fills a need

TELECOMS engineer turned military author and bookseller Ken Ford has filled a gap in the market

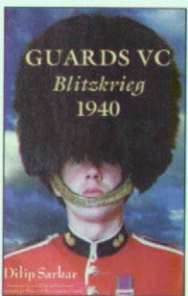


with **Battleaxe Division** (Sutton, £18.99), claiming to be the only book currently available on the 78th Division's progress from Operation Torch in Africa in November, 1942 to Italy, Austria, and the Army of Occupation in 1945.

His narrative is backed up with eyewitness accounts and illustrated with 50 black-and-white pictures and maps typifying the high production standards evident in this series of divisional histories.

Chance encounter leads to VC book

AT the funeral of his grandfather, a former Grenadier Guardsman, police officer Dilip Sarkar first



heard of the supreme gallantry of LCpl Harry Nicholls VC in Belgium in May 1940. Sixteen years later he has published **Guards VC: Blitzkrieg 1940** (Ramrod Publications, Worcester, £19.95) which draws on official records,

unpublished photographs, and first-hand accounts of 1st Guards Brigade (3rd Grenadier Guards, 2nd Coldstream Guards and 2nd Hampshire Regiment) 1939-40. The front cover picture by Andrew Long shows CSgt Andrew Butcher, Gren Gds.

Vanishing part of Newcastle's past

NEWCASTLE Barracks, which housed many thousands of soldiers from Napoleonic times to



the National Service era, has all but vanished. To keep the memories alive, Thomas L. Hewitson, who completed his Army basic training there in 1953, has produced a fitting illustrated history, **A Soldier's Life: The Story of Newcastle Barracks** (Newcastle Libraries & Information Service). It can be ordered direct from Publications, City Library, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1DX (0191 2610691) for £6.99 plus £1 p&p, payable to City of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Out of the cold and into history

IT WAS almost ten eventful years ago that the Cold War effectively ended when East Germany lifted its border restrictions and the Berlin Wall came tumbling down.

Give or take a few years, this regiment's life coincided with that bleak and menacing post-war era. Hence the title of this book, which, while an admirably comprehensive diary and "record of human endeavour", should be seen as far more – as a reflection of the times, setting the experiences of a relatively short lifespan against a significant yet transient part of our history.

Changing times are a thread running through this accomplished work and at the end of the four years it took to produce it, Lt Col David Stone, a former commanding officer of the regiment, took an opportunity to record personal opinions about the Army of the present and future.

First he fills the best part of 400 pages tracing the history of 1 DERR from its formation from The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) to its "Options for Change" amalgamation with The Gloucestershire Regiment (28th/61st) to form the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

Meat and drink to the "Farmer's Boys" (though otherwise perhaps a feast too far for all but the most avid military reader), the smooth if meticulous narrative is nevertheless set against the backdrop of important changes.

It records the end of

Cold War Warriors: The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), 1959-1994 by Lt Col David Stone (Leo Cooper, £25).

National Service in the 1960s and our progressive withdrawal from Empire, while detailing tours of duty in West Germany, Berlin, Cyprus, the Far East, North Africa, Central America, Malta, the Caribbean and Hong Kong.

The regiment was not involved directly in the Falklands conflict in 1982, the Gulf in 1991, or the problems of former Yugoslavia from 1993 onwards.

But the book chronicles, as far as classification allows, its recurring roles in Northern Ireland, from Londonderry in 1969 to South Armagh in 1993, when 1 DERR suffered the last of a number of fatal casualties on active service in the troubled province.

BATTLE HONOURS

The Roll of Honour is contained in the appendices, whose subjects include Colours and Battle Honours, affiliations, the HQ and museum, uniforms and insignia, and customs and traditions.

In a postscript to the book, which was completed last year, Lt Col Stone sets out his personal views on the current and future Army in the context of a changing society.

He laments, for example, trends such as the "compensation culture" which he says has undermined the traditional ethos of loyalty and selflessness in Service life, and points to the stresses and strains on

family life imposed by heavy operational commitments.

He takes the view that with the Army moving from a primarily manpower-based capability to one depending chiefly on new technology and equipment, the infantry and regimental system in its current form may well have run its course and that "the time may now have come for radical reappraisal and sweeping change".

He writes: "The system of 'arms plotting' infantry battalions every few years between various stations and different roles may well be unsustainable in an Army which is now required to carry out an increasing number of operational commitments, many of which are very complex and require a high level of specialist knowledge, technological expertise and training."

Views worthy of respect, coming from one who has commanded a fine county regiment and then recorded its life against the background of a fast-changing Army and society. – CH

IN BRIEF

Black Hawk Down by Mark Bowden. Acclaimed story of "the most dramatic US military operation since Vietnam" – the 1993 raid on Mogadishu, Somalia. (Bantam paperback, £9.99.)

The German Order of Battle: Panzers and Artillery in World War II by George F Nafziger. Reference work for connoisseurs, running to 465 large pages. (Greenhill Books, £30.)

The Mammoth Book of True War Stories edited by Jon E Lewis. Include Kipling (Boer War), Graves (First World War), Hemingway (D-Day), Hastings (Falklands) and Simpson (Gulf). (Robinson, paperback, £6.99.)

Albanian-English Dictionary by Prof Dr Ilo Stefanllari. Topical reference book. (Gazelle, £13.99.)



Here comes the cavalry: This depiction of a Dragoon of the Scots Greys, 1854, is one of more than 100 colour plates specially commissioned for *Cavalry: The History of a Fighting Elite 650 BC - AD 1914*, by Velimir Vuksic and Dr Zvonimir Grbasic, now published in paperback by Arms and Armour at £20

Hamilton's Campaign with Moore and Wellington by Sgt Anthony Hamilton. Facsimile edition of 1847 account by a man who took part in most Peninsular War battles. (Spellmount Library of Military History, £19.95.)

Hostage in Afghanistan by Peter Collister. Story of the British officers and families dragged around the country as "human shields" by the retreating army against the background of the Anglo-Afghan War, 1839-42. (Pentland Press, paperback, £10.50.)

The Classic Military Jeep Illustrated by Lizzie and Pat Ware. Pictures from every angle of the famous US Army workhorse. (Warehouse Publications, Croydon, softback, £19.50 UK, £21.25 overseas, inc p&p.)

I Don't Want To Be A Sunbeam, by Harry Jones. Roll of honour of men from Widnes who fell in the First World War and are commemorated on the war memorial in Victoria Park, Widnes. Profits to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. (Available from the author, 14 Midland Street, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 6JZ (01244 613920), softback, £13.)

Military Intelligence: A history by Peter Gudgin. Growth of British military int from Henry VIII to the end of the Cold War era. (Sutton Publishing, £19.99.)

Villers-Bocage Through the Lens of the German War Photographer with words by Daniel Taylor. Landscape-format hardback. (After the Battle, £17.95.)

Inside the Foreign Legion by John Parker. Written after interviews with legionnaires. (Piatkus paperback, £8.99.)

Waffen-SS: An Unpublished Record 1923-1945 by Christopher Ailsby. Pictorial record of the Waffen SS's war, including a chapter on the war crimes perpetrated by this most feared and notorious military formation. (Sidgwick & Jackson, £25.)

Dictionary of Military Terms compiled by US Joint Chiefs of Staff. Revised and Expanded Edition (Greenhill, £19.99.)

Jungle Campaign by John Scurr. Memoir running to 408 pages of National Service in Malaya, 1949-51. Author served with King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (Book Guild, £16.95.)

More to view on Normandy beaches

AS visitors to the D-Day landing beaches continued to increase, this year's 55th anniversary

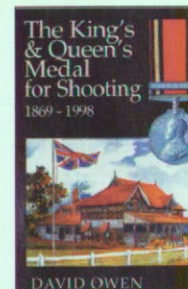
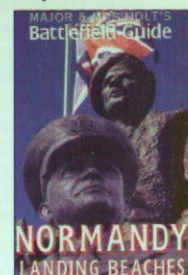
brought more and more tangible expressions of gratitude from the people of Normandy to their liberators, as well as tributes to the fallen. Tony and Valmai Holt tell us in

Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Guide to the

Normandy Landing Beaches (Leo Cooper, paperback, £14.95) that there are now more than 300 physical commemorations of the landings and battle, more than the total for Ypres and the Somme. A selection is included in this authoritative guide.

This limited edition is one to aim for

SINCE the Queen's Medal was first won by Sgt T B Ryle of the 4th Regiment of Foot in 1869, it has been awarded to champion shots throughout the Commonwealth and still goes to the Best Shot of the Regular Army and TA at Bisley. Orders for **The King's and Queen's Medal for Shooting**, a limited edition illustrated history, should be sent to the author, Army shooting specialist Lt Col (Retd) David Owen, 1 Broadlands, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7ER. Cheques for £15 plus p&p – £3 UK, £6 overseas, should be made payable to D J Owen.



Take a shine on these pictures

THIS detail from the cover of **The Tenth: 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) 1715-1969**, a hardback pictorial record of the "Shiners", shows *The Scouts*, a Peninsular War scene circa 1813, now in The King's Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester. The book, edited by Lt Col Peter Upton and containing many colour as well as mono plates including historic photographs, is available from North Woodling Cottage, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG23 7QT, price £23.75 inc p&p (cheques payable to "The Tenth Book Account").



Mailbag

Reasons for NOT leaving

WITH reference to the article "Why do you want to leave the Army?" (July), I would be more than happy to voice my views to the Army Retention Study team. I served in the Coldstream Guards for 17 years and have now been in civvy street for ten. I am 42, divorced, in debt and with no job. If I had remained in the Coldstream just that little longer I would at least be a lot wiser – if nothing else – to life after the Army. Why would anyone want to leave the Armed Forces? If you could pass on my views and address to the study team I would be grateful. – A J Preston, Nelson, Lancs.

● We've done as Mr Preston asked. If any other former soldiers wish to make their views known, they should write to Maj Celia Attlee REME(V), Project Officer, Army Retention Study, HQ Adjutant General, Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 6BE.

Recruiting by numbers

AS a life member of my regimental association, I try to help the regiment maintain numbers by promoting it in any way I can in my private and business life. I also try to steer potential candidates in the regiment's direction. However, this has caused me to fall foul of some recruiting offices because it seems one must point potential recruits to them first and they allocate to specific units.

This has caused me frustration and anger and I now feel less disposed to point anyone towards central recruiting. If one cannot promote one's own former regiment, for all the reasons that make us "one of the family", then the enthusiasm to help disappears.

It is my understanding that numbers generally fall short of requirements. New recruits for any one regiment can only be good news to the others, whose odds are thus improved. – Peter J Ashman, Life Guards Association, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Honours for Terriers

I WAS delighted to read in *Soldier* (May) of the creation of the Queen's Volunteer Reserve Medal for Territorial Army members who had given outstanding service. However, I was disappointed that no mention of the QVRM was made in your list of Birthday Honours (July). – D Stuart, Lancs.

● Four Army, one RN and two RAF QVRMs were published in the full list of Birthday Honours, but not under the Military Division, which is why we missed them. The Army recipients were WO1 J G C Abernethy, Hldrs TA; Lt Col N C Beacom, TD, R Signals TA; Sgt T J C Dempsey, RE, TA and Maj J Owen, TD, AGC(SPS) TA. – Editor

All this food ... on £1.54 a day!

IN response to the prize letter (June), I feel SSgt Mason should wake up and smell the coffee. To start with, I and every other member of my department would like to be in the enviable position of SSgt Mason and his contemporaries and finish work every Friday lunchtime until the following Monday.

That aside, someone who feels so strongly about the £28 a month spent on food that he doesn't consume due to "missed meals" should have found out the facts before rushing into print.

The daily messing rate (DMR) is a sum, set by the Director Services Food Management, that can be claimed by the ration account holder for providing a daily ration – normally three "squares" a day – to a soldier. DMR for British Army (Germany) for June was DM4.63 (£1.54).

For this paltry sum, a caterer is expected not only to provide three quality cooked meals a day for each soldier, but also to balance a ration account and stop it going into debt.

"How is that possible?" I hear SSgt Mason cry. "I enjoy the meals I do attend but surely this small sum of money wouldn't even cover the cost of my eggs, bacon, sausage, fried bread, beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, toast, cereal and pot of tea that I have every morning for breakfast."

If SSgt Mason asked the relevant people in his unit he would realise that the balancing of a ration account and the purchase, cooking and consumption of foodstuffs to the enviable standards set in today's Army relies heavily on money gen-

Prize letter

erated by non-attendance at meals. Without this form of income, it would be impossible to provide much more than cereal in the morning, a piece of fruit for lunch and, at best, a pie and chips in the evening.

The obvious answer for a married, unaccompanied soldier disgruntled with food charges would be to obtain a quarter, reunite himself with his loved ones and buy and cook whatever food he liked.

Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) will arrive and it will herald a new form of ration accounting. Unfortunately, with it will come a substantial increase in food charges to the customer. In the meantime, the current if somewhat archaic system of ration accounting does work. Unfortunately, you cannot have your cake and eat it ... at least, not on £1.54 a day. – SSgt Martin Alder, Unit Catering Manager, 7 Signal Regiment, Krefeld.

FURTHER to SSgt Mason's letter, the money from the meals he misses serves to enhance the meals he attends. Come the glorious PAYD-Day, the meals he attends will have to be self-funding and soldiers will have to pay realistic prices for what they eat. Get your money's worth now. – Sgt Andy Smith, 160 Pro Coy RMP.

RE SSgt Mason's letter, I am in full support, as are many other soldiers of this regiment. What does happen to the money when soldiers go home at weekends? The only solution is for them to claim the money back when they put in a leave pass. – J Bates, QM (T) Dept, 7 Para RHA.

We rejected 'hash for cash'

I WAS horrified to read (April) that MoD has decided to resurrect the old chestnut of paying for the actual meals a soldier eats. While it at first seemed a sensible idea, closer examination proved the standard of food would drop and it would cause an unacceptable administrative burden.

In January 1970, largely as a result of lobbying by the Royal Air Force, a joint Service project team was set up to report on the feasibility of the concept. I was dragged off gardening leave to be one of the Army members (the other was a major in the Army Catering Corps).

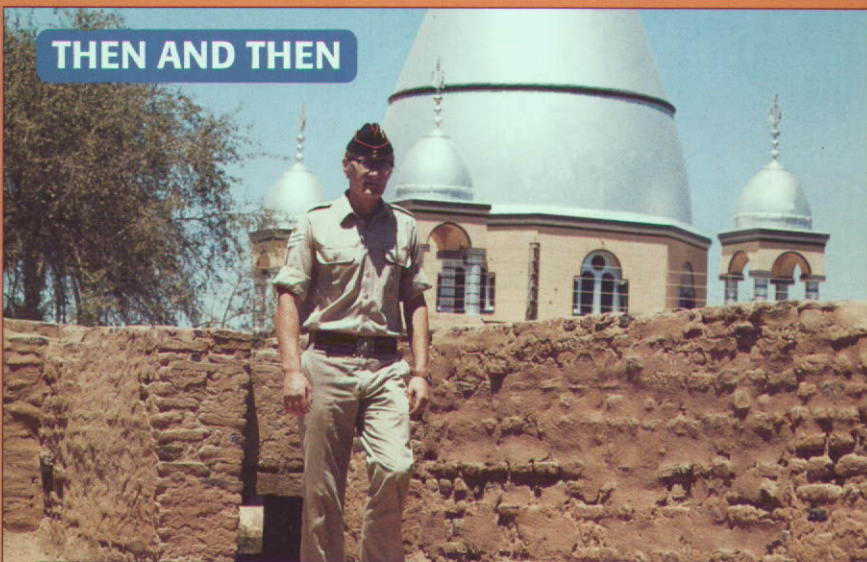
It quickly became apparent that the Royal Air Force were very keen on the concept because they were static with a constant daily ration strength, the Royal Navy didn't want to know and the Army,

with a large number of "mobile" units (here today, gone tomorrow), were very much against the idea.

A surprise was the very large numbers who missed meals. Messing officers indented for food for 100 per cent of unit strength in the knowledge that only 55 per cent, say, would actually be present to eat it. This explains the very wide choice of courses at the midday meal. SSgt Mason asks where the money goes. The answer is on the food he eats on the five working days he is in barracks. We recommended that "hash for cash" not be introduced.

Incidentally, by the end of the study my admiration for the professionalism and expertise of the ACC was enormous. – Lt Col (Retd) P A Winter, Alcester, Warks.

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1949: Capt John Headlam, formerly of the Grenadier Guards, teaches troops in Malaya how to avoid snakes and treat their bites in the jungle. John became interested in snakes while at Eton and is now immune from cobra and mamba bites and all back-fang snakes, having had eight bites from the former and four from the latter.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1974: The silver dome on the Mahdi's tomb in Omdurman glistens in the background, above, as SSgt John Bentley, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, strolls through the courtyard of the Khalifa's House, now a museum containing relics of the battle. John recently joined the British Army Training Team in the Sudan.

Was this Kate, our Angel of Arnhem?

I ENCLOSE two photographs, one taken as a still from the 1945 film *Theirs is the Glory*, an AKC film history of the Battle of Arnhem, fought during September 1944. Although of poor quality, the picture shows a lady reading a book.

It is in fact Mrs Kate Ter Horst of Oosterbeek, reading to wounded soldiers in the cellar of her home. Regrettably, the Angel of Arnhem, known to all in The Parachute Regiment, is now deceased.

While reading my January copy of *Soldier* (I'm weeks behind with my reading



Lady likeness: The still from the film *Theirs is the Glory*, left, and our picture of a nurse, right



matter), I came to Page 65 and the book review about how much the Army has changed, accompanied by an old photograph of a nurse washing in a canvas field sink. She bears an uncanny likeness to Mrs Ter Horst, dear Kate to thousands.

I would like to know what other readers think. Incidentally, *Soldier* is still great and it is now the only magazine I buy. I think I bought my very first copy for about seven pence in Oodenarde Barracks cookhouse in 1950. — A P Larkins, Herne Bay, Kent.

Mail us!

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

PS...

It all adds up...

FURTHER to Capt Blake's letter ("Terrier gives up a lot to serve", June) I feel it only fair to make a point in defence of those who give up all their time in the service of their country... and not just when it suits. Capt Blake says he has served almost 22 years in the TA and states that if he left tomorrow he would get nothing.

By his own reckoning a regular attendee at his unit turns up for two weekends a month and goes away for a 14-day camp each year. Assuming Capt Blake is even more dedicated than this, I would say he does eight days a month plus his annual camp.

Therefore 8 (days) x 12 (months) x 22 (years) = 2,112 days. Add 14 (days at camp) x 22 and the total is 2,420 days. Divide this by the 365 days a year a Regular soldier may have to work and you get 6.6 years. If he thinks he should get a big handout for less than seven years' work I'd like to know why. — Capt Pat Timer, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth Airfield, N Yorks.

Suez roll of honour

HAVING researched casualty statistics of the Suez Canal Zone Emergency (1951-54), I wish to correct the error of 22 killed as published in the *Daily Mail* and quoted in *Soldier* (In the Press, June). I am able to say that there were 343 Army and RAF fatalities for the three years of the Emergency, of which about 60 are attributable to terrorism. Others died from illness and accidents, ammunition explosion, land mines and so on. While the MoD department at Upavon, Wilts has no cemetery register for the Canal Zone, any veterans visiting the cemeteries should find most of the graves at Moascar, Plots 13 and 14, and at Fayid, Plots 13X, 32 and 34.

It is not difficult to appreciate why veterans persist with their campaign for a medal. Conflicts such as Suez 1956, Kenya, Brunei and the Gulf War, had fewer casualties but were rightly awarded medals. — Cyril Blackburn, London.

For AFV, read MCRV

I READ with interest your coverage of the Kosovo operation (July) and was surprised to see a mistake in vehicle identification. The photo at the top of Pages 12-13 does not show Warrior AFVs of the Irish Guards. One is a Warrior variant, the MCRV, while the vehicle in the background is clearly an SP HVM of the Royal Artillery. Please think of this not as a criticism of an excellent magazine, but rather as an observation on the difficulties of modern AFV recognition. — Philip Jobson, Military History Society.

Misplaced triangle

RE the Iron Division memorial picture (July, Page 11), why have you moved the location of the memorial (and the château) seven miles down the road? — F McClellan, Lowton, Warrington.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Unaccustomed as we are to heroes' receptions...

When the first British forces entered Kosovo, they received a tremendous reception from ethnic Albanians. So what did it feel like to be treated as liberating heroes? We asked 11 soldiers based in Pristina and Podujevo.



LCpl Francis Buck, IG

You are treated as a hero, but we're here to do a job, and that job comes first. There are people's lives at risk. Some of the lads are feeling the tension but at least we're here now

and doing the business. The lads are happy about it.

LSgt Graham Day, IG

I wouldn't use the word "hero", but the people here have had a very tough time and they're quite glad to see us. It's been a big eye-opener, enjoyable but also hard work.



LCpl Andrew Muirhead, IG

It's quite good actually. I thought they would be very hostile, but we've come into an area where they're so friendly. I think it's a sign of relief from the Alba-

nians. But we've got a job to do and you can't really be biased to one side.

Capt Andrew Phipps, RTR

I've seen a lot of it over the last week. These people have got very



little and yet it never ceases to amaze me how cheery they are. It's good to know that the operation here is not about oil or dollars; it's about people.



LCpl Andrew Bhamra, Para

It was a bit of a shock at first but once we realised that the welcome was genuine we felt as if we'd done something good. All the time they're bringing bread, flowers and fruit, and we're still being treated like heroes. One of my best experiences.

Maj Julian Moyer, KRH

It is very humbling. The people seem to be genuinely grateful for our presence. However, there is still considerable turmoil and there are still people suffering. If you become over-emotional about it you lose judgement. We have to be relatively dispassionate.



Gdsm Peter Wilson, IG

It's amazing. It's very touching for me because I've never been in a situation like this before. You feel that you have actually liberated the place. It is something that I'm never going to forget.



Pte Kyle Murray, Para

It was quite heart-breaking to see the happiness of the people here. It seemed like such a big weight had come off their shoulders. It's a day that I'll never forget. One of the best days of my life.



Gdsm Michael Matthews, IG

I think it's brilliant. It's unbelievable. When we got off the wagon they started throwing flowers at us. Words can't really explain it. I've never felt like that before in my life.

Capt Chris Gosling, RE

It was good to be able to come and do a job – and a successful job at that. It was very emotional but it made you feel good. The boys have a good relationship with the locals.



Sgt Grant Naylor, Para

It was good to get a reception like that. At times it was overwhelming. We didn't expect it. We were mobbed when we landed. It was a good feeling because it actually justified us being here.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston

COMING SOON

The Kosovo operation hasn't all been plain sailing for Marchwood-based 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC. Rats and riots have been just some of the challenges facing the Royal Logistic Corps' port, maritime and railway specialists currently supporting the British Army's effort in the Balkans.



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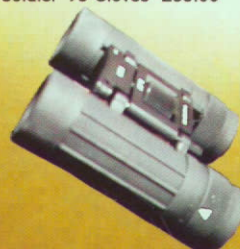
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