

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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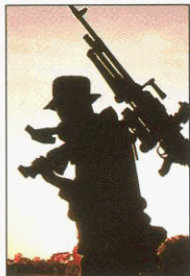
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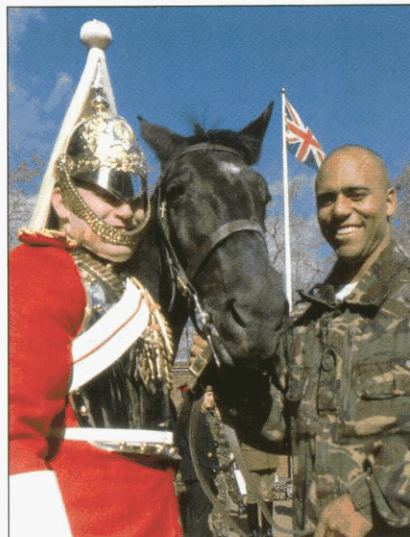
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In a new initiative, potential recruits from
Britain's ethnic communities are being
invited to sample life in The Household
Division. LCoH Darren Parkinson, LG and
his horse Juliet welcome 24-year-old
Michael Prosper, who starts basic training
for the Coldstream Guards in October.

Picture: Terry Champion

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SOLDIER to soldier

Being the best

SPRING is in the air and the temptation to look on the bright side of life is overwhelming. So indulge us while we point out the good news in this issue. You don't have to look far.

An orphanage in Kenya pays tribute to soldiers of the British Army exercising in that country. They are its "greatest donor". Turn to Pages 48-49 for many more examples, drawn from garrisons around the world, of this remarkable generosity.

In Bosnia, the commitment of units to improving lives shattered by civil war goes far beyond mere peacekeeping, difficult and dangerous though that may be. The 9th/12th Royal Lancers are only the latest in a long line to reveal the compassionate face of the British soldier. Hard guys who care.

DIFFERENCE

Elsewhere in this issue, Rowallan Company is making a dramatic difference to the quality of would-be young officers previously lost to the Army, while the Household Cavalry is making huge strides in its efforts to attract and retain recruits from Britain's ethnic minorities.

On the world stage, two Parachute Regiment corporals made an indelible mark on the Winter Olympics in Japan. Their bobsleigh medal broke more than 34 years of British drought.

Nearer to home, Army boxers won a fistful of national titles. Cpl Chris Bessey claimed his fourth ABA title, an achievement which elevates him to a very select group.

And then there's the story about Knook Camp's new role as a honeymoon hotel... spring really is in the air.

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People, places, events

Piper by appointment



Pipe Major **Jim Motherwell**, of The 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has been selected as the Queen's personal piper. He will take up his new post at Buckingham Palace at the end of the year.

Diver surfaces, finally



Lt Col **Larry Inge** RE, at 54 the Army's "most venerable diver", drinks a toast with Brig **Robbie Burns**, Commandant HQ Royal School of Military Engineering, to mark his last military dive, 33 years after he qualified first on his basic course. Lt Col Inge served with most RE unit diving teams during his long career, held the position of Inspector of Diving (Army) and was responsible for the introduction of several items of kit that made the diver's life a little more comfortable. His final dive was made in Basin No 1 at Chatham Dockyard, Kent. When he returned to the surface for a cup of hot tea he found former colleagues waiting for him with a framed diving print and a bottle of bubbly to mark his retirement this month.

Paras-Marines merger 'buried'

SPECULATION that the Royal Air Force would be disbanded and The Parachute Regiment merged with the Royal Marines has been discounted by Defence Secretary George Robertson.

Speaking at Chatham House on key thinking emerging from the ongoing Strategic Defence Review, he said rumours concerning the RAF and a merger of the Marines and Paras "can be given a decent burial".

Addressing academics, industrialists, politicians and journalists, he provided an early insight into the likely shape of the SDR. "My objective in this review is to produce robust and affordable defence into the next century. For this we need modern, flexible, usable, cost-effective and, above

all, battle-winning forces to underpin our foreign and security policy."

The Defence Secretary said that although the risks were no longer on the same scale as during the years of the Cold War, "instability has in the last few years reintroduced into our continent conventional war, concentration camps, ethnic cleansing and killing, and significant refugee flows. And in the longer term it could well conceivably recreate a major threat to our own security."

"Past reviews have concentrated on equipment issues at the expense of people. I want this review to give people their proper place."

By maximising investment in training and education "we will get more from them during their military careers, encourage others to join and make a major contribution to the nation as a whole by injecting high-quality, well-educated and well-trained people into the wider workforce".

Commenting on specific issues, he

said there were strong arguments why we might not need as many tanks in the front line. The other side of the debate argues that we could not have contributed to the Gulf War in the same way without a credible armoured capability. And the effectiveness of the Implementation Force in Bosnia was due in large part to heavy weapons.

Mr Robertson emphasised that no final decisions had been taken.

In an interview with *Soldier* in which he expanded on his Chatham House speech, Mr Robertson said: "Newspapers like speculation, but none of these people know because the decisions on SDR have not been taken."

"We are looking at the Reserves, we are looking at the aircraft carriers. We are seeking to deal

with the problems we inherited of overstretch and the imbalance of what we have and what we should have."

He said he well understood that people do not want nasty shocks. "I don't want SDR to produce surprises like a rabbit out of the hat... here is the Robertson plan for the Armed Forces for the 21st century - surprise one, surprise two, surprise three. That is not the way it should be done. We have been asking for views from everyone."

"We have done it in a more conclusive way than has ever been done before. I want the troops to see that what comes out of this is what they think is necessary."

"The main emphasis is going to be people. The most flexible and valuable asset we have got is people."

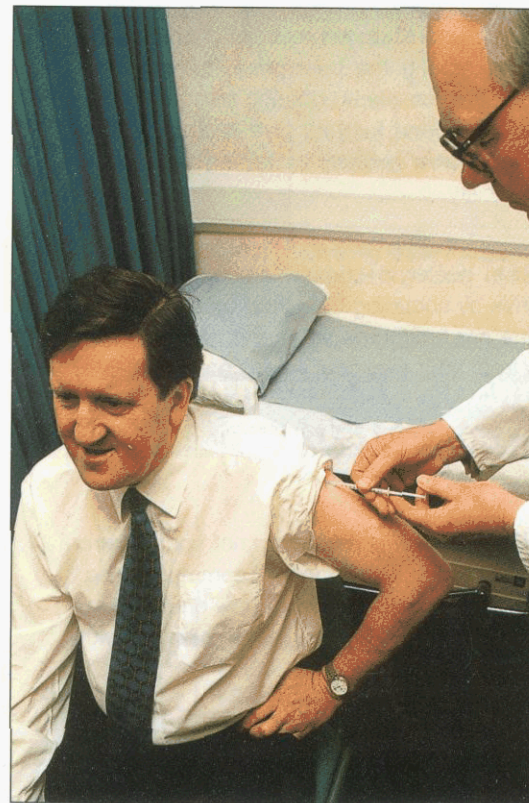
He said the very fact of having troops in the Gulf during the latest crisis had forced Saddam Hussein into a "humiliating climbdown".

"We don't anticipate we will be there forever, but what we have

Strategic Defence Review

Anthrax does no 'arm to Defence Secretary

TO PROVE his complete faith in the Anthrax vaccination, and to encourage all military personnel and Ministry of Defence civilians in the Gulf to have it, Defence Secretary George Robertson has had the injection himself.



Defence Secretary **George Robertson** receives his anthrax vaccination from Dr **Douglas Fishlock** Picture: Ben Curtis

"I honestly felt no differently about it than any other injections I've had," he said. "I satisfied myself beforehand that it was safe, I read all the evidence, listened to the experts, and was quite relaxed about taking it."

"My new Independent Medical Advisory Committee and the Chiefs of Staff have advised me that it would be sensible for everyone deployed on operations in the Gulf to be vaccinated against anthrax."

"I have an obligation to demonstrate my faith in the advice that has been given."

Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid and the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie, had the injection at the same time.

The vaccination programme, which involves three injections over six weeks and a fourth after six months, will be conducted according to written protocol established by the staff of the Surgeon General. Everyone volunteering for the vaccination will be given all the information beforehand and encouraged to ask questions.

Mr Robertson has felt no ill effects from the injection.

demonstrated is that we can be back very quickly, and the critical thing is that Saddam knows that.

"He backed down for no other reason than the belief that his military capabilities, and therefore his own survivability, would be at risk by attack. Diplomacy can achieve a lot, but you can achieve a lot more by

diplomacy backed by firmness and the threat of force. Seven years of intelligence-gathering, defectors and high-grade information have meant we are now confident we could inflict huge damage on his military capability while minimising civilian casualties. That was not known by the public, but it was known by Saddam."

IN BRIEF

ROYAL Irish Regiment soldiers helped a road accident victim in Newtownabbey trapped in an overturned car. Members of A Company, 9 R Irish, based at Carrickfergus, used their first-aid skills to make the 23-year-old woman more comfortable until emergency services arrived to cut her out. A woman lance corporal climbed into the vehicle to stay with the victim until she was taken to the hospital.

● Three members of an Army women's basketball team were killed when their minibus was struck by a lorry on the hard shoulder of a motorway six miles east of Calais. The women, from 7 Regiment RLC based at Bielefeld, were named as Ptes Tanya Braithwaite (18), Louise Jones (21) and Emma Leverton (19). A fourth member of the team was critically injured in the accident.

● The new-look TA Centre in Rochester has been opened following a £1m pound refurbishment. It has been the home of 221 Field Squadron (EOD) RE (V), since the 1960s. The Mayor of Rochester, who unveiled the plaque, said: "I am very proud of our Rochester bomb boys and girls, for their time and dedication to training for this demanding role."

● Regular and TA sappers have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together more closely. The units, 33 Engr Regt (EOD) and 101 (London) Engr Regt (EOD) (V), believe they are the first regiments in the Royal Engineers, and possibly the Army, to have followed an initiative from Land Command. The memorandum sets out an understanding of links between the two units.

Gladiator ready...



Alison Paton - better known to Gladiator fans as Siren - visited the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers and added her support to the Army's bid to raise funds to help send a Scottish team to the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games in September.

Wash-day on the prairie



Members of a Royal Logistic Corps Mobile Laundry Squadron are heading off to the Canadian Prairie for a clean-up campaign. During the next nine months Pte **Alan Aldridge** (top), WO2 **Robert Burns** (left) and Cpl **Keith Metcalfe** will be based near Medicine Hat and tour the state in their 36ft-long mobile laundry unit. They will clean up for 18,000 troops who will produce 2,000 bags of laundry in a week. The team can wash and dry the kit at a rate of 38 kilos an hour.

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SAVE.SOL

People, places, events

Namaste Colonel!



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Col David Hayes, the new Colonel of the Brigade of Gurkhas, stood out in a sea of red berets when he visited soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment's Gurkha Reinforcement Company at Montgomery Lines, Aldershot

New plea for 'Suez Medal'

AS this issue of *Soldier* went to press, a petition containing tens of thousands of signatures calling for official

RE-markable result in our rugby draw

Three lucky *Soldier* readers have collected a host of superb prizes in the Army Rugby Union prize draw competition published in our March issue's sport section.

First entry drawn was from Maj N J Sealy-Thompson RE, of HQ 8 Inf Bde, BFPO 807, who wins return travel for two on Eurostar, main-stand tickets to the Army v Royal Navy match at Twickenham on April 25, lunch at "Invincibles" restaurant, overnight stay at the Union Jack Club, and an ARU rugby shirt.

Second out of the hat was Lt Clare Hanlin RE, of Solihull, W Midlands, and third Mrs J Bradding, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts. Their bumper runners-up prizes each include two main-stand tickets to the Army v Royal Navy match.

The answer was The Green Howards (Capt Tim Rodber's regiment). See Sport, Page 47.

medal recognition for Suez Canal Zone service in the early 1950s was being delivered to the Government.

The petition was being presented by Mr Tom Radford, one of a seven-strong delegation to the Commons led by spokesman Col (Retd) Pip Newton. They and others have long campaigned, partly through *Soldier*, for eligibility for the GSM for the Canal Zone Emergency, in which terrorists killed 54 British troops.

The latest bid was backed by Fd Marshal Lord Bramall, who served during the emergency. In a letter to Mr Andrew Bennett, MP of one of the delegates, he said the lack of eligibility was an "injustice" and he was not convinced the Army Board had ever considered the matter properly.

● See Mailbag, Page 63

Bovington contract

HUNTING Contract Services has been awarded a contract by the MoD to provide non-tactical training, armoured fighting vehicle maintenance and other non-core support functions such as stores, distribution and transport for Bovington and Lulworth.

Clinical study of Gulf veterans to take two years

CLINICAL tests are to be carried out officially on Gulf War veterans to diagnose their condition.

Official research into veterans' illnesses has so far been conducted through questionnaires. Now a randomly-selected group will be subjected to clinical testing.

Announcing the development on March 16, Armed Forces Minister John Reid said the "thorough and objective assessment", costing up to £250m, would be carried out at King's College School of Medicine and was expected to take two years. In an



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

earlier written answer, he said more than 1,650 Gulf War veterans had by March 6 given notice to the MoD that they intended to claim compensation for illnesses. Of these cases, 260 referred to civilians or the children of Service personnel and civilian employees.

In addition, the MoD was investigating ten claims alleging negligence in the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder said to have arisen from Gulf service. Five of the claimants had issued proceedings.

Average time taken to process Gulf veterans' war pension claims has been cut from 304 days to 197 since April last year, another written reply stated. Of 1,977 claims made by February 23, 519 remained outstanding.

MEDAL OFFICE SUCCESS

□ A major effort has been made by the Army Medal Office to reduce the huge backlog in applications for campaign medals caused by the upsurge of belated claims at the time of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

As a result, said Defence Minister John Spellar in a written answer, an original 12-month delay has been cut to just over eight months and although recruiting extra staff was not considered to be an effective remedy, work goes on to reduce the waiting time further.

As a matter of routine policy, cases involving claimants who are terminally ill or aged over 90 are dealt with immediately and normally completed within three weeks.

Other points from Parliament:

□ For the first time in seven years, the decline in Army recruiting had been stemmed and shortfall in numbers reduced, Dr Reid said in the Commons.

□ More than 12,000 foreign Servicemen and women are stationed in the UK, including US and other NATO personnel. Others are on training courses, attached to embassies and high commissions or on exchange postings.

□ Cost of the British Army in Germany in the financial year 1997-98 is estimated at £1,139m and of the RAF, £169m, representing respectively 5.2 per cent and 0.8 per cent of the defence budget.

People, places, events



Dog tags: ancient and modern

Who's a smart dog tag, then?

MILITARY "dog tags", the traditional discs that generations of Servicemen have worn around their necks, could be replaced by a plastic smart card.

The new-style tag, which is the size of a credit card, holds a minute computer chip which can be encoded with any information and not limited to the traditional name, blood group, number and religion. Details of allergies, previous treatments and medications could also be incorporated in the card.

It would be worn around the neck, and the details on it would be accessible to anyone who had the appropriate swipe card reader.

BATTLEFIELD ENVIRONMENT

During the Gulf War it was recognised that the age-old way of reporting injuries and treatment given – by writing it on a field medical card – was unsatisfactory. Paper and the war environment were not always compatible and records were easily lost or damaged.

The new smart dog tags would be carried by the soldier and updated by each medic who treated or cared for his wounds. It would travel with the patient from battlefield to hospital, providing a constantly-updated medical record.

Information is accessed via pull-down menus and diagrams. The hand-held readers use touch technology and are based on the universally-popular Windows 97 operating system.

Trial cards will contain only written and diagrammatic information and are being supplied by an American software company, 3GI, which is also supplying the computer readers and programmes. It is envisaged that the cards could eventually contain all medical records, including X-rays, dentistry and graphical displays of vital signs.



QDG soldier took charge of casualties when APC crashed

AN AWARD for exceptionally valuable service has been presented to Cpl Simon Reed of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

Cpl Reed was serving with the Welsh Cavalry in Bosnia when an armoured personnel carrier belonging to the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards battle group drove off the edge of a steep mountain road.

The driver of the APC was badly burned by leaking engine fluids and the commander impaled through the upper torso by his rifle and losing blood rapidly.

Cpl Reed, who was passing in a Land Rover when the accident happened, immediately took the lead in assisting with first aid. He directed that water be poured over the burnt driver to cool him and stop his skin blistering further, and although the commander was trapped in the vehicle with his awful wound, Cpl Reed



Cpl Simon Reed

knew that if he was not moved quickly he would die.

Eventually both casualties were extracted and put in more comfortable positions.

The citation reads: "By Cpl Reed's direction and example, correct first aid was applied despite his own shock at this harrowing incident. The casual-

ties reached the hospital alive; unfortunately only the driver survived but he is making a full recovery due to the timely and proper treatment of his burns. The whole team is worthy of praise but it was Cpl Reed's medical leadership that is singled out for recognition by an appropriate award."

The citation from the General Officer Commanding the Multinational Division (South West) was awarded to Cpl Reed at a special parade at the regiment's base in Sennelager.

IN BRIEF

GEN Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, was one of seven people to share second prize in the Army Sports Lottery on March 14. Each won £712.50. One of the lucky seven was able to maintain his anonymity... he is an unnamed sergeant in the SAS.

Names of the 41 men from The Parachute Regiment killed in the Falk-

lands War will be engraved on a memorial cross in Aldershot. It will be set up in time for the veterans' first reunion in June. The regiment won more gallantry awards, including two Victoria Crosses, than any other unit during the conflict.

Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C HQ Land Command, is studying options for restructuring his Command. They include

Sandy terrain in Aldershot's Long Valley doubles up for desert dunes as soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment limber up for the Marathon des Sables, a 143-mile, six-day run across the Sahara. The five-man team is attempting the gruelling event to raise money for the Imperial

Cancer Research Fund and Airborne Forces charities. Before leaving for north Africa, the paras, led by Capt Mike McErlain, were checked over by the Army Training Regiment medical unit at Pirbright and monitored at Brunel University, where they were advised on diet and fluid intake.

Youngest Briton in bid to scale Everest

TERRITORIAL ARMY soldier Tpr Edward Grylls is hoping to become the youngest Briton to conquer Mount Everest.

The expedition, which will take place in May, is being sponsored by SSAFA. As well as 23-year-old Tpr Grylls, the four-man team includes two other TA members, Lt Neil Laughton and Tpr Mick Crosswaite, as well as Lt Geoffrey Stanford of the Grenadier Guards.

Tpr Grylls, whose father, Sir Michael Grylls, is a former Conservative MP, has already scaled Ama Dablam, which at 22,434ft was described by Sir Edmund Hillary as "unclimbable." He has been training for Everest by trekking on coastal hills in the Brecon Beacons and swimming underwater to boost oxygen efficien-

cy. He is presently training with Tpr Crosswaite in the Himalayas.

The team will take the south-east route through the "icefall", a tumbling glacier guarding the western face of Everest and the most dangerous part of the climb. They will have to reach the South Col and climb to the South Summit and the "Hillary Step" before reaching the summit itself.

Beach bombs blown

AN Army bomb disposal team dealt with two Second World War live mortar shells found on the beach at Murlough Bay, Dundrum, Co Down. The area was declared safe two hours after the military technical experts had carried out a controlled explosion to destroy the wartime shells.

a proposal to reduce the number of district headquarters from six to three.

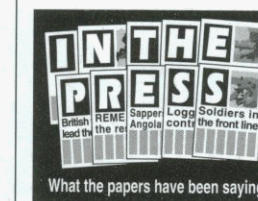
Severe burns, open fractures and mine injuries were included in a casualty simulation exercise for 400 soldiers from 2 Close Support Regiment, RLC, Gutersloh, before deploying to Bosnia.

The Abacus computer from the

Higher Formation Trainer allowed Exercise Rhino Charge, the 1 (UK) Division command post exercise in Sennelager to progress at a faster pace by translating exercise play into a realistic scenario.

TA soldiers from 104 Fd Sqn, 71 Engr Regt helped to build a footbridge over the River Cree in Newton Stewart, Scotland as part of a riverside walk.

Shellshock fantasies



What the papers have been saying

A specialist military psychiatric centre which treats Servicemen suffering from "shellshock" has found that one in eight of the patients being referred to it are fantasists who

have never been in the forces. – *Sunday Telegraph*

A group from the Royal British Legion, including three former PoWs, is in Tokyo at the expense of the Japanese government to heal old wounds and make friends with the Japanese. – *Daily Telegraph*

The Museum of Defence Intelligence at Chick-sands, Bedfordshire, has had hardly any visitors since it opened last summer because it is not advertised and viewing arrangements are not available from tourist information offices. – *Guardian*

Pte Iain Roy, 26, who was left paralysed from the neck down after an Army exercise, has settled for more than £1.7 million compensation, one of the largest such awards by the MoD. – *Independent*

Dunkirk veterans are surrendering to the advance of years. Their association is to be wound up in 2000 after a last visit to the scene of their wartime ordeal. – *Times*

A new NATO peacekeeping force for Bosnia to replace the 35,000 troops whose mandate ends in June was formally approved by 16 alliance ambassadors. The decision commits NATO to a third phase of peacekeeping. – *Times*

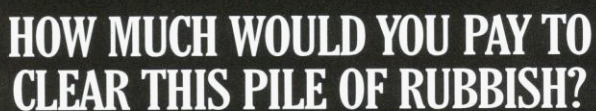
Signallers' guilty secret



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

For more than 50 years Nottingham's TA signallers have been happily using the city's name in their title. It was only when the city decided to honour them by allowing the use of "Nottingham" in their name, that they realised their mistake. When the Lord Mayor, Councillor Roy Greensmith, arrived to confer the honour he said if he had still held the title of Sheriff of Nottingham he might have put them all in the stocks.

But LCpl Dion Brittain said: "It seems someone slipped 'Nottingham' in back in 1946, not realising you had to ask first." The unit is now officially 87 (City of Nottingham) Signal Squadron. Pictured from left are Sig Andrew Doran, Sig Chris Dancer, Sig Paul John Green, Councillor Roy Greensmith, LCpl Dion Brittain and (bottom) LCpl Paul Hartley.



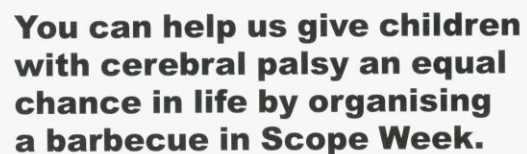
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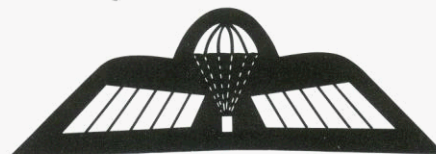
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People, places, events

Changing the Guards

Report: Karen Moseley

THE UNION flag was fluttering, the band was playing and the 16-year-old Sikh schoolboy from Walsall looked about him and smiled. "It makes me feel very patriotic," he said.

And that, really, was what it was all about.

For years the Household Division has been perceived in some quarters as being racially prejudiced and a predominantly white domain. Now a new initiative, led by Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter, the General Commanding the Household Division, aims to change that perception. The Household Division, which comprises the Household Cavalry and the five Guards regiments, has committed itself to recruiting more black and Asian soldiers to reflect Britain's ethnic society.

Charanjit Singh Dhillon was taking part in one of a series of "Panorama projects" which invite potential recruits from multicultural backgrounds to look at what a career in the Household Division would be like. The four-day courses give the youngsters a chance to experience the full ceremonial and "green" aspects of the Household Cavalry and the Foot Guards.

"I was worried at first when I got here," Charanjit said. "But the music has been wonderful, the horses are beautiful and the whole thing has made me feel very patriotic."

The initiative has the backing of Bob Purkiss, Commissioner for Racial Equality, who has been a leading critic of the Army's record on race in the past.

"There were black guards guarding Hadrian's Wall back in AD 256," he said during the action plan launch at the Household Cavalry's Knightsbridge HQ. "There were more black people in Guards regiments 200 years ago. There is now a new determination, urgency and accept-

ability at the top of the Army and all the way down that change is going to happen."

Maj Gen Webb-Carter said it was his personal crusade to improve the percentage of young men from ethnic minorities joining regiments under his command.

"When I arrived in July last year I immediately realised that the very small proportion of ethnic minorities was a half of one per cent of the strength of the Guards," he said. "This was simply not good enough – an unacceptable state of affairs."

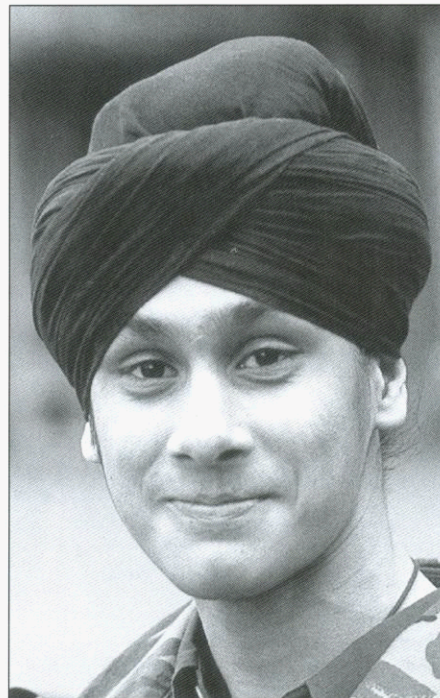
"We have failed to reach out to the many excellent and highly-motivated young ethnic minority men who would relish a career as an officer or soldier in the Household Division. This is self-defeating and unprofessional. To reflect the national figures, between six and seven per cent of our officers and soldiers should come from the ethnic minorities."

THREE-POINT PLAN

He said that the number of ethnic soldiers had increased slightly in the past nine months, from 14 to 22 in the 3,500-strong division, and that a three-point plan was being put into action to encourage many more.

This includes regiments setting up sporting links with ethnic minority clubs, encouraging recruiting sergeants to concentrate on ethnic minority communities, and a new recruiting video which has a strong emphasis on equal opportunities for black and Asian recruits. There are also plans for a black American officer to serve on detachment with the Household Division and advise on how the US Army tackled problems of recruiting.

Capt Cahal O'Reilly, officer commanding the Household Division Army Youth Team and organiser of the Panorama projects, said: "They are open to people from



Picture: Terry Champion

Charanjit Singh Dhillon, contemplating a career in the Household Cavalry

all backgrounds but we are actively encouraging people from ethnic backgrounds to join us. At the end of the course they know what we do and that we are not the robotic racist figures the Press make us out to be.

"The reactions have been very positive and we have four young people on the present two courses who are very interested."

Michael Prosper, a 24-year-old who was working with the Prince's Trust, took part in Panorama One and starts basic training to join the Coldstream Guards in October.

"These courses really do help," he said. "I had ideas about the Army before but people don't really get to see it like it is from the news briefings. I don't see racism as a problem. It seemed the right thing to do for me. I do like looking smart and the ceremonial side appealed."

The athlete and television presenter, Kriss Akabusi, was also at the launch to give his support.

"I think this is very important," he said. "It's about time the Army reflected society, and the Household Division have had a particular problem. When powerful people use powerful words, action often follows."

SIX women soldiers, including an officer, were making military sporting history as this edition went to press when they appeared in three exhibition bouts at the Royal Logistic Corps boxing championships in Maida Gym, Aldershot. The bouts were sanctioned by the Army Boxing Association following a decision by the sport's national governing body in September to approve women's boxing. As yet there is no separate Army competition for women boxers and no team structure.

● Three Russian officers visited Colchester

IN BRIEF

Garrison last month to inspect weapons and equipment belonging to two units within 24 Airmobile Brigade. The visit was made under the terms of the Vienna treaty which allows signatories to inspect military units in their usual peacetime locations.

● Britain, France and Germany have launched a £350 million collaborative programme for a long-range battlefield radar. The

COBRA (Counter Battery Radar) system will track hundreds of rounds simultaneously and adjust the rate and direction of return fire.

● Army officers from 12 central and eastern European countries attended a seminar to learn how the British Army prepares for peacekeeping operations.

● Cpl Colin Clarke, serving at the Dental Centre in Lumsden Barracks, Fallingbommel, has won the first annual Sonicare award for the Army's top dental hygienist.

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Kenya round-up

The only tigers in Africa

The 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Tigers, have just returned from training in Kenya. *Soldier* joined the battle group as it ranged across the sun-baked plains of East Africa

Reports: Graham Bound
Pictures: Sgt Shane Wilkinson

THE LINE of Army Land Rovers had been advancing at a steady pace down the bone-shaking tracks which pass for roads in the vast wilderness of Kenya. Suddenly the lead vehicle ground to a halt, causing drivers all down the line to jump on their brakes. "What's the problem?" came the shout from an over-heated and irritated corporal some way back.

"Nothing," was the bellowed response. "Don't you stop for a zebra crossing?"

Sure enough, a few yards in front of the column, a herd of the black-and-white creatures pranced across the road. For the 750 members of 2 PWRR and its support units, such experiences never failed to raise a smile and the comment "only in Kenya..."

Only in Kenya during the annual series of battalion-strength exercises do soldiers have to check their boots for scorpions and their bergens for puff adders, and drink upwards of five litres of water a day to avoid the dangers of dehydration. They round up elephants with helicopters and camp security is provided by Massai tribesmen who drive off lions with their spears.

In short, the training grounds of East Africa are a whole different world, and one which most of the troops seemed to treat with awe.

Maj Jim Dewar, the OC of Impala Camp – one of the four main training centres – and the supervisor of the range on which 150,000 rounds of live ammunition were fired during the seven-week



Gdsm Mark Ison (left) and Cpl Garry Pullen: "Hippos can really move quickly" (see over)

exercise, summed it up: "The overwhelming impression is of the beauty of this country... seeing all the wildlife and the colours. Everything is so vivid."

The beauty of Kenya, though, must take second place to its training value.

Each Grand Prix follows roughly the same programme. After eight to ten days of acclimatisation at the main base in the small town of Nanyuki, some 62 miles from and 6,000ft above Nairobi, companies begin rotating through five training

outstations, each of which provides extremes of climate and environment.

At Dol Dol, for example, troops are immersed in jungle training, while at Impala Ranch the grassy plains offer a more typical African environment. Finally, the companies come together with artillery and other units for mock battles at the northern camp, Archer's Post.

Enveloped by cloying 40C heat and surrounded by sandy semi-desert and

● Turn to next page

Kenya round-up

Bug buster!

PTE MICHAEL Bone, pictured, takes on the real enemy in Kenya: the bugs and other wildlife which like nothing better than setting up home in a comfortable tent or sleeping bag.

With responsibilities for unit environmental health at the Impala Camp training area, Pte Bone swept through the camp at least once a day with the deadliest weapon know to insect-kind: the swing-fog machine. Human occupants were banned from their tents for at least half an hour while the clouds of insecticide and kerosene dispersed.

As well as insects, snakes are also a problem in Kenya, but they were only rare visitors to the camp. "Fortunately, they are just as scared of us as we are of them," said Michael Bone, the Bug Buster.

Nevertheless, one young but potentially deadly black mamba was found enjoying the cool of a tent. According to the Bug Buster, the snake had to be "encouraged" back into the bush. "There's not much we can do about them," he said. "We just have to wait until they get fed up and go away."



Elephants at seven o'clock

THE TWO Army Air Corps Gazelle helicopters attached to the 2 PWRR battle group were put to novel use during the Kenya deployment: rounding up elephants.

Each morning, before live firing could commence on the wide ranges at Impala Farm and Archer's Post, the two Gazelles of 662 Squadron, 3 Regiment swept low over the plains in search of herds of wild game which, unless moved on, would be in danger from the shooting.

Elephants were the most frequently spotted animals but buffalo, zebra, giraffe and even their own gazelle namesakes would sometimes be urged out of harm's way by the incessantly buzzing little machines.

Capt John Greenacre, who led the team of six pilots and 16 AAC and REME support staff, loved being an aerial game warden. He explained that the pair of helicopters would approach a herd slowly at minimal altitude, sometimes as little as ten feet above the ground, rounding the animals up and pointing them in the right direction.

Fellow pilot Cpl Bernie Mathews said that different animals behaved in different ways. Zebra responded quickly but tended to run around in circles before eventually dispersing. Giraffes were the easiest to round up. They invariably responded calmly, loping along gently in the required direction.

Elephants, however, were not always so co-operative. The animals sometimes re-



Gazelle vs elephants. Each morning the AAC pilots cleared the ranges of wildlife

minded the flyers that it was their territory and they would be there long after the British Army had gone home. One huge and proud bull elephant was well-known for standing his ground. The tusker would turn on the helicopters, raising his trunk and extending his huge ears in the classic threatening pose, the precursor to a charge. The pilots always backed off, letting the bull and his herd move on in their own good time.

"It occurred to us that an engine failure near the elephants might not be a good thing," said John Greenacre. "We could imagine them turning around and

walking back to pull bits off the helicopters and us."

The daily round-ups were also valuable training flights. Because of the altitude of the African plains and the high temperatures, the pilots became accustomed to flying precise manoeuvres on limited engine power.

The Gazelles were also put to more conventional use. There were occasional medivacs to the hospital in Nairobi, as well as routine liaison and mail flights between the main training base at Nanyuki and the outstations.

● Mountain rescue – Page 16

Chefs' hell at Archer's Roast

KENYA's training grounds are characterised by almost suffocating heat, which was no fun for anyone in the 2 PWRR battle group. But it made life particularly difficult for the chefs and their staff. The high temperatures led to an increased threat from bacteria and the chefs knew that any relaxation in standards of hygiene could result in food poisoning.

The risk was common to the main base in Nanyuki as well as the outstations, but it was most serious at Archer's Post – known to the over-heated troops as Archer's Roast – in the north of the exercise area. There, temperatures regularly soared above 40C.

When, during the final days of the exercise, all three companies plus their artillery and other support units were brought together at Archer's Post for the battalion-level simulated attacks, the five chefs and their local assistants were faced with feeding 300 men each day.

Endless chore

Troops in the long queues to the kitchen were required to wash their hands in chlorinated water and dip their (by normal standards) quite clean, plates, bowls and knives and forks in hot chlorinated water before receiving their food. Scrubbing and sterilising work surfaces became an endless chore.

The need to keep food chilled and frozen was paramount. It did not help that the fridges and freezers shipped overland to Archer's Post had received such a battering on the pot-holed roads that some refused to work. The five-man team of chefs and their local assistants were forced to make do with just two surviving domestic fridges and two freezers, augmented by insulated containers normally used to keep food and drink hot.

Sgt Derek Allison, who led the Archer's Post caterers, was pleased that his precautions had paid off. The battle group suffered none of the feared stomach trouble, but it had been at the cost of very hot and hard work. If temperatures outside were 40 degrees and above, within the kitchen it could be 20 degrees higher. The chefs and their staff found some consolation in the obvious fact that the troops appreciated their food.

Dehydration is a thorny problem

"IT'S CERTAINLY different to being a GP in Wiltshire," said Capt Sarah Love-Jones, who led the medical team supporting the 2 PWRR battle group.

With her team of combat medical technicians, the doctor had gone to Archer's Post for the battalion-scale final phase of the exercise. In an adjacent tent, her team was caring for a soldier who had been helicoptered to the medical post suffering from dehydration.

It was a clear reminder of the medics' main message: drink water – drink a lot of water.

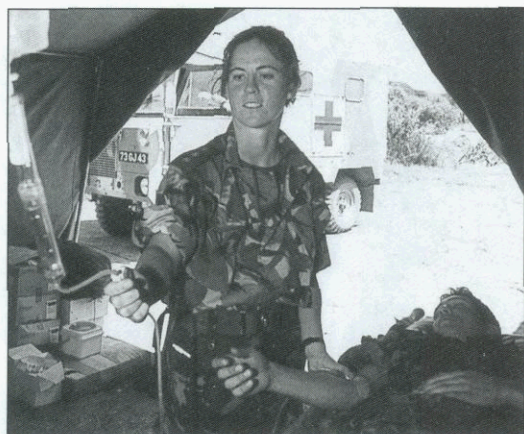
Earlier that day, Capt Love-Jones had dispatched another patient to the main hospital in Nairobi by helicopter. He had suffered an injury typical of the area: a thorn in the eye.

Infected mosquito and other insect bites generated an almost constant flow of work for the medics. "In this heat they get infected very quickly," said the doctor. "We often have to administer antibiotics at a very early stage."

But it was the real possibility of snake bite which concerned the medics most. The scrubby bush is home to a bewildering variety of venomous snakes – so many that the medical tent was unable to stock the array of antidotes necessary. If anyone was bitten, the medics would have no choice but to fly the injured person to Nairobi.

Insects, particularly scorpions and camel spiders, were another risk. The bugs were frequent visitors to Archer's Post, but throughout the exercise only one soldier was stung by a scorpion and rapid evacuation meant that he was soon on the road to recovery. The Tigers

and their team suffered few injuries, but when a puff adder was discovered sleeping in an open bergen, the troops were given a vivid reminder that the Kenyan wilderness is a dangerous, potentially deadly, place.



Capt Sara Love-Jones treats a dehydration sufferer

Tigers in Africa

● From Page 13

curious tribesmen in gloriously-colourful costumes, the soldiers put into practice all the skills that they have been honing at section, platoon and company level.

The whole thing makes for a demanding routine, but one which Lt Col Richard Dennis, CO of 2 PWRR, insisted tests the troops' fitness and abilities as

no other peace-time environment can.

From the natural grandstand of a rocky outcrop on Impala Farm Range he viewed the 95 men of A Company as they began the final phase of their company-level training. It was a full-scale attack on Simba rock, an "enemy" position which once saw real fighting during the Mau Mau campaign of the 1950s.

"This is as close as we get to the real thing," said the colonel. "It is not just that we can have extremely realistic live-firing

exercises, but we are also living in an operational theatre, where the logistics are fundamental. If we don't get everything right it all falls around our ears very quickly."

Nearby, the range control officer, Maj Jim Dewar, also surveyed the scene below. He uttered a few words into a radio and a sustained-fire GPMG a few yards away began rattling live rounds several metres over the heads of the advancing soldiers. A mortar barrage began erupting clouds

of dust around the target positions. After Impala Farm the troops had to cope with a five-hour drive north across the equator to the final battalion exercise at Archer's Post.

There they no doubt reflected on the R and R which had let everyone be tourists as well as soldiers – at least for a while. Some trekked up Mount Kenya, went on safari near Lake Naivashu National Park, or viewed the panoply of Africa from the harness of a paraglider.

But it was the wildlife which made the greatest impression – sometimes almost literally. Long after they returned to Britain, Cpl Garry Pullen and Gdsm Mark Ison would remember a hippo at Lake Naivasho which took an instant dislike to them. "Garry only had flip-flops on his feet," said Mark, "and hippos can really move quickly over short distances. I've never seen a faster pair of flip-flops."

Only in Kenya!

Kenya round-up



Maj (Retd) Peter Hawker and Sgt Georgie Allison at Nanyuki Camp following the day of dramas on Kenya's highest mountain

Rescue at high level

TWO soldiers serving with 2 PWRR in Kenya and a retired officer leading R and R groups on mountain treks were involved in a remarkable sequence of dramas while climbing the country's highest peak.

Sgt Georgie Allison and Cpl Patrick Hanlon, both trained and experienced climbers, saved the lives of a pair of Polish mountaineers who had become trapped on a mountain ledge near the summit of the 17,000ft Mt Kenya. But efforts to rescue a trekker who slipped from a glacier during a separate incident were unsuccessful.

Both dramas occurred on the same day and began when Peter Hawker, a retired major, was leading a group of soldiers to the trekking summit, a few thousand feet below the highest point. They encountered a group of distraught American and Kenyan missionaries who had attempted to cross a glacier.

The party told him that they had lost one of their group, a young Kenyan, when he had slipped on the ice and vanished.

Aware that Sgt Allison and Cpl Hanlon were also on the mountain, Maj Hawker found them, and the team began searching the treacherous glacier.

It quickly became clear that the Kenyan had died. He had lost his footing and slid over the tongue of the glacier before crashing through ice into a deep glacial pool. Although the three men tied their ice axes onto ropes and dragged the makeshift hooks through the lake, they could not recover the body.

Shaken by the incident, the mountaineers again split up; Sgt Allison and Cpl Hanlon returned to a refuge a few thousands feet from the summit and Maj Hawker rejoined his group at another mountain hut.

After dark the sergeant and the corporal were wakened by a Polish climber who explained that two of his colleagues were marooned on a mountain ledge. The rescue attempt which followed involved some of the most difficult and dangerous climbing that either man had experienced. Roped together and using head torches, they crossed the glacier which had already claimed one life that day, and climbed to almost 17,000ft, where they found the Poles and guided them to safety.

Army falls in with orphans

FOR THE battalions which train in Kenya, conditions can be tough. But the soldiers' discomforts are slight compared to the privations facing children and staff in an orphanage near the British Army camp in Nanyuki.

There, in a few dilapidated buildings surrounded by a scrubby yard where chickens scratch in the dust, 20 resident orphans and 87 day visitors make the best of the duff hand of cards that life has dealt them.

It is a tough existence, but infinitely better than being on the streets where the lives of such forgotten children are characterised by solvent abuse, violence and malnutrition. For many, prostitution (in a country where AIDS is rife) is their ultimate fate.

The children at Nanyuki are cared for by the dedicated, though poorly-paid staff of the Child Welfare Society of Kenya. They have lessons, medical treatment, beds to sleep in and, above all, the love and care of surrogate parents.

The soldiers of the 2 PWRR battle group were touched by the plight of the children and the dedication of their carers. They brought boxes of clothes from the UK and donated £300 in cash. Most importantly, though, sappers from 5 Field Squadron RE, helped by pioneers, built two new school rooms. The foundations had already been laid by a group of Army cadets from Scarborough who have "adopted" the Nanyuki orphanage.

Other Army units have also made a difference to the lives of the youngsters. Soldiers of The Black Watch bought the orphanage a cow which, apart from giving milk, also provides fertiliser for the small farm where (when there is adequate water) the children grow their own vegetables. Other units gave two donkeys,

some milking goats and pigs. "The Army has been our greatest donor," said Moffat Mwihuri, the orphanage's treasurer.

He pointed to a baby called Carol, who was abandoned near Nanyuki last Christmas. She was the sixth abandoned baby to be found in the area that year. "This child doesn't have anything, not even a parent. But we will care for her and educate her,

even to university level if God is willing," said Mr Mwihuri. "Several of our children are now teachers and accountants, so we can show people that the system works."

For the engineers and pioneers, building the school rooms was hugely satisfying.

"We fell for the children big-time," said one. Pte Steven Bone particularly remembers an 11-year-old, also called Steven, who suffers

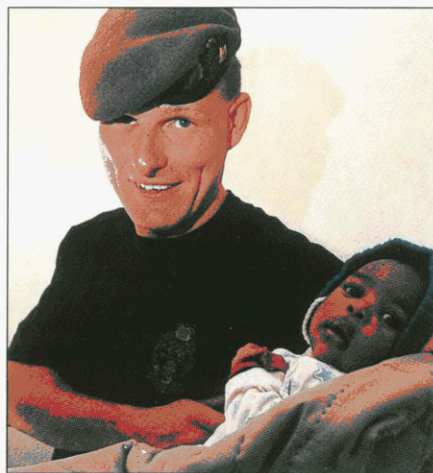
serious learning difficulties and was withdrawn and alone.

But Steven was intrigued by the soldiers. He would whistle to catch their attention and smile shyly when they looked up from their work. If only briefly, the little boy emerged from his own private world. "At the party to open the school rooms, we made sure he got the biggest slice of the cake," said Pte Bone.

Amina Museni is living evidence that the efforts of those who care are not wasted. The fashionably-dressed woman who now runs her own hairdressing

salon in Nanyuki has been vice-chairman of the orphanage's administering committee for two years. "You see, I was also brought up as an orphan," she said. "now that my kids have grown up, I'm able to give these little ones my time. I have it in my heart."

It seems that many of the British soldiers who have trained in Kenya also have it in their hearts.



Pte "Elvis" Preston and baby Carol at the orphanage in Nanyuki. Her future is brighter

Do you have it in your heart? The orphaned children of Nanyuki need all the help they can get.

At the top of their shopping list are some very basic things. They need a fresh water well and water pump for their three acres of farm land; clothes and school materials. If you would like to give them some money please contact Maj Gail Rowe of the Combined Cadet Force, Scarborough College, tel 01723 363853

Special report

Honeymoon – Army style

KNOOK Camp in Wiltshire could soon be known as “nooky camp” if plans to upgrade the site go ahead.

Tucked away in rolling countryside on the edge of Salisbury Plain, it has always been a popular spot with soldiers on exercise. The pre-Second World War green Nissen huts, once considered an eyesore, are now regarded fondly by locals who want them protected by having them graded as listed buildings.

A consultation document has taken the proposal further. With new laws on where marriages can legally take place, it has been suggested that Knook Camp receive a special licence for wedding services.

“This would be the ideal place for couples who have a fascination with the Army to take their vows,” said garrison commander Lt Col Rolf Pailo.

“It would be possible for civilians as well as serving soldiers to hold the ceremony in an historic military

environment. There is no reason why we could not lay on a very unusual bridal car such as an armoured personnel vehicle or a tank. We could have Army cooks cater for the reception and we are hoping it would be possible to set aside one of the accommodation blocks as a honeymoon suite. Guests could stay just one night or spend their whole honeymoon with us.”

The cost of hiring an accommodation block, complete with en-suite shower block, has not yet been decided, but Lt Col Pailo said it would certainly be better value and more adventurous than a hotel room.

“Any couple deciding to take up the offer would of course be left to their own devices and have absolute privacy,” he added.

Also included in the Knook Camp upgrade plans are proposals for a swimming pool, gym and polo field. Views on the plans should be sent in by April 1, 1999.

In brief

Off to Bosnia

THREE hundred Bulford-based soldiers and 80 members of the 3 (UK) Division's headquarters staff are due to deploy to Bosnia next month to form part of the 5,000-strong United Kingdom presence of the NATO Stabilisation Force based at Banja Luka. They will be relieving 19 Mechanised Brigade and will be in theatre for six months.

Entry rules eased

NATIONALITY and UK residency rules for entry into the Armed Forces will be relaxed from April 1, Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid has announced. Parents of applicants will no longer need to be British or Commonwealth citizens, or Republic of Ireland nationals, and the five-year UK residency requirement for most applicants will be eased to allow those who have spent less than five years in the UK entry into the Armed Forces.

Terriers to get MLRS

SOLDIERS from Newcastle-based 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery RA (V) convert from 155mm FH70 guns to the potent Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) on April 1. Part of 101 (Northumberland) Regiment, the battery will come under command of 1 Artillery Brigade.

Irish Guards in Munster

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards laid up their Colours during a ceremony at RAF Brize Norton on February 23 before flying to their new base in Munster, Germany, where they will be based for the next five years. They will be relieved at Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright by the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Army goes up in strength

TOTAL strength of the British Army on January 1 was 110,055, a rise of 1.5 per cent during the previous year, according to latest figures issued by



Picture: Les Millar, The Star, Aldershot

the Government Statistical Service. There are 14,110 officers, of whom 1,166 are women, and 95,864 other ranks, 6,081 of them female. Outflow from all three Services was down, with the Army having the greatest reduction in the number of leavers.

THE Army has called in expert help to protect computerised salaries and pensions from the millennium time bomb. The Armed Forces Pay and Administration Agency at Worthy Down has appointed Logica plc, a computer consultancy, and Sapiens International, an application develop-

Millennium bug war

ment company, to examine the risk to existing systems.

ment company, to examine the risk to existing systems.

Just the ticket

A MILLION bus tickets have gone on sale in Manchester carrying adverts inviting people to join the Territorial Army. The largest-ever recruiting drive in the North West by the Royal Logistic Corps' specialist units was the brainchild of WO2 Geordie Robinson.

Minden Band on air

THE Minden Band of the Queen's Division has recorded 17 military marches at the Colchester Garrison study centre for a new CD.



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Feature

Rowallan Company makes the 'not yet's' into the 'ready and willings' for Sandhurst

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Mike Weston

THEIR BREATH came in huge billowing gasps and sweat poured down their faces. Cramp had struck two of the Rowallan Company cadets earlier on and their faces were often distorted in agony.

It was week nine of the 11-week course. As 1 and 2 Platoons of Rowallan Company 973 stood for an inspection of their 60lb bergens in the ruins of a small building on the Welsh Brecons, they knew their 16km race was almost over. Sunlight slashed across their faces and possibly made the finish line feel that much closer.

Sharp voices rang out; applauding then cajoling, berating but always encouraging. The 39 cadets had conquered four hills and only the final peak of Alt Ddu, 562 metres above sea level, stood between them and the journey home to Sandhurst.

Maj Chris Rose, OC Rowallan Company, hoisted his own bergen, watched the two platoons take the strain of theirs, and stole a quick glimpse at his watch.

"Not bad," he murmured. "We could be on for a record today." A new course best of 4hr 42min had been set recently. Maj Rose went off to beat the cadets to the final checkpoint while giving a quick overview of the day's events.

"The company received its orders for the race last night and the two strongest cadets were nominated as platoon commanders. They produced written orders which they gave this morning. The race started at 0915 with each platoon carrying a log for about 5km to a river where they constructed an aerial ropeway.

"There was a kit inspection at one checkpoint and a compulsory water stop at the next. Some checkpoints are manned, others observed. Route selection is the key to success. The finish line is in the car park at the bottom of Alt Ddu. It should take about four to five hours."

With that he slipped into a higher gear and raced ahead. It is not just the cadets who are being pushed hard.

Rowallan Company is not a new concept. In 1943 the War Office needed a way to create a surge of young officers in anticipation of high war losses. It was recognised that a large number of potential officer candidates were being graded as "Not Yet's" by the War Office Selection Board, the equivalent of today's Regular Commissions Board (RCB).



Lord Rowallan, a Territorial Army officer, was appointed to create a training school where the "Not Yet's" could be developed into potential officers. He was selected because of his experience as a battalion commander in the First World War and as the Chief Scout between the wars.

He established a fieldcraft training centre in the Scottish Highlands, taking as his philosophy, "develop character first and military leadership will follow". The centre provided a steady flow of young officers for the Army from 12 courses run in 1943 and 1944.

The present-day Rowallan Company course was established for similar reasons: high levels of rejection among those attending the Regular Commissions Board. In 1975 the failure rate had risen to 70 per cent, and two years later Rowallan Company was formed for candidates whom the RCB judged would respond to leadership development training.

The Rowallan cadet is not an officer cadet and does not have the same privileges. He is paid as a private soldier and eats in the other ranks' cookhouse. He may come from any social background; ex-TA officer or soldier, university, Welbeck, other ranks, or from the first term of the commissioning course. This social melting pot, coupled with the cadets being aged between 18 and 25, encourages mixing.

HEAD START

"There is no doubt that Rowallan gives individuals a head start on the commissioning course," said Maj Rose. "Their self-confidence is given a boost and we have found that most young men today need a bit of guidance when it comes to finding out what their limits are. It is usually a lot further than they can ever have imagined."

Before the advent of Rowallan Company the options for such candidates would

have been outright failure, being deferred for a year, or allowed time to mature.

Cadets do not normally join Rowallan simply because of a lack of physical ability, although it is not unusual for them to need some physical development. RCB note limitations in leadership qualities that could prevent success on the common commissioning course.

Shortcomings could be a lack of self-confidence or maturity, over-confidence or arrogance, a lack of physical aptitude or mental robustness, or possibly a lack of commitment.

The course is robust and competitive. It is designed to help staff identify weaknesses and to rectify them with the cadet.

Cadets are pushed to their limits and constantly required to drive themselves hard. There is no specific military training during the Rowallan course and care is taken not to include activities which will be covered on the commissioning course.

Staff concentrate on character and leadership development and time is divided equally between adventurous training, leadership skills and communication studies.

Command tasks are the main vehicle for leadership training. Cadets are assessed on their ability to lead, plan, brief, communicate, motivate and control a group during a task.

An academic tutor, who is also a trained psychologist, is assigned to the company. Attention is paid to the way a cadet communicates orally and on paper. Written essays, short lectures and debates on a variety of subjects allow confidence and fluency to improve throughout the course.

RACE'S END

The two platoons had finally reached the car park, the end of the race . . . and the end of the competitive phase of the course.

Soaking bergens were stacked neatly and the winning platoon quickly lined up

An incredibly valuable asset

"NO ONE should be so foolhardy or arrogant as to consider leading soldiers into battle unless he is utterly professional himself. The days when a gifted amateur could survive in the Army are long gone. Modern officers have got to know their job really well." The speaker was Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, former commanding officer of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Gulf War veteran and the latest commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

"A nation's army is a reflection of that nation's society. People in our society are, generally, more educated. They are generally healthier and in many respects, they are fitter. Where society falls down is that it is less hardy. It is a softer society and therefore we have to adapt our physical training to take into account that people are not used to walking long distances, or to really cold weather."

"Army entrants and Rowallan cadets tend to survive the commissioning course best of all. They have been through some pretty hard stuff already and most of what they have thrown at them they can cope with. They already have an idea of the military way of thinking which we are trying to pass on to the rest of the cadets."

"Rowallan company is incredibly valuable to the Army because it allows us to take in a number of risk cases, make them almost dead-certs, and send them on. In the past they would have failed RCB and we would never have seen them again. The RCB has recognised the potential and they just need a little more work in certain areas."

"It is a tremendous course. It has been suggested that we incorporate a lot of what we do in Rowallan into the first term at Sandhurst. And we are looking at that as there is so much real work and value there it is a shame that only a small proportion of cadets get to benefit from it."

"I am deeply impressed by the standard of cadet entering Sandhurst . . . really positive, really motivated, really wanting to do something for somebody else."



Maj Gen Arthur Denaro DSO

to applaud their exhausted colleagues over the finishing line. The briefest of minutes separated the two.

"You know Rowallan Company is hard but there is no point questioning why you are here," said 1 Platoon commander, 22-year-old cadet Oliver Wanklyn. "That would be stupid. You are on it and that's it. I was lucky as I was quite fit when I arrived. If you are unfit you will find it hard."

Before joining Rowallan he spent three years with Liverpool UOTC and so was no stranger to physical exercise.

The commander of 2 Platoon, 21-year-old David Wright, a fellow Liverpool UOTC cadet and friend of his rival platoon commander, stormed through in 4hr 24min, setting a course record.

If the late Lord Rowallan was looking down, he would certainly have approved. The cadets in his company are still being tested to the last of their strength.

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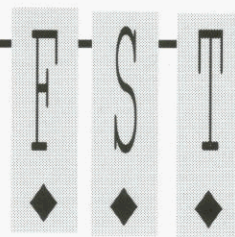
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Feature

Gender-free tests set tone for new fitness regime

A complete overhaul of the Army's system of assessing the physical potential of men and women wishing to join the British Army was introduced on April 1, with the first batch of potential recruits – men and women – being put through their paces at recruit selection centres throughout the UK

GOODBYE to the BFL, welcome to PSS(R). Gone is the old Basic Fitness Level involving a 1½-mile run, heaves and sit-ups, replaced by a scientifically-based physical assessment process which is fairer and more job-oriented in selecting new entries to the Army.

Crucially, the new process, known as Physical Selection Standards (Recruits), is also non-discriminatory, particularly between sexes.

It provides a scientifically-measured prediction of how far an individual's physical performance can improve during training and an indicator of whether or not he or she will be suited to the job they want to do – their intended career employment group (CEG).

The new system takes account of the physical demands of various jobs and sets different physical selection standards.

It is also entirely gender-free and conforms to the Army's policy of opening up 70 per cent of posts to women.

A project team tasked by the Adjutant General came up with 56 physical categories covering all the Army career groups, ranging from the Royal Artillery commando gunner who has to be extremely fit and have great upper-body strength, to the AG Corps (SPS) recruit, in whom other attributes are valued above

Right – Elenor Smith is tested for static lift strength

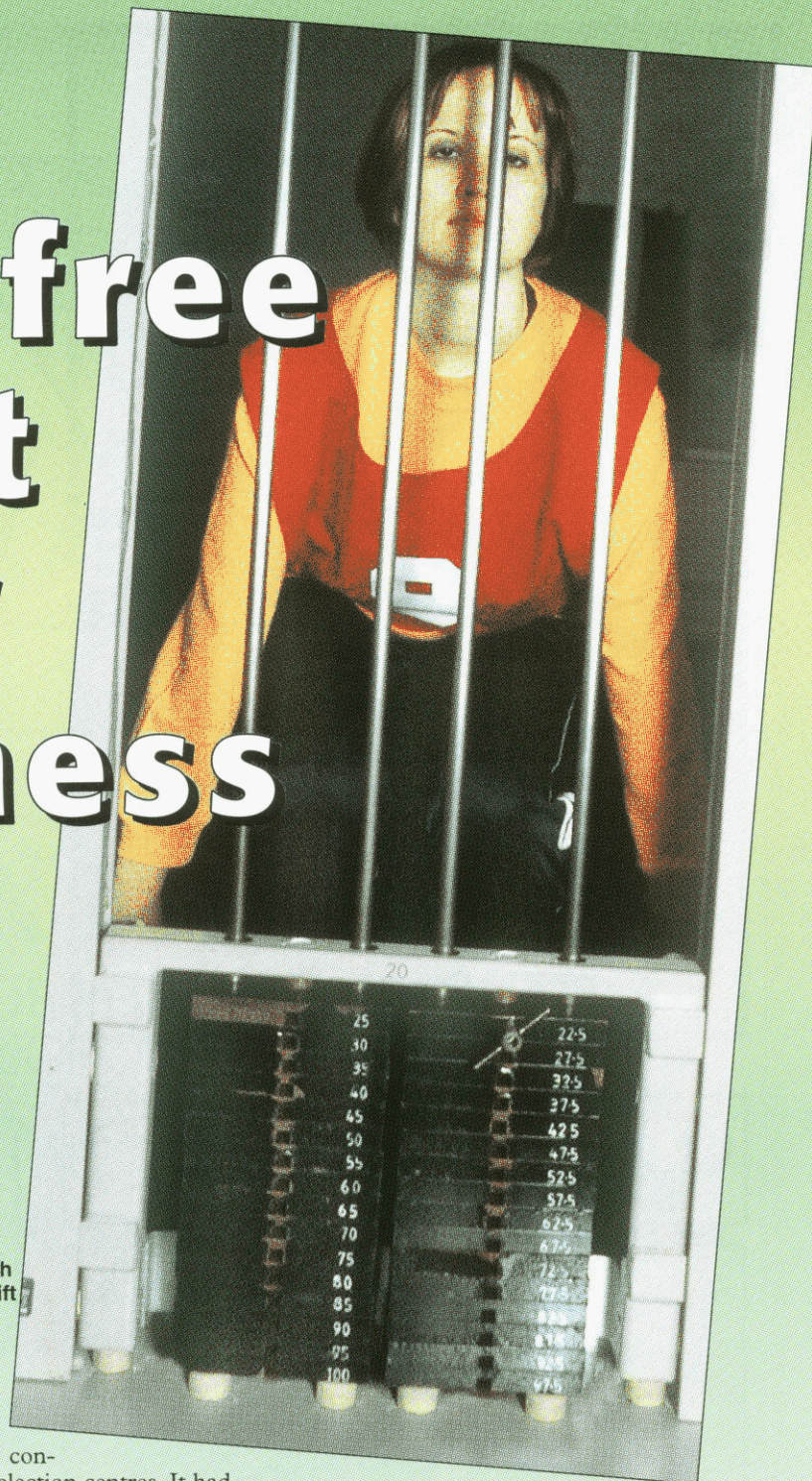
physical fitness.

Next on the agenda was the actual test to be conducted at recruit selection centres. It had to find out rather more than whether or not a candidate would get through initial training. It also had to predict a potential recruit's path to the fitness level required by their chosen employment, right through training and on to the field army.

A private consultancy was enlisted to gather and analyse data and to validate the PSS(R) regime, tracking the performance of 1,009 recruits (239 of which were female) to provide comparisons between the old BFL and the new system.

Main strands of the PSS(R) physical measurements are:

- Height and weight used to calculate body fat percentage and fat-free mass;
- Static arm endurance;
- Static lift strength;
- Dynamic lift strength;
- Back extension strength;
- Multi-stage fitness test (the "bleep" test);
- Heaves.



Research established that the most practical time for a pass or fail test was at the end of the 11-week common military syllabus (recruit) or CMS(R) course, the first phase of training for most recruits. Different pass standards are required for various career employment groups.

A spin-off is that recruits are expected to start Phase 2 training better prepared and with fewer injuries.

With fine-tuning still required in some key areas, the first year of PSS(R) will be regarded as a trial. Other schemes in the pipeline include an Army Foundation Scheme (AFS) to prepare weaker candidates for the rigours of CMS(R), and a formal trial for the youngsters starting apprentice training or entering the Army Foundation College.

● Turn to Page 67 for a summary of the test standards and the required pass standards for selected career paths

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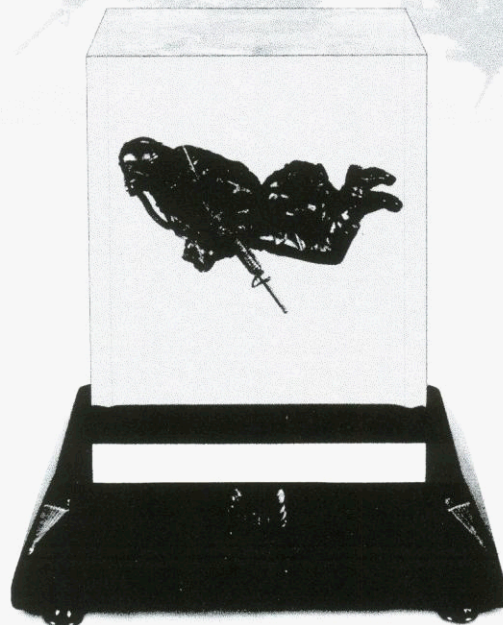
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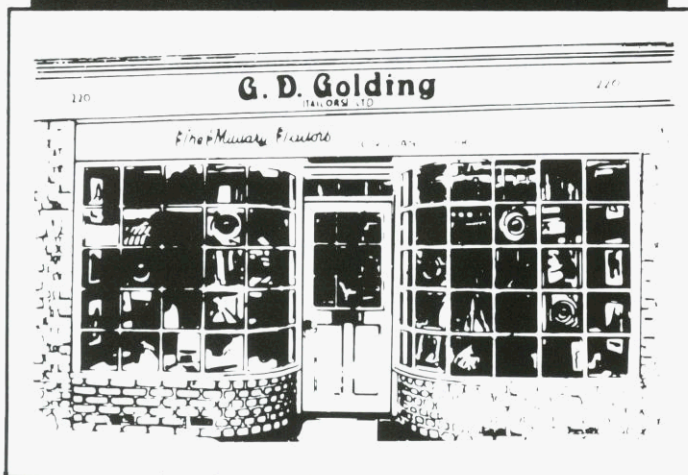
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Chuckle with Chip



Up Front Women!



"The women seem to take a very individual approach to this exercise!"



"They're absolutely gorgeous Simkins ... Unfortunately I'm still going to award you 14 days detention!"



"Enemy in farmhouse ... Bottom left window ... The one with the yukkie chintz curtains and those awful matching tie-backs you get from Golightlys ..."



"No, we don't have them in coral pink!"

Bosnia briefing

The hard guys who care

Reports: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE THICK red mark which slashes its way across the map of Bosnia is known as the "inter-entity boundary line". As an example of official jargon, it adequately describes the buffer zone agreed under the Dayton Accord of December 1996, protecting the Muslim, Serb and Croat communities from each other. It reminds everyone, ethnic factions and international stabilisation forces alike, exactly where they stand.

But this artificial feature's grand-sounding title can obscure the human story of the small and poor communities which lie on either side of it; people who are struggling nervously to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. It is the task of the lightly-armed reconnaissance troops of B Squadron, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) to help them.

Each day, from their base in Sipovo, on the predominantly Serb side of the line, one or more of the five sabre troops of lightly-armoured Spartan and Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicles rumble off up the narrow mountain tracks to patrol the densely-forested zone.

Their mission is one of reassurance and support; to tell the locals of their rights under the all-important Dayton Accord and provide a high-profile presence which will dissuade anyone who would like to break the fragile peace.

The Lancers, helped by a small band of Bosnian interpreters, distribute leaflets and news-sheets with information about the peace process; pass on parcels of clothes, vegetable seeds and food provided by the international aid organisations or by the Lancers themselves; and, above all, show a friendly face.

Where the people cannot read the SFOR literature – and illiteracy is common here – the interpreters pass on the message verbally. The hope is that all factions will gain confidence and insist that their leaders act in the interests of peace and reconciliation.

It is a task which has brought out the best in the soldiers, even those who would normally delight in being seen as tough. "You get hard guys from the inner cities who really do care about these people," said Capt David Relph, of 26 Regiment RA, one of a number of gunners attached

Compassionate soldiering with the Lancers on Bosnia's red line



Friendly reception for a Lancer crew in Vujici, where they delivered supplies to an old lady

to B Squadron as forward gunnery observers.

"We encourage each troop to do something to directly help a community; it could be repairing a building, or erecting a board on which SFOR notices can be posted. But some of the guys go a lot further."

Capt Relph's colleague, troop leader Lt Neal Croft, illustrated the point. His troop had heard of an 86-year-old woman who lived alone in a hamlet called Vujici, 3,500 feet up in the mountains. Most of the other inhabitants had abandoned the village during the war, but she remained, scratching a living and walking

18km twice a month to and from a market where she bought food. Latterly she had been reluctant to do the walk because of her fear of the wolves which live in the area.

"We decided to drive up to Vujici with some things for her," said Lt Croft. "Mainly they were rations, clothes and

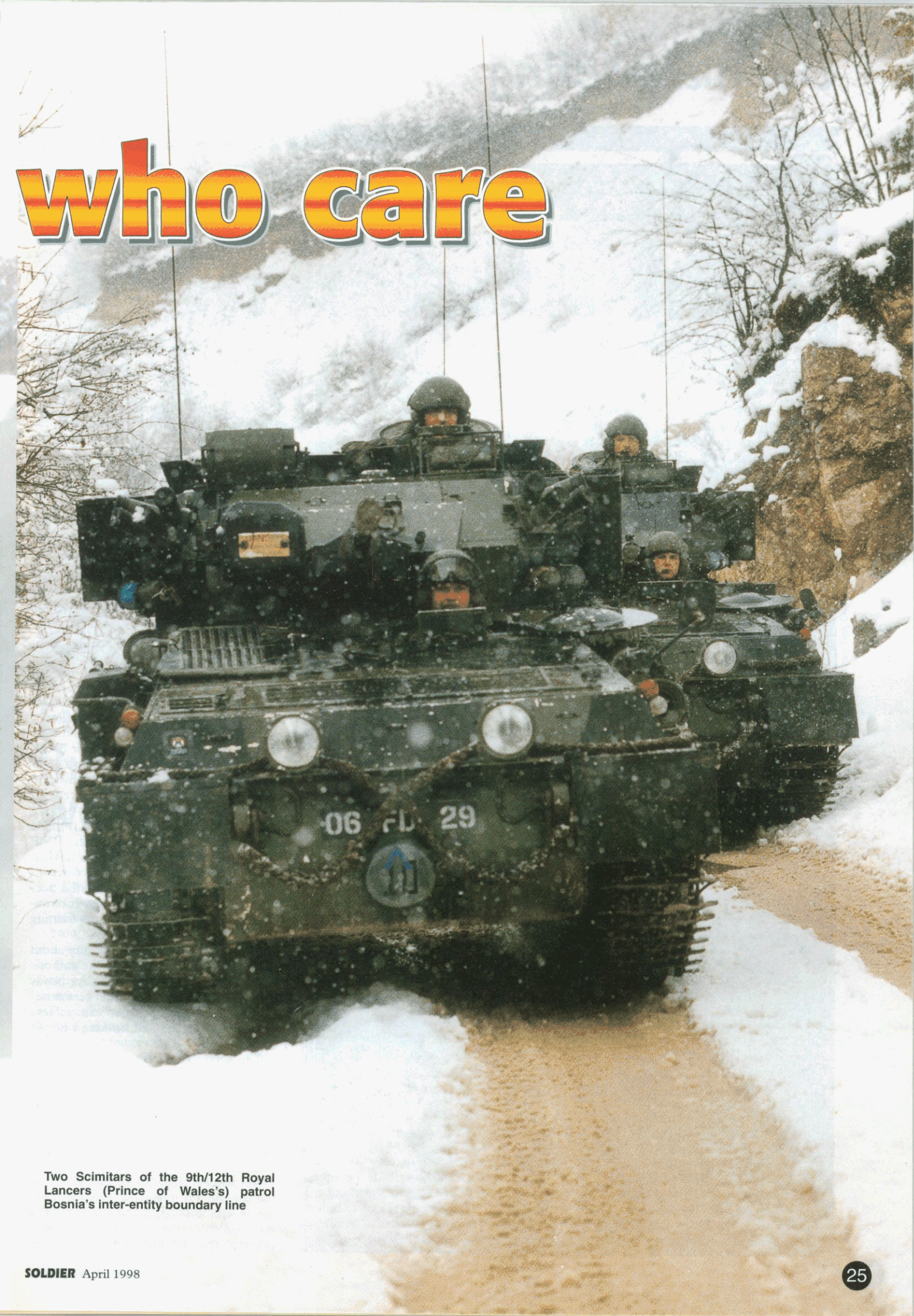
blankets. The old lady was so grateful to us that we were overwhelmed. At times like that, we all realise just how lucky we are and how much they need us."

The Lancers are heavily involved in providing security for the many international aid organisations which are helping rural Bosnians to stand on their own feet. The recce troops even help to distribute livestock donated to the farmers to replace the thousands of animals killed by the retreating armies of one side or another.

The soldiers are lending practical assistance to a unique project called The 20/20 Plan. Several international aid organisations are building houses to replace those destroyed during the war. Working on 40 buildings at a time, 20 are eventually handed over to Muslim families and 20 to Serbs. The plan encourages families of both ethnic groups to return to their pre-war towns and villages, crossing the red line in both directions.

But for the Muslims particularly, there

● Turn to Page 26



Two Scimitars of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) patrol Bosnia's inter-entity boundary line

Bosnia briefing

Redcap patrols keep vital routes open

THE SKODA lay on its roof at the side of the mountain road code-named Gull. Its headlights still blazed, but there was no other sign of life. The wreck was surrounded by a small group of Bosnian motorists earnestly discussing what they should – or could – do. Two British Army Land Rovers had also stopped to help.

It looked as if the driver had been taking the corner at speed, left the road and rolled his car several times, but there was no way of finding out for sure because he was dead. Unrestrained by a seat belt, his body lay in a corner of the car. There was nothing the nurse travelling in the small SFOR convoy could do.

It was, by the horrific standards of Bosnia's recent history, a small tragedy, but the incident clearly illustrated that the greatest threat facing Service personnel in central Bosnia is on the roads.

The poor conditions of the narrow, often icy, mountain routes and near-maniacal driving by many local people make the highways a far more immediate danger than minefields, unexploded ammunition and volatile local politics. Monitoring the routes, informing SFOR battle groups

Roads pose greater threat to life and limb than minefields



At Krupa Military Policemen Cpl Dave Sargent (seated) and Cpl Simon Giddins (rear left) work with Bosnian interpreter Vladimir Araut

about their state and educating British forces about the danger, is a major preoccupation of the Royal Military Police.

Sections, usually a sergeant and five to

seven junior NCOs, are strategically located throughout the network of roads which for SFOR purposes are identified by colourful avian code-names. The police operations on Parrot, Gull, Vulture and the like are tightly controlled from SFOR's main base in Banja Luka.

In his office, located (like so many SFOR units) in a massive factory building, Maj Andy Jordan, CO of 227 Provost Company and deputy commander of 3 Regiment RMP, pointed to the map of Bosnia's North West sector, the zone monitored by British, Canadian, Dutch and Malaysian troops. Pointing towards Gull, where presumably the wrecked Skoda still lay, he explained the measures taken to combat the enemy of road traffic accidents.

"Each day between 5am and 7am we patrol every inch of the roads between here and Split. We then inform the battle groups, ours and those of other SFOR nations, of their condition. If necessary we will declare roads closed, which means that units can be confined to their bases. In any case, we do not allow British vehicles, either as free-runners or in convoy, to move outside daylight hours except in exceptional circumstances."

This is not a simple job and it is made more complex by the fact that the RMP is not the only police presence in Bosnia. There are many local civilian forces – Croat, Serb or Muslim-dominated according to areas – as well as the International Police Task Force which is training and reorganising them.

There is, however, no ambiguity about the RMP's powers. "We have the authority to implement Dayton," says Andy Jordan categorically. But he recognises that he and his colleagues can achieve most by supporting and working with the civilians.

The key to success is careful and sensitive liaison. Each week in Banja Luka, Maj Jordan or the CO of the regiment, Lt Col Nick Barnard, meet with the regional chief of police and with the somewhat ominously-titled Head of State Security, to discuss issues of mutual concern.

But success depends almost totally on the way NCOs in the dispersed sections get on with their opposite numbers. There has been more success in some areas than others, but in the town of Krupa, at least,



Inter-force co-operation. RMP corporals Joanne Laird and Dan Harmed with local counterparts use a radar gun to check speeds on the notorious Bosnian roads

there is an excellent example of co-operation. The town's main streets had become, in the words of Cpl Simon Giddins, "like a grand prix circuit". Cars were hitting pedestrians, especially children, at the rate of two or three a week. When one fatal incident occurred directly outside the RMP station, the soldiers took action.

They introduced the 15 local policemen to their radar gun and joint patrols began staking out the roads. The result was a dramatic reduction in accidents and since then the civilians and the military police of Krupa have been firm friends. The NCOs are regularly invited to pig-roasts or football games where they are generously plied with the local home-brewed fire water, "slivovich" (or "slip-in-the-ditch", as the MPs have nicknamed it).

In Krupa, as in other towns where relations are good, the MPs have taken normal police work a step or two further. Some are now taking interpreters into schools to give mine-awareness talks; instructing in cycle safety and even teaching something which is as British as tea and scones: the green cross code.

There are still many barriers to be broken down, but Maj Jordan believes such "G5" efforts (good deeds) can help his work as much as they help the civilian communities.

OPERATION PLUNDER

BOSNIA remains awash with unregistered weapons; everything from combat knives to machine-guns and rocket launchers. Ammunition is commonplace and almost every item of war-like hardware is available on the thriving black market.

To ensure that none of this arsenal finds its way to Britain, the Military Police in Split, the point of entry and departure for all Service personnel in Bosnia, launched Operation Plunder.



In the never-ending Operation Plunder, Cpl David Wallis prepares to search another shipping container for banned cargo

All containers leaving the theatre, from handbags and suitcases to shipping containers and vehicles, are searched. Maj Andy Jordan of the RMP insists that "all" really does mean 100 per cent, and he says that the checks will remain in place indefinitely. It is a large-scale operation. From April to December 1997, the searchers delved into 369 ISO containers, 1,476 vehicles and 2,720 "comfort boxes", the cardboard crates containing the personal effects of Servicemen and women. RAF Police at Split Airport search the personal bags of departing personnel.

Although weapons are the main target, the RMPs take the necessary legal action if they find any items which are banned by the customs or which might endanger ships or aircraft carrying the freight.

The MPs' blacklist includes drugs, flammable materials and corrosive substances.

At the sharp end of Op Plunder in Split, SSgt Richard Oates explained that finds of illegal items are now rare. "Before major roulements, we talk to everyone leaving the theatre and tell them exactly what they can take. We find that the possibility of spending rather longer than planned in Bosnia tends to convince people that smuggling isn't worth it."

Occasional rounds of ammunition are still found and some quite bizarre items have been confiscated. One officer tried to take a wild boar skin back to Germany, which would have contravened German regulations. Another soldier had packed a powerful set of bows and arrows.

Hard guys who care

● From Page 24

is more to returning than simply accepting a house. In this part of Bosnia, thousands of Muslims were systematically evicted and sent to the west as refugees. To use the chilling phrase coined in the war, the area was ethnically cleansed.

The Lancers' patrols watch out for the kind of intimidation which can dissuade nervous refugees from returning home. Serbian police have been known to set up checkpoints on the main roads, illegally stopping and fining Muslims for imaginary transgressions. It is a corrupt practice which the Lancers can counter by notifying the International Police Task Force, who are re-training and restructuring the local police forces.

If that option is not available, the imposing presence of the Scimitars can do the trick. Parked up against a checkpoint, the 30mm guns of the British armoured vehicles remind local police that SFOR is in the area to ensure fair play. They usually get the message across.

The questions on everyone's mind, not least those of the British soldiers, is: can the peace last when the red line is erased from the map, as, one day it should be?

"That can only be assessed when we go," said Capt Relph. "The vital message for the people here is that we can give them a secure environment to re-build bridges and their lives. But they've got to make a lasting peace for themselves."

Who dares ...

Going underground

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion
and Mike Weston

"OH YES," they said, "it's just a little cave." And, "Don't worry," they said, "there won't be any tight squeezes." And "Oh no, you won't get very wet ..."

My two guides from the Combined Services Caving Association, Ash Morris and Jim Carr, had sounded perfectly believable back on the surface, when we were surrounded by the lush meadows of the Mendips and warmed by the early spring sunshine. Peering down the fissure through which a babbling stream vanished and into which we were soon to do the same, I felt confident. Big mistake.

Now, half an hour and several hundred feet into our three-hour exploration of the cave system known by the undignified title of Swildon's Hole, their words had a mocking resonance. We were soaked to the skin by the small stream which, since leaving the surface, had become a raging and spiteful torrent competing with us for space in every tunnel. And I was fighting back an almost physical sensation of panic as I forced my too-bulky body into yet another funnel-like passage.

PEOPLE-FRIENDLY?

Surely it wasn't supposed to be like this. I wanted us to stumble into a *real* people-friendly cave, something like the nearby Wookey Hole, where we could link up with a coach party of aunts and uncles from Essex and admire the floodlit rock formations that from the right angles look like Mickey Mouse or St Paul's Cathedral.

But I dared not utter such thoughts. Ash and Jim, these masochistic adventurers into whose company I had fallen, were in their element and like the proverbial pigs in smelly stuff, they were loving it. Between waves of claustrophobia, it occurred to me that they had not been fibbing or fooling me about this hole. It was just that by their standards our expedition was really quite routine; even, for heaven's sake, tame!

For me this was certainly no picnic, but for them – slimmer, fitter and (as Terry, one of our two photographers, rather cruelly reminded me) younger – it was cucumber sandwiches all the way.

I would not be so rash as to say that I really began to enjoy it but at some stage, probably shortly after I realised that I

We get a touch of the subterranean homesick blues in deepest Somerset



Happier than pigs in the proverbial. Ash Morris (top) and Jim Carr compete for space with the raging torrent

could not get any wetter and that the constant movement was keeping me fairly warm, I began to control my fear, take a real interest, and even develop some technique. Hardly stylish, but with well-padded knees and elbows, a stout helmet and water-logged wellies I found that I could, more or less, bounce along. So what if I hit my head again? And if belly-slithering was called for, who cared? We weren't going to get any muddier.

Furthermore the rational side of my brain was starting to take over. I was pretty sure that I would get through the cracks, if

only because Terry, the photographer, had done so, and he is even larger than me. My unspoken motto became If in doubt, send the photographer first. I regretted this cynical approach (only briefly) when a wedged TC was heard to shout: "If someone wants to give my backside a push, I wouldn't complain."

After what seemed like miles of crawling, slithering and pushing, we popped out, like so many corks from a bottle, into a large cavern, the Great Avon Gallery. It was, I thought with pleasure, almost a Wookey Hole.

Sitting down to rest, I foolishly suggested to Ash that we must be near the end of the tunnel system. "You must be kidding." He smiled in the beam of my miner's lamp and, presumably, I frowned in his.

"We've only gone about 400 metres into the system and we're only a few hundred metres beneath the surface. It goes on for miles."

"We haven't even got to the waterfall yet," added Jim, grinning wildly into the beam of light from my forehead. "And then there's the Sump ..."

But the two potholers understood my confusion. Perception of space, distance, direction, even time, are distorted underground, and this can lead not only to confusion, but to catastrophe too.

"We've taken precautions," explained Ash. "I checked the weather to make sure that we won't be flooded, and told my wife where we were going, how many are in the party and when we expect to get back. She knows what to do." I hoped that Ash and his wife were getting on well.

The trouble is that caving is intrinsically dangerous, and like all such sports, the best that the experts can do is minimise the risks and be trained to cope if the worst comes to the worst. Jim knows only too well what it is like to experience an emergency underground. Just a year ago he had been exploring this same cave system when a member of another party fell and broke a leg in one of the deepest points. Jim and his colleagues scrambled to the



Above – "I call this meeting of the Caving Association to order." The group takes a breather several hundred metres beneath the West Country

Left – Jim Carr (left) gives our reporter the once-over before going underground

gallery. The others shared my enthusiasm. "Time for the waterfall," said Ash, disappearing down a tunnel like the white rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*. I did my best to follow him while the others brought up the rear.

The waterfall was as difficult as I had expected but also exciting and, because of the wet-warm phenomenon, not such an unpleasant experience. We had carried a small wire ladder from the surface and now the two experts flung it some 20ft over the precipice slightly to one side of the flow. Jim was down it in a flash, up to his waist in water and holding it for me as I climbed gingerly down.

A hundred metres further down on – it could have been 30 metres or 300, I suppose – we encountered another smaller waterfall. This time, without a ladder, we clambered down through the torrent, or most of us did. I slipped and fell 6ft into the water, going right under and emerging a second later spluttering.

Even I laughed, but I knew that it was

Fancy trying caving?

Caving is a cheap sport for Servicemen and women. By joining the Combined Services Caving Association (a sociable bunch, by all accounts) you can receive full training and participate in regular caving expeditions in Britain and elsewhere. Membership costs just £10 a year and expeditions are partly financed by the three Services.

For further information contact Flt Lt Ash Morris, the club secretary, on 01684 582042 or 01684 582724, or Flt Lt Jim Carr, membership secretary, on 01980 662930.

time for me to head for the warm sunlight of the outside world. I was getting tired, and the return scramble would involve a lot of hard work. Exhaustion, I knew, equals hypothermia, equals real trouble.

Ash and Jim had the grace not to try to persuade me to have a go at the ominous-sounding Sump, which as far as I could make out was the geological equivalent of a u-bend in a toilet. Another time. Maybe.

Meanwhile I shall dine out on my subterranean adventure, and try to explain the paradoxical enjoyment which I have only previously experienced while sailing aboard a square-rigged ship. On that occasion too there were periods of fear, discomfort, and wet. But it was also exciting, and, looking back on it, I would not have missed it for anything. The same goes for caving.

Issues

Everything you have ever wanted to know about Home Savings Allowance

A SERVICEMAN who tried to claim the Home Savings Allowance (HSA) as well as an advance under the Long Service Advance of Pay Scheme (LSAP) to buy a house was disappointed to learn that he had been misinformed.

He has been advised that the schemes are "mutually exclusive" and considered a double benefit, and he has had to find other ways to find the funds he needs.

To help clear up the rules concerning HSA, here are a few questions and answers.

How long can I save in HSA?

There is no limit, only a minimum savings period of five years or 60 payments to claim the allowance.

Can I withdraw a portion for other purposes?

No. Savings remaining after the house purchase can be used for other purposes but only savings used for house purchase will attract HSA.

Can I claim HSA and LSAP?

No. You may be entitled to LSAP for any further qualifying purchases.

Why has the rate of HSA reduced since the start of the scheme?

Because the Government has reduced MIRAS and HSA has had to reduce accordingly.

How can I claim HSA?

Complete form 1024B at your unit and send three copies to your financial institution.

How is it calculated?

You get £1 for every £3 saved as at

March 21, 1994; £1 for every £4 saved for your savings plus interest from April 1, 1994 to March 31, 1995; and £15 for every £85 saved from April 1, 1995 to the present. From April 1, 1998 the HSA rate changes to £1 for every £9 saved including interest.

Can I find out how much HSA I may have?

Yes. Write to Charon Tibbs with your account balances at March 31, 1994 and 1995 and to date. Her address is NPP Acs) 3E&F, Room 1037, Centurion Building, Grange Road, Gosport, Hants PO13 9XA (tel 01703 702520; mil 93844 2520).

Can I claim HSA after I leave the Service?

No. It's designed to help Service personnel into the housing market. Once personnel leave they are on the same footing as civilians, who have no access to such a scheme.

Can I claim HSA after the purchase completion date?

No. It's for house purchase only.

Can I apply before my 60th payment?

Yes, but funds will not be released until after the 60th payment has been made.

Can I use HSA to pay legal fees?

No.

Can I claim HSA if I marry somebody who is already a homeowner?

No, unless the property is sold prior to the marriage. The main objective of the scheme is to promote home ownership.

Time for a few Well Man clinics?

Ask Cari...

Cari's column looks at men's health. If you think Cari can help you, write to her in confidence, at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o Soldier

Dear Cari, MY husband has had a lump in his chest for a couple of months. It doesn't seem to be getting much bigger but I'm worried. He won't go to the doctor. He says I'm making a fuss about nothing. Do you think it might be serious? How can I make him go and ask? - Mrs B (UK).

Cari replies: Only a doctor can tell whether this lump is serious or not but any unusual lumps and bumps on any part of the body must be looked at. For years now women have been told to examine their bodies for changes in appearance which might indicate illnesses such as cancer. Men have been largely ignored.

Things have changed, though, and most young men take their health very seriously. No doctor is going to think your husband is making a fuss about nothing even if it turns out to be something simple.

I suspect your husband is afraid to go in case they find something frightening. Many people think that if they don't acknowledge a problem it will go away.

You could try reassuring him that you'll go with him, if he'd like you to, and suggest that he go to put your mind at rest.

Dear Cari, I know my husband is having chest pains at work but he won't say anything. He's got a very stressful job and he eats all the wrong things. I try and make him salads and food like that but he won't eat them. He drinks too much as well. I think he might have a heart attack. - Mrs P (UK).

Cari replies: First of all you must convince your husband to see the doctor about his chest pains. Frighten him if you have to. The chances are that they are the result of something simple: indigestion from all the fry-ups he makes himself, especially if he makes them at midnight after several pints. On the other hand they might be significant. Only a doctor can tell him.

Why don't you try buying him one of the new men's magazines (like *Men's Health* or *GQ Active*) in which sports stars and trendy men talk about health and fitness. He might laugh but I'll bet you'll catch him sneaking a look while

OVER the last few years the focus in the medical world has been on women and their needs. There are Well Woman clinics, screening programmes and numerous other provisions for the healthcare of women. I do feel that the time has come to highlight men's health. They, too, have special needs. Traditionally it has been up to women to "look after" their men; feed



Cari Roberts

Could the pair of you cut it down? I shouldn't worry too much about your husband's stress level at work unless he is troubled by it and worries so much that he can't "switch off" at home. Some people enjoy pressure - and they usually enjoy telling everyone about how stressed they are. The ones to worry about are the ones who worry in silence.

Dear Cari, I have recently broken up with my girlfriend and I wish I hadn't. I'm so fed up. I can't be bothered with anything and I don't go out any more. Everything seems to have gone wrong lately. My Mum died last year and lots of other things have happened. I just want to give up. I think I'm losing it. - Sgt R (BFG).

Cari comments:

them food they dislike because it is good for them and force them to consult the doctor when they are ill. Men have colluded in the conspiracy. Sifting through the magazines on offer to modern young men it is clear that the tide is turning. Today's

Cari replies: I know it's a cliché but everything always seems to fall apart at the same time. Your mum's death will have hit you hard and everything that has happened after that will have seemed like yet another blow.

It sounds to me as if you're depressed rather than a bit fed up. I think you ought to have a talk to your MO. He won't think any less of you for admitting that you are feeling overwhelmed. He'll actually think you're being very sensible in wanting to tackle the problem.

There are other things you can do to help yourself back on to your feet, emotionally. If you can force yourself into an exercise plan you'll feel the benefits. Exercise releases helpful substances into your body which will help to lift your mood. It'll be a battle to make yourself do the first few days but it will be worth it.

There are a lot of self-help books on the market. You might like to get hold of *Depression and How to Survive It* by Spike Milligan and Antony Clare published by Arrow. You will find that once you have turned the corner you'll be able to see your life from a more positive perspective.

You have achieved a lot in your life so far. Some bad things have happened to you but, like a bout of illness, this time will pass and you'll move on.

young man is taking responsibility for his health. He is taking an interest in diet and exercise and no longer needs a woman to look after him.

This suggests the need for a more equitable approach to health matters which might lead to as many Well Man clinics and screening programmes as there are for women. Let's hope so.

Other issues

Need a base in New York City? A reminder from the non-profit **Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' and Airmen's Club** that British Service personnel, current and retired, and their dependants, are welcome to use its "affordable accommodation". The address is 283 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10016 (between 36th and 37th Streets). Tel (212) 683-4354; fax (212) 683-4374. The club, a haven for Servicemen and women since 1919, is kept going by public donations.

Diary date: the **Army Families Federation (Germany)** conference will be held on June 19 at Herford. Key speakers are expected to include ministers and high-ranking officers.

A joint venture by RSME's Construction Engineer School and Bilston Community College has resulted in the opening of a learning centre at **Brompton Barracks**, Chatham, to provide staff and their families with access to vocational, educational and leisure learning.

The Woolwich has launched a **mortgage hotline** specially for Service personnel. Find out more on 0181 298 4400.

Lt Col Alex Grant has presented two computers to Upavon Primary School, Wiltshire, on behalf of **Upavon Garrison**, home to Headquarters Adjutant General (Personnel and Training Command). Soldiers and their families are also collecting Tesco computer coupons to put towards the school's own efforts to update their PCs.

Under an agreement with the Yorkshire-based Nidd Vale Group, **Naafi** will be responsible for marketing the full range of Daihatsu vehicles through 13 retail outlets in Germany. A new Naafi shop has been opened at Station Road, Tidworth Garrison.

A bright, friendly and informative educational video to help parents prepare young children for **primary school** is available from

Iron Bridge Film and Television on 0181 444 9574. Called *Getting Ready for School*, it lasts 58 minutes and costs £15.

Annington Homes has completed its 1,000th sale of houses bought from the MoD. Quarter No 1,000, sold to an RAF NCO and his family at the former RAF Finningley near Doncaster, is one of 2,400 properties declared surplus by the MoD.

A **Gulf Veterans' Illness** page on the MoD's web site has been launched to give up-to-date information on Gulf-related health issues. It is intended to help veterans, and anyone else, find out what the MoD is doing. Find it at: www.mod.uk/gulfwar/gvi.htm

A quarter fitted out for a disabled child is among more than 270 **new homes** to be built in Aldershot. Work has begun on the demolition of 413 quarters at Salamanca Park to make way for larger homes.



While Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land Command, visited HQ United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) at Rheindahlen, Lady Walker (seated, right) called on the local HIVE - Help, Information Voluntary Exchange - where Charlotte Oates (left) and Angela Keightley (centre) soon found work for their visitor. Behind them, Annabel Elliott studies pamphlets

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 0181 376 2144
Confidential support line:
 UK 0800 731 4880
 Germany 0800 1827 393
 Cyprus 080 91065
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
WRVS 01235 442954

SCHOOL REPORT: Windsor School at Rheindahlen provides a good quality education, according to a new report by the Office for Standards in Education. Overall progress of pupils is "very good".

Just get on with it!

Scholarly and spiritual soldier passes on some forthright views

Interview: Karen Moseley
Picture: Terry Champion

AS A 15-year-old schoolboy, Anthony Farrar-Hockley survived a week in the British Army during the Second World War before being found out, sent back to his mother in Devon, and told to behave himself.

Undaunted, he returned to the recruiting office at 17, lied about his age again, and enlisted as a private soldier in The Gloucestershire Regiment.

The determined teenager was already displaying the indomitable spirit that would, in the future, help him survive three years of brutal captivity during the Korean War and ultimately lead to his becoming Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Northern Europe and a knight of the realm.

To say that Gen Sir Anthony Heritage Farrar-Hockley retired from the Army in 1983 after a distinguished military career would be something of an understatement. He rose through the ranks to sergeant before being commissioned into the newly-formed Airborne Forces and was a major by the age of 21. He served all over the world, both as a regimental and staff officer, and was awarded a Military Cross as a company commander, a DSO as a captain in Korea, a bar to the DSO as a battalion commander in the Radfan, twice Mentioned in Dispatches, created an MBE in 1957, a KCB in 1977 and a Knight of the Grand Cross of the British Empire in 1982.

Ironically, he now says, had it not been for the war he would probably have never been accepted into the Army because his maths was so bad. As it was, an aptitude in calculus and logarithms did not figure highly in his climb up the military career ladder.

He is now best known as a man of letters – he holds a master's degree in literature from Exeter College, Oxford, and has written ten books, which include two weighty tomes on the official history of the Korean War. He is also known for his forthright views on military current affairs which he airs regularly on radio and television. On the recent anniversary of Bloody Sunday he spent eight hours broadcasting through the day. "I like to feel that the

Army's view is represented, and that I can say something that is difficult for people who are still serving to say," he said.

"I've had over 40 years' experience in the Army and I've deliberately kept myself up-to-date as to what's going on. It annoys me when the Army's case goes by default, sometimes due to the ignorance of people getting up and banging on about things they simply know nothing about."

There is little of the Army that Gen Sir Farrar-Hockley does not know about. He served with the 6th Parachute Battalion during the Second World War, parachuting into Italy, France and Greece. When the Glosters asked for him back he went willingly, and was adjutant when the battalion moved to Korea in 1951. After Staff College he opted to return to The Parachute Regiment where he stayed, although continued his association with the Glosters by becoming Colonel of the Regiment in 1978.

"It's no good saying the Army is like any other institution in the state, such as teaching, medicine or accountancy," he said. "It is nothing of the sort. It is absolutely unique as a profession, aimed at people being prepared to kill other people if their homeland is threatened."

PERSONAL MOTTO

If Gen Farrar-Hockley had a personal motto it would probably be "Just get on with it." It is something he has done all his life, and has no patience for people who bemoan their lot and have regrets about the past.

There is also a strong spiritual side to this scholarly soldier, and he has an unshakeable faith in God which saw him through some of the darkest times.

"I am a poor Christian, but a persistent aspirant," he said, smiling. "I practise, but the results are pretty poor, although I would certainly hoist my flag with the Christian community."

In his book *The Edge of the Sword*, a personal account of the Korean War, he described the one, and thankfully only, period of torture he suffered while a prisoner. Having been beaten repeatedly he was tied to a chair which was kicked over on its back. A towel was put over his face and cold water poured over it.

"If they are not careful, I thought, they're

going to choke me," he wrote. "And then, instantly, comprehension followed. That was exactly what they intended to do. I think I have never been so frightened in my whole life. It was such a simple and effective torture... My mouth and nostrils began to fill with water. I realised I was dying as I shook my head from side to side in a last despairing effort to throw off the clinging towel-mask."

But the moment he became unconscious he was revived with lighted cigarettes applied to his back, and the whole gruesome process started again. It lasted for seven days.

"Some time on the seventh day, I realised that I had taken almost all that my mind and body could take. I prayed very hard; and I think my faith in God was never stronger. Within an hour, my circumstances improved."

It was an experience that would have crushed a lesser man, but Gen Farrar-Hockley survived three years as a prisoner and never gave up trying to escape, much to the irritation of his captors.

"One has to get on with life, that's all there is to it," he said. The phrase was becoming familiar. "But I think one has to recognise that mind over matter has a lot to do with it. We are creatures of the spirit as well as of the physical world around us,

and I have felt the strength of that all my life. But it depends what you are expecting. You have to recognise life can be cruel.

"What you need to do is to ask for the strength to carry yourself through something very painful, like the death of someone you are completely intertwined with."

Gen Farrar-Hockley was speaking from sad personal experience. Pat, his beloved wife of 36 years and mother of his two sons, died after a long battle with cancer while he was C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe based in Norway.

"It was the most terrible thing that's ever happened to me in my life," he said quietly, the grief still apparent. "We hoped she'd beaten it, but she hadn't and there it was."

He admits her death affected him deeply, but typically: "I just had to get on with things."

Three years later he married his present wife Linda who was, and still is, his researcher. She worked for him, married and unmarried, for 17 years on the history of the Korean War.

His blunt manner has earned him a reputation for outspokenness, which one suspects he relishes. He fought long and hard against the amalgamation of The Gloucestershire Regiment, and spoke out

strongly against it at the time. "I felt intense disappointment; they were a marvellous regiment," he said.

"The tercentenary parade at Gloucester docks was unbelievably moving. The CO said: 'May I have your permission to march off for the last time', and when the battalion marched off the last file was a colour sergeant on his own – the tears were rolling down his cheeks."

But once it had happened his reaction was typical. "I fought hard against it, but once the amalgamation had taken place one had to get on with it."

He has strong views on a number of issues which affect the Army today – an Army which, he is keen to point out, is still first-rate.

"One of the great things about it is that it has adapted itself very well to the modern world without losing too much of its essentials. However there are dangers of too great an adaptation which is pressed forward by well-meaning politicians who think they understand things they do not.

"An example is the idea of having women in the Infantry and Armoured Corps. There are lots of things that women can do better than men in the Armed Forces and we need their skills.

Left – Although retired Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley remains deeply involved with the Army

But the conditions that exist in the battle area when you're fighting through are awful, squalid and dangerous. You cannot change the attitude of men to women. It's hard enough for a single sex to be doing it, but having women among them needing, in the opinions of men, some special circumstances to take care of them, just adds to the difficulty.

"There are people who feel the existing hierarchical system in the Armed Forces is out of date. That's because they don't understand. Why is it that military hospitals have been a by-word for efficiency compared with many NHS hospitals? It's because there is an understanding of where people's responsibilities lie."

DISGRUNTLED VIEWS

Neither does Gen Farrar-Hockley have any time for people within the Armed Forces making their disgruntled views public.

"You cannot renege on agreements undertaken. We all know that. When I was serving I had to submit all my books to the Army for vetting – I never had any difficulty but it was something that had to be done."

"You eat the Queen's salt and you obey the Queen's regulations. It's no good suddenly saying: 'Oh, but my conscience tells me something else'. To hell with your bloody conscience – get out of the Army."

Retirement has not meant a quiet life for the general. Apart from his broadcasting and book writing – he is currently working on the diaries of Jean, Lady Hamilton, wife of Gen Sir Ian Hamilton – he regularly visits Korea giving lectures and seminars, and is president of the UK Korea Forum which is made up of industrialists, bankers, politicians and educationalists from both countries who meet once a year.

"The Koreans are very grateful to us," he said. "I've come to realise that our help in the war meant a great deal to those people, particularly when they saw what the regime in the north was like."

"I never cease to rejoice in the fact that the south has made everything worthwhile. It's not often you can say without reservation that a war was worth fighting, but by God, that one was. We saved those people from enslavement."

Without a doubt Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley has achieved much, but recently he saw one of his lifetime ambitions realised. After many years of waiting he has become a member of the MCC.

Unit spotlight

OPEN WIDE

Busy Gütersloh practice looks after 2,500 Service personnel and their dependants

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Terry Champion

WALK up the steps of Mansergh House, under the sign proclaiming the Salvation Army Red Shield, British Forces Club, at 26 Regiment RA, and you will pass through the doors leading to the dental centre at Gütersloh: Detachment No 1 Dental Group, Royal Army Dental Corps.

Lt Cdr Arnie Badami RN presides over the tri-Service centre. "On full strength there will be two dentists and one orthodontist, a hygienist, two civilian nurses and two corporals," he said. "We get the full range of dental problems. We average about 25-30 patients a day."

With schools nearby, children are almost always present at the centre. The practice is always busy, and with pre-Bosnia check-ups sometimes numbering more than 70 in one day, life can get hectic.

"I will take wisdom teeth out here. It may sound strange but I enjoy it. It's a bit more skilful than just doing fillings," said the 29-year-old naval officer.

The Army has always been a reflection of society. In dentistry, the same applies. Treatments are varied – some straightforward, some complicated – and all are available for dependants, wives and husbands. New equipment has been brought in to bring the practice up to date.

"We have just taken delivery of a state-of-the-art X-ray machine, which provides an orthopantomogram," explained Lt Cdr Badami. "That provides a full X-ray of the entire jaw-line, top and bottom. This is very useful, especially when treating children, as we can now see all the developing

teeth and spot problems early.

"Previously we had to identify the problem then act when the teeth came through. Now you can avoid the problems and the orthodontist can forward-plan for treatment."

Fifteen years ago Fiona Brown attended a careers convention at her secondary school. She met some QARANC nurses and looked at a life in the British Army. After qualifying, she joined up.

Today LCpl Brown is a dental hygienist. She sees 18 to 22 patients a day and is in Gütersloh one day a week as part of her circuit.

"I show patients where they are going wrong, correct any brushing techniques and advise if their diet is harming their dental health," she explained.

"Soldiers tend to drink a lot of sugar-based drinks. They have a lot of sugar in their tea or coffee and if they are on exercise they may not spend as much time on the brushing side, and that can harm their teeth."

But it is not just the soldiers who benefit from her advice.

"I visit children's schools, mainly during National Smile Week, which is a good time to really reinforce the preventive measures of dentistry, get into the schools and have a chat with children from pre-school right up to secondary school level. I go all over Germany, visiting Brownie packs, Badgers, Cubs, youth clubs and stalls at the Rhine summer shows. I'm always busy."

The twenty-six year-old muses on the fact that she chose a different career path from most corporals in the Army.

"It was a natural progression within the Dental Corps to go from a dental auxiliary to either practice management or hygiene. I chose hygiene. I like meeting patients and caring for them. I'm really glad to be

able to do this in the Army as the training and course work are superb. I have been able to gain most certificates in diet and nutrition, radiology and dental health education too, all of which assists the patients. Every day here is different."

Karen Stuberfield, the receptionist, was previously a dental nurse in the RAF. Her husband is Cpl Bryan Stuberfield, a Lynx pilot with 661 Sqn, 1 Regiment AAC,

based in Gütersloh. Since they married she has managed to find a job in the local dental centre wherever they have been posted.

"I was originally employed to work with Lt Col Phil Simms, the specialist," she explained. "He travels all over Germany seeing Service personnel who require orthodontic work. A military nurse was posted in and I moved into the office and the surgery. We are responsible for 1,200 children, plus 600 troops and dependants. Our patient list is around 2,400. We take it in turns to assist in the surgery and work the reception desk."

She looked at the reception room slowly filling with patients.

"All dental treatment is free for serving personnel but families and dependants have to pay the same rates as the NHS. They get the same benefits, so the children don't have to pay."

Assisting in the surgery was Lisa Holmes, a qualified dental nurse for five years before marrying into the Army.

"My husband is Rfn Duane Holmes with the Royal Green Jackets in Paderborn. I commute every day but I really enjoy it here. I work five days a week and I refer patients to Fiona, the dental hygienist, if required. Every day and every person is different."

As the last patient left, Lt Cdr Badami sat in the surgery with the other members of the practice. "My father was an anaesthetist who told me not to go into medicine. So it was either pharmacy or dentistry, and dentistry appealed."

He looked around the cream-tiled room, smiled and heaved a sigh.

"I guess I made the right choice."



Dental nurse Lisa Holmes, Lt Cdr Arnie Badami and dental hygienist LCpl Fiona Brown, with receptionist Karen Stuberfield, nearest camera, are caught during a quiet moment in a normally hectic tri-Service dental centre



Kitstop

Pocket-sized weather station

SAILORS, marksmen, mountain climbers, hill-walkers, parachutists and pilots of gliders and powered aircraft – indeed all sorts of outdoor enthusiasts – need to know the strength of the wind. The rest of us just want to know because we have a British obsession with the weather, writes **Graham Bound**.

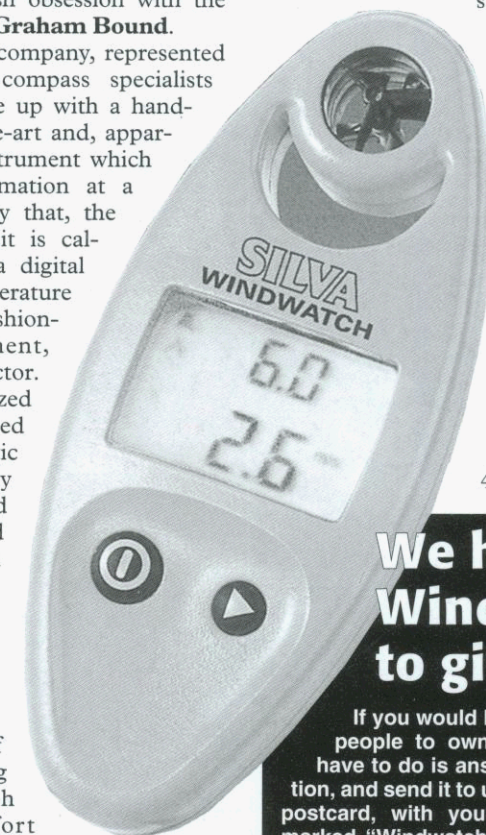
Now a Swiss company, represented in Britain by compass specialists Silva, have come up with a hand-held, state-of-the-art and, apparently, robust instrument which gives this information at a glance. Not only that, the Windwatch, as it is called, also gives a digital read-out of temperature and that now fashionable measurement, the wind-chill factor.

The pocket-sized instrument, housed in a yellow plastic casing, simply needs to be held up into the wind briefly and will give temperature and wind-chill readings from minus 20C to plus 55C, and winds speeds in any number of units, including knots, mph, kph and the Beaufort Scale. Not only that; the instrument also calculates maximum, and average wind speeds after a given period.

Of course some users will also need to know from which direction the wind

is blowing, so the lack of an integral pocket compass is perhaps a weakness.

Nevertheless, this is an innovative piece of kit. It weighs just 42 grams, is waterproof, floats and is powered by a 3-volt replaceable battery which should give around four years of life. It will be available from specialist outdoor retailers from early April, at a recommended price of £67.38. If you want to know the name of your nearest dealer, call Silva (UK) Ltd on 01784 471721.



We have one Windwatch to give away!

If you would like to be one of the first people to own a Windwatch, all you have to do is answer the following question, and send it to us in an envelope or on a postcard, with your address, and clearly marked "Windwatch competition". The first correct answer out of the bag will win.

What is the name of the scale of wind strength, normally used by mariners, which ranges from 0 to 17?

Meanwhile, a report for gunners

A NEW portable weather forecasting kit designed and produced in Finland has been bought by the British Army and is being used operationally by Royal Artillery units in Bosnia.

The Vaisala mobile weather station, which packs into the back of a short-wheel-base Land Rover, uses a traditional-style helium-inflated met balloon to lift a state-of-the-art package of instruments and electronics to a height of 14km. From there, facts on pressure

and temperature relevant to the area of ground operations are relayed to a computer base-station and interpreted by gunners trained in basic meteorology.

The new weather forecasting units give the gunners an enhanced degree of self-reliance. Operated by soldiers from 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery, the system will be heavily tested during April's firepower exercise Dynamic Response in Bosnia.

Help for old and faithful friends

Pensions of just under £8 a month keep the wolf from the door in Nepal's harsh and destitute hill areas

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE old woman clutched the rupee notes in her hand and, unable to stop smiling, almost ran out of the Gurkha Welfare Centre. She had walked for several days to pick up the pension she was entitled to as the widow of a former Gurkha soldier.

Although it would be considered a pittance in this country, one could see from her face that this money meant literally the difference between survival and destitution.

She was just one of many who turned up at the two-storey building in the West Nepal village of Syangja to collect money that would help her to purchase the necessities of life for another three months, before she would once again make the long trek to pick up her next allowance.

Waiting with her were old soldiers, some over 80 years of age, who had fallen on hard times and were also eligible for a welfare pension.

Syangja Welfare Centre is one of 24 in Nepal which look after more than 20,000 ex-Gurkhas and their dependants.

For 180 years these indomitable hill men have served alongside British soldiers, winning 13 Victoria Crosses and serving in all major conflicts of the 20th century.

Gurkhas are entitled to a service pension after 15 years, (unlike the British soldier who has to serve 22 years) but the great majority of Second World War veterans did not serve long enough to qualify. The problem was compounded by the Brigade of Gurkhas reducing in size from 16,000 to 9,500 in the 1960s, which also left many unable to complete the full 15 years.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust, a charity supported by the Ministry of Defence, was founded in 1969. Its aim is to provide support for soldiers returning to a country where there are no medical or welfare facilities at all in the hills from where they were traditionally recruited.

Life outside the towns in this beautiful but desperately poor country can still be

"As I write these words, my thoughts return to you who were my comrades, the stubborn and indomitable peasants of Nepal. Once more I hear the laughter with which you greeted every hardship. Once more I see you in your bivouacs or about your camp fires, on forced marches or in trenches, now shivering with wet and cold, now scorched by a pitiless and burning sun. Uncomplaining you endure hunger and thirst and wounds; and at the last your unwavering lines disappear into the smoke and wrath of battle."

"Bravest of the brave, most generous of the generous, never had a country more faithful friends than you." – Prof Sir Ralph Turner MC, who served with the Gurkhas during the First World War.



incredibly harsh. Water for some villages is half a day's walk away, there is no subsidised housing, no national health service or unemployment benefit.

Today the Gurkha Welfare Scheme (GWS), the field arm of the trust in Nepal, not only provides welfare pensions for the needy but also operates medical centres, gives education grants for children of ex-Gurkhas and hardship grants to alleviate destitution following natural disasters such as earthquakes, fires and landslides – of which there are many in Nepal.

To help hill communities, GWS has built 36 schools, completed 443 projects to provide healthy drinking water to villages, and constructed 40 bridges.

Until two years ago pension treks were carried out by young officers going into the

hills to pay pensioners who were either too remote or unable to travel to collect their money. Now pensions are paid in the hills through 21 area welfare centres. This, the trust hopes, will provide a more cost-effective service and allow each area welfare officer to monitor pensioners in his area.

Those who qualify for a welfare pension have to be over 55, have served under the British Crown, and are means-tested. At the end of 1997 there were 11,321 welfare pensioners receiving 750 Nepalese rupees a month – just under £8. This is enough to provide basic food and "keep the wolf from the door", as Lt Col Chris Jeffery, the Brigade Welfare Officer based in the Gurkha camp at Pokhara, described it.

"Our aim is to alleviate hardship and distress," he said. "Life in the hills is very hard and some of the old soldiers can become destitute because they cannot work their land any longer."

"We provide free primary medical care for every ex-Serviceman. Last year we added dentistry, and this year we are also doing ear, nose and throat work. We can refer them to a doctor and if they need specialist help we will pay up to 1,000 rupees for the treatment. We treated 58,000 patients last year, and that is very satisfying."

"The old soldiers are very grateful, along with their widows. If we did not give them money they would probably die."

The MoD pays all the administration costs and salaries for the GWS. The rest of the money comes from legacies and charitable donations. In addition to the UK-based trust there are also Gurkha Welfare Trusts in both Canada and USA, which date back to allegiances formed during the two world wars when Gurkhas fought alongside American and Canadian troops.

The area welfare centres have been built with funds from the Gurkha Welfare Trust of Canada, and the medical centres are paid for by the Gurkha Welfare Trust (USA). The American trust is essentially one family, Ellis and Rosa McDonald from



Years of toil and harsh living conditions are etched on the faces of those waiting for welfare pensions

Delaware. Their generosity pays for all the drugs and equipment in the medical centres, as well as doctors' fees and motor bikes for the area welfare officers.

A wealthy family of philanthropists in Hong Kong, the Kadoories, have also donated large sums of money to the Gurkhas. The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association assists with the small farms each welfare centre runs, using the latest techniques and products for growing vegetables and keeping livestock.

Any ex-soldier can apply to the welfare trust for community aid to help his village. It could be something as simple as furniture for the village school or a more complex scheme such as providing a water supply or a new bridge.

"We are improving life in the villages to an immeasurable degree," Lt Col Jeffery said. "When a project is started, the social side is arranged over a year ahead. We create a scheme which they then take over and maintain themselves."

Each rural water supplies project has a Gurkha sponsor. The whole community is involved and the village has to set up a water and sanitation management committee. Certain criteria have to be met: there should be no more than seven houses to one tap stand and no one should have to

walk more than 150 metres on the flat, or 50 metres on a hill, to get the water.

"The community is taken through their obligations and the agreement at length before we go ahead with a project," Lt Col Jeffery pointed out. "They have a great



A Gurkha widow provides proof of identity before being given her welfare pension

input in the decision on where the tap stands should go. We try and teach them to stand on their own feet once the project is up and running and encourage them to build latrines and generally improve the sanitation of the village."

After a year the water is tested to check that the flow is still sufficient. Each project is designed to last at least 20 years.

Locally-employed labour is used for many of the schemes. When schools are built, highly technical plans are drawn up and detailed costings are made.

"Everything is costed down to the last screw," Lt Col Jeffery said. "We check the prices of portering, storage, the different types of wood – everything."

The village will contribute ten per cent towards the cost of each major construction scheme. The project supervisor is usually an ex-soldier.

The welfare aid, pensions and remittances are vital in keeping some sort of economic stability in the rural areas of Nepal. But more importantly, the gallant old soldiers – the "bravest of the brave" – are assured that the country they served so well has not forgotten them.

● For further information on the trust contact: The Gurkha Welfare Trust, 3rd Floor, 88 Baker Street, London W1M 2AX.

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1998 PAY SCALES

SOLDIER

Special free supplement

Plus allowances
and charges

SENIOR OFFICERS

Rank	Range	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
General (CDS only)	8	363.29	368.64
	7	299.87	304.28
	6	290.68	290.68
Lieutenant General	5	222.17	230.88
Formerly level 2 middle	4	216.93	216.93
Formerly level 1 lower	4	216.93	216.93
Major General	3	194.51	200.24
	3	191.74	200.24
	2	191.74	194.56
	1	190.35	190.35

There is no X factor in the above rates.

OFFICERS – MAIN SCALE

Includes male & female officers of the R Irish (HSFT) serving on the revised financial terms of service introduced on 21/4/77 & officers of the R Irish (HSPT)

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
2nd Lt (UC)	On Entry	23.44	23.84
	+1 *	26.91	27.37
	+2 *	30.21	30.73
	+3 *	32.98	33.54
2nd Lt (SSLC)	On commissioning	30.65	31.17
	After 9 months	32.74	33.30
2nd Lt		40.88	41.58
Lt	On appointment	54.05	54.98
	+1	55.47	56.42
	+2	56.89	57.86
	+3	58.30	59.30
	+4	59.72	60.74
Capt	On appointment	68.91	70.09
	+1	70.78	71.99
	+2	72.64	73.89
	+3	74.51	75.79
	+4	76.38	77.69
	+5	78.24	79.59
	+6	80.11	81.49
Maj	On appointment	87.38	88.88
	+1	89.55	91.08
	+2	91.71	93.28
	+3	93.87	95.48
	+4	96.03	97.68
	+5	98.20	99.88
	+6	100.36	102.08
	+7	102.52	104.28
Special List Lt Col		120.86	122.93
Lt Col	On appointment/under 19 years service	123.28	125.39
	2/19 in rank/ service	126.52	128.69
	4/21 in rank/ service	129.76	131.99
	6/23 in rank/ service	133.01	135.29
	8/25 in rank/ service	136.25	138.59
Col	On appointment	143.28	145.74
	+2	147.05	149.58
	+4	150.83	153.42
	+6	154.60	157.26
	+8	158.38	161.10
Brig		175.86	178.88

*These rates include an education grant of £6.21 a day, in accordance with Article 630 of the Pay Warrant 1964.
UC = University Cadet. SSLC = Short Service Limited Commission

OFFICERS – REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

Includes Officers of R Irish (HSFT) serving on revised financial terms of service introduced 21/4/77

Years	Daily rates	
	1/4/98	1/12/98
	£	£
15 years & over		
Captain		
On appointment/commission	83.86	85.30
+1	85.16	86.62
+2	86.42	87.91
+3	87.69	89.19
+4	88.95	90.48
+5	90.22	91.77
+6	91.48	93.05
+8	92.75	94.33

OFFICERS – SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

Lieutenants & captains only
Includes officers of R Irish (HSFT) serving on revised financial terms of service introduced 21/4/77

Effective from April 1, 1998

Years of soldier service from age 18	Daily rates		
	<12	12-15	15>
	£	£	£
On appointment/ commission	76.02	79.95	83.86
+1	77.98	81.91	85.16
+2	79.95	83.86	86.42
+3	81.91	85.16	87.69
+4	83.86	86.42	88.95
+5	85.16	87.69	90.22
+6	86.42	88.95	91.48
+8	87.69	90.22	92.75
+10	88.95	91.48	92.75
+12	90.22	92.75	92.75
+14	91.48	92.75	92.75
+16	92.75	92.75	92.75

Effective from December 1, 1998

Years of soldier service from age 18	Daily rates		
	<12	12-15	15>
	£	£	£
On appointment/ commission	77.32	81.32	85.30
+1	79.32	83.31	86.62
+2	81.32	85.30	87.91
+3	83.31	86.62	89.19
+4	85.30	87.91	90.48
+5	86.62	89.19	91.77
+6	87.91	90.48	93.05
+8	89.19	91.77	94.34
+10	90.48	93.05	94.34
+12	91.77	94.34	94.34
+14	93.05	94.34	94.34
+16	94.34	94.34	94.34

WELBEXIAN OFFICER CADETS

Rates payable to Cadets joining RMCS
Effective from September 1, 1998

Year	Daily rates	
	1/12/98	£
1	21.89	
2	31.55	
3	34.11	

OFFICERS – ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT

Rank/Service Years	Daily Rates	
	1/4/98	1/12/98
	£	£
Chaplains Classes 4 (Capt), 3 (Maj) and 2 (Lt Col)		
On appointment	68.91	70.09
+2	73.98	75.25
+4	79.05	80.41

+6	84.12	85.57
+8	89.19	90.72
+10	94.26	95.88
+12	99.33	101.03
+14	104.40	106.19
+16	109.47	111.34
+18	114.54	116.50
+20	119.61	121.66
+22	124.67	126.81
+24	129.76	131.99
+26	134.83	137.15

Chaplains Class 1 (Col)

On appointment under 24 yrs service	129.76	131.99
2/24 yrs in rank/service	134.83	137.15
Principal Chaplain (Col)	143.28	145.74
Deputy Chaplain General (Brig)	150.83	153.42
Chaplain General (Maj Gen)	175.86	178.88

VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service years	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
Captain and Major	On appointment	68.91	70.09
	+1	73.80	75.06
	+3	78.68	80.03
	+5	83.57	85.00
	+7	88.45	89.97
	+9	93.34	94.94
	+11	98.20	99.88
	+13	103.25	105.03
	+15	108.36	110.23
	+17	113.48	115.43
	+19	118.59	120.63
Lt Col	On appointment*	128.05	130.25
	+2 *	132.15	134.42
	+4 *	136.25	138.59
Colonel	On appointment	143.28	145.74
	+2	147.05	149.58
	+4	150.83	153.42
	+6	154.60	157.26
	+8	158.38	161.10
Brigadier		175.86	178.88

*Captains and Majors who on 31/3/94 were paid at the former "after 23, 25 & 27 years' service" points will remain at these points on reserved rights.

SOLDIERS – SCALE RATES Effective from April 1, 1998

Rank	Class	Band	A	B	C	
			£	£	£	
Pte	4	1	25.66	25.96	26.41	
		3	1	28.74	29.04	29.49
			2	33.36	33.66	34.11
	2	3	38.49	38.79	39.24	
		1	32.13	32.43	32.88	
		2	36.79	37.09	37.54	
	1	3	41.92	42.22	42.67	
		1	34.94	35.24	35.69	
		2	39.59	39.89	40.34	
		3	44.71	45.01	45.46	
LCpl	3	1	34.94	35.24	35.69	
		2	39.59	39.89	40.34	
		3	44.71	45.01	45.46	
	2	1	37.36	37.66	38.11	
		2	42.02	42.32	42.77	
		3	47.58	47.88	48.33	
	1	1	40.18	40.48	40.93	
		2	44.86	45.16	45.61	
		3	50.40	50.70	51.15	
Cpl	2	1	42.98	43.28	43.73	
		2	47.63	47.93	48.38	
		3	53.18	53.48	53.93	
	1	1	46.14	46.44	46.89	
		2	50.77	51.07	51.52	
		3	56.32	56.62	57.07	
Sgt	4	50.74	51.04	51.49		
	5	55.79	56.09	56.54		
	6	61.30	61.60	62.05		
	SSgt	4	53.66	53.96	54.41	
5		58.69	58.99	59.44		
6		64.23	64.53	64.98		

WO2	7	70.88	71.18	71.63
	4	57.37	57.67	58.12
	5	62.42	62.72	63.17
	6	69.21	69.51	69.96
	7	76.02	76.32	76.77
WO1	4	61.18	61.48	61.93
	5	66.21	66.51	66.96
	6	73.11	73.41	73.86
	7	79.89	80.19	80.64

Rank	Class	Band	A	B	C
			£	£	£
Pte	4	1	26.10	26.40	26.85
		1	29.37	29.67	30.12
		2	34.09	34.39	34.84
	3	3	39.33	39.63	40.08
		1	32.83	33.13	33.55
		2	37.59	37.89	38.34
	2	3	42.83	43.13	43.58
		1	35.70	36.00	36.45
		2	40.45	40.75	41.20
LCpl	3	3	45.68	45.98	46.43
		1	35.70	36.00	36.45
		2	40.45	40.75	41.20
	2	3	45.68	45.98	46.43
		1	38.00	38.30	38.75
		2	42.75	43.05	43.50
	1	3	48.40	48.70	49.15
		1	40.88	41.18	41.63
		2	45.63	45.93	46.38
Cpl	2	3	51.27	51.57	52.02
		1	43.72	44.02	44.47
		2	48.45	48.75	49.20
	1	3	54.10	54.40	54.85
		1	46.94	47.24	47.69
		2	51.65	51.95	52.40
	Sgt	3	57.29	57.59	58.04
		4	51.62	51.92	52.37
		5	56.75	57.05	57.50
SSgt	6	62.35	62.65	63.10	
	4	54.58	54.88	55.33	
	5	59.70	60.00	60.45	
	6	65.33	65.63	66.08	
WO2	7	72.10	72.40	72.85	
	4	58.36	58.66	59.11	
	5	63.50	63.80	64.25	
	6	70.41	70.71	71.16	
WO1	7	77.33	77.63	78.08	
	4	62.23	62.53	62.98	
	5	67.36	67.66	68.11	
	6	74.37	74.67	75.12	
	7	81.27	81.57	82.02	

**All categories, including young soldiers, but
excluding officer cadets**

Age	Daily rates	
	1/4/98	1/12/98
	£	£
aged under 17	15.99	16.26
17 but under 17½	19.40	19.73
17½ in adult post	25.66	26.10

Rank	Daily rates	
	1/4/98	1/12/98
Officer Cadet on entry	£28.69	£29.18

Rank	Class	Daily rates	
		1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
Pte	4	24.03	24.45
	1	32.73	33.45
LCpl	1	37.65	38.31
Cpl	1	43.23	43.99
Sgt		47.54	48.38
SSgt		50.28	51.15

Rank		A	B	C
		£	£	£
Pte B	19 and under	25.66	25.96	26.41
	20	25.66	25.96	26.41
	21 and over	25.66	25.96	26.41
Pte A		34.94	35.24	35.69
LCpl		40.18	40.48	40.93
Cpl		50.77	51.07	51.52
Sgt		55.79	56.09	56.54
SSgt		58.69	58.99	59.44
WO2		69.21	69.51	69.96
WO1		79.89	80.19	80.64

Pte B	19 and under	26.10	26.40	26.85
	20	26.10	26.40	26.85
	21 and over	26.10	26.40	26.85
Pte A		35.70	36.00	36.45
LCpl		40.88	41.18	41.63
Cpl		51.65	51.95	52.40
Sgt		56.75	57.05	57.50
SSgt		59.70	60.00	60.45
WO2		70.41	70.71	71.16
WO1		81.27	81.57	82.02

Year Rank	9	12	15	18	22
	£	£	£	£	£
Pte	0.87	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22
LCpl	0.87	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22
Cpl	0.87	1.22	1.48	1.48	1.48
Sgt	1.04	1.48	1.83	2.17	2.17
SSgt	1.04	1.48	1.83	2.51	2.51
WO2	1.04	1.48	1.83	2.51	2.87
WO1	1.04	1.48	1.83	2.51	3.29

Pte	0.88	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24
LCpl	0.88	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24
Cpl	0.88	1.24	1.51	1.51	1.51
Sgt	1.06	1.51	1.86	2.21	2.21
SSgt	1.06	1.51	1.86	2.55	2.55
WO2	1.06	1.51	1.86	2.55	2.92
WO1	1.06	1.51	1.86	2.55	3.35

<i>Officer pilots and flying instructors</i>	
<i>Effective from April 1, 1998</i>	<i>£ £</i>
	<i>Army flying pay reserve band</i>

Qualified Aircraft Comdr, 2nd Lt, Maj & Lt Col with less then 6 yrs in rank		
Initial rate	9.89	
Middle rate	16.60	
Top rate	25.08	19.52
Lt Col after 6 yrs	23.74	19.52
Lt Col after 8 yrs	22.33	19.52
Col on appointment	20.93	19.52
Col after 2 yrs	19.52	18.15
Col after 4 yrs	18.15	16.07
Col after 6 yrs	16.07	13.96
Col after 8 yrs	13.96	11.87
Brigadier	8.36	7.11

Qualified as pilot	£	£
		<i>Army flying pay reserve band</i>
2nd Lt, Maj & Lt Col with less than 6 yrs in rank		
Initial rate	4.90	
Middle rate	10.79	
Top rate	12.70	10.79

Qualified Aircraft Comdr, 2nd Lt, Maj & Lt Col with less than 6 yrs in rank			
Initial rate	10.06		
Middle rate	16.88		
Top rate	25.51	19.86	
Lt Col after 6 yrs	24.14	19.86	
Lt Col after 8 yrs	22.71	19.86	
Col on appointment	21.29	19.86	
Col after 2 yrs	19.86	18.46	
Col after 4 yrs	18.46	16.34	
Col after 6 yrs	16.34	14.20	
Col after 8 yrs	14.20	12.07	
Brigadier	8.51	7.23	

2nd Lt, Maj & Lt Col with less than 6 yrs in rank		
Initial rate	4.98	
Middle rate	10.98	
Top rate	12.92	10.98

Qualified Aircraft Commander			
Initial rate		9.89	
Middle rate	(1)	16.60	
Top rate	(2)	25.08	19.52
Qualified as Pilot			
Initial rate		4.90	
Middle rate	(3)	10.79	
Top rate	(4)	12.70	10.79

Qualified Aircraft Commander			
Initial rate		10.06	
Middle rate	(1)	16.88	
Top rate	(2)	25.51	19.86
Qualified as Pilot			
Initial rate		4.98	
Middle rate	(3)	10.98	
Top rate	(4)	12.92	10.98

Initial rate	4.90	
Middle rate	10.79	
Top rate	12.70	10.79

Initial rate	4.98	
Middle rate	10.98	
Top rate	12.92	10.98

Qualified Parachutist	3.74	
Assistant Parachutist		
Jumping Instructor	5.38	4.03

Qualified Parachutist	3.81	
Assistant Parachutist		
Jumping Instructor	5.47	4.10

	Lower	Higher
All officers and WO1	16.54	23.18
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	13.28	19.88
Cpl and below	10.78	17.37

All officers and WO1	16.83	23.58
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	13.51	20.22
Cpl and below	10.97	17.67

ADDITIONAL PAY

continued

Divers (all ranks)	Category	1/4/98	1/12/98
		£	£
ACAD	1	2.85	2.89
UDS:Army	2	5.74	5.84
AAD	3	8.20	8.34
ADS	4	13.95	14.19
ADI	4	13.95	14.19
Gurkha Service			
Lt Col and above		5.25	5.25
Major		4.58	4.58
Capt		3.90	3.90
Lt/2nd Lt		3.30	3.30
Gurkha Language			
Lower rate		0.98	0.99
Higher rate		0.56	0.57
Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London)			
Basic rate		2.79	2.84
Longer Separated Service allowance			
Basic rate		4.08	4.15
Middle rate		5.61	5.71
Higher rate		7.65	7.78
Longer Service at Sea Bonus			
2 years but under 5 years		3.12	3.17
5 years but under 10 years		5.24	5.33
10 years and over		6.48	6.59
Northern Ireland Resident Supplement (NIRS)			
		4.49	4.57

OTHER MINOR FORMS OF ADDITIONAL PAY

Work in unpleasant conditions			
Soldiers only		0.65	0.67
Work of an objectionable nature			
All ranks			
Basic rate		4.20	4.28
Higher rate		12.44	12.65
Experimental			
All ranks per test		1.88	1.91
Royal Logistic Corps, Helicopter Crews			
All ranks		3.43	3.49
Special Communications			
Sgts to WO1		7.93	8.06
Sigs to Cpl		5.96	6.06
Special Forces Communications			
Officers, Sgts & WOs		8.10	8.24
Cpls & below		6.94	7.06
Air Despatch			
Under Trg/Lower rate		3.43	3.49
Higher rate (after 4 years on preceding rate)		5.54	5.63

MISSED MEAL PAYMENTS

	Daily rates	
	1/4/98	1/12/98
	£	£
Breakfast	0.55	0.55
Main Meal of the Day (either midday or evening meal)	1.84	1.84
EITHER:		
Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.28	1.28
OR:		
(high tea or supper)	0.92	0.92
(late snack or light tea)	0.36	0.36
All meals in one day	3.67	3.67

ACCOMMODATION CHARGES

Daily rates with effect from April 1, 1998

● Unless otherwise stated, the daily accommodation charge is inclusive of water/sewerage charges but exclusive of council tax

Families Quarters

Type		England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas				Northern Ireland			
		Grade				Grade			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
I	F	12.92	11.67	7.79	4.71	9.43	7.79	3.76	0.57
	PF	12.18	10.99	7.32	4.43	8.98	7.43	3.57	0.54
	UF	11.44	10.32	6.84	4.14	8.54	7.06	3.38	0.51
II	F	11.67	10.50	7.03	4.28	8.38	6.90	3.34	0.51
	PF	11.00	9.90	6.61	4.02	7.98	6.58	3.17	0.48
	UF	10.33	9.30	6.20	3.77	7.58	6.24	3.01	0.45
III	F	10.24	9.23	6.21	3.82	5.42	4.33	1.81	0.00
	PF	9.68	8.72	5.85	3.60	5.16	4.13	1.72	0.00
	UF	9.11	8.21	5.49	3.38	4.91	3.93	1.63	0.00
IV	F	8.17	7.41	5.19	3.22	4.33	3.49	1.52	0.00
	PF	7.65	6.94	4.86	3.01	4.10	3.30	1.44	0.00
	UF	7.13	6.47	4.52	2.81	3.86	3.11	1.35	0.00
V	F	7.16	6.52	4.52	2.90	3.77	3.05	1.32	0.00
	PF	6.70	6.10	4.23	2.71	3.57	2.88	1.24	0.00
	UF	6.24	5.69	3.93	2.53	3.36	2.72	1.17	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.51	0.45	0.34	0.16	0.51	0.45	0.34	0.16
	PF	0.48	0.42	0.32	0.15	0.48	0.42	0.32	0.15
	UF	0.45	0.39	0.30	0.14	0.45	0.39	0.30	0.14
D	F	5.67	5.16	3.67	2.31	3.38	2.75	1.30	0.00
	PF	5.34	4.86	3.46	2.19	3.21	2.62	1.24	0.00
	UF	5.02	4.57	3.25	2.07	3.05	2.49	1.17	0.00
C	F	5.28	4.81	3.41	2.19	3.09	2.53	1.18	0.00
	PF	5.01	4.56	3.23	2.09	2.95	2.41	1.13	0.00
	UF	4.73	4.31	3.05	1.99	2.81	2.30	1.08	0.00
B	F	4.88	4.45	3.17	2.04	2.81	2.29	1.08	0.00
	PF	4.65	4.23	3.02	1.95	2.69	2.20	1.03	0.00
	UF	4.42	4.02	2.86	1.86	2.57	2.10	0.99	0.00
A	F	3.71	3.38	2.43	1.67	2.15	1.75	0.83	0.00
	PF	3.53	3.21	2.32	1.59	2.05	1.68	0.79	0.00
	UF	3.34	3.04	2.20	1.52	1.95	1.60	0.76	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.20	0.18	0.13	0.06	0.20	0.18	0.13	0.06
	PF	0.17	0.16	0.12	0.05	0.17	0.16	0.12	0.05
	UF	0.15	0.14	0.10	0.04	0.15	0.14	0.10	0.04

F= Furnished

PF= Part Furnished

UF= Unfurnished

Daily rates with effect from December 1, 1998

Type		England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas				Northern Ireland			
		Grade				Grade			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
I	F	13.26	11.88	7.88	4.74	9.72	7.97	3.82	0.57
	PF	12.51	11.20	7.40	4.45	9.26	7.60	3.62	0.54
	UF	11.75	10.52	6.92	4.15	8.81	7.22	3.43	0.51
II	F	11.97	10.69	7.12	4.30	8.63	7.05	3.39	0.51
	PF	11.29	10.08	6.69	4.04	8.22	6.72	3.22	0.48
	UF	10.61	9.47	6.27	3.78	7.81	6.38	3.05	0.45
III	F	10.51	9.40	6.28	3.84	5.57	4.42	1.83	0.00
	PF	9.94	8.88	5.91	3.62	5.31	4.22	1.74	0.00
	UF	9.36	8.36	5.55	3.40	5.05	4.01	1.65	0.00
IV	F	8.27	7.48	5.23	3.24	4.40	3.53	1.53	0.00
	PF	7.74	7.00	4.89	3.03	4.16	3.34	1.45	0.00
	UF	7.21	6.52	4.55	2.82	3.92	3.14	1.36	0.00
V	F	7.25	6.58	4.56	2.92	3.83	3.09	1.33	0.00
	PF	6.78	6.16	4.26	2.73	3.62	2.92	1.25	0.00
	UF	6.31	5.74	3.96	2.55	3.41	2.75	1.18	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.51	0.45	0.34	0.16	0.51	0.45	0.34	0.16
	PF	0.48	0.42	0.32	0.15	0.48	0.42	0.32	0.15
	UF	0.45	0.39	0.30	0.14	0.45	0.39	0.30	0.14
D	F	5.77	5.23	3.71	2.33	3.45	2.80	1.31	0.00
	PF	5.44	4.93	3.50	2.21	3.28	2.67	1.25	0.00
	UF	5.11	4.63	3.28	2.08	3.11	2.53	1.18	0.00
C	F	5.38	4.87	3.45	2.21	3.16	2.57	1.20	0.00
	PF	5.10	4.62	3.27	2.10	3.01	2.45	1.14	0.00
	UF	4.81	4.36	3.08	2.00	2.87	2.34	1.09	0.00
B	F	4.97	4.51	3.20	2.06	2.86	2.33	1.09	0.00
	PF	4.73	4.29	3.05	1.97	2.74	2.23	1.04	0.00
	UF	4.50	4.07	2.89	1.88	2.62	2.13	1.00	0.00
A	F	3.78	3.43	2.46	1.69	2.19	1.78	0.84	0.00
	PF	3.59	3.26	2.34	1.61	2.09	1.70	0.80	0.00
	UF	3.40	3.08	2.22	1.53	1.99	1.62	0.77	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.20	0.18	0.13	0.06	0.20	0.18	0.13	0.06
	PF	0.17	0.16	0.12	0.05	0.17	0.16	0.12	0.05
	UF	0.15	0.14	0.10	0.04	0.15	0.14	0.10	0.04

ENTITLED CASUAL MEAL CHARGES Effective from April 1, 1998

Meal	Charge £	VAT £	Total £
Breakfast	0.55	0.10	0.65
Main Meal of the Day (either midday or evening meal)	1.84	0.32	2.16
EITHER: Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.28	0.22	1.50
OR: (high tea or supper)	0.92	0.16	1.08
(late snack or light tea)	0.36	0.06	0.42
All meals in one day	3.67	0.64	4.31

Overseas rates are as above, except that VAT is not applicable.

FOOD CHARGES

	Daily rates	
	1/4/98	1/12/98
	£	£
Married unaccompanied officer /other ranks in marital status categories 1 and 2	2.33	2.33
Officers and other ranks in marital status categories 3, 4 and 5	3.18	3.18

WEEKLY RENT REBATES from April 1, 1998

Combined weekly rent and rates rebates – From April 1, 1998. Council Tax element will follow when revised rates announced

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas		Grade			
Type		1	2	3	4
		£	£	£	£
A	F	22.03	19.72	13.06	7.74
	PF	20.72	18.52	12.24	7.19
	UF	19.40	17.34	11.41	6.65
B	F	30.23	27.18	18.21	10.33
	PF	28.60	25.68	17.14	9.70
	UF	26.98	24.18	16.07	9.06
C	F	33.03	29.70	19.92	11.38
	PF	31.09	27.95	18.66	10.65
	UF	29.15	26.20	17.40	9.91
D	F	35.73	32.15	21.74	12.22
	PF	33.46	30.09	20.27	11.36
	UF	31.18	28.03	18.80	10.51
V	F	46.19	41.67	27.69	16.31
	PF	42.97	38.77	25.63	15.03
	UF	39.74	35.87	23.56	13.74

from December 1, 1998

Type		Grade			
		1	2	3	4
A	F	22.40	19.95	13.16	7.77
	PF	21.05	18.73	12.32	7.21
	UF	19.70	17.51	11.48	6.65
B	F	30.73	27.51	18.34	10.36
	PF	29.07	25.98	17.25	9.71
	UF	27.41	24.45	16.16	9.06
C	F	33.60	30.03	20.09	11.41
	PF	31.61	28.25	18.80	10.66
	UF	29.62	26.47	17.51	9.91
D	F	36.33	32.55	21.91	12.25
	PF	34.01	30.44	20.41	11.38
	UF	31.69	28.33	18.90	10.51
V	F	46.69	42.00	27.86	16.38
	PF	43.41	39.05	25.75	15.07
	UF	40.13	36.09	23.65	13.75

FAMILIES ACCOMMODATION

Rent & rate rebates (£ weekly) – from April 1, 1998

Type		Northern Ireland Grade		
		1	2	3
A	F	Rent	10.96	8.84
		Rate	2.05	1.63
		Total	13.01	10.47
	HF	Rent	10.30	8.30
		Rate	2.05	1.63
		Total	12.35	9.93
	UF	Rent	9.64	7.77
		Rate	2.05	1.63
		Total	11.69	9.40
B	F	Rent	15.06	12.18
		Rate	2.59	2.08
		Total	17.65	14.26
	HF	Rent	14.24	11.51
		Rate	2.59	2.08
		Total	16.83	13.59
	UF	Rent	13.43	10.84
		Rate	2.59	2.08
		Total	16.02	12.92
C	F	Rent	16.40	13.28
		Rate	3.24	2.61
		Total	19.64	15.89
	HF	Rent	15.43	12.50
		Rate	3.24	2.61
		Total	18.67	15.11
	UF	Rent	14.46	11.71
		Rate	3.24	2.61
		Total	17.70	14.32
D	F	Rent	17.72	14.36
		Rate	3.90	3.14
		Total	21.62	17.50
	HF	Rent	16.58	13.43
		Rate	3.90	3.14
		Total	20.48	16.57
	UF	Rent	15.44	12.51
		Rate	3.90	3.14
		Total	19.34	15.65
V	F	Rent	20.66	16.58
		Rate	3.98	3.18
		Total	24.64	19.76
	HF	Rent	19.20	15.42
		Rate	3.98	3.18
		Total	23.18	18.60
	UF	Rent	17.75	14.26
		Rate	3.98	3.18
		Total	21.73	17.44

Note: All rebates for Grade 4 are £0.00

Rent & rate rebates (£ weekly) – from Dec 1, 1998

Type		Northern Ireland Grade		
		1	2	3
A	F	Rent	11.20	8.98
		Rate	2.05	1.63
		Total	13.25	10.61
	HF	Rent	10.53	8.43
		Rate	2.05	1.63
		Total	12.58	10.06
	UF	Rent	9.85	7.88
		Rate	2.05	1.63
		Total	11.90	9.51
B	F	Rent	15.37	12.38
		Rate	2.59	2.08
		Total	17.96	14.46
	HF	Rent	14.54	11.69
		Rate	2.59	2.08
		Total	17.13	13.77
	UF	Rent	13.71	11.00
		Rate	2.59	2.08
		Total	16.30	13.08
C	F	Rent	16.80	13.51
		Rate	3.24	2.61
		Total	20.04	16.12
	HF	Rent	15.81	12.71
		Rate	3.24	2.61
		Total	19.05	15.32
	UF	Rent	14.81	11.91
		Rate	3.24	2.61
		Total	18.05	14.52
D	F	Rent	18.17	14.65
		Rate	3.90	3.14
		Total	22.07	17.79
	HF	Rent	17.00	13.70
		Rate	3.90	3.14
		Total	20.90	16.84
	UF	Rent	15.84	12.75
		Rate	3.90	3.14
		Total	19.74	15.89
V	F	Rent	21.01	16.80
		Rate	3.98	3.18
		Total	24.99	19.98
	HF	Rent	19.53	15.62
		Rate	3.98	3.18
		Total	23.51	18.80
	UF	Rent	18.06	14.44
		Rate	3.98	3.18
		Total	22.04	17.62

Note: All rebates for Grade 4 are £0.00

Families Quarter Grade 4 Charges less rent element (£ daily). All areas except Northern Ireland.

With effect from April 1, 1998									
Type	I	II	III	IV	V	D	C	B	A
F	1.32	1.24	1.14	1.10	1.04	0.89	0.85	0.81	0.78
PF	1.03	0.98	0.92	0.89	0.85	0.77	0.75	0.72	0.70
UF	0.75	0.73	0.70	0.69	0.67	0.65	0.64	0.63	0.63
With effect from December 1, 1998									
Type	I	II	III	IV	V	D	C	B	A
F	1.35	1.26	1.16	1.12	1.06	0.91	0.87	0.83	0.80
PF	1.06	1.00	0.94	0.91	0.87	0.79	0.76	0.74	0.72
UF	0.76	0.74	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.64

SINGLE ACCOMMODATION from April 1, 1998

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas

Rank	Grade			
	1	2	3	4
	£	£	£	£
Major and above	4.22	3.81	2.73	1.70
Captain and below	3.43	3.09	2.21	1.39
SNCO	2.60	2.34	1.67	1.04
Corporals and below	1.50	1.35	0.96	0.60
Juniors	1.18	1.06	0.77	0.48

from December 1, 1998

Rank	1	2	3	4
	£	£	£	£
Major and above	4.29	3.85	2.74	1.70
Captain and below	3.48	3.12	2.22	1.39
SNCO	2.64	2.36	1.68	1.04
Corporals and below	1.52	1.36	0.96	0.60
Juniors	1.20	1.07	0.77	0.48

GARAGE AND CAR PORTS

	1/4/98	1/12/98
Standard garage	0.46	0.46
Substandard garage	0.30	0.30
Standard car port	0.23	0.23
Substandard car port	0.15	0.15

SINGLE QUARTERS UTILITIES

Charge (daily) All areas except Northern Ireland

Rank	1/4/98	1/12/98
Major and above	0.79	0.80
Captain and below	0.57	0.57
SNCO	0.48	0.48
Corporals and below	0.44	0.44
Juniors	0.38	0.38

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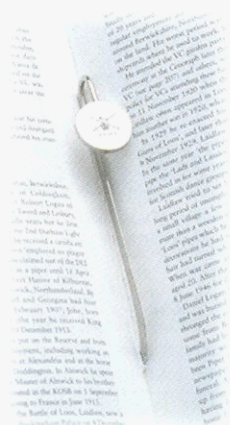
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Its welcoming feel of light, airy spaciousness is confirmed by generous dimensions for legs and shoulders and by seats, covered in high-quality fabrics, that proved as welcoming and supportive at the end of a long journey as at the start. Rear seats have a 60/40 split-and-fold arrangement which gives the 200 great versatility and there's plenty of space for most family needs.

FAMILY CAR

Rover have obviously gone to great lengths to squeeze as much space as possible from the dimensions, making the 200 an eminently practical family car, offering superior accommodation in all of the areas that matter most.

The excellent driving position is swiftly and easily adaptable. Even after a long non-stop trip, I arrived feeling as fresh as when I started out. There's good all-round visibility too and I was never aware of any blind spots, making the 200 easy to park. The fascia is both attractive and communicative. Instruments and controls are clear and logically arranged and every switch and lever moves with a solid, well-damped feel.

This car is flawless ergonomically, giving clear, uncluttered functionality.

The 220 SDi five-door I tested is well



Rover 220 SDi five-door: "flexible and friendly" engine returns an average 50 miles a gallon

Tech Spec

ENGINE 4-cylinder SOHC turbo-charged intercooled diesel with electronic programmed direct fuel injection. 105 PS at 4200 rpm.

TRANSMISSION 5-speed manual, FWD.

STEERING Rack-and-pinion and power-assisted, with positive centre feel.

BRAKES Discs front, drums rear.

KERB WEIGHT 1150kg.

SIZE (cm) Length 397, width 169, height 142.

PERFORMANCE Max speed 115 mph; 0-60 mph in 9.8 sec.

MPG Urban 37, extra-urban 63, combined, 50.1.

PRICE £14,400 on the road.

specified with standard features which include power steering, electric tilt/slide glass sunroof, driver's airbag, seat belt pre-tensioners, three inertia-reel rear seat belts, high-mounted rear stop-lamp integrated with rear spoiler, remote activation of alarm, immobiliser and central locking and, of course, a top-quality RDS stereo radio/cassette. Extras fitted to the test car included anti-lock brakes at £495, a passenger airbag at £395 and metallic paint at £225.

At the heart of the 220 SDi is Rover's outstanding and highly-acclaimed L series engine. The two-litre, four-

cylinder, eight-valve, turbo-charged and intercooled diesel with electronically-controlled direct injection develops 105 PS and a hefty 210 Nm of torque. This gives the car a top speed of 115 mph, but more importantly, a relaxed, effortless performance when you need it. It's a flexible and friendly unit which impresses with fine manners and smooth running.

Controlled by "drive-by-wire" technology, it is so sophisticated that it can even compensate for changes in altitude.

Strong mid-range acceleration means that to extract good performance, you don't need to over-use the five-speed gearbox. Even under hard acceleration the engine note is never intrusive.

Fuel economy is exceptionally good, and throughout a week's testing, the 200 returned an average of around 50 mpg. Official figures show that at a constant 56 mph this car is so fiendishly economical that it returns nearly 73 mpg.

The 200 has a highly-developed chassis which gives precision of line on the move, sound road-holding and a competent ride in all conditions. Rover have developed the torsion-beam suspension to the highest levels and the result is exceptional handling and ride refinement.

This new diesel balances enthusiasm with practicality and its blend of lively spirit, full comfort and safety and outstanding frugality make it a most desirable car.



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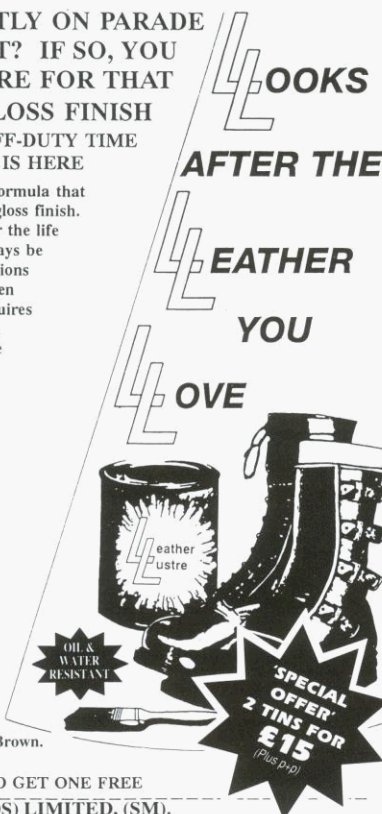
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BOBSLEIGH

Medals stack up for Ward and Ollson

DRIVER Cpl Sean Ollson and his number two crewman, Cpl Dean Ward, the two members of The Parachute Regiment who earned Britain her first Winter Olympics bobsleigh medal for 34 years, returned from Nagano, Japan to lead the Army to victory in the Inter-Service competition at Lillehammer in Norway.

With civilian computer consultant Courtney Rumbolt and Royal Marines officer Lt Paul Attwood, the two paras completed a superb final run at Nagano to edge into the bronze medal place.

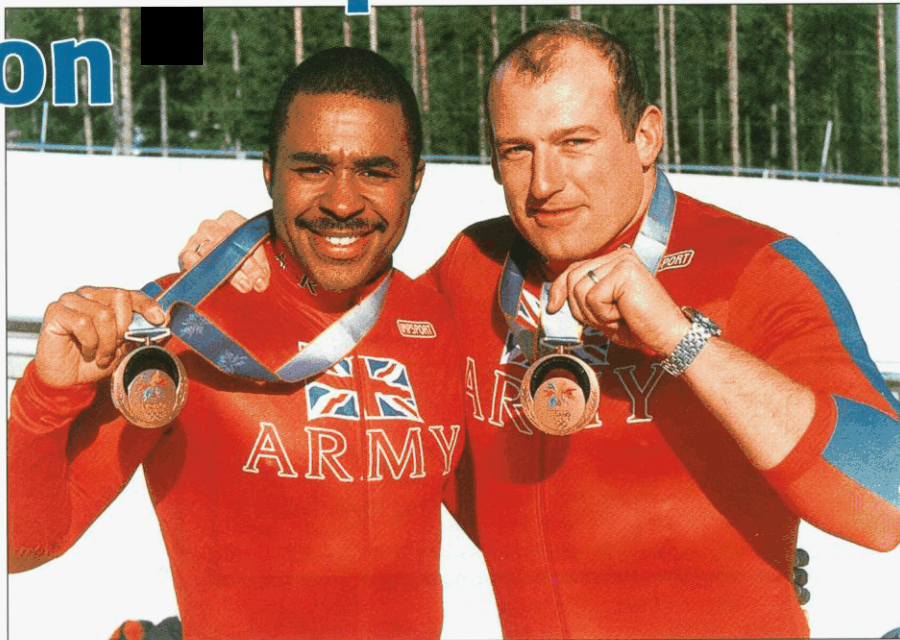
"It was a just a fantastic feeling," Cpl Ward told *Soldier*. "Just a fantastic relief after we had watched the Americans coming down. We knew they were good and every clock on the way down said they were ahead of us."

"We erupted when we realised they had failed to beat us. It was a big achievement and the result of a lot of hard work."

Germany took the gold medal, with France in the silver position.

Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid issued a statement saying: "This represents yet another success for members of the Armed Forces representing their country at the highest level of sport."

And Brig Adrian Freer, Commander 5 Airborne Brigade, added his congratulations: "It reflects the high calibre of soldiers we have in the regiment. Physical hardness and sheer determination sets



Medal men: Olympic bronze for Parachute Regiment NCOs Dean Ward (left) and Sean Ollson

paras aside from others, while professional standards and continual training around the world ensure they are all team players."

Sean Ollson and Dean Ward finished in first place at the Inter-Services, ahead of team mates Cpl Neil Scarisbrick (1 RTR) and Nagano Olympian Cpl Eric Sekwalo (Para) who were second.

The Marines, Johnson and Attwood, were third. WO2 Pete Gunn (1 Regt AAC) and Cpl Chris Gray (1 RTR) were fourth fastest and WO1 Matt Kelsey

(REME) and Cpl Ian Barnett (280 (UK) Signal Sqn) sixth.

Ollson and Ward also won the Army title at Lillehammer and received their medals from Tony Nash, who won Britain's last Olympic bobsleigh medal – a gold – back in 1964.

Scarisbrick and Gray were the runners-up, with Gunn and Barnett third. Ward recorded the fastest push at the championships and the trophy for best novice crew went to Cpl Gordon Molyneux (RE) and brakeman LCpl Bill Sweeney (A and SH).

SQUASH

Four and counting

A FOURTH successive Army men's victory in the Inter-Service squash championships reflected the strength in depth of the team and hinted at a long period of domination at this level.

Highlights of the tournament, staged at HMS *Temeraire*, Portsmouth but hosted by the Royal Air Force, were crushing victories by the Under-25 and senior men's teams.

Much effort has been put in over the past 18 months on the development of young players and this has borne fruit, not only in the manner of the victories but in the fact that any of five or six players could

have been picked at three, four and five for the Army. To cap a fine effort, the sixth (non-scoring) members of the Army teams won all their games.

Much of the credit has to go to SSgt Dave Smith, an excellent manager.

The Army women's match against the RAF, in which Sgt Michaela Barwick played possibly the rubber of the tournament in winning 10-8 in the last, could have gone either way and the Army veterans against the RAF hinged on Maj Ian Mellor's 8-10 defeat in the fifth, when his previously immaculate touch shots just failed him.

SKELETON

Top of the rankings

WORLD-ranked Bdr "A J" Collins (16 Regt RA) and Sgt Donna Nevens (R Signals), pictured, won the men's and women's Army skeleton titles at Igls in Austria.

They and Cpl Steve Anson (REME, 1 Regt AAC) arrived for the championships fresh from the last round of the World Cup in Calgary. So well have they performed on the world stage that their sights are firmly set on places at the 2002 Winter Olympics. Anson is currently rated seventh in the world, Collins 12th and Nevens ninth.



BOXING



Top squad: Front (from left) are SSgt Andy Edwards (coach), Cpl Chris Bessey, Cpl Vinny Powell, Gdsm Kevin Short and Cpl Geoff Ollerhead (trainer); rear, Bdr Vinny Jones, SAC Neil Hoskins RAF and Fus Paul Chapman; back, Fus Darren Williams

Bessey's best

CPL Chris Bessey proved himself one of the finest boxers of his generation when he claimed his fourth Amateur Boxing Association title at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Bessey (27 Transport Regiment RLC) out-classed Midlands champion Carl Froch to retain the light-middleweight title comfortably on points. He had previously won it in 1995 following victory two years before at welterweight.

A week later Bessey won a gold medal in international action in Venice, so qualifying for the European Championships to be held in Minsk, Belarus in May.

And he was not the only Army winner on the Birmingham card, with Fus Darren Williams (1 RRF) confirming his class at featherweight with an outstanding performance. The squad's third boxer at the NEC, light-heavyweight Bdr Vinny Jones (32 Regt RA), was not allowed to continue after sustaining a badly-cut mouth in the fourth round.

There was more good news from Pontypridd, where Cpl Vinny Powell (36 Engr Regt) and Gdsm Kevin Short (1 WG) boxed in the Welsh national finals and



Champ: Cpl Chris Bessey

retained their titles at light-welterweight and light-middleweight respectively. Their victories should ensure that they will box at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Short, who has already won a national title as well as a Commonwealth silver medal, earned a shot at the Sydney Olympics when he won a bronze in the European tournament in Istanbul.

SSgt Andy Edwards, the Army coach, who regards Short and Bessey as the best light-middleweights in Britain, is also preparing Williams, Pte Kevin Bennett (7 Tpt Regt RLC) and Pte Micky Baker (2 Para) for international duty with England.

In the Scottish championships, Gdsm Gordon Seal (1 SG) lost narrowly on points in the semi-finals at Govan.

Ptes Kevin Bennett (7 Tpt Regt RLC) and Micky Barker (2 Para) boxed for England against Denmark last month. It was Bennet's sixth international, Baker's third.

● The final of the Army novice grade 3 inter-unit team championships will be decided by 2 Para and 7 Tpt Regt RLC in the Maida Gymnasium, Aldershot, on April 2.

IN BRIEF

Basketball champions

FIVE days of intensive training at Aldershot paid off handsomely when the Army completed a clean sweep of trophies at the Inter-Service basketball tournament staged at HMS Drake, Plymouth. The Army beat the RAF 72-64 and the Royal Navy 103-68, while the Army women won their matches 97-34 and 98-33 and the Army Under-23s won 67-53 and 91-60.

Ski-biking challenge

BORED with skiing? Try your hand at ski-biking at the Army's centre in Bavaria. REME and the QRL were first and second at the Army championships in Bavaria, with Lt Col Richard Platt (21 Liaison Gp), a bronze-medal winner at the world championships, and Capt Findlay (REME) taking the individual honours. The Army beat the RAF in the Inter-Services competition.

Clay target shooting

HQ REME (TA) won the 4th Division clay target title for minor units, with HQ 4 Div second. Major unit winners were 10 Tpt Regt RLC, ahead of ATR Pirbright.

Bassingbourn quadrathlon

THE second Army quadrathlon – swimming, kayaking, cycling, running – championship will be held at ATR Bassingbourn on May 31.

Athletics date changes

THE semi-finals of the inter-unit athletic team competition have been moved to Portsmouth on June 12, while the championships will be decided on June 19, also on the Royal Navy track. The Army individual championships will be held at Portsmouth on June 22.

Adrian's badminton record



WO Adrian Quinney (left), of the AGC, won the men's singles title for a record seventh time at the Army championships at Colerne, Wiltshire. He also teamed up with Sig Mhairi McIntosh to win the mixed doubles for the third year in a row and with SSgt Stuart Chidgey (REME) to win the veterans doubles.

● An Army old boys team beat the current Army side 21-17 in their third annual fixture at Arborfield. The old boys have won all three.

Sport climbing venue

THE fifth Army sport climbing competition will be held on April 24 at the Foundry, Sheffield, and sponsored by the Army Mountaineering Association. Details from WO2 (CSM) Smith, 10 AB Wksp REME (fax applications on 722 4583).

FOOTBALL

It's all square at Aldershot, pity about Uxbridge

Army 2, Royal Navy 2

THE ARMY and Royal Navy fought out a four-goal draw in their Mercury Cup clash at the revamped Military Stadium in Aldershot, writes **Derrick Bly**.

In their first game since work on the stadium was completed, the home side were missing skipper WO2 Alan Higgins, LCpl John Wills, Sig John Galliford and SSgt John Scott through injury from the squad thrashed 4-0 by the RAF a week earlier.

After the Navy had taken the lead in the 15th minute, the Army responded with an equaliser from Pte Lee Badrock, his first of the season for the senior side. A second Navy goal in the 73rd minute set up a frantic final 15 minutes, with Pte Lee Whittle opening his account for the season with a headed equaliser.

Following the game, AFA assistant secretary Brian Le Breton received the ten-year Long Service Football Association Award for instructing referees.

Royal Air Force 4, Army 0

The RAF game, played at Uxbridge for the Carrington Cup, ended in a thumping defeat for the Army by four goals to nil. So superior were the home side on the night that they might well have scored six or seven, and the visitors had to thank veteran goalkeeper WO2 Nigel Wiscombe for restricting the scoreline.

Dorset 0, Army 2

SSgt John Scott and Cpl Paul Alford scored the goals in a workmanlike win for the Army over Dorset at Shaftsbury Town FC which pushed them clear at the top of the South West Counties Championship table.

Army 3, Somerset 3

But Army blushes were spared in the 87th minute of their next county championship game when Cpl Paul Alford was brought down in front of the Somerset goal and Sgt Tosh Williams stepped up to

convert his second penalty of the game. With five minutes remaining, SSgt Tony Wright made his 99th appearance in an Army shirt when he went on as a substitute.

The result left the Army hoping that the Royal Navy and Wiltshire would drop points in their final games in the competition.

Army 3, TA 1

Pte Derek Rhodan (2) and Cpl Paul Alford were on target with first-half goals which proved too much for a physical Territorial Army side in the annual match, played at Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

RN Youth 1, Army Youth 2

The Army youth team lifted the Services youth championship trophy at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth, defeating a strong Royal Navy side in a closely-contested match that could have gone either way. The Army goals were scored by Cfn Walsh (SEAE) and Sig Watts (3 (UK) Div Sig Regt), who converted a penalty.

CS Youth 0, FA Youth 5

A team of young, mostly London-based professionals from the Football Association were too strong for the Combined Services youth team in their annual fixture, played at Portsmouth.

Massey Trophy

The RLC head the Massey Trophy league table with 21 points from seven matches, the same number as the Infantry who have played a game more. In third place, on 12, are the Royal Signals, who are so far unbeaten with four wins out of four.

Latest Massey Trophy results include:

REME 1, AGC 1; AAC 1, RAC 1; REME 9, APTC 0; AMS 1, AGC 5; RA 1, Infantry 3; RLC 4, REME 2; R Signals 6, AMS 0; AMS 1, RA 5; Infantry 1, R Signals 2; RLC 5, RE 1; RAC 2, AGC 0; AGC 2, RE 1; AAC 2, APTC 2; Infantry 6, AAC 2.

RUGBY

BA(G) so close to Germany double

TWO British Army (Germany) rugby teams had excellent outings against the German national side and A team who they were helping to prepare for the next World Cup competition.

In the senior game, Germany scored twice early on, after which BA(G) dominated the forward battle and most of the possession.

The Army side, inspired by the faxed good wishes of England coach Clive Woodward, were leading 15-10 into extra time when an error allowed the Germans, boosted by their South African and Kiwi centres, to steal the game 15-17. WO2 Billy Innes (QDG) and Capt Sandi Fitzpatrick (1 RHF) scored tries, Cpl Phil Davis (3 Bn REME) added a conversion and Capt Steve Webb (1 RRW) kicked a penalty. Germany won the A fixture 13-10 in a game that could have gone either way.

Loughborough University Freshers beat Combined Services Under-21s 31-13 following a training weekend at the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham. Man of the match was Gnr Lee Soper.

A Harlequins XV beat Combined Services U-21s 34-12 at the Stoop.

CROSS COUNTRY

Almost a clean sweep at Halton

SUPERB running by the Army ended with victories in three out of the four competitions at the Inter-Service cross country championships at RAF Halton.

England international SSgt Rod Finch led the senior men home to a relatively comfortable win over the airmen. With Cpl Alan Shepherd second, Sgt Colin Palmer fourth, WO2 Ray Keeney sixth and Sgt Kenny Butler seventh, the margin was 29 points. The women had a harder battle on their hands but just got home in a very exciting finish with Capt Lynn Higgs best-placed in second, Sgt Sue Sharp third and SSgt Mel Bailey fourth.

OCdt Richard Lawes led the junior team to victory, closely followed by the rest of the team. Capt Steve Lonnen was second in the veterans race, won by the RAF.

CRICKET (ICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT)

THE Army beat St Moritz CC for the second year running to retain the international cricket-on-ice tournament sponsored by Coutts Bank.

After thrashing the Unusual Sports Club/Coutts XI in temperatures of minus 15C on the frozen lake at St Moritz, the

Army accounted for the "home" side by 83 runs in the final.

The other team in the competition, a South African Police side, included players who had never before seen snow. Not surprising, they got off to a cold start and lost both their games.

Army 211-5 (15 overs) (Cotterill 22, Grinon-neau 37, Palmer 47, St George 61 not). **Coutts 89-9 (Matthews 2-13).**

St Moritz 185-4. SA Police 106.

SA Police 135-8. Coutts 178-3 (Agar 101).

Final: **Army 178-5 (Ford 41 not, Moore 40 not).** **St Moritz 99-8 (Matthews 4-7).** Army retained the trophy.



Pictures: Terry Champion

Fusiliers do their bit for Welsh rugby

THE Royal Welch Fusiliers sponsored the sixth running of the Welsh national schoolboy seven-a-side rugby tournament at Cwrt-y-Gollen Training Camp near Crickhowell last month.

Now well-established, the competition this year drew 24 district teams and has become an integral part of the Welsh Rugby Union calendar. It is aimed at the under-15 age group.

Prizes were presented by Brig David Ross, Commander 160 Wales Brigade.

The next fixture for the emerging Army women's XV is against the West of Wales at Ystradgynlais RC on April 8.

Tickets for the Army-Royal Navy match at Twickenham on April 25 are on sale from the Secretary ARU, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot GU11 2BG. They cost £10 each.

Spectators are being encouraged to arrive in time for the curtain-raiser, a game between the Combined Services Under-21 team and England Students.

There will also be a youth penalty-kicking event before the main event at 3pm.

Action from the major and minor rugby finals at RMA Sandhurst last month. Above, ball in hand, 7 Para RHA attack 2 Signal Regiment, whom they beat by 31 points to 21 to win the major competition. And in the minor final, below, last year's runners-up, 29 Regt RLC, beat ATR Basingstoke 27-18 in a fast, open game, with LCpl Rob Bennett scoring three tries



Force for good

Army leads the

BIG-HEARTED soldiers have taken time off from military and peacekeeping duties to raise money for charity. Sponsored runs, cycle rides and climbing expeditions have been completed around the world, from Bosnia to the Falkland Islands, by British troops willing to take up a challenge

MEMBERS of **Waterloo Company, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment** added DIY to their duties as the resident Reinforced Infantry Company in the Falklands. They redecorated and repaired the home of a elderly local resident, Siggy Barnes, who has worked tirelessly for the Royal British Legion and its Poppy Appeal for the past 50 years.

Territorials from the **King's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry (Light Infantry)** tackled the three peaks of Whenside, Pen-y-Gent and Ingleborough to raise £1,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. All 30 soldiers completed the 27-mile course. "Some ran, some walked and some crawled, but we all made it back in spite of the appalling weather on the day," said Lt Lisa Nicholson, one of the organisers.

Runners from across the **Royal Artillery** took part in a non-stop charity relay run from John o'Groats to Land's End. They expect to raise £8,000, which will be presented to BLESMA and buy an electric wheelchair and communicating computer for Matthew Brookes, a boy from Salisbury who suffers from cerebral palsy. The 18 runners completed the 848 miles in 92hr 55min 30 sec.

Luton-based gunners from **201 Battery RA (V)** raised £2,500 for the town's proposed Beds and Herts Children's Hospice. Forty members of the battery, led by Maj Simon Sadler, walked the Greensand Ridge Walk while others ran the three peaks of Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon.

Thanks to a charity auction by **1st Battalion, The Green Howards**, a secondary school in the Bosnian town of Jajce has



Falkland yompers

A 33-mile sponsored yomp across the Falklands by these four members of the Vehicle Repair Workshop raised £548 for the Royal Oldham MR Scanner Appeal. From left to right are LCpl Karen Fisher RLC, Sgt George Taylor RAF, Pte Danny Cuerdon RLC and LCpl Darren Wright REME, who battled against driving wind and frequent hail and sleet showers

received much-needed sports equipment. The battalion was based there in 1996 and forged strong links with the local community. Sgt Ian Galloway, a platoon sergeant with 1 Green Howards, returned to the town with £800 worth of footballs, netball strips, bats, balls, nets, whistles and football pumps.

A little boy who suffered a life-threatening illness when he was born celebrated his fifth birthday roaring around the tank park at Catterick Garrison in a 70-ton Challenger. Ben Oliver, who was not expected to reach his first birthday after being diagnosed with cystic hygroma, had his dream come true thanks to the **Queen's Royal Hussars**. He was presented with a regimental beret, cap badge and camouflage paint.

Another little boy's day was made by members of **5 Regiment, Army Air Corps** based at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland. Six-year-old David Hayburn, who suffers from autism, was flown with his father in a Gazelle helicopter over Belfast and Lisburn.

Comedienne and singer Faith Brown attended a charity disco weekend organised by **Headquarters Rhine Area Support Unit** in Rheindahlen. More than £6,000 was raised, of which three quarters will go towards Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and the rest to a local German charity.

Twelve gunners from **4 Regiment, Royal Artillery** pulled a 105mm light gun from Whitburn to Sunderland to raise money for the regiment's charity, the Beth Nixon Appeal. While in Bosnia, the soldiers raised £2,854 for a guide dog for the blind, to be called Corun-



On the ball: Sgt Ian Galloway surrounded by youngsters from the Nikola Sop Secondary School in Jajce after presenting them with much-needed sports kit

na after one of the batteries. Weekly bingo sessions were held and LBdr David Dingwall was sponsored to cycle 70km from the base at Glamoc to the Croatian border.

Ten runners from **280 (UK) Signal Squadron** who raised more than £5,000 in Bosnia for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund presented the cheque in person to staff at Kensington Palace. During a six-month tour in Sarajevo they completed

way for charity



Pulling their weight, women from 7 R Irish heave a Land Rover around East Belfast in aid of cancer patients

HARD SLOG

A PUNISHING 400-mile run from JHQ Rheindahlen to the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey was completed in four days by 30 soldiers from **Support Battalion, HQ ARRC** to raise money for the battle against cancer. Troop Commander Lt Lizzy Stileman organised Exercise Hard Slog as a memorial to Pte David Bedford, a soldier from A Troop, 14 Sqn, who died from leukaemia last year. He had been a patient at the Royal Marsden Hospital and the money raised, nearly £4,000, was presented to the hospital's children's ward.



Prof Ray Powles, head of leukaemia and myeloma at the Royal Marsden Hospital, accepts money raised by the run from Cpl Billy Robinson, best friend of Pte David Bedford

361 laps of the Illidza compound – equivalent to 217 miles.

HIVES throughout Germany raised more than £1,750 for Macmillan Cancer Relief as part of the world's biggest coffee morning with Nescafé. The most money was raised by the smallest HIVE, in Heidelberg.

Accompanied by a Royal Irish piper, 12 women from **7th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment** pulled a quarter-ton Army Land Rover around East Belfast to raise £6,000 for local women being treated for breast cancer.

The money will be donated to Glenview House, a residential unit where women spend up to six weeks receiving radiotherapy treatment. Soldiers from 7 R Irish are planning an adventure training expedition to the Great Rift Valley in East Africa to raise money for the Down's Syndrome Association.

A garden party at Crewe Place, Farnden, near Wrexham, organised by the Chester and Wirral Appeal Committee for the Army Benevolent Fund, raised £5,632.

The **Merseyside Army Cadet Force** raised £1,000 on the *Krypton Factor* assault course for the Marie Curie Cancer Research Fund and the Army Benevolent Fund. The sponsor unit was **1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment**.

Marks & Spencer has increased its support to SSAFA Forces Help with an annual donation of £10,000.

This is the tenth year the retailer has supported the charity.

Army doctors based around Salisbury Plain raised £500 for Salisbury Hospice by holding a joint military-civilian study day on palliative medicine at Tidworth.

The first **Black Watch** charity challenge raised £7,220 for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland and the Army Benevolent Fund. Three teams from the Regular Army, Territorial Army and Army Cadet Force Battalions cycled and ran a total of 155 miles

from different locations around the Black Watch recruiting area to Kinross House, where a charity fete was held.

Cadets from the **Somerset Army Cadet Force** raised £250 towards the construction of a lightweight portable bridge which will enable disabled Somerset youngsters to enjoy more challenges in the annual Dartmoor Ten Tors event.

A Last Night of the Proms concert, held in Aldershot's Maida Gymnasium, raised £4,125 to be divided between the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, the Blackwater Valley Accommodation Project and the Army Benevolent Fund. This year's concert will take place on September 5.

A 975-mile cycle ride by 12 riders from **9 Supply Regiment RLC** from John o'Groats to Land's End raised £2,000 for Burton Hill House School in Malmesbury and Save the Children Fund in Bosnia and Croatia. The trip was completed in 73 hours.

Seven TA motor-cyclists from **67 Stores Squadron** based in Norton, Teesside, were each given a certificate giving them permission to ache for seven days after completing a 200km cross country circuit in 12 hours. But the pain was worth it: they raised £500 for cancer charities.

A continuous drive around all eight BFPO detachments at NATO headquarters throughout Allied Command Europe by Army posties has raised money for BLESMA. The team of four from **89 Postal and Courier Unit** based at SHAPE completed the 10,000km in 135 hours.

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Congratulations to Lt C England, Glasgow and D E Jones, Salisbury who are the lucky winners of the Cuneo competition featured in the January issue of Soldier. Thank you to all who took part.

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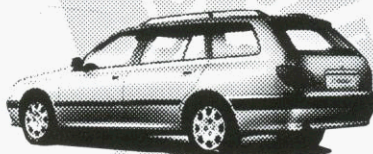
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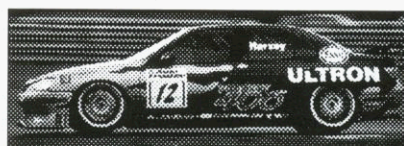
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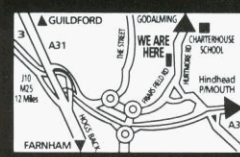
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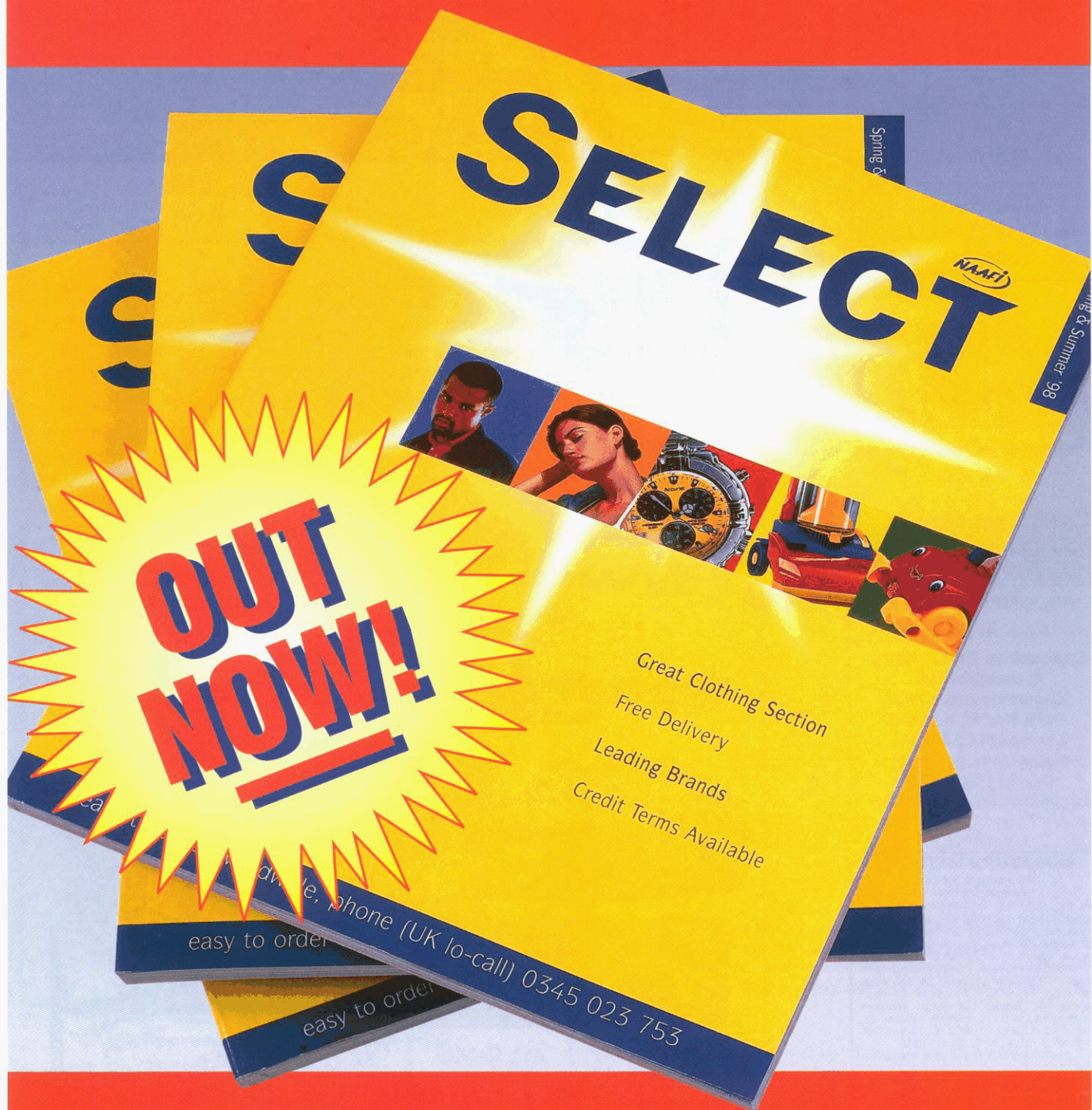
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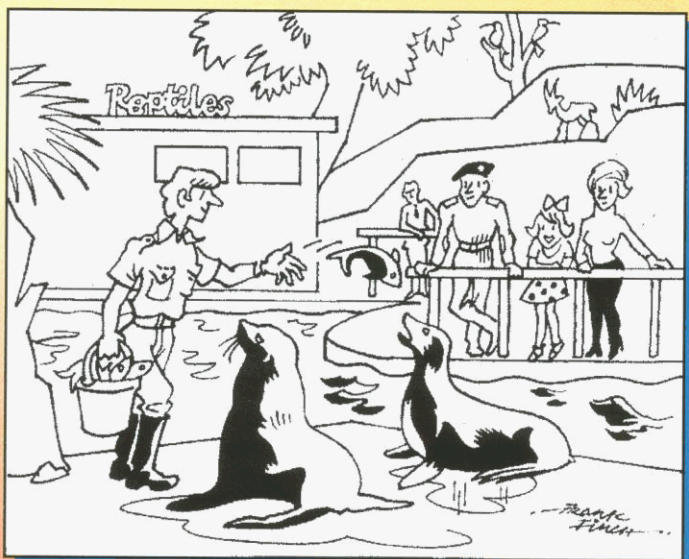
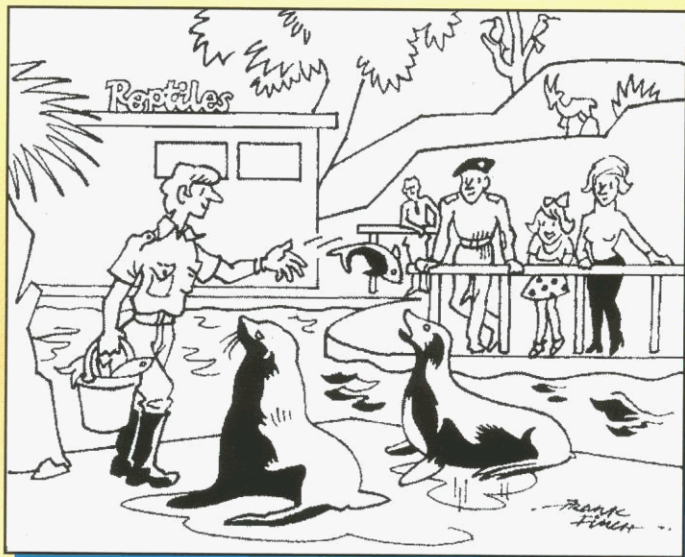
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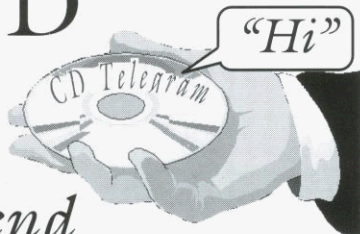
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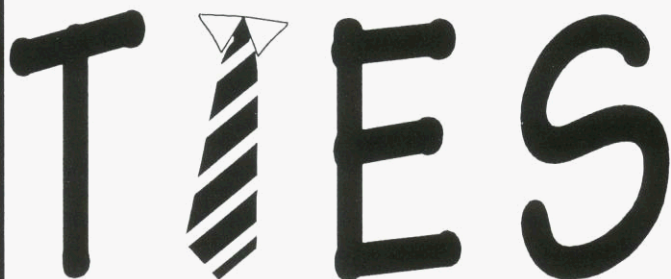
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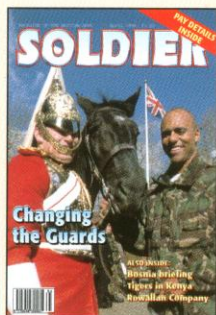
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Lisa, 19, 5'4", slim build with long, mousey hair and a bubbly personality. Enjoys nightclubbing, having a good laugh and meeting new people. Seeking pen pals, 18-24. **P210** 04/98

Andrea, 5'8", 25-year-old blonde. A single mum who likes going out with friends, music and the good things in life. Would like to hear from sincere soldiers. **P211** 04/98

Karen, 31, 5'6", a slim brunette with blue eyes and GSOH. Enjoys the cinema, eating out, aerobics, aromatherapy and pulling pints. Seeking male pen pals, 29-38, for genuine friendship and laughs. **P212** 04/98

Linda, 35, 5'6", large build and a bit mad and scatty. Likes to socialise, eat out, watch TV and listen to music. Seeking pen pals, any age. **P213** 04/98

Carrie, 33 (just), 5'6", with blonde hair and blue eyes, medium build and a 7-year-old son. Enjoys reading/writing letters, music (all sorts), pubs, etc. Would like to hear from anyone out there with similar interests. **P214** 04/98

Janine, 32, 5'4", with blonde hair and green eyes. A nursing sister with GSOH who is interested in travel, socialising, swimming and going to the cinema. Animal lover (particularly cats). Seeking pen pals, any age. **P215** 04/98

Anne, 27, 5'8", with blue eyes and blonde hair. Likes reading, swimming, horse-riding, clubbing, pubs and music. Seeking pen pals, any age. **P216** 04/98

Lynne, 37, 5'8", slim, with blonde hair and blue eyes. Separated with two children and dog. Enjoys travel, food and drink, sport, crafts, reading, gardening, kids, animals and music. Would like to hear from pen pals, 35-40(ish). **P217** 04/98

Jane-Ann, 35, 5'5", with brown hair and eyes. Enjoys reading, going to the cinema and theatre, yoga and writing. Seeking pen pals, 34-40, with GSOH. **P218** 04/98

Jeannette, 38. A shy, blushing and cuddly lady who enjoys romantic meals, music and animals. Looking for tall, male pen pals, any age, at home or abroad. **P219** 04/98

Sharon, 27, 5'7", with dark hair, blue/green eyes and GSOH. Likes pubs, clubs, the cinema, writing, reading, meeting people, travel and the good things in life. Seeking genuine, male pen pals, 28-34. **P220** 04/98

Sue, 22, 5'3", petite build, hazel eyes and auburn hair. Likes interior decorating, sewing, swimming, reading, clubbing, socialising, the cinema, drawing and countryside walks. Would like to hear from pen pals, 24-30. **P221** 04/98

Attractive blonde, choosy, warm-hearted, cuddly, young 40, good socialiser, 5'5", enjoys music, travel, the cinema and theatre. Seeking reliable, male pen pals with caring personality. **P222** 04/98

Carol, 36, with brown hair and eyes, enjoys music, clubs and pubs. Lost one set of marbles somewhere between marriage and separation. If found, please return to rightful owner. Pen pals aged 30+ please. P223 04/98

Simon, 25, 5'7", presently on tour in Bosnia. Likes golf, travelling, reading and listening to music. Seeking pen pals of any age. **P224** 04/98

Lisa, 25, 5'5", with long, dark hair and green eyes. Interests include clubbing, socialising, reading and generally having a good laugh. Seeking pen pals 20+. **P225** 04/98

Helen, 30+, attractive 5'5" blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys travel, sport, pubs and eating out. Has a bubbly personality and would love letters from guys with GSOH. **P226** 04/98

Alison, a 33-year-old petite, blue-eyed blonde with GSOH. Likes outdoor pursuits, socialising and travelling and is seeking single, male pen pals serving in UK and overseas. P227 04/98

Jane, 5'4", with brown eyes and brown/blonde hair. Likes swimming, dancing, cooking and having a good laugh. Seeking male pen pals, 16-30. **P228** 04/98

Sarah, 27, 5'6", with dark brown hair. Enjoys football, keeping fit and music. Separated with two children (both under 3 years). Seeking single, male Army pen pals in UK or overseas. **P229** 04/98

Lorraine, 39, slim, brunette, naughty but nice Gemini. Adventurous with mischievous sense of humour. Enjoys music, films, camping and science fiction. Seeking male pen pals. Dare you reply? P230 04/98

Catherine, 25, 5'5 1/2", thin, with long brown hair and blue eyes. Lived in Milan as a child and likes travel, having fun, partying and fit men. Part-time model and counsellor. Seeking pen pals, 20-30. **P231** 04/98

Karen, 20, 5'9" with brown hair and eyes. Likes pubs, clubs, the cinema, shopping, aerobics, football and

listening to music. GSOH and personality to be shared. Seeking pen pals, 18-25. **P232** 04/98

Christina, late 30s, 5'3", slim build with fair complexion. Enjoys meeting people, cooking, dining out, travelling and horse riding. Intelligent and caring non-smoker. Seeking pen pals, 35-45. **P233** 04/98

Annette, a slim, fun-loving 41-year-old with blonde hair. Likes playing pool, karaoke, reading and community events. Seeking pen pals 30+. Photo appreciated. P234 04/98

Emma, 19, 5'3", fair hair and brown eyes. Loves travelling abroad, swimming and the good things in life. Seeking interesting, reliable pen friends, any age **P235** 04/98

Debs, a slim 40-year-old, 5'10", with green eyes. Enjoys keep fit, music, dancing and travel. Divorced with two young sons. Seeking pen pals, 37-47. **P236** 04/98

Nicky, 32, 5'6", slim build with GSOH. Animal lover who likes travelling, keep fit, reading, the cinema, long walks and eating out. Seeking single, honest and mature pen pals, 35+. **P237** 04/98

Chrissie, 36, 5'5", a slim brunette, considered attractive. Intelligent and independent with an interest in science fiction, the X Files, Red Dwarf, music and the cinema. Would like to write to Servicemen, 30-40, with similar interests. **P238** 04/98

Ann, 35, 5'3", a slim, blonde, ultra-fit sports teacher who enjoys running, cycling, water sports, climbing, all outdoor pursuits, music, writing and reading. Seeking pen pals, 30+, at home or abroad. **P239** 04/98

Gemma, 28, 5'6", with red hair and blue eyes. Likes diving, riding, watching videos and going to the pub. Would like to write to a regular pen pal. **P240** 04/98

Pamela, 30, 5'4", a single mum who enjoys all types of motor sport and honestly enjoys football. Hobbies include swimming and (don't laugh) line dancing. Seeking pen pals, 30-40. **P241** 04/98

Louisa, 22, 5'4", with blonde hair, brown eyes and GSOH. Interests include socialising, mountain biking and going to the gym. Seeking pen pals any age. **P242** 04/98

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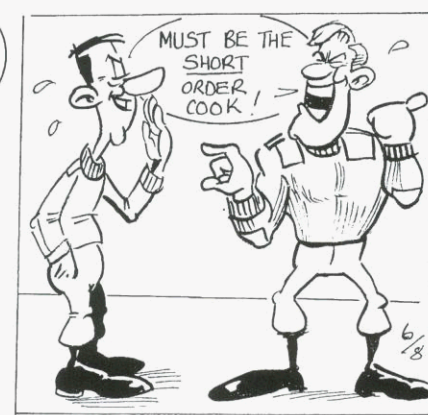
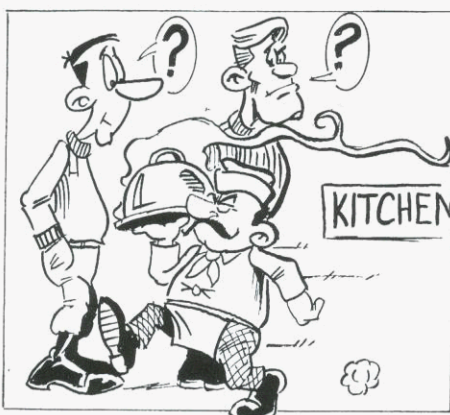
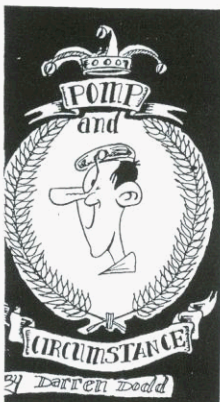
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"O Valiant Heart" - My book has been well received - it is the memoirs of my late husband, Capt GM Peach, who served 30 years in the Army, 24 in the Life Guards and 8 in the Inns of Court. To date, I have sold 410 books to relatives and Army colleagues. It is in 112 public libraries, 34 military museums, Sandhurst Military Academy, Household Cavalry Museum, City of Westminster Archives and Local History, London Corporation and the Tory Bookshop in Central Office, London. As I still have a surplus of unsold books, plus the fact that I will be 82 this month, I hoped that I may be able to "sit back and rest on my laurels". The book is reasonably priced at £5 plus 83p postage. Any prospective purchaser would be greatly appreciated. Constance S Peach, 4 Watermill Court, Bath Road, Wolverhampton RG7 5RD.

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NOTICES

Charity Commission

Charity: The Cottage Homes of the Durham Light Infantry

Reference: EN/28268/AF

The Charity Commission have made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at the Light Infantry Office (Durham), or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Light Infantry Office (Durham), Elvet Waterside, Durham, DH1 3BW, quoting the above reference.

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

FEBRUARY 7, 1998

53-way tie for first prize (13 goals, £150.94 each): Sig GD Beatty, 280 (UK) Signal Sqn, Krefeld; Cpl JM Bird, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne; Sgt DJ Bridges, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; Sgt AJ Brock, AGC Centre, Worthy Down; WO2 GD Broughton, 23 Int & Sy COY (V), Edinburgh; Sgt SJ Brown, HQ Dhekelia Garrison; Cpl PA Burke, 170 Pro Coy RMP, Edinburgh; CSgt S Caine, 1 DWR, Preston; Sgt JA Cairns, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; WO2 L Chivers, 22 Tpt Sqn RLC, Bulford; SSgt S Clark, 96 Signal Sqn (V), Coventry; Cpl JA Coombes, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; LCpl KB Cooper, 2 CS Regt RLC Gütersloh; WO2 CJ Cope, 6LI (V), Bath; Sgt D Cornhill, 1 PWRR, Canterbury; SSgt KT Crump, 14 Sup Regt RLC, Dülmen; Pte P Cummerson, 2 PWRR, Tidworth; WO1 RN Fill, AFCC Chatham; Lt Col AJC Fisher, MOD DHE, London; Maj RC Fram, JSCSC, Bracknell; CSgt DR Garner, 1 R Anglian, Cambridge; LCpl CJ Hallissey, 1 RGJ, Bulford; LCpl NR Hames, 25 Engr Regt; Maj DN Hamilton, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Sig JA Harper-Ronald, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; Maj RW Hewitt, HQ 3 Inf Bde; Capt M Huish, 2 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage; Sgt SM Jarnell, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford; Sgt DJ Joyce, Scots DG, Fallingbowl; Brig MI Keun, Service Attaché, Muscat; SSgt PK Leach, 7 Regt AAC, Netheravon; Capt DG Lince, 24 Air MOB Bde CSS Bn, Colchester; Capt GM Livesey, HQ CSSG (UK), Aldershot; Lbdr AJ Luke, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; Pte TJ Macgregor, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; Tpr DC Marsden, QRL, Osnabrück; Lt GDB Martin, RDG, Warminster; Sgt SM McDonnell, MPGS, Chilwell; LCpl SM Morrison, Def School of Tpt, Leconfield; LCpl HK

Musson, JCU; Sgt DR Nicholls, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Sgt GA O'Connell, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney; Sgt M Orchard, 4 Regt RA, Osnabrück; SSgt K Pennington, 176 Pro Coy RMP; WO2 JD Powell, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; Capt CE Rankin, RMA, Sandhurst; Sgt M Ross, SEME, Bordon; Lt Col MW Scrasc, AS of Recruiting, Bovington; Sgt PH Smith, 1 RGBW, Colchester; WO1 RJ Taylor, RAC Centre, Bovington; Maj IMG Waller, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; Sgt DT Webster, Londist Pro Coy RMP; WO1 MM Williams, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh.

February 14, 1998

Nine-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £888.89 each): WO2 M Blake, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; Sgt PC Chick, 12 Regt RA, Sennelager; Sgt DG Falconer, 1 PWRR, Canterbury; Cpl CA Heaton, 1 QLR; Lt Col RL Jagger, Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow; Capt D Saul, Army Apprentice College, Arborfield; Maj L Smith, HQ Land, Wilton; SSgt S Wall, Duchess of Kent Hospital, Catterick; Maj B Winch, HQ 3 (UK) Div, Bulford.

February 21, 1998

Four-way tie for first prize (15 goals, £1,625 each): Cpl MP Hird, HQ NI; WO1 AW Smith, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Herford; WO1 J Wilson, HQ 160 (W) Bde, Brecon; WO2 L Youel, HQ 15 (NE) Bde, York.

21-way tie for fifth prize (14 goals, £71.43 each): Sgt DJ Aldred, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln; Maj ML Bearsdell, RLC Trg Centre, Deepcut; Maj RD Breeze, HQ 2 Div, York; Bdr NF Briggs, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne; Capt KAB Child, HQ RSME, Minley; Pte TA Donnell, 4 R Irish; WO2 ND Fowkes, CATC, Warminster; Maj LSJ Gregori,

BDS Washington; Sgt SJ Humphrey, SOTAT (G), Sennelager; LCpl RA Lockyer, QDG, Sennelager; LCpl WRR McKay, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Capt A Murphy, 5 R Irish; Lt JHA Needham, 2 RGJ, Paderborn; Maj RJ Parry, QDG, Sennelager; LCpl D Rainey, 9 R Irish; Sgt PJ Roby, 2 LI; Capt L Rungay, HQ Scotland, Edinburgh; Cpl RM Smith, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Maj DA Sunderland, HQ NI; Maj D Weir, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; Sgt AJ Worthington, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley.

February 28 1998

Four-way tie for first prize (17 goals, £1,625 each): Bdr D Barton, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; WO1 RJ McAllister, BDS Washington; Lt Col CS Pickles, HQ AG, Upavon; Maj RAJ Sippe, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen.

19-way tie for fifth prize (16 goals, £78.95): LCpl DF Adams, 12 Sup Regt RLC, Dülmen; WO2 RG Batten, 1RHA, Tidworth; WO2 FA Boucher, 75 Engr Regt (V), Manchester; Sgt JM Chambers, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh; Sgt ASR Davenport, Defence School of Tpt, Leconfield; LCpl GJ Dunsmore, 1 RTR, Paderborn; Sgt DJ Ferrier, HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Preston; Cpl JJ Gawler, RHQ RS, Edinburgh; Cpl BCA Gray, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone; LCpl IJ Harker, 8 Arty Sp Regt RLC, Catterick; LCpl LJ Holman, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; SSgt D Howarth, Waterloo Band, Catterick; SSgt WAM Little, 3 Armd Fd Amb, Sennelager; Sgt PC Newson, 40 Regt RA, Hohn; Sgt AE Parsonage, JCU; WO1 H Shearer, AFCC Inverness; Cpl PN Slater, 20 Armd Bde Signal Sqn, Paderborn; Sgt IJ Tyrrell, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford; LCpl MJW Wilson, 4 R Irish.

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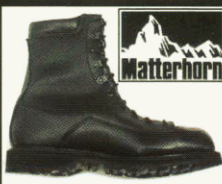
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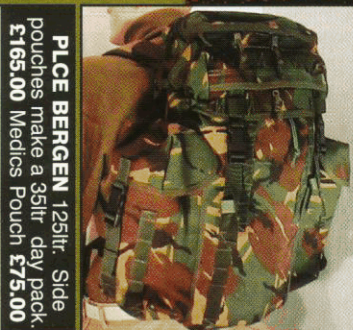
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Mailbag

We were no matrons!

IN your feature on the Pattern Room, "Legacy of a king" (Feb), I noticed a comment about string vests on display in which the writer referred to them as "horrendous and used by hospital matrons".

I do not understand this label because as a soldier in 52 (Lowland) Mountain Division in 1942, we were issued with string vests like the ones in the photograph as part of our mountain equipment.

I understand that, worn against the body and under the vest, they encouraged the circulation of body heat . . . and they kept me reasonably warm. But I did find them very uncomfortable.

With the cancellation of the proposed Norway invasion, the mountain gear was never used much by 52 (L), which reverted to a normal infantry division for the war in Europe. – **J C McCarthy (ex-76 Coy, RASC), Liverpool.**

We welcome both questions and answers for publication



Plaque humour

Q: Can anyone recall the amusing brass plaques in India referring to an effort which had come to nothing, such as "B P Chowdra, BSc (Failed)? – **Suezvet (Feb).**

A: I am reminded of an application, received while serving in the Indian Army during the Second World War, and signed: "Kushneigh Budjee, BA (Calcutta), failed, twice."

The actual name is made up and may well amuse others who served in the Great Sub-Continent. Kushneigh means "have not" and Budjee means "money". In other words, "I'm broke" in Urdu. – **Richard A Steward (late IEME/REME), Sidmouth, Devon.**

RSM MC: Further to his March reply, John Woodhouse writes that the 24 WOs of The King's Liverpool Regt awarded the MC were not all in the 1st Bn (our error). Allan Stanistreet, of Watchet, disputes Mr Woodhouse's figure for WO MCs in 1914-18 (781 rather than 1,102, with three first and no second bars). Other letters have come from Capt Richard Leach RE (V), 103 Fd Sqn, 72 (Tyne Electrical Engineers) Engr Regt; Pte G Caldecott, 1 Armd Fd Amb, RAMC, Hohne; and F E Wright, of Paignton, Devon.

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 (see Page 40) will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

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

Arthur: oldest REME ASM

I READ with interest the letter from Mr Frank Henderson (Jan) under the heading "Am I the oldest original REME ASM?" While this is a wonderful achievement on the part of Frank, I am sorry to have to tell him that he is not, for I have an old friend who will be 93 in July.

Arthur Pegler, of Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex, was called up at the outbreak of war as a Territorial and served with the British Expeditionary Force. On his return from France he went on two artificers' courses and quickly became a WO1 (ASM), transferring from the RAO to the REME when the new corps was formed in October 1942.

He was to become one of the founder members of Airborne Forces, serving first with 1 Airlanding Brigade. When the 1st

Airborne Division was formed, the brigade workshops became divisional workshops and Arthur became the senior WO with them, a position he held until he was demobbed in August 1945.

He saw service with the division in North Africa, Italy, Europe and in the liberation of Norway.

I am pleased to say that he is in very good health and retains his sense of humour. It was my good fortune to serve with him in Airborne Forces and I say this because he has always been a man of the highest integrity and respected by all who served under him.

Arthur was a source of great help in writing my book *With Spanners Descending*, the history of REME with the 1st Airborne Division. – **Joe Roberts, Chester.**

Prize letter

We faced attack by our own tanks and aircraft

WHILE serving in 1961 with the Royal Marines on the Mutla Ridge north of Kuwait, where many British units had been sent to protect Kuwait in anticipation of an attack by Iraq, we received UK newspapers which showed Royal Engineers erecting barbed wire and laying minefields in front of positions occupied by 45 Commando RM.

I could look up from the newspaper I was reading (the *Daily Express*, I think) and see nothing between our position and the horizon but sand and scrub.

No defences were ever erected. We were told to watch out for Iraqi tanks and aircraft . . . we were told we would recognise them as they would be Centurion tanks and Hawker Hunter aircraft.

We were joined at that location by 3 Carabiniers (Centurions) and were regularly overflown by the Royal Air Force in, you've guessed, Hawker Hunter fighter aircraft.

Our anti-tank capability was No 94 (Energa) grenades and 3.5in bazookas; there was no anti-aircraft protection at all. Interestingly, no protests were made at the fact that British troops were facing the possibility of war with an enemy equipped with British weapons.

A Kuwaiti Army unit came up to have a look at us in a vehicle with a towed anti-aircraft missile (one), but only stayed for tea. The towing vehicle was an air-conditioned Cadillac painted in camouflage.

At least they brought some soft drinks for us. – **David Prichard, Rumney, Cardiff.**

Has anyone out there seen our Freedom Scroll?

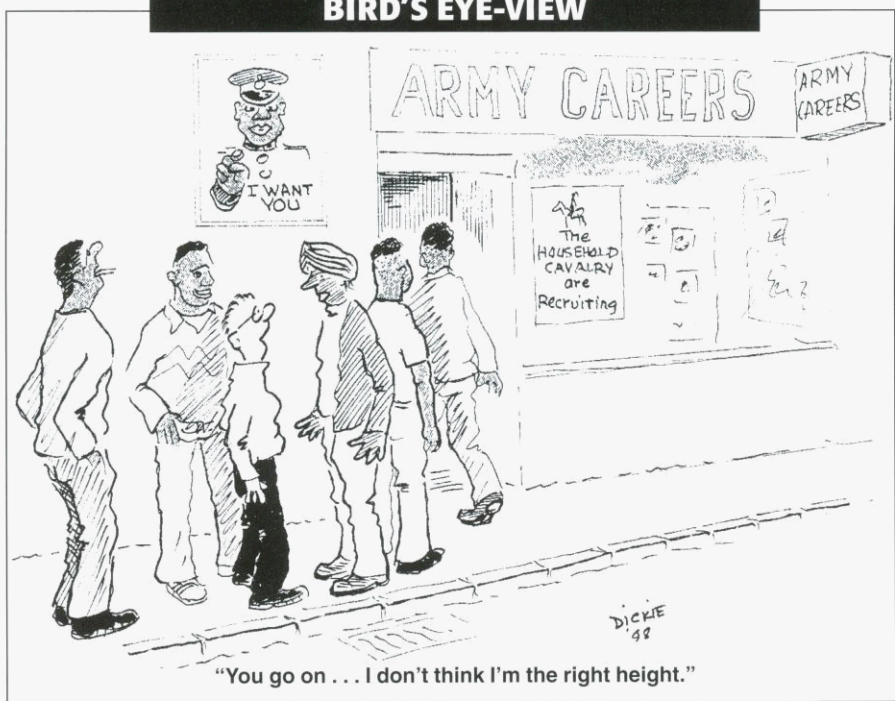
AS the officer commanding the last British unit based in the Antwerp area of Belgium I am putting together a small history of the area and have received a few letters from readers.

We still have very close ties with the local community and during a discussion in Herentals, the subject of the Freedom of the city was covered. This honour included the presentation of a Freedom Scroll, which was framed and presented by the mayor to the base commander. The base presented the town with a Wilkinson sword.

This occurred on October 2, 1987. Investigations are under way, but, as yet, the whereabouts of the scroll are unknown . . . which is somewhat embarrassing. Would you please publicise our hunt for the Freedom Scroll so that we can return it to Emblem. – **Maj Henry Jones RLC, UK Mov and Liaison Staff (Low Countries), BFPO 21 (tel Antwerp civ (03) 488 0448).**

Write us a prize letter

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



Changing the Guards – see Page 11

Medal-less conflict

MAY I take issue with Suez veteran J Hogan's claim (Mailbag, March) that the Canal Zone was the only conflict which did not warrant a medal? I would draw his attention to 1963 when units based in the Sovereign Bases in Cyprus were ordered out to assist the Cypriot Government in keeping apart Turkish and Greek Cypriots hell-bent on genocide.

This force was the British contingent to the tri-partite force whose task was keeping the peace. This we did with great success, giving breathing space to the United Nations to set up its Peacekeeping Force (UNICYP) which is in existence to this day.

If Mr Hogan is claiming that a medal is a way of saying "thank you" for services rendered then the British contingent of the tri-partite force did not receive a "thank you" medal from the British Government, nor from the United Nations. He should take comfort that he does not stand alone. Welcome to the club. – **Ron Bishop (ex 28th/61st), Stroud, Glos.**

AS the Suez medal debate rumbles on, towards success I hope, it might be of interest to quote from an obituary of Col Sir Edward St Lo Malet, late 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars.

"Malet's greatest mark after the war was in diplomacy, as chief civil affairs officer in the Canal Zone."

After threatening with tank fire a police post which had been harbouring numerous terrorists, he was asked by a journalist if he regarded the Egyptian commanding officer as an enemy.

Malet replied that, on the contrary, he

regarded him as a "very gallant gentleman". This remark hit the headlines of newspapers all round the world, with great benefit to Anglo-Egyptian relations even though there were some casualties from the shelling of the police post. President Nasser returned the compliment by sending, every year after 1956, a personal Christmas card to Malet... – **Lt Col (retd) W A Lyons, Newton Tony, Salisbury.**

Award for wives?

Ask Cari is always eminently readable and her column in the March edition was quite moving, especially to those of us OAPs with consciences.

Soldiers with 15 years' service are eligible for Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, yet behind every good man is a good woman. Surely the loyalty and selfless hard work of wives, mothers and homemakers deserves recognition.

It is my submission that *Cari* should be invited to head an advisory committee charged with recommending to the Government ways and means of recognising the faithful service of Army wives. – **C T Wareing, Redditch, Worcs.**

Still serving

I SERVED in the Royal Air Force (1955-57) for my National Service and am currently deployed on Op Lodestar in former Yugoslavia. Could anyone tell me if I am the last National Serviceman to undertake an operational deployment? – **Lt Col John Hamilton (24 Fd Amb RAMC), Luton.**

PS...

Pusan Pud and ...

READING the comments on compositions by today's soldiers (Vox Pop, Jan) took me back to my active service in Korea when our diet was mainly compositions, supplemented with fresh meat by the Americans. Our compositions were thought by the Americans to be far superior to their own and were much sought-after. The tins of self-heating soup, mainly oxtail, were a delight in the very cold winter and mixed fruit pudding, "Pusan Pud", was served up twice a day.

The only aversion I have to food as a result of those experiences is to turkey, in any form. This was the meat the Americans supplied – by the crate. – **Alan Ravenscroft, Winsford, Cheshire.**

... nice little earners

YOUR Vox Pop feature on food brought to mind my experience of the TA in the late 1980s when we were issued with what were termed "training rations". They consisted of, essentially, the main meal and some drinks. The remainder – chocolates, sweets, oatmeal, Garibaldi biscuits and other sundries – were missing, due, we were told, to budget constraints. But we all thought the QM was on to a nice little earner. – **Matthew Knight, BFPO 2.**

Gulf War illness

SOLDIERS know that when they go into battle they can expect to be killed. On surviving, they do not expect to suffer later due to injections received on being sent to the war zone. I am talking about Gulf War syndrome. – **Gerald Rowe (Second World War veteran), Hastings, E Sussex.**

Redundant opinion

YOUR "In The Press" column (Feb) stated that a member of the Strategic Defence Review Committee had suggested a single fighting organisation.

In the 1960s, during an inspection by Maj Gen Sloane, he asked me if I had any views on the future of the Army. I suggested the three Services should merge to form a UK Defence Force. He said: "Young man, if that should happen, many heads may fall. Be careful one of them isn't yours." – **N Rogerson, Orpington, Kent.**

Double helpings

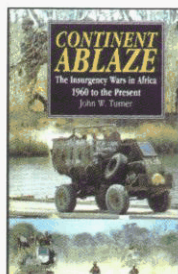
WHILE one can sympathise with David Taylor regarding his late father's ineligibility for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (March), he must surely be wrong in saying that the war years counted as double service for this medal. I suspect he is confusing the LS and GC with the Territorial Efficiency Medal, which was indeed awarded after six years instead of the normal 12. – **John D Shaw, Liverpool.**

IF you were a member of the TA and were mobilised in 1939, your war service counted double towards the TA Medal. My late father said the citation for the LS and GC should have read: "For 18 years of undetected crime". – **Edward Kelly, Dover, Kent.**

Reviews

South Africa wins post-colonial war

"IT could be proudly asserted that Rhodesia had never lost a single battle but had most

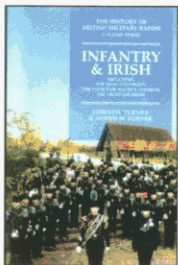


ignominiously lost the war," concludes a new assessment of Africa's insurgency wars in the past 37 years. And the principal beneficiaries of that war were the South Africans, who built on the

Rhodesians' strengths and avoided their key mistakes. Their conflicts, and others, are analysed in **Continent Ablaze: The Insurgency Wars in Africa, 1960 to the Present**, by John W. Turner (Arms & Armour, hardback, £25).

Monumental work reaches its finale

OUR LATE and much-missed military music reviewer, Rodney Bashford, described Gordon and

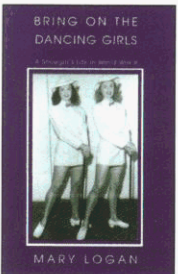


Alwyn Turner's monumental history of British Military Bands as "beautifully assembled" and an "essential" reference. The third and final volume, **Infantry and Irish** (Spellmount, hard-

back, £70, inc compact disc) includes The King's Division, The Prince of Wales's Division, The Light Division and the Irish disbanded regiments. Its 256 large-format pages are graced by more than 100 illustrations.

Legging it around the British bases

MARY Logan and her showbiz partner Maggie Martin saw the Second World War from an



unusual viewpoint – entertaining British troops at home and in Europe. Mary, whose great-aunt was the music-hall legend Marie Lloyd, takes a nostalgic look back at a van-

ished era in **Bring on the Dancing Girls: A Showgirl's Life in World War II** (The Book Guild, hardback, £15.95), which conveys the camaraderie of both the war and the theatre of the day. Judging by the picture, they must have been a popular act.

Why they dressed horses in nighties

WHEN on December 1, 1914, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Scots, just out of the line in the Messines sector, received a visit from Gen Smith-Dorrien, the men must have been delighted to hear from him that the campaign would end in the following June, "when the Germans had run short of ammunition".

Ray Westlake's book has many such snippets to give us a picture of what life was like for the "Old Contemptibles" in the opening months of the Great War.

Written mainly for the serious student, it follows his two similar format works about British battalions on the Somme and at Gallipoli.

The book covers all battalions of 77 regiments, in order of precedence, from the 1st Grenadier Guards to 1/1st Hertfordshire Regt, making up the British Expeditionary Force from August 1914 to the end of that year.

Writing in an almost telegraphic style, Westlake provides a remarkably good and detailed reference, drawing on war diaries, regimental histories and soldiers' letters.

The Army learned many lessons in those early months:

British Battalions in France and Belgium, 1914, by Ray Westlake. Pen & Sword Books, hardback, £21.95.

for example, that grey horses made better targets and therefore were painted in "some kind of wash giving them a khaki appearance" (1st Northampton Regiment records). Of course, when the snow came, dark colours became a positive disadvantage: "White sheets (and according to the history of the 8th Division, ladies' nightdresses) were worn as a form of camouflage in the snow," writes Westlake.

The legendary "Christmas truce" features in the records of several regiments. Some accounts refer to it as an opportunity to carry out burial arrangements and others as a German-instigated gesture of goodwill – "Parties from both sides eventually met in No Man's Land. Cap and helmet badges exchanged." (1st Royal Irish Rifles diary).

"On the second day, a German officer asked to see a British officer. The CO of C Coy went out and was informed that hostilities would

recommence at mid-day . . . and might the men be warned to keep down please.

"Just about mid-day a tin was thrown into A Coy's line containing the message – 'We shoot to the air' . . ." (1st Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment)).

Most of the record entries reflect the sadness of war and the author recounts a pathetic and mysterious story involving men of the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles who shot down a German plane in a field to find that not only was the pilot killed, but also a small boy who was with him.

The book has its lighter side. The 1st Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) was being billeted in civilian houses at Villeblain and at one, the lady owner was allotting rooms to each of several officers.

"But where will you be sleeping, Madam?" enquired one.

Turning and pointing to the company commander's servant, the lady replied: "Avec lui." It seems that French hospitality knew no bounds, at least until it was realised what a serious and brutalising business war could be. – BJ.

In brief

British Forces in the Korean War (edited by Ashley Cunningham-Boothe, Peter Farrar). Third edition of the excellent 1988 compilation. Published in hardback by the British Korean Veterans Association at £15. Orders (with payment made out to BKVA) to F E Ellison, 12 Fields Crescent, Hollingworth, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 8JR (01457 763699).

Air War Korea by Robert Jackson. Lavish, superbly illustrated appraisal of a largely American theme by British writer and journalist. Airline Publishing, large-format hardback, £24.95.

To the Last Cartridge by Robert Barr Smith. True stories of courageous stands, from Constantino-

ple to Goose Green. Robinson, paperback, £7.99.

Name, Rank and Number by Robert W Calvey. Former 46th Recce Corps trooper's inside story of defiance in PoW camps. Book Guild, hardback, £14.95.

The Ever Open Eye by B D Wilson. Critical view of Operation Market Garden leadership by Irish Guards subaltern who took part. Pentland Press, hardback, £14.95.

Latest hardback facsimile additions to the Spellmount Library of Military History: **Adventures in the Rifle Brigade** (1830) and **Random Shots from a Rifleman** (1835), both by Capt John Kin-

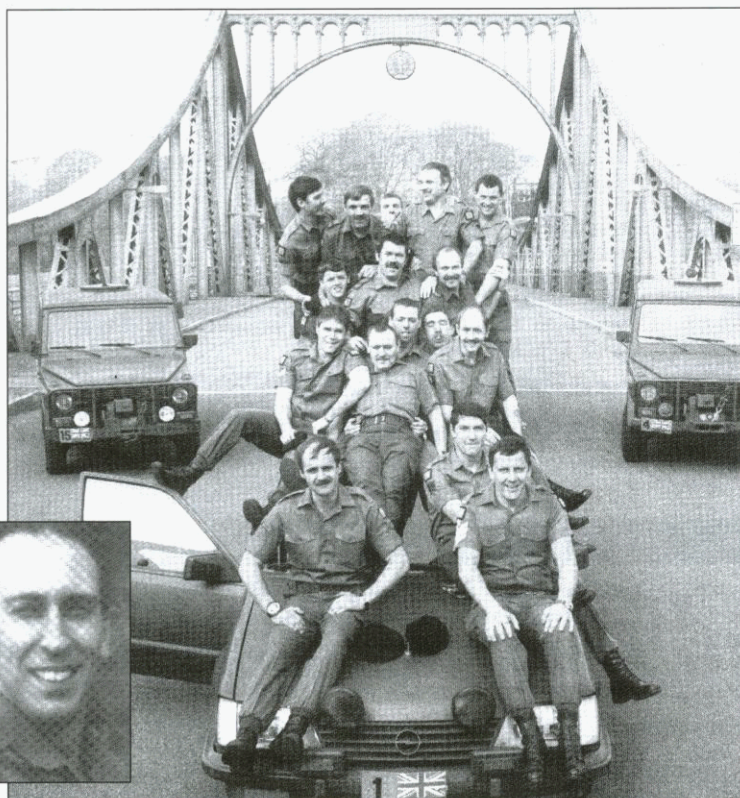
caid (£24.95); and **The Journal of an Army Surgeon During the Peninsular War** by Charles Boutflower (£19.95).

Red Berets '44. Copies are still available of this readable and well-produced 50th anniversary publication. They can be obtained by sending £5 per copy (inc p & p), payable to Airborne Forces Charities, to the Charities Office, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2BU (tel 01252 316104).

With the German Guns by Herbert Sulzbach. Liddell Hart called this memoir of four years on the Western Front "one of the most notable books on the Great War". Leo Cooper, hardback, £19.95.

Eat your heart out, Damon!

Breaking off for a moment for a job with a difference, the Brixmis spy photographer captures the Mission's drivers performing acrobatic heroics for the sake of "one for the album". Behind them is the east-west border line on Berlin's Glienicke Bridge. Steve Gibson (inset), author of *The Last Mission Behind the Iron Curtain* (reviewed below), who was awarded the MBE for his Brixmis work in East Germany, describes the men in the picture as "the greatest drivers anywhere"



Deadly I-spy game behind the Curtain

IMAGINE the scenario in postwar Berlin, where the military commanders of the British and the Soviet zones agreed to allow military observers to tour each other's zone taking photographs.

In reality they were spies – but since both sides had agreed terms of reference, it all had a veneer of respectability.

The true story of the British Military Exchange Mission (Brixmis for short) was told with all the skill of a Deighton novel by journalist Tony Geraghty in *Beyond the Front Line*, reviewed here in 1996.

Now Steve Gibson, who served with the mission as an RE captain between 1988 and 1990 under the code-name Red 41, gives his first-hand account of this stranger-than-fiction Cold War episode.

Though he says this is not the full story – "There are still several stones unturned and several more that will have to remain so" – it has its scoops.

One, noted by Geraghty himself in his foreword, is

The Last Mission Behind the Iron Curtain by Steve Gibson. Sutton Publishing, £18.99.

the revelation that Brixmis ran East German agents, "a fact of life and death denied hitherto by other guardians of the organisation's lore".

The missions were meant to be links between the military chiefs of the occupying powers. The Soviet Union and East Germans agreed to let the British "tour" with full diplomatic immunity.

Likewise the British agreed to let the "Sovs" to do their thing in West Germany. But this tit-for-tat arrangement, from 1946 until the Wall came down, became a game of cat and mouse, sometimes with an equally predatory intent.

The Soviets, who opened bank accounts for their three-man teams of soldiers, provided them also with "assistants" from the Stasi (East German secret police).

Though not quite in the 007

league, since (at least on the British side) they didn't point guns at people – only cameras – the job was not without its drama and danger,

Tours lasting anything up to a week in well-kitted-out Mercedes G-wagons involved locating, photographing and recording anything military the intelligence people could use.

While agreeing to our presence in East Germany, the "other side" was obstructive, firing warning shots at the Brits, chasing them in low-flying helicopters, and even ramming vehicles.

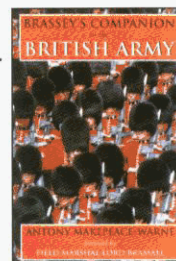
Good photographs were vital. But, sadly, for all their intelligence value they do not generally transfer well to the pages of a commercial book.

One, taken (we are assured) for camera practice, shows a naked couple making love in a field. It was taken with a 2,000mm lens from about a kilometre away – proving, if nothing else, their photographic skills and the quality of their kit. – JM

One to keep on your nearest bookshelf

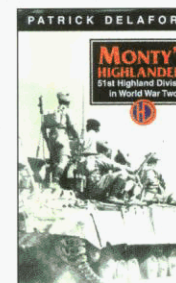
A HANDY "dictionary" of the language and lore of any specialist subject is invaluable for both student and casual observer.

Brassey's Companion to the British Army (Antony Makepeace-Warne), now published as a 400-page paperback at £19.99, covers battle honours, dress and uniform, medals, major wars and campaigns, key weapons, vehicles and equipments, regimental histories, the TA, operational terms and more. Fd Marshal Lord Bramall calls it "an excellent point of first reference" and commends it to all with an interest in and affection for the Army. Clearly a volume to keep within easy reach.



Fine tribute to the 'finest' division

AS Montgomery pointed out, the 51st Highland Division, which he called "the finest", was unique in accompanying him all the way from Alamein to Berlin. Patrick Delaforce, himself a much-decorated officer in Normandy, Holland and Germany with the RHA, has followed up his eight previous histories of Second World War formations with **Monty's Highlanders** (Tom Donovan Publishing, hardback, £18.95). It is a superb tribute to a body of men who suffered more than 9,000 casualties in NW Europe alone.



Defining moments on the battlefield

El Alamein is one of 35 defining military moments selected by Geoffrey Regan in his paperback

Famous British Battles (Michael O'Mara Books, £9.99). Another is Goose Green, 40 years later, of which he writes: "... with hindsight it seems incredible that Britain was willing to fight her first battle on the

Falklands with such a small infantry force... the politicians relied on the heroism and superb fighting qualities of British troops to see them through..."



Bulletin board

SEARCHLINE

The **Italy Star Association** will plant and dedicate a tree in the National Arboretum on May 20. All veterans who fought in the Italy campaign are welcome. Details on 01425 620578 or 01425 614884.

The **British Korean Veterans Association** will have a stand and photographic display at the Aldershot Show at Rushmoor Arena on May 2-4.

Serving or ex-gunners living in the Leicester area can contact the local branch of the **Royal Artillery Association** through Bill Chadburn on 0116 2714127.

A memorial to men of the **Royal Welch Fusiliers** who died in Normandy in 1944 is to be unveiled and dedicated at Evrecy, near

Caen, on July 17. Relatives and former members of the 4th, 6th and 7th Battalions who wish to know more about the ceremony or to contribute to the cost should contact RHQ, Hightown Barracks, Wrexham LL13 8RD (01978 264521).

Dave Prichard seeks information about **4.2in mortar battery RHA** attached to **A (Rifle) Troop, 45 Commando RM** on the Mutla Ridge north of Kuwait City in mid-1961. Replies to 198 Ridgeway Road, Rumney, Cardiff DF3 9AG (01222 790233).

Past and present pupils of **boarding schools** are invited to contribute to a book on the subject of boarders, their recollections and how they were affected. Write to Carol Palin, West-erly, 3 Pyatts Nest, Whitlow, Saundfoot,

Pembs SA69 9AQ, who would also like to hear from anyone who attended the **Morcott Hall Independent Grammar School for Girls** (1977-82) and **Lindisfarne College**, Ruabon (1982-84).

Anyone who has ever worked at **Silverstone** racing circuit – and it is thought many Service-men will have acted as stewards and circuit staff – is invited to a 50th anniversary reunion on Friday, October 2. If you want tickets, write to Roger Etccl, Silverstone Circuits Ltd, Northamptonshire NN12 8TN with details of how you were involved.

Renee Hettier in Caen, France, seeks news of **Geoffrey Norman**, a soldier who landed at Colleville Montgomery in June 1944. Mme Hettier would like to thank him for his kindness to her family at the time. Contact her at 51 Rue Ernest Manchon, Caen 14000, France.

REUNIONS

APTC Association NE (York) Branch: AGM on April 24 and annual dinner on May 15. Details: Capt (Retd) Rocky Holling, Hammersley House, 27 Blenheim Road, Barnsley S70 6BA (tel 01226 207046).

Middlesex Regiment (DCO): Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London on May 9. Details: Ron Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (0181 949 7605).

Queen's Royal Regiment: Annual reunion dinner, May 9, at Sandfield Terrace, Drill Hall, Guildhall. Tickets: S J Browning on 01483 892474.

Italy Star Association: Annual lunch and parade in North Shields on May 10. Details on 01425 614884.

Herts and Beds Yeomanry: Annual reunion of 86, 105, 135, 145 and 191 Fd Regts, 52 Hy Regt, 79 HAA Regt and post-war successors on May 30 at TA Centre, Camp Road, St Albans. Details: Ron Currell, 28 St Margaret's Close, Peterborough PE2 9EA.

Armourers' Association: Armourers and Artificers Weapon, RAOC and REME annual reunion at Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London on June 20. Details: Chris Dennis, 18 Willowslea Road, Worcester WR3 7QP (tel 01905 755334).

Joint Services Hong Kong reunion at Victo-

ry Services Club, Marble Arch, London on July 4. Dependants also welcome. Details: Bob Downie or Mandy Niblett, 9 Field's Oak, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7PP (tel 01258 450338).

King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery: All ranks reunion at Kent County Showground, Deitling, nr Maidstone on July 15. Details from Troop Captain on 0171 414 4607.

Combined Services Association: Drum head service, St Peter's Church, Leighton, nr Crewe, on Aug 9. Also annual reunion at Crosville Club, Crewe, including parade of colours and standards. Contact J Davies, 6 Mavor Court, Crewe CW1 3BL (tel 01270 257092).

RE Darland Boys Association 1939-41: 18th reunion on Sept 11-13 at Chatham. Details from Jim Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton LU2 0RB.

11 Field Squadron: Reunion on Oct 30-31 to celebrate 50th anniversary, particularly those at the initial formation who served in Hong Kong, Austria and Malaya. Contact John Adams, 19 Masefield Crescent, Cowplain, Hants PO8 8JT as soon as possible.

723 King's Squad RM (1959-60): Second reunion planned for June 1999 to mark 40 years. Details from Dave Prichard (01222 790233) or Tony Daker (01902 631951).

Helsinki, Apr 6; M T Griffiths KORBR – To BLO (USA), Aug 8; R J Knight PWRR – To Romanian Trg Centre, June 8; G McGarr RLC – To APC, June 8; G S Payne, Int Corps – To MoD, Aug 4; J N E Watson RA – To SHAPE, July 20.

P J Allison RTR – To JSCSC, Apr 15; S C Bate RA – To SHAPE, July 6; N H Eeles RA – To D Army Plans, Apr 5; R S Garrick RLC – To JTMS, Mar 30; C J Hemmingway RLC – To DLSS, Apr 14; R R Jammes RA – To HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, May 18; N A Lampard RLC – To ABSDA, Feb 23; I W McArthur RLC – To HQ Scotland, June 1; A J Maitland-Makgill-Crighton, Hldrs – To HQ Land South East, Dec 1; A D Morris RA – To RMCS, Feb 23; A V Pedder RA – To DGWES, July 27; A R E Singer KRH – To FLS, July 2; J N L Spencer LI – To DOMA, May 5; A S Taylor RLC – To HQ AF North West, May 18; R P M Weighill RA – To HQ ARRC, Mar 16.



Level 5 NVQ: Lt Col David Stone

Top grade for effort

LT COL David Stone RGBW, a member of the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC) at Chicksands, has been awarded the highest grade of National Vocational Qualification in management.

His Level 5 NVQ broadly equates to a degree or post-graduate degree qualification and was achieved with a portfolio developed over almost two years.

It took account of his previous experience as commanding officer of 1 DERR and at the Ministry of Defence, but was based primarily on his work from 1995 to 1998 as commander 15 (UK) Psyops Group, which has led directly to the creation of a significant new psyops capability for the United Kingdom's Armed Forces.

Since mid-1996, about 200 personnel of all ranks at DISC have achieved a range of NVQs related to their military work.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: A R E Hutchinson – To Senior Military Assistant Proliferation and Arms Control Secretariat, Feb 23; R L Styles – To Brigadier (W) Kuwait Project Office, Feb 23; T D Gregg – To be Commander HQ 145 (HC) Bde, Mar 2.

Colonels: F G Moss – To DCOS HQ 5 Div, Feb 23; N Q W Beer – To (W) ACDS (OR) Land Systems, Mar 6; J Blake – To RFC4 (NELC) DRFC, Mar 5; C A Den-McKay – To APC HQ and Central Services, Mar 2. M J Dent – To MA/CMO UNIKOM, Mar 15; K L Cogbill – To SMO, Royal Sch of Signals, Mar 9; J N Wolsey – To Chief Bud/Fin, HQ ARRC, Mar 9.

Lt Cols: R F C Andrew, R Irish – To RMAS, June 29; A G C Blanch PWO – To HQ Recruiting Gp, Apr 6; B R N Davidson, R Irish – To HQ AITO, Apr 7; T M A Fleetwood RA – To DGD&D, Mar 30; A C Ford, Gren Gds – To DA

SUMMARY OF TEST STANDARDS

LEVEL	1½ MILE RUN	SINGLE LIFT	CARRY	CADENCE SIT-UPS	LOADED MARCH
1	10min 30sec	Lift 45kg (99lb) to a height of 1.45m (4ft 9in)	Carry 2 jerry cans each weighing 20kg (44lb) for 180m – 2min	3min	March 9.65km (6 miles) with 25kg (55lb) PLCE (assault order) in 90 min (1.5hr)
2	11min	Lift 40kg (88lb) to a height of 1.45m	Carry 2 jerry cans each weighing 20kg for 150m – 1min 40sec	2min 45 sec	March 9.65km with 20kg (44lb) PLCE (assault order) in 90min
3	11min 45sec	Lift 35kg (77lb) to a height of 1.45m	Carry 2 jerry cans each weighing 20kg for 120m – 1min 20sec	2min 30sec	March 9.65km with 15kg (33lb) PLCE (assault order) in 90min
4	N/A	Lift 30kg (66lb) to a height of 1.45m	Carry 2 jerry cans each weighing 20kg for 90m – 1min	N/A	N/A
5	N/A	Lift 25kg (55lb) to a height of 1.45m	Carry 2 jerry cans each weighing 20kg for 60m – 40sec	N/A N/A	N/A N/A

REQUIRED PASS STANDARDS FOR SELECTED CAREER EMPLOYMENT GROUPS

ARM	JOB	PASS LEVELS				
		1½ mile run	Single lift	Carry	Cadence sit-ups	Loaded march
RAC	All	2	1	2	2	2
RE	All	2	2	2	2	2
Infantry	All	1	3	2	1	1
RA	MLRS gunner	2	3	3	3	2
RA	AS90 gunner	2	2	3	2	2
RA	Mounted gunner	2	5	3	3	2
R Sigs	All	3	5	4	3	3
RLC	Ammo tech	3	5	5	3	3
RLC	Pioneer	1	3	2	1	1
RLC	Chef	3	5	5	3	3
REME	Armourer	3	5	4	3	3
REME	Regtl specialist	1	3	2	1	1
AG Corps	SPS	3	5	5	3	3

Falklands tribute in SHAPE

A PHOTO competition for the children of Service families at home and abroad is being organised at SHAPE to raise funds for the memorial chapel being built at Pangbourne to commemorate the 257 Servicemen who lost their lives in the Falklands War.

Open in two classes to children up to 12 and from 13 to 18, the competition has categories for countryside, family and animals.

Send prints (6in x 4in or 5in x 7in), with name, age and category on the reverse, to Project 257, Production Branch, Intelligence Division, SHAPE, BFPO 26, and enclose sae if you want them back.

The entrance fee is £1 a photo (as

many as you like) and cheques should be made out to Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust.

Profits from *A Scottish Book of Hairy Tails* by Flt Sgt C M McAteer, who also works in the Int Division at SHAPE in Belgium, are also being donated to the Pangbourne project, which involves 500 embroidered kneelers, 257 of which will bear the name of a man who died in the South Atlantic.

The book of six "happy ever after" children's stories, which comes with a free cassette tape of the tales, is suitable for children aged 3-10 and costs £3, including p and p. Cheques, payable as for the photo competition, should be sent to Flt Sgt McAteer at the same address.

Questions of rank

The Queen's shilling

In this month's instalment of this popular series, Hugh Howton continues his journey through ranks, their duties and meanings:

Corporal comes from the French *corporal*. A military commentator in 1579 explained: "The corporal is a degree in dignitie above the private souldiour." There is also an Italian *caporale* and Spanish *caporal*. But in the Russian Army the rank with two straight stripes across the shoulder board is called a junior sergeant – *mladshij serzhant*. In the Royal Artillery the rank is bombardier. He was originally in charge of a bombard, the earliest kind of cannon which fired stone balls or large shot.

Lance-corporal first appeared as lance-cespade in 1578. It is linked to the French *l'anspessade* and Italian *lancia spezzata*. Both mean "broken lance". This signifies that if a cavalryman's weapon was broken or his horse killed under him he would fight on as a foot soldier. Since the cavalry was superior to the infantry, he was given his rank to indicate his status.

Another explanation is that "lance", as well as a weapon, was a small squad of men in the days of knights in armour comprising a leader, a couple of archers and two or three other armed men. While lance-corporal is a rank of authority in the British Army, one stripe may indicate a trained soldier in other armies. In the US Army, for example, the rank of one chevron is a private first class (PFC).

Private comes from the Latin *privatus*, meaning a man who is responsible only for himself. Until the end of the 17th century a soldier was described as a "private centinel". This was one in a hundred, the normal strength of an infantry company. The word "centinel" survives as sentinel and sentry. Some regiments and corps do not have this rank, using instead trooper, gunner, fusilier, rifleman, craftsman, etc.

Soldier (from the Latin *solidarius*) was originally a mercenary, or man who served for money. The Latin *solidus* is a small sum, usually translated as a shilling (5p). A soldier's pay was a shilling a day in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The first day's pay was handed out by a recruiting sergeant and enlisting was known as "taking the Queen's shilling". – **Hugh Howton**

● Next month: Odd ranks out

Diary

And...

JOHN and Rita Restorick, parents of LBdr **Stephen Restorick**, who was murdered by an IRA sniper in south Armagh, marked the anniversary of his death on February 12 by opening the Restorick Library, where soldiers can find peace and quiet to read and study. They also placed flowers at the vehicle checkpoint where he died and watched the commanding officer of 1 KOSB, Lt Col Andrew Jackson, laying a wreath at a memorial stone erected to their son.

Chippenham in Wiltshire is planning to honour **Capt Peter Shields**, the Army bomb disposal officer from 22 Engineer Regiment (EOD) who in February worked 30ft underground on a huge Second World War German bomb found on the site of a new school. Now the town's mayor has suggested naming the school after Peter Shields to mark his bravery.

If you want to know anything about the lineages of the reserve regiments and squadrons of the Corps of Royal Engineers from 1908 to 1998, buy Dr Graham Watson's 72-page, A4 format, ringbound *Terriers and Sappers*, published by the **Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)** to celebrate 90 years of engineers in the Territorial Army. Copies are available from RHQ, The Castle, Monmouth, Gwent NP53BS at £6.50 each (including p&p), cheques payable to Central Bank R MON RE(M).

Almost 53 years after the end of the Second World War, former **Worcestershire Regiment** soldier **James Jones (79)** went on parade to receive four campaign medals. James, now a resident in a Malvern rest home, was presented with the medals by Brig Sam Weller, Colonel of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment at a ceremony organised by SSAFA after much research by the Army Medal Office.

Col **Pat Porteous VC** (pictured), a hero of the ill-fated Dieppe Raid of 1942 and the only surviving Army Commando VC winner, has presented his green beret to the National Army Museum in Chelsea. Despite severe wounds, he led an attack on heavy coastal defence guns at Varengeville, one of the few successful operations of the otherwise disastrous raid on the German stronghold.



Maj Gen **Bryan Dutton**, the last British commander in Hong Kong, has been appointed director general of the Leonard Cheshire foundation, which provides care for disabled people. Gen Dutton retired from the Army in February after 37 years' service.

Lt Col **Dan Graham** AGC, quartermaster at Worthy Down, has retired after 42 years in the Army. On his last morning he was roused by the Band of the AGC, secretly positioned outside his front door. Earlier in the week he had been to Buckingham Palace to receive an MBE awarded in the New Year Honours.

Old Tigers pay tribute to Diana

OLD soldiers of The Royal Hampshire Regiment rejected the idea of sending a wreath on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, their former Colonel-in-Chief, in favour of more lasting tributes.

So the 479-strong Six Oh Seventys Club, all of whom served between 1960 and 1979, commissioned a drill cane and a tiger statuette which will be held by the two Regular battalions of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queens and Royal Hampshires).

The cane, named "Diana" and inscribed by former CSgt "Gunner" Allen, was presented to 2nd Battalion at Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth to be used by the battalion orderly sergeant. The tiger will be handed over to the 1st Battalion in Canterbury in June.

Of their visit to the PWRR at Tidworth, club secretary **Barrie Thompson** said: "Table cloths with laid-up cutlery in the cookhouse, thickly-carpeted floors and furnishings devoid of cigarette burns, as well as single rooms and contract cleaners came as a surprise to us old soldiers of twenty years ago."

"But they are worth it. This is a new army unlike anything we ever knew. The

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1948

OUT OF INDIA

A long blast of a ship's siren echoed across Bombay Harbour. The veteran *Empress of Australia* puffed smoke into the blue Indian sky and steamed out to the open sea – destination, Great Britain. Never again would the troops chant "Bless 'em all" in the harbour which inspired the song. The 1st Battalion, The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) had embarked for home, and with them sailed Maj Gen L G Whistler and his staff, and some 1,300 British officers and men of various units with their families.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1972

HELICOPTER STRIKERS

A seven-year reorganisation of the Army Air Corps will include direct recruiting to the new rank of air trooper and trebling the corps' air gunners.



Lt Col Richard Dennis, CO 2 PWRR, receives the unique Diana drill cane from ex-Royal Hampshire soldier CSgt "Gunner" Allen

old divides between junior and senior ranks and officers have gone, replaced by a far greater team work. We were all very impressed."

DATES

APRIL

25: British Model Soldier Society annual show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London (0181 590 7812).

27: Lecture by Jan Woltman on working with the Dutch Resistance to shelter airborne soldiers escaping from Arnhem, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (tickets: 01252 349619).

MAY

1: Combined memorial service and 25th anniversary of the formation of Army Dog Unit, Northern Ireland (01504 721335).

10: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service, 1100 hours at Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park (0171 414 5233).

23,24,25: Solent Military Vehicle Preservation Club show, Inhams Lane, Denmead, nr Waterlooville, Hants.

JUNE

2: 41-gun royal salute by King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200 hours, and 62-gun royal

salute by HAC, Tower of London, 1300, to mark anniversary of the Coronation.

3-4: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130 hours. Tickets on 0171 414 2271 from March 1.

9-11: Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Royal Artillery, Horse Guards Parade. Details: 0181 781 3168.

13-14: Middle Wallop International Air Show (tickets on 01264 782312).

13: Queen's Birthday Parade (Queen's Colour of 1 WG to be trooped); Colonel's Review, June 6; Major General's Review, May 30.

JULY

21-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets: 0171 244 0244.

NOVEMBER

20-21: Army Arts Society annual exhibition, Medieval Hall, Salisbury.

Picture: Cpl M Heselden, 2 PWRR



All aboard the good ship *Dragonheart* (actually, we made that up) as members of 53 Field Squadron RE, the Falkland Islands field squadron, take part in the annual Stanley raft race. They didn't win the race but they did defy an icy wind in fancy dress rather than the more sensible dry suit adopted by most other competitors and attracted the most attention with easily the most attractive raft in the field.

Scots in 'Willy Wonka' race for Kosovo's kids

SOLDIERS of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards based at Fallingbowl and members of the Support Battalion HQ ARRC at Rheindahlen were let loose on tons of chocolate at the Cologne International Sweets and Biscuits Fair.

But their job, unfortunately, wasn't to tuck in. To the skirl of Army bagpipes, they had to gather as much as possible in an hour for shipment to children in Kosovo in Serbia.

Traditionally the Cologne fair ends with visitors gathering up the remaining sweets and chocolate, but a Scottish confectionery and Scottish European Aid hit on the idea of collecting for children in troubled Kosovo, who have not seen such

Western delights for many years. Sixty-six British exhibitors at Cologne were joined by Spanish, Irish, Belgian, French, Dutch and Swedish stands, all of whom were happy to donate their exhibition stock to charity.

Piper LCpl James Johnston, Scots DG, said: "We were given one hour to clear as much chocolate and sweets as possible before the doors opened to the public and were only too glad to help.

"It was a challenge we couldn't resist and we managed to collect more than 20 tonnes of goodies."

Tournament special offer

SERVICE personnel and their families are being offered a special discount for the first week of the 1998 Royal Tournament.

Tickets which would usually cost £19 are down to £14.50 for the period July 21-24, and £11.50 seats will cost £8.50. Reserved seats at £5 each can also be booked, as can seats in the Royal Enclosure for the full price of £25.

The 108th Royal Tournament at Earls Court will be led by the Royal Air Force, with more than 2,000 Servicemen and women taking part. Army attractions will include the famous musical drive of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

To book tickets at the discounted rates telephone the box office on 0171 244 0244 and state that you are a member of the Armed Forces.



Pte Scott Holland, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, suggested his mother, Lynne, help out in the Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force... and now he has to salute her. Mum has been promoted lieutenant and is in charge of a detachment.

Finally . . .

TWO young officers from 8 Royal Irish in Armagh have re-enacted the celebrations which followed the defeat of the French by the Royal Irish Fusiliers at Barrosa in 1811. The mess wagon had been hit by a cannonball, so junior officers salvaged a silver cup and some bottles, creating a cocktail whose ingredients are a jealously-guarded secret. To this day a Barrosa Cup, complete with cocktail, is passed around mess dinners on the anniversary of the battle.

Following an earlier service in St Margaret's, Westminster, six soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers carried the coffin of **Enoch Powell** into the Collegiate Church of St Mary, which houses the chapel of his old Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The former Brig Powell, who had requested that he be buried in his uniform, was laid to rest at Warwick Cemetery.

Cpl Gary Boyle, a TA soldier from Stirling-based 7/8 (V) A and SH, persuaded **Vauxhall UK** to provide him with 300 reflective arm-bands for distribution to children at risk on Bosnia's hazardous roads. An absence of street lights and paths make life difficult for youngsters travelling to and from school in the dark.

After seven years as Honorary Colonel of 6 (Northumberland) RRF, Elizabeth, Duchess of Northumberland has been succeeded by her son, the Duke of Northumberland. The Duchess took on the appointment in 1991 following the death of her husband.

The annual meeting of SSAFA Forces Help is moving from London to Bristol this year. It will take place on July 2. Details from association secretary Beila Best on 0171 403 8783.

After more than a year's hard work and an investment of £120,000 the King's Own Royal Regiment Museum at Lancaster has been redesigned from top to toe. Treasures include the oldest surviving, most complete British Army uniform.

Eddie Brown has completed 44 years in uniform, man and boy. He joined the Highland Light Infantry as a band boy in 1954, then 4/5 R Hamps in 1965 on leaving the Regulars. Next stop was the Wessex Regiment before he transferred to the RAMC as a musician. Eddie, who cleans *Soldier's* offices, will be 60 in May.

A call for help from Colchester school pupils working on a communications project was answered by the Army. Youngsters at Hamilton Primary School looking at communications were curious about systems used on the battlefield, so wrote to 210 Signal Squadron at Colchester Garrison. As a result, 30 pupils were invited to try out the unit's radio equipment for themselves... even sending coded messages to their classmates.

And six students at a Birmingham school prepared for a field trip to Belize by learning about jungle survival, cooking, hygiene and building shelters from Birmingham UOTC.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Exercising judgement

Exercises are usually hard work but, depending on where they are held, they can also be fun. We asked 12 soldiers on exercise in Kenya to name the one they enjoyed most.

Cpl Matt Bradley, 2 PWRR

I was attached to the Royal Welch last year and had a great experience in Seattle. We had some R and R in Los Angeles. The Americans were a bit loud and not as tactical as us, but their standards were the same and it was good to work alongside them.



Pte Steven Long, 2 PWRR

This exercise. We've got nice hot weather and we get some time off. All the locals



are really friendly and they go out of their way to give a helping hand. The white-water rafting and horse riding was great. We've had a good time.

LCpl Stew Blakey, REME

My favourite exercise was Denmark in 1994. I was there with the Royal Signals as a vehicle mechanic. I got on with everybody and had a good laugh. The Danish people were very friendly. Lovely pastries!



Lt Oliver Stokes, 2 PWRR

North Carolina about three years ago. It was absolutely superb, mainly because I'd never been to America before. To see the American Army operate was fascinating. It was an exceptionally challenging exercise with a superb new weapon system and all American kit.



Cpl Christopher Hill, 2 PWRR

My favourite was Lion Heart in 1983. It was the first time I'd been abroad. We spent nearly 12 weeks in field conditions and I enjoyed it mainly because I was in Germany for the first time. We had a week at the beer festival at Sennelager.



LCpl Pete Ward, RAMC

I enjoy every exercise we go on because we are able to practise the trade that we are trained for. But Dartmoor back in 1991 was very good. The weather was absolutely abysmal, but it was escape and evasion, and



great fun. That's what I class as real soldiering.

LBdr Dean Swanston, RHA

Canada last year. I'd never been before but out on the plains of BATUS you get a feeling for the wide open spaces. It was a change meeting the Canadians and seeing what they do compared with the way that we do it.



Gnr Kenneth Boyle, RHA

When I went to Falklands. Firing the guns in a blizzard was really good. We had R and R too so we could go off and visit people. We went to Port Stanley, had a look at the museum and saw loads of penguins. Really enjoyable.



LCpl Glyn James, REME

We've done a lot of adventure training, white-water rafting and sunbathing here in Kenya. It's a good laugh. We've had to do quite a lot of work maintaining the aircraft and keeping them flying. Kenya has



been my favourite exercise and I'd like to come back.

Pte Claire Gethin, AGC

This is my first exercise as I'm straight out of training. So it's got to be my favourite. I've always wanted to come to Kenya. Being a pay clerk I've had to travel around, so I've seen quite a lot. This morning I was out on a helicopter and we saw loads of elephants.



Pte Jenny Meller, RLC

Belize was a lot better than Kenya because it was more relaxed. We were able to go to the pool every day and had some good R and R in Mexico. It was like a holiday.



LCpl Kerion Alvarez, Gibraltar Regiment

This is my second time in Kenya and the most interesting exercise so far. We had one week off, just before the jungle phase, and went white-water rafting and then to Lake Naivashu, where we went horse-riding and swimming.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Sgt Shane Wilkinson

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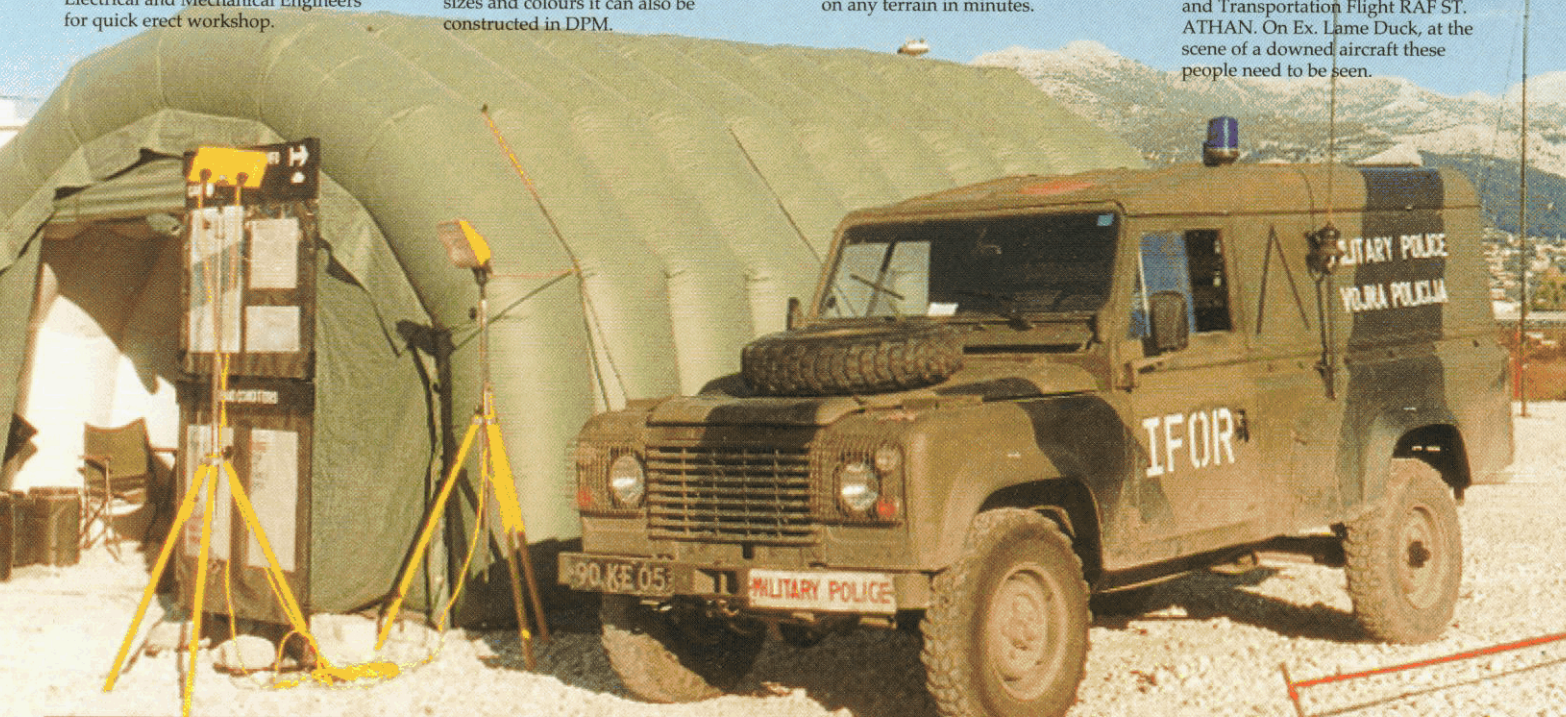
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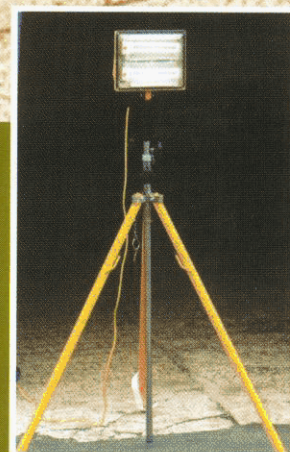
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