

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

June 1993 £1.60

SOLDIER

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winner**
See Page 3



Joker Jim: Army humour cracks me up



**Also inside:
Brunei Garrison
fights the haze
RAMC centenary**

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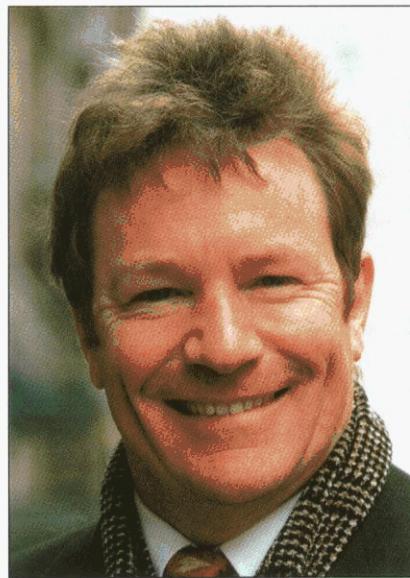
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SOLDIER
to soldier

We've scored
a golden goal

IT IS just eight months since we took the plunge and re-launched *Soldier* as a monthly.

We changed not for change's sake but for the better – to give our readers greater value with more pages, more colour, more variety.

If anyone ever questioned the wisdom of this move their doubts will have been swamped by the success story that *Soldier* has enjoyed since October.

You will have noticed that advertisers, large and small, have been placing ever more confidence in our product – faith which has been matched by an unprecedented show of spontaneous support from you, the readers.

What the advertising industry calls "unsolicited testimonials" have poured in from people of all age groups worldwide; from soldiers of all ranks as well as civilians.

PROPHETIC

We have been heartened by them all, particularly from the younger age groups, but one particularly apt example came from a reader in Lancashire who, after the first monthly issue, predicted: "I think you are on to a winner."

How prophetic he turned out to be. Imagine our delight when, pitted against some heavyweight rivals, *Soldier* won a Gold Award last month for the best internal magazine in the biggest and most prestigious competition of its kind in Europe (see Page 12).

We now know how it would feel if a football team changed its strip, team formation and style of play . . . and then, eight months later, won the cup.

Winning teams usually have that extra magic ingredient to help them on their way – loyal and enthusiastic support. Thanks for yours.

In the line of fire

Brunei's British Garrison has been drawn into an environmental catastrophe that has engulfed the region for several months. Vast forest fires burning out of control are filling the skies with smoke and haze. The garrison is learning to cope . . . and fight back

FORGET those tropical dawns beloved of travel brochure editors. Instead of blue skies, soldiers waking up in Brunei today find the sunshine diluted by a pall of smoke which has reduced visibility to a few hundred metres. The smell of wood smoke clings to everything.

The haze has arrived; a blanket of smoke which is now all that remains of huge areas of rain forest which once carpeted the whole of neighbouring Borneo. The *El Nino* effect has brought drought to the region, allowing the fires to burn out of control.

But the British Garrison in Brunei is fighting back. It has mounted a major operation – codenamed Op Companion – to provide military assistance to the civil authorities, tackling forest fires burning within Brunei itself.

ANCIENT FOREST

Although the Brunei blazes are not on the same scale as those in neighbouring East Kalimantan, they are nevertheless destroying 6,000-year-old primary forest and adding to the haze smothering Borneo and other parts of South East Asia.

Since 1962, the start of the Malayan Emergency, there has been a British presence in Brunei, the small sultanate on the west coast of Borneo, sandwiched between the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak to the north and south, and the Indonesian state of East Kalimantan to the east.

At present the British garrison comprises almost 2,000 personnel in the form of a small HQ and support element, including 7 Flight, Army Air Corps, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles (the resident battalion), and the Training Team Brunei, the jungle warfare school.

Army personnel have been working



Perilous work: Sgt Tilbikram Limbu and Rfn Jiwanath Magar of 2 RGR hose down smouldering

undergrowth in the forests of Brunei

EXPERT advice was given to Brunei Garrison by a two-man team from Keogh Barracks near Aldershot.

Maj Martin Bricknell, a doctor, and environmental health technician Sgt Sean Lundy from the Environmental Monitoring Team, flew to South East Asia to assess the situation. Their recommendations formed the basis of the garrison's haze plan.

closely with the Brunei Fire Services since the beginning of April, providing three 2,500-gallon inflatable water tanks to counter the dry conditions brought on by lack of rain.

The water table has dropped, allowing the peat soil, in places ten metres deep, to

dry out and catch fire. It can smoulder for days or weeks before erupting like a mini-volcano as gases deep underground ignite. Only heavy rains can extinguish the flames. With the local fire services hard-pressed to keep on top of the situation, 2 RGR is able to provide valuable assistance.

The Gurkhas work in teams of 15 to 25 men, clearing routes through the forest and rolling out huge lengths of hose to the fire fronts. It is back-breaking work in difficult conditions. Shifts can be as long as 16 hours and the men work late into the night.

High tropical temperatures are made worse by the heat and smoke of burning peat, which forces the troops to wear masks. Maj David Wombell, OC B

Company, 2 RGR, whose men were the first to deploy, said: "The fire-fighting is dangerous. Not only is there the danger of burnt or burning trees coming down without warning, but scorpions, snakes and other insects and animals are keen to catch a lift away from the fire on anything that moves, and that includes soldiers."

Rfn Anup Pradhan said: "The peat fires are a very big problem. They're difficult to put out and they are burning underground over a wide area. There is a lot of damage to plants and trees and many snakes and reptiles have been killed. Sadly, some of the boys have found

Haze brings its hazards

FAMILIES of the British Garrison in Brunei have learned to live with the haze. They know that a change in the direction of the wind can bring with it a choking blanket of smoke, wiping out a clear blue sky and cloaking the entire area for days at a time.

The hazard is quantifiable. Brunei Shell Petroleum plays an important role in keeping tabs on the situation by measuring particulate matter from noxious gases in the air. On the pollution standard index (PSI), levels of nought to 100 are considered acceptable, 100 to 200 unhealthy and 200-plus hazardous.

For several months now daily readings around the garrison have averaged more than 200, climbing at the worst times to more than 500.

The effects on the garrison have been far-reaching. School hours have slipped, all sports for children have stopped, and the youngsters have to remain in their air-conditioned classrooms during breaks.

Immediate physical steps were taken to improve the situation. Air purifiers were bought for all married quarters and existing air conditioners up-graded with finer filters. Face masks were issued for those working outside. A haze monitoring cell was established to liaise with concerned agencies, such as the medical centre, with

all information being passed on to garrison personnel.

Mrs Melissa Carter, chairwoman of the Wives' Club, said: "It's pretty depressing and it is difficult to describe. The best I can think of is that it's like a fog on the moors in winter, but with heat and humidity.

"Add to that the sensation of waking in the night with the smell of bonfire smoke in the bedroom and that's about it. Trying to explain to active toddlers that they can't play outside in these conditions is difficult and the biggest worry is for their health."

CHEST INFECTIONS

Mrs Letisea Rai added: "There seems to be an increase in the number of people, particularly children, with coughs, colds and chest infections. The extra air conditioning units and air purifiers will help."

Voluntary repatriation is another important option open to families who may opt to return to the United Kingdom or, in the case of Gurkha families, to Nepal.

Mrs Carter said: "Some are taking this option, but many wives don't want to leave their husbands here."

For those who choose to remain or must stay, decompression "breather breaks" of two weeks away from Brunei are another option.

spreading further, but only the rain can stop them altogether."

Help for the beleaguered firemen has also come from the air . . . in the form of buckets of water emptied on to the fires by 7 Flight's Bell 212 helicopters. The garrison workshops modified the aircraft to carry under-slung "Bambi buckets", collapsible containers specially designed to "bomb" hot spots deep in the forest.

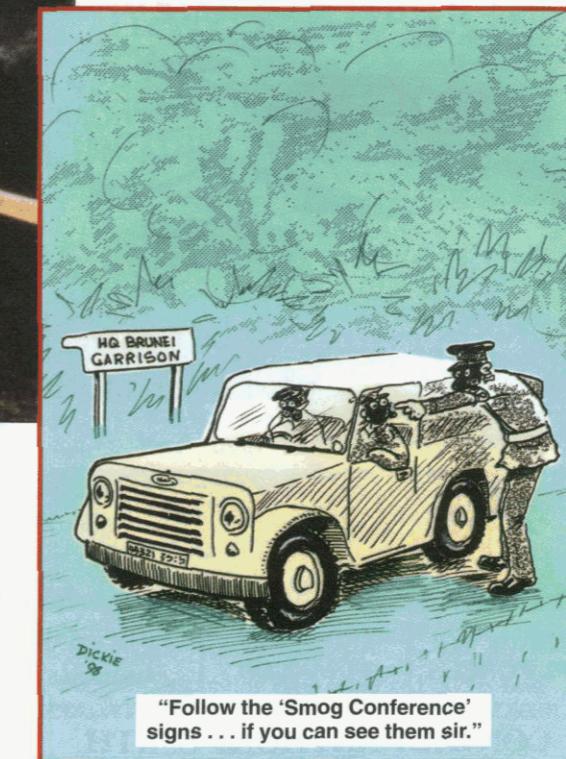
Each can carry almost one tonne of water and are topped up by being dunked in the nearest lake.

LCpl Andrew Wray of 7 Flight was posted to Brunei in January. "I hadn't even heard about the haze then, and I certainly didn't expect to be fighting forest fires," he said. "But it is good to feel that we're doing our bit to prevent a natural disaster and the Bruneians have been happy to see us."

EFFORT

Lt Col Mark Lillingston-Price, CO 2 RGR and Garrison Commander, praised the role of the Gurkhas and his troops. "The effort that everyone in the garrison has put in to deal with the fires has been superb. From the workshops and HQ staff through to 7 Flight and the Gurkhas on the ground, everyone has played a part."

"The work that's being done here is helping to save the forest and reduce the haze. The working relationship which we have with the local fire services is very good. The garrison and 2 RGR as a whole have been helping Brunei and the local community."



"Follow the 'Smog Conference' signs . . . if you can see them sir."

badly-burned pythons and turtles which were still alive."

LCpl Rajkumar Rai said the soldiers were attempting the impossible. "Only days of heavy rain will put out the fires, but the rains are not expected until the end of the year. We can stop the fires

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PEUGEOT



World showcase

Why our EOD teams are in big demand

Explosive experts give added value in Abu Dhabi

Report and pictures: Paul Beaver

ASK any British defence equipment company about the benefits to national exports of British soldiers demonstrating new equipment and you get the same answer: "Yes, please, we'll have them along every time."

The recent TRIDEX defence equipment exhibition in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a case in point. The latest British technology and expertise for the disposal of unexploded ordnance was on show, courtesy of the Royal Engineers and the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO).

There is a worldwide demand for good, cost-effective explosive ordnance disposal technology, especially when dealing with landmines. According to the latest United Nations figures, there are still 110 million uncleared landmines in the world and at least three people are killed every day by anti-personnel mines in Africa alone.

Current methods are costing between £175 and £625 for each mine removed by more traditional methods, even using local labour. The world community cannot afford the billions of pounds it would take to clear every mine from Bosnia, Cambodia or the Falkland Islands, so new cost-effective solutions must be found.

CROWN PRINCE

Offering several innovative British-designed and developed solutions, the British Army EOD Demonstration Team in UAE was in great demand to show off what's cool in Britannia's de-mining arsenal. Among the visitors was Dubai's Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, who is also the UAE's defence minister, the Chiefs of Staff of several Arab Gulf Co-operation Council states and Defence Secretary George Robertson.

Claimed as a breakthrough in humanitarian mine clearance, the FireAnt high-temperature pyrotechnic torch looks more like a Guy Fawkes' Night Roman candle than an EOD aid. But its high reliability, simple operation and very low cost will make it an international winner. It has been developed by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency.

FireAnt has been tested by the Royal Engineers, who are apparently impressed



Top team: Above, left to right, WO2 Cliff Wright RE, Maj Vince Jones RE, Sgt Ellie Mulholland AGC(SPS), WO1 Mick Collarbone RE and Sgt Ian Forde RE with a Topflight Engineering Terrier tracked robot in the foreground

Winner: Sgt Ian Forde, left, primes the Fire-Ant to show its capabilities against the PMN-2 anti-personnel mine

by the simplicity of its operation. The intense heat of the device burns through the plastic or metal casing of the mine, burns out the explosive and detonator, and renders it just a residue of twisted scrap.

Data on all known mines with informa-



tion on their disposal is carried in the "ruggedised" laptop computer, known as the EOD Information System, which can be regularly updated. The computer-based system has been designed with the full co-operation of the MoD and various police forces which need a rapid database to identify, render safe and advise on the disposal on an unexploded device.

ROBOT

Other important disposal tools include the Terrier robotic EOD vehicle. It is designed to work inside aircraft, trains, ships or small spaces in buildings to search out possible devices which require the services of an EOD specialist. Mounted on tracks, Terrier can climb stairs while a colour TV camera allows the operator to view suspect packages from a safe distance.

● Ten medium-wheeled tractors have been donated by the MoD to the HALO Trust for use in humanitarian de-mining projects around the world. The equipment will be used in Angola, Chechnya, Abkhazia, north-east Africa and northern Afghanistan.

People, places, events

A first for the Third



WO1 John Foran (pictured) made British military history in April when he was appointed the divisional sergeant major of Bulford-based 3rd (United Kingdom) Division in a year-long trial.

DSM Foran, who becomes the division's senior staff sergeant major, will act as a focus for all RSMs and garrison sergeant majors within 3 Div's geographical and operational areas. He will spend much of his time visiting units and garrisons, concentrating on internal communications and personnel issues.

If the trial a success, it is likely to be taken up in other divisions.

Chosen from a shortlist through a formal Military Secretary selection board, Mr Foran (43) will support Gen Cedric Delves, GOC 3 Div.

He joined 23 Engineer Regiment as a sapper in 1976 and won the Military Medal for his part in the attack on Mount Tumbledown during the Falklands War. He was serving with 9 Parachute Squadron RE at the time. His most recent appointment was RSM of 73 Engineer Regiment (Air Support) in Nottingham, and he has completed a tour in Bosnia as a SSM with 38 Engineer Regiment and six months on mine-clearance operations with the United Nations in Cambodia.

Gordon's gone

JUST six months after it was built by sappers from 29 Field Squadron, engineers from 37 Field Squadron stripped out Gordon Bridge at Dornji Vakuf in Bosnia. Both units are part of Hameln-based 35 Engineer Regiment.

The bridge, a major construction which provided an alternative crossing while repairs were made to the war-damaged main bridge over the River Vrbas, was dismantled in a spectacularly illuminated night operation.

A 60m heavy girder bridge weighing more than 130 tonnes, Gordon Bridge was first pulled back to the edge of the road – a main supply route – before being stripped out during the night to minimise disturbance to traffic.

Fusiliers are TA top shots

THE 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers won the 1997-98 Territorial Army GPMG (sustained fire) match, beating 33 other Territorial Army teams from throughout the United Kingdom.

Brigade heads first across Severn

SOUTH WALES played host to its largest military training exercise for years when 1st Mechanised Brigade swung into action.

Five thousand troops, more than 800 vehicles and 50 aircraft were involved in Exercise First Head, which culminated in the first crossing of the Severn by landing craft and a series of battles on Salisbury Plain.

The exercise began with training in three locations. At Castle Martin, the Royal Dragoon Guards' battle group completed a week of live-firing, while Brigade HQ, the Brigade Support Group and Support Helicopter Force settled into Caerwent, near Chepstow, where 79 Railway Squadron RLC had helped re-open the railhead link specially for the exercise.

Sennybridge provided a temporary home for the mechanised infantry



Rear view

This is the view most teams saw of the 47 Regiment RA teams taking part in the gruelling Bataan Memorial Death March over the inhospitable White Sands missile range in New Mexico. The Thorney Island gunners won two gold medals, a bronze and took a fourth place in the 25-mile event, which honours American troops who made a forced march through the jungles of the Philippines in 1942. Those who fell by the roadside were bayoneted by the Japanese.

There were gold medals for 47 Regiment's light and light-mixed teams, third and fourth places for the heavy teams, and a fifth place for LBdr James McCallion in the individual competition.

Picture: Sgt Steve Dock

assets. Other units involved included 17 Port and Maritime Regiment from Marchwood, Aldershot-based 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and 23 Amphibious Squadron RE from Germany.

There was huge media interest in the Severn crossings. One was made by an M3 amphibious rig brought from Germany and used in Britain for the first time on the river near Tewkesbury and, downstream, under the imposing structure of the old Severn Bridge, two ramped landing craft from Marchwood ferried vehicles across a 1,500m stretch.

Helicopters flew troops to the plain where they were reunited with vehicles ferried from Haverford West for the final battle phase.



Crossing now: First Head vehicles unload at Aust Cliff, near the old Severn Bridge

IN BRIEF

HEADQUARTERS staff from Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade tried out new hi-tech battlefield communications systems on an exercise involving American, French and German soldiers in Kansas. The Colchester contingent ran a brigade HQ at Fort Leavenworth, using pioneering digital communications equipment.

• A company of Jamaican Defence

Force soldiers exercised with the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards last month as guardsmen trained in the Caribbean.

• Soldiers of 19 Regiment RA (The Highland Gunners) and A (King's) Company of 11 (Netherlands) Infantry Battalion trained together at Catterick in preparation for a six-month UN deployment to Cyprus beginning on June 1. It

Youngest Brit sets sights on Everest

A TERRITORIAL Army officer bidding to become the youngest Briton to scale Everest was believed to be on his way to the summit as this edition went to press.

Tpr Edward Grylls (23) is a member of a four-man team of TA and Regular soldiers attempting to climb the world's highest mountain.

Balked for ten days by poor weather and the threat of avalanches, he was reported to have left Base Camp on May 16 in his bid for the summit. Climbing with him was Capt Geoffrey Stanford, a Regular officer in the Grenadier Guards.

Two other Servicemen, team leader Lt Neil Laughton, a former Royal Marines officer now in the TA, and Tpr Mick Crosswaite, left for the summit a day earlier.

Tpr Grylls, whose father, Sir Michael Grylls, is a former Conservative MP, is sponsored by Services' charity SSAFA Forces Help. He has been in Nepal for nearly three months preparing for the climb.

Two years ago an 18-year-old Swiss became the youngest person to com-

October photocall

ENTRIES for the 1998 Army photo competition, open to Regular and TA soldiers, MoD (Army) civilians and cadets, have to be in by October 1.

Entry forms are available from Media Ops staff and admin offices, or direct from Army Photographic Competition, DPR(A), MoD, Room 0326, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (tel MoD ext 87953 or 0171 218 7953).

Terri's driving ambition



Territorial Army soldier Pte Terri Scott sent a ripple through the ranks when she launched her bid to compete in a national beauty contest. Serving with Nottingham-based 270 Transport Squadron RLC, Terri is hoping to make progress in the Miss Great Britain competition. She also wants to qualify for her military heavy goods vehicle driving licence. Picture: Gareth Griffiths

A student of note...



Cpl Roddy Weir, serving with the Fellingbostel-based Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, has just passed out from the School of Bagpipe Music in Edinburgh with an A grade and as best overall student. During eight years with the regiment, he has been all over Europe, Canada, America, South Africa and Hong Kong, and completed operational tours in the Gulf and Bosnia.

People, places, events

Derek's caff was 'open all hours'

MASTER chef Cpl Derek Wicks, whose non-stop stream of tasty hot meals raised the morale of thousands of grateful soldiers passing through the Tomislavgrad base in Bosnia, has been made an MBE in the latest list of operational honours.

A Royal Engineers unit based at the camp had to keep the main supply route clear of snow and ice around the clock, and the kitchens often stayed open late into the night to feed cold and hungry sappers.

Cpl Wicks, of the RLC, shrugged off the handicap of poor cooking facilities and went on to show great imagination and initiative in improving the appearance of the restaurant, raising the quality of the food and even introducing theme nights. His work was said to have made a major contribution to morale.

He is now running the catering facility in the sergeants' mess of 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln.

Maj Gen Angus Ramsay, currently Commander of British Forces in Cyprus, receives the DSO for his time in command of the Multi-National Division (South West) in Bosnia. A citation says he displayed conspicuous leadership and personal gallantry in dangerous situations, risking constant mental and physical abuse in keeping former warring factions under control.

Pte Ian Wallace, serving with Colchester-based 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance in Bosnia, was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Bravery for risking his life to rescue Pte Andrew Shaw from an overturned, burning vehicle just before it was engulfed in flames. Pte Wallace was driving a Land Rover ambulance between Sipovo and Split when the ambulance in front, driven by Pte Shaw, left the road and plunged down an embankment.

Operational honours and awards for service in Northern Ireland

CBE: Col Michael Smith OBE, MC, late RGJ.

OBE: Lt Col Peter Telford MBE, R Signals.

MBE: Capt Paul Bergqvist RA; Maj Gre-



Cpl Derek Wicks



Maj Gen Ramsay

ville Bibby, Gren Gds; Maj Stephen Firth BEM, Int Corps; Maj Kenneth Lonergan, Cheshire.

MBE: SSgt Peter Long REME; Capt Stuart Mason REME; Capt Thomas McKinney, R Irish; WO2 Steven Watkin, Int Corps.

Mid: Cpl William Holland, R Irish; Lt Kevin Mathers RHF; Capt Neil McKay, A and SH; Fus Michael Sharp RRF; LSgt Dorian Thomas WG.

QCB: Sgt John Baycroft, Para; Sgt Carl Gilmour QGM, RLC.

QCB: LSgt Gary Labram, Gren Gds; Cpl Andrew McLauchlan, Para; Cpl Christopher Tierney QGM, REME.

QCVS: WO1 Andrew Bailey RLC; Maj Richard Barrett, R Irish; Capt John Boyd, R Irish; Maj Richard Broad, R Irish; Sgt Darren Caesar, R Anglian; Capt George Churcher PWRR; Maj Charles Cleverly RTR; Maj David English, R Irish.

Capt James Farrer, 9/12 L; Capt Martin Fielding, R Signals; Maj James Gaselee LG; Capt Frederick Grounds, R Anglian; Sgt Gary Jones, Para; Capt Michael Keating AAC; Sgt James Keeley, Gren Gds; Sgt Alexander Keir, R Signals; Maj Alistair Keith AAC; Sgt Alexander Kelly, R Irish; Lt Stephen Lees PWO; CSgt Joseph Lockhart, R Irish; WO2 Gerod Lockhart QGM, AAC.

Lt Col Alexander Malcolm WG; LCpl David Mason, Int Corps; WO2 Ringland McFaul, R Irish; Capt Paul Milnes RLC; Capt Robert O'Connor DWR; Capt Anthony Parkinson REME; Maj Iain Pickard RHF; WO1 Joseph Tester, Int Corps; Maj Anthony Troulan RE.

For service in former Yugoslavia

CBE: Brig Andrew Figgures, late REME.

OBE: Lt Col Kevin Bacon MBE, AGC(RMP); Lt Col Adrian Bradshaw KRH.

MBE: Maj Richard Felton RGBW; Cpl Derek Wicks RLC.

DSO: Maj Gen Angus Ramsay CBE, late RHF.

MC: CSgt Andrew Marshall PWRR.

Mid: Lt Mark Canning RRF; Maj Edward Coates RRF; Lt Col Michael Lithgow MBE, R Signals.

QCB: Pte Iain Wallace RLC.

QCVS: Maj Nicholas Apps RARO; Lt Col Robin Bacon RLC; Col Richard Bugler, late RLC; Maj Edward Butler MBE, RGJ; SCpl Simon Harris RHG/D; Maj Henry Joynson KRH; Maj Darryl Pooley BEM, RAMC; Capt Anthony Rogers RA(V); Lt Col David Shaw RA; Brig Andrew Stewart OBE, late LD; Maj Christopher Thackray, R Signals.

Miscellaneous awards

MBE: Maj John Ferguson RA.

QCB: SSgt Neil Gammon SASC.

QCVS: Col Rupert Prichard OBE, late Para.

Mast-er climbers



High there: Cpl McBride and Spr Forbes dismantle an old wooden communications mast at Alameda

Sappers plug Rock tunnels

SAPPERS from Osnabruck-based 7 HQ Squadron, part of 21 Engineer Regiment, have blocked up tunnels created by their predecessors on Gibraltar more than 200 years ago.

Entrances to 26 tunnels in the Rock's northern defences, dating back to 1780, were bricked up in a project which involved the manhandling of 70 tonnes of blocks and mortar up and down steep paths and steps.

The squadron was also tasked to demolish a house at Buffadero training area used for battle training and construct a new one, dismantle redundant steel and wooden communications masts at Europa Point, Windmill Hill and Alameda, and install a new fire alarm in the garrison library.

Radium paint traces to be cleared from Rowcroft Barracks

WORK to decontaminate radioactive land at Rowcroft Barracks in Ashford, Kent is due to begin this month and will be completed before the end of the year.

The Ministry of Defence has agreed a contract with NUKEM Nuclear Ltd for the work on the site and the transport of low-level radioactive waste to the Drigg repository in Cumbria.

Construction on the Channel Tunnel rail link and associated road works has been held up by the discovery of some very low-level radioactivity at the former barracks site. It was detected from traces of radium luminising paint used on instruments more than 30 years ago.

Until new safety procedures were introduced after 1960, instruments for disposal were burned and the ash buried. The removal operation is said to pose no threat to those living near the site.

People, places, events

Soldier hits the gold standard

SOLDIER, re-launched as a monthly last October, has won a Gold Award as the best internal magazine in Britain.

Described by a judge as "terrific" and "action-packed", the magazine has also been commended for an environmental feature about the Army's Otterburn Training Area.

When the 1998 corporate communicators' award presentations began on May 8 *Soldier* already knew it had come top of the class for internal magazines published ten or more times a year – and was in with a shout for the gold.

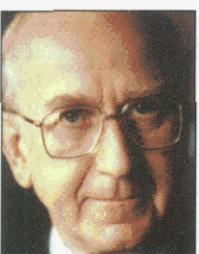
In the event, shortly before the Birmingham ceremony an independent panel of business people elevated the British Army's magazine to "best of the best" – the top magazine of any frequency taking part in the biggest and most prestigious competition of its kind in Europe.

1,000 entries

Competing for the awards this year were more than 1,000 entries from the producers of magazines, newspapers, newsletters, corporate videos and electronic communications.

They were judged on excellence of content and presentation, value for money, knowledge of the target audience, and the way their effectiveness is monitored.

Soldier won its gold award against strong competition from publications produced for organisations such as Barclays Bank, ICL and Peugeot.



Significant: MORI's Bob Worcester

All were among award-winners in the earlier stages of the competition, organised by the British Association of Communicators in Business.

The judge who initially voted *Soldier* the top monthly commented: "Wow! Something for everyone in this action-packed publication. News, people, features, cartoons, adverts, letters – they were all packed into a highly professional 72-page magazine. The editor knows the target audience and hits it."

Professionalism

"This is a terrific, well-balanced publication that is up there with the best. It knows what it is trying to do and achieves its aims with a great deal of professionalism."

The magazine was commended for Karen Moseley's feature on Otterburn, which appeared in the December, 1997 issue.

Representing *Soldier*'s winning team, Managing Editor Chris Horrocks was presented with the Gold Award by MORI Polls founder Bob Worcester, who for the final stage of the competition chaired an independent panel of judges from the business world.

Mr Worcester said: "These awards recognise organisations which give their communication programmes significant priority."

Chris Horrocks said: "It is now as true as it ever has been that the best Army in the world is served by the best magazine."



Big guns: AS90 sounds off during live-firing on the Glamoc ranges in Bosnia. Exercise Panther's Fire involved the Offensive Support Group operating with other elements of the Multi-National Division (South West) and included fixed-wing aircraft and Apache attack helicopters from the 4th US Aviation Brigade based at Tuzla.

It was designed and co-ordinated by Maj Simon Badman of 26th Regiment RA. Dutch, Canadian and Malaysian mortars were integrated with British AS90s to give support to Czech armoured fighting vehicles, Dutch Leopard tanks, Canadian anti-tank weapons, Challenger main battle tanks and Scimitars of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and Lynx helicopters from 664 Squadron, Army Air Corps.

Service chiefs sign up to equality initiative

BRITAIN'S top military leaders have signed up to a project which invites the heads of British business and society to give a personal lead in promoting the principle of racial equality.

In a message to the Leadership Challenge, promoted by the Commission for Racial Equality, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, says: "I believe strong, visible leadership and commitment from the Service chiefs is paramount to the Government's wish to remove any racism and to recruit more ethnic minority personnel."

Royal Military Policemen serving at Sanski Most in Bosnia have brought fresh hope to a 67-year-old widow who had returned to find her garden mined and her home gutted. Detachment commander Sgt Richard O'Brien and his team got the mines cleared and, with a £100 gift from an Army garrison church in Germany, bought chickens and feed, and a goat, so that the woman can rebuild her life.

"I and the individual Service chiefs take this issue extremely seriously, and will continue to review progress on a regular basis to ensure equality of opportunity for all personnel."

They also gathered new bedding, clothes, candles and food for her.

of the General Staff, said: "Equality of opportunity in the Army is about good, strong leadership, fair treatment and decent behaviour. Army policy is crystal clear – but it is by our actions that we will be judged, and I am determined to ensure that this policy is carried through into practice."

Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief

IN BRIEF

THE Normandy Band of the Queen's Division gave the first public performance of a new arrangement of the theme from the film *Titanic* when new £800,000 workshops were opened at the TA Centre in Scunthorpe, home of 147 Port and Reclamation Company, part of 102 Battalion REME.

Territorial Army signallers from units

in the Midlands provided drivers to ferry stars and VIPs to the Eurovision Song Contest at Birmingham's International Indoor Arena. Sixty TA soldiers were involved in Operation Eurovision.

For the second time in four years, Wattisham-based 2 Regiment AAC has won the Rolls Royce Trophy for technical efficiency in maintaining its helicopters.

Minister updates Gulf veterans on research

GULF veterans met Armed Forces Minister John Reid last month for an update on efforts being made to address their concerns. It was the fourth such meeting Dr Reid has held in the Ministry of Defence.

"In seeking to address the concerns of Gulf veterans, I place enormous importance on hearing at first hand what veterans themselves have to say," he told them.

Summing up recent developments on Gulf-related illnesses, he listed:

- Publication of a report, in conjunction with the USA, of the contents of a suspect tank of liquid at Sabahiyah. It was shown to be fuming nitric acid missile fuel.
- Publishing a review on reports of dead animals during the conflict, which found there was no evidence that they had been killed by chemical or biological weapons.
- Extending the research programme to include clinical tests on veterans.
- Launch of an Internet site, allowing easy access to reports and information.

Gulf veterans' open day – Page 23

Classic confrontation



Old meets new as Spr Wesley Abbott (left) and Andrew Robertson, a curator from the National Army Museum, take part in a shooting match for owners of "vintage" short magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) rifles. Andrew turned up at Stoney Castle ranges near Pirbright in an identical uniform to that in which his grandfather, who served with the East Yorkshire Regiment, wore at the Battle of Arras in 1917.

The Army target shooting club's classic SMLE event is the brainchild of WO2 Paul Quilliam RE, an instructor at the Combat Engineer School, Minley.

The Lee Enfield was introduced in 1903 and was still being used by the Australians in the Korean War.

Key moment for family



Full ahead: Capt Anthony Metcalfe (RTR), centre, leads the multinational team in the river crossing in Exercise Aggressive Iron on Vogelsang training area in Germany. The fourth annual Multi-National Division (Central) military skills competition involved 170 soldiers in 17 teams from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom. Capt Metcalfe, ADC to Commander MND(C), Maj Gen Rob McAfee, and his team finished fourth.

Picture: Sgt Chris Andrew RLC

More than 100 officer cadets from A (Athlone) Coy, University of London Officers' Training Corps passed out at Woolwich. With 500 personnel on strength, it is the biggest UOTC in the country.

A British military presence at Munster Kaserne, Wulften, which dates back more than half a century, ended on April 21 with a parade through Stadt Dorsten by

12 Supply Regiment RLC, the last unit based there. The regiment will disband before the ammunition depot is taken over by the Bundeswehr next year.

The new uniformed Germany Guard Service, inaugurated at Sennelager in April, will provide a cohesive security force, releasing more British soldiers from guard duties.

Capt Piers Strudwick, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, hands over the symbolic key to the newly-installed Governor of Edinburgh Castle... who just happens to be his father, Maj Gen Mark Strudwick. Piers was one of 100 soldiers from the Colchester-based Royal Scots who travelled to Edinburgh for the ceremony. With troops from other Scottish regiments, they escorted the 123rd Governor from the castle esplanade to the entrance for the hand-over. Maj Gen Strudwick is regimental colonel of the RS.

Century of care

From the Boer War to Bosnia, the Royal Army Medical Corps has come a long way in 100 years

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

ONLY 30 years before the Royal Army Medical Corps was formed in 1898, it was considered ridiculous in the corridors of Whitehall that intelligent, healthy young men should spend their time on a battlefield tending the sick and wounded.

Despite numerous medical disasters during the Crimean War, the War Office refused to set up a special medical corps. Instead, 300 decrepit "quibbling pensioners" were gathered to form an ambulance corps which proved to be a complete failure. Many of the old men died of cholera while others sought to drown their sorrows.

The morale of the Army medical services was at rock bottom. Their standing within the Armed Forces was little better than it had been during Henry V's time when physicians ranked after shoemakers and tailors in importance, but before washerwomen.

During the following year, 1855, as a result of this fiasco, it was decided to form the Medical Staff Corps, made up of

"Men able to read and write, of regular steady habits and good temper and of a kindly disposition."

During the following three decades the gallantry and increasing efficiency of the medical services built up their respect and reputation in the British Army. Finally, on June 23 1898, Queen Victoria signed a Royal Warrant ordering that a "Corps be formed styled the Royal Army Medical Corps".

In less than a year the new corps, with its motto *In Arduis Fidelis* (In hardship faithful), was put to the test on the South African veld. A

typhoid epidemic affected nearly a quarter of the 250,000-strong fighting force, and another 31,000 men were wounded. The infant corps acquitted itself honourably and six officers were awarded the Victoria Cross.

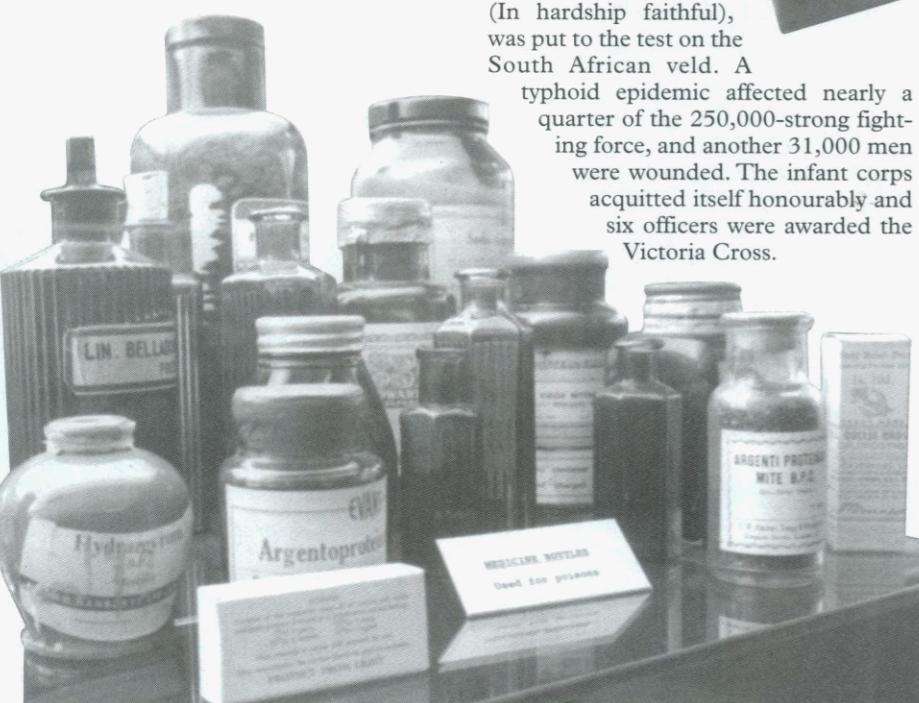
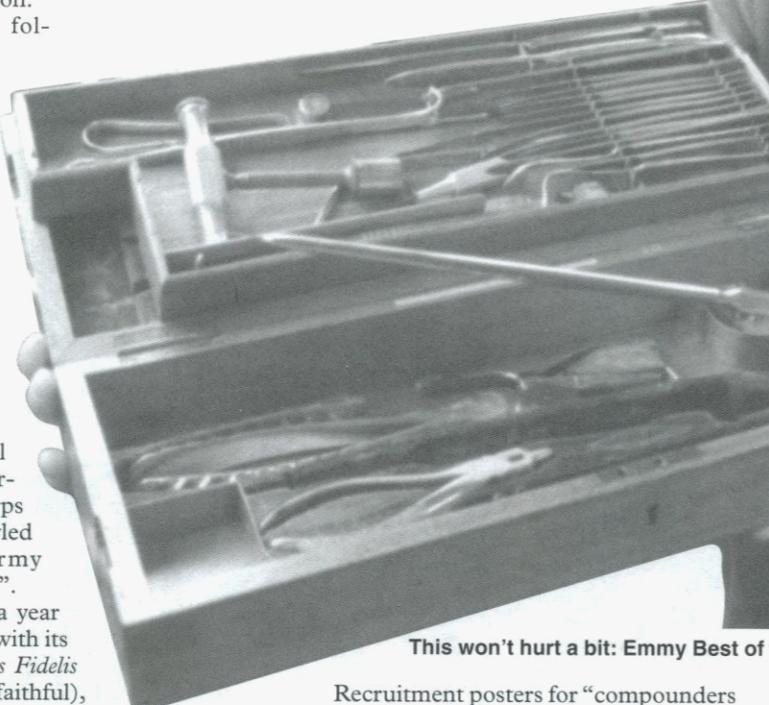
This won't hurt a bit: Emmy Best of the

Recruitment posters for "compounders of medicine" – pharmacists – to join the RAMC in the Boer War offered 3s 6d a day, free rations, kit, and passage to and from South Africa, with two months' gratuity at the end of the campaign. Applicants had to be aged 21 to 35 years of age, measure at least 5ft 3in, have a 33in or more chest, and weigh no less than 115lb.

When the First World War started the RAMC was better prepared. Under the leadership of Gen Sir Alfred Keogh extensive training had been carried out in all hospital and field duties. Progress in research, the development of inoculation and new sanitary measures undertaken by Field Hygiene Sections notably reduced disease. Cases of typhoid and typhus fell dramatically and wound gangrene was brought under control.

On the Western Front alone 1,600,000 wounded were treated and returned to the firing line. The medics themselves lost 743 officers and 6,130 other ranks, and earned some 7,000 decorations, among which were eight VCs.

By the time the Second World War started there had been great developments made in medical science and



Drug store: Anaesthetics and chloroform, discovered as far back as 1840s in time for surgeons to take to the Crimea on display in the RAMC Museum at Keogh Barracks



RAMC Museum shows off a 1898 surgeon's set

research, which produced penicillin, sulpha drugs, blood transfusion and anaesthesia.

The North African campaign saw the first parachute field ambulance surgical teams dropping out of the skies, complete with operating tables, lamps and instruments. Despite having the most elementary facilities in prison camps, men from the RAMC performed incredible feats of surgery with old razor blades, bent table spoons and bits of thread.

During 100 years of the RAMC, its soldiers have won 29 VCs, two of which were double, one George Cross, 603 DSOs, 1,806 MCs, 464 DCMs, 2,375 Military Medals and 16 George Medals.

It has not just been on the battlefield that the corps has distinguished itself. It has been instrumental in saving millions of lives by its contributions to the study of Malta fever, sleeping sickness, malaria and typhoid.

Things have come a long way from the days when the recognised treatment of gunshot wounds was cauterisation with boiling oil of elders mixed with treacle, and the "remedy" for typhus was port wine and Peruvian bark.



Roll of Honour: Maj Gen Robin Short, Director General Army Medical Services, in front of photographs of his predecessors at his headquarters at Keogh Barracks

Rising again out of the ashes

DESPITE "very public difficulties" in recent years, the Royal Army Medical Corps has continued to support the Army on every operation, Maj Gen Robin Short, the Director General of the Army Medical Services said.

Talking about the RAMC in its centenary year, he said he believed it would take at least ten years for the corps to re-establish itself again properly. He is hopeful that the Strategic Defence Review will do much to mend the damage.

"We were treated very harshly under review processes such as Options for Change and Front Line First," he explained. "We were decimated under Defence Cost Study 15 in 1993-94. It was not our size so much, but the amalgamation of the secondary care services and the closure of the Cambridge and Woolwich hospitals and the British military hospitals abroad.

"The formation of the Defence Secondary Care Agency has been disastrous. The military ethos has been lost and it has resulted in a large number of consultants leaving. It was the saving of £560 million over a ten-year period which was the attraction."

Despite this, however, the RAMC has continued to send its soldiers all over the world and was at the forefront of operations in Bosnia, Rwanda, Angola and Zaire.

Much has changed in the last decade, with British soldiers now being treated in German Hospitals and within the NHS system. Maj Gen Short said he wanted to expand into the teaching hospitals of large cities, placing key personnel where they can be seen as being totally integrated, but working as clearly identifiable military units and teams which can be extracted for operational work.

"I believe our future must be to increase our relationship with the NHS, to gain trust, increase training, and persuade them that we produce the best."

There was also, he said, a need for a military core hospital where the military can practise medicine to a high standard. Military requirements are sometimes different from those in a civilian environment.

"There is no time for first-name terms and no time for questions when you're under shot and shell," he said. "Lives can depend on protocol and mutual trust. Responsibility is also given at a younger and junior stage in the military."

Scientists, runners, actors and Who?
The Royal Army Medical Corps has attracted some colourful characters to its ranks. They include Sir Alexander Fleming, Dr Sir Roger Bannister, Frankie Vaughan, Richard Wilson and Tom Baker.

It was important for soldiers to get more training in accident and emergency work, especially trauma. For this reason people will continue to be sent to places like Afghanistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and even Baltimore, where they see more shootings in one day than we get in a year".

With the demise of the military hospitals, Army doctors are getting their training in civilian hospitals in the fields of anaesthetics and orthopaedics.

He still gets the "brightest and the best" joining the RAMC, but wants to provide a more stable environment for the consultants and trained practitioners.

"The ones we should really pay tribute to are the ones who have stayed with us. They have taken all the stress of change and repeated tours in Bosnia. But they are all proud to wear the uniform and badge of the Royal Army Medical Corps."

In a foreign field... peace at last

Modern Fusiliers pay tribute as remains from 1917 battlefield are laid to rest

THERE was nowhere to hide from the biting wind and driven rain as soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers slow-marched with three flag-draped coffins across the wet grass of a war cemetery in the flat fields of Pas de Calais, northern France.

The men whose remains were being buried with full military honours had died not far from this spot 81 years ago during the Battle of Arras. They were Ptes Frank King and George Anderson of the 13th Royal Fusiliers, and a third, unidentified, soldier, known to be a fusilier only by buttons and buckles found by builders in a shallow mass grave at Monchy-le-Preux in 1996.

A lifetime after their unrecorded deaths on the battlefield, they were finally laid to rest with great dignity, joining more than 500 British and 23 Canadian soldiers long ago buried and immortalised by the simple headstones of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The ceremony was attended by the Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and president of the CWGC; Armed Forces Minister John Reid; the British Ambassador to France, Sir Michael Jay; more than 100 veterans; and members of the families



Escorted: Harry Wells, 98-year-old First World War veteran, is assisted by Cpl Tony Gorman (left) and Sgt Mike Ponting of 2 RRF

tags; their Army records were burned during the Blitz, which destroyed 60 per cent of First World War archives.

of Pte King and Pte Anderson. Harry Wells (98), who fought over this same ground in 1918, sat in the front row for the burial service. A bugler from the Normandy Band of the Queen's Division sounded the *Last Post*, the heart-rending notes torn away by fierce gusts of wind, and a 12-man party of Fusiliers under Capt Jonny Laws fired three SA80 volleys into the air.

Arrangements for the service were made by Brig Andrew Gadsby, the Military Attaché in Paris.

The battle for Arras, which claimed 159,000 British and Empire and as many as 200,000 German casualties, began in a snowstorm on April 9, 1917 – Easter Monday – as a diversion for a French attack further up the line.

It is thought the men from the 13th Royal Fusiliers died of wounds following a costly attempt to capture the village of Monchy. Their grave, which contained the remains of 27 bodies, was discovered during the construction of an industrial estate. The remains of 24 were completely unidentifiable and were buried in the Monchy cemetery at the end of last year.

Items found with the remains, including pipe stems, belt buckles, buttons, wire cutters, a penknife and remnants of cloth and materials, marked them as British.

King, 23 at the time of his death, and Anderson, 30, came from West London, and a wreath from the borough of Richmond was laid on their graves. They were identified by their dog-



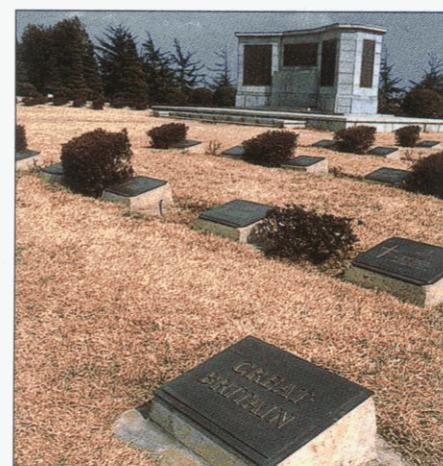
Honoured: Soldiers of the Celle-based 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers with the three coffins at Monchy-le-Preux in northern France

Unknown soldier buried at Pusan

FIVE days after three First World War victims were buried close to their final battlefield in northern France, a similar ceremony took place in very different surroundings as the remains of an unknown British soldier of the Korean War were similarly honoured.

Sophisticated forensic analysis and other avenues of research had failed to identify the man, uncovered by workmen constructing a new road in the Kaesong area of North Korea, so he was buried as an unknown soldier.

The service, on April 20, took place in the United Nations cemetery at Pusan in South Korea during the annual visit of the British Korea Veterans Association. Seventy or so British veterans, plus many others from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, watched the interment conducted by the Rev Peter Howson, Assistant Chaplain General, HQ 4 Division. Laments were played by a piper and bugler of The Black Watch.



No name: United Nations Cemetery, Pusan, last resting place of the Unknown Soldier

When the remains, the first to be returned since the end of the Korean War in 1953, were handed over in October 1995 they were accepted at a formal cere-

mony in the sterile surroundings of Panmunjom in the demilitarised zone which separates North and South Korea. Brig Colin Parr, Britain's Defence Attaché in Seoul, received them in his capacity as a member of the UN Command, and was responsible for the burial arrangements.

The task of identifying the long-dead soldier and tracing next-of-kin fell to the PS4(A) Casualty and Compassionate Section based at Trenchard Lines, Upavon. The cell instigated months of investigation and analysis, with considerable help from the United States, which offered its state-of-the art forensic facility in Hawaii.

But dental features were in too poor a condition to provide a positive lead and other extensive lines of inquiry also drew a blank.

More than 200 British soldiers missing presumed killed during the Korean War have no known grave. Their names are recorded on a memorial at Pusan.

Battlefield detectives

A LARGE part of the day-to-day work of the Army's Casualty and Compassionate Section at Upavon in Wiltshire is involved in dealing with current cases of serving personnel needing to return to the United Kingdom from abroad.

But when the remains of British soldiers are uncovered on far-off battlefields, the section is also triggered into action.

At the moment it has 11 such cases on its hands, nine in France and the Netherlands, mostly uncovered by construction work or farming activities. In these instances, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or the Recovery and Identification Service of the Royal Netherlands Army take the remains and produce an initial report.

IDENTIFICATION

The report ends up on the desks of the PS4(A) Casualty and Compassionate Section staff, who become responsible for identifying the remains and tracing next-of-kin. Once that process is completed, authority to re-inter is given to the defence attaché at the relevant embassy, who arranges the re-burial in liaison with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Identification can take years and involve many agencies. Remains can provide clues in terms of height, probable age, colour of hair, dental plate and other characteristics. War diaries held at the Public Record Office at Kew add useful background, while the Army Records Office at Hayes can provide personal detail on individual soldiers. Unfortunately, most First World War records were destroyed during the Blitz.

RELATIVES

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Army Historical Branch and regimental headquarters and associations may provide further brush strokes in completing the picture.

If a positive identification is made, PS4(A) begins the sometimes equally painstaking task of tracking down relatives, perhaps from scraps of 50-year-old information.

It is only when every stone has been turned and every avenue explored that an unsuccessful search results in remains being buried as an "Unknown Soldier".

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People strategy

Be relevant ...

or redundant!

Karen Moseley reports from the Adjutant General's Conference

THE ARMY is going through a "different, difficult and challenging period", Armed Forces Minister John Reid told the Adjutant General's annual conference at London's Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

Referring to the Strategic Defence Review, he said: "We are involved in the process of modernisation, taking the values of the British Army and applying them to today's circumstances, both at the strategic level and at the level of human resource management. That is a difficult challenge.

"I want you to know how grateful I am for the efforts you are making. I also want you to know we will not please everybody."

On the one hand there were those who wanted to turn the Army into yet another civilian organisation. "That is not going to happen because the task given to us by society is unique."

On the other hand, there were those who said that any move away from what the Army used to be was a betrayal of its

traditions and ethos. "That is the road to redundancy of the British Army. That is the road to isolation and alienation from the very society we seek to protect. If you do not remain relevant to the society you seek to serve then ultimately that society will declare you redundant."

He said it was important for the Army to maximise its investment in soldiers, especially in training and education.

"The quality and commitment of our forces and the civilian support is a massive asset to us. We must build up high technology skills in them which are essential in all aspects of modern military operations.

"This is good not only for the individuals themselves, but is good for the Army both in attracting and retaining people. We will get more from them during their military careers, we will encourage more people to join us, and we in turn will make a major contribution to the nation, not only through the quality of our defence forces, but by injecting high quality, well-educated and well-trained people into the work force."



Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General. Theme of his annual conference was "Obtain, Retain, Sustain – A Human Resources Strategy for the Army"

Help for the homeless

ONE IN four homeless people living on the streets of London are ex-Servicemen, Lt Col Stephen Coltman of Army Personnel Services told the conference.

A survey by the Ex-Service Action Group had showed:

- 22 per cent of the survey population were ex-Servicemen, none were female;
- The profile of the ex-Serviceman was white, British and older (average age 48). They were more willing to sleep rough with a lower hostel occupancy, and had a greater ability to survive sleeping on the street, perhaps reflecting their training;
- The length of homelessness for the ex-Servicemen was longer than the non-Service homeless;
- The ex-Serviceman was much more likely to suffer from drink and physical health problems, whereas the civilian tended to suffer from drugs and mental health problems;
- Two to three of the ex-Service group

were Army. Most ex-Army were short Service, serving six years or less and had few transferable skills. Only eight per cent were ex-National Servicemen. The bulk were junior ranks and 70 per cent were single when they left the Forces. Of the others, virtually all were divorced or widowed by this stage in their lives.

Over half those interviewed said no advice or help would have prevented their homelessness. Many stated they were not offered resettlement advice, although most had left many years ago when there was less provision.

Col Coltman said Service charities had given a clear commitment to the problem. They will work more closely with homeless charities and agencies to identify ways to recover ex-Service personnel from homelessness. There are plans for a programme of rehabilitation for those with alcohol and drug problems. MoD is considering a veterans' telephone advisory cell.

Different society, different values

MAINTAINING the values and standards of the Army, and its traditions of excellence, is more of a challenge today than in the past.

Brig Peter Curry, Director of Personal Services, told the conference the reason for this was that society has less deference to authority and the structures of religion, community and family have weakened.

"The rights of individuals have progressively been given priority over their obligation to others," he said. "Traditional shared values have been less effectively transmitted, and concepts such as honour and loyalty are less well understood. There is a prevailing drugs culture and an increasing habit of litigation."

The Army could not remain immune from such changes as they were reflected in the behaviour and attitudes of those who enlist. It had to reflect society, but because of its unique function it needed to place more emphasis on certain values. "That is why we have this need to be different. Not as a moral crusade against a changing world, though morality is certainly important, but to sustain the moral component of fighting power."

● During the three years of compulsory drug testing in the Army, the percentage of positive results has dropped. In 1993, 5.4 per cent of soldiers tested were found to be positive. In 1996 this dropped to 0.71 per cent, and last year the figure dropped again to 0.68 per cent.

● The Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow is providing services originally dealt with by 20 offices on eight different sites. Maj Gen David Burden, the Military Secretary, said that by forming the APC and transferring the Personnel, Pay and Administration to Scotland, they had accomplished in 18 months what many people said was impossible three years ago. "The city offers everything we need, not least high quality and well motivated staff, still new but learning fast."

He said he had designated 1998 as the Year of Soldier Career Management.

● An increased number of compensation claims received by the Army is a reflection of modern society, the conference heard. One of the more bizarre was from a solicitor demanding compensation for his client as South Armagh was not considered a "safe area".

● Injury is the most common reason for soldiers reporting sick. More are injured during training than at any time during their career, said Maj Gen Robin Short, Director General of Army Medical Services. "Recruits are at a premium. We must identify why we are injuring such a high number, and improve programmes to achieve fitness levels required without this trail of destruction."

● The Army's pay structure is 25 years old and creaking at the joints, the conference heard. A simpler structure is being developed. One proposal is that all ranks, not just officers as now, will receive regular increments to reflect growing experience, qualifications and performance.

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Sail away: Two Nicholson 55s of the type which will soon be racing around the world

Army sailors set a course for adventure

The countdown has begun for the start of an ocean race which will take more than 100 soldiers across the seven seas and into 12 months of adventure. *Soldier* found out more

Report: Graham Bound

ON DECEMBER 27 the Army's Nicholson 55 boat *Broadsword* and two other Service yachts will unfurl their multi-coloured spinnakers and join ten civilian entries accelerating across the line at the start of Transglobe 98, the Royal Ocean Racing Club's premier round-the-world race.

The soldier-sailors, selected from all ranks and units, will each join *Broadsword* for one leg of the globe-girdling adventure. Working with 11 colleagues in a constant cycle of watches, the crews will eke every last knot of speed out of their boat in an attempt to beat similar teams from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force and some of the best civilian racers.

The inter-Service competition will actually begin in the Solent six weeks earlier, when the three yachts will race each other to the main race starting line. This unofficial phase of the year-long adventure promises to be as hard-fought as any.

The gala start of the main race in Antigua will be followed by a short leg to Panama. Inexperienced crews will spend the first few days of each leg getting to grips with the demands of watch-keeping, helming, sail-changing and simply living in the confined space of a yacht.

In Panama *Broadsword* will exchange crews for the first time before beginning the long voyage across the Pacific to Honolulu. Hong Kong, Singapore, Penang, Cape Town and Buenos Aires will be further staging posts before the yachts cross the Caribbean finishing line in Grenada in late November 1999.

There will be challenges and risks on every leg, but the most dangerous journey will be the short passage through the notorious Straits of Malacca into the Indian Ocean. There they will be in territory infested with modern-day pirates, and to minimise the risk of attack, the boats will travel in convoy, forgoing competition for a brief period.

Exercise Transglobe 98 (as the military element of the race has been code-named)



About the boats

Broadsword is one of nine 55ft-long Nicholson yachts built for Combined Services Adventurous Sail Training in the early 1970s. They are in almost constant use for adventure training and R&R.

The "Nicks" (as they are affectionately called) weigh some 25 tonnes, and are constructed in tough glass fibre. Each of the three boats selected to race is being extensively refurbished and fitted with new radar and

water purification equipment. During the race, space will be at a premium. Spare sails and food will take up much of the forward cabin, meaning that most of the crew must "hot bunk" in berths around the saloon.



Picture: Mike Weston

Charting a route: Skipper Jules Yeardley (left) and Army organiser Capt John Broadley, RLC on board the *Broadsword*

will involve up to 315 soldiers, sailors and RAF personnel, three boats from the Services fleet and an impressive global support effort. This huge challenge is being taken on by a small team working from a single Portakabin at the Joint Service Adventurous Sail Training Centre in Gosport.

At the headquarters, littered with charts and coils of rope, the Army's project officer, Capt John Broadley, RLC, and his RAF and naval colleagues are under increasing pressure to select skippers and crew while also advising on training and organising the complicated logistics. Above all, they have to raise several hun-

Watch for our updates on the Army's global racer and its crews

dred thousand pounds for each boat. Vital funds have come from the Services sports lotteries and other sources but the bills remain daunting and more private sponsorship is needed. The cost of travel to and from the staging posts for the Army crews alone will be almost £70,000.

Inevitably participants will have to pay a proportion of their costs, but this will probably be no more than £300. "A third of each crew must be under 25, and they don't have much money," explained Capt Broadley.

The strategy seems to have worked, because well over 300 soldiers have applied to crew *Broadsword*. John had hoped for at least one all-woman crew, but few have expressed interest. "If the girls out there want to get themselves organised, they only need to call me," he said.

The office receives frequent calls from soldiers all over the world anxious to know if they have a place on the boat. By chance, our conversation was interrupted by such a caller. John had good news for him. "You're on the last leg," he shouted down the phone. "We'll get details to you soon. Hope the weather's OK in Sarajevo. Can't make any promises for the North Atlantic, though."

● If you are interested in joining *Broadsword* for one leg of Exercise Transglobe 98 (no experience is necessary), contact Capt John Broadley on 01705 765003.

Pressing need for calm

This month, Cari looks at three issues. If you would like to share a problem or offer advice of your own, write to her c/o Soldier, or BFBS, BFPO 786.

Dear Cari, I HAVE a serious complaint about the medical services in British Forces Germany, but no one seems to listen. I have written to many important people but have not had a satisfactory reply. I feel that the Army has treated me like a silly, annoying woman who will not go away. If you really want to help me you should print my story. Otherwise I will write to a national newspaper. – Mrs M (BFG).



Cari Roberts

Cari replies: Having looked at your full story I know the matter you are worried about is being investigated and that you will be told about it. If people are unhappy with treatment by medical services in BFT they should first of all talk to their GP. If that doesn't produce satisfactory results they should contact the Health Alliance through the proper channels.

Ask, at every stage, what the next point of contact is and treat everyone politely. Situations are so often made worse by

Dear Cari, I THINK you ought to mention the holiday apartments that SSAFA Forces Help advertise. I didn't know about them and, as a fan of the Isle of Wight, I was thrilled to find out about them. – Mrs B (UK).

Cari replies: A good tip . . . I didn't know about them either. The holiday

SOME time ago I was soundly berated by a journalist for giving a briefing to a group of wives (at their request) on how not to involve themselves with the media. He said I was telling them dangerous rubbish. Well, he would say that, wouldn't he?

The point of the briefing was to look at ways of damage limitation when a hostile story breaks. Do not, I told them, go to the Press, no matter how angry you are. Journalists make what they need out of a story and your needs come very low on

Cari comments:

the list. This is why I have strongly urged Mrs M not to take her perceived grievance outside the carefully-constructed channels for problem-solving.

There are times when the Press can help. I hoped there would be wide publicity for the possibility that funds for the scheme which allows war widows to visit their husbands' graves might be cut off but was delighted to learn that the pil-

grimage scheme has been extended for a further two years, until March 31, 2001. I saw at first hand the effect that such pilgrimages can have when I accompanied a group of elderly women to a beautifully tended cemetery in Germany, and was ambushed by my emotions. These dignified women, who had given up so much, had a focal point for their loss.

With the passing of time, this group of war widows is diminishing in numbers and in the wider scheme of things cannot be costing us, as a nation, very much.

Other issues

THERE are enough copies of the sixth tri-Service **Discount Benefits Brochure** out there for every Serviceman and woman to have their own personal one. The 104-page publication contains discount offers, valid throughout 1998, covering a vast array of services and goods.

If you are likely to travel by air, rail, coach or ferry, park at an airport, exchange currency, stay in a hotel, visit a leisure facility, purchase insurance of any type, buy a pet, buy or hire a car, join a gym or try on the latest sportswear, you could save money by having a look through the new brochure.

Royal Hospital Haslar has taken delivery

of new scalp cooling equipment designed to reduce hair loss during chemotherapy treatment.

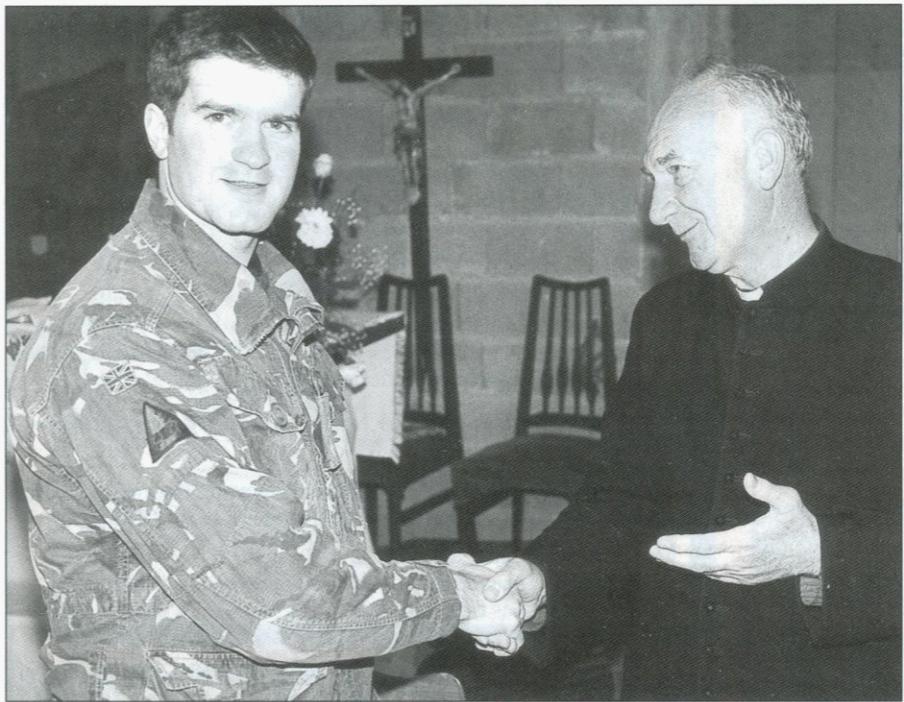
The 1998 conference of the **Army Families Federation (Germany)** takes place at the Globe Cinema, Wentworth Barracks, Herford, on June 19.

Fifteen annual **educational scholarships** of £1,000 are being offered by the Royal British Legion Women's Section to mark 75 years of care for the ex-Service community. Eligibility for the President's Award Scheme is based on an ex-Service connection, but the awards are open to former Servicewomen,

Service wives and widows and dependants of ex-Servicemen or women. Details on 0171 973 7326.

A temporary radio station run by **BFBS** from studios in Catterick was listened to by more than half of Army families in the area, according to Central Office of Information research. It also proved popular among civilians in North Yorkshire during its month-long run.

The **WRVS** is looking for Service personnel planning to compete in fun runs or marathons willing to raise money for the organisation through sponsorship. Ring Clare Skivington on 01235 442927.



Grip of gratitude: Father Adolf, a priest in Glamoc, Bosnia, expresses his thanks to Lt Dean Young of 16 (Sandham's Company) Battery, 26th Regiment RA after gunners from the Gutersloh-based unit had distributed more than 2,000 pieces of chocolate to the town's children. Lt Young said: "I would personally like to thank all of those involved in lighting up the faces of

so many children." The Deutsche Bank and Marktauf were involved in the project.

● Part-time sappers from Gateshead-based 72 Engineer Regiment collected and processed donations for the people of Kosovo under Commander 2 Division's Shoe Box appeal. They picked up gifts from their bases in Gateshead, Newcastle, South Shields, Hartlepool and Sunderland.

Peter's patrol catches eye of Booker author

EX-GUNNER Peter Stock's tale about a near-disastrous patrol on the East German border has won him the £1,000 first prize in the 1997 Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) short story competition.

Pat Barker, the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Ghost Road*, chose Peter's entry *Cheap At The Price* from thousands of entries, not least for the humour of its situation. It, and more than 100 others

culled from the competition, appear in *Peace and War 1997*, a 400-page anthology published last month.

Proceeds of the competition and the book will help the organisation in its care of ex-Service men and women suffering from the mental trauma of battle.

There will be £1,000, £750, £250 and £50 prizes for the first four entries in the 1998 competition, plus £100 for the best manuscript received at the end of each month.

Closing date is November 11 and entries must be no longer than 1,000 words on the themes "Remembrance", "Combat Stress", or "My War". Cheques for £5 (most of which will go towards the refurbishment of the society's Tyrwhitt House nursing home in Surrey), should be made out to Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society and



Prize writer: Peter Stock

Open day for Gulf veterans

GULF War veterans and their families in the north of England will have an opportunity to share their experiences, meet representatives from welfare agencies and get benefits counselling next month.

Tracy Kirby and Maria Rusling, whose husbands served in the Gulf and are now incapacitated by illness, have organised an open day under the auspices of the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association. It will be held at the Danum Hotel in Doncaster on July and anyone who would like to attend should contact Tracy on 01482 789870 or Maria on 01482 879809. They can advise on accommodation in the area.

SSAFA Forces Help, Combat Stress, the Royal British Legion and other leading welfare organisations will be represented at the forum and there will be a doctor and staff on hand to help anyone suffering from stress on the actual day.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 581 8684

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

Confidential support line:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 393

Cyprus 080 91065

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

National Gulf Veterans and

Families Association 0181 376 2144

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980

618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783

WRVS 01235 442954

sent to the society at Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL.

Peace and War 1997 is available in hardback from the same address. It is priced £12.49 (plus £5 p&p). Bulk orders (more than five copies) are priced £9.99, plus postage.

● SSAFA Forces Help is looking for volunteers willing to help its work of relieving hardship among Service and ex-Service personnel and their families. Last year the charity cared for more than 86,000 people.

Just a few hours a week could be of enormous help to someone. Jobs range from administration and casework to fund-raising and training, but any skills will be put to good use.

For more details, call Ann Needle on 0171 403 8783 or write to her at SSAFA Forces Help, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP, or look up your local branch in the 'phone book.

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Hotspot

Not so sweet Georgia...

British soldiers monitor bitter peace in little-known part of former Soviet Union

BRITISH peacekeepers and observers the world over have had to come to terms with the everyday dangers of living in what amounts to still-smouldering war zones. Usually, they are only there because the killing has escalated to the point at which the international community is embarrassed into doing something to stop it.

And then there is Georgia, formerly of the Soviet Union.

Since the expulsion of Soviet troops in 1992 it has been involved in an increasingly bitter conflict with the breakaway province of Abkhazia.

Cease-fires have come and gone (the latest, known as the Moscow Agreement, has been in place since May 1994) during which time more than 50 mostly Russian military peacekeepers have been killed and three times that number wounded, many seriously.

BRITISH OFFICERS

Eight British officers, drawn from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, are part of the small international United Nations force currently monitoring the treaty, observing the operations of the peacekeepers and investigating violations. Commanded by Lt Tom Cobley, Para, they are members of UNOMIG – the UN Observer Mission in Georgia – and they work in an area of not inconsiderable danger where the threat of terrorist attack is very real.

His staff, which includes Maj Andrew Frith RLC and Maj Symon Robinson, Cheshire, are given close-quarter protection on their patrols by former Soviet BMP armoured personnel carriers.

UNOMIG's main headquarters is at Sukhumi, the self-proclaimed capital of Abkhazia. There is an administrative HQ at Pitsunda and a liaison office in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital city, from where high-level contact is made with politicians and officials.

Sector HQs are located in Gali on the Abkhazian side and in Zugdidi on the Georgian side. Each sector has two team bases who cover the buffer zone.

Last year this mission of 116 soldiers drawn from 23 countries received ten South African Mamba mine-protected



Back-up: Sqn Ldr Russell La Forte RAF (left) and Lt Col Tom Cobley, Para, with an armoured vehicle provided by the CIS peace-keeping force to give the UN observers close protection against terrorists

vehicles in which to patrol the security and restricted weapon zones and heavy weapons storage sites set either side of the Inguri River, whose swift-flowing waters mark the cease-fire line.

Even so, there is a real threat to the observers from the serious mine contamination in Abkhazia and the fierce, protracted and well-equipped mines campaign being waged by terrorists against the Abkhazian authorities.

The UN estimates that anything up to 150,000 mines remain in place since the war of 1992-93. They are buried across former front lines along the Gurmista and Inguri rivers, the Gali canal, throughout the Ochamchirea region and in Kodori Valley.

It is no surprise that the most frequent

victims are innocent civilians and refugees.

Hundreds of thousands of Georgians were displaced by the war, many moving north into Russia or into Georgia via the Kodori Valley to the west or south across the Inguri. Zugdidi, on the southern bank of the river,

is home to about 70,000 refugees, Tbilisi to 66,000.

Lt Col Cobley says his six-month deployment has presented an unusual operational challenge. "The threat of mines and terrorist attack is ever-present and rarely does a day pass without a major incident.

"Also to work with the Commonwealth of Independent States' peace-keeping force, predominantly provided by Russia, is rewarding professionally."

He said the operational experience was enhanced by its location in a little-known and little-travelled part of the world.

"During the tour there were opportunities to visit Russia, Turkey, Georgia and the Caucasus Mountains, which were a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Hold the front page!

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Terry Champion

ANYONE who has had anything to do with Army public relations in the past 15 years will know Bridgend House.

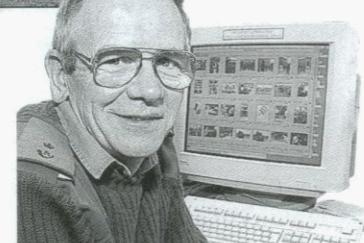
Tucked away in the trees behind the guardroom of Headquarters Land Command at Wilton, the old building was the home of United Kingdom Land Forces Public Information and latterly HQ Land G3 Media Operations.

From late 1982 onwards it was at the centre of press campaigns and media analysis for military operations spanning the Gulf War, Bosnia, Rwanda, Angola and Zaire. The Army's two mobile news teams and the Media Production Centre were based there, alongside a fully operational radio studio and television editing suite.

But asbestos in the walls meant no alterations to expand could take place. As the Army's awareness of the importance of the media grew, so did Media Ops – and after a year of bursting at the seams, the time came to find new accommodation. Bridgend House, a village surgery and doctor's house in the



Goodbye to Bridgend House, above.
In the picture: Maj Peter Griffiths, right



1930s, finally came to the end of its career as an Army Press office a few weeks ago.

Media Ops' new abode in Falaise Block is in the middle of the headquarters and only a few hundred yards from where the old Public Information office was originally based before it moved to Bridgend House. Nigel Gillies, the Senior Information Officer at UKLF from 1979 to 1982, remembers those heady days.

"I had four four-man mobile news teams – three based at Wilton and one in York. There were eight photographers and two darkroom technicians," he recalled.

"Everything we did was in two-and-a-quarter-square black and white negative on Rolliflex cameras; there was no colour. For television we used to shoot 16mm film on 100ft rolls on what were originally Bell and Howell clockwork cameras with a triple lens turret on the front. We were finally dragged kicking and screaming into the 20th century with the first U-matic video cameras.

"From the time of the Falklands War we started to use a Muirhead picture wire

Media Operations' move from Bridgend House at Wilton marked the end of an era. The old house in the woods saw Army public relations take the lead in the communications technology revolution

manned by picture editor Maj Peter Griffiths. Using his computer he is able to look at them on screen, clean or sharpen them up if necessary, check the captions and then wire them to the national or regional press within minutes.

Maj Griffiths has compiled HQ Land's digital picture library – comprising about 6,000 images so far – which is held either on hard disk or CDs.

"The joy of digital images is that they do not degrade," he explained. "It is being added to day by day and a new library catalogue system means that I can search the database and find pictures very quickly.

"If a newspaper rings up asking for a picture of a Challenger in the snow, I can bring it up and send it down the line to them almost before they have a chance to put the phone down.

"This system exists to provide the media with pictures of the Army doing its job and we have become extremely busy. We take in all the pictures from Bosnia and dealt with British Army operations in Rwanda, Angola and Zaire.

"On the day of Diana's funeral I was collating pictures from seven photographers and sending them out to the news agencies and newspapers."

Another important part of the picture desk is the bulletin board. This is a computer system which stores photographs that can be added to or taken off by 40 organisations, including *Soldier*, who hold the password.

The speed with which news and images can be flashed around the world became apparent to the Army during the Gulf War. It has responded by forming its own "rapid reaction news force" in the shape of two mobile news teams – one military and one civilian.

The civilian team is made up of Dennis Barnes, an ex-Fleet Air Arm officer and a member of the Guild of Television Cameramen, and Kevin Capon – ex-Parachute Regiment and associate of the Master Photographers' Association, as well as 1997 Army Photographer of the Year.

The military team consists of Sgt Steve Dock, an experienced cameraman and photographer, and Capt James Anderson, an Army Air Corps pilot, who describes himself as a "keen amateur photographer and newsman".

They are able to move within 48 hours to be on the ground with British troops anywhere in the world. Because of their

machine – it was a bit like a Roneo and spun round and round on a drum. It took about 20 minutes to send a black-and-white image down a telephone line, but all it needed was a glitch for it to miss and end up looking like a very bad fax, and you had to start all over again."

HQ Land Media Ops is now at the forefront of the technological revolution in communications and fairly bristles with the latest technology. The present two two-man mobile news teams use full broadcast quality Betacam SP television cameras costing in excess of £50,000 each, and the latest digital CD quality radio tape recorders for interviews. Nikon F 90X cameras are used for photographic work, often in conjunction with a portable satellite transmitter to wire colour pictures back to Wilton in seconds from anywhere in the world.

Those pictures are sent back over an ISDN line to the HQ Land picture desk,



In the hot seat: ex-Para Kevin Capon, Army Photographer of the Year in 1997, at work in the Media Ops editing suite

Front line: Dennis Barnes, below left, interviews Armed Forces Minister John Reid, right, with press officer Ailsa McIntyre looking on. The news teams are widely respected



in Banja Luka and sends back a regular supply of stories and photographs of British troops, many of which appear in *Soldier*.

Working closely with the picture desk, these are now marketed not just to the regional press, but to Service publications and specialist magazines. Despite the fact that soldiers have been in Bosnia for six years, the Press is still enthusiastically printing stories and photographs of "our boys and girls". The MPC has also marketed hundreds of stories from other operations and exercises to the media.

"We have had pieces in magazines as

diverse as *Veterinary Times*, *Locomotives International*, *Dog World* and the *British Medical Journal*," said Maj David Falcke, who runs the MPC.

Again technology is playing its part. The MPC has a computer programme called Mediadisk which can supply the names, addresses, profiles and personalities of every publication in the British Isles. A story on Army nurses mountain-climbing with a St Bernard can be sent to not only every nursing journal, but every climbing and dog magazine as well.

A fully functional radio studio means that interviews can take place at the headquarters with interviewees linked up to any radio studio in the world. It also enables recordings on tape to be edited on a digital editing machine and then sent down an ISDN line to any one of hundreds of radio stations across the UK.

Communications have moved on at a staggering pace in the last decade, and the Army has not lagged behind. Using HQ Land Media Ops as a multi-media newsroom, photographs, written text, radio interviews and film can be simultaneously marketed to thousands of media outlets across the country.

A far cry from the days when it took 20 minutes to send a grainy black-and-white image down a telephone wire . . . if you were lucky.

Dukies find that common bond

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne
Pictures: Mike Weston

SUNLIGHT streamed through the lace curtains and the sounds of children's voices filtered through the open window.

Margaret Harrison was seated at her desk. As matron of Wolfe House at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, near Dover, she is mum to 47 girls aged between 13 and 18. "Sometimes I don't know how I cope," she said with a smile. "I have two of my own and I've been matron for a long time, about 11½ years."

A dark-haired girl appeared at the door and looked pleadingly at Matron. Ten minutes later the girl went away with a smile and a skip, her troubles forgotten.

"My husband was in the Army so I know a little bit about moving. The girls are all from very similar backgrounds so they do have a lot in common. It's that commonality that showed itself during the Falklands, the Gulf War and now Bosnia. They really do look after one another, which I feel is to do with their background."

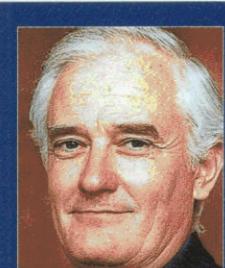
This school with a special military heritage is spread over 500 acres of Kent. Dover, with its cross-channel links, is just down the road, bringing within easy reach most Service locations in North West Europe.

It traces its history to 1801 when Frederick, Duke of York, laid the foundation stone in Chelsea of what was to become the Duke of

York's Royal Military School. Originally it was an orphanage for children of soldiers killed in battle. The first pupils enrolled in 1803 and in 1909 it moved to its present location at Dover.

Col Gordon Wilson, the headmaster, looked around the red-bricked buildings and acknowledged the greetings of pupils hurrying back from rugby and hockey.

"The school is happy," he says with



Headmaster Col Gordon Wilson

The Duke of York's School is governed by a Board of Commissioners, appointed by the Queen. The chairman and members are drawn from top management in the Services, Civil Service, professional and industrial life. President is the Duke of Kent.

The senior management team comprises the headmaster, two deputy headmasters and the bursar.

allowance, which is included in the funding.

"It is still deemed cost-effective to send a child here rather than pay £2,000 to £3,000 a term and claim the allowance," says Col Wilson.

Travel broadens the mind and The

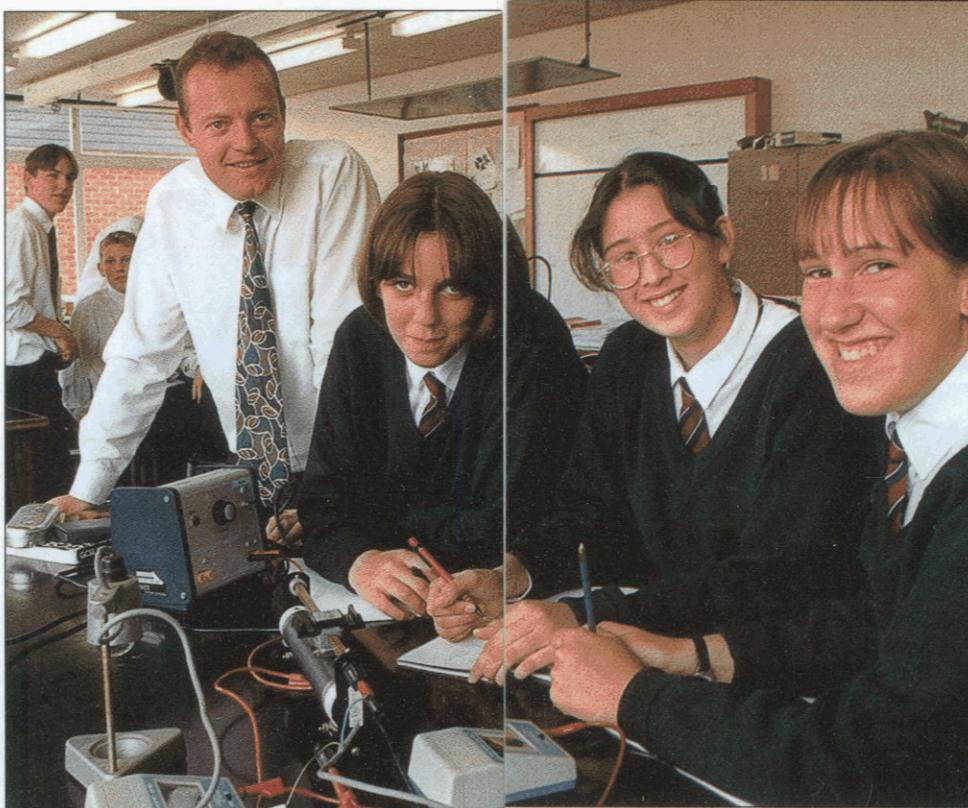
evident satisfaction. "Children need to be able to settle before they can learn and with all new pupils we are very keen to ensure they do so as quickly as possible. Staff spend hours talking to the pupils, who might come from other boarding schools, from independent day schools, or from state primary and secondary schools.

"There is a mix throughout the houses and they take the lead from the housemaster, or mistress, and the tutor team clustered around them. Link with that a full range of extra-curricular activities and you have a very busy school."

Pupils are encouraged to value the use of their own time. It is a responsibility that is continued into the sixth form, where they are allowed out on a Saturday night... a treasured privilege.

"That is responsibility for the individual," explains housemistress Juliet Lewis. "We try to build on the responsibility for others by appointing dorm prefects. The older ones are looking after the younger ones, right up to the prefects looking after the school."

The school is funded by the MoD and parents pay about £275 a term. There are extras - uniform, trips and pocket money - but parents have control. Parents may not claim boarding school



Duke of York's promotes this ethos. Trips to Australia, South Africa, skiing, or expeditions with The Duke of Edinburgh's award programme... there is always something for pupils to choose from.

The children are almost spoilt for choice. Recently the Combined Cadet Force camp clashed with a trip to Paris for the choir and a Munich trip for the jazz band.

The introduction of girls to The Duke of York's School has been accepted by the boys.

"It is a reflection of society," explains Col Wilson. "The majority of the boys will leave school to work alongside, or for, women. The vast majority of pupils come



Above - The colours of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, displayed proudly by pupils

Left - In the physics lab

Below - Juliet Lewis and Matron Margaret Harrison, the Wolfe House management



from co-educational schools so it is nothing new for them."

The 47-year-old headmaster is not a fan of single-sex schools. "The earlier they are brought together the better it is for society," he said.

Glen Barton has been in Haig House for a year. "Once you get over the homesickness it's really good. You can speak to anyone, especially matron and the housemasters, and on the sporting front I am taking county trials for hockey." Glen was previously at a preparatory school, so even as a 13-year-old he is a veteran of boarding.

The pupils in year nine English were cooperating on a written story, creating

size of 16, it was not difficult. "We get to know the children very well," she smiled. "I am a tutor in Marlborough House and getting to deal with each other off-duty allows us to find out more about each other."

She looked around the classroom. "They are super children. It is hard work in a boarding school. The hours are long and a teacher here needs to commit to the school. The teaching, outside work, the sports, the boarding, all impinge on your social life. But it's the old story. You get out what you put in."

Back at Wolfe House, Matron Margaret Harrison was talking and laughing with four girls from the hockey team. "There is no pecking order," she said. "They seem to be unaware of their fathers' or mothers' rank in the military. It just doesn't come into it."

Academic results and the numbers of sixth-form leavers entering university remain high. The standards of pastoral care and the quality and width of extra-curricular provision are superb. However, the words of one excited 13-year-old summed everything up.

"Dukies are just not geeky." He beamed. Quite right, too.

● Extra-curricular activities in addition to sporting activities include: aero-modelling, art, ballet, band, bridge, ceramics, chess, choir, choral society, computers, cookery, dance, debating, design, drama, electronics, junior engineers, life-saving, model railway, needlework, orchestra, photography, sailing, Scalextric, table tennis, Christian studies, and wargames.

From Westminster to Wapping

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

UK signs up for battlefield taxi

THE Army's next generation of armoured utility vehicles is to be developed and built under a joint European initiative, Defence Secretary George Robertson announced.

GKN Defence from the UK will collaborate with German and French companies to produce variants of the wheeled "battlefield taxi". It will be known in the UK as the Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle (MRAV) and the first of an initial batch of 200 is expected to be ready in 2005.

In a Commons written answer Mr Robertson said the Army needed the new vehicles "to replace FV430, Saxon and combat vehicle reconnaissance (tracked) utility vehicles". These include the Spartan, Sultan, Samaritan family of CVR(T)s.

The preferred design will provide the armoured personnel carrier and command vehicle versions but will allow for the development of other variants using the same base. It will provide the Army with a flexible capability that can operate in both high-intensity conflict and in humanitarian operations such as Bosnia.

"This programme represents a major collaboration with our European allies. Collaboration will bring a number of benefits, including improved interoperability and financial savings, through sharing of development costs and economies of scale in production," said Mr Robertson.

The Netherlands has indicated that it wishes to join the MRAV programme as a full partner and Italy, Spain and Poland have also expressed an interest.

Changes being considered as part of the Defence Strategy Review would strengthen the Territorial Army by modernising it, the Defence Secretary said in the Commons on May 18. Speaking in a debate called by the

Opposition, Mr Robertson said that any changes certainly would not destroy the TA and that "numbers are not the only or even the main issue at stake".

Former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath, a member of the Honourable Artillery Company for more than 50 years, urged the Government not to reduce the size of the TA, which did not want to be a "stop-gap operation" but an entity on its own.

Shadow Defence minister Sir George Young claimed there was a plan to cut the TA to 40,000.

Armed Forces Minister John Reid said in Scotland on May 14: "What we want in the future is a TA that is relevant and usable; a TA that is closely integrated with all the other Armed Forces in our defence configuration.

"We want a TA that makes a contribution without which the Regulars literally could not fight a major war.

"We still need a substantial TA. But size alone is less important than role."

● The Commons Defence Committee said there was no compelling evidence to support claims that technical failure caused the 1994 Chinook helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre. Army personnel were among 29 killed.

● Armed Forces Minister John Reid met members of the Guardsmen Fisher and Wright Release Group on May 13. Retired officers of the Scots Guards had called on him to intervene to try to secure the early release of the guardsmen, serving life sentences in Northern Ireland for the tragic murder of Belfast youth Peter McBride in 1992.

Dr Reid said he had promised to pass on their concerns to the Northern Ireland Secretary to inform her decisions, which would be taken as a result of the due process of law.



Coastal break stretches London's EOD terriers

THE largest Territorial Army bomb disposal exercise in Hampshire since the Second World War took place when more than 100 men and women from 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD)(V) practised their role of UK defence in the event of war by dealing with a series of unexploded bomb situations in key locations in and around Portsmouth.

Tasks were radioed in to them over a 48-hour period from an exercise headquarters at Fort Southwick. Among the task

locations for dealing with unexploded bombs and terrorist devices were Portsmouth's Royal Dockyard, warships in the harbour, local naval establishments, Marchwood Military Port and gas and water installations.

Last year 101, the only TA bomb disposal engineer regiment, received national media coverage when its personnel recovered trial "bouncing bombs" used by the Second World War Dam Busters in the sea off Reculver, Kent.



LCpl Steve Jones was one of 200 TA REME soldiers from Wales and western England who took part in a gruelling 48-hour exercise at Swynnerton, Staffs

● A simulated road traffic accident and an NBC incident tested the medical and first aid capabilities of Grantham-based 160 Transport Regiment RLC (V) when the TA unit travelled to Salisbury Plain for its annual camp. Commanding officer Lt Col Allan Hamilton said: "With imagination and a good scenario, you can gain immense training value from relatively few resources. Our medics' casualty simulation was first class."

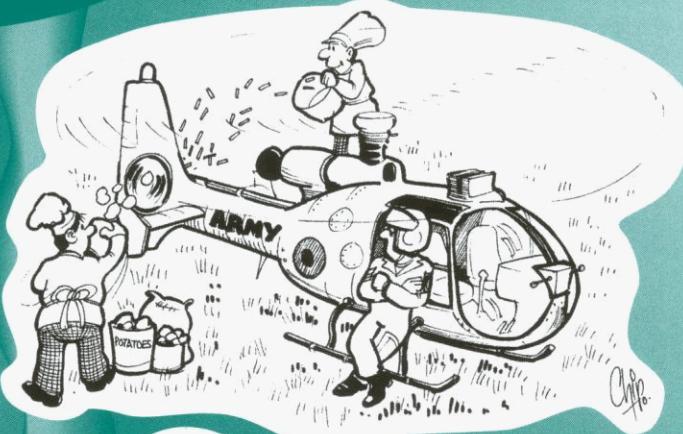
● Five recruits from the British Dependent Territory of St Helena have enlisted in the British Army.

Chuckie with 'chip

"I've seen softer landings!"



"It might be all the rage in British Airways but here we stick to NATO green!"



FLIGHTS OF FANCY

"Anybody fancy telling him the real reason we landed up here?"



Who dares . . .

The sport that gets you high

For hang-glider pilots the sky is the limit when it comes to cheap thrills, as our reporter found out when he jumped off a hill at the Joint Services Hang Gliding and Paragliding Centre in Wales

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

HANGING there above the Brecon Beacons, I suddenly came over all poetic. A line or two from aviator-poet John Magee, almost forgotten since schooldays, came cheekily to my mind. *I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth, and danced the Skies on laughter-silvered wings.*

It was very silly, of course. Here I was on my first day of a hang-gliding course, barely off the ground, and heart in my mouth. I was about as likely to dance in the sky that day as I was to watch a football match this summer in France. Looking down, it was abundantly clear that I hadn't slipped any bonds at all.

I was flying, but I wasn't very high and two very tangible nylon ropes firmly attached me to the good-natured and patient flying instructor Roger de Coverley's iron grip.

Halfway through my first day of basic training, I was anchored to the ground like a kite. But still . . . there was something wonderful about it, and I was just beginning to get the faintest suggestion of an inkling of a clue about the poet's inspiration.

Getting into the air, even in my clumsy style, had been a doddle. At the summit of the hill the wind was strong, and merely by raising the nose of this minimalist glider the floppy wings had begun to lift. There was none of that hell-for-leather running down a hill (that would come later). With Roger leaning back against the wind and the ropes, I just went straight up.

Thank goodness for those ropes. As the wind whistled through the wires and up my trouser legs, I knew that if my "bonds of earth" snapped, I would be blown violently backwards. I had been told that a hang glider can act like a protective cage - "just let go and curl up like a ball" - but that gave me little comfort.

I concentrated on what I was doing. Poetry could wait. Roger, shouting to be heard above the wind, told me to try some of the manoeuvres which we had been introduced to during the theory session back at the school a few

miles away in Crickhowell. I did so, and to my delight the craft responded.

"Now try to bring it down," shouted Roger. I suspected that he was simply going to haul me ground-ward if I forgot the instructions, but I wasn't going to do that. I leaned into the control bar, and, sure enough, the nose dipped. I took a bead on Roger about 20ft below, remembering one of his gems of advice. "The dangerous bit is near the ground. When you are up there, a hang glider will fly itself."

I returned to mother Earth with a bang, flopped forward on my stomach (which you are not supposed to do) and looked up into Roger's grinning face. I had crossed the first hurdle, and it felt very good.

This had been the culmination of a fascinating first day which began with videos and some light lectures in the well-equipped classrooms. The idea was to instil into the class - apart from me they were men and women from all three Services and a sprinkling of officer cadets - some essential understanding of a form of flight which has an honourable, if

slightly eccentric, history.

Apart from hot air balloons, hang gliding was the earliest form of manned flight. People were leaping off mountains strapped to birdcage-like contraptions in the 19th century, although the frequently lethal devices were put away as soon as the Wright brothers took off at Kittyhawk. It was only in the mid-70s that sports flyers realised it might be fun to go back to basics.

With safer synthetic material for wings and struts the new generation of craft were capable of thrilling performance and much greater safety. The sport quickly became a symbol for trendy dare-devil types.

BLOSSOMED

Lectures over, we were taken outside to inspect a dismantled glider, learn how to assemble it, and carry out the vital safety checks. What it was like for a 19th century pilot assembling his birdcage I have no idea, but today it is easy. Most struts and rigging wires remain attached even when the dismantled craft is tucked into its sausage-shaped bag.

We simply slid the king post (the main member supporting the wing and from which the pilot's harness is suspended) along the tubular spine of the glider and locked it into place. The glider blossomed into its full form, and then it was just a matter of inserting glass-fibre battens into the sail (the fabric wing) to give it the necessary aerodynamic shape. Finally, we locked everything together with studs and split pins.

A set of initials helped us to remember the checking procedure which would ensure we did not go the way of so many 19th century birdcage pilots. SWANK



Kite flying, Brecon Beacons style



Free at last. Well, just a little rope

stands for Sail, Wires, Airframe, Nuts-and-Bolts and the King Post. Forget the Sail and you could be in serious aerial, not to mention verbal, trouble, but run a cautious hand and eye over all these bits, and, all being well, the craft is ready for the air.

And we were almost ready, too. A quick session on the static trainer and we had the basics. Trussed up in the canvas harness and suspended beneath the simulator's king post, we clutched the broad base of the triangular control bar, the *only* control. Roger told us what to do and we followed with the actions, changing notional direction and altitude simply by shifting body weight. And so I was prepared for my brief but satisfying time as a human kite.

Next day we were back up on the hillside ready for our first real flight, even if it was not yet to be a truly free one. We were to control the craft, but the instructors and fellow class members would hang on to wing-tip and nose tethers. That suited me fine. The last thing I wanted to do on my second day was go for the world altitude record.

I chatted to Steve Air, a signaller from

Nuneaton who had returned to complete a course he had been forced to abandon in January due to bad weather. Steve knew a lot more about the sport than I and he wasn't short of gung-ho either. "It's a good laugh when you crash-land," he said breezily. "You always do to start with."

With a little trepidation I stepped into the harness, hooked a carabiner to the king post and listened carefully to Roger's instructions. "Take big steps, keep the nose down to build up speed, then transfer your hands to the control bar. Keep

You too can hang glide:

The Joint Service Hang Gliding and Paragliding Centre is at Cwrt-Y-Gollen in Crickhowell, Wales. Two-week courses are run there throughout the year, and are open to all Servicemen and women. They cost just £50. Contact David Fenwick on 01874 623111 ext 3260 or (mil) 735 3260.

For general information about the sport, contact the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association on 0116 2611322

your eyes on your target and relax."

"LAUNCHING," bellowed Roger, warning all but the suicidal to get out of the way. I belted down the hill with Steve, Roger and another student pilot careering behind on the safety ropes. Sooner than I had thought possible, I was running in mid air, so I gulped hard, raised my legs and pushed away from the bar. Up I went, higher than yesterday and *much* more free. I fixed my eyes on the landmark, and, realising I was veering away from the wind, exerted a little weight on the right wing to get back on course. Then the ground was coming to meet me. I struggled to remember the instructions, and pushed the bar forward to stall the glider, bringing my feet back onto terra firma. Suddenly I was running again, then, inexplicably, I was flat on my stomach.

My first landing had not quite been a crash, and as my last day went on they got better. Even more pleasingly, the flights became a little longer, although I did not get to the stage where I could fly untethered. I was envious of the class who stayed on for the remainder of the course, at the end of which they would receive a small but significant scrap of paper conferring on them the title "Elementary Pilot".

One day I hope I'll be back to collect mine; one day when I can truly slip the "surly bonds of Earth".

Forces' favourite

Interview: Karen Moseley
Main picture: Terry Champion

JIM Davidson's wallet, a somewhat scruffy, camouflaged nylon object, is not what you would expect one of the country's best-known television comedy stars to carry.

But the reason is revealing. "It belonged to Paul Hill, late of the SAS, who was my best mate," he explained. "I always carry it. We met at Hereford and spent a number of Christmases together, he came and helped me pick up my boat..."

His friend was killed while on a "little job". Jim went to his funeral and still puts flowers on his grave.

The relationship Jim Davidson has built up with soldiers from the time he did his first show for troops in Northern Ireland in 1974 is strong and enduring. Since the Falklands War he has always offered his services free, and whenever he is paid he gives the money to Service charities. For more than 20 years he has entertained soldiers all over the world with his inimitable brand of humour – from huge shows in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Bosnia and the Falklands down to a tiny one for six people in a dug-out in the Middle East.

HOLIDAY JOB

"Even when I went on holiday in Cyprus I would end up doing shows there," he said, "I love it. It depends on different things to make a good show... with The Parachute Regiment a good one is one where you get off the stage alive."

"The best visit was a secret one to Beirut in 1983. That was organised by Maggie (as in Thatcher) ... well, her people, anyway. I had to join the Army for three days for insurance purposes, so I've got a certificate saying, 'Jim Davidson served with Her Majesty's Forces for nil years, three days'."

He "joined" the Army again after the Gulf War when he visited Saudi Arabia to entertain the troops, and was accompanied by an ex-SAS soldier who was working as a security guard for his production company.

"We found out there was no alcohol in Saudi so we drank three days' worth on the plane and I got off so pissed (The "p" word cropped up frequently during the interview, accompanied by great shouts of

Stand-up comedian who became the British Bob Hope, entertaining and visiting soldiers all over the world



At the front: Jim with, from left, LCpl Phil Bird, Fus Gregg Plimley and Lt Mark Watters in Gornji Vakuf visiting the memorial on the site where LCpl Wayne Edwards was shot

laughter). We drank that whole 747 dry, me and Binky. I stood in line in Ryadh in my little uniform with my short haircut and a security person came up to me and said: 'This way, Colonel'. He obviously thought if I was p....d I must be a colonel."

It would be missing the point to ignore the part alcohol played during the early days. He stopped drinking four years ago, but some of his best military stories are connected with the bottle.

"When Combined Services Entertainment (CSE) first asked me if I wanted to go to Northern Ireland, I got 75 quid for what seemed to me like going on the p... for three days," he recalled.

"I can hardly remember it, I was p.... all the time. The drummer collapsed and had to be taken to hospital. I was so hungover I couldn't focus at people and I thought they must be cheering at me for being p.... at 0930 in the morning. Wow, I thought, these are my people."

Davidson has stopped performing live and no longer puts on shows for the Army, although he is happy to visit units on morale-boosting tours. This month he joins The Parachute Regiment in Aldershot to commemorate the Falklands War. At the age of 44 he feels, rightly or wrongly, that he can no longer relate to young soldiers and accepts that humour has changed from when he first started making soldiers laugh.

His drinking sessions with the Army were legendary. He roared with laughter as he remembered being carried out of the sergeants' mess of the Scots Guards in Chelsea at midnight on one wet and cold Armistice Day after being spoken to

sternly by the regimental sergeant major.

Jim Davidson is a naturally funny, warm-hearted man and it is not surprising he formed strong friendships within the Army wherever he went. His links with the SAS started in Belize in 1981 just after the Iranian Embassy Siege.

"Everyone said, you mustn't talk to those guys. Well, of course, I steamed straight in. We were doing a show there and had been stuck in the sergeants' mess because of a hurricane. Afterwards I invited them to see my show at the London Palladium."

He lost touch with them a few months later when they went to the Falklands. After the war he rang the regiment but was stumped when asked for names... he knew them only as Taff and Scouse. He did however have a picture of them in the audience at Airport Camp in Belize, so one morning an unnamed soldier turned up at Thames Television, identified them from the photograph, and Jim was invited for the first of many visits to Hereford.

"I think soldiers like me because I have the same mentality as them – work hard, play hard, and I'll always be on the p... with them," he said. "I've got a bit older now though, so that's stopped a bit."

SICK HUMOUR

"I think all British forces have a sick sense of humour... great fun, though. The British Army sense of humour is just the best, it really is. Denzil Connick, a Welsh Para who had a leg blown off in the Falklands, signed a map of the Falklands, gave me a grid reference, and said if I was ever down there to go and look for it."

It was the same Denzil Connick who had Jim open-mouthed and then convulsed with laughter when they joined Simon Weston at the bar and Denzil said: "Oh Simon, we were just talking about you, was your ears burning again?"

Davidson has stopped performing live and no longer puts on shows for the Army, although he is happy to visit units on morale-boosting tours. This month he joins The Parachute Regiment in Aldershot to commemorate the Falklands War. At the age of 44 he feels, rightly or wrongly, that he can no longer relate to young soldiers and accepts that humour has changed from when he first started making soldiers laugh.

"Some of the jokes I used to do in 1976 are just not acceptable today. For instance, black guys don't talk like West Indians any more and women are accepted in the Armed Forces now. Years ago, when it was new, it was fun."

"I'm certainly beginning to feel my age, particularly when the assistant to the Secretary of State, a lieutenant colonel, walks in and I realise I knew him when he was a young lieutenant in Germany."

Although he no longer entertains the troops himself, he has been working out a way to get top shows and names to entertain the Forces free. His plans are at a preliminary stage but he has a firm idea of what he wants to do.

"I've done a big study on the way the Americans do it. I don't think that soldiers should have to pay for their entertainment, so I'm experimenting with ways to get it to the troops for nothing."

"There are a lot of artists out there who want to give something. Phil Collins has told me he wants to get out to Sarajevo and I've been told that groups like AC/DC want to go as well."

"My ambition is to get Ben Elton to entertain an overseas garrison. I'd love that – to go with him and watch."

He firmly believes in the value of live entertainment. When told that it was not necessary to put on a show in Cyprus and that he was needed more in Bosnia, his answer was simple. "Soldiers need to be thanked wherever they are, they need to be appreciated for what they're doing. A soldier is still a soldier whether he's fighting a war or peeling spuds."

His staunch support of troops on operational duty has had him rubbing shoulders with prime ministers and senior politicians. Their names drop from his lips unself-consciously, but it is obvious that he got on as well with them as with soldiers.

"I liked old Nicholas Soames. The troops really loved him and used to give him his own little song: 'You fat b....., you ate all the pies'. As soon as you mentioned him they burst into song, they loved him

Another audience in the palm of his hand... Jim Davidson doing what he does best

● Fancy a go on Jim's *Generation Game*? Ring 0181 225 6108 or 0181 225 7558 for an application form, and remember you have to be a generation apart – for example, mother and son, father and daughter or mother-in-law and son-in-law.

hopes to sell to one of the TV channels.

Much of the work Jim Davidson does for the Services is behind the scenes and unpublicised. An example of this was organising and paying for the mother of LCpl Wayne Edwards, the first British soldier to be killed in Bosnia, to visit the memorial built to her son on the site where he was shot in Gornji Vakuf.

This is all despite the fact that he is frantically busy. As well as his television

shows, *Big Break* and *The Generation Game*, he is producing seven pantomimes this year and is working on three musicals which he hopes will get to the West End. He has also contacted BFBS and asked them if they would like him to do a Sunday morning radio show for them on the *Family Favourites* line.

He pauses to think when asked why he feels the need to support and entertain soldiers. "It's like the old Rudyard Kipling poem," he said, "It's *Tommy this, an' Tommy that an' Chuck him out the brute!*, But it's *'Saviour of his country' when the guns begin to shoot.*" People complaining about the Forces, Harriers keeping them awake all night, the Paras in Aldershot... but as soon as there's a war it's 'Go on boys, go get 'em'."

"I don't think I'm any more patriotic than anyone else, I just like the feeling of belonging."



Birds, bugs and bees

The Army estate boasts an amazing range of fauna and flora, protected from the ravages of intensive farming and creeping urbanisation

AS heavily camouflaged troops creep towards their objective, they might not have time to spare a thought for the wildlife all around them on the training area. Good fieldcraft will ensure that they are not spotted by the enemy, although lots of other eyes will be watching, writes Col (Retd) James Baker.

They may be yellow, like those of the rare stone curlew on Salisbury Plain and Stanford. They may glint in the torchlight at night and belong to the sika stag at Lulworth. Or they may have the exceptional powers of vision possessed by short-eared owls which make their homes at Otterburn.

The Army's estate has an unbelievable variety of exotic species, some of which are very scarce elsewhere. The crumbling side of an old trench may contain the burrows of rare wasps and some of the pools made by tank tracks are home to the fairy shrimp. Water-filled shell craters, too, are ideal sites for dragonflies and newts.

The Army's presence has preserved vast areas from intensive agriculture, with the result that some plants which provide food and shelter have prospered. In some places, butterflies may be seen in profusion just as they might a century ago... before the arrival of chemical sprays.

CAREFUL MANAGEMENT

Some of this happened by chance, but much of it is due to careful and sympathetic management by the MoD's Defence Land Agents and their staff.

Soldiers need natural surroundings in which to train, not the blasted heaths and mud-baths familiar at Soltan and elsewhere. Woodlands should contain small clearings for tactical reasons, but these can also help flora and fauna. Heathlands profit from some grazing by animals, such as the water buffalo on the Barossa training area in Berkshire, and many pools have been created so that troops may practise watermanship skills.

It all adds up to the finest estate for wildlife in the United Kingdom... and soldiers are being encouraged to keep it that way.

For archaeology too, the Army is exceptional. More than 2,500 ancient monuments can be found on Salisbury Plain Training Area alone [to be the subject of a separate feature]. Which is why troops are asked to take care not to dig in those humps and bumps... they may contain bones of someone's very distant ancestors.

Conservation on Army land is co-ordinated by the MoD Conservation Office, part of the Defence Estate Organisation and situated in Aldershot. Its magazine, *Sanctuary*, is available free. For a copy, or more details about conservation, ring 01252 348989 or (mil) 722 3989.



Short-eared owl Picture: The Slide Centre



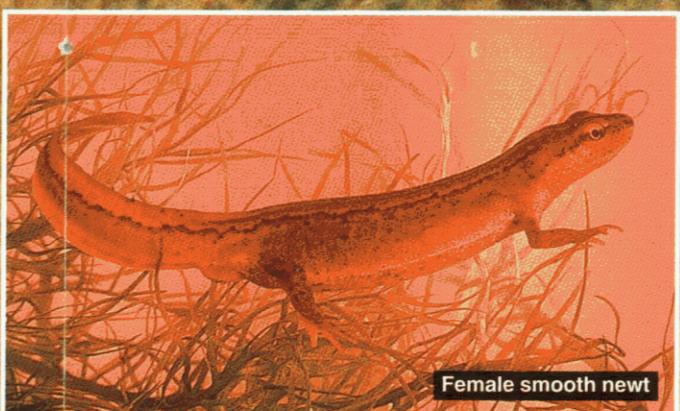
Stone curlew Picture: Robert Hayden



Golden-ringed dragonfly



Silver-studded blue butterfly



Female smooth newt



Wall brown butterfly

CLOSE PROTECTION

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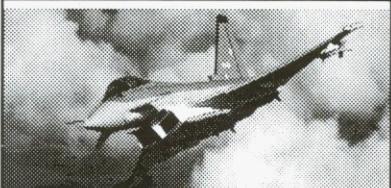
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Smoke gets in your eyes?

BOLLÉ, the protective eye-wear specialists, have very wisely recognised that soldiers have different and much higher requirements for good quality goggles than the average civilian user, writes **Graham Bound**.

Military training and operational duties subject kit to levels of punishment which far exceed those of motorcyclists, skiers and other recreational users. What is more, bulky military helmets mean that the average civilian goggles give a poor and uncomfortable fit.

The company has come up with a range of 13 goggles designed specially for the fighting man or woman. Bollé's "tactical eye protection", as the company calls its soldier-friendly kit, comes in unobtrusive heavy-duty black and NATO green plastic frames (other colours by special order).

Protruding lugs ensure a snug fit by taking the elastic head band a few centimetres out from



the side of the face and comfortably around the helmet. Double grooves in several models allow for more than one lens to be fitted at once, including a specially-developed filter which protects the eyes against lasers.

In one model the problem of fogging has been significantly reduced by the introduction of double lens and a thermal barrier.

Several varieties of the new goggles are currently being trialled by NATO armies and the Defender model has already been issued to Dutch troops in Bosnia.

For details of stockists, contact Bollé on 01202 824535.

Bollé and Soldier have one pair of Defender tactical goggles (pictured) to give to a lucky reader. If you would like these to grace your face, just answer the following question and send it with your name and address in an envelope addressed to Goggles Competition, **Soldier**, Parson's House, Ordnance Rd, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU. Answers must be received by June 30, 1998.

Q: How many types of "tactical goggles" are produced by Bollé?

The first correct answer out of the hat will win.

Cobra gives gunners more bite

THE ARMY will soon be taking delivery of a world-beating battlefield radar system. The new Counter Battery Radar (COBRA) is expected to give British troops the ability to respond swiftly and accurately to enemy

artillery units by detecting and tracking incoming missiles, mortar bombs and shells.

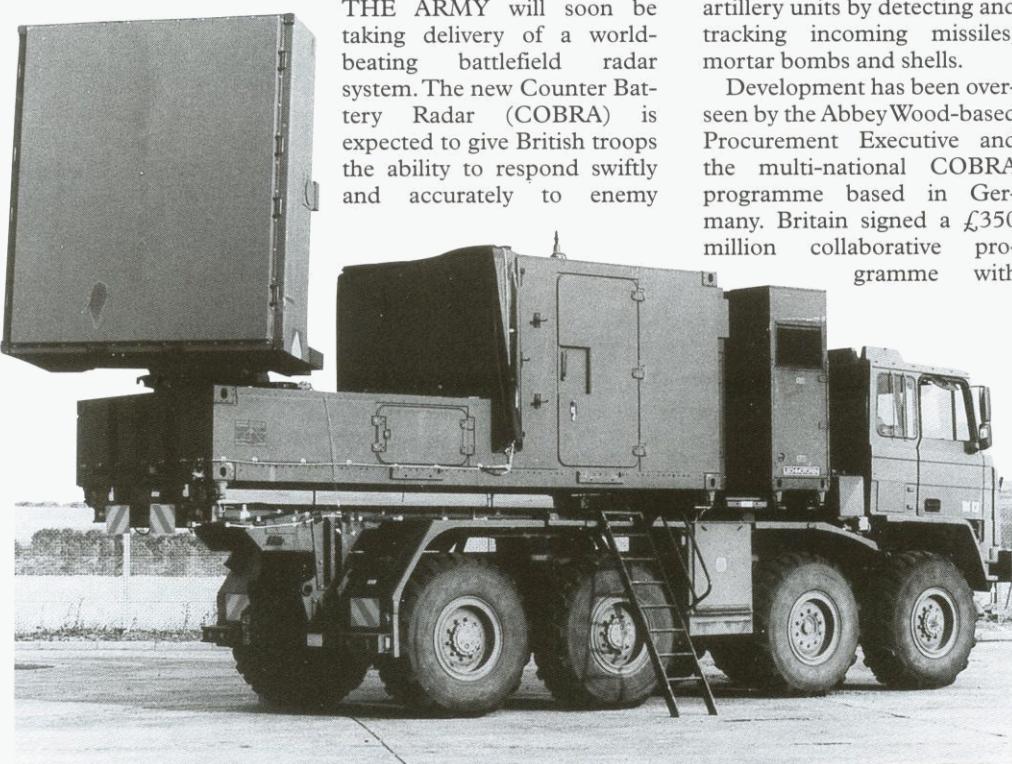
Development has been overseen by the Abbey Wood-based Procurement Executive and the multi-national COBRA programme based in Germany. Britain signed a £350 million collaborative programme with

France and Germany in March and delivery of seven COBRAs destined for the British Army is expected to start in 2001.

The vehicle-mounted radars will be capable of tracing hundreds of rounds simultaneously. Such is the sophistication of the system that it will be able to detect the rounds, identify them and locate their exact source within 30 seconds. Within a few minutes it will have sent the co-ordinates to friendly artillery and be relocating to a new defensive position.

The kit will be operated by just two soldiers, working within a protected command centre also mounted on the vehicle.

It is expected that COBRA will be particularly useful in a peace-keeping role, where forces breaking cease-fires can quickly be identified and dealt with.



RUGBY



Picture: Terry Champion

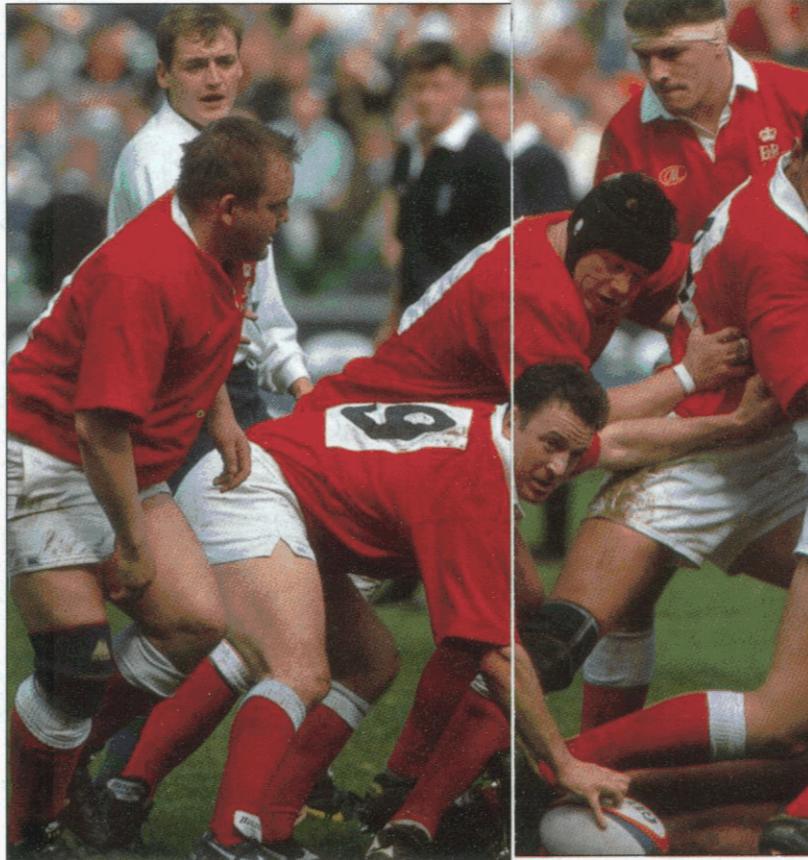
The destroyers

Home from home: Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, left, Chief of the General Staff and president of the ARU, boots the new Army rugby stadium into commission in Queens Avenue, Aldershot.

Situated next door to the Military Stadium – the old home of Army rugby – the new facility gives the sport a safer playing area unfettered by a running track.

The stadium is the latest boost to the Army's sporting facilities at Aldershot. Future projects include an eight-lane Olympic 50m swimming pool within a physical and recreational training centre. It will also include a gymnasium and squash courts. Work is due to start in the autumn and be completed during 2000.

Defending champions 7 Para RHA won the Army sevens, the first competition to be staged in new stadium. They beat SEME Bordon in the final.



Picture: Mike Weston

It's ours: Army skipper Maj Julian Brammer lifts the Willis Corroon Trophy after his side had beaten the Royal Navy 36-22 at a sunny Twickenham. On the left of the photograph, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, applauds the Army's victory. Behind him is Capt Tim Laurence RN, husband of the Princess Royal

What's on? Maj Simon Pinder (No 9), the Army scrumhalf, weighs up his options as his forwards secure another good ball. Scotland and Lions flanker Maj Rob Wainwright (headband) reads the game from the far side of the ruck

dominating the ball if not always the close-quarters confrontation against a very much

inserting himself to overload the naval defence at key points. It was his swift draw and beautifully timed pass that enabled Johnson to score the best try of the match.

He sprinted from his 22, veered outside and infield fully 50m before deftly chipping the ball over a desperate defence and winning the sprint to the line. Heady stuff for the spectators.

Abernethy tackled like a locomotive and also scored two exceptional tries, a feat matched by Dawling, the open side flanker with a huge engine and limitless fuel tank. He has speed, courage and an innate ability to be on hand to attack or defend... watch this space next season.

This was a relatively new Army team. Seven players were presented with their honours caps and ties after the match by Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, President of the ARU.

It is difficult to criticise such an entertaining performance but it would, however, be equally wrong to suggest perfection. This team currently lacks the ruthlessness to turn the screw, as might an Australian or New Zealand team. A few individuals became a little light-headed and lost the main threads of the plot. They were, in purple patches, good enough to merit 60 points against the Navy and therefore could be said to have under-achieved.

Champions – again

RAF 7, Army 23

THE ARMY overcame a purposeful Royal Air Force team by 23 points to seven at Kingsholm, Gloucester to retain the Willis Corroon Inter-Services championship in some style.

In a pulsating first half, the Army had to repel a kamikaze-style frontal attack before they took control and played positive, if sometimes erratic rugby.

The RAF flanker Simon Hill opened the scoring with a deserved try under the posts. They might have increased the advantage but for resolute and confident defence on the Army line.

Ironically, the RAF's brave all-out assault had reduced key players in their pack and the central defence to a near standstill. Abernethy's try was converted

by Graham, who added a well-executed drop goal to give the Army a 16-7 lead, effectively putting the game beyond the airmen.

The Army had by half-time also won the physical warfare battle and, for the final 30 minutes, dominated in both attack and defence. To crown a splendid championship, Rory Jones launched himself at the RAF back line from fully 50m. Raw speed and power enabled the Para gunner to break through and score almost unopposed. Graham converted to cement the victory and Brammer and vice-captain Peter Curtis collected the Army-RAF Shield and Willis Corroon Bowl from Peter Brooks, president of the RFU.

However, skipper Julian Brammer seized the initiative once and for all when

A CROWD of 25,000 partisans saw the Army destroy the Royal Navy by 36 points to 22 at Twickenham to retain the Willis Corroon Trophy, writes Roger Thompson.

Fielding international representatives Maj Rob Wainwright and Cpl Mattie Stewart of Scotland and Capt Brian Johnson of England A, the Army provided a superb, free-flowing exhibition of hard, fast rugby to score six excellent tries.

This style contrasted markedly with the Navy, who stuck to their traditions by pounding up and down the shortest distance to the Army tryline. A somewhat dull but not wholly ineffective tactic produced two lamentably soft tries from short-range penalties.

A measure of the entertainment value was that the 1998 match (played in unexpected sunshine) provided the highest aggregate of tries – ten – and points – 58 – since the fixture began in 1907.

The Army pack skirmished fiercely,

Lee's so valuable

CAPT Tim Brown was the top scorer with 23 points as 27 Transport Regiment RLC beat 22 Regiment RA 64-52 in the climax to the Army basketball finals day at Maida Gym in Aldershot.

But 27's LCpl Lee Loveridge was voted most valuable player for his outstanding contribution. Bdr Neil Wilson (23) and Sgt Chris Miller (17) top-scored for the gunners.

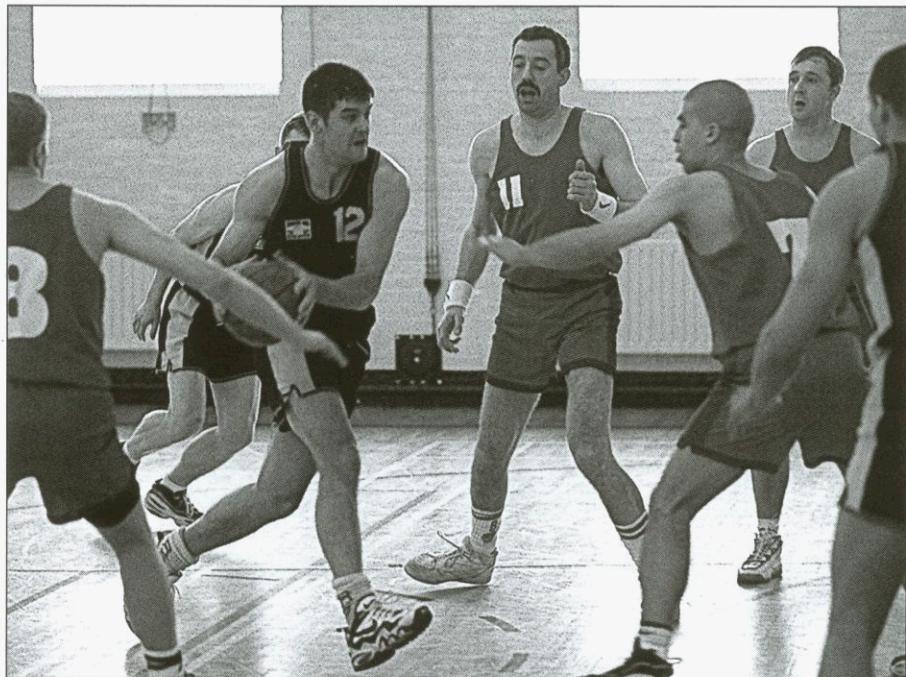
The minor unit final was won by 3 Armoured Field Ambulance, 107-74 victors over Training Regiment and Depot RLC. Cpl Carl Black scored an amazing 83 points for the champions and it was no surprise when he received the most valuable player award. SSgt Johnson scored an impressive 46 points for the losers.

Cpl Deb Sutton scored 14 points for 27 Transporter Regiment RLC in their 34-18 win over 3 (UK) Division and Signal Regiment in the women's final and was named Most valuable player. SSgt Steph Paul notched up ten points for the signallers.

Capt (Retd) Dave Maw (Combat Engineer School) received the Chris Bunnet Trophy in recognition for his lifetime's services to Army basketball. Mary Brown, a civil servant with the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency at Worthy Down, who officiated at the Army match against England in May, was presented for the second time with the annual Fullbrook Trophy for services to table officiating.



Fullbrook Trophy:
Mary Brown



Picture: Terry Champion

On the ball: Sgt Chris Miller (no 12) of 22 Regiment RA sets up an attack against 27 Regiment RLC in the major unit men's basketball final at Aldershot. Also in the thick of the action are Capt Tim Brown (11), LCpl Paul Blake (7) and Cpl Paul Dunn (second from right)

The season has been a remarkable one for Army basketball, with the teams in red making a clean sweep of Inter-Service titles at all levels and a win for the Army at the Caister 15th Festival of Basketball.

● The Sennelager-based 3 Armoured Field Ambulance team won the Army Medical Services (Germany) basketball title and the British Army (G) minor units trophy, and were runners-up in the league, and finished second in the Army minor units tournament in the UK.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Airmen fail to break Army's deadlock

RAF 14, Army 28

AFTER four years of trying, the Royal Air Force have yet to beat the Army on home soil. This match at RAF Uxbridge was not to change the pattern, with the men in red and white stripes scoring first through SSgt Paul Roberts (REME), with LCpl Darryl Cooper (RE) adding the conversion.

Other tries were scored by Sgt Wayne Braddock (R Sigs), Sgt Richard Nelson (RE), Sgt Fred Oakes (REME), Sgt Andy Sanger (RE) and LCpl Dean Ross (RE), and several more were disallowed.

With the Royal Navy entering the competition for the first time, Rugby League in the Services has been given a shot in the arm by Naafi, who signed up to sponsor the tournament for the next five years.

The Navy lost 27-24 in their opening match against the RAF.

LONDON MARATHON

Army pair in top company

CPL Alan Shepherd, just named the Army's cross-country runner of the year, led the Service to victory in the Inter-Services marathon run in conjunction with the London Marathon. He finished a superb 28th – out of nearly 42,000 starters – closely followed by WO2 Robin Bentley not far behind in 36th place.

Shepherd (24 Armd Fd Amb) crossed the line in 2hr 27min 12sec, Bentley in 2hr 29min 20sec, and Maj Nick Bateson, the third scoring runner, in 2hr 37min 36sec.

The fact that two Army runners were capable of finishing in the top 50 of one of

the world's great marathon events speaks volumes for the current quality of running in the military. The RAF finished just over four minutes behind on aggregate, with the Royal Navy a distant third.

Athletes are reminded that the Army marathon is to be held within the Manchester race on October 11. Entry forms are already in circulation.

Shepherd's runner of the year award reflected his results over six major fixtures in the cross-country season. The female award went to Pte Alison O'Connor (7 Para RHA).

Goal-den gunners edge out Infantry

THE Royal Artillery have won the Massey Trophy . . . by scoring more goals than their nearest rivals. The gunners won eight of their ten fixtures, drew one and lost one – an identical record to the Infantry.

But the gunners had fired in 53 goals during the competition to the 31 scored by the Infantry.

The Royal Logistic Corps finished third, just a point behind after registering eight wins and two defeats, with the Royal Signals fourth after a record of seven wins.

Others in the table were: 5, REME; 6, RE; 7, AGC; 8, RAC; 9, AAC; 10, APTC; 11, AMS.

The Fair Play Trophy was shared by the AAC and the Signals.

Top-scorers in the competition were: 15, Stephenson (R Sigs) and Carter (RLC); 12, Carruthers (RA); 9, Rhoddan (Inf), Daly (AGC), Downes (REME) and Keller (RA); 8, Wall (REME); 7, Greechan (Inf), Ross (RE), Stoodley (RA), Hall (APTC), Smith (AAC), Hope (RLC) and Tweedle (RLC).

Results in the final round of Massey Cup games were:

APTC 1, R Sigs 6; AGC 1, Infantry 1; RE 2, RAC 1; RAC 4, APTC 3; RAC 3, AMS 1; AMS 4, APTC 7; APTC 1, RA 11; RE 0, R Sigs 0; RA 6, R Sigs 2; RA 4, RE 0; RAC 0, REME 1; R Sigs 0, RLC 2; AMS 2, REME 11; RA 6, RLC 0; Infantry 3, RLC 1; R Sigs 12, AAC 0; REME 4, AAC 0; RA 2, REME 2; REME 1, RE 0; R Sigs 3, REME 2; RAC 1, RA 6.

● The Army Challenge Cup winners, 3 Battalion REME, beat HMS *Seahawk*, the Royal Navy establishment champions, 2-0 in the opening game of the Jubilee Cup tournament between the three Service domestic cup-winners.

Hanks and Corner scored the all-important goals at Arborfield. The competition is won by the side racking up the most goals, so 3 Bn REME's final game against RAF Leeming at Catterick on May 26 was crucial.

The "champions' league" is sponsored by Scottish Courage.

● More football – Page 45

RUGBY SEVENS

GS Regiment keep their powder dry

THE Jajce sevens might not have been the biggest competition of its type, but given the venue it created a rare opportunity for some enjoyable rugby in unusual circumstances.

Situated in the Vrbas valley in central Bosnia, Jajce is home to elements of 26 Regiment RA, who set out to hold a regimental tournament. But the event attracted wide interest and had to be limited to nine teams because the only pitch available was the local football stadium.

Posts were built and erected by the REME and the ground marked with foot powder, which worked well until it began to rain.

Winners of the tournament were 2 General Support Regiment RLC, who beat 35 Engineer Regiment by 26 points to seven in the final. The losing finalists had arrived in theatre just a few weeks before.

The semi-finalists were 26 Regiment's 16 Battery, and HQ MND. A Kiwi seven, the favourites, were knocked out by 2 GS Regt in the pool phase.

Other units taking part were 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and 9th/12th Royal Lancers.

Two weeks later, 35 Engineer Regimental Group played their own inter-squadron tens tournament on a modified football pitch on the outskirts of Gornji Vakuf. Long white poles were used to extend the goalposts. Eventual winners were 37 Field Squadron, who retained an unbeaten record with victory over 77 Armoured Engineer Squadron.

● The final of the British Army (Germany) sevens tournament was won by 6 Supply Regiment RLC, who saw off a spirited challenge by 280 (UK) Signal Squadron.

SPORTING BRIEFS**Under-21 rugby**

COMBINED Services U-21 rugby team lost to England Students by 31-19 in their final representative game of the season at Twickenham. Spr Tony Richards, who had an outstanding game, was voted man of the match for the Services.

Surf champions

WINNERS of the Army kayak surf championships were 8 Artillery Support Regiment, while RMAS won the novice title. The 1998 event will be held over the weekend September 26-27 (details from Capt Crowson on 726 3207).

Targets of clay

FIVE days of continuous competition by the Army Clay Target Shooting Association at Edge Hill resulted in a close finish to the skeet championship. Results were: 1, Daryl White (LI), 94; John Porter (PWRR), 93; 3, Trevor Fidgett (RE), 93; 4, Gerry Brown (RE), 92; 5, Davy Smyth (R Irish), 91.

Water skiing

The British Army Water-ski Association, which is seeking official recognition from the Army Sport Control Board, has been offered corporate membership of one of Europe's biggest clubs, Princes in Middlesex. More information from Capt Gavin Whitehead AAC, at 660 Sqn, DHFS, RAF Shawbury, Shrewsbury SY4 4DZ (01630 698350).

Match-winners

SIG Matt Salmon (HQ 3 Div Sig Regt), right, and Capt Ruth MacGill, below right, also Royal Signals and serving with the AAC at Middle Wallop, won the U-23 and woman player of the tournament awards at the Inter-Service hockey championships, which were dominated by the Army.

**On target**

THE Royal Irish Regiment retained the inter-corps target rifle title at Bisley last month, beating the Royal Engineers by five points. The REME were third.

More from your lottery

FOR the third time in less than a year, increased ticket sales in the Army Sports Lottery have resulted in an increase in prize money. Since the May 2 draw, the weekly pool has been £8,500, with the top prize rising to £3,200.

Power lifting

THE Combined Services power lifting championships are at Bulford on July 18. Details on Bovington 3604.

Henchman's day in the country

DARK eyes peered innocently out of a coal black face. For a fleeting second there was a temptation to give the silken muzzle a stroke, **writes Karen Moseley**.

"Don't go too near, he bites and kicks. He likes a good fight," came the warning from Sgt Damian Gascoyne, his rider from The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

King's Henchman, a huge six-year-old gelding, is the "Black" who was watched by the world last summer as he led the Princess of Wales's funeral cortège with Sgt Gascoyne on his back. But for the two of them the sad events of that day were far from their minds as they concentrated on competing in the military novice section of the Tidworth Army Horse Trials.

World's riders

They were among more than 500 riders who were taking part in the two one-day horse trials in the grounds of Tedworth House. The Army first ran horse trials in Tidworth 40 years ago and the event now attracts riders from all over the world.

Tidworth is always popular as it is held only a week before Badminton, but this year was particularly successful as many other trials were cancelled because of waterlogged courses.

Henchman and Sgt Gascoyne, who has been riding since he was four years old, had to complete all three phases of the competition – dressage, show jumping and cross country, and ended the day with a highly satisfactory third prize.

Henchman is a relative newcomer to the world of eventing and competed in his first horse trials last year. Once he has completed five clear rounds in the cross country at novice level he can move up into the intermediate class.

"He loves these events," Sgt Gascoyne said. "Cross country is his favourite, he can really get going then. He's getting better at dressage . . . last year he exploded all the time. I have to lunge him for at least half an hour beforehand. He's very fit: it's pulling all those guns that

Picture: Mike Weston



Black Beauty: King's Henchman and Sgt Damian Gascoyne picked up third place in the military novice class. Horse and rider led the funeral cortège of Diana, Princess of Wales

does it. These events are very good training for the horses. We do a lot of work with people, so these give us a lot of practice. The dressage and the show jumping teaches discipline and it makes the horses very versatile."

The trials are not only good for the ceremonial horses. A number of the military horses taking part came from the Defence Animal Centre, where soldiers are taught how to ride.

LCpl Susan Roberts, a veterinary technician who works at the school, said the competitions had immense value for the training of horses.



Pause for thought: New fences on the novice cross-country course at Tedworth House have been designed to challenge horses and riders

"It broadens their horizons and certainly helps them in the school," she said. "It's also good for them to have a change of scenery."

Nine jumps on the cross-country course were completely rebuilt this year by Capt Clive Bacon and his crew of helpers from 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. One of the fences was constructed out of a seven-and-a-half-ton beech tree.

"The novice course has had a good rebuild," Capt Bacon said. "The distance is the same but there are a few new question marks."

The course designer, Sue Benson, was trained by Capt Mark Phillips, who originally designed the Tidworth course. "It was very generous of him to say I could do it this year, and it was great to have his encouragement," she said.

"Luckily we had a budget which allowed us to do a few special things. We used a bit of new ground, which is always nice for a designer."

King's Henchman had obviously enjoyed his day out in the country. He headed back to his usual surroundings in North London with a few extra treats in his feed and a new rosette for his stable.

Dutch treat for Services

Combined Services 4, Netherlands AF 0

COMBINED Services capped their four-goal demolition of Belgium by hitting four more past the Netherlands Armed Forces at Aldershot to win the Kentish Cup, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The Dutch team was down to nine men for the final 20 minutes after two players were red-carded, but Services were already three goals up by then and cruising. The RAF's SAC Maguire scored a hat-trick, including a penalty, and naval substitute Flint fired in the fourth.

Army 6, Army Youth 1

The Army brought the curtain down on the final representative game of the season, beating the youth team by six goals to one at Browning Barracks, Aldershot. Army chairman Brig Richard Rook presented trophies to Cfn George Calder, voted youth player of the year by the coaching staff, and Spr James Parker, the youth players' player of the year.

Sgt Tosh Williams was named senior player of the year and SSgt Tony Wright received a silver salver to commemorate 100 senior appearances.



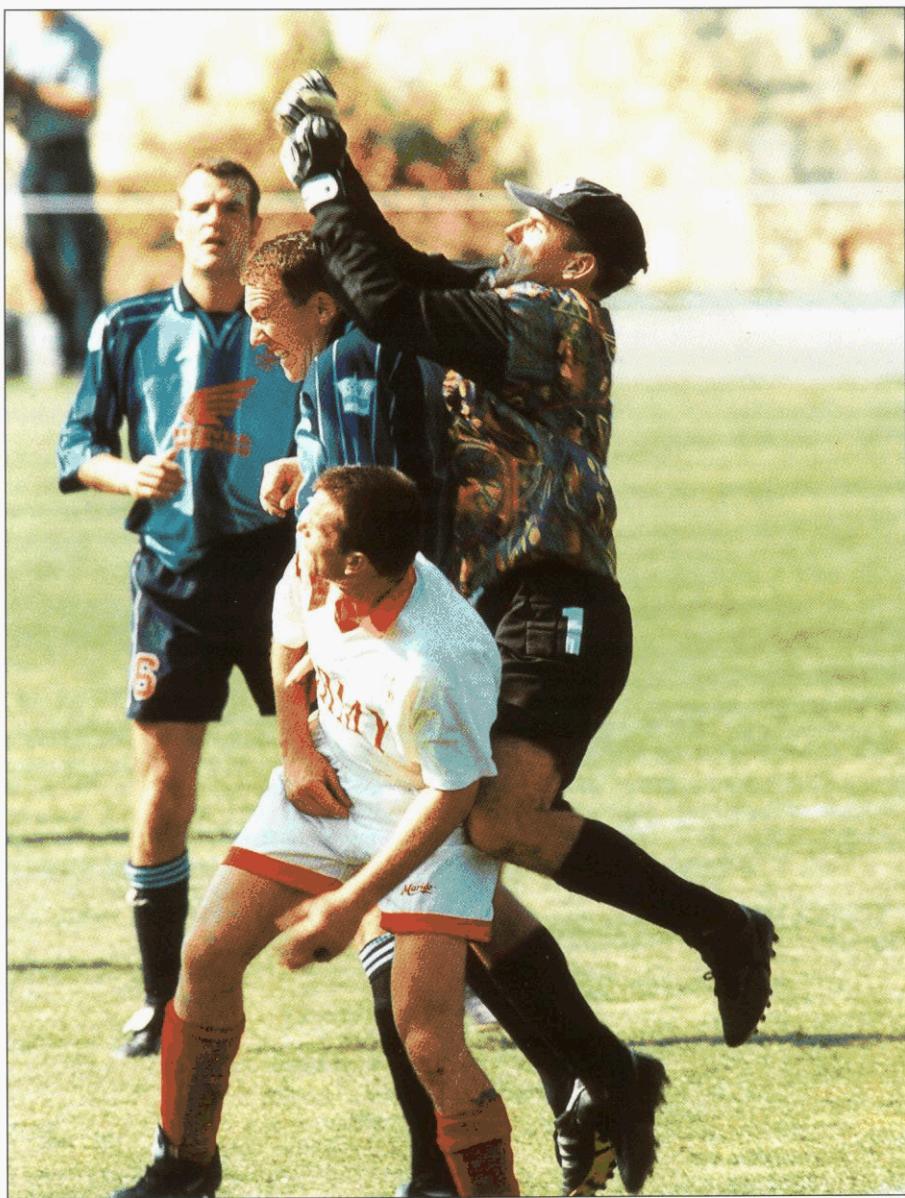
Happy man: 3 Bn REME captain Sgt Taff Edwards raises the Challenge Cup after his Paderborn side had beaten 3 RSME

3 RSME 0, 3 Bn REME 2

IN a close Army Challenge Cup final at Aldershot, Paderborn-based 3rd Battalion REME ensure that the Wilsons Hogg Robinson-sponsored trophy returned to Germany, writes **Derrick Bly**.

Both teams had endured tense semi-finals, eventually accounting for 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt and 1 Cheshire.

The side from Germany went ahead in the 16th minute when Sgt Shane Smith made ground down the left and picked out Sgt Corner who scored. Cfn Nunn got the



Power punch: Army (Cyprus) goalkeeper WO2 Tony Armstrong (AGC(SPS)) punches clear as Sgt John Limb (2 R Anglian) takes evasive action. Armstrong made several crucial saves to deny the Royal Air Force, winners of the Cyprus Inter-Service football crown for the past five years. Although the airmen dominated the game, second-half goals by Pte Richie Park (1 LI) and LCpl Lawrie Lawrenson (RE) gave the Army an upset win.

The Army and RAF have each won 16 of these fixtures and there have been seven draws.

Army Cup returns to Germany

second 25 minutes from the end. Sapper 'keeper Phillips received the Bill Wilson Memorial Trophy as man of the match.

ATR Lichfield 3, 14 Sup Regt RLC 1

In one of the most exciting minor cup finals for many years, Army Training Regiment Lichfield defeated Dulmen-based 14 Sup Regt RLC at the Military Stadium by three goals to one. ATR were the better side in the first half and opened the scor-

ing through Burrell. Minutes after the interval a 14 Regt defender got a hand to a bad bounce in the area and Cpl Parsons scored from the resulting spot kick. The loggies went on all-out attack and pulled a goal back through Bond before conceding a third minutes before the final whistle.

Mr John Brown of JBI International Insurance Brokers Ltd, sponsors of the competition, presented the trophy.

Force for good Rocked . . . by injuries

EARLY injuries scuppered the tri-Service **Gibraltar Provost and Security Unit's** attempt at a world ladder-climbing record but did not prevent the survivors raising more than £2,000 in sponsorship for the local Faith and Light charity and the Princess Diana Memorial Fund.

The team of ten drawn from the Royal Military Police, Royal Navy regulators, Royal Air Force Police and Intelligence Corps managed 44.2km in 24 hours, about half the world record of 90.4km.

Ballykinler-based **B Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment** arranged two days of football coaching for local schoolchildren. Coaches from the Irish FA were on hand to help.

Two teams of **Royal Artillery** soldiers ran in relays from John O'Groats to Land's End in under 93 hours and raised £7,500 for good causes. They bought a £4,000 wheelchair for Matthew Brooke, a ten-year-old with cerebral palsy, and gave the balance to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

An auction of memorabilia at the International Inn, Brunssum, home of **AFCENT**, raised £3,500 for SSAFA Forces Help and the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

A 16-strong team from **22 Engineer Regiment** at Perham Down spent 24 hours motor-cycling bumping around a rough-terrain circuit in pouring rain . . . and raised £2,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Twelve soldiers from **19 Brigade Headquarters** serving in Bosnia "rowed" the 278km from their base at Banja Luka to Split – on exercise machines – and collected more than £1,000 to buy medicines for a Bosnian girl suffering from a tumour.

Members of **19 Airmobile Field Ambulance** from Colchester handed out dozens of teddy bears and other toys to severely handicapped children during an exercise in Cyprus.

Soldiers, sailors and airmen based on the **Falklands** attempted a Chinook-pull to raise funds for the Seamen's Mission in Stanley and the Starlight Foundation. But strong winds made the helicopter

uncontrollable so a 20-tonne (3-tonnes more than a Chinook) fuel bowser was substituted. The Navy won.

Twenty-one members of **Medical Services** in Gibraltar ran a charity Rock race to collect cash for the Gibraltar Society for Cancer Relief.

Medics from 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital (V) held a simulated trans-Atlantic row using rowing machines to celebrate the RAMC's centenary and raise money for Broughton House Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen, the Army Benevolent Fund and Hope Homes for Children.

Two Royal Welch Fusiliers, CSgt Chris Jones and Sgt Mike Owen from the



Going up: Climbers on the Rock are (back, from left) Cpl Yorkie Oliver RAFF, Cpl Sean Kelly, Int Corps, Cpl Steve Smith RAFF, Cpl Rob Nunn RMP, WO1 Ian Commerford, Int Corps. Front, Mr Barry Horne, Sqn Ldr Gary Horscroft RAFF, LReg Dave McCaffray RN, Cpl Andy Hart RAFF and LReg Mac MacNaught RN Picture: Cpl Kev Jones RAF

Army Careers Office, Bangor, walked 37 miles from Bangor to Blaenau-Festiniog and raised £1,500 for the RWF Museum in Caernarfon Castle. They were accompanied by 60-year-old Kenneth Williams, treasurer of the RWF Comrades Association.

For the record

Questions of Rank

MY letter (March) was intended to refute the statement that rank insignia were not worn by Scottish regiments in the Great War and to indicate the official reason for the whole system being discarded.

In a footnote, the late Hugh Howton maintained that the policy on rank insignia, on the lower sleeves, of officers in the Great War was changed on the grounds of concealment.

With the huge expansion of the Army in 1914 it soon became apparent that it did not make much sense to continue the expensive business of embroidering officers' sleeves when the addition of a simple star (pip) to the shoulder strap was much simpler and cheaper.

During the smoke-filled, mud-splattered trench warfare of the Western Front, sleeve insignia, which in today's terms was subdued (khaki on khaki) was virtually indistinguishable at more than a few feet.

Officers were easily recognised by the cut of their uniforms, some features of which

were breeches, leather boots and belts, open-necked collars, whistles (soon concealed) and revolvers on lanyards.

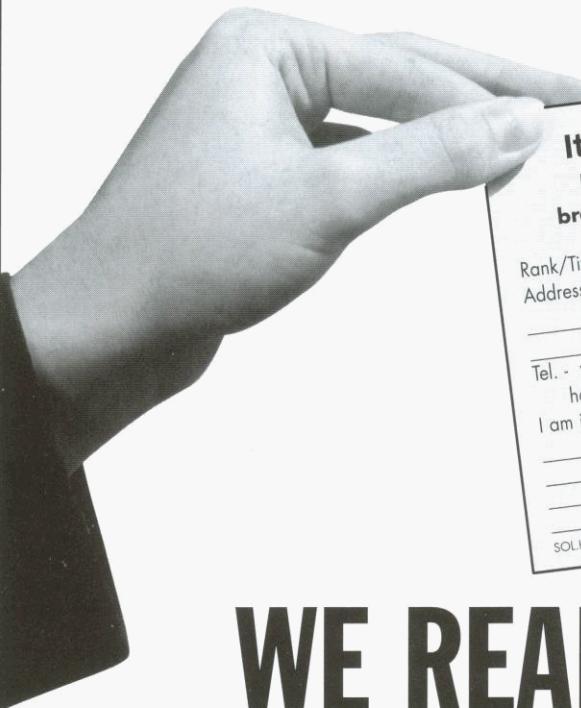
Many officers soon learned to carry rifles. Both the French and Italian Army officers continued to wear lower-sleeve rank insignia until the end of the Second World War; the French continue to do so today on their dress uniforms, but these were of a more simplified form. – **Lt-Cdr W M Thornton RNR, Southall, Middlesex.**

One over the eight

IN Reviews (March) you said that in 1899 Hitler was born and Churchill decided to join the Army. By then, however, Churchill had already taken part in two wars and was about to go to South Africa for his third. In Hitler's case he would have been 15 at the start of the First World War. – **SSG Sandberg, Milwaukee, USA; e-mail: desoto2@juno.com**

● *Oops, for 1899 read 1889. A mere digit, but think how it could have changed the course of history. Well spotted.*

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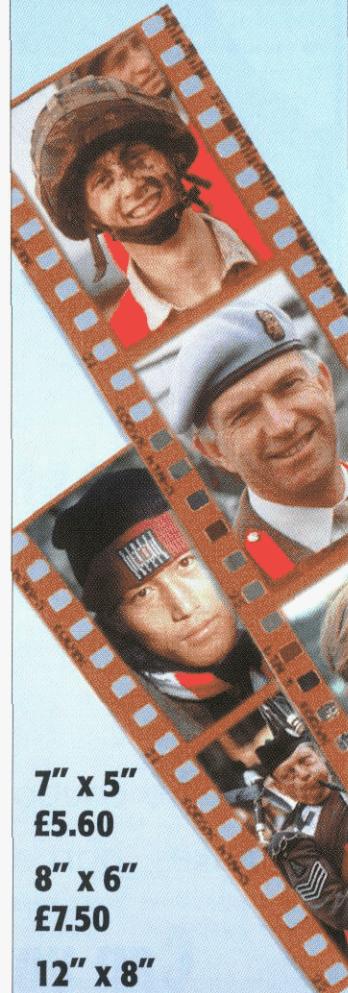
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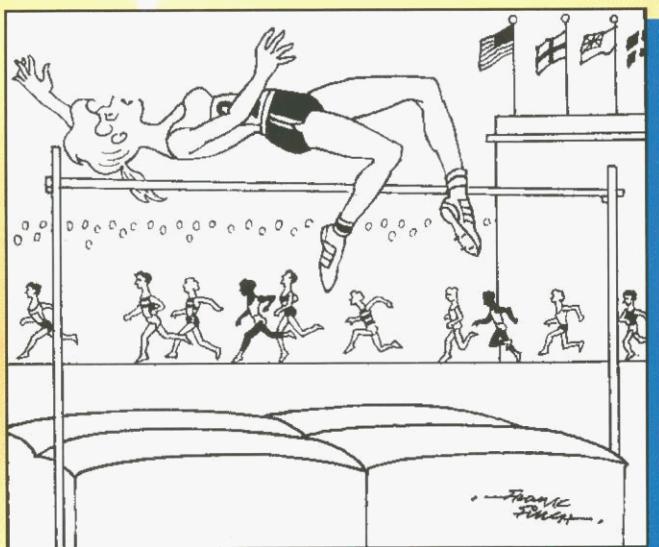
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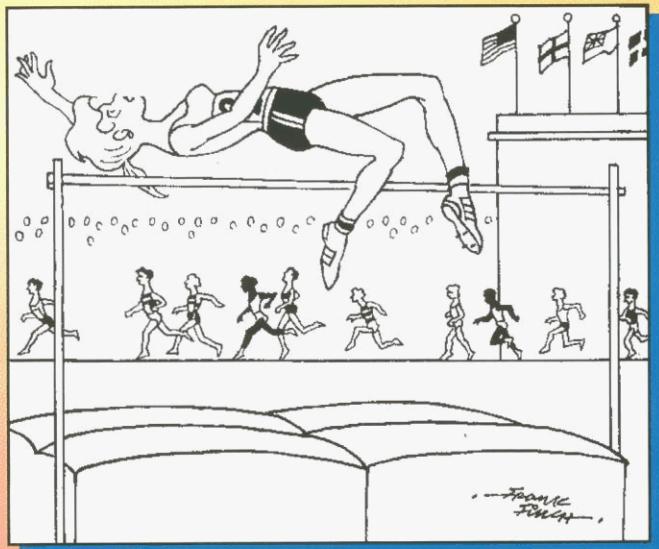
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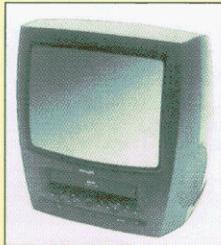
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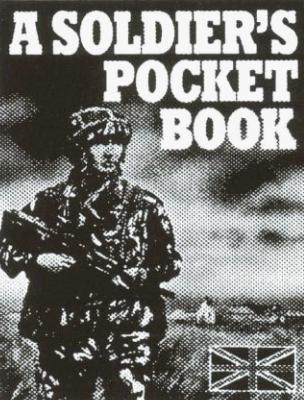
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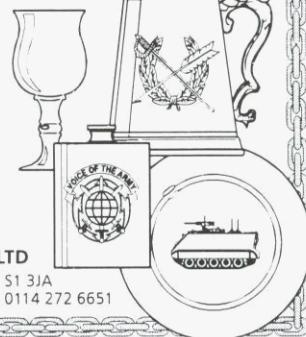
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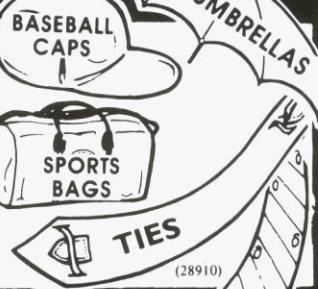
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Andria, 25, 5'11", auburn hair and medium build. Enjoys reading, going out, ice skating, listening to music and walking. Seeking pen pals, 23-35. **P271** 06/98

Tammy, 5'2", 23-year-old blonde, petite IT trainer. Enjoys nights in/out, clubs, pubs, wining and dining. Hates kids. Loves animals. Photo ensures a reply from 20-30 year-old pen pals. **P272** 06/98

Clare, 30, 5'6", non-smoking IT trainer who likes travel, music, the cinema, shopping, animals and kids. Would like to correspond with easy-going soldier, 28+. Photo appreciated. **P273** 06/98

Angela, 30, 5'4", slim with brown hair. Interests include cycling, jogging, drawing, woods run, Guinness and having fun. Seeking pen pals, late 20's-40's with sense of humour. **P274** 06/98

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Amanda, 26, 5'4", dark hair and green eyes. Enjoys swimming, skiing, horse-riding and badminton. Seeking genuine pen pal with GSOH, 26+. All letters answered. **P280** 06/98

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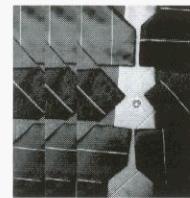
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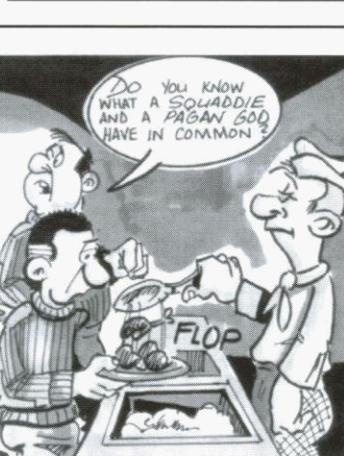
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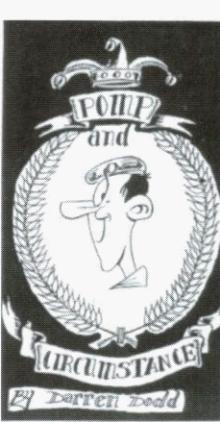
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Three-way tie for first prize (15 goals, £1,900 each): Cpl KTT Chambers, JCU; Sgt S Murphy, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln; Sgt PS Oakes, SEME, Bordon.

55-way tie for fourth prize (14 goals, £41.82 each): Cpl TD Allen, HQ 1 Mech Bde, Tidworth; Maj PS Ashcroft, 25 Engr Regt; WO2 AD Ashman, 1 R Irish, Catterick; LCpl TB Baines, 1 D and D, Warminster; SSgt AR Bishop, 12 Regt RA, Sennelager; LCpl S Briggs, 2 RGJ, Paderborn; SSgt DJF Buckler, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Sgt AFG Busby, RSA, Larkhill; Cpl DJ Cannister, 10 Para (V), London; Lt Col NJ Caplin, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Capt A Casam, 9 Signal Regt (R), Ayios Nikolaos; Sgt MJ Chinn, 7 Br REME, Wattisham; WO2 RJ Ciereszko, Inf Sales Demo Team, Warminster; Col PC Cook, HQ Episkopi Garrison; SSgt MS Day, AFPA, Worthy Down; Cpl MA Fawcett, 1 PWO, Chester; Sgt SD Ferguson, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill; Cpl FW Filmer, 260 AYT, London; WO2 KA Gibson, 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, Fallingsbostel; Sgt SD Gunn, QRL, Osnabrück; Cpl D Haughton, 1 R Irish, Catterick; SSgt DG Hendrie, 5 Trg Regt RLC, Grantham; LCpl JE Holland, 1 RHA, Tidworth; Capt TSW Humphrey, 5 Regt RA, Catterick; WO2 LJ Hunt, QDG, Sennelager; WO2 C Hunt, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Cfn SL Jackson, SEAE, Arborfield; Sig K Jones, 2 Signal Regt, York; LCpl AD Kennelly, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; SSgt CJ Kerr, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; WO1 JH Lawrence, Royal Sch of Signals, Blandford; SSgt MA Lewis, 42 Svy Eng Gp, Hermitage; Sgt DC McCallum, 1 A and SH, Edinburgh; Maj SJ May, BMM Kuwait; Lt Col SV Mayall, QDG, Sennelager; Sgt T McKee, 1 HLD, Catterick; Capt AJC Mountain, Royal Hospital Haslar; WO2 FC Muir, RSA, Larkhill; WO2 KR Nash, 1 MI Bn, Rheindahlen; LCpl JJ O'Hanlon, 2 RTR, Fallingsbostel; Lt KD O'Riordan, 19 Airmob

Fd Amb, Colchester; Lt RM Page, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; WO2 ABJ Parrish, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; Sgt TC Randerson, 350 Fd Sqn (AS) (V), Chilwell; Pte KD Ricketts, 1 Para, Aldershot; Cpl EG Ross, Lowland (V), Edinburgh; Sgt AP Siyler, ATR Pirbright; SSgt TJ Squire, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Cpl JE Stephenson, MDHU Frimley Park; SSgt M Stopezynski, 40 Regt RA, Hohne; Maj PAS Sturtivant, A Man S, Guildford; Maj N Sutherland, 42 Svy Engr Gp, Hermitage; LCpl SR Thompson, 7 R Irish; Cpl PA Weller, RLC Trg Centre, Deepcut; Capt PJW Wilson, ATR Glencorse.

APRIL 18, 1998

First prize (23 goals, £3,000): Cpl MC Hallyburton, HQ LANDCENT, Heidelberg.

Second prize (22 goals, £1,600): LCpl DF Adams, 12 Sup Regt RLC, Wulffen.

Four-way tie for third prize (21 goals, £700 each): Lt BGW Johnson, RMCS, Shireham; Cpl WJH Lowry, 8 R Irish; Lt BDC Ryan, RDG, Tidworth; Cpl A Usher, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippingham.

Ten-way tie for seventh prize (20 goals, £60 each): Cpl (name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison; Cpl AJ Burgess, 16 Armd Fd Amb, Tidworth; Sgt JM Chambers, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh; Cpl P Donnelly, QRH, Catterick; WO2 RH Fishwick, QRL, Osnabrück; Lt Col C Hawkey, SHAPE; Lt Col DJ Kent, HQ Land, Wilton; Hldr N MacGillivray, 1 Hldrs, Catterick; WO1 AS Sherrard, Bristol UOTC; SSgt CM Thomas, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich.

APRIL 25, 1998

Ten-way tie for first prize (17 goals, £800 each): CSgt AN Bennett, 1 RRRW, Paderborn; Cpl P Cawley, RLC Trg Centre, Deepcut; Pte S Downie, 1 BW,

Fort George; Sgt EL Gill, HQFB Cyprus, Episkopi; Sgt NG Hambleton, Dhekelia Gar Wksp REME; Sgt DA McCulloch, QDG, Sennelager; LCpl C Porteus, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; LCpl JC Walsh, 1 QLR; Cpl LCA Watts, AMFL CSS Bn, Bulford; Pte KJ Williams, 1 RGBW, Colchester.

NOTE: With effect from May 2, 1998 results will be based on county cricket scores, as per the rules on the new (green) tickets. Results from May 2, 1998 will be based on the first one-day matches played by counties during the period Tue April 28 - Sun May 3, including Northants v British Universities on April 28.

PRIZE MONEY INCREASES AGAIN

For the third time in less than a year, increased ticket sales mean that the prize money increases again. With effect from May 2, 1998 the weekly prize pool will be £8,500 with a top prize of £3,200.

APRIL 2, 1998

First (340 runs, £3,200): Cpl AM Crump, HQ Brunei Garrison.

Second (333 runs, £1,600): SSgt RF Richardson, 1 RWR, Paderborn.

Third (327 runs, £1,200): Lt RN Longfield, 7 Para RHA, Aldershot.

Fourth (324 runs, £900): LCpl JJ Case, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, Chivenor.

Fifth (321 runs, £600): Col JB Gunson, BAD Kineton.

Sixth (312 runs, £400): Cpl S Bennett, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down.

Seventh (309 runs, £300): Maj WAN Mellows, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth.

Eighth (308 runs, £200): SSgt GS Daniell, AFCO Norwich.

Three-way tie for ninth prize (305 runs, £33.33 each): SSgt CA Boggan, 34 Fd Hosp, Strensall; Maj PR Ford, 35

Signal Regt (V), Sutton Coldfield; Capt PB Widdows, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

MAY 9, 1998

First (284 runs, £3,200): CSgt AJ Ash, 1 Gren Gds, Pirbright.

Second (274 runs, £1,600): WO2 TF Attoe, 1 PWO, Chester.

Third (272 runs, £1,200): Sgt CJ Cheeseworth, MCTC, Colchester.

Fourth (266 runs, £900): Lt Col GS Lane, 78 Engr Regt (V), Southampton.

Fifth (264 runs, £500): Cpl JA Coles, SEAE, Arborfield; WO2 PL Stretton, 32 Regt RA Larkhill.

Seventh (261 runs, £300): WO2 PC Beckley, HQ MND (C), Rheindahlen.

Eighth (258 runs, £200): WO1 K Topping, 1 R Irish, Catterick.

Ninth (256 runs, £100): SSgt W Hartwell, 2 RRF, Celle.

MAY 16, 1998

First (398 runs, £3,200): Maj JAA Backler, HQ Land.

Second (397 runs, £1,600): Capt IA McGregor, 2 LI.

Third (393 runs, £1,200): Maj AS Maclare, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate.

Fourth (386 runs, £900): Lt Col D Littlewood, HQ QMG, Andover.

Fifth (383 runs, £600): Cpl JR Hutchinson, 2 Bn REME, Fallingsbostel.

Sixth (382 runs, £400): WO2 RA Russell, 1 R Anglian, Cambridge.

Seventh (381 runs, £300): LCpl P Greenwood.

Eighth (379 runs, £200): Cpl CJ Pitts, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Herford.

Ninth (378 runs, £100): WO2 GR Phillipott, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln.

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All classified advertisements are accepted on a prepaid basis only, and are subject to the following conditions.

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(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

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26	27	28	29	30

If you need more space, or do not wish to cut the magazine, please write clearly on plain paper.

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ANY ORDER P&P £3.50

EMAIL: SOLIDIER@MILITARY.CO.UK

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**"50 YEARS OF SERVICE
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PRO-BOOTS

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CORDURA

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BRITISH DESERT BOOTS

**Suede
Ankle
£39.99**



**Suede
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Genuine Issue kit...

DPM Para Smock

4 press-stud bulgy pockets.
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SAS Windproof Smock - DPM

(Artic smocks also avail.
£95.00)



1959 Pattern Denison smock

Current genuine combat
smocks avail.



BUFFALO Special 6 shirts Olive or Black

All other Buffalo kit stocked



SNUGPAK Sleeka Jacket. Olive or Black

Warm, windproof, lightweight.



SNUGPAK Merlin Softie 3 Sleeping Bag



Built to last.....

Green or DPM



PLCE BERGEN 125ltr.
Side pouches make a
35ltr day pack. £170.00
Medics Pouch £75.00



**SOLDIER 2000 AS-
SAULT PATROL PACK.**
50ltr With side pouches.
Only £75.00



Assault vest: 8 assaultive pouches plus 2
large map/storage pockets. Holster
attached inside. One sleeve fully adjustable
mesh vest with quick release fastening
front.

PLCE Commando Chest Rig
Radio pouch - NEW £16.99



**Genuine Issue. £49.99
Built to last.**

Soldier '95

Massive stocks...

Green
or DPM



PLCE Webbing Set
Latest issue Soldier '95 Kit.

SET
£120.00



**GORE-TEX
BOOT LINERS**
8" High £20.00
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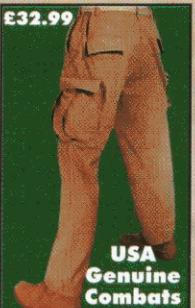
Shemagh
From £21.00



**Genuine Norge
Army Shirt**
100% cotton.
From £21.00



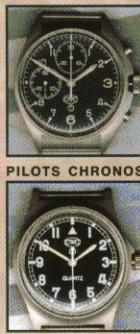
BERETS
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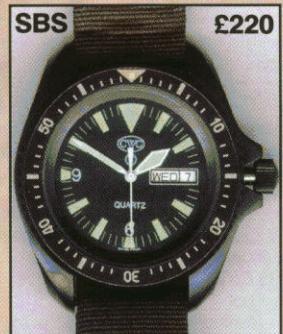
**USA
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£32.99



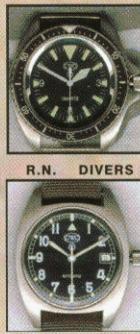
contractors to H.M. Forces for over 25 yrs. Swiss made. 2yr warranty.



PILOTS CHRONOS



SBS
£220



R.N. DIVERS

1970'S GS

Swede torque-ing girl

CREATING a prestige car is a tough task, so as you might expect a great deal of thought has gone into the design and construction of the new Saab 9-5, writes **Syd Taylor**.

Elegant, spacious, free from spurious decoration and with a serene, timeless quality, this is one of the most attractive of the new generation of executive cars.

The sleek profile owes much to the dictates of aerodynamic laws made obvious by its particularly low drag coefficient of only 0.29 - yet like all Saabs it's a "street-tough" car built to survive the rigours of Swedish winters.

The specification level is generous and includes airbags for the driver and front passenger, front seat-mounted side airbags, heated exterior mirrors, steering-mounted audio and telephone controls, automatic climate control with dual temperature zone, cooled lockable glove box, top-quality radio/CD/tape unit, 60/40 split/fold rear seat and huge boot.

COMFORTABLE

Externally, five-spoke alloy wheels and front foglamps mark out the SE. The test car came fitted with extra-cost trip-computer, cruise-control and heated front seats.

Few cars provide a driving environment so closely attuned to the driver's needs as the Saab 9-5, with its comfortable and roomy driving position and superbly-orchestrated dashboard and controls.

One of the most convincing endorsements of the new Saab's ability to cater for the enthusiastic driver is provided by the splendid transversely-mounted four-cylinder DOHC 2.3 turbocharged and



Road test: Saab 9-5 SE 2.3 t Automatic

ENGINE Transverse four-cylinder 2290 cc; 170 bhp at 5,500 rpm; 280 Nm at 1,800 rpm.

TRANSMISSION Front-wheel drive with five-speed manual or four-speed electronically-controlled automatic with three programmes and direct mechanical lock-up in 3rd/4th gear.

Tech Spec

STEERING Power; rack-and-pinion.

BRAKES Anti-lock system (ABS) with electronic brake-force distribution (EBD). Discs all round, ventilated at front.

KERB WEIGHT 1485-1630kg.

SIZE (mm) Length 4805,

width 2042, height 1449.

LUGGAGE ROOM Length with rear seat in position 1092mm; with rear seat folded down, 1714 mm.

PERFORMANCE Max speed nearly 140 mph; acceleration 8.5 sec.

MPG Urban 18.6, combined 26.2 mpg, extra-urban 34.4.

PRICE £26,670 as tested (add £1,220 for auto).

inter-cooled Ecopower engine which develops 170 bhp and drives the front wheels.

This vigorous and flexible engine is powerful and well-bred and its highly-responsive four-speed electronically-controlled automatic transmission, as fitted to the test car, has "normal", "sport" and "winter" modes, with direct mechanical lock-up in third and fourth gear, and per-

fectly senses your urgency when accelerating, matching engine torque to the gears exactly.

Despite the 9-5's dynamic energy, it's not a car for exhibitionists, but for those who can exercise power with discretion. Its potent combination of power and smoothness, plus outstanding comfort and stability, make for a particularly relaxing motoring experience.

Audis make history at Goodwood

HISTORY will be made at the 1998 Goodwood Festival of Speed this month when Auto Union V16 as well as Silver Arrow Grand Prix cars will head Audi's entry.

It will be the first time these mid-engined titans of pre-war motor-racing have run in the same UK event.

The sight and sound of the Audi collection's new, 1936-specification

Auto Union V16 C-type - making its world debut - and 1938 V12 D-type (pictured) will be an unforgettable experience for spectators at the world's largest historic motor-sport event, between June 12 and 14.

Also in Audi's line-up will be a 1926 NSU Grand Prix car and Michèle Mouton in Audi UK's newly-acquired ex-works Audi Sports Quattro S1 rally car.



Isn't it just the limit!

Italy's Moto Guzzi is producing just 200 of this 1100 Sport Corsa - and only 30 are destined for the UK market. The limited edition bike, powered by the 1,064cc two-valves-per-cylinder V-twin, benefits from a host of new features, including Carrillo conrods, a lightened crankshaft, fully floating front disc brakes, polished rocker covers, rocker protectors and black-finish engine, frame and wheels. A track-use Termignoni exhaust kit is also supplied.

Young soldiers 'are a credit to Army'

ON THURSDAY, April 9 I travelled on the 1508 train from Winchester to Birmingham. In a coach to the rear, adjacent to the buffet car, were several members of the Army Training Regiment, Winchester.

I gathered from their conversation that this was their first weekend off after completing six weeks of basic training.

Due to flooding at Banbury it was decided to divert the train via the East Coast route. This meant a wait of two hours at Reading station. Just before leaving, passengers from a train that had been sent back to Reading due to the flooding were transferred on to our already full train, causing severe overcrowding.

The soldiers responded in a way that brought admiration from all passengers. They gave up seats, handled luggage and assisted in a way that brought credit to both themselves and the British Army.

One lad in particular should be praised. I am afraid all I know is that, coming from Liverpool, he was known as Scouse and had a scar in his hair just above his left ear.

He was polite, courteous and helpful to the many elderly passengers. He also assisted with a blind lady, even to the extent of finding a water dish for her guide dog. A fine example of what a British Serviceman should be.

I would have liked to congratulate them personally but I did not make myself known to them as I did not wish to embarrass them in front of others.

I do feel, however, that their actions are worthy of some form of commendation. They reacted in a difficult situation in a manner not often encountered with youth

these days. Their whole manner was one of thought for others with a complete disregard for their own comfort.

My congratulations to the regiment on turning out such good soldiers. — **Lt-Cdr (SCC) I J Dyster RNR**, National Sea Cadet Training Centre, HMS Excellent, Portsmouth.

● Two other passengers on the train, both civilian women, have written to the regiment in similarly glowing terms. Well done, ATR Winchester.

Prize letter



Well trained: Fellow passengers have praised the exemplary behaviour of these members of the Army Training Regiment, Winchester, during a crowded rail journey. From left, front, Rfn Robert Lewis, Rfn Carl Blakemore, Rfn Ryan Hickenbottom, Rfn Darren Moon, Pte Lee Kelly, Rfn Stuart McLeod; rear, Pte Conrad White, Pte Steven Renshaw, Pte Dean Moss, Cpl Robert Masters, Rfn James Woodhouse, Rfn Martin Whitehead, and Pte Philip Startin.

Palestine remembered

REGARDING the lack of publicity or remembrance of our lads who died in Palestine between 1945 and 1948 (Mailbag, May) I have been active in this cause for some time but find little support from any national newspaper.

However, with the help of the Royal British Legion's North Somerset branch I can now happily say that a commemoration service will be held in Bath Abbey on Sunday, July 19.

A parade at 2 pm, with the salute taken by the Lord Lieutenant, will precede the 3 pm service, followed by a reunion in Guild Hall with representatives of several regiments who served in Palestine attend-

ing. Former members of the Palestine Police have also promised us good support.

This year, my friends who died during the Mandate period, and many others, will be remembered. — **Gerald Burr (ex-41st Field), 89 Wessex Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3LP (01935 421722)**.

Tagged... ad infinitum

ALTHOUGH I left the REME almost 50 years ago I still wear my original Army dog-tags. I refuse to be seen dead without them. Is this a record? — **John R Mintram, Southampton**.

Write us a prize letter

HOT under the collar? Want to take issue on a serious topic? Need to settle a difference of opinion on a burning question? Or do you just want to share a good story with thousands of other readers around the world?

As ever, *Soldier* welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names and addresses in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize from *Soldier*'s new gift collection (see Page 20) 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.

Tribute to Hugh

I HAD to put pen to paper to express my deep regret to learn of Hugh Howton's sudden death. His regular "Questions of rank" feature in *Soldier* was most enjoyable. He will be missed. — **Cpl Kevin Jones AGC (SPS), 28 Engineer Regiment, BFPO 31**.

● Others who knew Hugh personally or through his work in *Soldier* have expressed shock and sadness. We have been asked by his friends of Cranbrook Baptist Church, Ilford, Essex, to record that any donations "to the memory of Hugh Howton" should be sent to SSAFA Forces Help, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP.

BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"In-Pensioner Higgins is 100, too . . . claims he remembers the pills they were given in Mesopotamia to stop them thinking about women . . . and thinks they're beginning to work!"

Century of care – see Pages 14-15

Save your teeth by trying trialling . . .

THE SECOND half of the sentence "Look Mum, no hands" (White Helmets Display Team, May) is "Look Mum, no teeth".

Those of us who have toyed with enduro or trials have sustained something for our pains, from dislocations and sprains up to the usual collection of breaks.

My foot was saved by an industrial steel-capped rubber boot which went between the front forks – so defying gravity on two wheels needs common sense as well as confidence.

The effort is worthwhile when you can finally stand atop the machine and make it do what you want – as Graham Bound said, "No hands".

Not many enthusiasts will make the Signals grade so they can take comfort from the opportunities offered by trialling, a world of camaraderie and robust sportsmanship.

There are specialist civilian trials-biased motor-cycle clubs and, I am sure, some military ones as well. All they ask is that you muck in and get stuck in.

We now have our own, new, Services Motor-Cycle Club – although sporting endeavour is not on the cards. Contact Maj Nigel Coole, HQ AFPAA, RAF

Soldiers air their views in Vox Pop – Page 70

Innsworth, Gloucester, GL3 1HW (tel civ 01452 712612 or Innsworth Mil ext 6434).

Today's automated, superannuated, failsafe cars can be driven by a high-IQ banana, but the motor cycle remains a skilled and physical challenge. – Jerry Davies (ex-Pay Corps and HAC), Anglesey.

Mystery drummer was from QRH

AS a long-time subscriber to your magazine I find little to complain about.

However, your article on The Royal Irish Regiment headed "Faugh-a-Ballagh" (May) has a splendid photograph of three men of the regiment – but a fourth, a drummer, who is not.

He is from the Queen's Royal Hussars (Queen's Own and Royal Irish), who were on duty in Northern Ireland at the time.

I just thought it would have been right to mention this in the caption. I have no doubt that relations between my old regiment and the Royal Irish are of the best. – Gen Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

● Sorry for the omission, an unfortunate oversight which survived the writing, sub-editing and proof-reading stages.

PS . . .

Don't commute!

NOT HAVING had proper advice from anyone in the Army when I was leaving in 1972 after 22 years I commuted part of my pension rights for a £1,000 payment to assist in a house purchase.

To date, that £1,000 has cost me £2,277.60, in reduced pension payments, including this year. With better advice I would have gone to a bank or building society for that money.

I advise all Servicemen and women: think very seriously before commuting your pension. – Kenneth Wilson, Leicester.

Comradeship lives

WOULD appeal to all leaving the Services to contact an Old Comrades' Association or Royal British Legion branch and keep the spirit of comradeship alive. The benefits of help and advice are well worth considering.

The Light Infantry Association has formed a branch in Yeovil for the South Somerset area. A turnout of 45 at the Three Choughs, where we will meet every second Monday of the month, was a triumph for secretary Jim Childs, who pioneered the move. – Ken Coles, 43 Ropin Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 4BE.

Corporal, aged 11

I AM an Army cadet and I am writing to tell you how much I enjoy your magazine, which I read every month.

Three years ago, because the Army Cadet Force itself does not take recruits until they are 12, I joined the Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps, which accepts entrants as young as seven.

Our drum corps has been going for about a year. We have played for several parades and this summer we have bookings for the Royal British Legion and a school fair. – Cpl Matthew Tudor (aged 11), Sandhurst, Berks.

Eaton Hall's cadets

I AM SURPRISED that the interesting interview with the Duke of Westminster (May) did not mention that his Eaton Hall home near Chester was used as an officer cadet school until the mid-1960s. It was mainly for infantry; other arms went to Mons.

Some 15,000 cadets passed through Eaton Hall on completion of the four-month course, to be National Service and short-service officers. The old and bold survivors have a reunion every two or three years; I believe one is due this year. – Tony Skidmore (ex-Eaton Hall graduate), Ware, Herts.

About the size of it

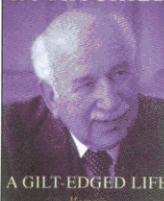
CATCHING up on my reading the other day I came across a reference in *Soldier* to sizes of Army clothing. I seem to recall that in the early 1940s when I joined the Army the QM stores stocked two sizes in kit – too big and too small. – A Sheldon, Nottingham.

Books

Wartime memories from a Rothschild

THE day an irritating German prisoner-of-war was strapped to the wheel of a gun in Tunisia to cure him of his obsessive need to chant "Heil Hitler!" is one of the colourful stories told by former artillery officer Edmund de Rothschild in his memoir **A Gilt-Edged Life**

EDMUND DE ROTHSCHILD



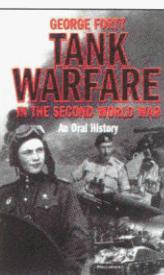
A GILT-EDGED LIFE
Memories

(John Murray, hardback, £22.50). Rare memories of life in an extraordinary family and experiences as "host" at the beautiful Exbury Gardens in Hampshire also make this book an enlightening read, with a cast of high-profile characters.

Tank men at war... in their own words

HARD on the tracks of the prolific George Forty's last book, *Tank Aces*, comes *Tank Warfare in the Second World War: An Oral History*

(Constable, hardback, £20), a marvellous collection of reminiscences from both sides, full of anecdotal humour and poignancy and imparting a real flavour of life in an armoured box. The collection proves that a tankie is a tankie whatever language he speaks and the author, who served for 32 years in the Royal Tank Regiment, salutes them all by paraphrasing JFK with the words: "Ich bin ein panzer soldat!"

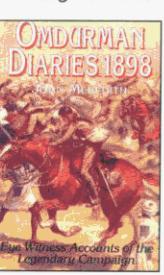


an armoured box. The collection proves that a tankie is a tankie whatever language he speaks and the author, who served for 32 years in the Royal Tank Regiment, salutes them all by paraphrasing JFK with the words: "Ich bin ein panzer soldat!"

Schoolboy inspires Omdurman book

PRIVATE George Teigh's diary of his service with the Lincolnshire Regiment during the Sudan

Expedition 100 years ago would have remained unpublished had his grandson not taken it to school. Teacher John Meredith found other accounts at the regimental museum and has woven them all together into the excellent



Omdurman Diaries 1898 (Leo Cooper/ Pen & Sword, hardback, £19.95). Apart from the eye-witness records of hand-to-hand fighting it is remarkable as a social document, showing the gulf between officers and other ranks in the last century.

Formidable warrior carries on the fight

THERE ARE no half-measures with Gen Sir Walter Walker. He is unequivocal in his likes and dislikes, and says so. He pulls no punches.

This attitude, which comes across forcefully in this autobiography, has not endeared him to everyone during his long and distinguished Army career.

Some may perceive a certain arrogance in the way in which he describes some people and events, but those who served with him over the years and who know him best will recognise his undeniable openness and honesty expressed in a direct and forthright style.

This veteran of the North West frontier, Burma, Malaya and Borneo felt, and still feels, that many of his military and political masters were wrong in many of their decisions. He said so at the time and has done so since, often.

Now, as then, this holder of the DSO with two bars is confident that his way of doing things was right.

At school he learned to box so that he could deal with bullies and each successive chapter tells of another fight with

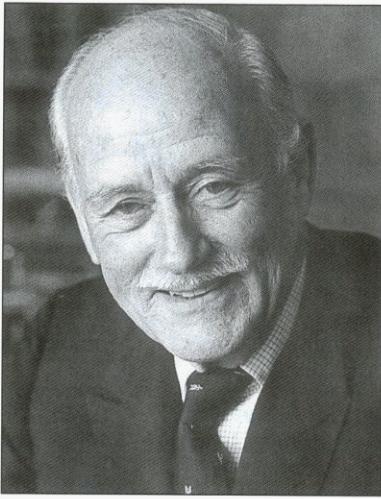
Fighting On by Gen Sir Walter Walker. New Millennium, hardback £14.95, paperback £11.95

knighthood after being recommended by Mountbatten and the C-in-C Far East for his achievements as Director of Borneo Operations; and being accused of raising "a private army".

He makes trenchant and controversial comments on the future of Britain and the role of her troops in Bosnia; on Russia, China and Japan; on the IRA; on homosexuals in the Armed Forces; and, more personally, on the hip operations which led to legal action against the MoD and an out-of-court settlement of £130,000 in his favour.

Now in his mid-80s, this formidable old warrior, who dedicates the book to his late wife (they were married for more than half a century) is crippled and has been in constant pain for the past 11 years.

Gen Sir Peter de la Billière, who as an SAS officer served under the author's command in the successful Borneo campaign, writes in a foreword: "There can be few people alive today with the breadth of experience in active military operations at all levels of command... possessed by Walter Walker." — JM



Controversial: Gen Sir Walter Walker

someone or another over a principle or plan. Among his many bitter clashes with authority — Army top brass and "Whitehall warriors" — are at least six "unforgivable" episodes in the last nine years of his career in uniform.

These include, he says, being threatened with a court martial in 1963 for protesting against cuts of 10,000 in the strength of the Gurkhas; initially being rejected for a

In brief

The Thistle at War by Helen McCorry. Colourful and entertaining anthology of the Scottish experience of war at home and away. National Museums of Scotland, paperback, £7.99 (Gazelle Book Services Ltd, Lancaster, 01524 68765).

The World's Sniping Rifles by Ian V Hogg, illustrated by Ray Hutchins. From Armalon (UK) to VSS (Russia). Greenhill Military Manuals, hardback, £12.99.

Modernism, History and the First World War by Trudi Tate. Absorbing scholastic comparison between the fiction of

Kipling, Lawrence, Woolf and others and the reality experienced by soldiers and nurses. Manchester University Press, hardback £40, paperback £11.99.

Stars and Stripes Forever by Harry Harrison. First in an "alternative history" style trilogy which imagines Britain joining the American Civil War on the Confederate side. Hodder and Stoughton, hardback £16.99, paperback £5.99.

Hunter Killer by Harry McCallion. Soldier-turned-barrister follows up his best-selling autobiography *Killing Zone*

with a thriller involving a private army of mercenaries in Scotland. Penguin, paperback, £5.99.

CQB: Close Quarter Battle by Mike Curtis. Former Para's highly-praised "true story of 15 years under fire", covering the Falklands, Iraq and Bosnia, is published in paperback this month. Corgi, £5.99.

The US Marine Corps by Charles H Cureton. Latest in the GI pictorial series outlining the history, uniforms and equipment of the American soldier. Greenhill Books, large-format paperback, £7.50.



Quebec being taken, 1759: Detail from the cover of *Redcoats Along the Hudson*, by Noel St John Williams, former Sherwood Foresters officer and Japanese interrogator in the Second World War. The story of the British-French conflict of 1754-1763 is published in paperback by Brassey's, priced £9.99

Undercover world dazzled Churchill

"IF any single politician can be credited with nursing Britain's secret service through its infancy, it's Churchill," writes David Stafford in this remarkably informative book.

Of course, Stafford is right; Churchill's political influence matured at the time when Britain's awareness of a need for organised intelligence was born out of the Boer War (in which Churchill had one of his early adventures).

While the Regular Army was thousands of miles away in South Africa, Britain was infected with a dread of invasion from hostile powers and "the nightmare continued to haunt the Edwardians".

In 1909 Churchill was a member of the Cabinet which created the Secret Service Bureau, and later as Home Secretary authorised the clandestine interception of mail.

In 1911 he chaired the committee whose findings resulted in the Official Secrets Act.

The author's opinion is that it was the romance and melodrama of undercover service, the trickery, deception, plot and counter-plot, that strongly appealed to the schoolboy in him. Churchill certainly

Churchill and Secret Service
by David Stafford, published by John Murray, hardback, £25.

used intelligence well; even in his years in the political wilderness between the wars he was kept informed by what would now be called "moles" in the Secret Service.

More positively, Churchill inspired or approved many covert actions, special operations and deceptions. These were generally valuable additions or alternatives to conventional military force, especially when Britain was weak and on the defensive.

CODE-BREAKING

These aspects are fully covered by the author, as is the code-breaking of German signals by means of Ultra at Bletchley Park.

"Ultra dazzled Churchill. Here was the authentic voice of the enemy unaware he has been heard . . . he described the Ultra transcripts as his 'Golden Eggs' . . ."

Although these transcripts, which Churchill insisted on seeing daily, became less restricted as the war progressed and were selectively

made available to the Americans in exchange for their own intelligence, the ability to read German signals was kept secret throughout the war.

The author contends that Churchill was both the best and the worst person to handle intelligence.

While he was intimately familiar with intelligence-gathering techniques and quickly grasped the importance of knowing what the enemy was up to, he was too often "mesmerised by original texts of the intercepts".

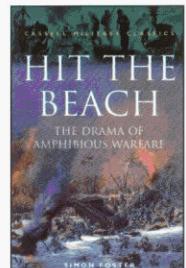
He was drawn too deeply into their tactical and operational use, failing to appreciate that they formed only a small part of the complete intelligence picture.

Nevertheless of the three Allied war leaders he was by far the most effective user of intelligence services: Roosevelt was perhaps too far away to appreciate the immediate value of enemy signals, while Stalin seemed to sleepwalk his way through intelligence in a haze of personal prejudice and conjecture.

This is undoubtedly a masterly work and a compelling read. - BJ

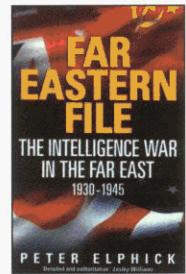
Military classics in paperback series

FOUR amphibious operations are examined in Simon Foster's *Hit the Beach*, one of a series of six Cassell Military Classics out in paperback at £5.99 each. (It includes *Soldier* pictures from the Falklands, albeit wrongly credited). The other books are *Last Stand! Famous Battles Against the Odds* and *At All Costs! Stories of Impossible Victories*, by Bryan Perrett; *Daring to Win: Special Forces at War*, by David Eshel; *World War One: A Narrative*, by Philip Warner; and *Bader: The Man and his Men*, by Michael G Burns.



New light shed on a hotbed of espionage

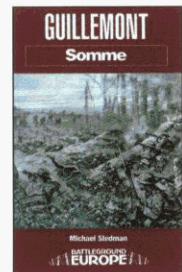
DID Churchill and Roosevelt have prior knowledge of the attack on Pearl Harbour? Peter Elphick discusses claims to that effect in *Far Eastern File: The Intelligence War in the Far East, 1930-1945* (Coronet, paperback, £7.99). Using records released only



relatively recently, the author, an expert on the period and the locale, sheds new light on the Far East Combined Bureau, which was established in great secrecy in Hong Kong in 1935 and was central to the British intelligence operation in this region – a hotbed of espionage.

Great war interest just gets greater

IN 1968 about 2,500 people visited Delville Wood on the Somme. In 1997 the figure had risen to an estimated 50,000. This year, with the 80th anniversary of the end of the Great War in November, who knows what the figure might be? Michael Stedman's *Guillemont Somme* (paperback, £9.95), is the latest Somme title in Leo Cooper's informative and well-illustrated "Battleground Europe" guide series, which, we are told, has experienced a comparable phenomenon in terms of sales.



Bulletin board

REUNIONS

Polar Bear Memorial: The new memorial to all who served with 49th West Riding Div will be unveiled on June 7 in the National Memorial Arboretum at Croxall, Staffs, followed by reunions and visits on the next two days.

Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association: Crich dinner takes place on July 4 at Ilkeston, followed next day by annual pilgrimage to the regimental memorial. Details: RHQ WFR, Foresters House, Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 5HA (0115 9465415).

25 Regiment RA (1947-84): Ninth reunion takes place in the Sgts' Mess, Royal School of Artillery on July 5. Families welcome. Details: Len Haddow, 4 The Rise, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3SF (01634 388156).

Operation Husky 1943 (invasion of Sicily): 8th Army Veterans Association plans reunion trip to Sicily from July 7-14 to mark the 55th anniversary of landings. Details: Victor Reinar, 1 Amadeus House, Somerset Road, East Preston, W Sussex BN16 1BB (enclose sae).

Coldstream Guards: Drummers' reunion at Windsor, July 11. Sae to Peter Horsfall, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, London N14 6DS for details.

SEARCHLINE

The Market-Garden Veterans' Association (North West Branch) has a varied programme of events and is trying to contact as many north-eastern veterans of Op Market-Garden as possible. Contact branch secretary Leo Rumley, 293 Moorside Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 9PJ (0161 281 5782).

Daughter who never knew him seeks information on **1107222 LSgt Maurice George Holland**, killed in action in Normandy in Aug 12, 1944, while serving with **61st Anti-Tank Regiment RA**. Anything welcome: news of mates, colleagues, group photos for copy and return. Replies in confidence to Jack S Woods, (Secretary, Normandy Veterans Association Norwich and District Branch), 50 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 3ES (01603 627706).

Veterans welcome at **British Korean Veterans Association** stand and march-past at Aldershot Museum special events day, July 19.

18th Field Ambulance RAMC: Did you serve at Tai Po in the New Territories as a medic or as attached personnel – RASC, RE, RAD, ACC – from 1949 onwards? Are you interested in a reunion? Contact Bernard Allen on

King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery: All-ranks reunion, July 15, at Kent County Showground at Detling, near Maidstone. Includes displays and guided tours of Troop. Return coach from St John's Wood. For details, costs and booking form send sae marked "Reunion" to The King's Troop RHA, Ordnance Hill, St John's Wood, London NW8 6PT.

54 Engr Sp and Amb Sqn RCT: Next reunion on Aug 15 in Tennis Hall, Lubbecke, Germany. Contact Mac MacMillan on 0049 5741 12967 or Baz Buckle on 0049 5741 40261.

497, 976 and 981 Squads Royal Marines (1947): Fifth annual reunion planned for August at Royal Fleet Club, Plymouth. Details: Peter Wye, "Pet-a-Pat", 349 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3RQ (01255 434784).

20 Regiment RA: Reunion planned for weekend Nov 14-15 at Devizes, Wilts. Details: R (Geordie) Graham, 60 St Mary's Grove, Nailsea, nr Bristol BS48 4NJ (01275 852781).

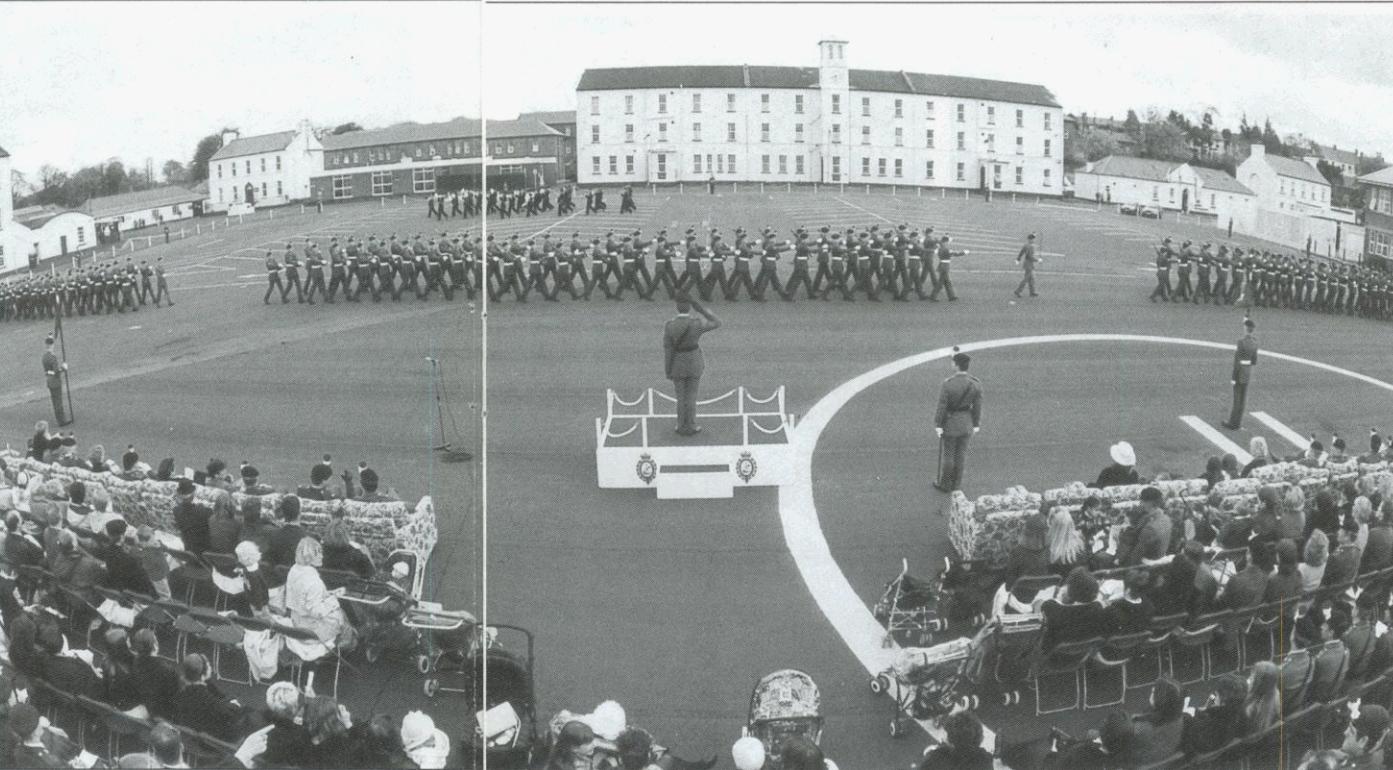
723 King's Squad RM (1959-60): Second reunion planned for June 1999 to mark 40 years. Details from Dave Prichard (01222 790233) or Tony Daker (01902 631951).



Anthony Murphy seeks help in identifying this gold medal which has come into his possession. It came with a 1914-15 trio to 1872 Pte E Selby RAMC. If anyone can help, they should write to him at 71 Farm Hill, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6BG.

0121 350 6798 or Eddie Orbell on 01540 651379.

Present owner of relatively rare grey 1968 MG CGT, registration number NBO 500F, wishes to hear from former owner **Capt Andrew Teare**, then stationed with 25 Engineer Regiment at Osnabrück, to discover more about history of car, which was 30 years old last month. Contact Stuart Disbrey, The Downs,



Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble

Hardy Road, St Margarets, Dover, Kent CT15 6HJ.

Mrs V E Lew wishes to trace **2nd Lt G Matheson**, known to have left the Royal Artillery in 1946. He wrote to her parents on the death of her brother, Rfn Edward George Rochford, in the Middle East on April 5, 1941. Replies to 36 Myrtle Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex RM3 8XS.

Ex-infantryman Peter Habgood wants to hear from former Servicemen who have been unable to obtain a **second career** on leaving the Army with a view to collecting their stories and campaigning for improvements in longer-term resettlement and welfare. Write to him at 31 Jubilee Way, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7UW.

Valued **memorabilia**, including badges, letters and photographs, have been stolen from former Sgt H J Tyndall, 12th London Regiment (The Rangers) KRRC. If any collector recognizes it, they are asked to contact Malcolm C Berrington Clark, 37 Clayton Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 3DT (01782 719088).

15; R H Bounsell RA – To PD/Arty Sys, June 22; D B Cowgill RA – To Bowman Mil Team, May 11; S J Crowe RLC – To UNMO Sierra Leone, Apr 27; M J M Dyer, R Signals – To APC, Sept 1; S R P Ford RDG – To HQ RAC, Apr 1; R C Goodall RRW – To DI Trg Pol (A), May 18; M Johnson RA – To DGD&D, May 18; P Lodge RE – To BDLS Canada, July 22; I D Mackie AAC – To DAAv, Sept 21; R J C Maxwell RLC – To HQ Land, Aug 3; G E W T Raikes AGC – To MAS(A), Mar 16; W J Sivewright AAC – To DAAv, May 11; D H Toler, Coldm Gds – To HQ AFSOUTH, May 15; D P Turner AAC – To Avn HQ Land, Apr 13; R T Weston, R Signals – To DCIS(A), July 1; M J Clements, R Irish – To BLO (USA), Aug 15; M G Hickson RLC – To HQ ARRC, Aug 10; A M F Potter, R Irish – To CATC, July 1; A H Pryce PWRR – To RMCS, Sept 1; J W R Thorn RE – To PJHQ(UK), Apr 14. G T Baldwin QDG – To OHR Brussels, June

Retirements
Colonel: G W Somerville, late RCT, Apr 24.

Birthday perspective: Officers and soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers parade to celebrate their 30th anniversary on St George's Day at Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry, where the battalion is based.

St George's Day is the regimental day for the fusiliers and was celebrated with a Colours parade of four companies, with each guard consisting of 48 rank and file. Brig Simon Young, Commander 8 Brigade, took the salute.

● Soldiers from the regiment's 2nd Battalion, based at Celle in Germany, provided a burial party for the interment of the remains of three First World War Fusiliers near Arras in Northern France. See Pages 16-17.

Other events during the celebrations included the inter-company football final

Missing 'members' worry the Army widows' funds

TRUSTEES of officer and soldier dependants' funds have expressed concern that hundreds of officers and thousands of soldiers are not members, jeopardising the financial security of their families.

Maj Tony Bettaney, secretary and treasurer of both funds, says 769 officers have failed to take up membership of the Army Officers' Dependents Fund, while 6,577 other ranks are not members of the Soldiers' Dependents Fund.

In recent months both charities have streamlined their operations, changed their names and increased their levels of grants. Both are now administered from a single office within the Adjutant General's Personnel and Training Command at Upavon and hope to offer membership to Gurkhas next year.

Full details are in DCI (Army) 44/98. Serving personnel wishing to join should see their regimental administration officer and eligible retired officers should contact the fund secretary on 01980 615734.

On January 1 the Army Officers'

MUSIC/Gordon Turner



Back in business with Bandleader

IT is always difficult to know where to start with a new column, and while it is not intended that it should merely recommend (or not, as the case may be) the latest recordings, of necessity this month I shall be attempting to catch up with a backlog of CDs.

Bandleader Records, the main source of UK military band recordings, have recently moved from the Valentine Music Group to Modern Publicity Services and it is several months since they issued any new recordings. They are now back in business and the first batch of CDs is available.

These include **Royal Windsor** (Bandleader CD BNA 5132), a programme of mainly marches connected with either Windsor or London, the two permanent stations of the Household Cavalry bands. The Band of The Life Guards is in immaculate form.

IRISH AIRS

Reflections (Bandleader CD BNA 5133), presented by the Band, Bugles, Pipes and Drums of The Royal Irish Regiment, and **Emerald Isle** (Bandleader CD BNA 5135), featuring the Band of the Irish Guards, both have some excellent arrangements of Irish airs. The Bands of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals, and the Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch combined for a tour of North America and **One Hundred Thousand Welcomes** (Bandleader CD BNA 5136) is a recording of the music used.

Marching with the Gurkhas (Droit Music TRCD 973) is a collection of 20 parade marches played by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas. The tempo of the marches alternates between normal heavy infantry and light infantry, thus we have a normal pace *Arromanches* followed by *Step Lightly* at breakneck speed, with the remainder following in similar fashion.

WORLD TOUR

A mammoth recording project embarked on by the Normandy Band of the Queen's Division is a series of six compact discs titled "Tour The World". Volume One, **The Mediterranean** (Plantagenet Music PMRD 9408), has recently been released. The programme includes marches, film music, operatic extracts and big band-style arrangements. Among the marches are *Unter Der Admirals Flage*, *Marche Lorraine*, *Malta GC*, *Turkish March*, *The French Military March* and a rarity, *The Sun God* by Zehle.

If you do experience difficulties obtaining recordings mentioned here, or have any queries on the subject of military music, please write to me c/o *Soldier*.

Diary And . . .

LT Gen Roderick Cordy-Simpson visited **The Light Dragoons** at Hohne to say farewell to his regiment on his retirement last month. The general commanded the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) before it amalgamated to form the LD in 1992. His last appointment was as deputy commander for operations at HQ SFOR in Sarajevo.

Second World War veteran Michael Halsted (77) of Cheltenham won a Ford Mondeo in the **Royal Artillery Heritage** raffle held in aid of the gunners' new museum at Woolwich. The car, the top prize, was delivered to Michael by 32nd Regiment RA on the back of a DROPS vehicle escorted by a Multiple Launch Rocket System. The regiment fought at the Battle of Gazala, North Africa, in which Michael was seriously wounded while serving with the Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The Freedom of Maidstone has been granted to 220 Field Hospital RAMC(V).

Blenheim Palace will offer a fitting backdrop to a concert and Beating Retreat to be staged by SSAFA and the Army Benevolent Fund on the evening of June 19. Performers include the Band of the Grenadier Guards, the Waterloo Band of The Royal Green Jackets and the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. Tickets on 012357 67477.

Marilyn Mailley can brighten up your billet . . . with **posters** ranging from motorbikes to pretty ladies. Bosnian units in particular, whose walls could use a "lift", may contact Marilyn at 19 Uffmoor Estate, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4JR (0121 585 5274).

Vassilia Paraschis grew up in a small Greek town and survived the deprivations of the German occupation. Aged 17, she met and married a British soldier working with the liberation forces' postal services in Athens. After many years of ill health Tom Hill died of a heart attack in 1987, and his wife has written the story of their love and faith in a 60-page booklet, available from publishers Arthur H Stockwell, Elms Court, Torrs Park, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 8BA (price £3.75) or the author, Vassilia Hill, 6 Palatine Close, Torquay, Devon TQ1 1RD (add 50p p&p).

DATES

JUNE

2: 41-gun royal salute by King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200, 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. Tickets on 0171 839 5323.
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**.
19: Band concert and Beating Retreat at **Blenheim Palace**, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, in

aid of SSAFA and ABF. Gates open 1800 (ticket details on 012357 67477).

28: Colchester Garrison Country Day at Fingringhoe, 1000 to 1700, with many attractions (details on 01264 782312).

JULY

19: Aldershot Military Museum "Music and Muskets" day, from 1330 (details on 01252 314598).
21-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Tickets: 0171 244 0244.

NOVEMBER

20-21: Army Arts Society annual exhibition, Medieval Hall, Salisbury.

● To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.



Picture: Chris Barker



On guard: 1 DWR (left) at the palace and (above left) LCpl Dougie Stroyan

Dougie marches back into limelight

LCPL Dougie Stroyan's left leg was blown off below the knee by a Bosnian landmine five years ago. Last month he was on parade as the **1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment** mounted guard outside Buckingham Palace.

Dougie's rehabilitation has been astonishing. Fitted with an artificial leg, he fills a corporal storeman's job and hopes to complete a full 22-year career with the regiment on the stores side.

The DWR has taken over Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow from the **1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales** for a two-year tour attached to London District. It is the first time the regiment has carried out public duties in London.

Commanding officer Lt Col Simon Newton followed tradition by filling the role of Captain of the first Queen's Guard.

Lt John Hincliffe, ensign on the day, commissioned into the Dukes from the

ranks of the **Coldstream Guards**, having taken part in Queen's Guards with No 7 Coy. It was a proud moment for him when 1 DWR handed over to 1 Coldm Gds, new residents of Victoria Barracks, Windsor.

Patriotic citizens will be pleased to learn that while most of England ignores St George's Day, the Coldstream celebrate it as a regimental holiday, this year demonstrating the art of dragon-slaying to an appreciative audience of schoolchildren.

RSM Dave Hall, on horseback and in full armour as St George, demolished the dragon and rescued a fair damsel on the square at Victoria Barracks. The pageant rounded off a morning of sport, after which the battalion stood down for the rest of the day. The **Scots Guards** celebrate St Andrew's Day, as do the **Irish Guards** St Patrick's Day and the **Welsh Guards** St David's Day.

Ninety-four men of **Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry** mounted guard at Buckingham Palace last month, the first time Canadian soldiers have done so since the Coronation in 1953. A warrant officer and two sergeants from the Welsh Guards helped the PPCLI prepare for their royal duties.

● **The Gibraltar Regiment** fired a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London on April 21 to mark the Queen's birthday. The **Honourable Artillery Company**, which traditionally fires its 25-pounders on Tower Wharf, fired Gibraltar's salute.

● Further south, a tri-Service Queen's Birthday Parade was led by the OC of the **Falkland Islands Defence Force**, Maj Marvin Clarke. The Army was represented by **69 Gurkha Field Squadron QGE** under Lt (QGO) Chitrabahadur Gurung.

Double helping of Hipper

WAS 5 Kings the only Army unit to receive the surrender of a German battleship?

Ken Moore, chairman of the 5th King's No 2 T Force Old Comrades Association, tells us of a unique presentation involving the force's Second World War adversaries.

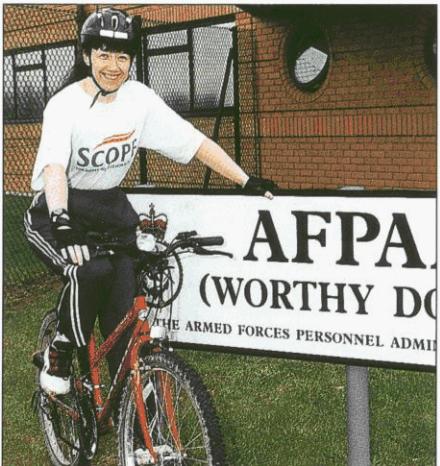
At their annual reunion they were given a silver model of the *Hipper* by Kpt Lt (Retd) Klaus Dieter Brodzig of the German Navy, who had acted as liaison officer during the OCA's visit to Kiel a year ago.

The story starts in May 1945, when two 5 Kings' companies in their T Force role – they were a special unit set up to secure

secret equipment, installations and VIPs before they could be removed or sabotaged – entered Kiel. Maj George Lambert of A Coy was one of those eventually involved in accepting a surrender (arrived at only after the Germans had been persuaded to call Admiral Doenitz, the acting head of state) which covered everything in Kiel, including the *Hipper*.

As the 5 Kings OCA has no table silver, the commission of a model battleship was taken on by a German veteran and duly conveyed to London by Kpt Lt Brodzig. It was accepted by Maj Lambert, who can thus claim to have received the *Hipper* twice in his lifetime.

Russian about on a bike . . .



Picture: Maj Joseph Bright

Pedal pusher: SSgt Julie MacDonald AGC (left) is training hard for a 660-km bicycle ride across the Russian countryside. Serving with the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency at Worthy Down, she is looking for sponsors to raise funds for SCOPES (formerly the Spastics Society).

Julie will join more than 100 other cyclists for the ride from St Petersburg to Moscow, finishing in Red Square.

Auchinwraith poem puzzle

MRS Daphne Allen reckons one of our knowledgeable readers will be able to provide the missing lines in a poem copied out by her late husband from the *Occupress*, journal of the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) at Auchinwraith House, Bothwell, near Glasgow in 1943.

Entitled "Battle Saga", the poem was based on the rhythm of "Hiawatha" and started:

"Neath the shadow of red Mendick
Runs the streamlet of Westwater,
Where King Seat and Little King Seat
Serve as playgrounds for the mortar"

Mrs Allen is unable to decipher lines five to seven of verse five and would be grateful for some help.

The relevant bit is:

"Plans are made while Hell's Inferno
Rages round the little band,
Major Phillips keeps the fires up
'Will he never drop his hand?'
Bren group then responds —
Rise from —————— then move!
Now they go their worth to prove."

Mrs Allen is hoping to publish the wartime letters exchanged by her and her then fiancé, Capt David Allen RE, as a book. She can be contacted at 19 Percy Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6SL (01789 293181).

... finally

THE colourful new-look *Journal of the Royal Military Police* has been given a vote of confidence by its management committee. Behind the changes is retired Metropolitan Police superintendent Bob Peedle (right), a former TA major in the RMP, who took over as editor a year ago and has radically revamped the magazine.



An "interactive" exhibition on the history of codes and code-breakers, including the story of how British Intelligence broke the secrets of Germany's Enigma machines, opened at the *Royal Signals Museum*, Blandford, on May 15. On the same day, the museum received an award for its standards from the Museum and Galleries Commission.

The *Dorset Yeomanry*, the first totally new regiment to be raised in the British Army for almost 50 years, celebrated its first anniversary with a weekend of demonstrations, dinners and parades at Bovington. It formed on April 1 last year.

An appeal for funds to resite the *Suffolk Regiment Museum* the short distance from Gibraltar Barracks to a special gallery within the Moyses Hall Museum in the centre of Bury St Edmunds has been launched. Contributions may be sent to the Suffolk Regiment Museum Appeal Fund, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Out Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.

Thirty-five veterans of the *Queen's Own Buffs* and their wives will roll back 54 years when they visit Copenhagen from Sept 6-12 to meet Danes who fought alongside them during the Second World War and who have formed their own association. The party hopes to have an audience with Queen Margrethe II. The Danish Buffs were on active service in Burma and other theatres with the Buffs, The Royal East Kent Regiment.

The last *Northumberland Hussar* was the guest of honour at a dinner to mark his 36 years of service. Maj Tony Donohue, who completed 37 annual camps, joined B Sqn in South Shields in 1960.

A long-standing link between the *RAMC* and the Royal Navy Medical Services was marked by a mess dinner in the Senior Rates' Mess of the RN Hospital in Gibraltar. The hospital was run by the RAMC, which celebrates its centenary this year, until 1964.

Leeds, home to the Peter Liddle collection of First World War soldiers' and families' letters and recollections, is to host a conference and dinner to mark the 80th anniversary of the Armistice. Prices range from £5 for a single lecture to £261 for the two days, Nov 10-11, and accommodation at the Queen's Hotel. Details from The Liddle Collection, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, W Yorks LS2 9JT, tel 0113 2335566; fax 0113 2335561) or e-mail c.l.harder@library.novell.leeds.ac.uk

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1948

YOUNG-ISH LOVE

Should a woman marry a man younger than herself?

Usually a woman prefers an older man, but sometimes there is the woman who prefers a much younger husband whom she can mother. Often there is a lack of judgement when a woman of about 45 marries a very young man. There are many cases of women who are five years older than their husbands making good marriages.

(Question and answer at a marriage guidance Brains Trust for soldiers in London)

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1973

SOUNDS LIKE HOME

Glasgow lass Lulu was welcomed to Hong Kong by the skirl of bagpipes. When she flew in to give two concerts in the Colony, the singer was met by two pipers from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch as she stepped off the aircraft.

Vox pop

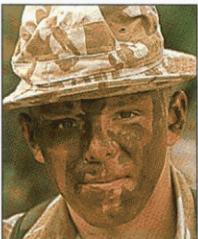
The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Sunshine posting?

With the closing of so many overseas bases, a posting to Cyprus is an ever more attractive option for many soldiers and their families. But what is it *really* like to live and work on the island? Is it the "sunshine posting"? We asked ten soldiers serving there.

Pte Kevin Ford, 1 LI

It is, but there are a lot of duties and we don't get to go home that often. It is certainly not what people think. But I'd rather be here than, say, the Falklands.



Pte Wayne McKenna, 1 LI

If you've got the money and the time off, then it is a sunshine posting. But it also depends on whether you want to go out and try things.

There are lots of things to do rather than just sit in watching TV... like jet-skiing, the beach and shopping... it's all right!

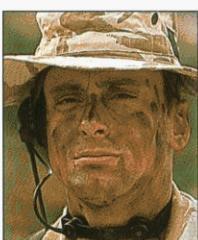
Sgt Richard Parsons, RLC

Yes it is. I'm an ex-Duke of Wellington's infantryman and I've seen both sides of the life. I have extended my tour here and, by the time I leave, will have done three-and-a-half years on the island. I'm loving it. The family is settled and I have a good job.



LCpl Peter Hartley, 1 LI

Yes and no. People at home don't see the hard grafting. We knuckle down and do a lot of duties. The RAF needs us more



since the RAF Regiment was taken back home, and that doesn't help. But we do get time off. I'd like to be here for the sunshine and sport, but elsewhere so that I could see more of the family.



Sgt Michael Roberts, AGC

It is sunny but the days of it being the sunshine posting are over. A lot of guys work longer hours or have two jobs because, like everyone else, we suffer from a shortage of staff. But it can still be good fun. There are plenty of facilities for water sports.

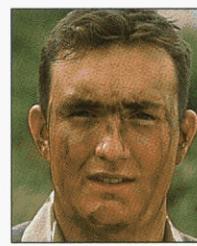
LCpl Anita Patterson, RLC

No, it's not a sunshine posting. I work as a postie and it is good, but it is still work. Many people think we finish work at 1330, but remember that we have to get up at 0530, and at the end of the day we are exhausted. Leisure facilities are excellent. I sail dinghies every weekend.



WO1 Trevor Lawrence, RLC

Beyond a shadow of doubt, it is a sunshine posting. It's one of the last decent postings and, when you come here, you have to take advantage of all that it has to offer. Cyprus is great and it is nice that most units and individuals can have the chance to come back every few years.



Pte Rob Purvis, 1 LI

It's good. I like it here, although we're on guard most of the time. We have lots of adventure training and there have been exercises in the Middle East,

so we have had an interesting time. But a lot of the guys have girlfriends back home and miss them. All in all, though, I enjoy it.

LCpl Ken Tuckey, RLC

It is good here although it is hard to keep in touch with work colleagues back in the UK, as we have to almost every day. This is mainly because of the time difference, although it doesn't help that their attitude towards you may be "you're in Cyprus, so you've got it easy. Don't bother us". They always ask us how the weather is, hoping we'll say it's raining.



Sgt Rab Murray, RLC

It's the best posting I've had... and I've been to Hong Kong. It is partly because I'm working in the Barrack Store with the RAF and they tend to say "can you" instead of "do it". It's a brilliant place to live although it can be difficult for the wives because it's not always easy to find jobs. They can get fed up with sunbathing...



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston

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COMING SOON

- Cyprus: on the Green Line
- My Army: Murray Walker
- Soldiers on road to Lourdes



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