

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

IN WITH A SHOUT

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for Middle East
and Kabul

Pilot to take
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Cover picture Rfn Lee Adams, a Territorial Army soldier cap-badged to The Royal Green Jackets, warms up for a three-month tour of duty in Kabul. He is a member of a company of Royal Rifle Volunteers flying to Afghanistan to relieve the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers currently providing security for the International Stabilisation Force (Isaf) in Kabul. Lee and his colleagues, who are based throughout Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Thames Valley, were exercising at Pirbright, Surrey.

Picture: Graeme Main

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"All of a sudden I feel I have a better future here."

Staying or going – the choice is yours – see Pages 26-27



The eyes have it: February's photo competition winner – see Page 63



This man plans to run 1,000 miles in 1,000 hours – Pages 50-51

Engaging the PlayStation® generation

Computer games technology could soon be used to complement the battlefield training given to infantry soldiers in the British Army

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Mike Weston

SHE may have dazzled and beguiled audiences with her athleticism and become the world's most famous gun-toting pin-up since first appearing on our computer screens back in 1996, but Lara Croft would not last more than two minutes on the cyber streets of the British Army's Dismounted Infantry Virtual Environment (DIVE).

Based on the engine of the chart-topping PC-based game *Half-life*, DIVE features a virtual reconstruction of the Copehill Down urban training facility near Warminster and allows its users to throw "real" grenades, utilise improvised charges, and experience the effect of support weaponry, while tracking an opposition force – all from the comfort and safety of a computer terminal.

But unlike one of Lara Croft's multi-million-selling *Tomb Raider* adventures, the programme does not feature strategically placed medicine packs or magical healing potions, and, as soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and REME phase 2 training at Arborfield discovered during a one-week trial, one bullet strike more often than not means "game over" for the player.

The trial, part of a three-year research programme to investigate how the British Army could use computer technology to bridge capability gaps in infantry training, compared how the foot soldiers performed room-clearance drills on the streets of both the real and virtual Copehill Down.

"The main purpose of the research is to see whether there are any benefits of integrating live training with computer software," explained Maj Bruce Pennell RLC, one of the project's military advisers. "We do not think for one moment that one will ultimately replace the other and are aware that there is no real substitute for getting soldiers out on the street doing it for real."

However, Maj Pennell does believe there is a strong case for the British Army to begin utilising computer games technology.

"There is a lot to be said for the so-called PlayStation generation," he argued. "Whether you like it or not it is here and one of the great traditions of the British Army has always been that it makes best use of whatever is lying



around and games technology is readily available.

"Without doubt the biggest advantage of programmes like DIVE is that you can do things virtually that you would never dream of doing live.

"No matter how good the new weapons technology is that comes into service, we will never be able to fire a blast off at a building with defenders in it and see what effect it has," he added. "We might talk about it, we can try and visualise it, but we can't actually do it.

"One of the other obvious limitations of the current training conducted at Copehill Down is that it is impossible to re-create the effect of suppressive fire.

"Even when using TESEX (tactical, engagement and simulation exercise) kit

you can hose a building with fire and still not be able to hit the enemy – even if he is just hiding behind a thin piece of wood.

"Learning that cover from view is not necessarily cover from fire is a very important lesson for an infantryman to learn and one that DIVE can reinforce."

Although DIVE looks similar in appearance to many other commercially available PC-based conflict simulators, the original *Half-life* software has been tailored specifically for the Army. Aside from featuring a playing area based on one of Copehill Down's building-lined streets, the programme, which can be networked to enable an entire section to "play" at once, also features virtual replicas of the

kit that British soldiers would actually carry into a conflict.

Communicating the Army's exact



Army's games master:
Maj Bruce Pennell RLC



Mirror image: Soldiers rehearse urban fighting drills at Copehill Down, left, before retracing their steps in a virtual environment, above

needs to the games developers, Maverick, fell to a small team of scientists from the QinetiQ research organisation.

"Having identified the most suitable technology, our primary role was to build bridges between the green Army and the games community, which was no easy task," explained principal scientist Peter Hoare.

"The developers are used to producing games for entertainment purposes and we had to persuade them that the Army was trying to find a practical use for its game engine and that some aspects of the game had to be toned down.

"During the early stages of the research programme we gave them a model of a tank and asked them to put it in a scene for us," he added. "When it came back it looked completely different and when we protested they said: 'but we've improved it for you, it looks much sexier like this'. We had to impress on them that everything needed to be as realistic as possible."

Although far from being the definitive

answer, Pennell and his team hope that DIVE will one day become to the infantry what the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) promises to become to the armour, armoured infantry, armoured engineers and offensive support artillery.

"The infantry soldier has not been well served by simulation up until now and although programmes like DIVE can not replace running round Copehill Down, they can simulate contact with the enemy," said Maj Pennell. "Games technology is already sufficiently advanced to adapt to specific training needs, it is cheap and there are endless possibilities of how it could be implemented."

Indeed, it is a method of training that the United States military has already fully embraced. Last year the United States Marine Corps (USMC) bought and began using a combat training application

based on Codemasters' chart-topping conflict simulator *Operation Flashpoint*.

The special version of the game, which was developed with the help of two former members of the Czech Republic Army, has been renamed VBS1 (Virtual Battlefield

System 1) and features specific enhancements including current USMC uniforms, weapons and vehicles.

Codemasters claims that the USMC became interested in *Operation Flashpoint* because of its realistic battlefield simulations and the control it gave users to operate land, sea and air vehicles across vast outdoor terrains.

They were also said to be intrigued by the in-depth level editor, which enabled operators to create virtually any imaginable combat scenario and then play it out from multiple viewpoints.

● 'Lara Croft' (Angelina Jolie) visits 1 Staffords in Kosovo – Page 9.

'With DIVE you can do things virtually that you would never dream of doing live'

Thanks to the ABF a soldier's 3 year survival course came to an end.



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Gen Jackson is new chief of Army



GEN Sir Mike Jackson, left, was taking over as head of the Army on January 31 from Gen Sir Michael Walker as Chief of the General Staff.

Gen Walker is to succeed Admiral Sir Michael Boyce as Chief of the Defence Staff in April.

Gen Jackson's last appointment was Commander-in-Chief Land

Command, a post he had held since March 2000. His former commands include a two-and-a-half-year tour with 39 Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland, 3rd (UK) Division, the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia and the succeeding Nato Implementation Force's Multi-national Division South West, and

the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps.

Gen Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, who replaced Gen Jackson at Wilton, is relieved as Adjutant General by Lt Gen Sir Alistair Irwin, GOC Northern Ireland, where Lt Gen Philip Trousdell has taken over.



Rolling stock: A Challenger 2 main battle tank of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards makes its way to a firing range at Bergen Hohn training ground, Germany. The regiment has been tasked to move to the Gulf region with 7 Armoured Brigade. Picture: Cpl Paul Jarvis RLC

Nearly 26,000 men on move

Biggest deployment since last Gulf conflict

A QUARTER of the British Army was given notice to move to the Gulf region in the biggest military deployment since the war to liberate Kuwait in 1991.

About 26,000 troops have been mobilised, based mainly on HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division, 7 Armoured Brigade in Germany and 16 Air Assault Brigade from Colchester. Vital supply lines will be serviced and oiled by 102 Logistics Brigade.

The mobilisation, announced by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon on January 20, is in addition to the 4,000 Royal Marines of 3 Commando Brigade already at sea.

The explosive nature of the force is evident in the assets at the disposal of 7

Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats. They include 120 Challenger 2 main battle tanks, 150 Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, 32 AS90 self-propelled guns, 18 light guns, and a large number of reconnaissance and other vehicles.

As *Soldier* went to press, large-scale movements from units in both the UK and Germany were getting under way, with headquarters and support staffs deploying to liaise with other military staffs within the region. They will be involved in planning and preparation work within the theatre of potential operations.

- Reservists called up – Page 12
- Flexible force gives options – Page 17

Who's who

HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division

(Commander: Maj Gen Robin Brims)

The Queen's Dragoon Guards
1 General Support Regiment RLC
2 Close Support Regiment RLC
2nd Battalion REME
1 Close Support Medical Regiment
5 General Support Medical Regiment
28 Engineer Regiment
1 Battalion, Royal Military Police

7 Armoured Brigade

(Commander: Brig Graham Binns)

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
Challenger 2 main battle tanks
2nd Royal Tank Regiment
Challenger 2 main battle tanks
1st Battalion, The Black Watch
Warrior infantry fighting vehicles
1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
Warrior infantry fighting vehicles
1st Battalion, Irish Guards
Warrior infantry fighting vehicles
1st Battalion, The Light Infantry
Warrior infantry fighting vehicles
3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery
AS90 self-propelled guns
32 Armoured Engineer Regiment

16 Air Assault Brigade

(Commander: Brig Jacko Page)

1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment
1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment
3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment
7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
105mm light guns
23 Engineer Regiment
Household Cavalry Regiment
Armoured reconnaissance squadron
3rd Regiment, Army Air Corps
Lynx and Gazelle helicopters

102 Logistics Brigade

(Commander: Brig Shaun Cowlam)

133 and 34 Field Hospitals
4 General Support Medical Regiment
Two general support regiments RLC
Specialist Royal Engineer Teams
Port and Maritime Company RLC
Elements from 12 Engineer Brigade

New gun clocks on



On time: Arbroath-based gunners from 7 Commando Battery, 29 Regiment RA were so pleased with their new, state-of-the-art LINAPS (Laser Inertial Artillery Pointing System) field gun – the first of its kind to be aimed electronically – that they fired it to mark Edinburgh Castle's official one o'clock time signal. The gun was handed over to the soldiers, who recently returned from Afghanistan, by BAe Systems. Picture: Mark Owens

Lesley joins team

CPL Lesley Huddleston, right, is the first female soldier to join CGS's Briefing Team. She is also the first Adjutant General's Corps soldier to serve with the Camberley-based team.

As the team corporal, Lesley will have direct access to the Chief of the General Staff, with a responsibility to pass on comments and concerns of junior ranks across the Army. She asked to be considered for the team when it visited her unit, 9 Supply Regiment RLC, where she was working as a documents clerk.

One of eight candidates for the post, she had to pass a testing selection process.

Gaps still exist in the programme of CGS's Briefing Team, which begins its next tour in mid-February. Units wishing to make bookings should call (mil) 94261 5309. Picture: Graeme Main



Storm force works miracle

STORM has to be the luckiest horse alive, thanks to the British Army.

The 18-year-old fell into a disused mineshaft at High Spen, County Durham one night, and so dire was his situation that serious consideration was given to destroying him as the kindest option.

But with the help of a Foden recovery vehicle belonging to the REME workshop of 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment RA (V), and more than 30 helpers from 4 Regiment RA, a vet, police, the coast guard rescue service, council employees and people living nearby, Storm was heavily sedated before being lifted out of



Picture: Keith Taylor

Up you come: Lt Col Gary Donaldson, left, and Sgt Russ Lewis of 101 (N) Regt RA(V) bring Storm to safety

his would-be tomb during a difficult three-hour operation.

To everyone's surprise the extraction was a complete success and Storm emerged relatively unhurt.

Soldiers back on firefighting duty

AS this edition went to press Army personnel were again in Operation Fresco action to provide fire and rescue cover during a 24-hour firemen's dispute.

The deployment on January 21 involved 12,000 troops, and a total strength of 19,000 Service personnel including Royal Navy and Royal Air Force contingents.

Green Goddess numbers remained the same as before, 827 vehicles, but the availability of more modern red appliances rose to 177, a substantial increase. More than 1,000 personnel have been trained to operate Red Goddesses, and Army capability, generally, is constantly improving as time goes by.

The Army was once again able to provide breathing apparatus rescue teams (BART) teams, this time with 30 thermal imaging cameras.

With the current overseas deployment of Army units, a rotation in Fresco units was necessary. Each unit organised its own shift patterns during a 24-hour period starting at 0930 on January 21.

Further 48-hour strikes were scheduled for January 28 and February 1.

Naafi Financial is providing free accidental death cover for Armed Forces personnel involved in Operation Fresco firefighting duties. The initiative came into effect in time for the strike on January 21.

IN BRIEF

Details from a study into soldier career structures, little changed since 1952, are due to be published later this month. They are the result of an on-going **Non-Commissioned Engagement and Career Structures Study** (NECSt) into options for modernisation. Further research will look at a flexible, integrated career structure allow-

ing soldiers to serve beyond 22 years, with increased ability to transfer in mid-career; measures to improve retention beyond four years; and plans to make better use of experienced soldiers through wider employment and more flexible terms of service.

Watched by **Capt Dave Jones**, centre,

Staffords quick to bomb scene

Battalion patrol base close to Pristina terror attack

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment were the first on the scene after a car bomb ripped apart a Pristina café. More than 30 people were injured, many seriously.

The café, in the lively Dardanja district of Pristina, was crowded with revellers visiting the pubs and clubs at the time of the explosion. The Staffords were on the scene very quickly.

"There was a loud bang and the whole room suddenly shook," said Pte Craig Holland, who had been at his platoon patrol base just 200 metres from the blast.

"We just went straight into our training. There were lots of people there, and the street was really busy. We knew we had to preserve the area for forensics, so we started pushing the crowds back and establishing a cordon around the blast area."

It is believed that up to 5kg of explosives was used in the bomb. Fuel from the car and the reflected blast from high-rise buildings caused extensive damage. Once control of the situation had been established, the Staffords handed over to local and UN police to carry out the painstaking task of sifting through the rubble for evidence.

The Staffords are due home from Kosovo in May.

Film star Angelina Jolie delighted soldiers from the Staffords by making a surprise visit to troops in Kosovo. Angelina, who plays super-heroine Lara Croft, made her unscheduled stop



Star turn: Maj Mike Ross briefs Angelina Jolie

during a visit to the UNHCR in the area. She was given a guided tour of the station, met soldiers and posed for photographs.

The Staffords celebrated one of their many battle honours in Pristina city centre when soldiers paraded to mark the Battle of Ferozeshah on December 21, 1845 during the first Anglo-Sikh war in India. In particular, the battalion honours the bravery of CSgt Mathew Kirkland of the 80th of Foot, who captured the Sikh standard.

During the battle the Sikh army lost 2,000 men while the English dead amounted to 1,560, with 1,721 injured.

Sgt Scott Barrett, who has been with 1 Staffords for 17 years, received a Long Service and Good Conduct medal from the Chief of the Defence Staff during a 48-hour visit to the Balkans by Admiral Sir Michael Boyce.

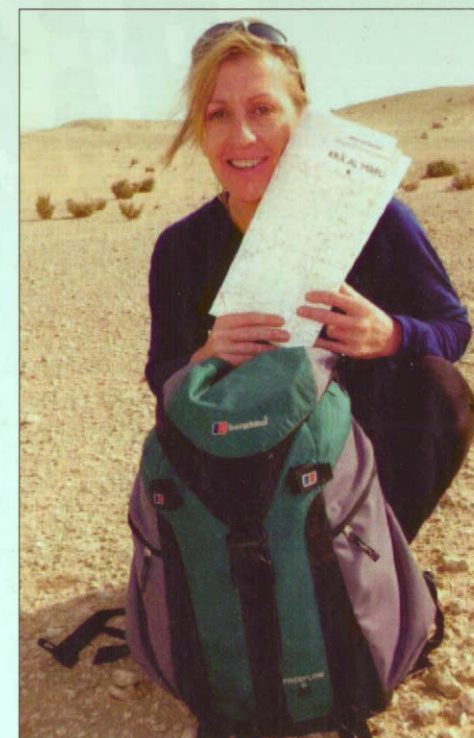
Getting ready for Trailwalker down south

THIS year's Trailwalker 100km event across the South Downs is scheduled for July 26-27 and limited to 250 teams. Transferred to the UK after the hand-over of Hong Kong, where the endurance marathon was started by Gurkha soldiers, Trailwalker last year raised £123,000 for Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust. It is organised by the Queen's Gurkha Signals. Closing date is May 31. To get an information and application pack, call 0870 010 1045, e-mail trailwalker@oxfam.org.uk or visit www.oxfam.org/trailwalker



of 1 Staffords, BFBS Kosovo station manager **Neil Knowles**, left, handed over two surplus professional CD players to **Ekrem Citaku** of the independent Radio Vala Rinore in Pristina. Capt Jones has co-presented special programmes arranged for the station by the battalion, which is currently based in the city.

Postie's desert run



Picture: SAC Lester Lee, RAF

Post haste: Cpl Tracy Ross, who is serving in the Middle East with a Royal Air Force detachment, is preparing for the 160-mile Marathon Des Sables, one of the world's toughest foot races. Usually stationed at 80 Postal and Courier Squadron at Cirencester, Army postal clerk Tracy will be running the five-day desert ultra-marathon in the Moroccan Sahara to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund, Cancer Research UK and other charities. The RAF detachment she is attached to is supporting Operation Resinate South over Iraq.

In shark alley



I wouldn't like to meet its father: Two divers from 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE follow a huge ragged-tooth shark into the "Cathedral" rock formation on the Aliwal Shoal off Umkomaas on the coast of South Africa. Fifteen soldiers from Cyprus took part in the scuba diving expedition, which was completed in large swells created by stormy weather in the area. Conditions and visibility near the surface were not good, so the divers went deeper to find calmer waters.

In addition to sharks, the party saw dolphins, rays, moray and leopard eels, sea turtles, pipefish and a humpback whale and its calf.



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Kabul-bound: Royal Rifle Volunteers train at Pirbright for their deployment to Afghanistan. Pte Stuart Hacker, East of England Regiment, Rfn Lee Adams, RGJ and Pte Gareth Lambert, RGBW, will complete a three-month tour of duty in Kabul, where they will be among those responsible for the security of the stabilisation force. They are due to leave for Afghanistan next month.

Picture: Graeme Main

Kabul sappers take lead from Italians

TROOPS serving with 45 Field Support Squadron Group are coming to the end of a four-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf). They relieved 48 Field Squadron (AS) under Op Fingal 4.

Engineering operations carried out by 45 Sqn have been confined to the international security force's area of responsibility, based on Kabul. The sappers have worked

primarily in support of the Italian-led Multi-National Engineer Group.

Priorities for the squadron have been force protection, infrastructure works, and civil and military co-operation. It has also conducted security operations, including foot and weapon-mounted Land Rover patrols with the Lancastrian and Cumberland Volunteers, and, more recently, the 51st Highlanders.

Their tasks included the construction of Kabul City Gate entry points, putting down hard-standing for a school project, and many Britfor and unit enhancements.

Construction troop sappers removed a commercial transformer and relocated it at the British Embassy, and carried out infrastructure works at Camp Souter. The troop also provided a guard force at Kabul Airport.

The catering and REME sections were centralised with Britfor during Op Fingal 4. The caterers' cooking exploits impressed on a regular basis while the REME specialists performed minor miracles with mechanical equipment support, including the provision of vehicles that could be run on aviation fuel during a diesel shortage.



Swansong: Troops serving with 249 Signal Squadron are inspected by Brig David McDowell, Signal Officer-in-Chief at Bulford Camp during a parade to mark the unit's disbandment. Formed in 1959, the squadron was the only fully-trained arctic warfare unit within the Royal Signals. Its role is being taken over by a high-readiness Nato force. Picture: Steve Dock

Woolwich raffle

STAFF at Woolwich Station, Royal Artillery Barracks, raised £350 for the Jade Courtney Seaman Trust Fund during a charity raffle at their Christmas party. The trust, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich, supports parents who have suffered stillbirths or miscarriages.

Swiss raiders wanted

CLOSING date for the 2003 Swiss Raid Commando military skills competition is May 21. Application forms for the highly-regarded event, in the Jura region of Switzerland from September 24-28, can be obtained from the Defence Attaché, British Embassy, Thunstrasse 50, 3005 Berne, Switzerland.

Bound for Botswana

A Scientific Exploration Society expedition to Botswana from June 1-18 seeks 14 enthusiasts, particularly anyone interested in archaeology, to join the party. Chairman of the society is Col John Blashford-Snell. Individuals will have to raise £3,500 to cover their costs. Ring Sarah Rundell on 01747 854898 or e-mail expeditions@ses-explore.org

Bedside manners

SOLDIERS from the 3 AAC and the REME workshop at Wattisham Airfield pushed a home-made bed from the airfield to Ipswich Hospital to raise more than £2,139 for the hospital. The money paid for two Huntley Healthcare beds for the stroke unit.

Recruits put on hold for a few weeks

Come back later, 408 told

A SMALL number of recruits are to have their initial training courses deferred because recruiting has exceeded current funding levels.

In all, 408 young soldiers – 260 from the Infantry and 148 from other arms – will be held back from courses which were due to start in March.

Most will be offered places on courses beginning in April or May. The MoD has stressed that there will be no freeze in recruiting or basic training and that its advertising campaigns will continue.

Recruits are not being turned away, only deferred for a few weeks.

The three cancelled courses in the current Recruit Allocation Plan (RAP), which affect the 408 recruits, can be set against an Army Training and Recruitment Agency input of 14,600 this financial year, 1,000 more than the previous year.

Website is tops

A BRITISH Army website has won a top prize. Produced for Recruiting Group by Screen Active, part of the Empower Group, it was awarded the best employer website for 2003 at the Recruitment Advertising Awards for "making good use of technology that supports the brand well". Visit the site at www.army.mod.uk/careers/

Ten Tors preview

PREPARATIONS for the Army-run 2003 Ten Tors expedition in May, when up to 2,400 youngsters are expected to trek across Dartmoor, began last month when team managers attended a training camp designed to focus on safety and the vagaries of the area's unpredictable micro-climate.



Under Big Ben

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

Sport channel on the cards

THE Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) and the MoD are working towards providing a dedicated sports channel for Service viewers, said Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie.

He was responding in a written answer to a request that arrangements be made for England rugby and football matches to be transmitted on British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS).

He said SSVC already provided live TV coverage of all England and other Home Nation international rugby and football matches, subject to scheduling practicalities.

Apache delivery: Action is in hand to overcome problems with a range of issues relating to Apache to ensure it meets its initial

operating capability by August 2004, Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said in a written answer.

Museums: The National Army Museum is one of six principal Service personnel museums which is to be the subject of a business process review by the MoD.

Its aim is to examine the function, role, operation, funding and organisation of the museums, seek to identify key objectives and performance, and to determine whether their

current status is most appropriate to future needs.

Organisations and individuals who would like to make a contribution to the review should make their views known by February 28 to the Museums Business Process Review Team, Open Plan Area, 2nd Floor, MoD, St Giles Court, 1-13 St Giles High Street, London WC2H 8LD or by e-mail to dgmo-musbrhd@defence.mod.uk

Veterans: The next stage of research by King's College London for the Government's current Veterans Initiative will include interviews with key stakeholder organisations such as the South Atlantic Medal Association 82, the Royal British Legion and Combat Stress, as well as individual veterans. The aim will be to gather information on the needs of ex-Service personnel, particularly the more vulnerable who are struggling with financial or emotional problems.

And I quote ...

‘There are currently no plans to substitute DU (depleted uranium) rounds. At present no satisfactory alternative material exists to achieve the level of penetration needed to defeat the most modern battle tanks. ... I can confirm that research is continuing into more effective alternatives to DU ammunition.’

– Defence Minister
Dr Lewis Moonie

Reserves called up

EXPERTS in chemical and biological warfare are among 1,500 reservists to receive compulsory call-up notices to prepare for possible war against Iraq.

The first batch called up in the largest mobilisation since the 1991 Gulf conflict includes paramedics, engineers, and intelligence analysts. Three NBC warfare squadrons – two from the Territorial Army and one from the Royal Auxiliary Air Force – will protect troops, advise them about the threat and clean up any contaminated areas.

More reservists may be called up.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said the call-out did not mean a decision had been taken to commit British Forces to operations in Iraq. However, it was an essential measure to ensure that if such operations became necessary troops would be properly supported by the skills and expertise that reserve forces provide.

“We understand the impact of call-out, both on reservists and on their employers. I pay tribute to the valuable contribution they make to the overall strength of our armed forces,” he said.

Doggie medal for brave Sam

SAM, an Army guard dog who served in Bosnia, has received a posthumous award for bravery. The Dickin Medal – the animal VC – was presented to Sam's handler, Sgt Iain Carnegie, at a ceremony last month.

Ten-year-old Sam became one of only five Army dogs to be awarded the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals bravery distinction since the Second World War. The medal was founded in 1943 by PDSA founder Maria Dickin.

In April 1998, during a tour of duty in Bosnia, Sam chased and disarmed a man and, on another occasion, went into action against rioters in Drvar.

At a ceremony at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Sgt. Carnegie described Sam's bravery: “The patrol was alerted by a number of shots. They noticed a suspicious person who, when challenged, ran into a local bar.

“I took up the chase with Sam and he brought down and disarmed the suspect. He performed brilliantly, just like a training exercise.”

In a second incident in April 1998, Sam played an important part in quelling a riot as Serbs sheltered in a compound in Drvar. He died a year after returning to Britain. The PDSA



Sam's award: Sgt Iain Carnegie shows off the PDSA Dickin Medal he received on behalf of his late charge at RMA Sandhurst

award recognises the bravery of animals serving with the Armed Forces, police, law enforcement agencies and rescue services.

IN BRIEF

● Brunei has extended for a further five years the bilateral agreement under which a battalion of Gurkhas, with supporting personnel, is based in the sultanate.

● Cpl Stacey Woodley, of 6 Bn REME, raised £2,055 for the NSPCC during a six-month tour of duty in Kosovo. On top of a

busy work schedule, Stacey wrote to British companies asking for raffle prizes and organised a 24-hour exercise bike ride.

● The MoD has signed a £50 million contract with Carillion to build state-of-the-art accommodation at Lucknow Barracks at Tidworth. It will house an infantry battalion.



Driving force: Vehicles on the road from Split in Croatia to Bosnia. In future, soldiers will have to complete a ten-day training module in order to drive in operational theatres

Driver training to shift up a gear

ARMY driver training is to be shifted up a few gears in a major effort to raise standards.

From April 1, every soldier who goes behind the wheel of a military vehicle will have had to complete service driver conversion (SDC) training. The new post-licence training strategy, to be introduced across the Field Army (although not the Territorial Army at present) has come out of the recommendations of a comprehensive study.

In a nutshell it will mean a ten-day package instead of the one or two days' training required until now. The only exemptions will be drivers who passed out of the Defence School of Transport or completed vehicle familiarisation training in accordance with JSP 481.

The SDC training, which will be delivered in a ten-day package or as two modules, is designed to provide drivers

with the basic practical skills required to drive, operate and maintain a military vehicle in peacetime and on operations.

No one will be allowed to drive a military vehicle unsupervised until they have completed the first module, which includes driving and basic maintenance. Module two involves cross-country and operational driving elements. Soldiers who pass will be awarded the "Service GS driver" qualification.

Vehicles under the SDC umbrella include all variants of the Land Rover, Reynolds Boughton, battlefield ambulance, Leyland Daf four-tonner, Bedford four-, eight- and 12-tonners, Pinzgauer, Bucher Duro, Forc Iveco and Renault eight-tonner.

Further details can be found in DCI Army 122/02 or from DRILC Training Policy (Capt Eddie Hutton or WO1 Paul Collings on 94214 5525).

New Year Honours

Order of the Bath

CB – Maj Gen D S Jolliffe, QHP, late RAMC; Maj Gen D L Judd, late REME; Maj Gen A P G Peterkin, OBE, late Hldrs.

Order of the British Empire

CBE – Brig V Batchelor, OBE, late AGC (SPS); Maj Gen J A Gamon, QHDS, late RADG; Col C H B Garraway, late AGC (Legal Services); Brig The Hon H B H E Monro, MBE, late Hldrs; Col P Roberts, MBE QHS, late RAMC; Brig J W R Thorn, late RE.

OBE – Col D C Bradley, late RLC; Lt Col M G A Drage, Gren Gds; Lt Col M P Grant, Para; Col M G Hickson, late RLC; Col N B Josling, late RLC; Lt Col D Lowe, RAMC TA; Lt Col P W Pickard TD, REME TA; Lt Col A M Smith TD, RE TA; Lt Col J W Walker, Int Corps; Col R N Wardle, late RRW; Lt Col J G Wilford, MBE, Para.

MBE – SSgt J C Adams, RAMC; Cpl Prembahadur Baral, RGR; Acting Lt Col H G Beazley, Loughborough Grammar School CCF; CSgt M R Beney, IG; WO2 R A Buss, IG; Maj M Cahill, RLC TA; Capt D Chapman, RE TA; WO2 P S Cox, REME; Maj P R Curtis, BEM, Int Corps; Maj A L Denman, WG; Maj A D Dick, Blues and Royals; Maj K Dowell, R Irish; Maj G A Evans, SASC; Bdr M R Fear, RA; SSgt M A Forbes, RLC; Maj M R Goldsack, LI; Maj R C J Goodin, R Anglian; Acting Capt M A Griffiths, Royal Grammar School Newcastle CCF; Maj Navindrabikram Gurung, QG Signals; WO1 J R Guy, RRF; Maj M Hann TD, RE TA.

Maj D M Hannah, IG; WO2 C M Harness, RLC; Acting Lt Col R G Hollingworth, Royal Grammar School High Wycombe CCF; Acting Capt D J Keates, Staffs and West Midlands ACF; Maj M P Kenyon, QLR; Maj F G Kirkham TD, R Signals TA; Maj P J Langford, RE; WO2 A Linscer, Int Corps; Capt J R Longbottom, HAC TA; WO1 D J Loveridge, MM, WG; Maj L J MacLean, RLC; WO2 B Marshall, QLR; WO2 P Mawdsley, RE.

WO1 R A McCleary, RLC; Maj I P Mills, RLC; Maj N D Morgan RLC; Maj P A E Nanson RRF; Capt C B Oliver REME; Capt C A Parr, RTR TA; WO2 M G Paterson, R Signals; Maj S N Paterson, RAMC; Maj S M W Pearce, RLC; Maj S P Plummer, RGJ; WO1 R T Proctor, AGC; Sgt M C Rae, Kings; Sgt R J Raphael, RE; WO2 P Rees, RRW TA; Lt Col D J Rose, GH; CSgt R G Rutherford, D and D; Maj A D Smith, R Signals TA; WO2 M J Snell, RA; CSgt C E Stubberfield, A and SH; WO2 I N Swift, Int Corps; WO2 J V Terrell, RLC TA; Sgt D I Thornton, AGC; Maj G J Walker TD, RA TA; Maj H M Ward, RE; WO2 R A Wilding, Cheshire; WO2 D M Wilson, AAC.

Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal – WO2 C Percival, Londons TA; WO2 R J Stockford, PWRR TA; Capt K M F Tuhey TD, RLC TA; WO2 K Walker, REME TA.

● Naafi has announced a profit of £500,000 for the 2001/02 financial year. The trading result followed a reduction in operational costs by £10.6 million, a reduction in costs of sales by £5.6 million and an increase in income from joint ventures. Chief executive Chris Reilly said: "We are confident the changes we have made will provide a profitable future for the

company and for the Armed Forces, who benefit from Naafi's welfare dividend."

● Two members of the arena party at the Olympia International Show Jumping Championships in London collected more than £3,000 for the **Army Benevolent Fund**. Maj Nigel Prescott and Sgt Stephen Cadman, of 92 Sqn,

9 Supply Regiment RLC, armed themselves with buckets and positioned themselves at the exits as the crowd was leaving each day.

● Young officers from HQ 7th Armoured Brigade took part in a map-reading and endurance competition over 55km at Lutterloh, near Bergen in Germany.



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What a whopper: It's big, it's rugged and it holds an awful lot of fuel or water – up to 20,000 litres of the wet stuff. This is the shape of the Army's new fleet of wheeled tankers to be built by Oshkosh in South Wales under a £160-million contract. The Armed Forces will get nearly 350 of the new-generation, highly mobile, cross-country tankers. Turn to Kitstop, Page 29.

Royal parade for Korean veterans

IN recognition of one of Britain's toughest military campaigns, a parade is being planned in London on July 9 to pay tribute to veterans of the Korean War.

It is expected that the Duke of Edinburgh will take the salute.

This long-overdue event is being organised by the MoD in cooperation with the British Korean Veterans' Association. The parade will start on Horse Guards and end outside Westminster Abbey, where there

will be a thanksgiving service attended by the Queen, senior politicians and foreign attachés.

More than 1,000 veterans are expected to take part in the parade, and although all Korean veterans are welcome to attend, the number of places at the thanksgiving service will be limited. Veterans who want more details should contact project manager Maj Stephen Tuck, Gren Gds, on 0207 3409 422.

Captain-General calls on her company

TO mark 50 years as its Captain-General, the Queen visited the Honourable Artillery Company in London in December, met members of the unit and had lunch with more than 1,000 serving and veteran members. She also viewed, for the first time in situ, the portrait of her by Chen Yan Ning.

The Queen, right, is pictured speaking to regimental quartermaster Maj Graham Lewis and his wife, and WO1 (RSM) Steve Ashley, Gren Gds.

Picture: Tempest Photography



Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Ministers are planning new laws to allow the police and military to evacuate or quarantine by force large parts of London and other cities in the event of a catastrophic terrorist attack. – *Sunday Times*

● The *Comfort*, a huge American hospital ship, has set sail from Baltimore to join the US military build-up against Iraq. A medical team big enough to staff 12 fully-equipped operating theatres is already on board. The ship has a 1,000-bed trauma centre. Its last call to action came after the September 11 terror attacks when it was rushed to New York. – *Daily Express*

● Plans for offshore wind farms to generate cheap energy could be scrapped because they interfere with MoD radars. Radars operated by civilian flight controllers could also be affected. – *Daily Mirror*

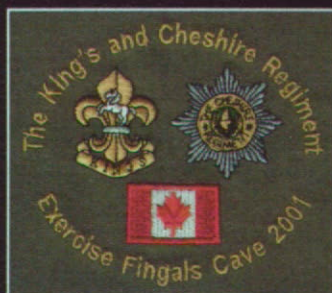
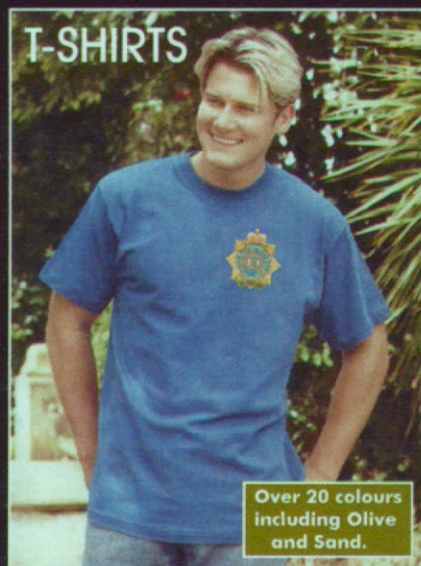
● A forensics expert hired for a nominal £1 fee has begun a private investigation into the deaths of four soldiers at Deepcut Barracks in Surrey. Frank Swann is willing to carry out his inquiry for nothing, but the families have each paid him a nominal £1 to make his investigation official. – *Daily Express*

● The Government is planning legislation that will allow it to send armed troops to take control of Britain's ports in the event of a threat of terrorist attack, the Department of Transport has confirmed. – *Daily Telegraph*

● America is ready to use an ultra-secret new weapon in any war against Iraq. It is a massive man-made lightning bolt with the power of a hydro-electric dam. The "high-powered microwave" device would burn out the guidance systems of Saddam Hussein's biological and chemical weapons. – *Daily Mail*

● January 18 marked the 12th anniversary of the beginning of the allied air campaign against Iraq forces during the first Gulf war, but the significance of the date was all but forgotten in Kuwait. – *Daily Telegraph*

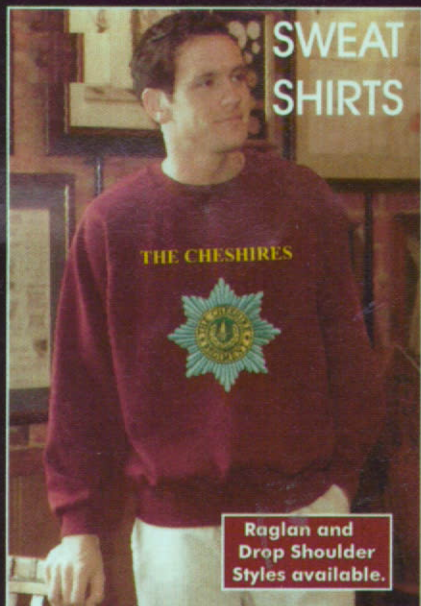
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Talo training: Members of D Company, 1 R Irish carry out tactical air landing operations drills from the back of a Hercules on the airstrip at RAF Lyneham, above



Round about: Deployment preparation of Challenger tank rounds, left and right, by 7 Armoured Brigade troops at Bergen Hohne ranges in Germany

Pictures: Cpl Paul Jarvis RLC



Flexible force gives options

Wide range of capabilities brought together in high-readiness, balance package

"NO ordinary measure" is how Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon described the announcement that virtually 25 per cent of the British Army would be deployed to the Gulf under Operation Telic.

In his statement to the Commons, Mr Hoon confirmed the mobilisation of 26,000 troops, of whom fewer than 10,000 will be combat soldiers.

The force will comprise HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division, 7 Armoured Division, 16 Air Assault Brigade and 102 Logistics Brigade, in addition to 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, who have already deployed.

Mr Hoon did not outline the specific tasks that might be undertaken by the units in the event of hostilities, but described the force as a "high-readiness, balanced and flexible force package, bringing together a wide range of capabilities".

He said: "None of these steps we are taking represents a commitment of British forces to military action. These are mea-

sures necessary to provide a range of options which we may require. A decision to deploy forces has not been taken, nor is such a decision imminent or inevitable.

"While we want Saddam Hussein to disarm voluntarily, it is evident that we will not achieve this unless we continue to present him with a clear and credible threat of force."

As a footnote to the announcement, the Government admitted that some troops lacked desert kit. Contracts have been hastily drawn up for 20,000 pairs of desert boots, 90,000 light trousers and 90,000 jackets. Defence Procurement Minister Lord Bach also admitted that not all the force's Challenger 2 tanks and artillery had been sand-proofed.

British ground forces will be commanded by the headquarters of 1st (UK) Armoured Division, based at Herford in Germany under Maj Gen Robin Brims, who will command the entire British land force.

Battle tank is deadlier than Challenger of last conflict

SINCE the last Gulf War, 7 Armoured Brigade's main battle tank has undergone 150 improvements to upgrade its effectiveness in desert conditions.

Challenger 2 (the Desert Rats were equipped with Challenger 1 tanks in 1991) is capable of targeting and destroying as many as eight targets in 60 seconds. Its fire control system is computerised and both the commander and the gunner can locate enemy targets.

Its main weapon, a 120mm gun, is capable of firing depleted uranium rounds, armour-piercing fin-stabilised discarding sabot and high-explosive squash-head shells.

The tank also carries two machine-guns, one for anti-aircraft fire and a second for attacking enemy troops.

Challenger 2 has a nuclear, chemical and biological attack resistant compartment for the crew of four, and as long as they have rations and water, they should be able to remain inside the tank for the duration of a chemical attack.

Challenger II is powered by a Perkins 26.1 litre turbocharged diesel engine, giving it an average cross-country speed of 24mph.

Lynx pilot set to trip lightweight fantastic

Warrant officer aims to circle the globe in a tiny autogiro

JUST about every type of flying machine has circumnavigated the globe. Every type, that is, except one – the autogiro. It is an oversight about to be put right by Army Air Corps pilot WO2 Barry Jones.

And for good measure he intends to break a world record while he's doing it.

WO2 Jones, a Lynx pilot with 9 Regiment AAC based at Dishforth in North Yorkshire, aims to fly an autogiro around the globe, an adventure that will take him three-and-half months or 80 flying days.

Undaunted by his amazing mission, daredevil Barry aims also to break a world distance record of 543 miles set in 1975. His target is a 580-mile flight from Wick to Culdrose later this month.

His around-the-world attempt will take place in the spring. The outgoing Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Michael Walker, is patron of the project, and the Royal Aeronautical Society is giving it and the aircraft – Global Eagle – its full support.

Yorkshire Television will be showing two half-hour programmes about the trip and several updates for TV viewers



tracking the progress of the attempt. The world record flight will start and finish in London, possibly at Horse Guards. It will cover around 25,000 miles and visit 25 countries. Global Eagle will cruise at 90mph and average 300 miles a day, with no night-flying. WO2 Jones will be open to the elements, which could be cold and

Around the world in an exceedingly small aircraft: WO2 Barry Jones, left, and his boldly named autogiro, Global Eagle, above. Pictures: Chris Barker

dangerous on the more northerly legs over Siberia, Alaska, Greenland and Iceland. The giro will leave the United Kingdom in March and, accompanied by a small armada of aircraft, cross the Channel to Belgium and on to Gutersloh, home of 1 Regiment AAC. The following weeks will take WO2 Jones south to Venice and across the Mediterranean to Cyprus.

From there he will fly south to Egypt, across Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Oman and on to Pakistan. India will be next, and north east to Nepal, where he will meet up with colleagues from the Gurkhas.

Crossing Burma, Laos and Vietnam, he will follow the southern China coast to Hong Kong and on to Japan. From there he intends to cross the sea to the Russian island of Sakhalin, and to follow the Siberian coast, crossing the Bering Sea to Alaska.

Then the intrepid airman and his tiny flying machine will turn south to the USA where, for charity, he will offer the rear seat of his autogiro to local celebrities.

The flight across America will include touchdowns in Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York. While in New

So what's an autogiro?

NOT quite a helicopter, not quite a fixed-wing aircraft, the autogiro gets the lift it needs to fly using fixed rotors, like a helicopter. Unlike a helicopter, the rotors are not powered. A flow of air over the surface of the rotors is needed to make them move.

The aircraft engine generates thrust into the propeller and the consequent forward movement results in the airflow over the rotors, giving the machine lift.

York, WO2 Jones will visit Ground Zero to lay a wreath before embarking on potentially the most hazardous legs of the trip. From New York Global Eagle will fly north to Canada and continue to Baffin Island, then across the ice-covered Davis Strait to Greenland and the Denmark Strait to Iceland – at 450 miles, the longest leg of the journey. Icy blasts and unpredictable weather will test man and machine.

The Faroe Islands will be the next stop, then on to the northern tip of Scotland and back down the UK to London.

WO2 Jones was keen to underline the joint effort that has gone into the trip. The team includes fellow Lynx pilot Sgt Paul Jones AAC, his right-hand man. Paul is responsible for organising the route, dealing with sponsors, making sure Barry is in the right place at the right time and generally overseeing the whole project.

An all-important support team, led by aircraft technician Sgt Andy Wilson REME, will make sure Global Eagle is kept serviced and safe to fly. Others

working behind the scenes are RLC mover and Gazelle pilot WO1 Pete Taylor, Lynx pilot and webmaster Sgt Stew Davies, and SSgt Jim Donald REME, the man in charge of stores.

Schools have been encouraged to involve themselves in the mission. "Students of all ages will have the chance to track the progress of Global Eagle using the website. This will be useful for their projects, including geography, history, technology and sociology," said WO2 Jones, who will be touring schools to talk about the flight and, if weather and the local area permit, give flying demonstrations.

Global Eagle will be raising money for the Dyslexia Institution, the NSPCC and the Red Cross September 11 Disaster Relief Fund.

For more details about the venture, log on to www.globaleagle.co.uk

Ice walk sets TA trekker poles apart

LT Andrew Cooney of the Territorial Army has become the youngest Briton to walk to the South Pole.

Following in the footsteps of legendary polar explorers Capt Robert Scott and Roald Amundsen, Lt Cooney, a member of Grantham-based 168 Pioneer Regiment RLC, hauled his 200lb sledge 730 miles to reach the bottom of the world. The expedition was made up of six walkers, led by top female polar explorer Matty McNair.

"It was very challenging," said Lt Cooney when he reached the South Pole on January 2 after a 53-day trek across the frozen polar wastes. "When the wind was blowing and it was minus 50C, I was sitting in the tent thinking 'what am I doing here'."

The trip wasn't without incident for Lt Cooney. A few days into the trek, he fell, injuring his shoulder and forcing him to take pain-killers for the rest of the journey. He also developed altitude sickness when the expedition climbed to 9,000ft.

Christmas Day was spent trekking, cheered up with cold Christmas pudding.

Lt Cooney had hoped to raise money for research and treatment for oesophageal cancer – his father has the illness – but a sponsor pulled out just ten days before the mission started, leaving



Welcome back: Lt Andrew Cooney gets a warm reception from his mother back in the UK after his record Antarctic mission

the family to find the £30,000 to ensure the bid went ahead.

Whether they will be able to raise any money now is in doubt.

Lt Cooney is now in the process of raising sponsorship for a lecture tour of the UK, going into schools, colleges and universities. He has already received many invitations, and has the support of local authorities.

Big dipper Mark to plunge into the record books

ANOTHER amazing world record attempt is being made by part-time soldier LCpl Mark Webber of 236 (Greater Manchester) Transport Squadron RLC. He plans to spend the longest time under water by a solo diver using scuba equipment.

The current record, set in 1986, stands at eight days, 20 hours and 30 minutes. LCpl Webber is aiming to spend between ten and 13 days under water in a large tank. It will be his second attempt. This time, with the help of improved equipment and sponsorship, he aims to succeed.

LCpl Webber, who has been diving since he was 14, is a member of the

Manchester Diving Group based in Chorlton. As well as being a club instructor, he is a heavy goods vehicle driver, a father, and still finds time to serve with the Territorials.

The world record attempt will be linked to a fund-raising drive for Broughton House, a home for ex-Service personnel in Salford. Local businesses are being approached for sponsorship of LCpl Webber's dive.



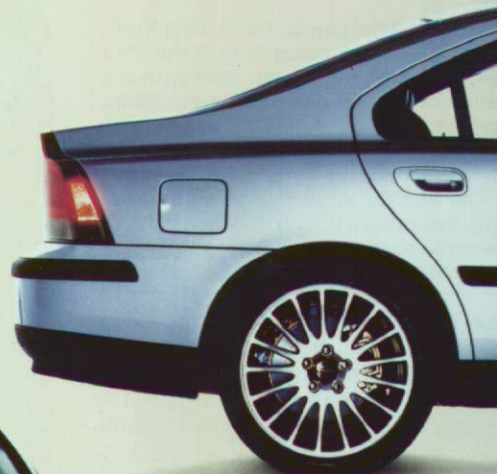
Wet set: LCpl Webber about to take a plunge



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Operational theatre: Territorial Army medics go through their paces at the Army Medical Field Training Centre at Towthorpe Lines, York. They are operating in an NBC-protected theatre

Picture: Graeme Main



Defence medicine gets a shot in arm

New agency is just what doctor ordered

MILITARY medicine has a "golden opportunity" to revitalise itself to deliver improved services at the front line, **writes Anthony Stone.**

So says Brig Alistair Macmillan, Chief of Staff of the new Tri-Service Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (DMETA).

The agency, which will launch on April 1, will take over many of the training and delivery roles and assets of both the Defence Secondary Care Agency and the Defence Medical Training Organisation.

Headed by Rear Admiral Peter Kidner, DMETA is a multi-site organisation with its headquarters in Fort Blockhouse at Gosport, Hampshire. It will take in academic centres in Birmingham, including the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and the Defence Postgraduate Medical Deanery; DMSTC at Aldershot, and a number of medical units.

These include the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Epsom and the Ministry of Defence hospital units at Peterborough, Northallerton, Frimley Park and Derriford, plus the Royal Hospital Haslar, as well as Fort Blockhouse.

There are no longer any stand-alone military hospitals in the UK.

Brig Macmillan said the system was ripe for change because military medicine has been suffering from two serious and unrelenting problems – not enough medics to serve the front line and inadequate treatment and rehabilitation facilities for unfit Services personnel.

"Tinkering with the old system was not improving it, so the Medical Quinquennial Review took healthcare apart, reshaped it and gave it new direction," he said.

Reason for the changes is to improve the service. During military operations casualties are seen by different medical teams at various points in their treatment – one of the main contrasts between Service and civilian medicine.

The military system provides a seamless operation of treatment and evacuation which removes casualties from further harm and in due course delivers them to rehabilitation.

DMETA's aim is to ensure that properly trained military medical personnel are there for the casualties whatever their need and whether by land, sea or air at all points in the care process. A director of

healthcare will now deal with treatment in the UK directly and DMETA will combine medical training with the provision of operationally trained secondary care personnel.

"Over time, members of fighting forces serving on deployment – on exercises or operations – will see a growing improvement in the medical services provided," Brig Macmillan said.

"Once the new training and education structure gets under way there should be a better balance between the requirement and service delivery. Healthcare will still be of the best quality but it will be delivered more effi-

ciently and with less strain on the medical staff involved.

"That's good news for the patient and good news for the carer.

"Every effort is being made not just to improve the system, but continually to raise the standards of education and training and the career opportunities within the military healthcare system which will increasingly focus on Birmingham.

"DMETA has been tasked with much, but the infrastructure, the expertise and the political and executive will are there and we will deliver."



Brig Alistair Macmillan

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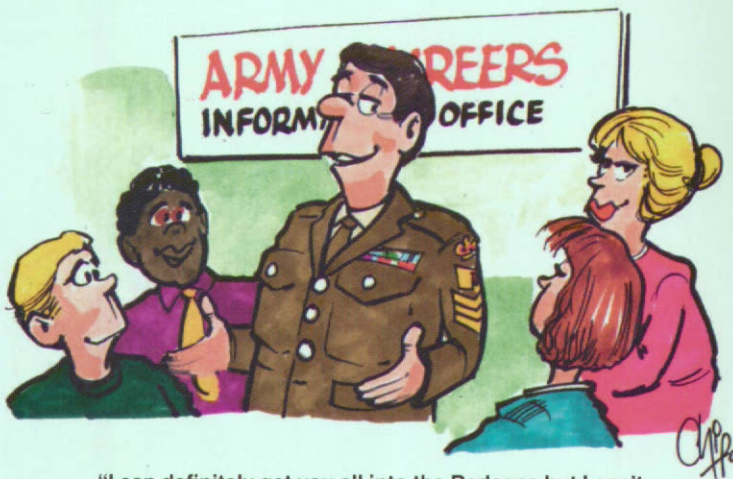
Chuckle with Chip



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"I don't wish to depress your recruiting figures,
Sergeant, but I think it's worthwhile pointing out that
your newest paratrooper is only six!"



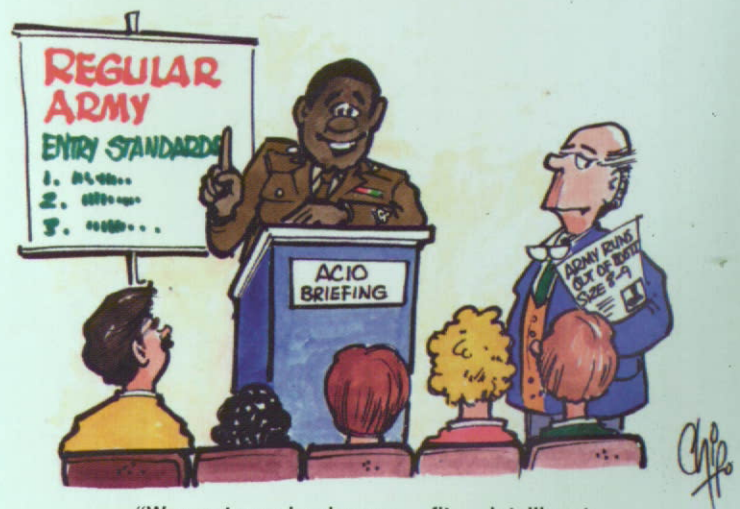
"I can definitely get you all into the Redcaps but I can't
totally guarantee you'll serve with Tamzin Outhwaite."

Career moves

Ups and downs
of recruiting



"Didn't you ever watch *Sharpe*? Check
the bottom of the glass for a shilling."



"We want people who are ... fit ... intelligent
... energetic ... and above all, small-footed!"



Home front: Metropolitan Building, temporary home of the Ministry of Defence in Northumberland Avenue



Silent watch: The Guards Memorial, above, and a figure on the Royal Tank Regiment Memorial, below



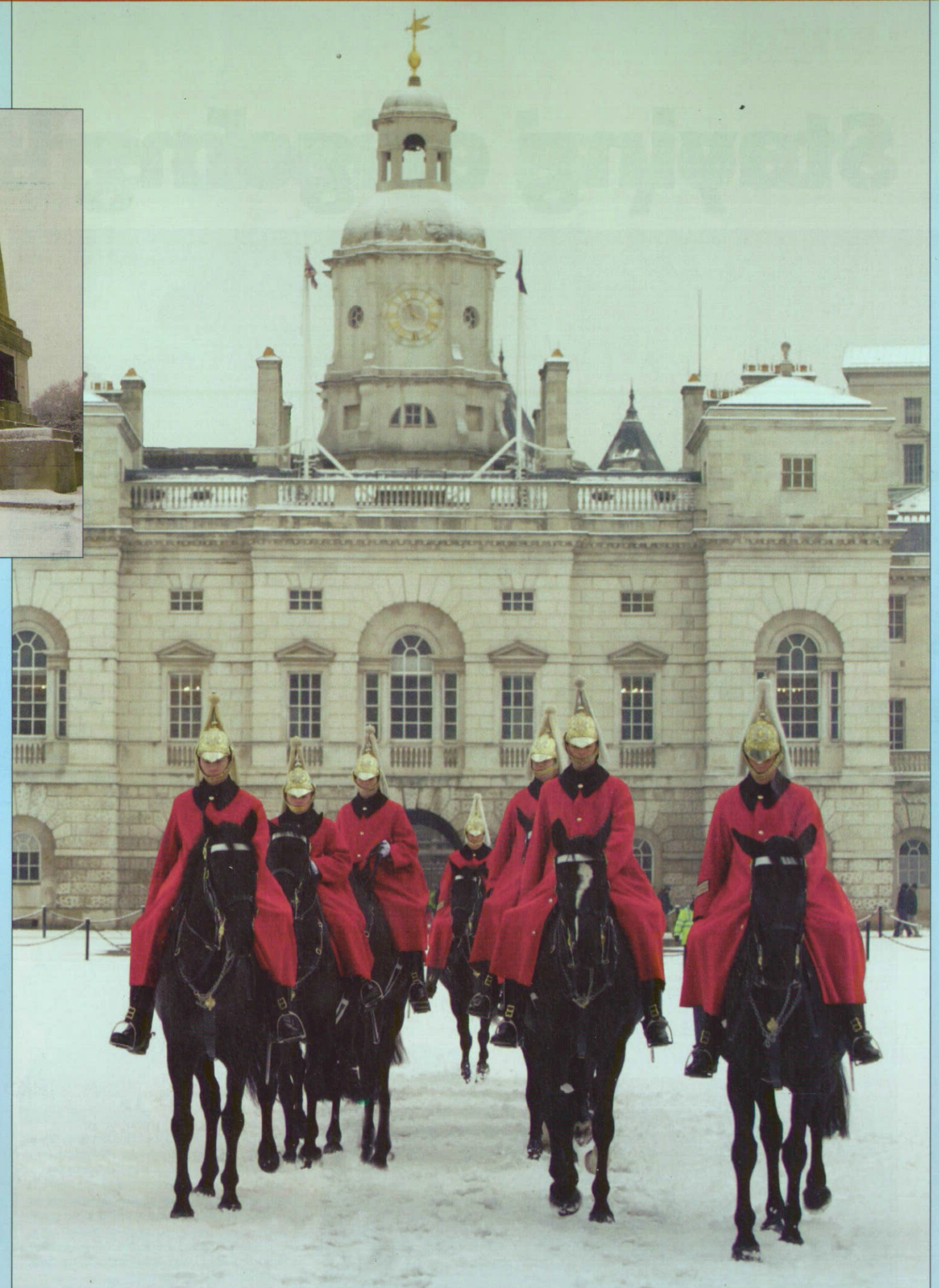
Whitehall warriors

THE TIMING was ever so slightly out: there was no white Christmas for most of us. But then, as the new year dawned, the temperature plummeted and the snow arrived, covering London in a frosty blanket.

The capital had not seen such snow for more than a decade, and we marvelled at its ability to bring a new dimension of beauty to the city.

Horseguards mounts crunched their hooves and snorted as they cautiously crossed Hyde Park. The nearby memorials to past warriors seemed to take on an added degree of poignancy.

The Whitehall winter wonderland lasted just a few days before the thaw set in and normal, grey and damp service was resumed.



Snow ride: The Blues and Royals, left, and the Life Guards, above, step out on a Whitehall which lives up to its name in every respect

Staying or going – the choice is yours

Thinking of leaving?
Now you can start a
new career without
becoming a civilian

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock
and Graeme Main

DON'T like what you are doing? Well, consider this – you could stay in the Army and find a new job. For many who enjoy military life it is a real alternative to taking that uncertain step into civvy street.

Staying-in or transfer options are now much more readily available. For many who choose to exchange one cap-badge for another, the new career direction boosts morale and can lead to civilian-recognised qualifications, which are very useful on the day they finally hang up their Combat 95s.

How do you go about transferring, not just from one corps or regiment to another, but even Service to Service? A few hundred soldiers from 4 Division, on the verge of leaving or thinking about transferring and at the crossroads of their careers, found out what's on offer at an internal recruiting fair – the fifth to be held – at Deepcut, near Aldershot.

Director Manning (Army), Brig Cedric Burton, late R Signals, said the scheme, which started two years ago, was proving a winner.

"The campaign to retain or transfer has been going very well," he said. "We are looking at ways in which we can maximise the trained strength of the Army. One of them is to make sure we lose as few trained soldiers as possible

Staying or leaving – some comparisons

	Soldier	Civilian
Pay	365 days a year	The hours you work
Food and accommodation	Single soldier: Free in Northern Ireland or on operations. Cheap elsewhere, around £157 a month in UK for both food and accommodation. This includes gas, electricity and water. Married accompanied soldier: Rent in Great Britain is about £185 a month	Food at least £130 a month*. Mortgage on a two-bed flat in Aldershot typically £600 a month, similar for rented flat. Rent on bed-sit £240 a month plus gas, electricity, water and council tax charges.
Leave	30 working days plus public holidays	Typically 21 days plus public holidays and weekends
Pension	Lump sum and pension at age 40 for full service	State pension at 65 and private pensions for which contributions must be made
Miscellaneous	Free gymnasium Free medical and dental care. Free eye tests Education grant of £175 a year Discounted travel	Gymnasium membership fee £200 plus session charges. Prescriptions £6.20, eye tests £15, dental check about £20 * Source: Prospect UK

by making sure that they are doing the sort of jobs they want to do. That is what it is all about, enabling opportunities."

With the help of the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow, the transfer process has been streamlined. Last year 493 soldiers made internal moves to a second cap-badge.

Lt Kate Warren, a member of the Royal Engineers Recruiting Team which was exhibiting at the Deepcut fair, said there had been a lot of interest.

"Much of it comes from female soldiers," she said. "Enquiries come from units across the board as many soldiers want to get a trade before they leave the Army."



Brig Cedric Burton

CASE STUDY: Transferring soldier Sgt Lee Taylor, 4 Bn REME

"I was a combat medical technician with the RAMC, where I'd been for 14 years and at the end of my time in the Corps was an instructor at Keogh Barracks near Aldershot. I wanted to continue in the military training field but found opportunities restricted.

Then I met a chap who told me about the possibility of transferring, so I spoke to my officers. The medics didn't try to hold me back. From application to walking through the front door at Bordon took about a year and involved several interviews. I came here with my stripes. I am now the battalion training sergeant and I run and oversee courses including junior cadres for REME lance corporals aspiring to be corporals.

I am delighted I made the move. I wasn't enjoying what I was doing with the medics and had I not transferred I might by now be a civilian."



CASE STUDY: Soldier who left Pte Gareth Blackshaw, RLC

"I was in for four years and left because I thought the grass was greener as a civilian. It wasn't too bad at first. I had a good job with Rentokil, but had an accident and burnt my hand so had to leave.

I started my own valeting business but after a year found I was working very long hours for little reward and no job satisfaction. So I sold my business and rejoined.

I regret ever leaving. Coming back was the best thing I have ever done even though I had to do basic training again. Leaving the Army was a big mistake."



Sign on: The Royal Engineers Recruiting Team, from left, Lt Kate Warren, Sgt Stuart Lee, Cpl Robert Starr and Cpl Lee Welch, on hand to sign new recruits from other disciplines, many of whom want to get a trade before leaving the Army. The scheme is proving a real winner

CASE STUDY: Transferring soldier Cpl Paul Woodcock, 4 Bn REME

"I began my military life in the infantry with The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in which I served for nine years. I enjoyed it and became a section commander.

But I started to feel stale and while instructing on a course at the King's Division Depot at Glencorse met other cap-badges, including a soldier who had transferred. I had reached a crossroads in my career – I didn't want to leave the Army but I needed a change.

I went to my company 2ic at Glencorse, another DWR man, to see about a transfer. He didn't want to lose me but realised it wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision, and pointed me in the right direction.

The transfer went smoothly and took about three months from start to finish. I have been with 4 Bn REME for three years now and am very happy. I do miss the big infantry exercises but don't regret having made the change.

I retained my rank, transferred as a full corporal and am now the training wing junior NCO."



CASE STUDY: Soldier who left Pte Shane Price, RLC

"I spent four years with the RLC as a commando-trained chef. Everyone kept saying how bad the Army was and I listened and believed. So I left.

I am a carpenter by trade and I tried to make a go of things. I quickly realised that after all the bills had been paid there was no money left and no job security, so I decided to rejoin.

Army life in many ways is a lot easier than being a civilian and I don't think a lot of soldiers realise that. I am now a supply specialist, trying a different trade. I am happy and here for good."



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Options galore in battlefield tractor

THE Army is in the process of receiving 150 state-of-the-art diggers in a £6 million deal with J C Bamford Excavators Ltd – better known as JCB, writes **John Elliott**.

Painted in military green, the last of the backhoe loaders is expected to be delivered by the end of this month. The military machine, the JCB 4CXM, is based on the standard JCB 4CX backhoe, but with many features its traditional customers would not recognise.

Those “extras” include a stowage box in the shovel for carrying the operator’s personal kit and tools for when he is deployed away from his base. These include a ripper tooth, earth auger, a set of snow chains and a variety of buckets. Diggers used for airfield damage repair can be equipped with a sweeper and levelling gear.

The machine also had to fit into a Hercules aircraft, which meant a major challenge to reduce the height of the cab. JCB engineers developed a detachable roof extension to provide extra height when the digger is in use.

It is also fitted with lifting points so that Chinook helicopters can undersling the ten-tonne vehicle.

Another refinement is a blackout switch, which allows the digger to move inconspicuously in convoy at night. Dri-



Jack of all trades: The militarised version of JCB’s highly versatile 4CX backhoe digger

vers can follow a pinhole-size light at the rear of the machine in front – a light which is activated by turning on the blackout switch to eliminate all other light sources, including the brakes, internally and externally.

Officially titled a light wheeled tractor (LWT), it includes five winterised and waterproofed variants, mainly for the

Royal Marines, and eight vehicles with extra protection. Main users will be the Royal Engineers, the Royal Artillery and Infantry units, which use them to dig-in troops and equipment and carry out a range of battlefield activities.

JCB’s association with the Army began in 1985 when the company supplied 707 articulated wheeled loading shovels.

Tanker fleet on the way

TRUCK manufacturer Oshkosh is in line for a £160 million contract to build new wheeled tankers for the MoD at its South Wales factory. The deal means Britain’s Armed Forces will get an advanced fleet of fuel and water tankers.

Under the deal, the Forces will acquire nearly 350 highly mobile wheeled tankers from 2004, capable of transporting large quantities of bulk fuel and water to front-line troops.

More reliable and manoeuvrable than existing tankers, the fleet will consist of a mix of close support tankers for fuel (20,000 litres), close support tankers for water (18,000 litres), and tactical aircraft refuellers (15,000 litres). The MoD’s current fleet of wheeled tankers is nearing the end of its operational life.

Quick-change pants aired

GREEK military reservist Yiannis Hatzopoulos e-mailed us his unique design for underpants that you can change without removing your boots.

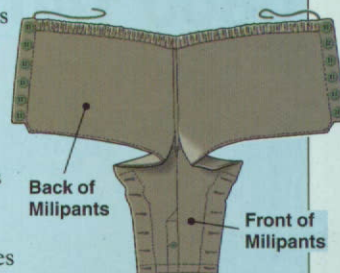
He tell us his Milipants, pictured, developed with the help of his father, a retired tailor, would be a godsend in sub-zero temperatures, mud, snow and rain,

when a soldier would need only to drop his trousers for 20 seconds to button himself into clean shorts.

Designed for his own use on military exercises, he believes the low-cost Milipants could find a niche market among troops as well as outdoor types such as mountaineers and hunters.



Buttoned up front view of Milipants



Back of Milipants

Front of Milipants

Back view of unbuttoned Milipants, spread flat

backchat

Offbeat, weird, or just plain funny
— we welcome your contributions

Get your feet in my in-tray

Jargon, clichés, acronyms, management-speak — the military are often the worst offenders. During a recent multi-national exercise some of the British Army contingent, aware of the puzzled looks on foreign faces during English-language briefings, had fun with this spoof pep-talk

I THINK we need to hit the ground running, keep our eye on the ball, and make sure that we are singing off the same song-sheet. At the end of the day it is not a level playing field and the goalposts may move; if they do, someone may have to pick it up and run with it. We therefore must have a golfbag of options hot-to-trot from the word "go". It is your train set but we cannot afford to leave it on the back-burner; we've got a lot of irons in the fire right now.

We will need to un-stick a few potential poo traps but it all depends on the flash-to-bang time and fudge factor allowed. Things may end up slipping to the left and, if they do, we will need to run a tight ship. I don't want to reinvent the wheel but we must get right into the weeds on this one. If push comes to shove, we may have to up-stumps and then we'll be in a whole new ball game.

I suggest we test the water with a few warmers in the bank. If we can produce the goods then we are cooking with gas. If not, then we are in a world of hurt. I don't want to die in a ditch over it but we could easily end up in a flat spin if people start getting twitchy.

BAZAARS

To that end, I want to get around the bazaars and make sure the movers and shakers are on-side from day one. If you can hit me with your shopping list I can take it to the head honchos and start the ball rolling. I know you're not the sharpest tool in the box and may be a few sandwiches short of a picnic, but together we'll be the best thing since sliced bread.

There is light at the end of the tunnel and I think we have backed a winner here. If it gets blown out of the water, however, I will be throwing a track. So get your feet into my in-tray and give me chapter and verse as to how you see things panning out. As long as our ducks are in a row I think the ball will stay in play and we can come up smelling of roses.

Before you bomb-burst and throw smoke it is imperative we nail our colours to the mast and look at the big picture. We've got to march to the beat of the drum. We are on a sticky wicket, we'll need to play with a straight bat and watch out for fast balls.

I've been on permanent send for long enough and I've had my ten pence worth. I don't want to rock the boat or teach anyone to suck eggs. We must keep this firmly in our sight picture and not under our hats or it will fall between the cracks. If the cap fits, wear it, but it may seem like pushing fog uphill with a sharp stick.

Did you all get that?



Top team: From left to right are the Airborne Forces Permanent Staff at Chilwell, Sgt Dave Sadler, Sgt Marty L'Abert, WO2 Gary Fortuin, Sgt Neil Rowley, CSgt Tony Tighe, Sgt Bob Hoskins, Sgt Paul Rickard and WO2 Gary Meekins

Picture: Sgt Dave King RE

Falklands veterans hang up their boots

TWO Falklands War veterans serving with the Airborne Forces Permanent Staff at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell have completed their service.

CSgt Tony Tighe of 2 Para, who joined the Army in the mid-1970s, and WO2 (QMSI) Gary Fortuin SASC and ex-9 Para Squadron RE, both took part in the campaign to liberate the islands in 1982. A third member of the permanent staff, WO2 Gary Meekins, 1 Para, is also a Falklands veteran.

Of the others in the photograph, Sgt Bob Hoskins served with 2126 Para

Squadron, Royal Signals, and Sgt Paul Rickard with 9 Para Squadron RE. Sgts Marty L'Abert, Neil Rowley and Dave Sadler are all members of 4 Para on Full-Time Reserve Service, employed as instructors.

The centre at Chilwell was set up in 1999 to administer and train reservists deploying in support of the Regular Army on operations. Since then its remit has been expanded to include pre-deployment preparation for Regular personnel from all three Services.

In the current climate it is extremely busy.

Battle photograph is a great help

A RUSSIAN greatcoat captured in the Crimean War and worn in the bitter cold by a Green Howards officer is receiving conservation work at the regimental museum in Richmond for the first time in nearly 150 years — with the help of a 150-year-old photograph, right.

It shows Capt George Clay, seated left, wearing the greatcoat after taking it from the battlefield at the Alma on September 20, 1854. It was one of many pictures taken by Roger Fenton for the *Times*. Now textile experts are using the photo to help them restore the greatcoat, which has been on display since 1973.



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Pictures: Steve Dock

I like it: Cpl Scott Porter of 27 Regiment RLC takes a look at the Type Z accommodation module unveiled at Montgomery Lines, Aldershot. The *en suite* bedroom and bathroom has been mocked-up in a car park at the barracks so that soldiers in the area can go and see the living space which is to be rolled out across the Army.



Have your say on new quarters

This is your chance to influence the design of Type Z quarters

YOUR opinion could help decide just how the *en suite* accommodation will look when it is rolled out across Army barracks all over the United Kingdom, writes John Elliott.

Soldiers are being encouraged to visit a mock-up of the Type Z quarters currently sitting on a car park in Montgomery Lines, Aldershot – and to make their feelings known. Although the reaction has so far been overwhelmingly welcoming, several irritating minor details have already been pointed out to the project managers.

For example, some visitors have said the power points are inconveniently sited, others that the 4ft bed is too big. Already taken on board is the fact that there is nowhere in the shower to put soap or a

bottle of shampoo. Neither is there a cabinet in the bathroom. You could also record your colour scheme preference. The mock-up is painted in a dusty pink, but three other shades are also available – blue, green and terracotta.

It is planned to keep the model on site for several months, so if you are stationed outside Aldershot but likely to be visiting the area, you will still have a chance to have your say.

Under Project Slam (Single-Living Accommodation Modernisation), inadequate and antiquated Service quarters will be blitzed as part of a major Defence Estates contract awarded to the Birmingham-based Debut consortium.

Work on sites selected for the first five-year phase should start in May and be completed within a year. In all, 16,000 bed-spaces, as well as utility and common areas, will be upgraded on a priority basis. Much of the early work will be in the North East, South East and East.

● **Make a date to visit the Montgomery Lines mock-up. Just ring Amanda Collett-Mold of the Slam project on Aldershot mil (94222) 2471.**

Slammed

THESE barracks and locations have been selected for priority treatment under the Slam project. They will be tackled in the first year of the modernisation programme:

▲ **North-East:** Rapier Barracks, Kirton-in-Lindsey; Helles Barracks, Catterick; Bourlon Barracks, Catterick; Albermarle Barracks, Newcastle. Also RAF Boulmer, Alnwick.

▲ **South-East:** Middle Wallop; Alexander Barracks, Pirbright; Sandhurst; Invicta Barracks, Maidstone.

South: Bovington.

▲ **Midlands:** Dalton Barracks, Abingdon; St David's Barracks, Bicester. Also RAF Shawbury, Shropshire.

▲ **North-West:** Fulwood Barracks, Preston.

▲ **East:** RAF stations Coningsby, Wittering, Waddington, Marham, Cranwell and Honington.

▲ **South-West:** 40 Cdo, Taunton; 42 Cdo, Plymouth; Chivenor; Culdrose.

My island paradise

Former gunner runs a Thailand diving school

THAILAND has great appeal as a holiday destination to British tourists, but one former soldier has made it his home, writes Ray Routledge.

Crispin J G Paton-Smith, who served with the Royal Artillery for ten years and received a commanding officer's commendation after being blown up in Northern Ireland, now runs the Captain Caveman Dive Centre, a small but successful venture on Koh Samui island in the Gulf of Thailand.

"I even train soldiers who are on rehabilitation training," he told us (unfortunately by e-mail). "Many of them come back and settle here," he added.

Crispin's Army career started in Celle with 94 Locating Regiment RA, which he described as a "damned fine regiment".

During a tour of Northern Ireland in 1988 he took a piece of shrapnel in his foot.

"It changed my life, taking me 18 months to recover before a medical discharge. After rehabilitation I went on holiday to Thailand. I had been a member of the regimental diving club before my injury and started again in Thailand – against doctor's orders."

He fell in love with the country and the lifestyle.

"I sold my home and spent a year going through a dive course to instructor level. Being disabled was no problem and my Army training helped me because of the leadership qualities I had learned."

The Captain Caveman Diving Centre offers personal, one-to-one training using the latest equipment. "Our people know their job and know the dive sites," said Crispin.

"I have taught a lot of Servicemen, some on holiday, others training for jobs in civilian life. But the most satisfaction I get is teaching disabled divers. Some, like me, had been injured in Northern Ireland."

"My life here is paradise. I have a beautiful wife and the dive centre."

Sounds perfect.

If you are planning a holiday to Thailand and fancy giving diving a try, Captain Caveman's Dive Centre is on Chaweng Beach Road, Koh Samui – tel (66) 77 422 215 or have a look at the web site at www.captaincavemans-divecenter.com

● Are you ex-Army with a second career that would be inspiring to others? If so, let us know. Write or send an e-mail to rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk.

My Army DEBBIE GREENWOOD

Media magician

The world of PR isn't all like TV's *Absolutely Fabulous*. We talk to the woman who promotes the Army Benevolent Fund

Interview: Ray Routledge
Picture: Steve Dock

ALL of us from time to time put coins into collection tins for a good cause. For soldiers, that charity begins at home if the tin belongs to the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).

If it does, the mastermind behind the campaign to part you from your hard-earned cash is Debbie Greenwood, a director at Lawton Communications and the ABF's public relations guru.

Debbie is no stranger to the Services. She found doing PR work for the D-Day 50th anniversary in 1994 an uplifting experience and the people she met left their positive influence with her, something she has carried forward into her relationship with the ABF today.

Yet Debbie's career began in a completely different direction. "I started as a fashion buyer for Harrods, an unusual place to begin a career in journalism," she said from her office in Southampton.

Marriage to a Royal Navy officer followed and involved a move to Plymouth, where she took a job working for a PR agency dealing with the Armada 400 campaign, a celebration marking the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. It put her into contact with the BBC and later she landed a job with the corporation in the south-west.

"In those days you could go into presentation without a journalistic background, and that is what I did. I trained as a journalist while I was there."

"I worked for the BBC on and off for about six years, with a stint in between in America as a journalist and editor for the Tribune News Agency."

More work with the BBC presenting on

the Breakfast News and radio followed before Debbie moved into public relations.

"One of the most personally satisfying jobs I've done was D-Day 50," she recalled. "Even though the Queen, Bill Clinton and other heads of state were there, our message at the time was that it was the veterans that were the VIPs."

"Planning for the event was immense and every detail had to be considered. For example, one of the big issues we had was car parking – do you make the veterans pay? Car parking managers would say yes, PR managers would say no, because these people should feel welcome and important."

"The veterans I met, the stories they told and the photographs they showed of their wartime adventures made me feel how unimportant the jobs that we all do are compared with the work they had done."

Nine years later she is in charge of the ABF account with Lawton Communications, one of the country's leading media agencies.

"I was brought here to start and manage a PR division of eight staff," she said. "The image of public relations was not helped by

Patsy and Edina from *Ab Fab*; it's not all about drinking bottles of Bollie."

"Our work includes corporate reputation management. It covers internal and external communications and marketing."

"Sometimes the ABF does not get the recognition it deserves... it is the Army's national charity, after all."

"So it's my job to see that the profile of the ABF and the perception that people, especially soldiers, have of it, is raised and clarified."

"Although soldiers often see SSAFA-Forces Help and regimental or corps

'Soldiers are cynical yet realistic and they know if they are being given the corporate bull'



PR guru: Debbie Greenwood says letters to *Soldier* give an insight into what soldiers are thinking

charities providing help, what they don't see is the ABF behind that aid."

She finds working with the ABF challenging and rewarding.

"To them it is the people that matter – the Army family. There was a perception that the ABF was a club for officers. It definitely is not. It is a service to help all soldiers, while at the same time telling them how they in turn can help the ABF."

"The time, effort, blood, sweat and tears that the ABF and fund-raisers put into it really makes the agency feel it is something we want to get involved in."

Debbie finds working with the Army a

complete contrast to Lawton's commercial clients – and the military culture almost "tribal".

"We are working with the whole Army and its extended family, including ex-Servicemen. Because of the job we do, we have to understand the culture. Soldiers are cynical yet realistic and they know if they are being given the corporate bull."

Talking to the Army means she works closely with the Army's Director of Corporate Communications, Brig Matthew Sykes, and his team.

"With the possibility of military action in the near future, we have to consider

THE Army Benevolent Fund, founded in 1944, offers financial and practical help to anyone serving or who has served in the British Army, both Regular and territorials, and their families.

It gives grants to more than 80 Service and national charitable organisations supporting soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families, and works in partnership with regimental and corps benevolent funds.

The ABF can be contacted at 41 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HR, tel 020 7591 2000; fax 020 7584 0889; web site www.armybenfund.org

how we will raise public awareness of the ABF and how they can support the Armed Services – both vocally and by making financial donations to the funds.

"We are working closely with Brig Sykes's team so they are aware of our thinking and that our lines don't cross."

Debbie's training at the BBC and her years working in the media ensure she tries to understand her Army audience.

"Something I learned from the BBC is that it provides issues-led journalism. By that I mean it doesn't just give you the news, it debates the issues that are relevant to society."

"What we try to do, whether it be for the ABF or for our commercial clients such as the Ordnance Survey, is to look at issues that affect their key audiences."

"What are the issues that affect soldiers today? What is relevant to them and what matters to them?"

"In fact, the letters pages in *Soldier* are one of our first reads on a monthly basis because they give us a good clue about what people are talking about... and that gives us an insight to the soldier's mindset at any given time."

"Perhaps the biggest problems we have is that it is difficult to get the attention of serving people. When they are young and healthy, as most of them are, they don't think about the things they

may need later on and which the ABF can provide."

"The ABF is involved in projects that may mean nothing to them now but possibly will affect them when they leave."

These include issues of homelessness, as well as financial and medical problems.

Debbie said that working with the Army on event organisation was a bonus.

"One of the advantages of dealing with people who are ex-Army, as they are at the ABF, is that they have organisational and logistical skills, so things run like clockwork. Working with the ABF has been rewarding and there's lots more to come."



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Railwaymen on international line

A SMALL team of part-time Royal Engineers is maintaining the Army's historic skills of being able to run – and build – railways.

Personnel from 507 Specialist Team, Royal Engineers (Railways) (Volunteers) travelled to Italy and France to complete their annual two-week training camp.

Exercise Turnout, over a four-week period in both Italy and France, tested 507's ability to work with its European counterparts, vital in today's climate of multi-national operations.

The first phase involved the deployment of a design team to work with the full-time Italian Railway Regiment in Bologna. The second took a construction team to Versailles, near Paris, to operate with the 5th Regiment du Geni, the French Army's heavy-engineering regiment. The Italian segment involved a design study into the provision of a new connection to the Bologna-Rimini main line from sidings in a barracks. It provided the Italian railway specialists with a high-quality report to help them secure funding for the project.

Second part of the exercise, in Versailles, was to construct 350m of new railway track, including access to the main Paris area military fuel depot. The project was required as part of a road-widening



On the right track: Capt Darin Gray, left, and WO2 Ian Hammond, the 507 STRE(V) team sergeant major, mark a rail for drilling during the French phase of their four-week exercise

scheme on the main Versailles by-pass and gave 507 staff the chance to show just how fast they can lay track.

Later this year the British Army's railway specialists will be exercising with Dutch troops.

Carl leads way as Harrogate students pass out

Top man: Junior RSM Carl Butler, right, led a passing-out parade at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate. The 380 students who went on parade are now in specialist training with the Royal Artillery, Royal Armoured Corps, and the Infantry.

Meanwhile, students from Cambrai Company

raised a staggering £10,542 in one day for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Gen Keith Burch, RBL County President North Yorkshire, presented the company with a certificate of appreciation. Andrew Woods, who collected £295, received the certificate on behalf of the students.



Manage your money



Credit Action Director Keith Tondeur, will be pleased to answer, in confidence, specific questions addressed to the Editor.

Pte J's bank was just so generous

PRIVATE J had never been any good at handling money. Like many people he had not been taught how to budget properly. On joining the Army he started receiving his first regular income... which led to his bank giving him both an overdraft facility and a credit card.

At first this was fine but he soon found that he was using his card for more and more – usually clothes. In addition, he went and bought a state-of-the-art DVD player and "took advantage" of the credit offer. He had not bothered to check what the rate of interest was (actually it was within a whisker of 30 per cent!). Other purchases followed and he soon found he was up to his overdraft limit – which the bank very kindly increased.

BASIC SUMS

Never at any stage had Pte J done even the most basic of sums to see whether he could afford what he was buying. A basic budget would have shown him what his income was and where his money was going. He would have realised that every month he was actually spending in excess of £100 more than he was earning – and this was before the interest that he owed had been added.

Even when he got up to his extended overdraft limit, Pte J was not unduly concerned. Like many people he just thought that rather than trying to bring his spending back in line with his income, he just needed more money.

So he started to look for a loan. Because he was not a house-owner the rates that he was offered seemed high and so he decided to ring Credit Action's helpline, which he had seen featured in *Soldier*.

KEEP A NOTEBOOK

Fortunately, the first advice he was given by a counsellor was to draw up a simple budget showing both his income and spending. It was suggested that the best way of finding out where the money was going was to keep a notebook and record everything he had spent money on.

It soon became clear to Pte J that some of the everyday things he was spending a few pounds on mounted up over the month to a much larger sum than he expected or wanted to spend. As a result of the budget he was able to re-plan his spending to such an extent that within three months he was spending less than he was earning and saving significant interest payments too.

You can get a free booklet that helps with budgeting from Credit Action, 6 Regent Terrace, Cambridge CB2 1AA.

0800 591084 or
www.creditaction.com

Norway's forgotten war

Ill-fated Second World War campaign gave British troops their baptism of fire

VETERANS of the Allied campaign in Norway in 1940 – a largely forgotten chapter of the Second World War – are to make a remembrance tour to Scandinavia in May.

The trip to northern Norway will give old soldiers a chance to visit some of the places connected with their ill-fated mission to repel the Nazi invasion. It also coincides with Liberation Day, when the veterans will be able to take part in ceremonies at Narvik.

Events during the remembrance tour, from May 6 to 11, include a visit to the Adolf Gun, the world's largest land-based artillery piece, a pilgrimage to the Harstad War Graves and a trip to the scenic Ofoten Railway on the Swedish border.

A highlight will be a wreath-laying ceremony over the wreck of *ms Chrobry*, a passenger liner-cum-troopship that was blown up in May 1940 by Luftwaffe bombers while transporting more than 800 troops from the Irish Guards and other personnel attached to the 24th Guards Brigade.

The strategic concern of the Allies mounting the Norway campaign was to

deny Hitler access to Scandinavian iron ore supplies. These were transported back to Germany through Norwegian waters. British, Polish, French and Norwegian forces were largely unprepared to face the armada of Nazi warships, ground troops and aircraft, and as the strategic priority shifted to France and the Low Countries, the Allied commitment to Norway increasingly faltered.

Hitler, outraged by the capture of the *Altmark*, occupied neutral Norway on April 9, 1940, quickly securing the southern end of the country. The Norwegian Army, a militia force, continued to mobilize and was joined by 13,000 British and French troops who landed at Namsos and Andalsnes. Their first operation, to attempt the capture of Trondheim, ended in failure, so that by early May central Norway was also in German hands.

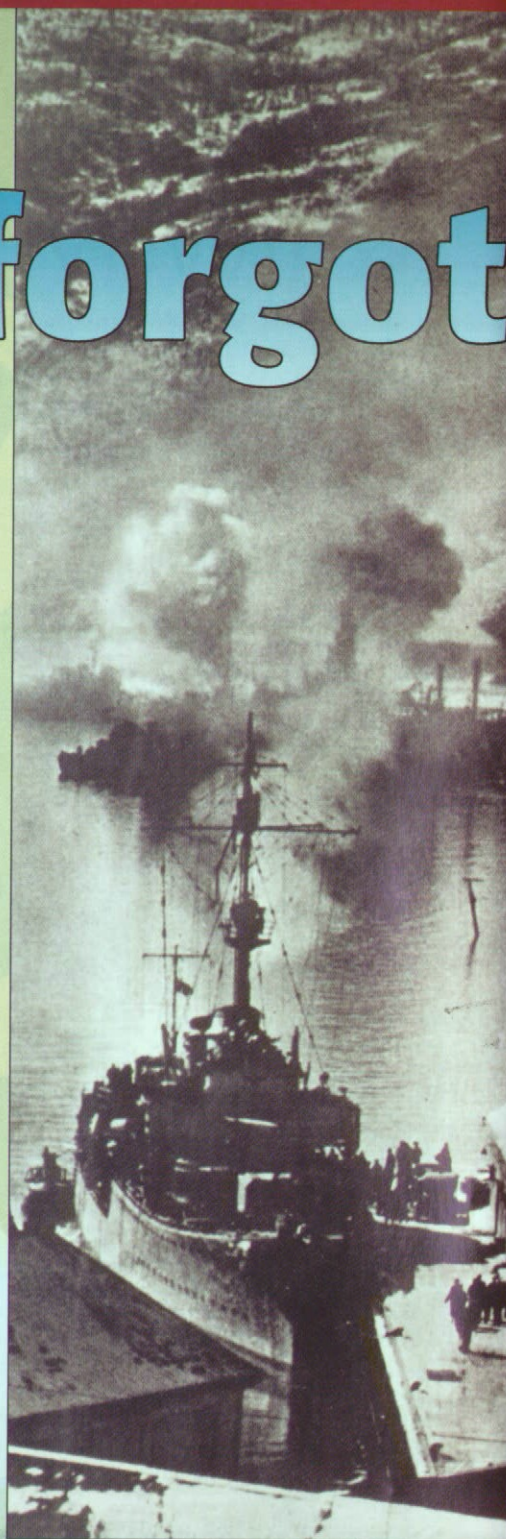
Fighting then shifted to Narvik, where the German Navy had already suffered heavy defeats by the Royal Navy. The Allies recaptured the town but were withdrawn on June 7 following German victories in France. The Norwegians continued to resist against great odds.

THE trip to Norway from May 6 to 11 is being organised by Tours With Experts in collaboration with the Irish Guards. Anyone interested in the campaign, veterans and their families who would like more details should write to RHQ Irish Guards, Wellington

Remembrance tour

Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 6HQ by February 14.

The tour company website is found at <http://www.tours-with-experts.com>

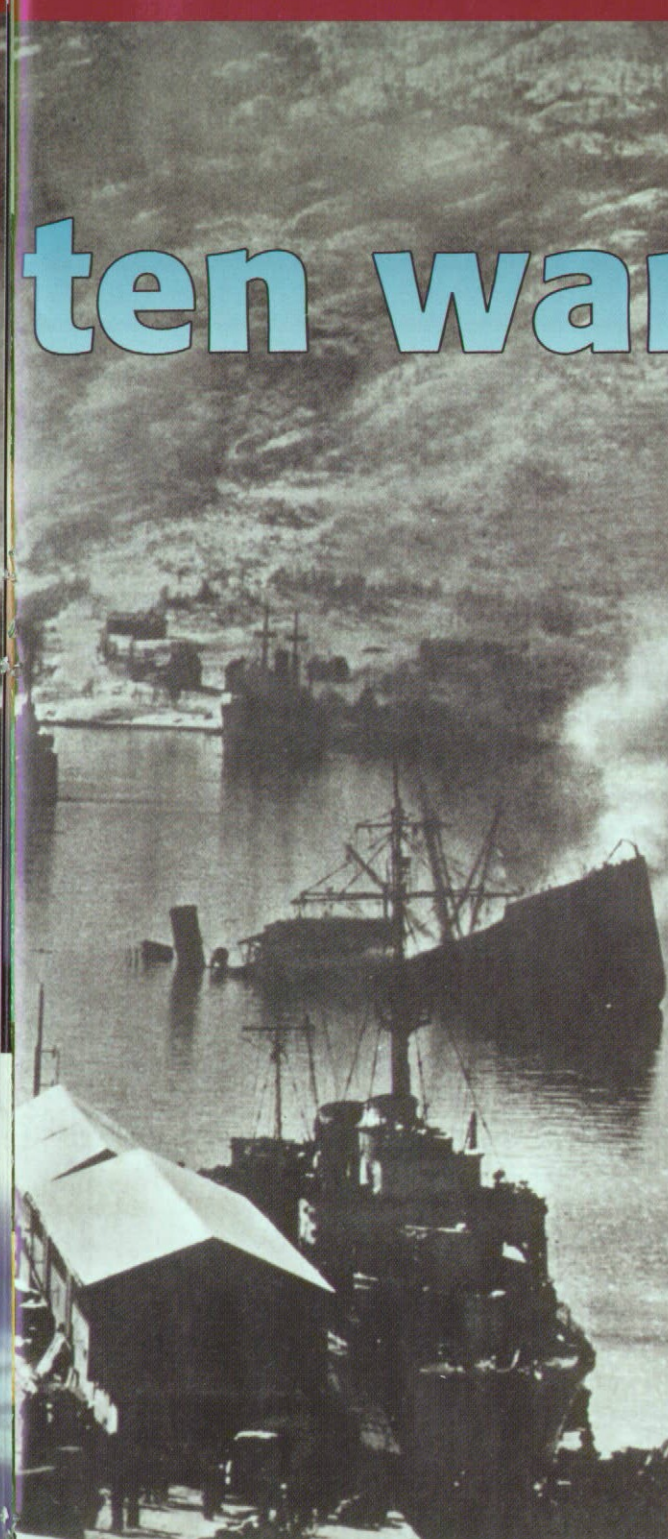


German vessels during the attack on Narvik, above

German infantry and a PzKw I during the invasion of Norway, left

British wounded being evacuated on a landing craft, right

Pictures: Chrysalis Picture Library
Research: Antony Shaw, author of *Attack in the Fjords – The Luftwaffe Raid on MS Chrobry and World War II: Day by Day*



Wounded: 2nd Lt D Flaherty is helped to the advanced dressing station at Vaagso in 1941, above. Flaherty, who lost an eye, was later awarded a DSO



Survivors are carried to safety from the burning troopship *Chrobry*

The *Chrobry* incident

ASTONISHING discipline and courage displayed by men of the Irish Guards were a feature of the sinking of the *Chrobry*, a Polish liner serving as a troopship during the 1940 Norway campaign.

Hit by a cluster of bombs at midnight on May 15, 1940, the ship was soon ablaze, her burning holds the danger of a catastrophic explosion and the decks heating up from the fires raging below, guardsmen calmly waited in line to board the Royal Navy warships *Wolverine* and *Stork*, which drew up alongside the stricken liner to effect the rescue operation.

A naval petty officer later recalled: "The Irish Guards lined up and waited their turn to come aboard the *Wolverine* as if they were waiting to catch the Number Ten bus. This, to my mind, was

discipline at its very best, and I have always said that on that day the Irish Guards showed the spirit for which they are renowned, and for which the British Army can always be proud."

Almost 800 soldiers were taken off in just 12 minutes.

Most of the troops and the Polish crew were saved, although the commanding officer, 2ic and adjutant of the Irish Guards were killed. The Micks re-formed ashore and fought the Germans until they were evacuated.

The *Chrobry* abandoned her transatlantic passenger trips after the fall of Poland, joining the Allied expedition to repel the Germans from Norway in April 1940. She made a series of hazardous voyages carrying British troops around the coastline and fjords before being sunk.



Passing-out precision

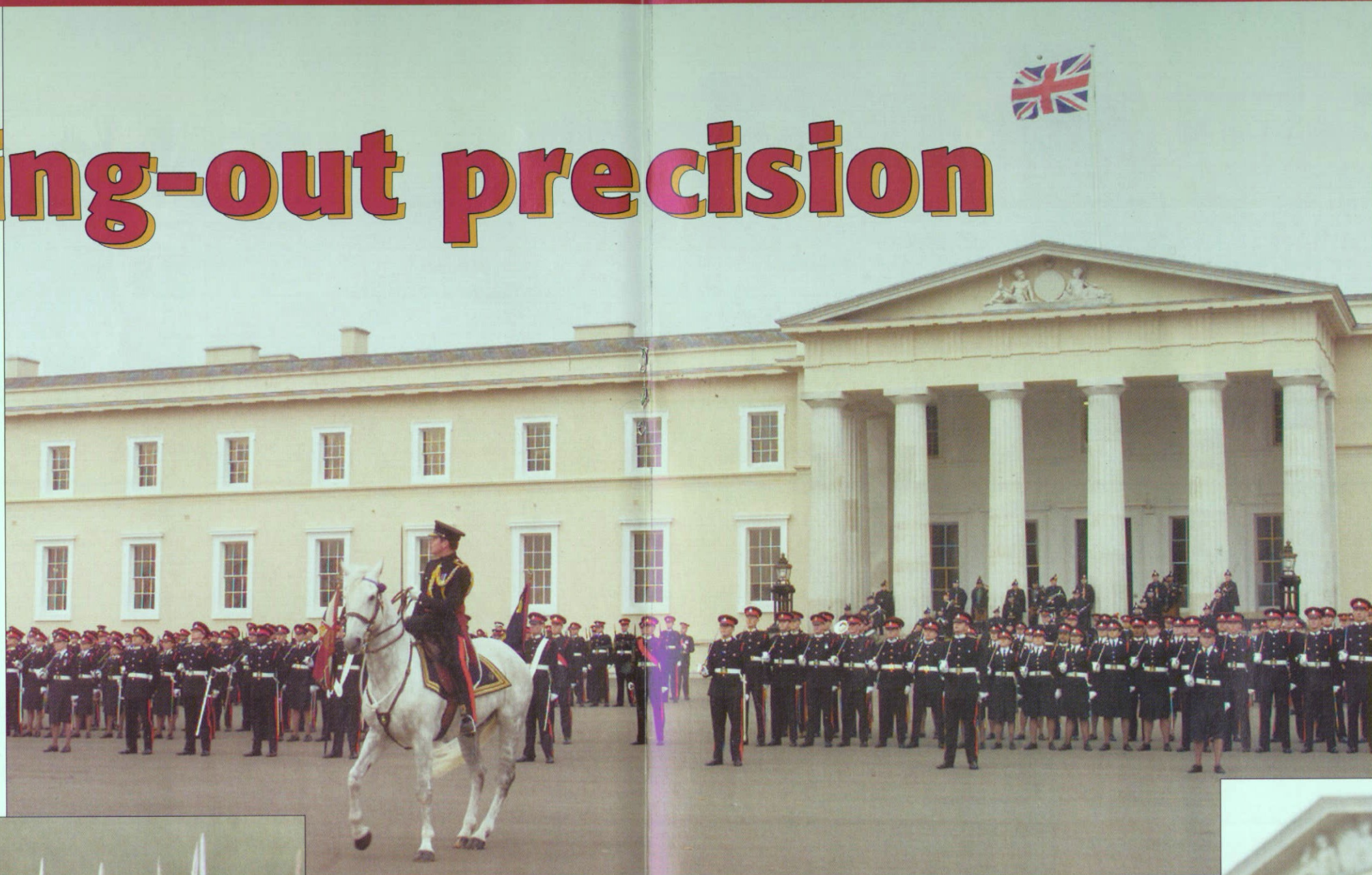
Traditional pomp at RMA Sandhurst passing-out parade

MORE than 200 officer cadets passed out at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst's 140th Sovereign's Parade. The salute, on a foggy and wet day, was taken by Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce.

Three top cadets in their class were presented with special awards in recognition of their achievements. The Sword of Honour went to Junior Under Officer James Scott, who will be joining the Scots Guards, and the Queen's Medal to Officer Cadet Marcus Hayakawa, destined for the Royal Engineers.

The Overseas Sword was presented to Officer Cadet Brian Lundy, from Jamaica. He will join the Jamaican Defence Force as a platoon commander.

All the images on these pages, except the one below, were taken at the Commandant's Parade, used as a full dress rehearsal for the Sovereign's Parade.

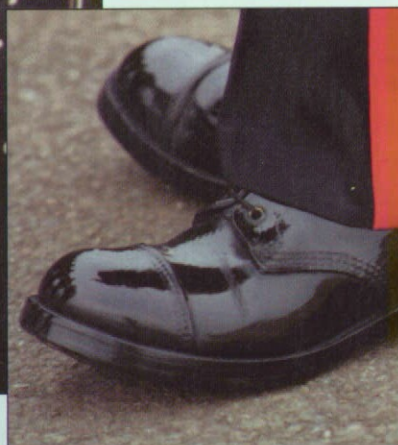


Is that a speck? Sgt Maj Ronnie Convery, the Academy Sergeant Major, carries out his final duty before marching off the parade ground. He was himself commissioned by the Chief of the Defence Staff as a captain in the Scots Guards



Not just a facade: Officer cadets, above, parade in front of the RMA Sandhurst facade. The Academy Adjutant, Maj Richard Winstanley, is mounted on Snooker

Spotless: These boots were made for parading



Immaculate uniforms: Attention to minute detail, left and above, makes the parade an impressive public spectacle

Sharp dressers: Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Chief of the Defence Staff, inspects officer cadets passing out on the 140th Sovereign's Parade
Picture: Jim Farrier

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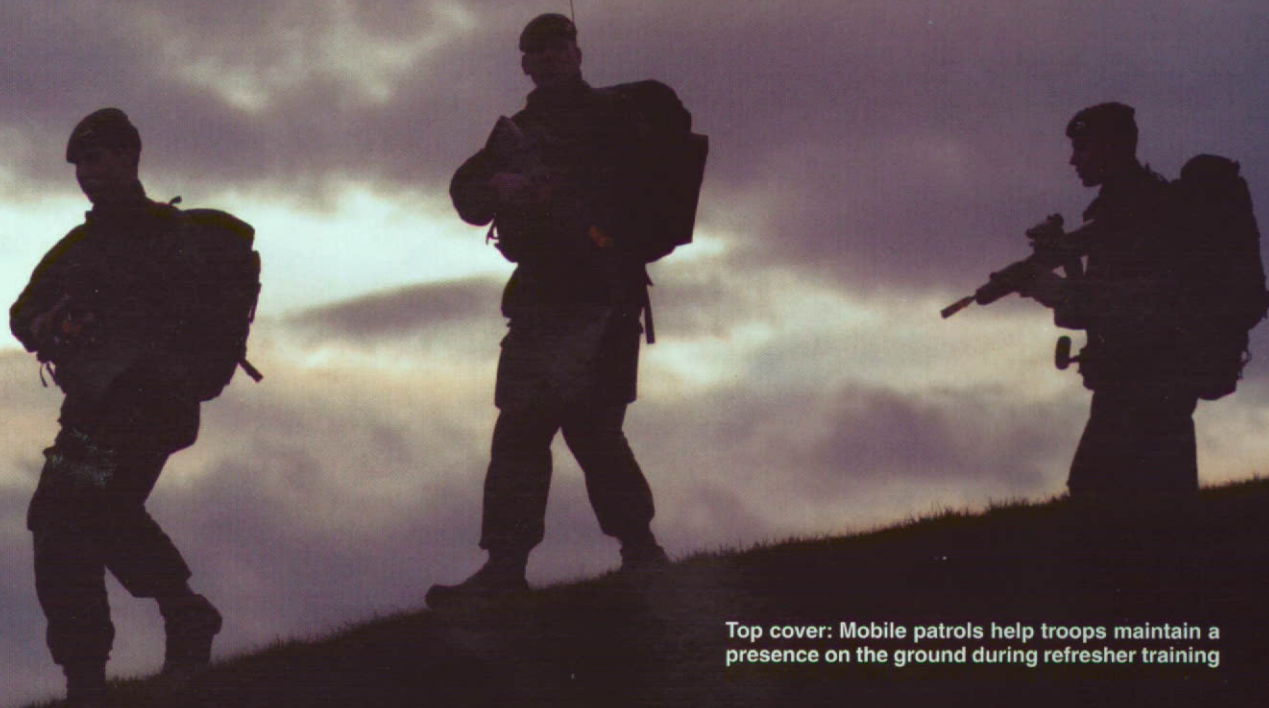
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Top cover: Mobile patrols help troops maintain a presence on the ground during refresher training

Yorkies' boost

Northern Ireland battalion takes a 'refresher' break in Scotland

Pictures: Sgt Paul Brownbridge

COMPANIES of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire were released from operational duties in Northern Ireland to take part in Exercise Stallion Boost in Scotland, writes **Andrea Frazer**.

Based at Dundrennan Camp on the Army training area at Kirkcudbright, the exercise focused exclusively on Northern Ireland operational refresher training, stretching the soldiers physically and mentally over two-and-a-half days.

In all, 400 personnel were involved, as were members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Stallion Boost was designed to be as realistic as possible, with vehicle, foot and helicopter patrols mixed in with simulated searches, ambushes and



Look-out: Pte Simon Taylor on duty in a sangar

casualty situations. Bomb disposal units, sappers and Royal Air Force personnel added specialised support to the proceedings.

The remote coastal Kirkcudbright facility is ideal for individual company-level training and very similar to the terrain encountered by the Yorkshire soldiers in County Tyrone, where they are now halfway through a two-year operational tour.



Wet and hilly: The terrain in Scotland is similar to 1 PWO's County Tyrone base

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Army's new prop idol

Oxford Blue set to become a sporting star for the Reds

ONE name caught the military eye at the annual Varsity Match at Twickenham – Oxford University's Dr Henry Nwume (RAMC), writes **Roger Thompson**.

At 6ft 3in and 18st 4lb he was difficult to miss and for 80 minutes Cambridge were sorely troubled by the tank at Oxford.

Henry's rugby and medical eminence are as improbable as they are pronounced. Nwume was born in Zambia to a Nigerian father and an English mother, and the family returned to England in 1977 to trigger academic and sporting excellence. At Nottingham High School, Henry's social life revolved around sport and a vibrant Combined Cadet Force (CCF). With "such great times" in the CCF a military career was always possible, although medicine remained his first calling.

Four A-Levels at A-grade opened the doors to Oxford University. As an undergraduate his sport and particularly the "social extras" were only a relaxation from serious study, but his prowess still grabbed the imagination of rugby guru and mentor Steve Hill.

A revitalised Oxford University under the captaincy of Australian Dr Brett Robinson from the ACT Brumbies converted Henry from an "anywhere man" to a tight head prop – the Lion King's position.

Having been "stuffed" in his early days by a series of minor Argentinian props on Oxford's pre-season tour to Italy, Henry has also spent many hours alternating between synchronised grunting and video analysis with the "incredibly technical" Bath scrum coach John Moore.

Between Robinson and Moore, he has been transformed from a shire horse of a man into an incredibly large racing thoroughbred. The expert coaching has also landed him the vital job of "second man in" in the Oxford side –



True blue: Oxford prop Henry Nwume (RAMC), centre, in the thick of the action at Twickenham

Picture: Roger Thompson

the "mecca of the thinking prop" and guaranteed to drain the wingtanks of even the greatest Olympian.

However, talking rugby camouflages the presence of a committed medical man who spends his days at Oxford researching three-dimensional CT and MRI scanning of the brain.

With more calls on his time than he has hours, Henry hopes that his medical and sporting lives will come together when he arrives at Sandhurst in August. He would like to specialise in plastic reconstruction and believes the Army will provide "a fantastic environment for vital surgery".

Nothing accelerates surgery as quickly as conflict and he intends to be around when it happens. In peacetime he is equally optimistic that the Army's medical reach-out programmes to less fortunate communities worldwide will be utterly

rewarding. As a student he has already worked in Kenya and returned to Zambia to assist in the hospital where he was born.

Henry is by today's standards exceptional, but historically not quite unique. Capt Rob Wainwright (RAMC) captained Cambridge University, the Army and Scotland in the 1990s and in the 1960s Capt Doug Boyle (Para) read politics at Oxford, played for the Army and gained three Blues. On leaving the Services he turned to medicine and is now a doctor in deepest Gloucestershire. The Chairman of Army

Rugby, Brig Chris Sexton is himself an Oxford man who gained a Blue at hooker.

Today the military stage might be somewhat skewed compared with the recent past, but Henry recognises the hard road ahead and the many unanswered questions to be resolved. There always has been a world shortage of qual-

ity tight head props and Henry, having represented England Students, is keen to make an impact on Army rugby and take his sport as far as he can.

However, serious medicine is a strict mistress and there are disadvantages to the delicate job of reconstructing someone's head with three broken fingers and a knackered back.

Maybe the Army, at least in the early days, will offer Henry the opportunity simultaneously to pull both strings in his mighty bow. Post Sandhurst he sees himself entering yet another apprenticeship where he can develop leadership and teamwork skills, build professional relationships and hone the many personal qualities essential for plastic reconstruction surgery in intense situations.

If all that fails, amazingly he has a third string to his bow. At college it was recognised that Henry was probably in the top five per cent of freehand artists in the country and he still enjoys a dabble with the sketch pad.



Lord of the board: Big Air winner Cpl John Craig (ATR Bassingbourne) Picture: Chris Fletcher

Freestyle flying

COMPETITORS were invited to show off their flair and aerobic skills during the Army snowboarding championships at Stubai Glacier, Austria.

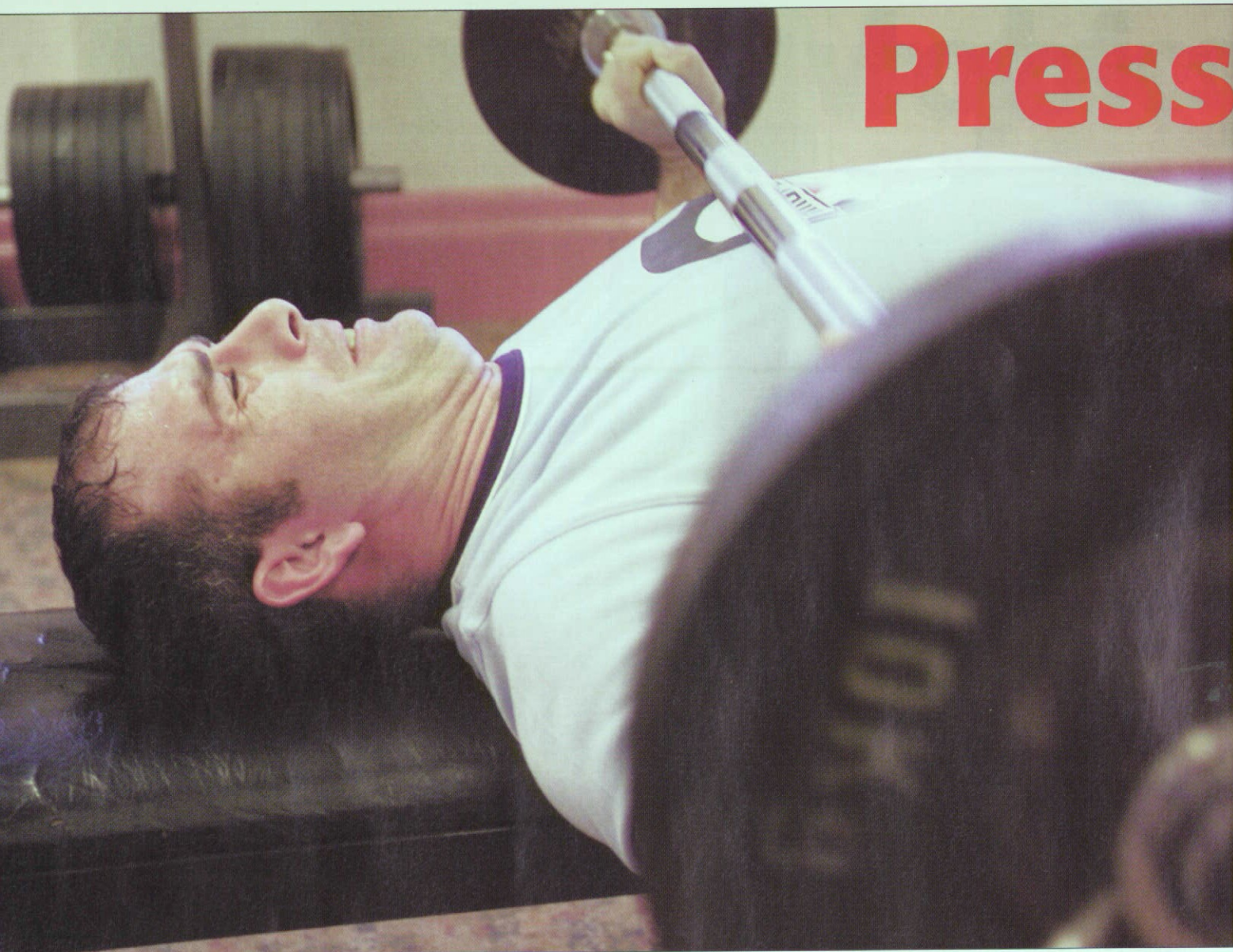
For the first time in the competition's six year history, men and women went head-to-head in a Big Air jump competition.

The event, which is judged on the jump, overall impression and landing, with points awarded accordingly, was won by Cpl John Craig (ATR Bassingbourne), who beat WO2 Des Elesmore (DPA Bristol)

and Sgt Mark Jones (Sp Bn HQ ARRC) to the inaugural Big Air title.

Army Snowboarding Association vice chairman, Maj Gary Colman, said: "Many of the senior riders have spent their Christmas break out here training and consequently standards have improved greatly."

◆ The championships' four other disciplines; slalom, giant slalom, duel slalom and boarder-cross, were due to take place as *Soldier* went to press.



Pressing engagement

World record-breaker rewarded with a trip to New Zealand

AFTER four months of intense training Sgt Neil Thomas (SEME) powered his way into the record books at Cannon's Health Club in Swindon by bench pressing more than three tonnes in 41 seconds.

Tipping the scales at 95kg, Thomas set a new world record in the accumulative military bench press by lifting his own body weight 33 times – beating the previous record of 2,915kg by 226.

"Knowing that you've broken a world record is an amazing feeling," explained Thomas, who is currently awaiting official confirmation of his record-breaker status from the *Guinness Book of World Records*. "Even if someone does break my record in the future I will still know that, for a time, I was the best in the world at something."

"It was a tough record to beat and in the end I needed two attempts to break it. During my first attempt I just didn't feel right. I sensed there was a problem with the bench and failed to complete my last rep," he added. "So many people had come down to see me and I didn't want to disappoint them, so I decided to take an hour's break and then try again."

"The second time round I was more

focused and I just went out and hammered out the necessary reps."

As well as securing a place in the record books, the 30-year-old's determination also earned him a call-up to the British Army powerlifting team for the Armed Forces Games, which will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand in April.

Thomas's selection for the Army squad is testament to the endless hours of work he has invested in the gym since taking up weight training two years ago.

"I have always loved sport and when I first joined the Army I was a sprinter and have also represented my corps in rugby," he said. "However, I kept getting injured and originally just turned to weight training as an alternative way to improve my physique."

"I immediately became addicted to the personal challenge of it all and pushed myself harder and harder every time I went to the gym."

"In other sports like football and rugby you reach a certain stage where natural ability will give you a ceiling, but in weightlifting there is always the scope to train harder and get better. I do not see there being a limit other than your body just giving way one day."

A chance reading of the *Guinness Book of World Records* over a cup of tea at his

mother's home convinced Thomas to pursue the sport at a more competitive level and provided the catalyst for what he hopes will be a successful weightlifting career.

"I was flicking through the pages of the book, saw the accumulative bench press record and thought to myself 'I can beat that'."

"I have always been determined to become the best in the world at something and this record will hopefully provide a springboard to greater things."

"I do not intend to take being part of the Army set-up for granted," he said. "There are a lot of big guys in the Army, a lot of guys who can probably push bigger weights than me, guys who could potentially represent the Army – a fact which will keep me on my toes."

"Ultimately I would love to represent my country and the Army at a Commonwealth or Olympic Games. That would be a dream come true, but it is certainly something that I feel that I can achieve with the right training and support."

With no international experience to date, reaching the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens sounds a tall order, but with a 17in neck, 46in chest and 17in biceps, there will be few brave enough to tell Sgt Thomas otherwise.

‘Even if someone does break my record I will still know that, for a time, I was the best in the world at something’

Feeling the strain: Sgt Neil Thomas (SEME) set a new accumulative military bench press world record by lifting his own body weight 33 times

Picture: Graeme Main

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

ATHLETICS: Coe Cup (formally Commanders Cup of HQ 1 (BR) Corps) cross country championships, women's winner – Sgt Jackson (SF Branch ARRC HQ). Men's winner – Maj Solberg (G3 Plans ARRC HQ). Veteran men's winner – LTC Rodriguez (G3 Ops ARRC HQ). Team results – 1, Headquarters Squadron Support Battalion; 2, 170 Squadron Support Battalion; 3, ARRC HQ. Overall winners – Headquarters Squadron ARRC Support Battalion.

CANOEING: Army wild water racing championship winners, open men's K1 – Lt Alex Burt (AGC). Open C1 – Lt Andy Nicholl (AAC). Open C2 – Burt and Nicholl. Under-21 open K1 – Sig Mark Stafford (2 Signal Regt). Open men's master – Sgt Crane (14 Regt RA). Open women's K1 – SSgt Michaela Barwick (APTC). Open women's master – OCdt Cromwell

(RMAS). Open team event – 14 Regt RA (WO2 Tony Harris, WO2 Meacock and Lt Burt).

FOOTBALL: Territorial Army 1 (Pte Steve Annett) Army 1 (LCpl Lee Davies (27 Regt RLC)); Army youth 8 Army Crusaders 0; Army youth 6 Army Foundation Technical College 1.

South West County Championship – Cornwall 4 Army youth 1; Army youth 3 Gwent 2; Army youth 2 Gloucester 1.

FA Youth County Cup – Cambridge 2 Army youth 2 (Cambridge won 4-3 on penalties).

Mick Parry Trophy – Army youth 2 Oxford 0.

Massey Trophy – RAC 0 RLC 7; AGC 0 REME 4; RA 6 AMS 0; RE 11 AMS 0; Int Corps 3 CA Mus 3.

Pricewaterhouse Cooper League – R Signals 1 AGC 0; AMS 2 REME 9.

ORIENTEERING: Inter-Services individual championships, men's winner – WO1 Dave Rollins (RLC). Women's winner – Capt Sara Rollins (RAMC).

4/5 Div league championships, current standings. Major units – 1, RMAS (3,126pts); 2, 1 R Anglian (2,871pts); 3, Defence Academy (2,730pts); 4, HQ Land (2,536pts). Minor units – 1, HQ 4 Div (2,113pts); 2, AGC (2,095pts); 3, Didcot Station (1,715pts); 4, DLO Chertsey (1,543pts).

TAEKWONDO: UKTA British championships, bronze medal winners (sparring) – WO2 Wayne Sibthorpe (APTC) and CSgt Alan Bissett (Gren Gds).

TUG OF WAR: World outdoor championships (Pretoria, South Africa), club competition. 520kg division – 4, Army women. 560kg division – 6, Army women.

Dubai at the double

RESPONDING to their coach's call to return to winning ways after a disappointing warm-up game against England, the Army lifted the Dubai International Sevens trophy for the second successive year.

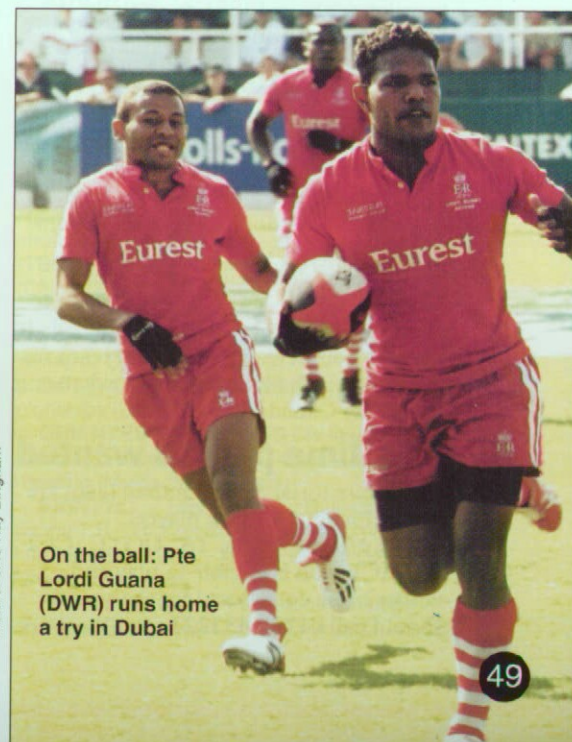
Having stormed through the group stages, the ESS-sponsored squad overcame a strong Fijian Barbarians team in the semi-final before dispatching a Southern Hemisphere select side in the final with a display of running rugby that had both the 200,000-strong crowd and Army boss Lt Col Andy Hickling purring.

"The lads played the best rugby I've seen them play since the team was formed more than three years ago," he said. "As a performance it was

even better than the one which won us the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham 12 months ago."

"It has been another outstanding season and Dubai was the perfect way to draw the curtains until May."

◆ For the record, the team's achievements over the past eight months include: London floodlit trophy (runners-up); City Sevens (winners); Kiwi Sevens (runners-up); Safari Sevens (winners); Welsh Sevens (winners); Henley Sevens (winners); Middlesex Sevens (losing semi-finalists); England Club Sevens (winners); Thailand Sevens (runners-up); Southern Hemisphere Club Championships (losing semi-finalists).



On the ball: Pte Lordi Guana (DWR) runs home a try in Dubai

Picture: SAC Kay Bingham

SHORTS

Palmer reaps rewards

DESPITE tearing a ligament in his foot just weeks before taking part in the New York marathon and suffering a further injury during the race itself, WO2 Kev Palmer (AGC) still managed to complete the world-famous 26-mile course in 5hr 40min.

Palmer, who ran wearing Combat 95, boots and carrying a 30lb bergen, raised more than £2,300 for children's charity Help a Local Child.

Sun, sea and squash

THE Royal Logistic Corps squash team have revealed the secret behind their ninth consecutive inter-corps squash title – a pre-tournament tour to South Africa.

Led by tour manager Maj Stuart Heaton, 12 members of the all-conquering team warmed-up for the inter-corps championships at Aldershot by travelling to Cape Town for a series of matches against top civilian opposition.

Football focus

THE Army Football Association is running a series of UEFA-accredited coaching courses for Army personnel over the coming months.

Course dates include: Level one – August 26-29; Level two – May 12-23, June 9-20 and July 7-18.

For further information contact Steve Stone on Aldershot Mil (94222) 2962.

Runners required

THE National Autistic Society (NAS) is looking for soldiers to run the London Marathon on April 13 to help raise vital funds for autism.

Anyone interested in competing for the charity should contact the NAS events team on 0207 9033551 or e-mail londonmarathon@nas.org.uk

Dawn's African adventure

HAVING caught the eye of the national coaches while pulling for the Army, Pte Dawn Peace (17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC) was selected to represent England at the world outdoor tug of war championships in Pretoria, South Africa.

Her Army colleague, Gnr Lindsey Semak (26 Regt RA), also made the squad as first reserve, but was not called upon to compete. The England team finished in fourth place after narrowly being beaten by Canada.

Part-time players wanted

THE Territorial Army football team are on the lookout for new players.

Any member of the TA, UOTC, CCF and ACF who is eligible to play and wishes to be considered for the squad should call 01722 433227.

Fusilier's grand effort



Marathon man: Lt David Lake aims to cover 1,000 miles in as many hours Picture: Chris Fletcher

FOR most people, running the London Marathon would be challenge enough, but not so for Lt David Lake of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who intends to complete 1,000 miles before even stepping across the start line on April 13.

Lake, and five other competitors, will set off from outside Buckingham Palace on the Flora 1,000 Mile Challenge on March 2, with the aim of covering the thousand miles in an equal number of hours while lapping the marathon's 26-mile course.

By the time the six join the thousands of other runners for the marathon itself 42 days later, they will already have completed the gruelling circuit 38 times. The winner of the challenge will be the first of the six to cross the finishing line.

The event is based on a challenge undertaken by the legendary 19th century gambler, Capt Robert Barclay, himself a Royal Welch Fusilier. Barclay took on a 1,000-guinea wager from fellow members of his Gentleman's Club that he could not cover one mile on foot every hour of every day and night, without a break, for 1,000

hours. He ended up with both a swollen purse and swollen feet.

Barclay lost 32lb in weight completing the original challenge, which equates to running or walking for just eight hours short of six weeks, but recovered quickly enough to sail off to the Napoleonic Wars eight days later.

"When I heard about the race I thought it would be a crying shame if no one from his old regiment gave it a go," explained Lake. "Both the battalion and I feel it would be a fitting testimony to have the opportunity to keep Capt Barclay's record within the family."

"I'm pretty fit with all the military training, but the big struggle will be lack of sleep, although I probably have more experience of sleep deprivation than the other runners. Being in the Army I am used to doing a lot of work at night and cat-napping through the day."

However, even if Lake does manage to emulate Barclay's remarkable feat, it is unlikely that he will be tempted to try to match his other regimental records... in competition eating and bare-knuckle boxing.

FOOTBALL TABLES

SOUTH WEST COUNTY LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Cornwall	2	2	0	0	8	6
Army youth	3	2	0	1	-1	6
Gloucester	3	1	0	2	-2	3
Oxford	1	0	1	0	0	1
Gwent	3	0	1	2	-5	1

MASSEY TROPHY

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
RLC	8	7	1	0	19	22
RA	5	5	0	0	19	15
Infantry	5	4	0	1	18	12
RE	4	3	1	0	20	10
REME	4	3	0	1	22	9
AAC	5	3	0	2	4	9
CA Mus	8	2	1	5	-29	7
APTC	4	1	1	2	-5	4
AGC	5	0	1	4	-12	1
Int Corps	4	0	1	3	-14	1
R Signals	1	0	0	1	-1	0
RAC	4	0	0	4	-19	0
AMS	5	0	0	5	-22	0

PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
AGC	3	2	0	1	27	6
R Signals	2	2	0	0	11	6
RA	1	1	0	0	1	3
REME	3	1	0	2	-12	3
RLC	1	0	1	0	0	1
Int Corps	2	0	1	1	-1	1
AMS	2	0	0	2	-26	0

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to February...

ATHLETICS: 12 – Army cross country championships (Aldershot).

FOOTBALL: 1 – Army v Cornwall (TBC); 5 – Combined Services v Ryman League (Aldershot); 8 – Army youth v Oxford (TBC); 9 – REM E v TA (Bordon); 11 – Sussex v Army (Lancing); Army women v Wiltshire (Aldershot); 14 – AGC women v RLC women (Worthy Down); 16 – Army youth v Royal Navy (Aldershot); 18 – Army v Dorset (Aldershot); Army youth v Bournemouth Academy (TBC); 21 – Int Corps women v REM E women (Chicksands); 22 – Jersey v Army (Jersey); 23 – Combined Services youth v South West counties (Aldershot); 27 – Combined Services women v Civil Service (TBC).

GOLF: 19-21 – British Army Cyprus championships (Dhekelia GC).

ORIENTEERING: 5 – 4/5 Div league meeting (Petersfield); 19 – 4/5 Div league meeting (Micheldever Woods).

SHINTY: 1 – Highlanders v Ballachulish (Home); 8 – Highlanders v Edinburgh East Lothian (Home); 15 – Highlanders v Glasgow University (Home).

TUG OF WAR: 1-2 – UK indoor championships (Glasgow).

Under starter's orders

SANDOWN Park will once again play host to the Alvis-sponsored Grand Military Gold Cup meeting next month.

First held at Northampton in 1841, the annual festival, which takes place on March 7, features races for both professional jockeys as well as serving members of the military, whose feature event is the Grand Military Gold Cup itself.

Steeped in history, the Gold Cup has had some very well-known winning owners over the years. Capt Lawrence Oates, who managed the ponies on Capt Robert Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole in 1913, ran his horse, Angel Gabriel, on three occasions – winning the crown in 1907.

The late Queen Mother became patron of the Grand Military Race Committee in 1970 and was another staunch supporter of the Gold Cup. She won it five times as an owner, including three consecutive wins from 1984 to 1986 with Special Cargo. A splendid statue of the horse overlooks the winners' enclosure at Sandown Park.

The Gold Cup will be supported by the Barclays Bank hurdle race and a new hunter steeplechase called the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Memorial Hunter Chase – in fitting memory to the committee's former patron.

◆ Soldier has teamed up with Sandown Park to offer two pairs of Premier Enclosure tickets and a bottle of champagne to two lucky winners.

For your chance to win a day at the races, simply answer the following question:

How many times did the Queen Mother win the Alvis Grand Military Gold Cup as an owner?

Send your answer on a postcard to Grand Military Gold Cup competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by February 28. Usual rules apply.

◆ Those not lucky enough to win our competition can book tickets online at www.sandown.co.uk or by calling 01372 470047.



A day at the races: Action from last year's Grand Military Gold Cup

Picture: Frank McCann

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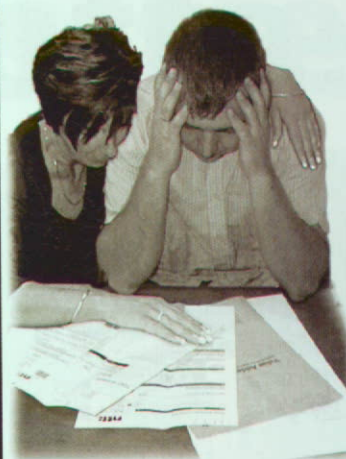
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No 735

How observant are you?

WIN £100!

Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 735, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by March 3.

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

Do not include any-

thing else in your envelope.

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

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

January competition (No 734)

Our "How Observant Are You?" competition is always a teaser for readers - particularly that elusive tenth difference.

Last month it was even more frustrating than usual - there were only nine! We are grateful to sharp-eyed readers who have telephoned us.

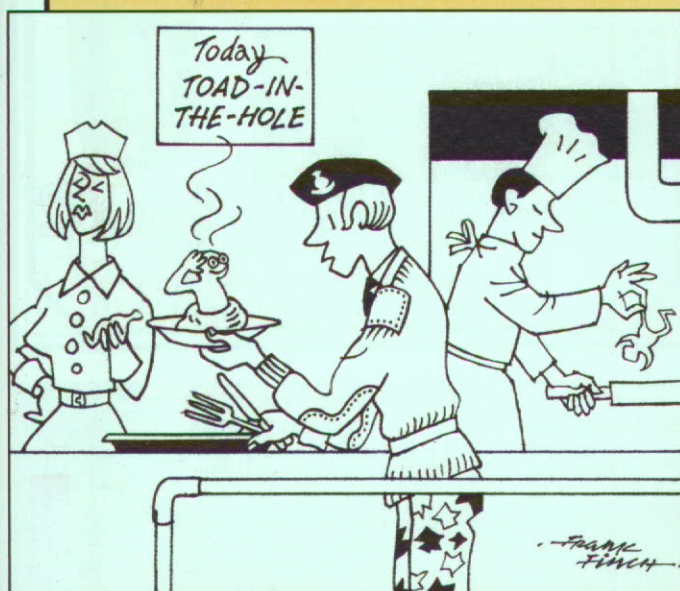
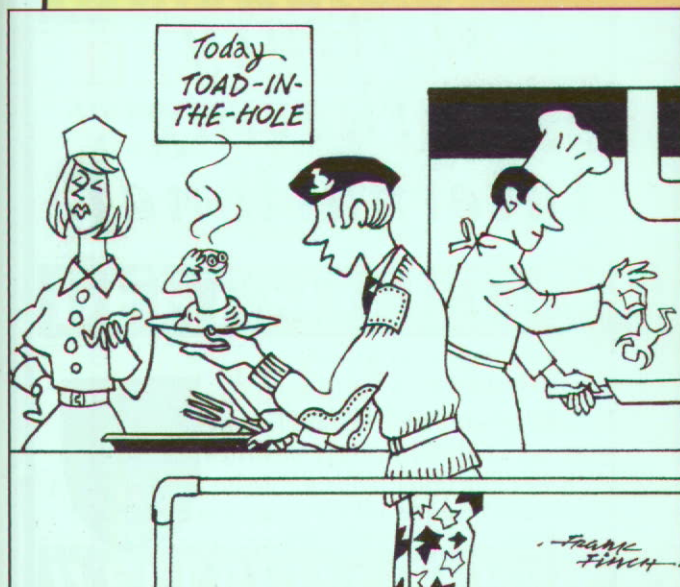
We apologise for the omission and have decided that readers who submit entries identifying the nine differences will go into the hat for the prizes.

In fairness to those who have not so far entered for this competition because they could find only nine differences, we are extending the deadline until February 14. All entries will have an equal opportunity to win a prize.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

December issue (No 733): First correct entry drawn was from LCpl M G Dupree, 1 Bn REME, BFPO 36, who wins £100. Runners-up Mrs I B Okonmah, of Basildon, Essex, and Mrs S Slocombe, of Wokingham, Berks, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were, from top of escalator: pipe man's parcel, girl's hand, woman's parcel, man's ear, soldier's cigarette; F in Fair; tree branches and bauble; D in Decorations.



Freeze frame

"Well, they said we would have to cut our fuel bills." ▶

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in May 1952. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by March 3.



WINNER of our December caption competition, left, was Cpl Dave Poultny, 2 Para Rear Party, Meeanee Barracks, Colchester with "Firemen watch a training video prior to the Armed Forces' strike for a 40 per cent pay increase".

We also liked "The introduction of the God

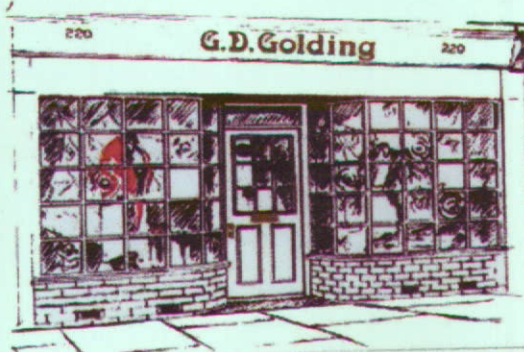
Channel in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department mess went down a treat" from SSgt G E McLorie of the Medical Branch, Headquarters 5th Division at Shrewsbury, and "Due to further cuts in the Civil List, I am here to do the Queen's Christmas address", from J P Warren of Cheslyd Way, Staffordshire.



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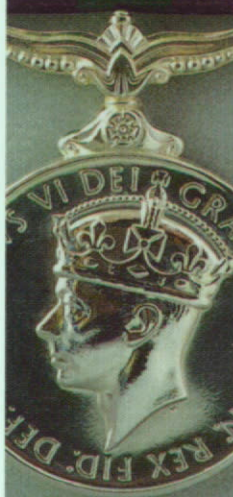
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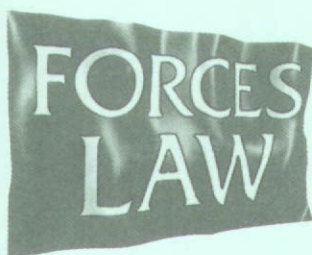
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Chris, (21), 6'6", short dark hair and medium build. Enjoys reading, cinema, canoeing, socialising and clubs. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P274

Beverley, (36), 5'3", blonde with large build, bubbly personality with blue eyes. Enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, pubs, eating out, cinema and socialising. Seeking pen pals, 38+. P275

Jayne, (37), 5'3", young looking blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys computers, holidays, pets, eating out, arts, crafts, pubs and music. GSOH, fun personality, outgoing and chatty. Seeking pen pals, 30-38. P276

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NOTICES

Charity Commission Reference: 265129/AFC THE NORTHUMBERLAND MILITIA FUND

A Scheme is a legal document made by the Charity Commission. It is proposed to make a Scheme for this charity which will provide a secondary object.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:
RHQ RRF (Northumberland), TA Centre
Lisburn Terrace, Alnwick, Northumberland
or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at
<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>
Comments or representations on these proposals can be made to the Charity Commission within one month from the date of this invoice, either by letter or by completing the form on our website.

£££

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

£££

30 November 2002

17-way tie for 1st Place (17 Goals, £976.47 each)
 LCpl GM Arthurs, 32 Engr Regt, Hohnhe; SSgt AG Ashworth, H & LD Band, Bovington; Sgt JN Attwood, BATSU Belize; WO2 AT Blowers, JHC HQ LAND, Bulford; Capt NA Burnet, Scots DG, Fallingbowl; LCpl SH Burns, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld; Cpl JC Dempster, ITC Catterick; Sgt TJ French, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Lt Col D Hopwood, Di Trg Pol (A), Upavon; WO1 J Langhorn, RLC Trg Centre, Aldershot; Cpl PJ McCulloch, 17 Port & Mar Regt, Marchwood; Cpl WC Paul, HQ 4 Armcd Bde, Osnabruck; LCpl MW Rayson, 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, Fallingbowl; Sgt JA Styles, 9/12 L, Hohnhe; SCpl P Thomas, HCR, Windsor; Cpl TC Wales, BATSU Wainwright, BFPO 51; Capt CL White, SEAE, Arborfield

07 December 2002

13-way tie for 1st Place (22 Goals, £1,276.92 each)
 SSgt JR Carter, MCTC, Colchester; Sgt LMJ Cox, RHQ AFNorth, AFCENT; Pte MEyre, RDG, Munster; Capt AJ Grogan, 87 Sect SIB RMP, Rheindahlen; Capt MH Keighley, MOD RFC4/NELC, London; LBdr Kenda, 12 Regt RA, Sennelager; Cpl MJ Overton, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; Capt HAC Simms, 1 R Irish, Canterbury; Pte TD Spence, 1 KOSB, Catterick; Cpl AM Stiles, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; Sgt JA Varadinek-Skelton, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; Sgt N Walker, 12 Regt RA, Sennelager; LCpl RE Wood, 1 WFR, Omagh

14 December 2002

3-way tie for 1st Place (26 Goals, £3,666.67 each)
 LCpl C Boyle, 28 Engr Regt, Hamein; Sgt SA Haslett, APDO (NI), Lisburn; Sgt DE Wakefield, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh
 8-way tie for 4th Place (24 Goals, £700.00 each)
 Bdr AP Fisher, 1 RHA, Tidworth; Pte AB Johnson, Worthy Down Sp Unit, Worthy Down; Cpl D Mackrell, 158 Pro Coy RMP, Bulford; Maj MB Murdoch, 1 R Irish, Canterbury; Sgt JPF Oliver, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; SSgt M Sala, 280 (UK) Signal Sqn, Krefeld; WO1 AD Stokinger, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; Cpl G Wraith, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon

21 December 2002

3-way tie for 1st Place (19 Goals, £3,666.67 each); Maj D Buckley, 529 STRE (Air Sp), Cambridge; Bdr SP Hawke, 29 Cdo Regt RA, Plymouth; Sgt AJ Moyle, ITC Wales, Brecon
 30-way tie for 4th Place (18 Goals, £186.67 each); Tpr HM Ah-Sam, HCMR, London; WO2 DJ Barbour, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill; Maj AJ Barrett, 201 (N) Fd Hosp (V); Capt RSA Barthorp, 1 Coldm Gds, Londonderry; Maj IC Brewer, HQ NI, Lisburn; WO2 RN Brown, HQ 2 Div, Edinburgh; Cpl JS Fry, Rhine Area Sp Unit, Rheindahlen; SSgt JS Gamett, SEAE, Arborfield; Cpl CJ Godwin, 1 KORBR, Episkopi; WO1 MH Harries, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Lt JRF Jeffrey, QRL, Osnabruck; WO2 JM Johnson, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; LCpl S Kayes, 3 R

Irish, Armagh; WO2 PW Leighton, Camp Comdt (AD), London; Capt WR Lindsay, HCR, Windsor; Pte SJ Notman, 1 RGBW, Ballykinler; Sgt M Perry, 7 Regt AAC (V), Bulford; Sgt MS Povey, ATR Winchester; Sgt N Ruff, 259 Signal Sqn, Episkopi; Sgt PJ Shephard, RMP CPU, Longmoor; WO2 PS Smith, 26 Engr Regt, Bulford; Sgt DR Smith, Rhine Area Sp Unit, Rheindahlen; ATR MS Spalding, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Sgt R Stirat, RHQ AFNorth, AFCENT; Col MK Stretch, 34 Signal Regt; Pte STD Topham, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Cpl DC Tullett, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; LBdr MW Weir, 3 RHA, Hohnhe; Cpl C Williams, ATR Lichfield; WO2 ME Wyldes, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford

28 December 2002

41-way tie for 1st Place (20 Goals, £404.88 each); Maj D Adams, 1 RWF, Tem Hill; Pte DA Aston, 2 PWRR, Aldershot; Cpl A Baker, 2 PWRR, Aldershot; Cpl WC Bennett, 1 BW, Fallingbowl; Sgt DK Burgess, 40 Regt RA, Topcliffe; WO2 MD Byng, 32 Engr Regt, Hohnhe; Sgt A Coppin, 26 Engr Regt, Andover; Sgt JJ Davis, Warminster Sp Unit, Warminster; Lt Col SG Donaldson, 101 Regt RA (V); LCpl JR Ely, HQ 1 (UK) Armcd Div, Herford; CSgt DG Falconer, 1 PWRR, Tidworth; WO1 GA Fletcher, HQ BFFI, Falkland Islands; Cpl SI Gallop, 2 R Anglian; Sgt Goodi, 1 MI BN, Rheindahlen; CSgt KR Gray, ATR Pirbright; LCpl HJ Hardman, 1 CS Med Regt, Munster; LCpl SP Higgins, 25 Engr Regt, Antrim; LCpl JD Hillary, QRH, Sennelager; Cpl GR Hunter, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; Cpl ML Jacques, 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, Fallingbowl; Pte E Jardine, 1 RS, Ballykelly; LCpl SA Lees, 32 Engr Regt, Hohnhe; Sgt PJ Liveley, 2 Trg Regt AAC, Middle Wallop; Capt LE Mackenzie, 1 KORBR, Episkopi; Cpl BD Marshall, 42 Engr Regt (GEO), Hermitage; Capt EJ McCormick, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; LCpl S McFadden, 2 R Irish, Belfast; SSgt MS McLeish, 6 Bn REME, Tidworth; LCpl J McNally, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbowl; Cpl IJ Milward, 32 Engr Regt, Hohnhe; Cpl DJ Oatley, 1 RRF, Celle; WO2 SR Owen, HQ Hereford Garrison; Cpl S Rafferty, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; SSgt J Reeves, JSSU (AN), Ayios Nikolaos; WO2 ND Roberts, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Cpl SJ Stokes, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; WO2 S Taylor, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; Cpl EF Ward, NI CSS Regt, Belfast; WO2 RI Whereat, 2 TRG Regt AAC, Middle Wallop; Cpl AM Willoughby, SEAE, Arborfield; SSgt DJ Yelland, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich

04 January 2003
 1st Place (25 Goals, £6,000.00); WO2 KJ Harvey, 1 RWR, Paderborn
 8 way tie for 2nd Place (24 Goals, £1,325.00 each); WO1 TG Barnes, 29 Regt RLC; Cpl RC Beattie, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; WO2 R Booth, 3 RHA, Hohnhe; Cpl BH Cannon, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Capt SD Cargill, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Maj KS Gould, 1 PARA, Dover; Cpl AN Hutchison, 24 Regt RLC, Munster; LCpl TJ Jones, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon

04 January 2003

1st Place (25 Goals, £6,000.00); WO2 KJ Harvey, 1 RWR, Paderborn
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Charity Commission

Reference: 294695/AF
 THE ROYAL NORFOLK REGIMENT
 MEMORIAL COTTAGES

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:
 Britannia House, TA Centre, 325 Aylsham Road, Norwich, NR3 2AB

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

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If you're going to D-Day 2004, please tell us

LARGE numbers of British D-Day veterans and their families and supporters are expected to cross the Channel next year to attend 60th anniversary ceremonies marking the Normandy Landings.

Commemorative services and parades are planned for Bayeux, Arromanches and Colville Montgomery on June 6 and 7, 2004.

To help the authorities, particularly with the control of traffic in France, the MoD would like to hear from any groups intending to travel to Normandy to take part in the ceremonies. Although it is likely that planning will still be at a very early stage, any indication of numbers, coaches and destinations would be gratefully received by the Defence Services Secretary (Secretariat), 1st Floor, Zone A, St George's Court, 2-12 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SH.

National Service memorial

A memorial to National Servicemen 1939-1960 is to be dedicated on June 29 - National Service Day - at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffs. Designed by Ian Stewart, the 6ft memorial has four green granite wings pointing north, south, east and west and set on a granite base. The wings taper to a point, on which is set a stainless steel crown.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Platoon (Dec) winners: P Crossland, Harrogate; C Cox, Brecon, Powys; J Cragg, BFPO 57; M Butcher, Newton Abbot, Devon; A Kirkin, Waddington, Lincs; OCdt H White, RMCS, Swindon; Major J N Nakhorn, BFPO 807; J Roome, BFPO 801; T Gamble, East Grinstead; Cpl G Barnett, BFPO 36. Answer: Charlie Sheen.

Minority Report (Dec) winners: Cpl C Pilling, Catterick Garrison; T Buttle, York; WO2 A Moutray, Marchwood; LCpl J Henson, BFPO 808; SSgt M Evans, Birmingham. Answer: Top Gun.

Tamzin T-shirt (Dec) winner: Cpl J Brennan, RMP, Chilwell, Notts. Answer: Martin Kemp.

Capt Oates book (Dec) winner: Lt Col A Simpkins, BFPO 758. Answer "I may be some time".

Game Cube (Dec) winner: J Mansell, South Yardley, Birmingham. Answer: Plumbers.

ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORS

The role of **animals in the Second World War**, particularly any decorated with the Dicken Medal, the animal VC, is the subject of research by A W Cooper, who would be grateful for information and photos sent to 11 Cotswold Gardens, Longlevens, Glos GL2 0DR.

Korean War 1950-53 material for a new book is required by former gunner. Supportive photographic material most welcome. All original material will be returned. Contact Gordon Bunce, 23 Olton Road, Shirley, Solihull, W Midlands B90 3NF.

REUNIONS

RHA Association, Trowbridge: 56th reunion dinner at the Civic Hall, Trowbridge, March 22. All past and present members of the RHA and ladies welcome. For full details contact Maj (Retd) R J Whiteway, HQ Dulmen Station, BFPO 44, or Mike Carter on 01225 708233 or e-mail dinnersec@rhaasn.fsnet.co.uk

75 HQ Sqn RASC/RCT: Centennial celebration Mar 29 at 4 GS Regiment in Abingdon. For full details contact WO2 Mark Adams on 94256 3556 01235 543556.

69 (Centenary) Artillery Clerks: Reunion and association dinner, RA Sergeants' Mess, Woolwich, April 4-5. Details from WO1(SSM) A M Tibble AGC(OPS) 01276 412250.

Squad 90 Int Corps Enlistment: Reunion to be held April 24-25. Jez Tippet has details, e-mail JeremyOtter@aol.com

201 RCZ Wksp (V): 32nd joint mess reunion, open to former officers, SNCOs and families.

SEARCHLINE

John Nock, formerly of Kingsbridge School, Devon, then RCT 1984, last known posting Sandhurst 1993-4. Contact old friend Richard Barnwell in Australia clarbot@ca.com.au

Seeking old comrades of the late **SSgt Alfred ET Mudge RA** from Hampstead, London, with the colours 1923-1944, also in Hong Kong and North Africa, final posting was RA Motor Transport School until discharge in 1944. Any information to Hilary Mudge-Scott, 18 Panorama Road, Tamworth, NSW, 2340 Australia or hilary.s@tpg.com.au

787566 Sgt Harold Gibbs, J Section, 4 Division Royal Signals. With the British Expeditionary Force at **Roncq and Linselles, 1940.** Died from wounds sustained during the retreat from Lille to the Belgium coast June 1940. His grandson would like to hear from anyone who may have served with Sgt Gibbs. Martin Gibbs, Poyning's Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk CO7 6LW or ring 01206 322516.

Ex Cpl David Gilmour, 5 Armd Div, Soest early 1980s is sought by M Harding, 22 Minshull New Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3PD or ring 01270 250556.

Ex-5 King's Regiment; B Farmer, G H Davies, W Milligan, F Brown, K Watson and T Youngs who served in **Risskov, Denmark in 1945** are asked to contact OCA Chairman K Moore, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton NR12 0JP Tel/Fax 01692 651086.

Madalitso Mtuwa, who joined up in 2001, is sought by Alinafe Matamba, PO Box 592, Linlongwe, Malawi or matamba1@yahoo.com

Ex-gunners from **115 Locating Battery, Menden and 94 Locating Battery, Celle 1960-62** are sought by **Ray (Jake) Jacobsen.** Telephone him on 01394 386694 or e-mail peakemark@hotmail.com

Information and photos of **HMS Bramble, Second World War Arctic convoy minesweeper** which sank New Year's Eve

Warwick area May 16-17. Details: R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Mess Past and Present Dinner Club: Reunion May 31 at 34 Field Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, York. Details from Mrs Ann Bradley on 01276 41 2789.

Movement Control WOs' Dinner Club: 40th reunion dinner to be held July 4 at Daventry, Northants. Current and ex-MCWOs contact WO1 Nick Pidgley RLC 01264 285545 or e-mail nick@pidgers.freemove.co.uk

63 Squadron RLC: Centenary, Roman Barracks, Colchester, Jul 26. Details from Capt A Loudon on 01206 783085 (mil 94651 3085) or SSM Sparrey on 01206 783066 (mil 94651 3066).

5 Fd Amb: Reunion Oct 4 in Chester. Interested personnel should contact Axel Foley at muppet787@hotmail.com or 07801 443799.

1942, sought by daughter of **Peter Alexander Webb**, who was on board. Write to J James, The Jays, 213 Gloucester Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 6DN or cthejays@aol.com

Lofty Haskins 3 RTR, A Sqn 1960-65 wants to hear from old pals, trevormonika@web.de or Storksweg 8, 32760 Detmold, Germany.

Chris Worsley (RLC?), joined up 1997, sought by LCpl Pete Fletcher RRF. Ring 0161 7642208 or mobile 07985652876, or e-mail pf7801@aol.com.

Jim Green former SNCO 19 Sqn/12Sqn RCT Belfast 1982 is asked to contact 07890569254 or clare@apt-design.co.uk

Peter Blute, serving in NI, 1960s is asked to contact Jack Quinn of Framington, Massachusetts via SmokeyBurk@aol.com

Simon Haste, old friend of Brian and Valerie Cook of Colchester, is sought by their daughter Nikki, who is compiling a memory book for their 40th wedding anniversary. Contact sndavies@primus.ca

Present owners would like to return engraved watch formerly belonging to **3122114 RSM L Kimberley**, 14th Line of Comd Trg Bn RE, to any of his present-day descendants. E-mail Carol.Mence@solent.ac.uk

Calling **ex-49B AAC Beachley 1949-52** and **REME Sudan, Egypt, Cyprus and Germany 1952-60** for possible reunion in UK later in 2003. Details to/from ex-Sgt **Stuart Beveridge**, Nordwall 41, 47589 Uedem, Germany or Stuart-Beveridge@t-online.de

Ex-Cpl Leslie Croombs, ACC 1960 (att RHF) Aden, East Africa, Malta and Germany wants to hear from other chefs to re-live the good old days. Phone 01524 383361.

LCpl Andrew Mulholland, signaller, Hohne 1977, asked to contact Bernice Jones 07050109776 or JnBrnc@aol.com

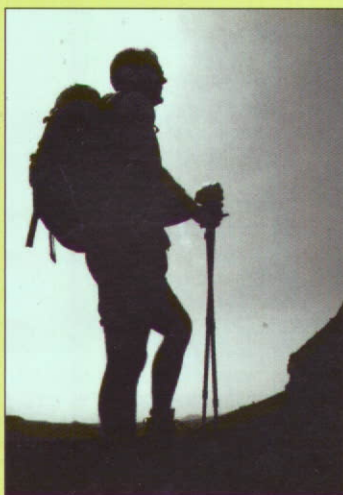
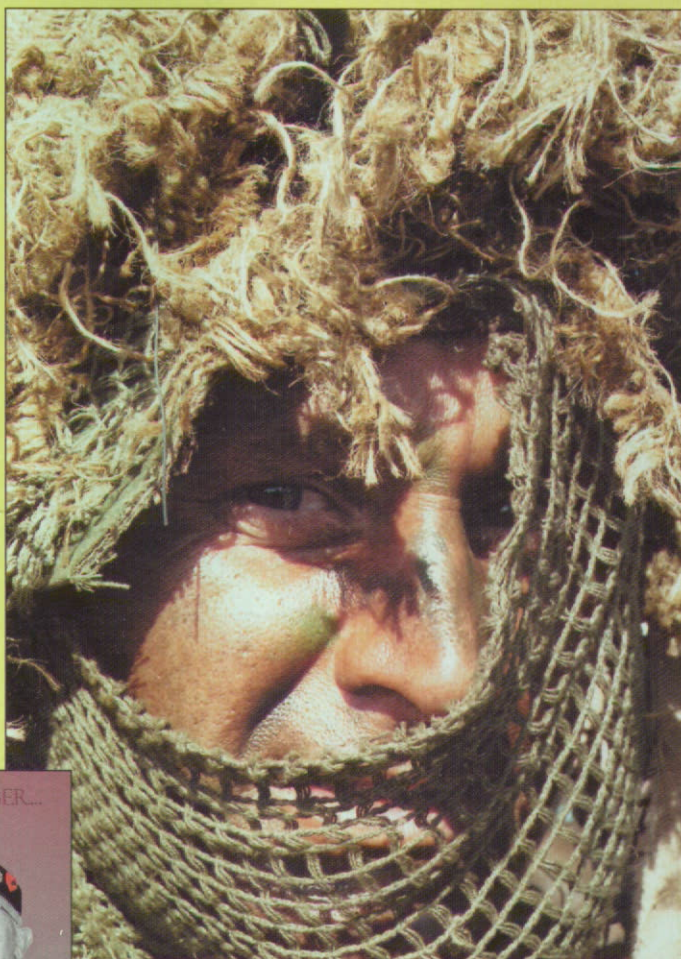
The eyes have it

FINAL winner to go forward to the *Soldier Award* section of the Army Photographic Competition is Maj Roy Bevan, whose picture of a sniper with the Kings and Cheshire Volunteers, right, got the judges' vote in our February competition. Roy took the picture during a Territorial Army display at the Southport Airshow during the summer.

Chief Photographer Mike Weston commented: "Snipers are particularly difficult to photograph and going in close, as Roy has done, enables us to see his eyes – a most important feature in the photograph. Normally I would use a bit of fill-in flash, but by not doing so, Roy adds to the sinister look of the sniper."

Accompanying Roy's picture into the main competition, for which there is a first prize of £250, will be runner-up Sgt Gary Tyson, serving at SHAPE, whose photographs, below, of a climber on Cathedral Peak in South Africa and of a veteran at the Armistice Day parade at Ypres in Belgium, caught our eye.

SOLDIER Photographic Competition



THE Army Photographic Competition prize-giving is planned for March 14 at the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

The *Soldier Award*, the deadline for which has now passed, is open to readers in the following categories: Army, Territorial Army and dependants; Combined Cadet Force, Army Cadet Force and University Officers' Training Corps staff and cadets; MoD civilians; and MoD contractors who work directly for the Army.

● Army Photographic Competition queries should be addressed to DCC(A) SO2 IC Media on 020 7807 8653 (mil 9621 78653).

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000;

www.armybenfund.org

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

Army Families Federation 01980 615525;

www.aff.org.uk

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's

Association 020 8590 1124;

www.blesma.org.uk

Confidential support lines:

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Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

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Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 01372 841600;

www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families

Association Office (0900-1700) 01482

808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812;

www.ngvfa.com

Regular Forces Employment Association

0207 321 2011; www.rfea.org.uk

Royal British Legion's Legionline 0845

7725 725; www.britishlegion.org.uk

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment

Centre 01622 717202/718484; www.rbli.co.uk

ESHRA Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency

020 7839 4466 www.eshra.com or

eshra@britishlegion.org.uk

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen

and women 020 7723 5021;

www.st-dunstons.org.uk

SAMA 82 (South Atlantic Medal Association)

for Falklands conflict veterans 01495 227577

e-mail: densama@aol.com

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783;

www.ssafa.org.uk

SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory

Service 01722 436400

Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions

Agency) 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044

1253 866043 (from overseas);

www.veteransagency.mod.uk

Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA

Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272;

from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272

WRVS General enquiries 02920 739906;

www.wrvs.org.uk



DATES

JULY
18-20: Defence 2003, RAF Fairford (www.airtattoo.com)
AUGUST
1-23: Edinburgh Tattoo (tattoo office 0130 225 4783).

Man who sold Soldier to Monty

FORMER Fleet Street journalist Warwick Charlton, who helped create *Soldier* during the Second World War, has died aged 84.

Charlton, a captain in the Royal Fusiliers, became known as the "father of desert newspapers" for his role in founding *Crusader*, the *Tripoli Times* and the *Eighth Army News* during the North Africa campaign. Later he persuaded Montgomery to endorse the idea of *Soldier*, a British version of *Yank!*, the US service magazine.

Although Charlton desperately wanted to become the first editor it was not to be. He was posted to the South East Asia Command and *Soldier* was launched in March, 1945 under Col Sean Fielding.

After the war Charlton returned to Fleet Street with the *Daily Express* and later joined the BBC. In his later years he lived in his own castle at Ringwood in Hampshire.

Suez Zone plaque

LARKHILL Garrison Church was packed for a St Barbara's Day service to dedicate a memorial plaque, left, to gunners who died on duty in the Suez Canal Zone. Roy Wilson, secretary of the

Suez Veterans Association, helped the Rev James Roskelly and Garrison commander Col David Lyon to unveil the memorial.

Gunners honoured

SEVENTY members of 106 (Yeomanry) Regiment RA joined a group of Second World War veterans at a former gun site at Hayling Island, Hampshire, when it was awarded National Heritage status.

The veterans were comrades of six gunners of 219 Battery, 57th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment who were killed when German raiders dropped three landmines on the site on the night of April 17-18, 1941.

Once the location for four 4.5in anti-aircraft guns, the site will now be protected and conserved as a wartime monument. A poppy wreath was laid at a plaque commemorating the men who died.



First lady: Maj Sue Sheldrick, left, has been appointed contingent commander of the Portsmouth Grammar School Combined Cadet Force. Sue, Director of Music in the Junior School, is the first woman to hold the post. The 200-strong CCF, a third of whom are girls, is very active. Many pupils go on to join the Services and three Old Portmuthians have won the Victoria Cross.

Brady bunch off to Ibiza

A SERVING couple won a ten-day holiday in Ibiza – thanks to *Soldier's* popular Vox pop feature. In the October edition, Pte David Martin, of 2 R Anglian, expressed the view that the welfare package provided for troops stationed in Northern Ireland was so good he didn't know how it could be improved "short of shipping us out to Ibiza". Brig Paul Newton, commander of 8th Infantry Brigade, thought it was such a good idea that he sponsored a holiday draw through his welfare fund.

It was won by Sgt Adam Brady, of 1 Coldm Gds based in Londonderry. His wife, Hayley, a sergeant with the AGC(PS), is based with 27 Support Squadron RLC in Aldershot. Drawing their ticket was one of Brig Newton's final acts as the brigade commander.



Testimony to courage

AN appeal to raise money for a national memorial to holders of the Victoria Cross, left top, and the George Cross, left below, has been launched. It will be dedicated in Westminster Abbey on May 14.

Donations should be sent to the VC and GC Memorial Appeal, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1 2AX. Donations can be increased by gifting the tax via Gift Aid (for which forms are available from the appeal office).

In all, 1,354 VCs have been awarded. Lt Col Eric Wilson, 90, is the oldest of the 16 living holders, Capt Rambahadur Limbu, 63, the youngest.



Museum's latest ...

APPARENTLY listening in to a conversation between the Duke of Kent, left, and England and Gloucestershire wicketkeeper and artist Jack Russell are the ten field marshals who attended a dinner held by the Army Benevolent Fund in their honour in March 2001.

Actually, the field marshals are depicted on a giant canvas commissioned from Russell and unveiled at the National Army Museum by the Duke, who is patron of the museum in Chelsea and himself a field marshal. It has been given to the museum by the ABF and is already on display as part of an exhibition entitled "Royalty and the Army".

Alongside the Duke of Kent are the Duke of Edinburgh, Lord Inge, Sir John Chapple, Lord Bramall, Lord Vincent, Sir Roland Gibbs and Sir John Stanier. Also depicted are Lord Carver and Sir Nigel Bagnall, who have since died.



Picture: Graeme Main

... development

Our northern friend: Press officer Jo Woolley shows off a model of the proposed £19 million National Army Museum North project, to be built on a 52-hectare site near the A1, south of Marne Barracks at Catterick. The new centre will house, among many other things, the National Army Museum's vehicle collection and end a ten-year search by the Chelsea-based headquarters for a suitable second location

Picture: Graeme Main



Brigadier gets into fine mess

BRIG Barney White-Spunner was "kidnapped" by his own soldiers on his last day as commander of 16 Air Assault Brigade. He was snatched from his car by soldiers disguised in black coveralls as he arrived for a farewell breakfast at the Officers' Mess at Goojerat Barracks in Colchester.

The brigadier's ordeal ended in the Sergeants' Mess, where he was given a stiff drink to help him recover while a ransom note was delivered to the bemused and increasingly hungry officers. It demanded a £200 donation to the Army Benevolent Fund to secure the release of their breakfast guest.

Plans for the heist, conducted in complete secrecy, wavered when someone in the Officers' Mess told the kidnappers "to keep him", but they soon relented and a promise of £200 was made and accepted.

During his time in charge of 16 Air Assault Brigade, Brig White-Spunner oversaw tours to Macedonia and Afghanistan. His next appointment will be at the tri-Service Joint Headquarters at Northwood. His successor is Brig Jacko Page.



Drivers' Polish connection

SEVEN soldiers from 16 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC made a 14-hour minibus trip to deliver a cheque for €10,000 to Zakopane Hospital in Poland. The loggies, part of 7 Transport Regiment RLC, have for the past eight years had close ties with the hospital, which specialises in the orthopaedic treatment of children and adolescents.

Making wishes come true

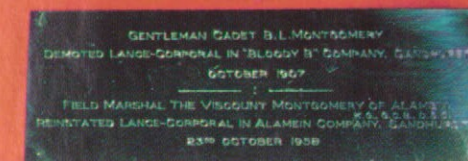
THREE Army officers who attended the Make-A-Wish charity ball at the Dorchester in London helped to raise more than £200,000 for the charity, which makes wishes come true for children with life-threatening illnesses. Pictured with comedian Mel Smith are, from left, Capt Brian Penfold, REME, HQ 3 (UK) Division, and Maj Verne Stroud and Maj Mark Kingston from the Household Cavalry.



CONGRATULATIONS to the Tyne Electrical Engineers Pipe Band, pictured left, which recently celebrated its centenary. Well known throughout the north of England, the band, part of 102 Battalion REME (V), started out in 1902 as the Tyne Division Submarine Miners based in North Shields. During the First World War its pipers and drummers helped with the defence of Portsmouth Garrison. Before transferring to the REME following the Strategic Defence Review, the band was badged to the Royal Engineers.

Legends of the regiments and corps

43 Museum of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers



Monty's stripe: Sandhurst promotion

Monty's lost stripe

BERNARD Law Montgomery, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment's most famous soldier and one of the most renowned and controversial British officers of all time, was nearly thrown out of the Army before his career began.

Monty, as he was affectionately known, joined the Army in 1908 and served for 50 years until 1958. As a cadet at Sandhurst in 1907, he was promoted to lance corporal within five weeks. However, his company broke into a cadet's room and set fire to the occupant's shirt.

The victim was badly burned and Montgomery faced being thrown out.

His mother appealed to the commandant, the affair was hushed up and Monty was allowed to stay, although his rank was removed.

STRIPE RESTORED

At the Alamein Company's dinner at Sandhurst in 1958, his stripe was "restored". The plaque reads: "Gentleman Cadet B L Montgomery demoted Lance Corporal in 'Bloody B' Company, Sandhurst, in October 1907. Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein reinstated Lance Corporal, Sandhurst, October 1958".

He became a national hero with his victory at El Alamein in 1942 and the subsequently triumphant D-Day landings in 1944.

To many he was an outstanding commander, known never to lose a battle. The foundations of Monty's successful career, however, were laid during his service with the regiment.

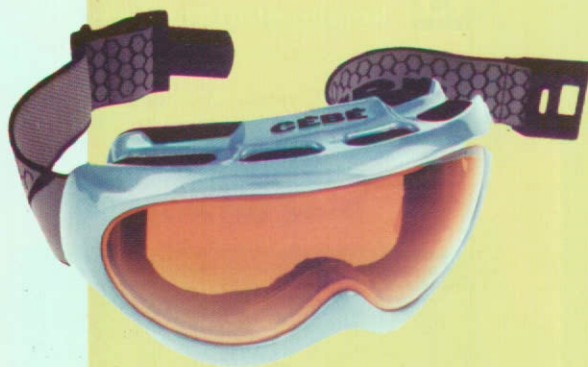
The Royal Warwickshire Regiment joined the Fusilier Brigade in 1963, becoming part of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in 1968. The museum, at St John's House, Warwick CV34 4NF (tel 01926 491653), is open Tue-Sat 1000 to 1700 and on Sunday afternoons 1430 to 1700, May to Sept. Admission is free.

www.armymuseums.org.uk

Last chance to appear in this column. Calling all curators... if you want your museum to be featured in this series, contact the Editor before February 10

Retail reconnaissance

Ski on . . .



DOUBLE VISION ▲

DESIGNED for smaller head sizes, these X-Land goggles from Cébé feature a number of technological innovations that ensure the best vision and comfort.

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① £40 - £45, from www.cebe.com (01635 277260).

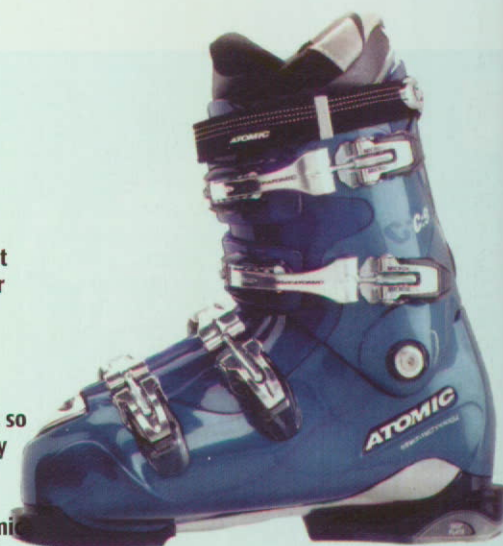
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① £199.99, from www.atomicsnow.com (01837 659722).

Game on . . .

MINORITY REPORT, PS2, GC & XBOX

BASED on Steven Spielberg's futuristic thriller of the same name, *Minority Report* allows gamers to relive the movie experience and follow in the footsteps of Hollywood star Tom Cruise.

Players assume the role of the movie's hero PreCrime Officer John Anderton in this all-new adventure and must attempt to stop an insidious conspiracy from being realised.

With a full range of cinematic action abilities, players are able to vault over barricades, throw enemies through plate-glass windows and don jet-packs to fly through environments and avoid pursuers as they battle through 15 levels of science fiction action.

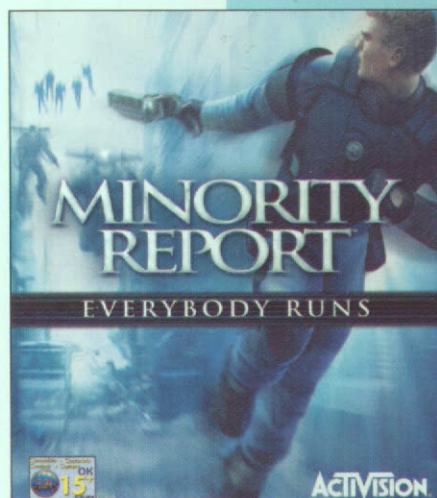
As well as relying on their fists and boots, players also have access to a range of weaponry from the film, including sick sticks, which can be used to incapacitate enemies. Other devices realistically created from movie reference photos and models include Mag-lev cars, PreCrime hoverships, the *Minority Report* Lexus vehicle and spyderbots, which seek out and "eyedentiscan" criminals.

However, unlike tinsel town, the good guy does not always win, with multiple endings just one feature of *Minority Report's* innovative gameplay.

VERDICT: Great film, great game.

8/10

OUT NOW



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

TO have a chance of winning one of three copies of *Minority Report* for the PlayStation 2, simply tell us the name of Tom Cruise's estranged wife. Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by March 3. Usual rules apply.

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BYTE-SIZE NEWS

THE Central American state of Honduras has issued a blanket ban on all violent videogames and toys.

The ban, which is set to come into effect this summer, is in response to rising levels of violent crime in the country, much of which is blamed on youth gangs known as maras.

Among the banned games named are *Resident Evil*, *Shadowman*, *Street Fighter*, *Turok*, *Perfect Dark*, *Quake* and *Doom*.

NINTENDO has unveiled its plans to launch an updated version of the Game Boy Advance (GBA) in March.

The GBA SP will boast an updated clamshell design, improved backlighting and a lithium-ion battery which will provide more than 15 hours of gameplay.

UBI Soft Entertainment has announced plans to launch its internationally acclaimed espionage game *Splinter Cell* on the PlayStation 2, PC, GameCube and Game Boy Advance this spring.

Since its initial release on the Xbox, *Splinter Cell* has sold approximately 200,000 units in the UK alone and was recently awarded the Xbox Game of the Year 2002 title.

DIE HARD VENDETTA, GC

PLAYERS take on the role of John McClane, probably the unluckiest cop in motion picture history, in this first-person shooter.

Set five years after Bruce Willis's last outing as the maverick policeman in *Die Hard With A Vengeance*, McClane is back working the streets of Los Angeles and as always trouble, and a volley of bullets, are never far behind him.

However, unlike most other first-person shooters, in *Die Hard Vendetta* tactics and stealth are just as important as having a big gun and being a quick shot. The game's enemies boast enhanced artificial intelligence and will duck and dive for cover, lean around corners, alert pals close by to your presence and work in groups to take you out.

Equally gamers can do more than just take pot shots at the bad guys and can instead opt to take enemies hostage, use them as cover or force them to disarm.

The fast and often furious action is complemented by unprecedented character interaction, superbly rich environments and some amazing in-game cinematics which include slow motion deaths and a bullet-cam.

Vendetta's gameplay is also



heightened by the dual analogue control system, which was designed specifically for the GameCube and allows gamers to jump, crouch, climb, swing on ropes, pull objects, lean around corners and use double-handed weapons.

VERDICT: Unusually, very good for a movie spin-off. **8/10**

OUT NOW

WIN... WIN... WIN

YIPPEE kay yay. *Soldier* has five prize bundles containing a copy of *Die Hard Vendetta* for the GameCube, a GameCube carry case and game holder, up for grabs. For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:



What was the full title of the second film in the *Die Hard* trilogy?

- a) Die Hard: Try Harder
- b) Die Hard: Die Harder
- c) Die Hard: Dye Harder

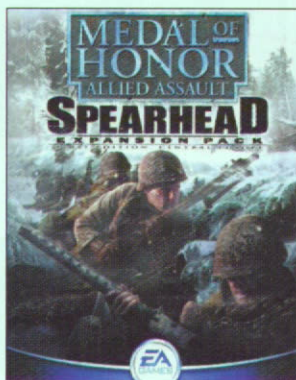
Send your answers on a postcard to *Die Hard* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by March 3. Usual rules apply.

MOH: SPEARHEAD, PC

THIS *Medal of Honor* expansion pack combines nine expansive single-player levels with over 12 new multi-player maps and includes new locations, weapons and soldiers.

Set during the last year of war in Europe, June 1944 to May 1945, *Spearhead* gives players a sense of the courage it took to parachute behind enemy lines during Operation Overlord, halt the German counter offensive during the Battle of the Bulge, and engage the Germans as they desperately try to defend Berlin.



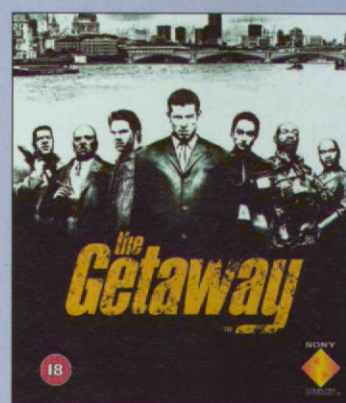
VERDICT: *Spearhead* makes a great game even better. **9/10**

OUT NOW

THE GETAWAY, PS2

SET among the tough streets of London's underworld, *The Getaway* looks more like a Guy Ritchie film than it does a computer game.

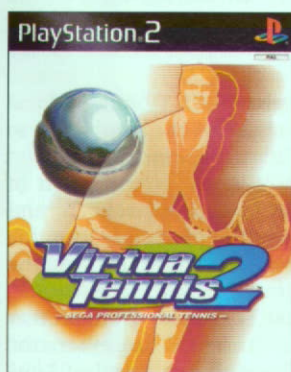
Realistic, dark and gritty, the game features more than 40 square kilometres of London streets to explore, car chases galore, shoot-outs, more gangsters and crime lords than *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, and a torrent of bad language and violent exchanges which more than justify its 18 certificate.



VERDICT: A perfect ten.

OUT NOW

VIRTUA TENNIS 2, PS2



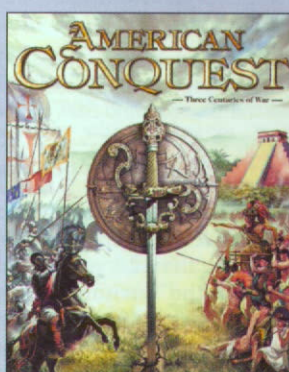
VERDICT: Better than Henman. **7/10**

PACKED full of extra features, this arcade sequel allows players to serve, smash and lob their way past 16 top-ranked international male and female players, going head-to-head in single matches or competing with up to four players in doubles and mixed-doubles matches.

Acclaim's *Virtua Tennis 2* also boasts revamped tournament, exhibition and world tour modes which will keep even the most accomplished tennis players occupied for some time.

OUT NOW

AMERICAN CONQUEST, PC



VERDICT: A truly epic release. **8/10**

SPANNING the moment Christopher Columbus set foot on American soil to the American Civil War of Independence, players can shape the future of the American continent in this 3D real-time strategy title.

Sporting more than 50 missions across eight campaigns, gamers can opt to take control of 12 different forces and command armies of up to 16,000 individual units. Produced by the multi-award-winning team behind *Cossacks*, *American Conquest* can be played against the computer or with up to seven friends.

OUT NOW

Last cavalry charge – and so much more

ON its own merit, the distinction of carrying out the last cavalry charge by a British force will ensure a place in history for the 14th/20th King's Hussars. But "headline" events can belie wider achievements. From Jamaica to Cape Town, Lisbon to Chillianwallah, former CO John Pharo-Tomlin has written a comprehensive and entertaining history of this family regiment and its campaigns.

1715-1992. **The Ramnugger Boys** (King's Royal Hussars Museum in Lancashire, £20) is well illustrated with maps, paintings and photographs. Available from The King's Royal Hussars Museum (South), Peninsula Barracks, Winchester SO23 8TS (tel: 01962 828539).

Agonising reality of close-quarter combat

PERSONAL accounts of war are often found buried within the pages of more comprehensive books about warfare, but **Tribute** (Military and Aviation Book Society, £9.99) is a refreshingly simple collection of 32 first-hand combat narratives compiled by the club's members.

The anthology, marking the 30th anniversary of the society (and available only to its 45,000 members), sold 1,000 copies in the first four weeks of publication. The stories are all tales of danger, trauma and courage: from the storming of an enemy-held beach to the agonising tension of jungle ambushes.

In-depth analysis a good read, too

HISTORIAN Richard Doherty, whose father served in the Eighth Army in North Africa, brings his special analytical skills to bear on that theatre's pivotal campaign in **The Sound of History - El Alamein 1942** (Spellmount, £20). His detailed scrutiny of the events that helped turn the tide put this book in the "definitive" league and although it is probably best suited to those who readily absorb campaign statistics, logistical minutiae, and so on, it is written well enough to attract the casual reader as well as the more serious student of British military history.

Stunner to stop you in your tracks

IT IS a happy occasion when a book lives up to the hype.

The arresting enemy's-eye view of a US Army M-60 A1, right, is taken from the cover of David Miller's **The Great Book of Tanks**, which is just that – a great book.

Sub-titled "The world's most important tanks from World War I to the present day", its 512 large-format pages cover more than 100 examples in chronological order, including the Sherman and Royal Tiger of the Second World War and the British Army's Challenger 1 and Challenger 2 MBTs.

An introductory chapter explains the countermeasures that designers have evolved to protect tanks and their crews and the book is superbly illustrated by rare historical photographs, stunning contemporary action shots and colour profiles.

It may be a well-worn cliché, but at a time when tanks are in the vanguard of the news once more, if this 2.3kg volume (5lb in old money) is not the easiest to pick up it will certainly prove difficult to put down.

It is published by Salamander at a value-for-money £20.

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Short, sharp and pointed

Memories of war, from Khartoum to the Gulf

For a **Shilling a Day** by Peter Rhodes. Published by the Black Country Association in association with the *Express and Star*, Wolverhampton.*

Review: Roger Goodwin

PETER Rhodes is one of the finest feature writers working in the British media today. For more than 20 years he also served as an officer in the Territorial Army.

Put those two facts together and the consequence has been a stream of articulate, insightful, poignant, sensitive, frequently very funny, often critical, sometimes angry,

but always informed articles about the military condition.

Sadly for most of us, you have to live within the Black Country circulation area of the Wolverhampton-based *Express and Star* newspaper to enjoy regular access to his work.

Now, however, the Black Country's local history association has had the good sense to collate the best of his output into a book.

For a *Shilling a Day* is a compilation of dozens of interviews with old soldiers and others, tracing memories of warfare from the death of Gordon at Khartoum to the Falklands, Balkans and Gulf wars.

Two things make it special. Unlike other military histories it brings together the contributions of men not just of one regiment, but all the fighting arms, from one

particular region, the West Midlands. Also, Rhodes of necessity works within the disciplines and constraints of a popular regional newspaper, so he is unable ever to devote more than a few hundred words to even the most consuming and magnetic of stories.

The result is a collection of short, sharp, acutely-drawn vignettes written in populist but crystal-clear journalese. Do not be put off by that – Rhodes is a master of genre, and his journalese is perceptive and expressive.

It would be a mistake to think that this book is only of Midlands interest. There are genuinely important first-person historical contributions here from men who rode their horses against German Lancers in France in 1914; who in the Second World War flew Hurricanes for the Russians in defence of

Murmansk; coxed their landing craft onto Normandy beaches; took on German Panzers in the French bocage and beat them.

Rhodes is at his best, however, in dealing with more recent conflicts, where direct personal involvement adds insightful, humanist perception.

His justified outrage at the ridiculous 15,000-mile journey which flowers from Argentina had to make to graves in the Falklands, and his star-kissed ability to articulate the emotions surely felt by anyone with a soul who ever visited the Balkans tragedies, are gems of the writer's craft.

Send off for this one. It will be worth the effort.

*Available by post at £6.50 from Black Country Association (to whom cheques payable), PO Box 71, Kingswinford, DY6 9YN.

Cobra and Goodwood under the microscope

MAJOR misunderstanding and dislike existed between Montgomery and Patton during the Normandy landings of 1944. But **Roads to Falaise – Cobra and Goodwood Reassessed**

(Sutton Publishing, £19.99) sets out to dispel the myth that the two men may have hated each other more than the enemy. Author Ken Tout studies the allegation that the British Goodwood advance

founded while the American Cobra operation prospered and concludes that in fact the two initiatives triggered advances which culminated in the neutralising of masses of German troops within the notorious Falaise Pocket in August 1944.

This early UDR story is not all tragedy

WALLACE Clark's personal account of the early days of the Ulster Defence Regiment, **Brave Men and True**, will find a ready market among its many dedicated soldiers. It tells of two companies of the 5th (County Londonderry) Battalion carrying out high-risk security operations in the green Sperrin countryside and guarding the borders of Tyrone, Armagh and Fermanagh and the streets of Londonderry. There is humour as well as tragedy in the story of a band of soldiers who were prepared to lay down their lives for the "system". (Wallace Clark Booksales, £9.99).

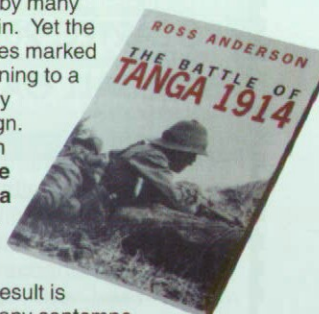
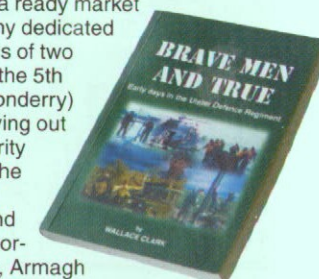
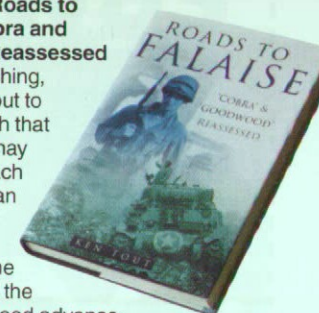
Tanga: the lessons we failed to learn

OBSCURED by the events of war in Europe, the start of the East African Campaign in November 1914 was hardly noticed by many people in Britain. Yet the start of hostilities marked a bloody beginning to a long and bitterly fought campaign.

Ross Anderson researched **The Battle of Tanga 1914** (Tempus, £16.99) for more than ten years and the result is blessed with many contemporary photographs. He argues that the British failed to draw lessons from the failure at Tanga, and went on to repeat many of the mistakes in the Dardanelles and Mesopotamia.



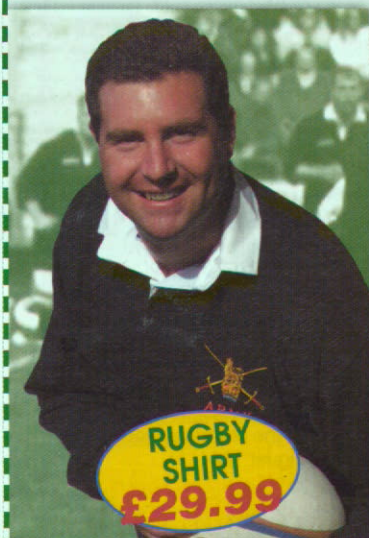
Picture courtesy of Chrysalis Images





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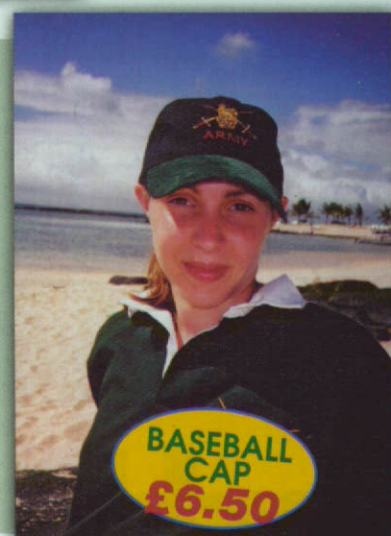


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MUSIC

Gordon Turner



Parallel tracks from Challenger pipes, drums

Parallel Tracks (CDITV 694)

THE Royal Scots Dragoon Guards are proud of their musical traditions, which date back at least 250 years. In April 1972 they stormed into the pop charts with *Amazing Grace* and remained there for 25 weeks.

In the same year they had considerable success with Geert Heykens's *Serenade* and *The Little Drummer Boy*. While serving in Kosovo in 2000 the commanding officer set his Pipes and Drums a challenge to create a new contemporary sound to lift the regiment's spirit.

In the past there has always been the military band to add backing and variety, but sadly regiments lost their bands in the defence cuts of 1994. Despite this, Pipe Maj Brotherton and his men have risen to the occasion and produced something quite unique that will appeal to the youth of today. In addition to the Highland bagpipes, instruments used include the small pipes, whistles, percussion, didgeridoo, guitars, keyboards, grand piano and digital percussion.

The resulting sound is quite stunning and atmospheric.

No doubt some will complain that pipes and drums should stick to folk tunes, but this is the 21st century and although these pipes are moving into new fields they are still regarded among the best in the traditional world.

Tracks include *Going Home*, *The Bells of Dunblane*, *The Gael*, *Celtic Cottage*, *Erin Shore*, *She Moves Through the Fair*, *Amazing Grace*, *Auld Lang Syne* and others. Whether any of these tracks will make it into the pop charts remains to be seen but I think that this new version of *Amazing Grace* could be successful.

This really is an outstanding disc. Pipers and drummers are, first and foremost, crewmen for the Challenger 2 battle tanks and their musical activities run parallel albeit secondary.

● **Parallel Tracks** (CDITV 694) is available from Scotdisc BGS Productions Ltd, Newtown Street, Kilsyth, Glasgow, G65 0JX.

If you have difficulty in obtaining this recording or any queries on military music please write to me c/o *Soldier Magazine*.

VIDEO/DVD

Indian talk was a smokescreen

Win a video of Nicolas Cage in *Windtalkers*

WE'VE got five videos of the new Nicolas Cage-Christian Slater all-action war film *Windtalkers* to give away in collaboration with MGM Home Entertainment.

Inspired by actual events, the John Woo movie is being released as a Collector's Edition DVD (£19.99) and to rent on video from February 10.

Set in the Pacific during the Second World War Battle of Saipan, the story tells of two Marines – Cage and Slater – assigned to protect "at all costs" two Navajo Indian Marines who use their native language as an unbreakable radio code.

To have a chance of winning one of the *Windtalkers* video, tell us on a postcard which other action film involved director Woo and Nicolas Cage. Was it:

a) **Face Lift** b) **Face Ache** c) **Face Off?**

The first five correct answers drawn out of the hat win the prizes. Usual rules apply and the Editor's decision is final. Entries should reach us by February 28.

● Jean-Claude Van Damme fans will be pleased to learn that the Hollywood fight champ is returning to one of his first films with a DVD release of *Kick-Boxer* (£5.99) from Prism Leisure (catalogue number PPA 1263).

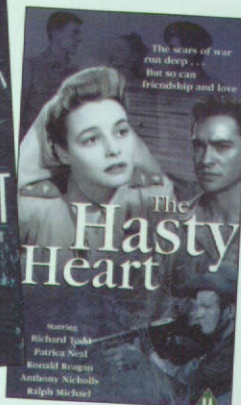
● **Roadkill** is out on DVD and video from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment this month. Full of shocks and sharp U-turns, the film starts with a prank by college student Lewis (Paul Walker), which triggers violent retribution.

Look out for two classic war films just released by DD Video. **The Hasty Heart**, starring Richard Todd and Ronald Reagan (later President of the United States), and **The Captive Heart**, are both



available at £10.99 from good retailers or direct from DD Video (credit-card hotline on 01829 741490).

The first is set in Burma in 1945 and tells the story of a "difficult" Scottish soldier wounded in a Japanese ambush and diagnosed with only a few weeks to live.



The second is a moving account of the lives of British soldiers captured in France in 1940 and held in a German PoW camp. It was shot in Marlag Milag Nord Camp in Germany just six weeks after it had been liberated by the Allies and was widely recognised as one of the best PoW movies.

Also released by DD is **Bonnie Prince Charlie**, starring a swashbuckling David Niven. In full colour, it is also available at £10.99.

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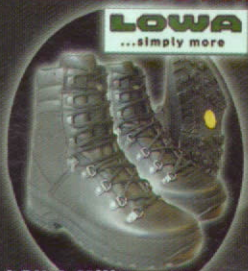


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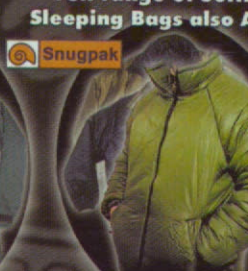
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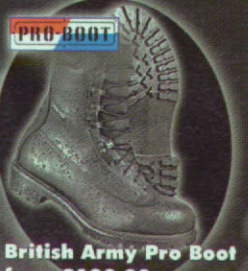
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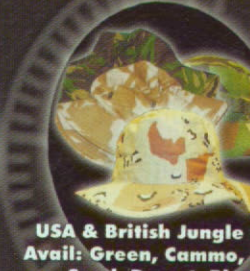
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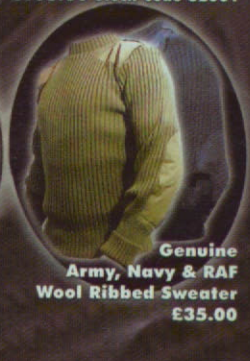
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SOLDIER to soldier

A birdie told us

WITH two brigades about to depart for the Middle East, our thoughts turned to the experiences of Dickie Bird, our long-in-the-tooth and much-travelled cartoonist.

Let him tell the story:

'It will be denied by Carruthers of the FO, but in 1956 we (24 Air Mobile Brigade) had been sent to deter any thoughts of expansive adventures by Iraq towards Kuwait.

The FO insisted on our deployment being kept hush-hush, so when the brigade commander and a small party, including me, flew to Kuwait on a quick recce in a clapped-out Gulf Aviation Dove, it was a plain-clothes, pretend-you-are-visiting-businessmen sort of job.

◆ ◆ ◆

We pulled up at the modest control tower to disembark under cover of trilbies and lightweight suits hastily procured at Sharjah – our base – and

expected to be whisked away down shaded alleyways to some dark office. But no. We were welcomed by a Kuwaiti police guard of honour, complete with band playing both national anthems. Moreover, our visit was reported in the Gulf press and on Saudi TV.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Iraqis backed off and toned down their threats. We saved the cost of deploying 24 Brigade and Allah knows what. Incidentally, we didn't get a medal.'

At the risk of appearing flippant, we hope fervently that the

arrival of the Desert Rats and 16 Air Assault Brigade has the same effect on Iraq's grand designs.

From a 24 Bde HQ group picture: Brig Paul Gleadell, front, and the then Capt Dickie Bird QLR, the GSO 3 (Trg/Air) behind

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Why we need YOU to tell US

I READ a document recently which suggested that Army families might not bother to attend an evening meeting held largely for their benefit because the timings clashed with "their soaps".

To be fair, the writer was discouraged by a lack of people at previous meetings, but I felt it a tad cynical to suggest that families are more interested in what's happening in *EastEnders* than in their own lives, and can't be bothered to make the effort to leave their comfortable sofas, despite being offered the chance to have their say about important aspects of their life with the Army.

The soap reason might be true in some cases. But it might also be true that some families don't turn up because they are currently single parents; or one parent could be working and the other babysitting; or they have reached the stage where they believe nothing they say can change things so why bother; or the news of the meeting may not have got to everyone on the patch.

There are probably as many reasons as families. Their absence doesn't necessarily mean they don't care. However, if they



Sue Bonney is Editor of the AFF Families Journal

do care, no one will know about what – and that doesn't help families, or AFF.

It's AFF's job to communicate families' concerns about issues to the powers-that-be and to lobby for change. However, these days, it is not enough to say "families are concerned"; we have to *prove* that they are. And proof means evidence, cases, statistics – which means families have to contribute to the debate and let us have their experiences and feedback.

So we ask them to talk to us – via the AFF network, via our website and via the AFF *Journal*. We hear from people with problems, and people who are angry enough to respond – but the great silent majority remains silent. Is it that they don't care? Or don't feel concerned? Or just get on with it themselves? Or is that they think someone else will respond so they won't have to?

Well, someone else probably won't! So the next time you hear that AFF needs to know if you have had a problem with, say, NHS dentists, and you have, then get off that sofa, pick up the phone, fill in the questionnaire on our website, write to the AFF – do it for YOU!

Missing AFJs left me spitting mad

IT was almost the last straw for this camel's back: just as I am burning the midnight oil and the taxpayer's money on heat and light, putting the 50th issue of the AFF *Families Journal* to bed, I get from a phone call from a wife in Wiltshire to ask what happened to the November issue.

Whaddyamean, I cry. Hundreds of copies of the November issue went to her location – and in November, too. Well, no one saw it, says she. By no one, she means families. Lots of soldiers saw it, because apparently they were detailed to take a copy home.

It seems not many bothered to do so. The dent in my desk where I bang my greying head got deeper and wider. If a uniform had walked through my door at that moment, I would have felled it with a look.

I can't really blame the unit involved. In the past it has always delivered the *Journal* to its families, and there was probably a good reason why it was unable to get that particular

IN case you didn't get your free copy of the November AFJ, you can now download it from the AFF website at www.aff.org.uk

issue to the patch. At least I hope there was. But it just goes to show how vulnerable the delivery of the AFJ to its readers can be. Despite the fact that internal communications is considered vitally important, a magazine full of news and information specifically

for Army families may only reach them at the rate of one issue in three.

There is only one way to be sure that the AFJ reaches its readers, and that is through the quarter door. I am deeply grateful to all those unit welfare officers out there who do their utmost to make sure that happens – Happy Valentine's Day to them all – but in the 29th year of an AFF magazine, I think it's time to get the AFJ shrink-wrapped and posted through the door – at least in GB. It may be the last thing I do in this job, but all it will take is £55k a year. Ho, ho, you all cry. We shall see. Camels can be pretty single-minded and determined beasts, you know. Especially when they get old and cranky. And they spit.



Visa for the USA? Not as far as I know

IN your December issue a Fijian soldier wrote about the disadvantage he felt by having to obtain a visa to visit other European Union member states.

In their response PS4(A) stated as an example of the situation for other nationals, that British citizens have to obtain a visa to visit the USA. This is not so.

The situation should be clarified before soldiers holding British citizenship make unnecessary applications to the US Embassy. – **D Sparks, London.**



PS4(A) responds: Our thanks to the sharp-eyed reader who noticed what may have been a misleading comment in our response to the letter about difficulties experienced by Fijian soldiers travelling overseas. Under a bi-lateral agreement with the USA, UK citizens travelling with a recognised airline and possessing a valid return ticket do enjoy exemption from normal visa entry requirements.

However, this is not the case when you fly on RAF aircraft, where you do require a visa (for non-duty travel only). Your reader's helpful observation raises the critical issue of checking visa and other entry requirements with your travel agent when you make your booking. In two recent cases, Fijian soldiers have booked flights home using telesales agents, only to discover at the last minute that by routing/transiting through the USA they required a visa. The alternative route, via Australia, does not require a visa when in transit, but it is highly recommended as the aircraft may be delayed or the passenger could fall ill and require treatment in Australia.

Golden Bristol

I WOULD like to correct your article (Dec, Page 8) which stated that the gold medal won by Leeds University Officers' Training Corps at the Cambrian Patrol was a first for an OTC. It was an outstanding achievement by Leeds and I can do nothing but praise them, but Bristol UOTC has taken part in eight patrols since 1991, twice winning gold (1992 and 1994). – **WO2 P Jeffries PSI, Infantry Wing Bristol UOTC.**

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them as short as possible.

Please be brief

The more space you take up to get your point across, the less room there is for other letters, and we are anxious to use as many as we can.

E-mails should include your name and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication).

Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

Naked truth about cost of improving our rooms

I READ with interest the letter from Sgt Martin (Dec) concerning costs incurred during a forced move within a mess. In particular I enjoyed PS10's response.

Although I am well aware we are all bound by rules, I am unhappy with the logic in the final paragraph: "In short you carried out the additions to your room for your own benefit and onward movement does not attract financial recompense."

Married personnel also install phones, buy curtains and so on. Is this not for their own benefit? Yet if they move for service reasons they get an allowance. Being forced to move rooms for service reasons and then finding yourself out of pocket simply should not happen.

PS10 should address the issue. In this instance it is clear that livers-in are financially penalised compared with their married colleagues.

Their comment that "the additions to your room were for your own benefit" shows a lack of reality. A phone is pretty essential equipment, particularly to com-

puter-owning personnel who use the internet for study purposes. Perhaps during the next unit Investors in People accreditation review the point should be made that singles don't always have access to these facilities because they might have to move and will be forced to pay for re-installation.

I live in a mess which has trouble receiving TV signals, even with a power aerial, so I installed Sky. If I have to move within the mess for service reasons I will be annoyed at having to pay another fee. Of course, I could always use the mess TV room, as long as what I wanted to watch coincided with the wishes of others in the room and they were happy for me to watch TV naked... as is my wont.

If single soldiers are not backed over cases like this where the rules are clearly wrong, when will they be backed? Who should individuals approach (I hesitate to say petition) to get the rules changed through the chain of command? – **WO2 I F Whiteman, Camberley.**

Why can't I keep my identity card?

AS a serving member of a Territorial Army unit, I am told it is not possible for me to retain my MoD F90 ID card on a permanent basis.

I'm told that we're only allowed these cards if we are going on a course. I feel this is quite limiting because, for example, Army Education Centres are accessible only with ID but I'm told that this is insufficient reason for me to sign out my ID card.

Is this a policy across all TA units and why does it exist? – **Name, address supplied.**



SO2 Pers TA responds: The reasons why TA personnel are not normally permitted to retain the MoD F90 are as follows: a) The annual turnover for TA personnel averages about 30 per cent of actual strength, or about 13,000 a year against current strength. The potential for loss of ID cards not returned to the unit on discharge is unacceptably high. (Many voluntary discharges fail to hand in military clothing or equipment because they become non-attenders who disappear. TA units often do not have the resources to recover items.)

b) Most TA personnel have no military need to retain the F90. It is usually issued to individuals only during attendance at camp or course. At other times the F90 is retained with unit documents unless an individual enters full-time service. Exceptionally, it is issued to TA personnel whose military duties require them to visit military establishments and closed units on a regular basis.

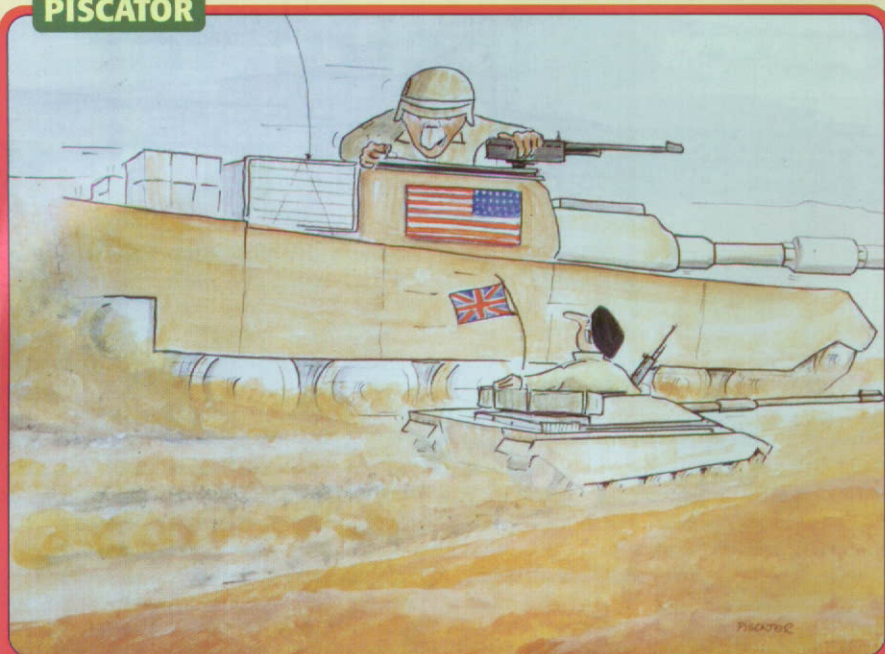
c) Retention of MoD F90 by more than 40,000 people would lead to an increase in the number lost or stolen.

Loss or theft of an MoD F90 can lead to its being used for improper purposes and has security implications, so it is unacceptable to increase the risk of either possibility by issuing the ID card to personnel who have no need for them in order to carry out their normal military or civilian activities.

Regulations governing the issue of MoD F90 to TA personnel were contained in AGAI Vol 2, Ch 67, Para 61.017 but this has recently been re-written and the instructions are now contained in PAM, Para 02.036b.

However, to accommodate personnel who need to retain their MoD F90 to carry out TA military duties, procedures for seeking authority to do so were laid down in LAND GRO 111/97. These instructions were not included in PAM and we recently proposed an amendment to the appropriate reference.

PISCATOR



"Good to have you boys alongside."

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Do your job and keep personal life personal

I WRITE in reply to "I'm gay and feel I have no support" (Jan). What support do you think you deserve? Just because you have a different sexual orientation, do you think you should receive special attention?

Of course some people are bound to treat you differently. It is human nature to seek companionship in circles of similar likes and dislikes. However, this is not discrimination, just personal preference.

I have known soldiers who have come out and have kept both their professional and social standing intact. It all depends on how you approach it.

If you make a big deal out of it, so will others. You state that your ability to perform your duties is not in question, so have you been targeted for discrimination or abuse? If so then you have a case for complaint. If not then I suggest you take a

look around you and follow the example of both gay and straight soldiers alike. Keep doing your job to the best of your ability and keep your personal life personal. – **Name and address supplied.**

APART from coming across as a martyr, the sender of the letter "I'm gay and feel I have no support" gives the impression that he or she is in a terrible unit with no families' officer, no welfare officer, no padre and no WRVS support. Either that or those personnel are just not very good at their jobs.

Perhaps the writer should stop feeling picked on and realise that most of us are professional. We have no issue with sexuality and don't care who sleeps with who, just as long as they are doing their job well and are being looked after by the right people. – **Name and address supplied.**

PS...

Thanks from ranks

ON behalf of myself and 15 fellow soldiers of my regiment, I would like to thank your magazine for the excellent response and advice given to us with reference to our recent enquiry about the under payment of Royal Artillery Observation Post Assistants within our unit.

Soldier, in conjunction with our RAO and HQ Adjutant General, sorted out an eight-month-old problem in a mere three weeks. As we have all found out, *Soldier* is not just about soldiers, it is for them. Thank you and keep up the good work. – Sgt D Provan, 40 Regiment RA.

● And thank you for the flowers you sent! Incidentally, a signaller who asked us why he was not eligible for a £10,000 financial retention incentive has received the money after *Soldier* took up his case. – **Editor**

Not a happy bunny

AFTER two years in civvy street I re-enlisted. I left the Army as a corporal and returned as a lance corporal. I re-qualified for my B1 Trade and went to Canada to join my unit.

On my return to Germany six months later I was still not receiving trade pay so went to my pay office to make enquiries.

During my previous service I had earned around £4 a day extra on passing my B1 trade course, so imagine my surprise when I heard that now my pay rise is a meagre 27p a day, before tax, about £34 for the six months. I can see why so many people are not happy with Pay 2000. – LCpl J South, BFPO 30.

Badge of fitness

I, like WO2 (RSWO) Channell (Jan), am a class 2 PTI and was proud to wear my crossed swords on my working dress until I was told that I had to remove them.

Para-trained and commando-trained personnel in my unit are allowed to wear their badges, although they never use their qualification in this unit. I on the other hand, use my qualification at least three times a week to keep up the fitness levels of personnel within the squadron, including the para- and commando-trained. – Cpl D D Brown, 75 (HQ) Sqn, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

One that got away

I AM writing to the individual at Upavon who opened my letter addressed to the Army Equal Opportunities (AEO) and took it upon himself not to pass it on to the AEO, but to read the contents then pass it to my HQ at Worthy Down.

Thanks for the grief and unwanted attention that followed your actions. I hope your other confidential letters reach their destination unseen by prying eyes. Let my experience be a warning to any other individual who may think they are writing to a confidential help service. – Sgt Ford, MPGS, Blandford Camp.



My block is proof that you can make a go of single-living accommodation

I AM the junior NCO for a mixed block of Army and Royal Air Force personnel on a RAF camp. Although there is a block officer commanding and senior NCO, I am, generally, the point of contact for march-ins and outs, nominal roll, damage reporting, contract repairs and block inspections.

I keep the occupants up to date with any relevant information and do my own monthly checks to pick up anything which might have been missed and get it put right as soon as possible.

We have three formal block inspections a year and that's it – unless standards slip. If they do, I get the block members together and things are put in order.

The OC and SNCO are happy and those in the block have less hassle and more privacy. – **LCpl P Wilkinson, REME, JATEU.**

I HAVE been reading *Soldier* since 1950 and still enjoy it.

With reference to the letter from SSgt Smith (Dec), he is obviously in the right place to see, first-hand, how the modern soldier looks after himself.

Modern young men and women are brought up at home and school without any real discipline.

When they join the Army at 17 or 18 years, it is probably the first time they have been told to "do what you are told", so you cannot expect them to understand the importance of cleanliness, tidiness and self-discipline. – **Michael Gardner, ex-RE, Welling, Kent.**

Loss of instructor puts our CCF at risk

I AM the Contingent Commander of Rutlish School Combined Cadet Force in Merton, South West London, and wondered if you might be able to assist me. You recently published an article about the Londinium Military Diving Club's planned expedition to St Kitts.

The expedition contact you gave was WO2 Mick Culling, who was the school staff instructor in my unit. Unfortunately Mick died suddenly on December 29. His death – a blow on a personal level – also threatened the survival of the contingent (which is affiliated to the Royal Green Jackets).

Because of our somewhat different circumstances compared with most CCFs, it took us several years to recruit an SSI,

probably the most important member of the staff team, and I don't doubt we face similar difficulties replacing Mick.

Rutlish, a comprehensive, is staffed almost exclusively from outside the school staff. All we can offer is what the MoD pays and we parade once a week after school. I am seeking a suitable replacement able to give of his/her time, and wondered if it might be possible to advertise the post in your magazine.

If I cannot fill the vacancy quickly the survival of the contingent, which has been in existence since 1921, will be in jeopardy. – **Maj Robert Penny (CCF), Contingent Commander, Rutlish School CCF (phone/fax 020 8542 5881 or e-mail rutlishccf@aol.com).**

We've gone down a storm in Fiji

I AM writing all the way from the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific region. I came to know *Soldier* magazine through my brother, who is at the Army Training Centre in Catterick. I've read your December edition and it is absolutely awesome. This is the first time I've read a British Army magazine. I take this time in thanking the editorial team for their effort and dedication for putting such a wonderful piece of work together and I wish you every success in all this year's editions. – **Viri Ratabacaca, PAFCO, Levuka, Fiji.**

Website was a credit to Revenue

I AM a civilian storekeeper working at ATR Bassingbourn. The other day I helped some colleagues look up information via the Inland Revenue website (you can find it at www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk) on family credit and other associated allowances.

The first allowance was the working families tax credit (helpline 0845 6095000), which must be applied for before April. The next was the children's tax credit, not to be confused with child benefit (helpline 0845 3003900).

Between the two allowances, which my friends were indeed eligible for and intend to claim, our calculations showed that they will be nearly £50 a month better off. It could be worth other readers having a look. – **Gary Davies, ATR Bassingbourn.**

Time to act as the professionals we all are

I TAKE a great interest in the Talkback section of *Soldier* and have the following observations on the January issue.

I would like to give Mr Jim Griffin of PAX Insurance a pat on the back for reminding soldiers that they should take out holiday cancellation insurance. All of us should bear in mind that although Servicemen, like their civilian counterparts, are entitled to leave, that leave may be taken from a soldier, airman or seaman at any time.

The fact is that we might be called upon to serve at any time. Remember, we are the most professional army in the world and

right now is the time to act professionally.

With reference to re-enlistment bonuses, they should be scrapped and used to fund more useful projects to help those who re-enlist on their return to the Services. Ex-soldiers who re-enlist do it for a specific reason, because life in civvy street has not worked out for them.

The Army in contrast to many civilian organisations gives soldiers security, good stable pay, excellent food, accommodation which is improving all the time, an excellent welfare service as well as an excellent career and pension.

Finally, I would like to remind all the

"long-term relationship" soldiers that it is they who are putting their relationships under pressure. On joining the Army they are educated on domestic welfare regarding accompanied service and the effects of separation. The plusses outweigh the minuses by far.

One of the best options is for a soldier to marry and move into a quarter. Why do soldiers put themselves under pressure when the Army has everything in place to enable them to crack on with a career and have their family with them. – **WO1 (RSM) D M Harvey, 1 KOSB, Catterick Garrison.**

THEN AND THEN

50 YEARS AGO



From *Soldier*, February 1978: An MP has suggested

25 YEARS AGO

halving the number of firemen and having soldiers, who have recently coped so admirably, as a permanent reserve for emergencies. There's no end to the possibilities. The only trouble is who's going to be called up to make up the missing numbers in a military emergency. — *Soldier to Soldier*.

From *Soldier*, February 1953: Covering fire is given by men of the Support Platoon of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, left, during major desert manoeuvres in the Jebel el Ataka, south-west of Suez. It involved 3rd and 1st Infantry Divisions and gave a first taste of the desert to the sons of many men who fought their way from Alamein to Berlin with the Desert Rats.

Our kids need escort on Lisburn school bus

I WRITE to highlight an issue concerning parents living in quarters in Lisburn, Northern Ireland. For years HQNI has provided a bus service to take military children in the area to local schools.

It prevents families from setting travel patterns around the schools and reduces the number of vehicles in the area at the start and end of the school day. The buses were provided with an escort, usually a mother, to ensure the children's safety.

The service will continue but the driver will be the only responsible adult on board. Despite the peace process families

are still aware of the terrorist threat. The removal of this service will at very least expose us to routines that could be identified by terrorists.

It would appear that this is a money-saving exercise, as no responsible parent is going to allow smaller children to use the bus effectively unsupervised. It is suggested that as the number of children on the buses reduces, smaller vehicles will be used, and eventually the service removed entirely. — **Army wife and parent (name and address supplied), Lisburn, Northern Ireland.**

provided this service on an ad hoc basis.

Far from any intent to phase out the bus service entirely by reducing demand for it, as your correspondent suggests, there are indications that more children are using the bus service now that there is no requirement to pay for the escorts.

This is particularly so among junior ranks where some families with two or three children were finding the cost of paying for bus passes too expensive.

The issue of security, which your correspondent also raises, is, of course, a major concern for all personnel and dependants serving in NI, and one that HQ Lisburn Station takes very seriously.

It is quite wrong for your correspondent to suggest, even by implication, that those responsible for the bus escort service would do anything to expose Service families or dependants to increased risk. In fact, HQ Lisburn Station conducts regular security briefings specifically for families.

Commander Lisburn Station responds: Along with many other welfare services for children, including the provision of sports facilities, after-school activities and clubs, HQ Lisburn Station also provides a bus service to take Service children to local schools. Until recently escorts have been provided on these buses.

The decision to remove these is categorically not just a money-saving exercise as your correspondent suggests. It has been brought about by major changes in legislation in the areas of child protection, employment and legal liability. The reality is that changes to the law now mean that informal or voluntary services such as that previously provided by the bus escorts are no longer acceptable. Indeed, in many instances, they are illegal.

These changes would require the bus escorts to be issued with formal contracts of employment and comply with child protection legislation and would impose onerous obligations on HQ Lisburn Station that has hitherto

PS...

Sending right signal

AS the co-author of a forthcoming history of the Royal Corps of Signals, I would like to respond to M Sharp of Kinnersley (Jan) regarding 10 Signal Regiment.

The regiment was formed in 1959 following a decision to renumber all signal units into a single Army-wide numerical system. Prior to 1959, 10 Sig Regt had been 18 Army Group Signal Regiment in BAOR. The new 10 Regt remained in BAOR, initially at Krefeld and then Essen from 1960 until disbanded on April 1, 1962.

Between 1947 and 1959 two other regiments bore the number ten. They were 10 Armd Div Sig Regt in Libya 1956-1957, and 10 Air Formation Sig Regt in Germany, 1954-1958.

Signal regiments in Egypt in the period 1954-1955 were 3 GHQ Sig Regt, 3 Line of Communication Sig Regt and 4 Air Formation Sig Regt. All moved to Cyprus in 1955 and 3 GHQ Sig Regt became 15 Sig Regt in 1959 and was reduced to 259 Sig Sqn in 1962.

I suspect the regiment to which Mr Sharp refers is 3 GHQ Sig Regt. As 10 Air Formation Sig Regt had been British Element Trieste Sig Regt until 1954, it is possible that elements of that unit had transferred to Fayid when the rest of the regiment went to Germany. — Dr Graham Watson, Regimental Historian, Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia).

More on 10 Regt

M SHARP remarks (Jan) that 10 Signal Regiment ran the Signal Centre at Fayid. I have checked our records and spoken to a few soldiers who were there but none of them has any recollection of a 10 Signal Regiment presence.

The Royal Signals major units in the Middle East in 1954-55 were 1 and 3 Infantry Division Signal Regiments, 3 Line of Communications, 3 GHQ Signal Regiment, 2 Wireless Regiment (mainly Cyprus), 18 Air Formation Signals and 4 Air Formation Signals (with a squadron in Fayid). I write not to contradict your writer but I would be grateful if anyone could shed any light on his claims. — Col (Retd) Cliff Walters, Director, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Time for a change

IS it not about time that the British Army replaced its drab No 2 dress for other ranks to something smarter? It is now 40 years since its introduction. Also, why wear a No 1 hat with No 2 uniform? Unless you know a lot about cap-badges you can't always recognise which regiment or unit the wearer belongs to.

Many foreign armies have better uniforms than ours. Take Belgium... dark green, black shoes, modern shirt and "Belgium" in gold letters displayed on the shoulders. — Chris Coulthard, ex-15/19 KRH, London.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

City slickers: New year, new career?

We asked young professionals attending a trial officer-recruitment event in London why they were contemplating a major career change

Richard Warmington,
banker at Merrill Lynch

I have spent the last four years working in the city and have now realised that it is not the career for me. I fancy a new challenge, some more adventure in my life and a chance to learn some new skills and an opportunity to gain leadership qualities.



Andy Leatherbarrow,
currently working for Financial Times Interactive Data

I have always been curious about the Army. For a while now I've been looking for something a little bit different, something a little less mundane and I think that a career in the Army could be the solution. The idea of having to earn people's respect as an officer really appeals to me.



Timothy Accland, design engineer at Northrop Grumman

I was in the TA while I was at university and am looking to get back in. My fitness has suffered since I left and I want to get back in shape again and rediscover some of the community spirit that I enjoyed so much at university.

The camaraderie, sense of satisfaction, and sense of doing something useful appeals to me and the TA provides a perfect antidote to the day job.



Bala Murugan Jayaraju, student at the British Institute of E-Commerce

I have been interested in becoming a soldier all of my life.

Being in the Army has always appealed to me and I hope to join as soon as I graduate – joining the Army is far more important to me than getting a job in the city.



Tom Cartmel, aquaculture and fish management post graduate

I have a few friends who are already in the Army and their stories have sparked my interest – I'm really keen on going to Sandhurst.

The aspect of the Army that I am most enthusiastic about is that being an officer will do wonders to develop my man-management skills.



Nish Kapdor, trainee solicitor at Nabarro Nathanson

I have already been commissioned into the TA and am now looking for a regiment to join. I think it is going to be difficult to juggle both work and the TA but I know people in similar situations who really enjoy it.

There is nothing better after a hard week at work than to go green for a weekend – it makes a welcome change from sitting at a desk pushing paper.



makes a welcome change from sitting at a desk pushing paper.

Timothy Higham, currently studying sports science at Brunel University

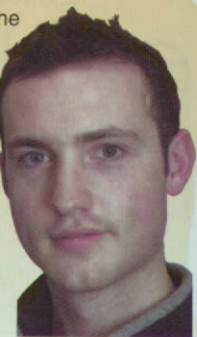
The general attractiveness of the Army really appeals to me. I don't fancy flying a desk for the rest of my life. Being an accountant does not float my boat. I like the idea of being out and about and do not like being stuck in one place. Even the idea of six-month tours does not bother me, in fact I think I'd enjoy them.



Hugh Parsons, personal trainer

The real appeal of the Army is the number of roles you can go into. The job that I am doing at the moment I can do standing on my head and it is something that I don't get a feel of fulfilment from.

In eight years' time I would like to be able to look back and know that I have made a difference and done something with my life, and I feel that that is something that the Army can help me to do.



Tim Viver, former banker with Morgan Stanley

Having previously served five years in the Royal Marines and six years in the TA, I have now been out of uniform for two-and-a-half years and have missed the military lifestyle.

I was made redundant recently and that has given me the necessary push to get back into the Army.



Interviews: Andy Simms Pictures: Mike Weston



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