

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

April 1999 £1.60

SOLDIER

**WINDSOR
IT'S NOT!**

Coldstream in Belize

**Regular and
TA pay scales**

**My VC son:
Freda McKay**





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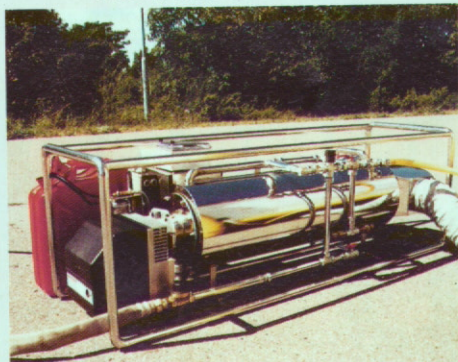


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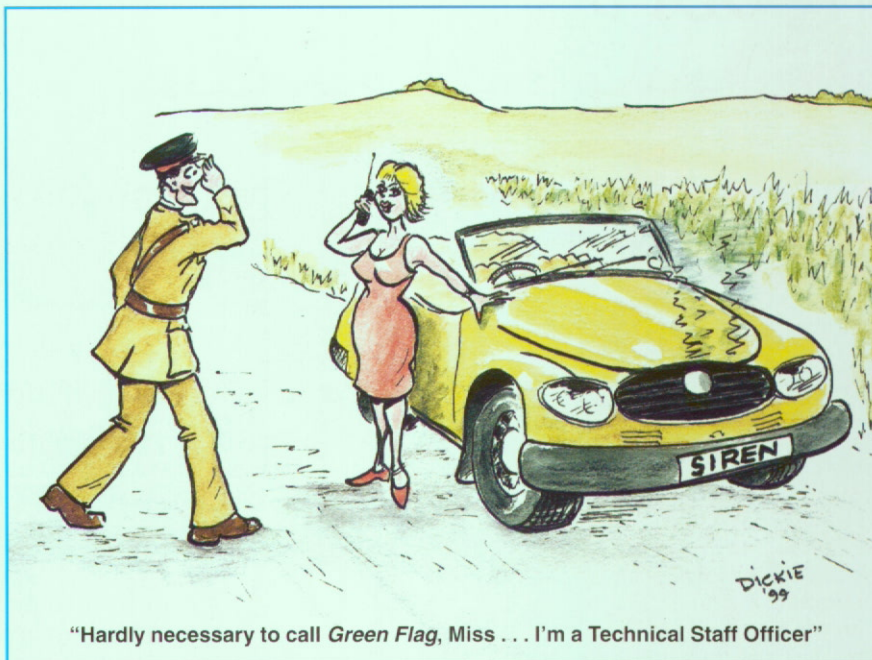


PRODUCTS
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PRODUCTS
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contact
Soldier
— see
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● Royal Military College of Science – Pages 18-19

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Picture: Kevin Capon

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SOLDIER to soldier

You must be joking!

APRIL seems as good a month as any to correct a serious (no pun intended) omission in these pages.

While the magazine's current team of excellent cartoonists follow in a great tradition, not until now have we had a dedicated spot for verbal, rather than visual, humour – intended or otherwise – of which the Army is a rich source.

Take the fine 16-year-olds at the new Army Foundation College at Harrogate. Among the answers they gave when asked which regiment they wished to join were "The Royal Green Coats" and "The Cornwall Light Infantry". One even ventured the ambition of becoming "a sniper in the Royal Tank Corps".

And there's more.

Q: "What are your forenames?" **A:** "I've only got two." **Q:** "What was your mother's name prior to marriage?" **A:** "The same as it is now – Doris."

JEWEL ROLE

Gurkha recruits, we are reminded in *Scottish Legion News*, begin their training with intensive English lessons, culminating in a visit to a local town.

One wrote later: "Guildford is very nice and the people are very well-off. Even the beggars wear pearls."

Subsequent investigation revealed the writer had been accosted by one of those nice Surrey ladies who collect for the Lifeboat...

Finally, we are indebted to Lt Col (Retd) Mike Barrett, of Ramsgate, for sending us the following small-ad from the *Kent Messenger (Thanet Edition)*: "Sword, Army Warranty Officer with Sand Browne belt and paste stick, £300."

● Look out for our new column by the Joker, who will offer a tanner for the best story (preferably true) each month.

Special report

Meet the 'A' Team

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE telephone started ringing at 7.30 on a Saturday mid-summer morning. Lt Col (Retd) John Adams had just taken his dog for a walk across the Wiltshire Downs and was looking forward to a well-earned cup of coffee and a leisurely breakfast.

By mid-afternoon he was on a flight to Canada instead of attending his god-daughter's wedding. The previous hours had been spent working with his clerk in the office trying to get all the information he needed... no easy task as there was a power cut and no computers were working.

He was on his way to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) where, 30 minutes before his morning telephone call, a soldier had been accidentally shot and seriously injured during an exercise. Travelling with him was an expert in infantry weapons from the Small Arms School Corps.

Lt Col Adams, late Royal Artillery, is an accident investigator with the Training Accident Investigation Team based at Upavon. His job, which has specific responsibility for ammunition, physical training, and adventurous training accidents, is to find out what happened, why it happened, and to make recommendations so that similar accidents never happen again.



He is part of a six-man team of investigators headed by the Chief TAIT, Col (Retd) Billy Bowles, ex-14th/20th Hussars. As well as being an accident investigator, Col Bowles is also responsible for training safety policy, and makes it clear that nothing is set in stone. Even if policy is laid down in black-and-white in some Army handbook it could be wrong, and possibly even putting soldiers' lives in danger.

"I help set the policy, and if I think policies already in place are wrong I will make recommendations that they are changed," he explained. "At the end of the day we are here to stop accidents. TAIT is independent of the chain of command - we

'A' is for accident - and these investigators from Upavon have a vital mission to ensure Army training is made as safe as possible



Examining the evidence: from left, Capt Mark Brown, Lt Col (Retd) John Adams and Col (Retd) Peter Reece of the Training Accident Investigation Team based at Upavon

answer to the Chief of Staff, Adjutant General, who is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Training Safety - and sometimes the chain of command doesn't like what we say."

The team has a "softly, softly" approach to investigations. It is not the investigators' job to point the finger of blame, and their reports are written purely factually. However, they never go anywhere without one of the two members of the Special Investigation Branch (SIB) who also belong to the team. They investigate any accident where someone has been injured seriously or killed in a training capacity, or where they have been called in specifically by the unit involved.

INFORMAL

No names are given in the reports except those who have died, been seriously injured or have acted in an heroic manner.

"We talk to the people involved," Lt Col Adams explained. "These are not formal interviews and statements and are not taken under oath. We are getting a feel for the accident. Was it going well? Were they under pressure and being pushed the whole time? Were they trying to run before they could walk? Did they get a safety brief?"

"We take down all the information and from this write the background to the accident. This is then shown to the com-

mander of the unit and the people involved in the accident."

TAIT was set up in 1995, initially to look at accidents at BATUS, but from April 1996 started investigations worldwide. Lt Col Adams's colleague, Lt Col Bernie Guignard, ex-REME, is responsible for reviewing road traffic accidents which have a training implication or are to do with equipment failing.

Col (Retd) Peter Reece deals with individual training accidents at Army Training Regiments and other teaching establishments.

Since it was set up the team has reported on more than 40 incidents.

TAIT does not report on minor accidents where a silly mistake has been made and it is obvious what went wrong. But, as in the case earlier this year of a yacht going down off the South Coast with Sandhurst cadets involved, or when soldiers were stranded on Mount McKinley in Alaska, there is sometimes a need to have a thorough investigation of the facts.

Team members work closely with the Health and Safety Executive, the body which investigates accidents in Britain.

Their highly-detailed reports, which are produced within 21 days, are then passed to the relevant chains of command and possibly also the military or civilian police. They will consider prosecution in the case of criminal negligence or neglect

of duty, and, in the case of a death, will pass it to the coroner.

Members of the team always take an expert with them. In the case of Mount McKinley, an Army Physical Training Corps instructor who had climbed the mountain himself went along on the investigation.

Naturally, when there has been a serious accident, the people involved are often shocked by the event. Lt Col Adams has learnt not to take everything at face value.

"People's perceptions are always very different," he said, "especially when giving times of what happened. Often they say something took 20 minutes when in fact it was only four."

"Also there are different reactions. People who have been involved in an accident are often shaken and sometimes angry because of what has occurred. You then have the other side. The people who are in charge of the training may feel threatened by the fact that we are investigating what happened."

"We have to reassure both those who are frightened by the accident and those who may feel threatened. We are not on a witch-hunt. We are there to ensure future training is as safe as possible."

NEAR MISSES

When a fatality occurs the lessons are tragic, sombre and terrifying, but it is the "near-misses" that offer the most worthwhile lessons.

"You are able to talk to everyone who was involved and they realise what a close call it was," said Lt Col Adams. "If you have a near-miss today and do nothing about it, the next time it might turn into a fatality."

"The Army is a hard world and sometimes it is 'kill or be killed', that is what training is all about. After a mistake has been made it is vital to learn from it and to look quite harshly at the people in command and question whether they should be in command in the future."

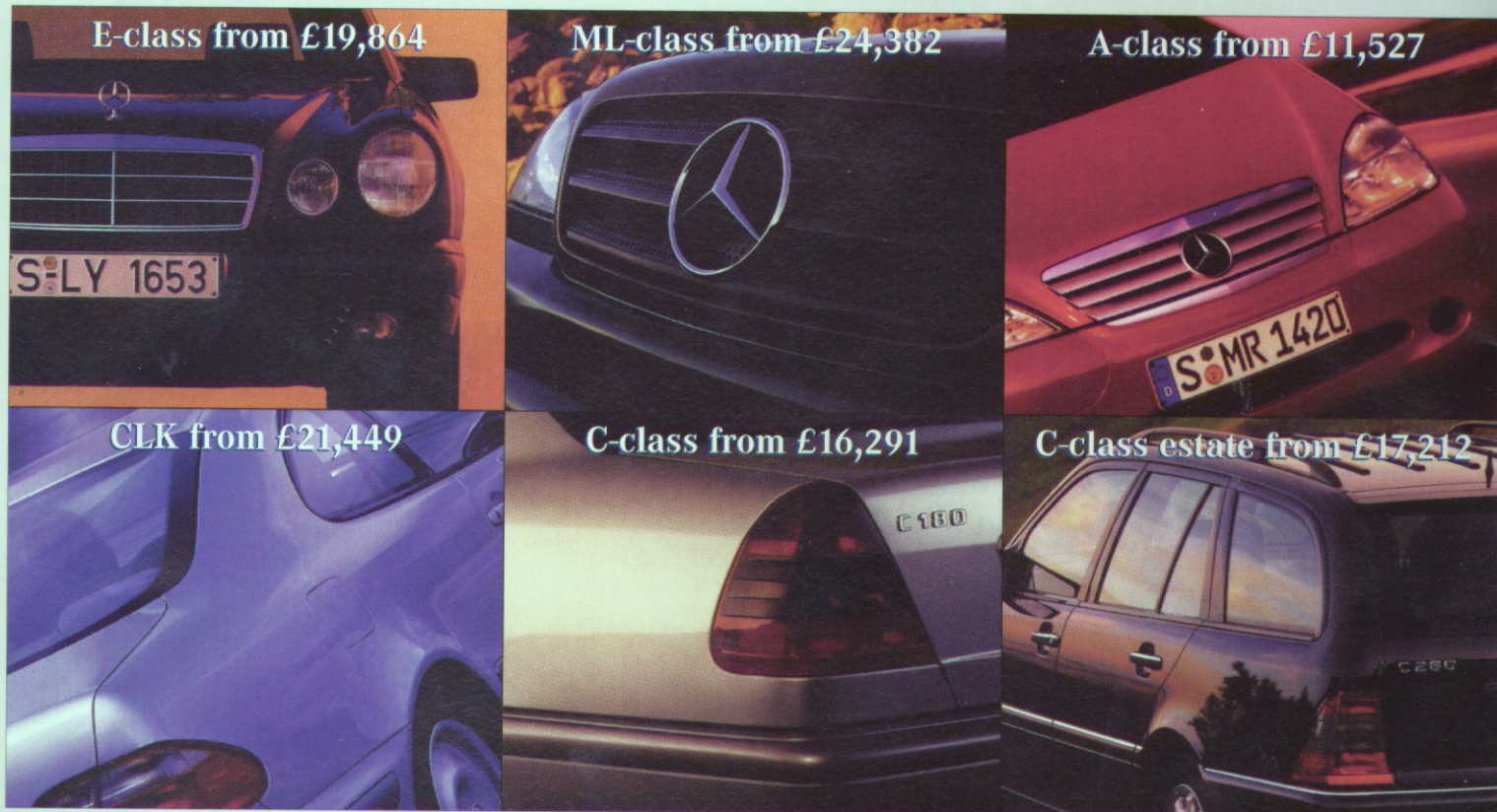
There are moments of quiet satisfaction for Lt Col Adams and the team. Last year he was investigating a drowning and recommended that a signal should be sent to all units reminding them of the correct procedures to be used when carrying out a river-crossing exercise. Just three days later troops in Belize reported that a soldier had got into difficulty while crossing a river, but because of the signal all the safety procedures were in place.

He was saved.



Measuring up: from left, accident investigators Lt Col (Retd) John Adams, Col (Retd) Peter Reece and Capt Mark Brown visit an incident site with some of the tools of their trade

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Making a splash: A Challenger 2 main battle tank from A Squadron of The King's Royal Hussars churns its way across wet ground during an exercise in Macedonia

ARRC takes Agricola lead

A FORWARD headquarters element of Nato's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) has been mobilised to manage the build-up of forces in Macedonia and operate a command and control infrastructure.

Should peace talks lead to a political agreement in Kosovo, the ARRC will then move on to take command of peacekeeping or peace enforcement operations.

Britain is the framework nation for the ARRC which is under the command of Gen Sir Mike Jackson. Operational in theatre since March 4, the HQ is staffed by 300 soldiers from the Nato nations. Other units attached to the ARRC have been deployed under national auspices.

The mission is only the force's second operational deployment. The ARRC was first deployed to Bosnia in 1995, following the Dayton agreement, when it spearheaded peace-keeping operations there.

British Kosovo force build-up gains pace

THROUGHOUT March British forces continued a large-scale build-up of personnel and equipment in Macedonia, preparing for a possible peacekeeping or enforcement role in Kosovo.

Approximately 4,800 British personnel, mainly Army, are now deployed in the area, but the number is expected to increase. The British contingent is the strongest national element in the Nato force.

The Ministry of Defence has made it clear that the Government will stand by its commitment to send in excess of 8,000 Servicemen and women to the theatre if peace talks lead to a political agreement and a Nato peacekeeping role.

Speaking in the House of Commons on March 10, Defence Secretary George Robertson said that the force of tanks, heavy artillery and infantry "clearly signals our resolution to support the efforts of the international community".

A week earlier, during a visit to Macedonia, Mr Robertson sought to reassure British troops that they will enter Kosovo only if an agreement is reached with the

Yugoslav authorities. "You will not be fighting your way into Kosovo," he said. "I can give you this assurance."

British forces now in theatre are largely drawn from 4 Armoured Brigade in Germany, and include A Squadron of The King's Royal Hussars, equipped with 14 Challenger tanks; a company-strength force of Warrior armoured infantry vehicles of the Irish Guards and a battery of six AS90 self-propelled guns from 88 (Arracan) Battery, 4 Regiment RA.

Other assets include 4 Armoured Brigade's tactical HQ, 1st Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment RE, and other national support elements.

CEASE-FIRE MONITORS

These forces joined a Warrior-equipped reinforced infantry company from The King's Own Royal Border Regiment which, with a squadron of Royal Engineers (see Page 17) and other support elements, has been standing by in the region for the possible rescue of cease-fire monitors since late December last year. If a political agreement is reached, this force will transfer to the peacekeeping role.

Most heavy equipment for the battle group arrived in Thessaloniki, Greece for overland transport to bases near Skopje in Macedonia in late February aboard the RFAs *Sea Crusader* and *Sea Centurion*.

Further equipment for the force arrived in Thessaloniki by chartered merchant ships in early March, and included equipment for 2 Bn REME, 4 Regiment RA, 5 Regiment RA, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, 27 Regiment RLC and 21 Engineer Regiment RE.

A 16-strong field medical team from 23 Parachute Field Ambulance is also being established in Macedonia.

Movement of personnel and light equipment has placed heavy demands on the RAF and RLC movements specialists. With a large proportion of forces being deployed from Germany, RAF Bruggen and Hanover Airport have been at the forefront of efforts. There, 24 Regt RLC operated around the clock to help maintain the air service. As *Soldier* went to press other units were being mobilised or considered for possible service in the theatre.

● Around the Houses – Page 29

IN BRIEF

● More than 400 troops from Colchester-based 24 Airmobile Brigade took part in Exercise Gryphon's Flight in North Yorkshire, Northumberland and south-east Scotland. The second week of the exercise, which involved more than 800 troops, 200 vehicles and 35 helicopters, simulated the evacuation of civilians from a hostile region overseas.

● The Procurement Executive launched

itself as the Defence Procurement Agency on April 1. The DPA will remain as part of the MoD and its role, like that of its predecessor, will be to buy the military equipment which the Armed Forces need.

● The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment, attended the farewell parade of 3 Staffords (V) at Lichfield. Following the Strategic Defence Review, the

battalion is to amalgamate to form the new West Midlands Regiment. The regiment will retain a Stafford presence with two companies in Burton upon Trent and Stoke-on-Trent.

● 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, based at Bergen-Hohne, is to re-form as 31 Close Support Squadron as part of SDR changes affecting the Royal Engineers, combining field and armoured sappers under one banner.

People, places, events

Gurkha medics's amazing thirst for knowledge

Sgt Chandrakumar Laksamba, 2 RGR, gained a degree from a top British university. But the Army medical instructor has greater ambitions

GURKHA soldier Chandrakumar Laksamba was flicking through an old *Reader's Digest* in Hong Kong when he saw what he had been looking for – information on how to get a western university degree.

He already had a degree in pure science and public administration from a university in Nepal, but wanted qualifications that would be recognised worldwide. He had spent three years trying to find out details of courses and was on the verge of giving up when he read in the 27-year-old magazine that London University encouraged external students.

He rang the number (amazingly unchanged after all that time) to get details, wrote to the university and was accepted. After four years of intensive study during postings in the UK, Hong Kong and Brunei, Sgt Laksamba flew to London to sit his final examinations.

At a special graduation ceremony at the Barbican in London earlier this year the man from a tiny mountain village in East Nepal was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy.

"Sadly my wife and two sons were not able to come over for the greatest day of my life," he said. "But I am now working for an MSc and they will be there then."

Sgt Laksamba's extraordinary quest for knowledge started at school in Singapore, where his father was with the Singapore Police. He returned to Nepal to take his matriculation and degree before starting work as an assistant at the British Military Hospital, Dharan. There he was persuaded by a doctor to join the British Army and was accepted in 1984 as a military clerk. Once in England Sgt Laksamba wasted no time in getting his first qualification: a diploma in business English, achieved with distinction.

During his 16 years in the Army he served for nine years as a clerk in 1/7 and 7 GR before remustering to a rifle company as an infantryman and later to the unit medical centre. He is presently an instructor with the Defence Medical Services Training Centre (DMSTC) at Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale.

DOCTORATE

He is currently doing an NVQ Level 3 in Training and Development (Teaching) as well as starting a two-year MPhil (Research) in public policy and management, again as an external student at London University. His ultimate aim is to gain a PhD in Human Resources Management and Development.

Due to retire from the Army in about three years, Sgt Laksamba plans to return to the village where he was born. "I plan to start my own Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and use skills and knowledge I have learned to help my village," he explained.

If all goes to plan, the future Dr Laksamba will make a significant difference to the lives of thousands of people in Nepal. All thanks, in part, to an article in a dog-eared 27-year-old magazine.



Learning by degrees: Sgt Laksamba



Rising above the rest: A Lynx Mark 7 helicopter from 662 Squadron, part of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps, based at Wattisham, lifts off the flight deck of the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible during a Staff College sea day. Beneath the hovering Lynx can be seen Royal Navy Sea Harrier and Royal Air Force Harrier GR5 jump jets.

Gazelle crew finds missing soldiers

A GAZELLE helicopter from 669 Squadron AAC in Bosnia was called in to search for two Belgian soldiers who were 12 hours overdue at their camp at Gornji Vakuf. The aircraft traced the route that the missing pair had been due to drive and found them, cold but unhurt, off the road where they had crashed.

The Gazelle landed at the site of the accident and shuttled the soldiers back to camp. (See Books, Page 74.)

● A Wattisham-based soldier serving with 3 Regiment AAC received a commendation from Norfolk police for giving first aid to a seriously injured man in dangerous circumstances following a three-vehicle collision

at Stoke Ferry, Norfolk last December. He was assisted by ATpr Scott Buchanan, who has since left the Army. Despite their efforts, the man later died.

● Medical and fire service personnel from the British base at Episkopi, Cyprus helped to rescue a fisherman who fell 20ft down steep cliffs, fracturing his leg.

Defence Fire Service personnel were sent to the scene, where they were joined by an Army medic working nearby with some soldiers. With an RAF helicopter on stand-by, the injured man was winched up the crumbling cliff and taken to Limassol General Hospital.

IN BRIEF

● An Investors in People award to the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was presented to Pte Tony Hinchcliffe, the newest recruit, by the Prince of Wales during a private visit to the battalion on Salisbury Plain. Pte Hinchcliffe's father and grandfather both served in 1 Para.

received the international quality management standard ISO 9001 following a rigorous programme of audits and inspections by Lloyds Register Quality Assurance. The school achieved the accreditation in just seven months.

● The voluntary anthrax immunisation programme for personnel deploying

● The Royal School of Artillery has

Brigades on move as SDR changes begin to take shape

THE FIRST major changes in the Army's structure in the United Kingdom, originally announced in the Strategic Defence Review, take place this month.

On April 1, 43 (Wessex) Brigade at Exeter and HQ Salisbury Plain Area came under the responsibility of HQ 5 Division at Shrewsbury, and 42 (North West) Brigade at Preston moved to HQ Army Scotland.

Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson has confirmed plans to create three new super-districts – with their headquarters at Edinburgh, Shrewsbury and Aldershot – in place of the original six.

York's Imphal Barracks will cease to be the headquarters of 2 Division and will become the new home of the Defence Vetting Agency.

Mr Henderson also announced plans for the creation of two new brigades based at Aldershot and Colchester. Consultations are still taking place with local authorities and assessments are to be made on envi-

ronmental impact and value for money. The new 12 Mechanised Brigade would be formed in place of 5 Airborne Brigade at Aldershot, where the new headquarters would be based.

The new 16 Air Assault Brigade would be developed from 24 Air Mobile Brigade and have its headquarters at Colchester.

PARACHUTE BATTALIONS

Relocation of two Parachute Regiment battalions to Colchester, where they would form part of 16 Air Assault Brigade, is due to take place next year.

Two infantry battalions from Colchester would move to Aldershot to form part of 12 Mechanised Infantry Brigade. They are unlikely to be the The Royal Scots and The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, currently stationed in Colchester.

It is anticipated that preparations for accommodating the units could take up to six years.

Tankies to be first in line for NBC attack

ONE of the Army's two remaining Royal Tank Regiments is being re-roled to form part of the Joint NBC Regiment (JNBCR).

Two squadrons (D and HQ) from 1 Royal Tank Regiment will move from their present base at Paderborn, Germany, to RAF Honington, where they will be joined by two Territorial Army Yeomanry squadrons to make up three-quarters of the JNBCR.

The other quarter will be comprised of the RAF Field Squadron.

G Squadron of 1 RTR has disbanded and 35 soldiers have transferred to 2 RTR. The regiment's other squadron will move to Warminster to become the resident unit at the Combined Arms Training Centre.

A major farewell parade at Paderborn is being planned by 1 RTR for July before the full strength of 260 soldiers moves to RAF Honington.

The new Joint NBC Regiment will be part of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

to the Gulf, suspended at the end of November, is unlikely to resume for at least a year, when new stocks are expected to become available.

● A new mail distribution centre for North West Europe has been opened at JHQ Rheindahlen. Run by 99 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC, it has taken over

from the centre in Mönchengladbach.

● Officers and soldiers from 2 Signal Regiment at York embarked on HMS York before the warship went into dry dock in Portsmouth. Earlier this year the regiment hosted the ship's company when they visited York to exercise their Freedom of the city.

When soldiering ...



Two for the price of one: The 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment unveiled its latest recruiting strategy at Colchester by putting twins Ptes Andrew, left, and Philip Claridge on parade on their first day with the battalion following their basic infantry training at Catterick.

Picture: East Anglia Daily Times

becomes a ...

My brother, the brigadier: When Brig Hughie Monro, right, was promoted and appointed Commander 52 Lowland Brigade in Edinburgh recently he joined his brother, Seymour, below right, the Director of Infantry, at one-star rank ... a unique double in the Army. The brothers have served together on many occasions.

In 1973 Hughie took over Seymour's 14 Platoon in the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders in Armagh, and subsequently served as his elder brother's company 2iC and then as a Coy commander when Seymour was the CO of 1 QO Hldrs in Germany.

Hughie went on to command the regiment himself and, on amalgamation with The Gordon Highlanders in 1994, was the first CO of The Highlanders.

"The Queen's Own Highlanders was always a great family regiment and there were a number of brothers and even fathers and sons serving in the battalion together," recalls Brig Seymour Monro.



family affair

Flying combination: On receiving her pilot's wings, Capt Penny Facer, near right, of the Royal Logistic Corps, has been posted to Northern Ireland-based 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps this month following a Lynx helicopter conversion course. She was teaming up with her brother, Capt Julian Facer AAC, far right, adjutant of the regiment, at Aldergrove, near Belfast. They are believed to be the first brother and sister pilots in Army aviation to serve together.



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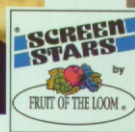
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People, places, events



Royal tribute: Head bowed and wearing a jacket and regimental tie under waterproof clothing, the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, remembers the 20 men from the 2nd Battalion who died at the Battle of Goose Green during the Falklands War. With him is a military contingent led by Maj Geoffrey Weighell (second from right), who

commanded a platoon in B Company during the war. He pointed out to the Prince the spot where Col H Jones had fallen.

Prince Charles spent two days in the Falkland Islands, during which he visited Mount Longdon, San Carlos, Fitzroy Cove and Stanley, and met Service personnel from the resident infantry company.

Sappers turn up chemical agents

SAPPERS clearing disused rubbish tips dating from the First World War at Winterbourne Gunner, Wiltshire, have unearthed containers filled with liquids in which chemical warfare compounds including phosgene, mustard, lewisite and chloropierin were identified.

The containers, about the size of cigar cases, were found by soldiers from 49 Field Squadron (EOD) clearing munitions and general waste material under Operation Abbott. Scientists at Porton

Down confirmed the presence of chemical warfare agents, believed to pre-date the Second World War.

The pit in which the phials were discovered was on MoD land, about 400m from the nearest house. Scientists calculating the risk from leakage estimated that a downwind hazard would have extended to 50m from the point of emission. Soldiers from the specialist ordnance disposal unit have been wearing full protective clothing during the work.

Army seeks injection of medics

DOCTORS and nurses have been targeted by the Defence Medical Services in a drive to boost the number of medical personnel in the Armed Forces.

A £100,000 recruitment initiative will be led by a high-profile advertising campaign and will concentrate on the medical media.

Defence Medical Services are looking for approximately 200 qualified registered nurses in general work and specialists such as registered mental nurses, midwives, paediatric nurses and theatre

nurses. There is also a need to recruit about 80 GPs on a direct entry basis as well as consultants in a variety of specialities.

Medical careers in the Armed Forces offer opportunities to travel, to take part in adventurous expeditions around the world and the challenge of operations ranging from peacekeeping in Bosnia to disaster relief in Honduras and battle-field surgery on board ship.

A recruitment hotline has been opened on 01252 340385.

Opportunity knocks for equality video

WATCH out for *Zero Tolerance*. It will be showing on a screen near you soon.

The video, which shows six fictional stories of racial and sexual abuse, harassment and bullying played out by professional actors, will soon become familiar to every soldier in the Army.

From April 1 the Army's equal opportunities (EO) training package goes "live" and the video, filmed at Larkhill and depicting incidents from all three Services, is reckoned to be a powerful element in the process.

Under the Army's EO policy, every individual is to receive an annual period of instruction and discussion. Delivered in two parts, it will consist of two 20-minute presentations to a small group by the unit equal opportunities adviser, followed by the hard-hitting *Zero Tolerance* video.

FIELD TRIALS

"Shocking . . .", "I felt angry watching . . .", and "It really got to me . . ." were some of the comments noted during field trials of the film. It will be linked with discussion periods during which individuals will be encouraged to ask questions and talk about their own ideas and experiences.

The earlier presentations will define discrimination and harassment and cover Army EO policy, the need for compliance and the requirements of the law. Time will also be given to the complaints procedure and individual and unit responsibilities.

Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, has summed up the Army's position: "The Army is fully committed to equality of opportunity. The Army's EO policy sets out to provide equal opportunity for all personnel irrespective of gender, marital status, social background, ethnic origin or religious belief within a working environment free from discrimination, harassment and intimidation."

Chiefs spell out stand on racism

IN a joint message, the Chiefs of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force have reminded all Service personnel of the part they have to play in combating racism, and the strict disciplinary procedures to be used against anyone engaged in the slightest form of racist behaviour.

The message says the procedures "may be appropriate to deal with cases of membership of, support for, or association with groups or organisations whose purposes include incitement to racial hatred or violence."

"There is no place whatsoever for racism in any of the Armed Forces."

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People, places, events



Long haul: Maj Peter Martin, centre, OC 12 Flight AAC at RAF Bruggen in Germany, celebrates flying his 5,000th hour last month. Joining him in a celebratory toast are Tornado pilot and OC Ops at the air station, Wg Cdr Chris Barker, left, and Brig Ian Campbell, Commander Rhine Troops, who was Peter's passenger on the flight. It is an unusual milestone for an officer in the

modern Army because ground tours and annual taskings of around 200 hours mean few can hope to attain such a total. It has taken Maj Martin 17 years of continuous flying, including intensive operations in Northern Ireland. He is to leave 12 Flight in June to become deputy chief instructor at the Joint Helicopter Training School at Shawbury.

Picture: SAC Sue McGinlay

It's the Armani Army



CHERISHED regimental stable belts could disappear and be replaced by a "general Army belt" within the next few years. The multi-coloured belt – still to be designed – would be worn by every soldier irrespective of regiment or corps.

A spokesman for the MoD told *Soldier* that top fashion designers and artists were being asked to come up with ideas after an opinion was voiced by a senior member of the Government. Before coming into service the new belts would have to be approved by the Army Dress Committee.

"The designs used for the tail fins on British Airways aeroplanes are gorgeous and very distinctive," he said. "We will be looking for a pattern of colours which conveys the message that the British Army is an army for the new millennium and the world. We want to get away from the elitist, macho and competitive impression

Rainbow vision: Artist's view of how it might look

that regimental stable belts tend to give.

"The possibilities are endless; they could be all colours of the rainbow, with a tasteful thin khaki stripe in between, or even, getting away from the stripes, there could be a paisley or a spotted pattern."

Stable belts, which are semi-official and not issued as uniform, originated in the late 19th century when soldiers removed their braces while working with horses and used the girth straps to hold their trousers up. The idea of using regimental colours started between the two world wars when khaki was worn by every soldier.

French fashion designer Avril Blague said she thought it was an excellent idea. "Soldiers are so dull in their camouflage," she said. "It would be magnifique to have a girdle that gave them a chic image."

Cyprus sappers help fisherman find safe haven

A FISHING community on the Eastern British Sovereign Base Area in Cyprus is to benefit from the hard labour of soldiers from 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE.

A five-strong team of sappers has been building a sheltered harbour at Fisherman's Cove near Cessac beach, Dhekelia for fishing boats belonging to the villagers of Xylotymbou. Work started in the middle of January using materials supplied and paid for by the Cyprus Government.

Seven thousand tonnes of stone from Pyla quarry were used to construct an underwater shelf on which a protective wall was being built. The resulting harbour, designed by WO2 Sean Headley, 62 Sqn's military plant foreman, will provide a safe haven for up to 12 fishing boats in rough weather.

A new arm of wall is being built out to sea while an existing wall is being raised. Work is also being carried out on a church at the head of the harbour, which was built on the site of the monastery of St Ayios Nikolaos.



Dodging jaws: These REME soldiers serving in Belize took the plunge in shark and barracuda-infested seas to raise £700 for a local primary school, completing a sponsored swim from an island off Belize City. Luckily the monsters lurking in the deep left the soldiers alone and instead they were followed much of the way by two curious dolphins. Each soldier swam just over a mile and spent the rest of the time bailing out the boat after a tropical rain storm suddenly appeared.

IN BRIEF

- The Army's armoured tactical recce vehicle for the next century has been given the green light. Contracts worth more than £180m have been awarded to UK and US consortia to develop **Tracer**, acronym for Tactical Reconnaissance Armoured Combat Equipment Requirement, and a version for the US Army.

- Twenty-seven soldiers from the Royal School of Signals at Blandford have achieved

the first modern apprenticeships in telecommunication since the scheme was launched by the Government in 1996.

- A cemetery in Larnaca, Cyprus has been cleaned up by soldiers of A Company, the 2nd Battalion, **The Royal Anglians** based at Dhekelia Garrison. Ten of their colleagues cycled from Episkopi to Dhekelia to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund.

- Ten giant cakes made by staff at the **Army School of Catering** in Aldershot were handed over to the RNLI to mark the 175th anniversary of the lifeboat charity.

- **62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron RE** took six of the eight team event prizes at the British Forces Cyprus inter-unit safe driving competition at Episkopi. Fifteen teams from nine units serving on the island took part.

Windsor guards go native



Staying vigilant: Gdsm Robert James watches, waits and listens to the noises of the jungle

Jungles of Belize are a far cry for guardsmen who will troop the Queen's Colour this summer

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon

THEIR world-famous red tunics, black bearskins and white belts were put away carefully for six weeks while the men of the 1st Company, Coldstream Guards donned jungle green fatigues to take on the tropical rain forest of Central America.

The normally immaculate guardsmen swapped genteel Windsor for the jungles of Belize to learn to live and fight in one of the most demanding environments in the world. They experienced very hot, humid weather on Exercise Native Trail and

became efficient at wading through fast-flowing rivers and deep mud.

Maj Charles Stoner, OC 1 Coy, was pleased with the way his guardsmen adapted from one environment to another. He said both the jungle and ceremonial duties required extreme discipline, confidence and personal organisation.

A fighting force of 95 was supported by specialists consisting of a permanent range safety team, jungle warfare instructors and administration staff.

"Before we got here," said Gdsm Robert James, "we were told of seven venomous snakes and numerous spiders to avoid. But you soon learn to invert your



Surf's up: A Coldstream Guardsman, above, takes advantage of the adventurous training opportunities on St George's Caye

Bounty man: Gdsm Carl Leech, left, helps himself to a coconut on St George's Caye

boots on sticks at night so that nothing nasty makes a bed in them and gives you an early morning wake-up call."

The guardsmen were shown how to attack a terrorist camp in a jungle clearing and make a river ambush. They had to



Snake charmers: Cfn Paul Morey, right, Gdsm Lee Butchart and LCpl Nick Jackson grit their teeth, focus on the lens, and hope the boa constrictor has eaten recently



Jungle companions: puma, left, and toucan, above, the national bird of Belize



forward in pairs." It was a far cry from the tourists' perception of the highly polished soldiers who guard Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and the Tower.

At the end of the exercise, 1 Coy enjoyed a week of adventurous training at St George's Caye, a tropical island of coconut trees and white sandy beaches 20 miles off the Belize coast.

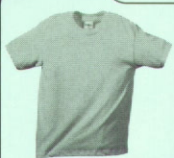
Back in Windsor the guardsmen's attention quickly returned to the disciplines of their other world. In June millions of television viewers will watch them as the Queen's Colour is trooped at the Queen's Birthday Parade on Horseguards.

move silently through dense undergrowth without leaving tell-tale signs, a manoeuvre which slowed them to covering between 600 and 800 metres in a day. When the attack went in, it was swift, noisy and aggressive. With live ammunition

and explosions going off, the terrorist camp became a confusion of smoke, noise and exhilarated soldiers.

Gdsm Mark Collins said: "You can feel the live rounds go past and the explosions go through your whole body as you move

A dark-colored, long-sleeved crew-neck shirt is displayed against a light background. The shirt is laid flat, showing its simple design and ribbed cuffs and hem. A small white tag is visible at the neckline.




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ARM2

Sappers pave the way for the heavy armour

Engineers have been preparing the ground for possible operations

Report: Graham Bound

AS the NATO presence built up in Macedonia, first preparing for an evacuation of cease-fire monitors from neighbouring Kosovo, and then for a possible peace enforcement mission, all eyes were on the spearhead units training hard for operations.

Called to the southern Balkans at short notice, the infantrymen and tank crews faced the challenge of setting up their base and training for a dangerous role in a little-known part of the world.

But the Kosovo crisis was making equally uncompromising demands on hundreds of soldiers in the support units – particularly the sappers of 36 Engineer Regiment's 20 Field Squadron.

TOUGH TIME

The last four months have been a tough time for the sappers, for whom Macedonia is the fifth operational deployment in as many years. The 120 men deployed from their Maidstone base in mid-December, some time before the bulk of the mechanised infantry force.

Tasked to prepare the infrastructure, they co-operated closely with similar sapper squadrons from Italy and the Netherlands to develop facilities at Petrovac Airport, near the Macedonian capital of Skopje. There a Macedonian Mig fighter and reinforced shelters were reminders of the airport's Cold War role as a front-line Yugoslav Air Force base.

Now though, it was to be the base for Dutch helicopters and the British Warrior fighting vehicles, as well as a depot for ammunition and fuel.

Erecting temporary REME workshops, refurbishing old hangars and laying acres of hard-standing would not normally stress sappers unduly. But no one had quite anticipated the ferocity of the Macedonian winter. "We knew it would be cold, but we didn't realise how cold," said Ops Officer Capt Alistair Johnson. Temperatures plunged well below minus 10C... and stayed there. "We had to stop working every two or three minutes just to warm up."

Members of 9 Battalion REME,



Capt Kevin Shearman: "If your skills and drills are up to scratch, you will live to tell the tale"

Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

attached to the battle group, had their work cut out as fuel lines and batteries froze solid. Work on the hard standing came to a stop for five days as the dumper trucks refused to move. The problem of freezing fuel was solved when the fitters began diluting the diesel fuel with kerosene.

NO GO

The sappers were looking forward to going home in late February. They thought they deserved it. But as the crisis in Kosovo and the build-up of forces continued to develop, they were ordered to stay on until mid-March at least.

They turned their attentions to reinforcing the vital supply route to the Greek

port of Thessaloniki and – ominously perhaps – to the border with Kosovo. The work includes strengthening five bridges to cope with armoured vehicles. To avoid interrupting the flow of traffic, the engineers have built reinforcing pillars beneath the bridges, often working up to their waists in water.

It has been an arduous posting, but not short on job satisfaction. He may only have been putting a brave face on it, but Sgt Maj Kevin Hatley sounded genuine when he said: "It's what it's all about. Sappers are jacks of all trades, and you see it here. There are guys who are normally brickies or welders who just get on with helping the chippies. We just do what needs to be done."

IF THE multi-national force in Macedonia is called upon to move into Kosovo, troops will face the indiscriminate threat of mines.

This is nothing new to troops serving in the Balkans: Bosnia's war-ravaged land is polluted with anti-tank and anti-personnel variants.

But in Bosnia peacekeepers have amassed a great deal of knowledge about the threat and are able to manage the problem safely. Kosovo is different.

Troops who may have to deploy across the mountains will move knowing little about where mines may have been deployed.

Members of the Royal Engineers Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, from 33 Engineer Regiment at Wimbish, Essex, are tasked to collate the limited information available and inform soldiers how to cope with mines.

The appliance of science

As technology hurtles into the 21st century, soldiers have to learn how to use and apply it at the Royal Military College of Science

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

IN the library of a restored Victorian mansion, shelves of books, under such sections as Reactions and Electrochemistry, Optics and Earth Sciences, waited to be thumbed through.

Students sat in bay windows overlooking a peaceful lake, while others worked at graphs, spreadsheets and tables on numerous computers.

Outside, young men and women cycled along roads lined with classrooms, laboratories and display halls, or walked to lectures and tutorials.

A normal scene in any university or college, one might think. The difference was that many of the students were in military uniform and there was a distinct whiff of the barrack block about the buildings. A visit to one of the halls revealed a huge and impressive collection of guns, in another, an open jet wind tunnel, and further on a group of Army students were being taught the finer points of helicopter rotor heads.

This is the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham – Europe's largest centre for specialised defence studies. It provides education and training in science, engineering and management for 5,000 students a year from all three Services, the Civil Service, the private sector, and selected foreign and Commonwealth countries.

SHRIVENHAM DEGREE

It is not essential to have received a degree from RMCS Shrivenham to become a general in the British Army, but these days it helps.

The Army is becoming more technological as it heads towards digitisation in the 21st century, and by the time they reach the end of their military career every officer will have spent at least four weeks there, if not more.

"We want to take the scariness out of the Science in our title," said Lt Col Steen Clarke, RE, the SO1 Management Plans at RMCS. "Students are taught how technology and science apply to their jobs and how they can use it."

"Shrivenham is unique because of its defence ethos and culture, and the inter-

action between academic and military staff."

As yet there are no non-commissioned soldiers at Shrivenham, but that may change. "We recognise there are soldiers out there with the competence to get degrees," continued Lt Col Clarke. "We want soldiers to stop thinking of this as an officer's game and this is now beginning to be discussed on the campus."

Since 1984, RMCS has had a close partnership with Cranfield University, Bedfordshire, and is now one of three campuses of the university. Cranfield has a ten-year contract with the MoD until 2006 to supply academic teaching and support to the college.

Cranfield is almost entirely a post-graduate and research university, originally set up by the aviation industry to educate electricians. It now provides a third of all post-graduate degrees in mechanical, aerospace and production engineering in the UK, and has one of Europe's top Masters of Business Administration (MBA) programmes.

As a result of this, half the students at Shrivenham are civilians from local education authorities and private companies. They, along with military students, are able to take undergraduate and post-graduate courses in a range of subjects which include engineering, communications and information systems, mathematics, weapons and military vehicles, and explosives and ordnance.

But RMCS is principally a military organisation and is run by a commandant, presently Maj Gen Alistair Irwin. There are 27 Army, one Royal Navy, three Royal Air Force, one Australian Army and one Canadian Defence Force Directing Staff (DS), who are all grade-one weapons-trained officers. They work in the two military divisions of the college: Weapons, Vehicles and Management, and Electronics and Guided Weapons.

Academic serenity:
Beckett House,
the library at
RCMS Shrivenham



Learning from the past: Maj Andrew Gladen RE and Maj Neil Llewellyn RLC examine the breech of a 9.2in coastal defence gun

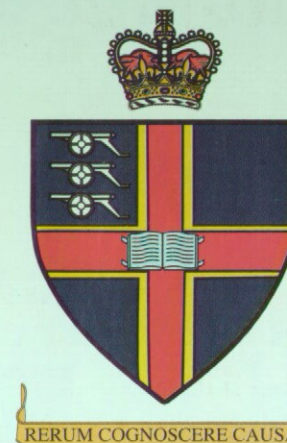


Welbeck College, the Army's Sixth Form College, is a prime feeder for Shrivenham's undergraduate courses.

Officers on the Junior Command and Staff Course go to RCMS for four weeks of management and technology, and a one-year Combat Arms Fighting Systems

course is available for selected Regular captains.

The "flagship" military courses are the two Defence Technology Courses (DTC) run for majors who have been picked up for Staff College. Each year up to 46 "brainboxes" – those who already have a



Weapons, Vehicles and Management Division.

"The first term is a bit of an eye-opener as they are brought up to speed with maths and physics – subjects many would not have studied since they were 16."

Throughout this time the students are being assessed academically by Cranfield professors, and militarily by Directing Staff.

"The Army looks at Shrivenham and Staff College as a critical watershed," said Lt Col Morgan. "If someone does not do well it would be better for them not to have come at all. To mess up here or at Staff College is a real career foul."

"It is the one time when people are examined in incredible detail, but most people are satisfied they have been assessed fairly and the end result is a fair summary of their strengths and weaknesses. This is important so that future jobs are carried out properly."

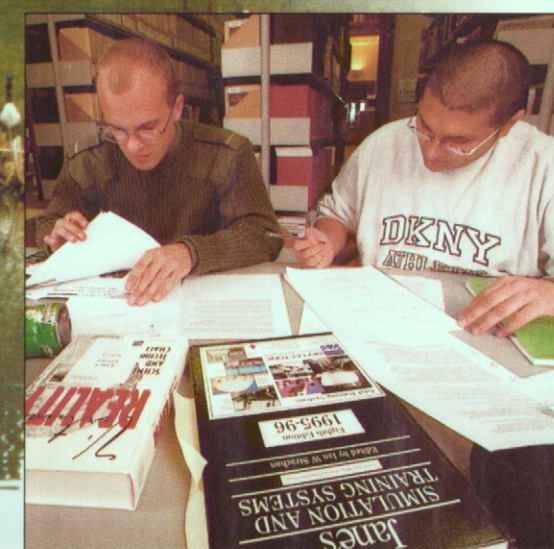
At the end of this course students get a post-graduate diploma if exams are passed. In the three years it has been going no one has failed. Cranfield is very keen to retain its position as the leading post-graduate university and will not allow standards to drop.

"There is a lot of work and just when they think they are out of the woods we chuck another forest at them," said Lt Col Morgan. "We replicate the pressures of the outside world."

For these students the ultimate prize is a Master of Arts degree once they have completed a 10,000-word dissertation at Staff College.

On a piece of ground called Watchfield near the college a massive building is being erected. This will be the Joint Services Command and Staff College, which will also house the Junior Command and Staff Course and the Royal College of Defence Studies.

It means that in years to come, all academic teaching for soldiers from captains to brigadiers will take place in a few square acres in the north Wiltshire countryside.



Cerebral exercise: Above, RLC-sponsored OCdt Matthew Edwards, with colleague Dave Anand, work on their three-year management and logistics degree

"And this little gubbins is an air-flow meter." Lecturer Kevin Knowles, left, discusses the AH-1F Cobra helicopter with Defence Technology Course students

science or numerate degree – take a full masters degree course, DTC Master of Science.

Others, who may have a clutch of A Levels, or even just GCSEs, to their name, take the eight-month DTC Master of Arts course. This, says the college, is for the "non-scientist who has the wit and enthusiasm to get to grips with technology". There are 90 students on this year's course, of whom only two are women.

"They are taught how science is applied to the Army and military rather than pure science," explained Lt Col Huw Morgan AGC, the DS Management Plans, in the

Unit spotlight

Life after SDR

Cut in half by the Defence Review, Cheshire's yeomanry has dusted itself off and is looking towards the future

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Terry Champion

LAST year's Strategic Defence Review delivered many bitter pills, but few were harder to digest than those passed to the Territorial Army's Yeomanry regiments.

The highly localised units which specialise in reconnaissance took the full force of the cuts and the re-structuring revolution which reduced the TA from 56,000 to just over 41,000 troops.

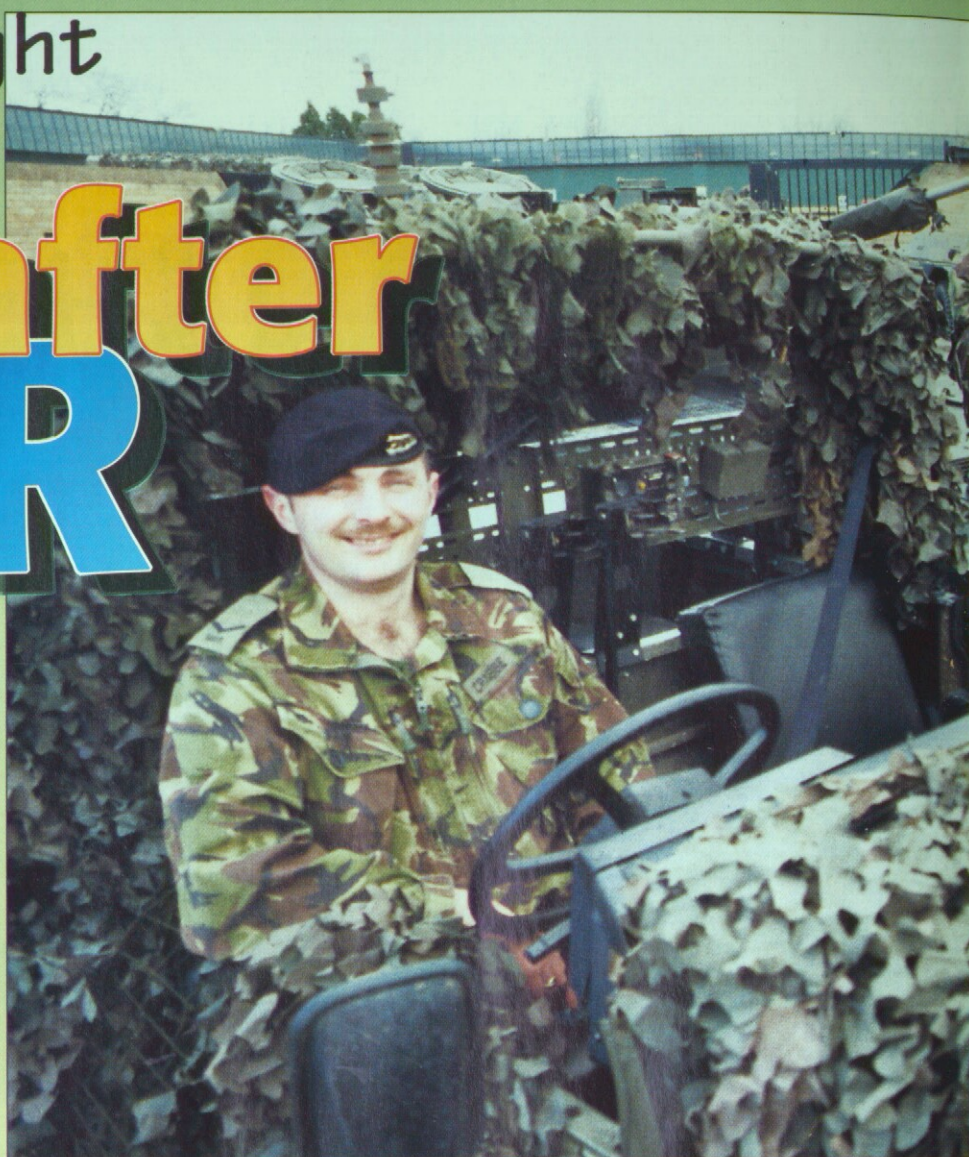
For units facing decimation, or worse, there was no choice but to get on with implementing the changes, but for a while happy yeomanry soldiers were as rare as tanks in the Royal Navy.

Six months on, there is still residual bitterness, but the new sleeker and re-tasked yeomanry squadrons are emerging, their surviving staff beginning to recover the enthusiasm and motivation that had been their trademark.

TRANSFORMED

One such transformed unit is Chester-based C (Cheshire Yeomanry) Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry. C Sqn's numerical strength has been slashed from 109 troops to just 53; its lightly armoured tracked recce vehicles replaced by stripped-down 110 Land Rovers and its parent regiment changed to the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry. As officer commanding Maj Nigel Hill said rather grimly: "It's been all change."

Surprisingly perhaps, the OC claims that many of the redundancies have been made "without a lot of pain". Most of the 56 crews and support staff for the Sabre armoured recce vehicles who left the squadron were less active members, rea-



Stripped for action: LCpl Wayne Crabbe, left, and SSgt Arthur Gasson man one of the Cheshire squadron's new Land Rovers. Behind them a redundant Sabre raises its barrel

sonably happy to retire or find positions with other TA units in the Cheshire area. Given the chance, though, he would remind those who demanded the cuts that for many part-time soldiers the TA is much more than a hobby.

"There are people who declare their TA income in order to get a mortgage and they suffer when they lose their jobs. Those who have asked me to sack people should bear this in mind."

He is impressed by the extent some soldiers go to in order to remain members of the squadron. "For them," he said, "the importance of staying in has overridden everything else. Three of our sergeants have even voluntarily lost a stripe just to keep jobs. I feel aggrieved on their behalf."

Exchanging the Sabre recce vehicles for Land Rovers has also been tough, not least because of the effect on the unit's image. The tracked Sabres with their 30mm turrets were, as Maj Hill describes



OC Maj Nigel Hill: "The importance of staying in has over-ridden everything else."

them, "sexy vehicles" and a great aid to recruitment. Few young men did not want to drive one of the squadron's "mini-tanks" (as the local papers insisted on describing them).

However, the re-equipping has not been without benefits. The fleet of cut-down Land Rovers – barely recognisable as such under cam-netting – are much easier to deploy, which should mean more exercises. SSgt Vince Roberts REME, who is attached to the unit, explained that the Sabres were maintenance-intensive. "We'll just jump in the Land Rovers and go, whereas the Sabres each needed at least an hour of checks and then had to be taken by low-loader to the exercise area."

The new vehicles do, however, sacrifice a lot in the way of comforts. Pulling his jacket tighter around him in the late winter wind, SSgt Roberts said: "The troops would much rather be sitting inside tanks with the heaters going than bombing down the M53 in open-topped Land Rovers."

Ironically, if the worst ever came to the worst, the troops would be back in those



warm tanks – and much bigger ones at that. C Sqn's war-time role is to provide back-up crews for Challenger 2 regiments. Training will initially be conducted on sophisticated simulators soon to be installed at nearby Synnerton, and eventually in the real things at Bovington.

"It'll take a long time to get everyone qualified," said Maj Hill. "But by doing light recce work with Land Rovers we will be able to develop many of the skills we need. Moving on the battlefield, map-reading and concealment are the same whether you are driving Land Rovers or tanks."

COMPENSATION

Amid such traumatic change Chester's own yeomanry tend to grasp whatever compensation and reassurance they can find. One such compensation is the new host regiment, The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry. "It's a great relief to everyone that we are joining a regiment which is so willing to have us," said the OC. "We'll be more Cheshire Yeomanry with them than we have ever been."

With just a slight hint of irony and a smile that seemed to hold promise for the future, he added: "And, of course, having lost half our strength we can at least expect 100 per cent attendance on drill nights."

Vision and values

Bottom line is ability to fight

There are no prizes for second place in battle and the overriding aim of the Army must be to maintain Britain's warfighting capability. That was one of the messages Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, delivered to the Royal United Services Institute in London when he spoke about the British Army in the 21st century

IF the Army is to maintain its warfighting skills it must sometimes put its needs above those of the individual soldier, writes Anthony Stone.

"The rights of the individual cannot always take the precedence that is expected in society if it is to the detriment of the teamwork that is crucial to our operational capability," said Gen Wheeler.

"That means that we must strike a balance on such issues as increasing the employment of women within the Army; the applicability to the military of European legislation dealing with national minimum wage, minimum working hours and the employment of young people."

Gen Wheeler said that people joining the Army must accept that the bottom line was that they were joining an organisation geared to warfighting.

"In the past the conduct and values of society were perhaps more closely aligned with those required of a military force, but this is not necessarily the case today."

VALUES AT ODDS

"The more libertarian values of modern Britain with their emphasis on the freedom of the individual rather than obligation to any collective identity are sometimes at odds with the values and behaviour needed to create the spirit and cohesiveness required in battle."

"So we intend to spell out what we feel is required of all ranks and what is not acceptable in all our training both as people enter the Army and



Gen Sir Roger Wheeler: outlined vision for the Army

in through-career training." Sir Roger, who has taken a leading role in trying to stamp out racism and attract more recruits from ethnic minorities during his three years as head of the Army, summarised what he wants to achieve as Britain enters the next millennium.

"A high-quality professional Army, valued by the nation, robust and useable, an Army ready to undertake at short notice any tasks required of it from civil aid to warfighting."

"An Army characterised by an ethos whose core values are: selfless commitment, physical and moral courage, (self) discipline and respect for others; which therefore recognises the need to develop and educate its people, bases advancement on equal opportunities and merit offering them a rewarding and valued career of first choice."

Picture: Mike Weston

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Feature

Good morning,

Forces radio in the UK begins a year of trial transmissions this month. The broadcasters hope to change the listening habits of UK garrisons

Report: Graham Bound
Picture: Terry Champion



Tidworth

Sounding good: Three of the faces behind the voices on BFN Forces Network gather round a mike – Mark Page, seated, with Neil Carter, standing left, and Dusty Miller

WHEN the residents of Tidworth and Bulford wake up on April 12, rub the sleep from their eyes and reach out to switch on their radios, many will be greeted by the fresh sound of Britain's newest radio station: BFN Forces Network.

The garrison's very own military station, a joint venture between the Services Sound And Vision Corporation (SSVC) and Chiltern Broadcasting Management, will go on the air for the first time just a few seconds after midnight on that day, transmitting music, chat and news, all specifically tailored to the interests and needs of the uniformed residents of this corner of Wiltshire.

The broadcasters believe that the Tidworth-Bulford soldiers and their families – many of whom will remember British Forces Broadcasting from overseas tours – will give the station a warm welcome.

But regardless of audience response, this experimental mini-station will have a life of just one month.

In May, audience opinions will be surveyed and the transmitter, digital equipment and CDs packed up and moved to Catterick for another month of broadcasting. Then it will be on to Colchester and Aldershot before the cycle begins again, taking the experiment through into the early months of 2000. The ultimate goal is a chain of permanent garrison radio stations in Britain emulating those which entertain and inform troops deployed overseas.

107 FM
If you are in the Bulford-Tidworth area, you can catch the new sounds of Forces radio 24 hours a day by tuning to this frequency.

That may be the future. For now, Tidworth's trial transmitter may be tiny, but that is not going to cramp the style of the radio jocks determined to make it the little station with the big heart.

Station manager Dusty Miller, one of SSVC's most experienced broadcasters and a veteran of such far-flung stations as the Falklands, was hardly able to contain his enthusiasm. "We want to become the focal point for the garrison," he said. "People should feel that we are their station, and at the end of our time here, we want to go away with them saying 'we can't wait for you to come back'."

To do that BFN Forces Network has to beat the BBC and the commercial stations in the popularity stakes. That means, as Dusty Miller put it, hitting the ground running.

Presenter Neil Carter will front the breakfast show, one of three main shows broadcast live from the station each day. "When we go on the air, we'll sound like we've been there forever," he said. "We will be music-driven, with lots of competitions and loads of interaction with listeners."

The 25-year-old who had his big broadcasting break when he won a DJ-ing com-

petition run by BRMB in Birmingham and was then recruited by the station, admits that he has little experience of military audiences, but he does not see that as a problem. "Soldiers enjoy the same thing I do. The key to radio is relating to people and I'll be able to do that as I'll be living on the base."

THANKS, DAD

BFN Forces Network will owe a great deal to its parent SSVC. National and world news will, for example, be fed to Tidworth and Bulford from the SSVC studios, as will pre-recorded night-time programmes from such big-name freelancers as Bob Harris and John Peel.

One of SSVC's biggest names will have a much more hands-on involvement in garrison radio. Mark Page, whose on-air style falls somewhere between the zany and the completely off-the-wall, will manage the Catterick station in May and June.

He carried out an early highly successful experiment in garrison radio in Catterick in 1998 which convinced the Army that a larger-scale trial was justified.

Mark can hardly wait to get his hands on the Catterick studio. He agrees with Tidworth's breakfast presenter Neil Carter, who summed up the likely impact of garrison radio. "We'll be big, we'll be bold, we'll be there."

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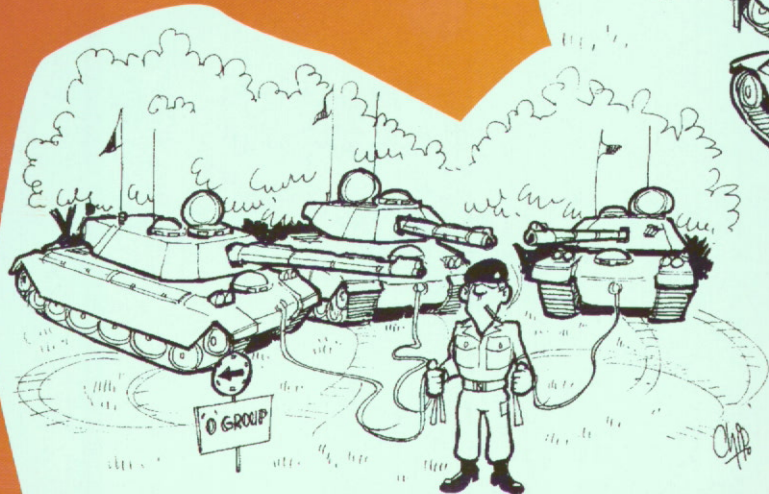
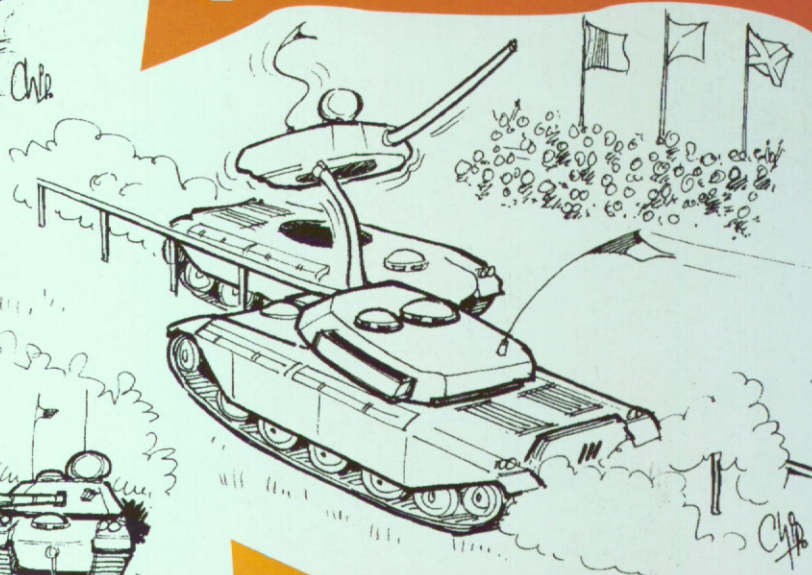


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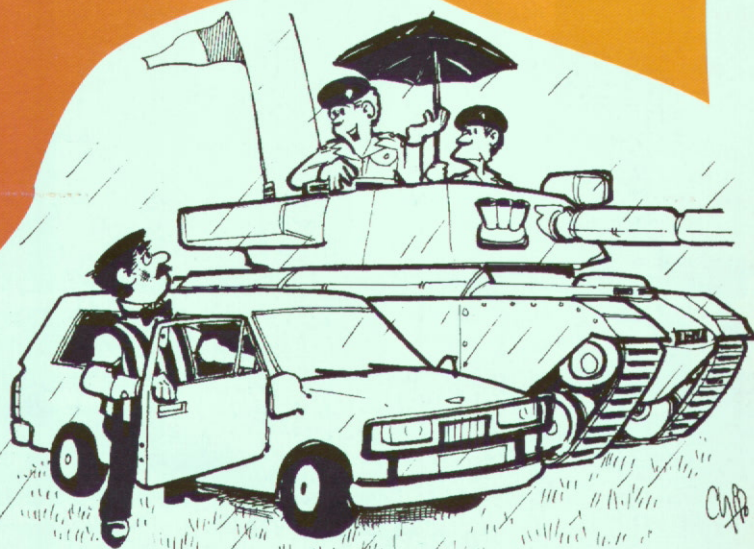
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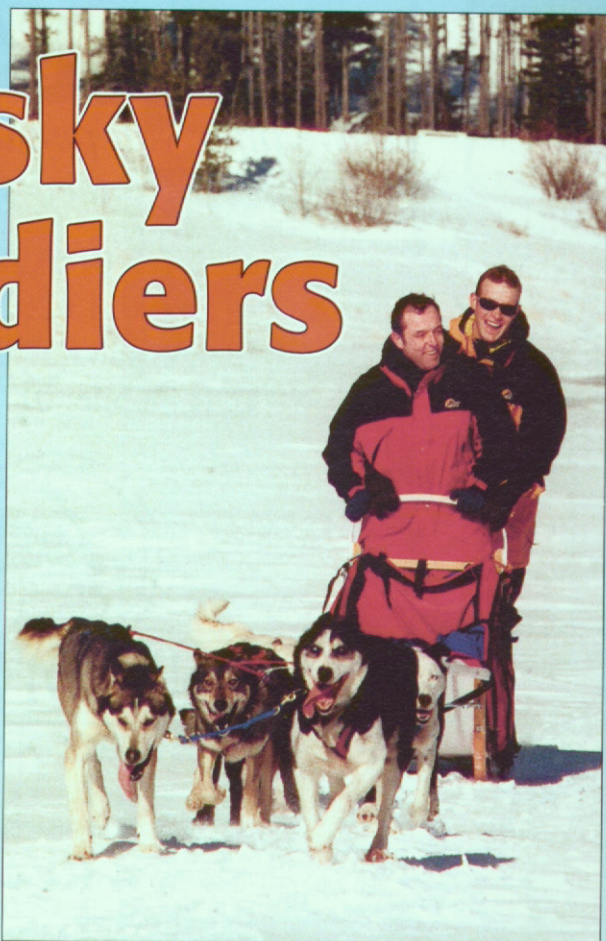
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BRI ENQUIRIES WELCOME

Feature

Husky soldiers

A few hardy souls have experienced the ultimate in deep winter adventure... an expedition with a team of Alaskan huskies



Picture: Kevin Capon

Snow go: Capt Davies, left, Maj Tim Smart and the dogs set off across Great Spray Lakes in Kananaskis Provincial Park

BRITISH soldiers who turn up at Trails End adventurous training camp in the Canadian Rockies during the winter face an unusual challenge, writes **Dennis Barnes**.

The latest line in winter expeditions is to send them out into the white vastness with a team of six Alaskan huskies in temperatures of minus 30C and 10ft snowdrifts. It is the adventure to beat all adventures... four days of braving blizzards in a snow-covered wilderness.

"This is a challenge which meets every aspect of adventurous training," is how Maj Ted Turner, the Trails End OC, puts it. "Set in a hostile and intimidating environment, it stretches people but at the same time is both fun and rewarding."

"We were looking for something different and met an eccentric Englishman, Russell Donald, who owns a company called Mad Dogs and Englishmen." He runs the project.

Up to six people at a time can go on the expeditions, loading up the sleds before disappearing into the back country of the beautiful Kananaskis Provincial Park.

Maj Tim Smart, QDG, was surprised by the rigours of the expedition... and by the friendliness of the huskies. Others soon found each dog had a unique character, some shy, some forceful

LCpl Jonathan Collings, QDG, said:

"The lead dog is the boss and it is he who follows the trail and dictates the pace." WO2 Dave Campbell REME added: "Riding the sled is a sort of partnership. You don't have full control."

The dogs run for up to four hours, careering at high speed across the flat, iced surface of the Great Spray Lakes before they rest. The huskies slept in the tents at night, helping to keep everyone warm. When coyotes sniffed around the campsite, the dogs made a dreadful racket of howling and barking.

JORING

LCpl Grez Grzesiak, Staffords, tried his hand at ski joring – a sport in which the "skier" is attached by a harness to two dogs. A bit like water skiing, with dogs instead of a boat and snow instead of water, joring has been demonstrated as a possible Winter Olympic sport.

After four days the expedition members were exhausted, but thrilled by the experience of running flat-out through the spectacularly beautiful and isolated terrain with its high mountain peaks and snow-covered valleys.

Russell Donald, a veteran of the legendary 1,000-mile Yukon sled race, has already had several enquiries from units interested in long-distance expeditions. He can be contacted on e-mail mad-dogs1@telusplanet.net

Forces' Discounts

On holiday

IN OUR latest extract from the Forces' Discounts Brochure, the booklet that tells you how to save money, we look at holiday offers. Remember, though, that there are many more details in the brochure.

Bonnes Vacances. Range of holiday accommodation in all parts of France available throughout the year. Five per cent discount available at selected properties. Call 01306 876876 for full details.

Bridge the World Travel Centre. A leading independent travel agency specialising in long-haul travel. Discounts offered on all major airlines and on many hotels. Ten per cent off insurance. For information about worldwide travel, call 0171 911 0900. For group discounts call 0171 437221.

British Airways Short Breaks.

Special offer on flights and accommodation in Berlin and Hanover. Call 0181 4292900, quoting MOD 99.

More travel offers in our next issue.

This offer is so new, it is not even in the 1999 Forces Discounts Brochure...

A warm (and money-saving!) welcome at Granada motorway services

All Service personnel and MoD civilian staff can enjoy a 20 per cent discount at Granada Motorway Service Areas throughout Britain. The offer applies to all purchases in Granada retail and forecourt shops as well as Travelodges (quote MOD20 when booking) and at all catering facilities situated in Granada service areas.

The discount will apply to a group of up to six persons if one of the group is a member of the Services or an MoD employee.

Not included in the discount offer are fuel, tobacco products, phone cards, stamps, national Lottery tickets and National Lottery Instant.

The offer is valid until December 31 and applies to purchases in excess of £2. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. ID cards must be shown.

● *Soldier* does not guarantee the accuracy of this information and does not endorse products or services. Comments or queries on any offer should be addressed to the business concerned.



Filling up: LSgt Mark Ryan (left) and Bdr Matt Welch from ATR Pirbright accept Granada's 20 per cent discount offer

Picture: Mike Weston



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'Escaping from Colditz' – an account by Col Peter Storie-Pugh, Colditz PoW, 1940-45

'Chindit Commander' – featuring Brigadier Michael Calvert, Commander 77th Chindit Brigade in Burma 1944.

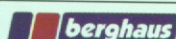
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on Friday 9th April 1999 between 12.30pm and 1.30pm

Barry Davies served with the SAS for eighteen years. This is his tenth book following *Survival Is A Dying Art*; *Fire Magic*; *Going Hostile*; *SAS Escape & Evasion*; *Shadow Of The Dove*; *SAS Rescue and SAS Illustrated History*. He has also completed documentaries for ITN and Carlton UK.

Joining The SAS explains what goes into the making of an SAS soldier. It is a step by step reference about what happens during the selection course and what to expect once accepted into an SAS Squadron. The book includes rare insights into: Preparation, Route Selection, Continuation Training, Survival Training, Fighting in Different Terrain, Anti-Terrorist Team and SAS Squadrons and Operations.

Bring this advert with you on Friday 9th April 1999 to obtain *Joining The SAS* for £14.99, saving £4.00 off the RRP!

Alternatively, you may order a signed copy of the book by telephone on 01252 336300 or writing to the address below by Wednesday 7th April 1999 (quoting reference sold1) to obtain *Joining The SAS* for £14.99 plus £2.00 post and packing.

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From Westminster to Wapping

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

'Let's deploy more Gurkhas'



A FORMER Chief of the Defence Staff called in the House of Lords for more use to be made of Gurkhas to help the Army deal with its increasing commitments.

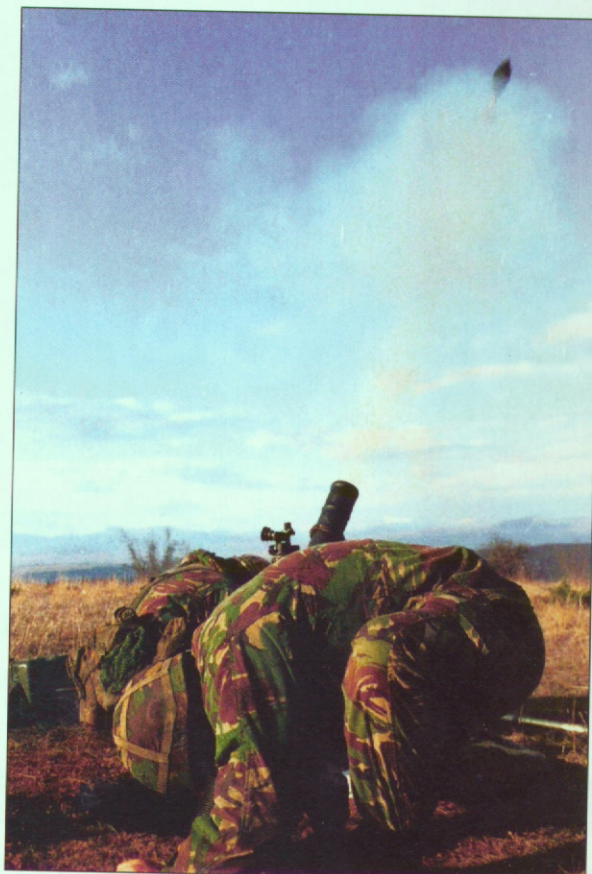
In a debate triggered by the deployment of thousands of extra troops to the former Yugoslavia, Fd Marshal Lord Bramall said that despite considerably improved recruiting, poor retention meant that the Army and other Services were still "significantly undermanned and grossly overstretched".

Overstretch, he said, "degrades performance; it sours the families; it leads to cannibalisation of establishments to produce proper front-line strength; and it has a cumulative effect on retention".

He criticised the "excessive" cuts in the TA, particularly in the infantry and the engineers, and "a steady erosion of the regimental system, that great motivating force, starting at the rather impersonal Army Training Regiment". As a solution he suggested more use of the Brigade of Gurkhas, "behind whom there is an almost inexhaustible and immediate supply of first-class, trainable soldiers".

Former Defence minister Lord Trefgarne, who opened the debate, said: "I would like to pay tribute to the members of the Armed Forces and their families for the commitment and dedication they show under very difficult circumstances. As the recent Strategic Defence Review recognised, units and individuals, especially in key areas, are separated from their families and base units too often and for too long. And it is also acknowledged that overstretch and undermanning in the Armed Forces are 'linked problems'."

Replying, Defence Minister Lord Gilbert said the Government fully recognised and was tackling the retention problem – but rising recruitment, particularly among ethnic minorities, was good news. Of Lord Bramall's plea on behalf of the Gurkhas, he said: "All I can say at the moment is that more Gurkhas would be useful."



Stretched: A soldier, left, of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment fires a mortar during an exercise in Macedonia. Operation Agricola, which could involve more than 8,000 troops being deployed to Kosovo, is likely to aggravate the problem of overstretch, say members of the House of Lords

an suffering from a related illness, but anyone who was worried could be referred to the Medical Assessment Programme.

● **Nuclear tests:** The MoD is to fund a medical study into the incidence of multiple myeloma (MM) cancers in the veterans of the UK atmospheric nuclear test programme in the 1950s. The analysis will be carried out by the National Radiological Protection Board, an independent body.

Landmines: No British soldier will ever again lay an anti-personnel landmine, Defence Secretary George Robertson pledged in the House of Commons.

Announcing the complete and early destruction of all such devices held by the British Army, he said this would send a clear message to those nations who had not yet agreed to a similar action.

Women in services: Women now account for 14 per cent of all new recruits to the Services and an increasing number

are now occupying senior positions – more than eight per cent of the total officer corps. Recruitment of women officers has increased by half over the past five years.

Total strength of the Army on January 1, 1999 was 109,677, a slight fall during the past year. However, recruitment and other intake was 16 per cent higher between April and December than in the corresponding period of 1997.

● The Army has nine female qualified pilots and a further six women are being trained.

Suez medal: Service in the Suez Canal Zone during the qualifying period of the Africa General Service Medal 1902-56 does not count for entitlement to that award, Defence Under-Secretary John Spellar said in a written reply. He told MP Andrew Bennett that no clasp for this medal was instituted for service north of the Sahara.

Veterans' deaths: More than 380 members of UK Armed Forces who served in the Gulf region in 1990 and 1991 have died since April 1, 1991, Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson said in a written reply on March 15.

Of these, 250 were Regular personnel recorded as having died while still serving. "Information received by the MoD in respect of a further 17 Gulf veterans who have been reported as having died is currently in the process of being verified," he added.

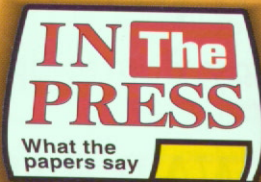
MoD has identified 53,462 UK Service personnel who were deployed on Op Granby or to a state in the Gulf region at some time between September 1, 1990 and June 30, 1991.

A report on depleted uranium (DU) use in the Gulf published on March 19 said the risks of harmful exposure had been small. Mr Henderson said he was not aware of any UK Gulf veter-

● A suggestion to rename a German Army barracks after Winston Churchill has been welcomed by British Second World War veterans but condemned by many Germans. – *Express*

● The MoD has begun a review of the roles played by its professional sports stars. The Government is wondering whether it receives value for money from personnel who, in effect, are paid twice. – *Times*

● Royal Marines are to test a small portable cannon which shoots a cable and a high-speed jet of quick-drying foam which hard-



so fast it produces a "bridge" over which men and supplies can travel. The "Spiderman" technology is being trialled on exercise in the USA. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● The SA80 rifle is prone to jam when used in hot and arid conditions. The fault is so serious that Nato has removed the SA80 from its list of approved weapons. – *Daily Mail*

● A remote-controlled helicopter small enough to fit inside the boot of a car could soon be clearing minefields without putting human lives at risk. The Nitrohawk has been developed by a British engineer at the University of the West of England. – *Times*

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

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Nato celebrates



50 years of peace

Knights of the round table:
Nato ambassadors meet with the Secretary General

Report: Karen Moseley

OF all the changes that have taken place in Europe over the past 50 years, the new relationship between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) and Eastern Europe is probably the most extraordinary.

Gone are the days when two military blocks stood face-to-face in the centre of Europe. The former dividing lines have disappeared and now most countries in the former Warsaw Pact are seeking closer ties with Euro-Atlantic institutions.

Nato will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year as an organisation that has already ensured the longest-ever period of peace in Europe.

The Washington Treaty was signed in 1949 by the 12 nations of America, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Holland, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway and Portugal. Those sombre heads of state who viewed the "Russian bear" across the Iron Curtain

Nato celebrates its half-century this month. When the agreement was signed in 1949 no one thought much-feared enemies would become allies

with such foreboding probably never envisaged that half a century later three Warsaw Block countries would be joining them as partners.

But that is exactly what happened when, on March 12 this year, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary joined the 16 other nations belonging to the

Alliance, the first countries from the former communist block to do so.

As the actual anniversary – April 4 – falls on Easter Sunday it was decided that the focus of the celebration would be the Washington Summit at the end of April. There, all heads of state and governments of member countries across Europe and North America, including Russia and Ukraine, will discuss the importance of the relationship between Russia and Nato.

"One thing is clear, there can be no stability in Europe without a stable Russia," said Nato Secretary General Dr Javier Solana recently. "Helping Russia is not an act of charity but of enlightened self-interest."

Nato has had a high-profile job to do in Bosnia, and could have again in Kosovo. The Nato of the 21st century will not be the same organisation that emerged in a climate of Western fears and weaknesses during the 323-day blockade of Berlin in 1949. It has now adopted the wider role of

● **Turn to next page**

As the advert says: Pay attention now, this is the complicated bit

THE North Atlantic Alliance is a political partnership with military teeth – and large ones at that.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) is the inter-governmental organisation which serves the Alliance, the headquarters of which are in Brussels, Belgium. It provides the forum in which the 19 member states can consult together on any issues they choose to raise and take decisions on political and military matters affecting their security.

The North Atlantic Council is the highest political and military authority in the Alliance. Each government is represented by a permanent representative with ambassadorial rank, each supported by a political and military staff.

PLANNING

Most military matters are dealt with in the Defence Planning Committee, which is composed of all member countries except France.

The Military Committee is the highest military authority in the Alliance, under the political authority of the North Atlantic Council and the Defence Planning Committee.

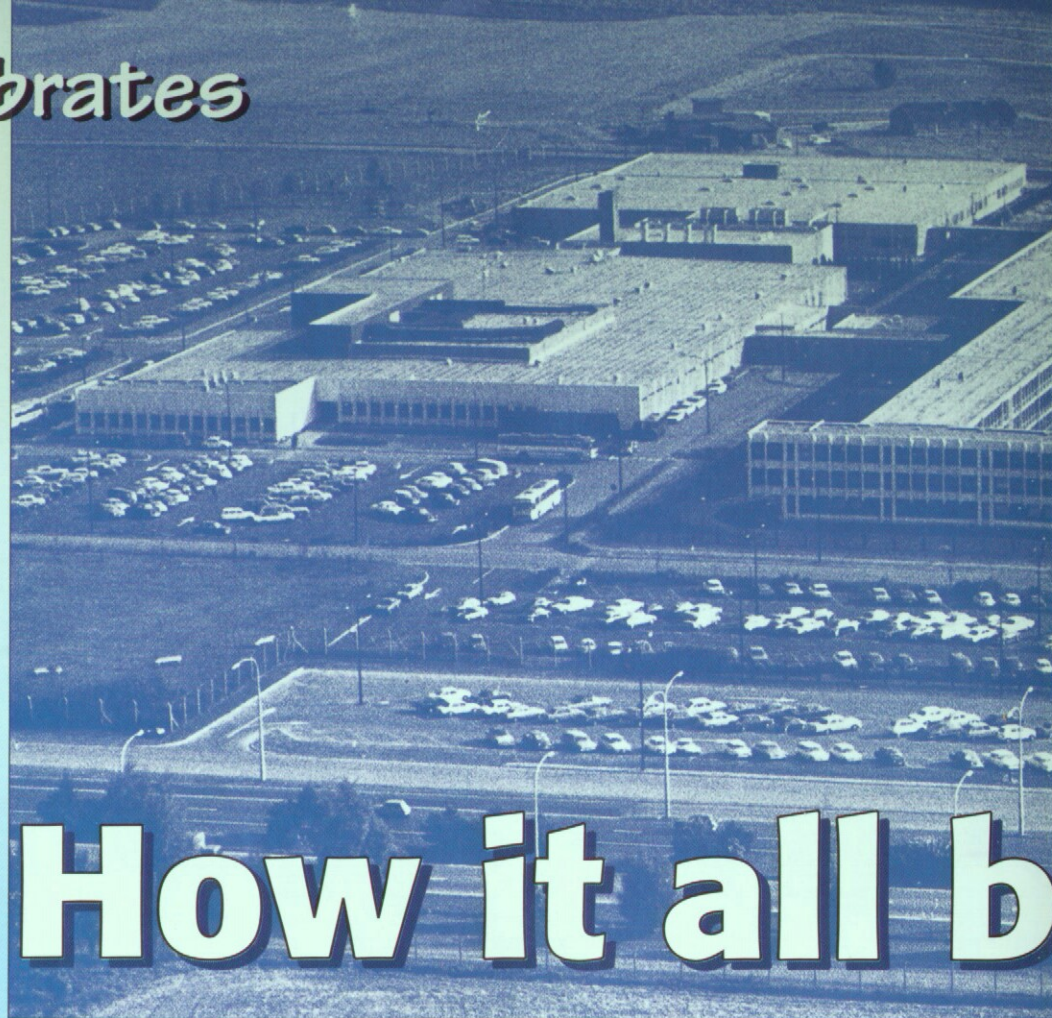
The strategic area covered by the North Atlantic Treaty is divided between two major Nato commands, Allied Command Europe and Allied Command Atlantic, each of which is the responsibility of a Major Nato Commander (MNC), with a regional planning group for Canada and the United States.

The headquarters of Strategic Command Europe are the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (Shape) based in Mons, Belgium.

EFFICIENCY

Based there is the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (Saceur), always an American, who is responsible for preparing defence plans for the area under his command and ensuring the combat efficiency of the forces assigned to his command in the event of war. During times of aggression, SACEUR would control all land, sea and air operations.

Allied Command Europe spans not only a massive area – about two million square kilometres of land and three million square kilometres of sea – but also more than four decades of European history.



How it all began

AS the gates of the Iron Curtain clanged shut in 1949, the threat of Communist hordes sweeping westward was viewed with increasing terror by the weary inhabitants of a war-battered Europe.

The heroic efforts of the Berlin airlift reinforced the idea that strength lay in numbers and unity. On April 4 that year 12 Atlantic nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty – and so Nato was born.

The Atlantic powers' aims were the same as those on the UN Charter: to preserve the independence of nations and have respect for spiritual values and the dignity of man.

The nations varied greatly in size and strength. Not all had conscription, and Iceland did not even have an army. Some had only token air forces and navies, and not all the countries had stable governments.

50 years of peace

● From Page 31

promoting security and stability throughout Europe.

One of the major initiatives of the Alliance has been to form the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme. Now in its fifth year, many British soldiers have taken part in joint military PfP exercises on which they have worked alongside Albanian, Czech, Romanian, Polish and Russian soldiers.

Although Russia views Nato's eastern expansion with some alarm, the Nato-Russia Founding Act, which was signed last year, gives the former USSR the fullest possible guarantees that the existing military parameters in Europe will not change in the immediate future.

During the next few years the Korean War and Russia's spectacular gains in the Middle East and Africa hastened the creation of Nato's military shield. Chinese communists were practising subversion throughout South-East Asia and, most important of all, the inter-continental ballistic missile had arrived. With it, the United States lost her atomic monopoly.

To add to the tension, the Warsaw Pact was signed on May 14, 1955 by Russia and its European allies.

The military problems facing Nato, which had expanded to 15 members with the addition of Germany, Greece and Turkey by the beginning of the 1960s, were formidable.

In Eastern Germany, Russia had 20 armoured or motorised divisions with strong artillery and anti-aircraft support, and some

For Britain, continued peace and stability in Europe is based unequivocally on Nato. Although the chances of a full-scale global war have been reduced practically to zero, leaders are well aware that the situation in Europe and the rest of the world is far from stable – particularly in the Balkans and Middle East.

But the Alliance has survived its decidedly shaky beginnings, and can justly be proud of its contribution to 50 years of peace. As Dr Solana said:

"Today the vision of a united Europe is no longer a vision. Nor is the goal of a Europe whole and free still a seemingly unattainable objective. At the end of this turbulent 20th century, we can say that Europe has seized the chance for the new beginning it was given 50 years ago."



Seat of power: Nato HQ in Brussels, originally constructed in 1967 as a temporary building

1,500 tactical aircraft, as well as nuclear weapons which had been built after the war. In all, some 175 Red Army divisions could be launched against the West, as well as 22,500 front-line aircraft and more than 450 submarines.

But in central Europe, Nato had only 21 of the 30 divisions it needed as its minimum requirement. Despite that, it was a source of great pride, and not a little relief, that Russia did not gain an inch of Nato ground.

If the Russians decided to attack from the sea, powerful Allied fleets operated in the Atlantic and Channel Commands, from the North Pole to the Tropic of Cancer and between Europe and North America.

To protect the power-houses, factories and farmlands of America, distant early warning radar systems were set up across Alaska and Canada. The US Sixth Fleet was described as "the biggest single offensive unit, possibly in the world, and the most powerful".

The US Strategic Air Command and the Royal Air Force's V-bombers stood in the highest state of preparedness. Intermediate-range, inter-continental and Polaris nuclear submarines were coming off the production lines to join them.

Even 30 years after Nato was formed the Soviet Union was still building itself into an increasingly more powerful military power. Despite severe economic problems in the early 1980s, Russia continued to procure a huge amount of modern weapons.

But the end of the mighty Russian threat was drawing inexorably closer, and as the first brick in the Berlin wall fell out so the Communist bloc crumbled.

All Nato operations must have a basis in international law and be in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Article 51 recognises the inherent right of self-defence, which includes the right to seek aid from elsewhere. Friendly nations can give aid individually and collectively. In other cases a UN Security Council Resolution under Chapter VII of the charter may be necessary to authorise the use of force.

Yugoslavia – the big test

IN 1995 Nato launched the largest military operation ever undertaken by the Alliance.

Despite its best attempts, the UN had failed to produce a peaceful solution in the former Yugoslavia, and the time had come to send in the muscle.

On August 30 the guns of 19 Regiment, Royal Artillery joined those of French and Dutch members of the Rapid Reaction Force on Mt Igman and pounded Bosnian Serb positions below. Nato aircraft bombed strategic targets from Tuzla to Gorazde. The Alliance was showing it had a bite to match its bark.

The Nato-led Implementation Force (IFOR) moved into Bosnia after the peace agreement was negotiated in Dayton, Ohio and signed in Paris. Based on UN Security Council Resolution 1031, the accord gave Nato a one-year mandate to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement.

It succeeded in stopping the hostilities by separating the armed forces of the Bosnian-Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serbs, transferring areas between the two entities, and finally moving the opposing forces and heavy weapons into approved sites.

IFOR troops patrolled along the 1,400km long demilitarised Inter-Entity Boundary Line, and regularly inspected

Alliance in Bosnia

more than 800 sites containing heavy weapons. After the 1996 elections passed off peacefully, IFOR had successfully completed its mission. Nato defence ministers decided that a reduced military presence was needed to provide the stability necessary for



Nato shows its muscle: Soldiers of 19 Regiment, RA, fire on the Serbs from Mt Igman in 1995

consolidating the peace, and agreed to form a Stabilisation Force (SFOR).

SFOR was authorised to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement under UN Security Council resolution 1088 of December 12, 1996. Its main mission was to contribute to the secure environment necessary for peace.

Nato envisaged an 18-month mission for SFOR, but more than two years later there is no immediate plan for SFOR's withdrawal.

Boys' club that began in a PoW camp

Grim life for Oflag prisoners

IT might have been more than 50 years ago, but Harry Witheridge and Jimmy James's memories of life inside the PoW camp are still as sharp as the hunger pangs that were once their daily companions.

Jimmy told *Soldier*: "The German guards, especially towards the end, tended to be very trigger-happy. There was a main wire fence and inside that there was a second wire which no one was allowed to cross. I remember the Gurkhas were playing quoits one day and one quoit just went over the wire. A Gurkha lent over to pick it up and was shot through the head."

VENGEANCE

"The other Gurkhas swore they would get that sentry after the war. They used to sit around watching him every time he came on duty. I was told that when we were released by the Americans, his friends went after the sentry and killed him."

Harry remembers that by April 1945 the situation was more dangerous outside the camp than inside it.

CHAOS

"There was chaos at the end of the war, slave workers had escaped from factories and there was complete breakdown of law and order. But that was only outside the camp; there was complete discipline within it."

Directly after liberation, a British officer armed himself and manned the sentry posts to protect the prisoners.



Still on the move: Jimmy James, left, and Harry Witheridge try out exercise bicycles in the Brunswick Boys' Club gym

In 1945 soldiers lit a beacon for Britain's youth which is still burning brightly today

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Terry Champion

FEBRUARY 1945 was a low point for Jimmy James and Harry Witheridge. Life in Oflag 79, a prisoner-of-war camp near Braunschweig in northern Germany, was bad and getting worse. Rations consisted of turnip soup and rye bread and no Red Cross or other food parcels were getting through.

During the day, US Air Force bombers flew overhead on their way to a nearby factory involved in the production of V1 and V2 rockets destined for London and other British cities. At night the Royal Air Force bombed the same target. The missions were not always accurate. Three British officers were killed when off-target bombs hit the camp.

Sanitation was primitive, conditions grim. The accommodation was a derelict Luftwaffe barracks and with 3,000 PoWs crammed together, most of them British officers, the mood in the camp oscillated between frustration and helplessness.

Jimmy James, who was serving with The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, remembered: "One wet morning Percy Flood walked around the camp with me explaining his thoughts. He said

that something of permanent worth should emerge from these evil times.

"While prisoners could look forward to an end to the deprivation, squalor and frustration of their present days, there were youngsters in Britain for whom such conditions would always be part of their lives."

So the idea was formed to establish a boys' club, well-funded, equipped and managed, to provide facilities and amenities which otherwise would not be available.

A small group of officers, including Harry Witheridge, kicked the idea about and then called a large meeting. Things did not go smoothly at first and officers were reluctant to embrace the idea.

Then a private from The Parachute Regiment stood up. He was 21 years old and had been captured at Arnhem. He told the meeting that he came from a poor background in east London and had been heading for a career of delinquency before he joined the local boys' club.

CLINCHER

"Everything I have in life is owed to that boys' club," he told the meeting. "If you do this one thing, you will never do a finer thing in your lives."

The officers cheered and the seal was set on the eponymous Brunswick Club. There was just one major hurdle to overcome. Money.

Jimmy explained: "Money was raised on a scale beyond all expectation, some from the small proportion of pay received at the camp, some by cheques and bankers' orders written on scraps of paper, some by promises to pay an annual subscription... and all were subsequently honoured."

By the time the American 9th Army reached the camp in April 1945 the prisoners had raised a colossal £13,000 – the equivalent of about £250,000 today.

But the Brunswick Club did not get its hands on the cash quite so easily. As the war ended the German mark was heavily devalued and the Treasury said the £13,000 contributed in Oflag 79 should be correspondingly reduced to about £2,000. It took the direct intervention of Prime Minister Clement Attlee to reverse the decision.

The club was built on a bombed-out site in Fulham on one-and-a-half acres brought for £6,000. From the outset it



Roll call: Gordon Horner's painting of life in Oflag 79 near Braunschweig in northern Germany in 1944 depicts actual characters

WHEN Gordon Horner of the Royal Artillery was captured in the Western Desert and sent to Oflag 79, he thought his painting days were over. But by using material sent by the Red Cross in 1944, he was given an unexpected opportunity. The result was this unique scene of the camp roll call.

As fellow prisoner Harry Witheridge remembers: "The picture was painted from life, the people depicted being

Story behind the picture

actual people there at the time. Roll call took place every morning at 0700 and at such other times as the Germans decided, especially if they suspected an escape or the prisoners had been unduly truculent.

"The German officer in the blue-grey uniform, a captain, was killed in an air raid when

bombs fell on Oflag 79."

The prisoners would be counted off in fives and despite the dangers, they would often do their best to make things difficult for the Germans.

Harry said: "There was a little chap at the back who would sneak around to the front when no one was looking. It baffled the Germans more if they dis-

covered they were one over than if they found they were one short.

"They never really understood the humour of it."

The picture was painted to raise funds for the Brunswick Boys' Club. It was raffled in the camp and, such was the confidence in the future success of the youth project, was donated to the cause.

It is now the Brunswick's most prized possession.

was a massive success and a standard bearer for boys' clubs everywhere. The Duke of Edinburgh performed the opening ceremony in July 1949.

Today the club is 344-strong, of whom about a third are girls. It offers a comprehensive range of activities under the guidance of youth leaders and workers, with

strong emphasis on sport and arts and crafts. The club is widely recognised to be one of the best in London.

The officers who were the driving force behind the club at the outset became the trustees and have assisted in running the club ever since. Brunswick is a living memorial to those who did not make it

home from the war and has been a force for good that has touched thousands of lives.

The paratrooper's prediction was spot on.

● Donations can be made to the Brunswick Club Trust, Haldane Road, Fulham, London SW6 7EU

Who dares . . .

On skid row

The Defence School of Driving teaches students to stay on straight and narrow

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE last time I saw someone throw a vehicle around at high speed on snow and ice with scant regard for other road users, I was trying to cross a road in Bosnia. It was a close thing . . . the police car almost got me.

Now, thanks to an ingenious piece of engineering, you don't have to go to the Balkans to get to grips with the skids.

Instructors at the Defence School of Transport, Leconfield, in Yorkshire, specialise in teaching soldiers how to drive safely in the most challenging conditions. Perversely, this is done by carrying out manoeuvres which feel anything but safe.

Take this one for instance. Instructional officer Ken Gagen's voice was fairly matter-of-fact. "I want you to go along the runway as fast as you can and when I shout 'turn' I want you to put a full left-hand lock on. Go flat out, it is not yours, so keep it floored."

OVER-REVVED

Half-way down the runway Ken's voice cut through the high-pitched whine of the over-revved engine. "Turn!" he barked.

I put the full lock on and the vehicle began to lurch. Everything went into slow motion and centrifugal force firmly held my right shoulder against the door. We did a 360. If you tried that manoeuvre on a civvy road you would collect more points than during a year's shopping at Tesco.

"You have just demonstrated how a combination of poor steering and excessive speed can cause a skid," said Ken, a former gunner who left the Army as a WO2 (RQMS) in 1994. His last job in uniform was with 39 Regiment RA.

I had also demonstrated that it was a sensible precaution not to eat breakfast.

The Land Rover was sitting on a



Ken Gagen: Ex-WO2 RA

detachable cradle with four hydraulically-operated wheels. By using an on-board computer, the driving instructor can lift the weight of the vehicle off its own wheels so the tyres have less grip.

Ken explained: "I can give it 100 per cent road grip like a normal Land Rover, or, at the other extreme, I can give it no grip whatsoever. I can also set it at any step in between. The system can simulate driving on wet tarmac, snow or sheet ice. I can even put daylight under the wheels."

This is Ken's usual finale. The one where the driver has no control whatsoever.

Soldiers undergo a thorough briefing in the classroom before being let loose on the skid pan. This maximises the usefulness of the training.

Sessions last for 45 minutes during which they learn how to control vehicle understeer (when the front end slides out) and over-steer (when the back end

Slip-sliding away: The traction in the Land Rover's rear wheels falls away, above, as the skid cradle is raised

Lock on: Our reporter, right, is about to lose control because of poor steering and excessive speed

slides out). Soldiers are taken through the four reasons that cause skidding; excessive or sudden braking, harsh acceleration, poor steering and excessive speed. The best way to avoid skidding is to read the road ahead and sharpen up hazard perception. The skid cradle may not feel safe, but it is. Ken explained: "The rig acts like the stabilisers on a bike. It means that you cannot turn the vehicle over. There is only one reported incident of a skid frame rolling and that was when the equipment was being used incorrectly."

It was time for another exercise. "We



are going to cover two things. First, that excessive braking causes skidding and, secondly, that when you are in a skid if you turn the wheel it will not respond. A locked wheel will not steer.

"Slam your left foot and your right foot down on the clutch and the brake and at the same time put a full right-hand lock on. Trust me, I'm a doctor."



Every soldier who is likely to be exposed to tricky driving conditions will have access to a skid cradle and expert instruction.

Units bid for places through their training officer and the local Master Driver. Every Army area has access to a skid cradle

— for example, Aldershot Garrison has one, and so does London District — and Germany has five. There is also one in Bosnia.

We bombed down the runway and not surprisingly I got that old centrifugal feeling again. You can't steer when the wheels are not rotating.

Having got that manoeuvre done and dusted it was time for the avoiding action. I turned the Land Rover around back down the runway pointing at a traffic cone. I was to do the same as before, clutch-and-brake down, so the wheels would lock.

But as the vehicle went into a skid I was supposed to put three inches of steering on while at the same time taking my foot off the brake. The mantra was *brake, steer and release*. But when it came to the crunch I slammed on the brakes and kept them on . . . and went straight into the

cone. "It's the hardest thing to do," Ken said. "Your mind will not work. Your mind thinks 'I don't want to hit this' so you keep your foot on the brake."

The practical application of this theory would be a method of going round someone if you can't stop in time. If a child steps in front of a car travelling at 30mph there is no chance of stopping. Your best option is to steer around.

The key, of course, is practice. That is why there are so many skid frames at the units. Ken said: "My personal opinion is that it should be something that every soldier goes through every six months."

I know training is serious business, but that didn't stop this being serious fun as well.

My son, the hero

Interview: **Graham Bound**
Pictures: **Mike Weston**

IT IS slightly uncomfortable, and yet immensely appealing, to see Freda McKay smile gently and then hear her talk of her son Ian. He was "a scruffy child, really. I even got the pumice stone out to him sometimes".

Mothers are, of course, great levellers, guaranteed to remove our heroes, living or dead, from the pedestals upon which we place them. And thank goodness they do, because it is good to know that they are a little – if only a little – like us.

Freda McKay, sitting by the gas fire in her semi-detached bungalow on the outskirts of Rotherham, is no exception. While the rest of us tip-toe around the memory of Britain's most recent recipient of the Victoria Cross, his mum reminisces about the son who, occasionally, had to be given a good scrubbing. This despite the fact that Sgt Ian McKay would have been 45 this year if he had not died while storming an Argentine machine-gun in the Falklands.

Of course Freda McKay is proud of her son. It is just that she is proud of him for aspects of his character that the VC does not recognise: for being a good son, a good father and, above all, for accepting the considerable challenges of life in the McKay family.

DEVOTED

To Freda, Ian is a hero simply for being devoted to his two younger brothers, Neil and Graham, both of whom suffered from the debilitating and ultimately fatal disease, cystic fibrosis.

For the best part of 30 years the able-bodied members of the family pulled together to care for the weaker boys. The doctors had predicted that they might not live beyond infancy, but the McKays proved them wrong. The boys went on to achieve much; Graham as a father and Neil by using his sharp, legally-trained mind to help such idealistic causes of the 1980s as the striking miners and the Greenham Common protesters.

Big, healthy Ian watched over his brothers in the sometimes cruel world of children. "He was very protective," says Freda. "They were small and slight, so he stood up for them."

By the time he was 17 in 1970 the younger lads were finding their feet at a special school and Ian decided to join the Army. He had been bright at school, pass-

How the grieving mother of Britain's last VC has finally found solace in the islands where her son was killed



Freda McKay: Falklands visit helped a lot

ing the 11-plus and gaining a place at the local grammar. But further studying did not figure in his plans. Sport was his thing, and Freda believes that it was the opportunities for this that drew him to the Army and The Parachute Regiment.

He showed early promise as a soldier, serving in Northern Ireland while he was still only 17. Freda remembers that three young soldiers were killed soon after Ian arrived in Belfast and she and husband Ken sat up all night worrying. "The relief was enormous when we heard he was OK," she remembers.

Ian was sent home for a few months when the Government decided that soldiers could not serve in the Province until they were 18. He had the option of leaving the Army and his parents urged him to do so. It was not an option that appealed to him.

"As far as he was concerned," says

Freda, "he was a soldier, and that's what he had to do: defend other people."

She is convinced that the compassion he showed his brothers was transferred to the younger soldiers who, as a corporal instructor, he was soon training. When Ian was killed many parents of soldiers who had been trained by him wrote to Freda about the uncommonly kind corporal and later platoon sergeant who had looked after their sons. "Those letters took me through it," she says, gesturing towards a handbag. "I still carry one of them with me."

Was the VC any comfort, any consolation for the loss of her son?

"I was pleased and yet it didn't mean as much as perhaps it ought to have." She seems a little puzzled by this, as if she thinks she should value such a powerful symbol of the nation's respect more.

Freda has a replica of the VC framed with a print of a painting commissioned by Rotherham Council. In it Ian stands heroically and terribly handsome, a rifle cradled in his arms.

MORE PROUD

But the picture is not on her wall. It is obvious that she is far more proud of an amateur print in the family photo album which shows the three boys, two slight, one taller and beefier. They grin optimistically at the camera. It is easy to see why she likes this photo: they are clearly happy.

"All I ever asked," remembers their mother, "was that the boys be happy. I never wanted health, wealth or anything. And we had lots of happiness."

The VC itself was sold recently to a collector by Ian's widow, Marica, who lives nearby. Freda had hoped that one day it would be passed to Ian and Marica's daughter, Melanie, who was four at the time of the Falklands War. She is now 21 and training to be a teacher.

The sale upset Freda, but, as she says: "No one can really take it away from him."

Freda tries not to think too much about the VC. At one time she thought far more about who was to blame for Ian's death. She insists that she harbours no bitterness towards the Argentines: "They were young men who did not know what they were doing, the same perhaps as some of the men Ian took with him." Neither did she blame the islanders for whom Ian and many of his friends died.

Her bitterness was directed at the politicians ("It seemed to me to be a great



Colours of courage. Freda McKay holds her copy of a painting of Ian commissioned by Rotherham Council. The VC is an replica of the medal he won on June 12, 1982 while storming the Argentine bunker which was stopping the 3rd Battalion's advance on Mt Longdon

shame that young lives had to be lost for political reasons") and, to some extent, the Army, who she felt made little effort to keep in contact with her. She accepts that the Army is obliged only to maintain contact with widows but is clearly hurt by the policy. "I would have thought that parents would have a special place," she says.

Ian's death was the beginning of a hard-to-comprehend sequence of tragedies that

fered a heart attack. Amid all this heart-break, the Falkland Islanders emerged as comforting friends. Last year she met islander Trudy McPhee in Aldershot when new Colours were being presented to The Parachute Regiment.

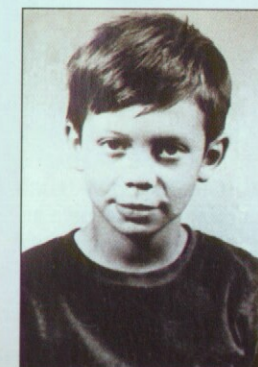
Trudy, a farmer who had helped to guide the Paras during their advance on Stanley, urged her to visit the Islands. "We'd love to have you," she said, "and we'll look after you."

Until then Freda had refused invitations to join official visits. She still had her other sons to care for. Now though, no one needed her in Britain and friends at home encouraged her to go.

Once she had made her mind up, things happened quickly. The Army Benevolent Fund paid for the flights and in February, at the height of the Falklands summer, Freda McKay packed her bags and headed south to the isolated islands where her oldest son had died.

The welcome was beyond anything she had expected. Freda was feted, touring beauty spots, meeting local people and watching penguins playing on the beaches.

Most importantly of all, Trudy took her to the spot on Mount Longdon where Ian



The VC-to-be: Young Ian, his brothers' protector

For ten years Freda found comfort and happiness with a new partner, Jeff. But then he too died. From their broken marriage Ken and Freda salvaged a friendship which she valued greatly. But on Remembrance Sunday last year, he too died. They were on their way to a commemorative ceremony in Rotherham, at which they would have laid a wreath for Ian, when Ken suf-

fell. It had been worth the journey. "The memorial there was very apt, very fitting," remembers Freda. But that lonely spot on the mountain was not the only thing that impressed her. "I met the people... that's what did it for me," she recalls.

There was a service of remembrance for Ian at the Cathedral in Stanley and a reception at Government House. "The VIP treatment I got was really unbelievable," she remembers, "but what really came over strongly was the people's feeling for Ian and all of them who were killed and suffered there. There were men with tears in their eyes. It touched me."

RELUCTANT

Now back in West Yorkshire, Freda thinks about the Falklands a lot. "The visit helped me and yet confused me," she says. "I was really reluctant to come home. After losing all my family I suddenly found that I've now got a really big family of people who care."

"It really does cross my mind that I could go there and stay. I'm hoping to visit again later this year and I'll take it from there."

Meanwhile Freda worries that people are forgetting the cause for which Ian died. She, of course, will not forget any of her sons, all heroes in her mind. But it is a great comfort to her that in the Falklands, as in the British Army, Ian's memory is cherished.

At-a-glance guide to the WAH-64 Apache

TARGET ACQUISITION AND DESIGNATION

Selectable forward-looking infra-red (FLIR), TV or direct-view optics in the stabilised target acquisition and designation (TADS) sight enable targets to be acquired and laser-designated night and day. The TADS is fully integrated with the Fire Control Radar for rapid target identification with magnification up to 127 times.

MANPRINT COCKPIT

The highly-integrated Manprint cockpit, employing coloured multi-function displays, provides enhanced situational awareness and battle management to enable the crew to fight the aircraft effectively in high-threat situations. Full redundancy is provided to enhance flexibility and survivability.

NAVIGATION

The precision all-weather navigation system employs a Kalman filter with GPS (global positioning system), inertial, doppler and air-data sensing to keep the crew constantly informed of their location.

COMMUNICATIONS

The WAH-64 provides the potential for battlefield command/attack co-ordination through real-time joint/all-arms data sharing, multimedia intelligence exchange (including video) and an integrated data modem.

PILOT NIGHT VISION

The pilot night vision sensor (PNVS) and integrated helmet and display sighting system (IHADSS) provide a visually coupled, night and adverse weather piloting system. Flying and weapon-aiming information is presented "head-up" to the pilot and the FCR terrain picture may also be selected on the helmet-mounted display.

MAIN ROTOR

The four-bladed, low-signature main rotor provides high agility (including negative "g") and high levels of tolerance of 23mm high-explosive incendiary (HEI) rounds and wire and tree strikes. Full main and tail rotor de-icing helps to provide a 24-hour world-wide capability.

TRANSMISSION

The rugged main rotor gearbox is designed for rapid removal without removing the rotors and rotor mast. A 30-minute "run-dry" capability contributes to high survivability.

ENGINES

Twin Rolls-Royce RTM 322 engines provide the power and response for worldwide operations. Inlet particle separators protect the engines in dust and sand and full infra-red (IR) suppression guarantees a very low IR signature.

BATTLE DAMAGE TOLERANCE AND CRASHWORTHINESS

The WAH-64 is fully protected against 12.7mm rounds and is highly tolerant of 23mm HEI rounds, ensuring a high probability of mission success and crew survival. Crashworthy seats, structure and undercarriage, plus a wire-strike protection system, provide further crew protection.

DEFENSIVE AIDS SYSTEM

The GEC comprehensive helicopter-integrated defensive aids system (HIDAS) includes radar, laser warnings and chaff and flare dispensers.

FIRE CONTROL RADAR

The Longbow mast-mounted Fire Control Radar (FCR) rapidly detects, classifies, prioritises and engages ground and air targets in adverse weather, dust, smoke and battlefield obscurants. This unique system enables engagements to be made outside threat-response range and inside threat-response times, significantly increasing survivability. An integrated radio frequency Interferometer passively gives identification of, and precise bearing to, threat emitters at very long range.

TAIL ROTOR

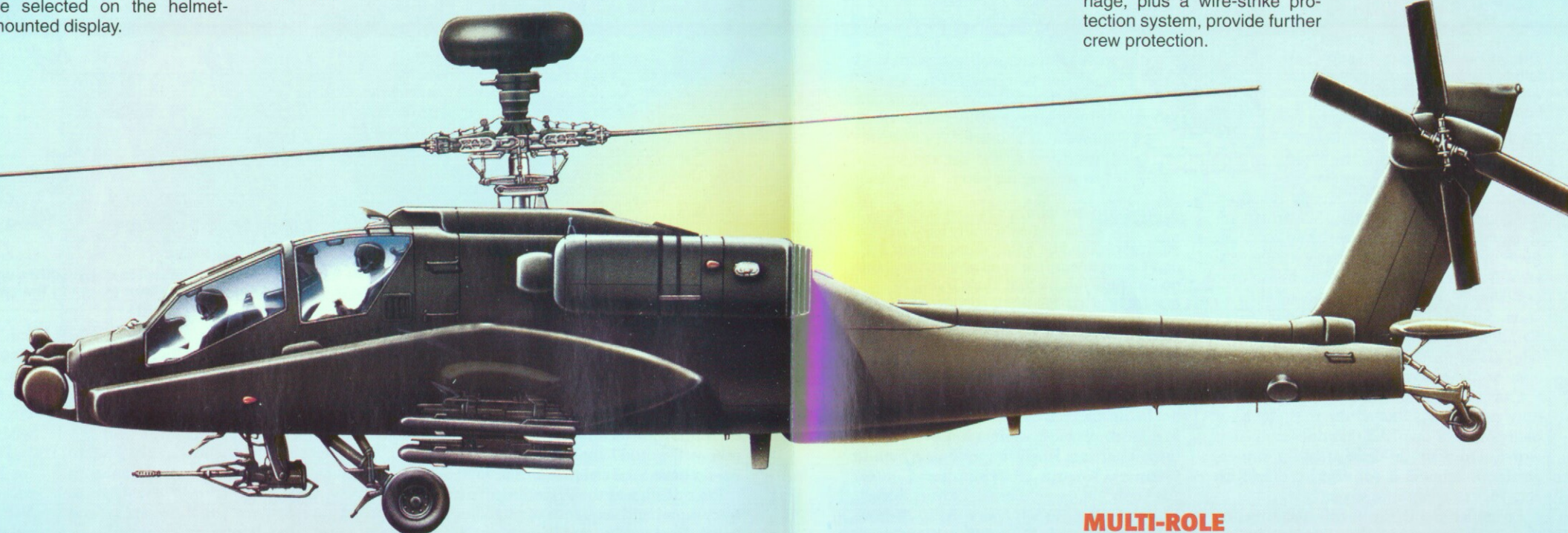
Four-bladed low-signature tail rotor provides powerful and precise yaw control for agility, weapon-aiming and 45 knot cross-wind capability. The tail rotor is located so as to prevent ground strikes and minimise hazards to personnel.

UNDERCARRIAGE

The crashworthy, wheeled undercarriage provides rapid ground and ship mobility.

SUPPORTABILITY

The WAH-64 is designed for ease of maintenance in the field with built-in steps and working platforms, ease of access, built-in test equipment (for 90 per cent of faults at first line), simpler diagnostics and repair procedures (only ten tools required).



MULTI-ROLE PAYLOAD

Four multi-purpose wing stations, plus two wing-tip air-to-air missile (AAM) stations and the nose-mounted 30mm gun, confer a concurrent multi-role capability which allows an immediate response to any situation. Role changes are eliminated with a load of eight Hellfire, 38 70mm rockets, 1,200 rounds of 30mm and four AAM. Payload: 10,000lb.

AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES

Four air-to-air missiles (AAM) may be carried on the wing-tip stations.

HELLFIRE MISSILES

The WAH-64 carries up to 16 laser and fire-and-forget radio frequency guided long-range Hellfire missiles for the precision engagement of selected point targets under all-weather conditions. The dual warhead defeats all known tank armour.

ROCKETS

Up to 76 CRV7 70mm multi-purpose rockets may be carried for the engagement of area targets. These rockets are effective against light armour, soft-skinned vehicles and personnel.

30MM GUN

The 30mm gun carries 1,200 rounds for rapid off-axis engagement of both ground and air targets. The turreted mounting enables the gun to be used while continuing with the primary anti-armour engagement.

BRITISH Army pilots are gearing up for the arrival of the first WAH-64 Apache from GKN Westland next year. The eagerly-awaited attack helicopter, derived from the US Army's battle-proven AH-64 Longbow model, is set to have a major impact on the

Army Air Corps' offensive capability.

Currently eight of the new aircraft are being built in Arizona at Boeing's Mesa plant, which will partly assemble the remaining 59. Final assembly and testing will be completed by GKN Westland Heli-

copters at Yeovil, Somerset. Eventually the AAC will get 67 WAH-64s fitted with Longbow fire-control radars, with nine in service by the end of next year.

Training commanders in Texas, where America's military pilots learn to fly the

aircraft, liken the Apache's fighting qualities and manoeuvrability to that of the great white shark. When it spots its prey it will alert others, forming a school which will home in from different directions to deliver lethal, slashing attacks before melting away

to re-load, re-arm and continue the hunt.

The manufacturers reckon one attack helicopter has the potential to destroy up to 256 targets in less than five minutes.

This graphic is based on artwork supplied by GKN Westland.

Issues

RBL backs crippled soldier's appeal to the Lords

THE Royal British Legion is supporting the appeal to the House of Lords by Sgt Trevor Walker against the Appeal Court decision not to award him compensation for injuries he received in Bosnia in May 1995.

Sgt Walker lost his right leg and nearly his life when a round fired by a Serbian tank passed through a room while he was on peacekeeping duties with UNPROFOR.

The Appeal Court, in a majority decision, turned down his appeal but, unusually, gave leave for an appeal to the Lords.

Terry English, RBL's Controller, Welfare, said: "We are absolutely behind Trevor in his claim and we are going to support him all the way. The Legion is also concerned for the many other Service personnel who may have similar claims.

"This is an issue that can affect all Servicemen and women deployed on peacekeeping operations abroad. They can be placed in very dangerous situations and it is scandalous that if they suffer death or injury, the levels of compensation differ from one place to another and, in some cases, are even non-existent.

"If we call upon our Service personnel to meet our nation's contribution to assist in maintaining world peace, they should not be disadvantaged."

Leaving the Service and looking for a business opportunity? The National Franchise Exhibition at Birmingham's NEC will run from October 1-3. Ring 0181 742 2828 for more details.

You don't have to 'just get on with it'

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

Dear Cari I've heard you talk a lot about "the Service community" but I really don't think it exists. I did all the moving here on my own and, with two small children, it was a nightmare. My husband has been away a lot and we feel very isolated. The only wives I've met keep telling me that I should just get on with it because they had to. - Young wife in Germany.

Cari replies: We've all met women like that. In the "old days" sources of support were few and far between and largely relied on the goodwill of other wives. Now there are so many sources that no one should feel on their own. Your nearest base will have a HIVE office. Go and offer to help. Your experience will help another woman in your position. Find your nearest Army Families Federation contact. If there isn't one, get in touch with head office and ask what you can do to help.

I have lived in isolated places and know how easy it is to focus on the feeling of being on your own. All that does is make it worse. Do your children attend a kindergarten or school? If so, offer to help with activities or classroom work.

I promise you that you will start meeting new people very quickly. These days no one has to "just get on with it".

PROBLEMS connected with isolation and alcohol abuse frequently lead to or are a consequence of depression. If you, or someone you care about, needs advice about depression, contact The Depression Alliance, a charity which offers a comprehensive service including a written advice facility, self-help groups, pen-friends and a quarterly newsletter. The address is: Depression

Dear Cari I don't think you realise how many "Service husbands" there are here. I'm fortunate because I do the sort of work that I can do wherever we are but, even so, I can't go to coffee mornings and I always get strange looks when I pick my daughter up from school. Perhaps we should have a support group for husbands. - Service husband, Germany.

Cari replies: You don't need one. This is, as I understand it, one of the reasons why the Federation of Army Wives became the Army Families Federation. Why can't you go to coffee mornings if you want to? I can't see you being turned away. As for strange looks at school, this is probably because they don't know who you are. Try a simple introduction. I'll bet they're just waiting for you to say hello.



Cari Roberts

Dear Cari My wife is a recovering alcoholic. She's doing very well but I feel I could be doing more to help. I don't want to confide in all and sundry and no one here knows that she's trying to make a new start. - Sgt D (UK).

Cari replies: Talk to Al-Anon, a UK-wide support group for families and friends of alcoholics. They also run Al-Ateen which helps youngsters aged 12 to 20 whose lives are being affected by someone else's drinking. Both provide anonymity, first names only. There are English-speaking groups in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar. Contact Al-Anon at 61 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YF. There is a 24-hour helpline on 0171 403 0888 and a website at <http://www.hexnet.co.uk/alanon>

Cari comments

Alliance, 35 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB (tele 0171 633 9929) or <http://www.depressionalliance.org> on the web. And it goes without saying that all enquiries are dealt with in confidence.

If you are feeling under too much stress, you don't have to be alone with it. If you tackle it early on you can learn to manage it before it starts to manage you.

IN BRIEF

● The Army confidential support line for soldiers and families has extended its service to Bosnia. Soldiers there can ring the line on the same freefone number as personnel in the UK: 0800 731 4880. In line with changes made by Deutsche Telekom, the freefone number for British Forces Germany is now 0800 1827 395 (see "Useful numbers" on facing page). Soldiers outside the UK, Germany, Cyprus and Bosnia can ring on UK 1980 630854 (not freefone) and ask for staff to return the call.

● The MoD has identified 147 pensioners invalided out of the Army before April 1, 1973 who are eligible for a rebate on tax deducted in error. It emerged that tax was levied on **invalidity pensions** that should have been tax-free. In all, 547 pensioners were contacted, of whom 147 were found to have a case. Experts are now looking at the entitlement of widows, dependants and estates and an announcement is likely in due course. The Officers' Pensions Fund can offer advice on 0171 820 9988.

● Naafi has linked up with Swiftcall to make their phone cards available to Service families in the UK. It is claimed the cards can save up to 40 or 50 per cent on the cost of an overseas telephone call. The cards will be on sale at 180 Naafi stores around the UK in denominations of £5, £10 and £20. Each card contains a confidential pin number which is entered before dialling the international number. Swiftcall, which launched its phone card operation in 1993, sells more than 1.5m a year.



Just a call away: Members of the MoD's Veterans' Advice Unit – from left, WO Di Best RN, WO2 Steve Lee RA and WO Chris Dunlop RAF – can access a mass of information in seconds

Hated march-out to be moved on?

A six-month trial in Paderborn Garrison could signal the end of the married quarters march-out, loathed by generations of Service wives the world over.

Contract cleaners, paid for at public expense, are to be used during the trial, which begins this month. All MQs occupied by military personnel and due to be vacated in the Paderborn, Sennelager, Detmold and Hameln areas will be cleaned by a local company, although the occupants will remain responsible for the garden, attics, cellars, outside areas, rubbish and bins, as well as the inventory and any damages.

Army families will, for the duration of the trial, be able to claim disturbance allowance and nightly rates of subsistence allowance where eligible.

Once the removals have gone the occupant will complete a mini-move out.

Aim of the trial is to recommend a system to the Army which would reduce the stress imposed by the current march-out system and improve the quality of life of soldiers and their families.

Need help? Phone us . . .

THE Veterans' Advice Unit (VAU) has dealt with more than 2,500 queries since going live last October. It is staffed by four serving warrant officers who are on hand to help with a wide range of forces-related issues, **writes Anthony Stone.**

The helpline is aimed at former soldiers, reservists and their dependants, but serving soldiers may also dial up.

WO2 Steve Lee RA, who served in Bosnia and is one of two Army NCOs on the team, said: "We act like a signpost. We know a man who knows how to help and we can point people in the right direction. Instead of ex-Servicemen and women ringing around all over the country, they can call us at one telephone focal point and we can put them in touch with the appropriate person or organisation."

The unit grew out of the Government's commitment to put policies for people at the heart of the Strategic Defence Review and for these to include ex-Services personnel where appropriate.

Staff members are hand-picked for their communication skills and wealth of experience. They work under Col Robin Bacon, deputy director of Service Personnel (Policy) at the MoD. It was felt serving WOs would be best-suited to speaking to people across all Service backgrounds.

"Between us we probably have between 70 and 80 years' service," said WO2 Lee.

The other Army NCO is WO1 Malcolm "Budge" Burridge, a Falklands veteran from 2 Para.

Key aim of the unit is to make best use

Experienced warrant officers are providing an invaluable service to nation's veterans

of existing health, social and welfare services. There is a lot of help out there, but the important thing is finding it. The team can access a mass of information within seconds on their computers.

WO2 Lee gave a few examples of the sort of work the helpline staff have carried out. "A woman rang to say her husband, an ex-Regular serving with the TA, had died unexpectedly. She asked for financial help as she had no money for her children at Christmas.

HELP AT HAND

"We contacted the local SSAFA-Forces Help representative who was able to assist and put her immediate anxiety to rest. The Royal British Legion is now trying to re-house her and her children."

The most common queries are to do with war pensions and disabilities. But a surprising number concern lost medals and whether replacements can be issued. The youngest caller so far was just 17, the oldest in his nineties.

WO2 Lee said: "In years to come, when ex-Servicemen pass away and leave children who can't afford the funeral, it is important to realise there are agencies that will contribute towards the cost."

The team knows the veterans' unit is a success because they follow up queries to keep tabs on the situation. An estimated 15 million ex-Servicemen and women and their dependants are potential users.

Telephones are manned Monday to Friday (9am-5pm) and an answerphone is switched on outside office hours. The number is **08456 020302**. All calls within the UK are charged at local rates. Callers from outside the UK should ring 0171-218 9000 and ask for the Veterans' Advice Unit. The unit also has a website on <http://www.mod.uk/contacts/vau>

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000
 Army Families Federation 01980 615525
 Confidential support lines:
 UK 0800 731 4880
 Germany 0800 1827 395
 Cyprus 080 91065
 Bosnia 0800 731 4880
 Others UK 1980 630854

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
 (Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333
 Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249;
 Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272
 Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
 RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725
 Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
 Service Children's Education 01980
 618244
 Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
 SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
 Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302
 War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858
 WRVS 01235 442954

Helping YOU make the

New partnership provides improved support package for Service leavers

A CONTRACT signed last October between the Ministry of Defence and Coutts Consulting Group plc gave birth to the recently formed Career Transition Partnership (CTP), which has assumed the mantle of the old Tri-Service Resettlement Organisation (TSRO) as a provider of resettlement support for people leaving the Armed Forces.

What will be different?

The main difference is a more individually focused and flexible service designed to meet the particular needs of each Service leaver, to be achieved through:

- Professional, individual advice and counselling provided on a one-to-one basis;
- Small, specially-designed work-

shops to meet individual needs;

- More flexible delivery of support so that everybody, regardless of posting or operational commitments, can access advice and guidance in a timely fashion.

What kind of support?

Service leavers who have spent five or more years in the Armed Forces, or who are being medically discharged, will be eligible for the full range of CTP support.

A three-day Career Transition Workshop (CTW) lays the foundation for working in a civilian envi-

ronment. Each workshop contains relatively few participants, allowing individual requirements to be met. Following the workshop, leavers will have access to unlimited counselling support. As appropriate, they may also attend:

- Financial advice briefings;
- Housing advice briefings;
- Short seminars on topics such as interview techniques;
- Self-employment and small business workshops;
- Skills training courses;
- Short placements with civilian

employers.

Anyone who has served for three or more years can register for the CTP job-finding and matching service. This involves continuous direct liaison with civilian employers to locate suitable jobs. These are then matched against the skills and requirements of registered leavers.

Where?

CTP's aim is to make the service fully accessible through nine Regional Resettlement Centres (RRCs) at Aldergrove, Aldershot,

best move



Catterick, Cottesmore, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rosyth, Tidworth and Uxbridge providing the main delivery points.

The centres, staffed by skilled, professional teams, are resourced to provide secretarial support, work stations including telephones and computer terminals,

access to office equipment, library/resource centres, interactive learning facilities and job databases.

Although the RRCs are the main area of support, CTP will, if demand allows, take its services out to military bases and units, with special arrangements in force to ensure those on overseas postings do not miss out.

Which centre?

Two major features of the new provisions are:

- Regionalisation of support giving leavers direct contact with a counsellor who will be familiar with his or her particular circumstances;
- A fully-networked system so that each leaver and counsellor

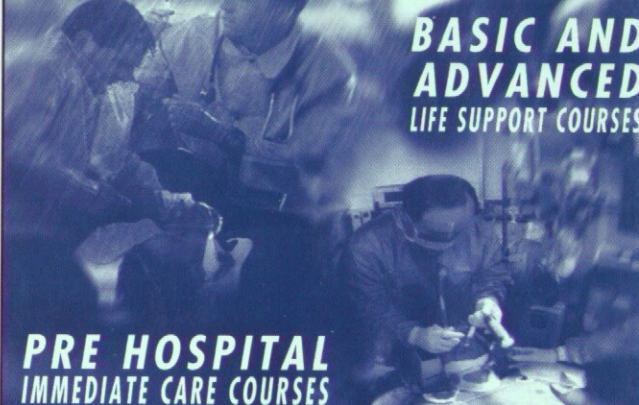
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"THE SHADOW - NOT
THE FEATURE"

has access to all parts of the support provisions.

Service leavers will normally register at their nearest RRC, regardless of where they intend finally to settle or work.

The counselling and advisory team at that centre will have instant access to local information regarding all geographical areas in the UK; information from Coutts' overseas offices and associate companies; specialist training advisers; and careers information on more than 200,000 employers in the UK.

More focused

In the past, leavers often had to attend various information briefings in order to understand regional conditions, employment prospects, career entry routes, and so on. The provision of this type of information and advice is now far more focused on, and more locally available to, the needs of the individual.

Many people leaving the Armed Forces are eligible for skills training to help equip them for a civil-

For further information contact, the Career Transition Partnership helpline on 0171 766 8020 or fax 0171 766 8025.

ian job. This training is provided through the Aldershot Resettlement Training Centre (RTC), where CTP offers a range of more than 40 courses that are carefully

designed to mirror the demands of civilian employers. It also offers approved training providers using IRTG grants. These have been selected by CTP on the basis of the training and its relevance to Service leavers.

And afterwards?

By means of subcontracting arrangements, CTP now encompasses both the Officers Association (OA) and the Regular Forces Employment Association (RFEA) allowing leavers to register only once to receive help from all parts of the partnership. CTP continues to help eligible Service leavers to find suitable employment for two years after discharge. In most circumstances, the OA and RFEA are committed to providing help for life.

• Companies advertising in this feature are not necessarily those used by CTP.

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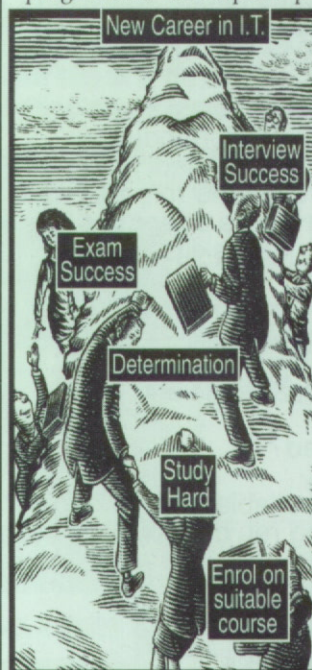
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FOOTBALL

Airmen leave it so, so late at Aldershot

Army 0, RAF 1

A GOAL in stoppage time broke Army hearts and allowed the Royal Air Force to retain the Carrington Cup at Aldershot Military Stadium, writes **Derrick Bly**.

The game, which was delayed for an hour while pitch repairs were carried out, saw the RAF, seeking to defend the Carrington Cup and their Inter-Services title for the Constantinople Cup, win a goal-less first half on points.

A much better second-half performance by the home side put the visitors under real pressure, but chances went begging before that killer goal seconds before the final whistle.

Army 3, Dorset 1

Three first-half goals against Dorset at the Aldershot Military Stadium rocketed the Army to the top of their group in the South West Counties Championship. Dorset scored first before an in-swinging corner by Cpl John Wills ended up in the back of the net to put the Army level. Further goals by Pte Steve Carter and LCpl Dave Hope put the home side in control.

Sussex 1, Army 2

Earlier, a below-strength Army team had thrown the competition wide open by beating Sussex, until then undefeated, at Lancing. Pte Steve Carter scored in the first half and Hope restored the lead in the second after Sussex had equalised.

Army 1, Gwent 1

A glancing header by Hope in the 28th minute gave the home side the lead when Gwent made their first visit to the Aldershot Military Stadium. But the visitors shared the spoils with a 61st minute goal.

Army Youth 8, RN Youth 2

A crushing Army victory over the Royal Navy marked the 25th anniversary of the Inter-Services youth competition. Four goals up at the interval through Walsh, Kenny, Lawson and Wood, they rammed in another four during the second half through Lawson and Kenny, who added three more to his first half strike.

Combined Services Youth 1, FA Youth 7

An FA Youth XI featuring players from Premiership clubs through to Division 3 of the Nationwide League gave the Combined Services youngsters a torrid time at Aldershot. Services included Sig Smith, Pte Watson, Pte Robertson, Cfn Bristow and Cfn Charlton of the Army.

BOBSLEIGH



Picture: Terry Champion

Meet one of the hottest teams in the United Kingdom competing in one of the coolest sports in the Army. LCpl Vicky Stenson, left, and Cpl Dawn Munro, both serving with the Royal Logistic Corps, are the Army's number one women's bobsleigh combination and ranked fourth in Great Britain.

If the sport is included in the 2002 Winter Olympics, there is a very real chance that the two women could be on track pushing for a medal.

Cpl Munro said: "We push the bob together and then, as the driver, I jump in first. We experience about four to five Gs and a Tornado pilot copes with about seven."

The bob rests on four runners and is

Cool-running medal prospects

steered by the front two. All courses are different but they typically run for up to 1½ miles and take in about 18 bends at a pulse-quickenning 120kph.

Both crew members have to be super-fit. Stenson, an all-round sportswoman, having taken part in gymnastics and sprinting, met Munro at an Army heptathlon meeting three years ago.

Success lies in the combination of power, speed and reactions. Teams are not allowed to apply the brakes on the course because it would ruin the track for the next competitor.



SQUASH



Champion squad: Members of the Army women's squash team who dominated the Inter-Service tournament hosted by the Royal Navy in Portsmouth. From the left, they are Capt Kath Gould, Lt Karen Wallace, WO2 Michelle Quaife, Cpl Helen Nolan and Cpl Julie Horobin

Investment in coaching pays off in results

THE Army sent one of its best-ever prepared squads to the Inter-Services squash championships hosted by the Royal Navy at HMS *Temeraire*, Portsmouth and was rewarded by excellent results.

For several years Army squash has been running an Under-25 and women's development programme involving coaches from the Army and county scenes and from the professional circuit, and this groundwork has begun to pay dividends.

For the first time ever, the Army U-25 players retained their team title, a considerable achievement. Members of the Army squad were Gdsm Rob Beckett, Pte Richard Davies, Pte Naz Nazir, Cfn Neil Miller, Cfn Matt Price, Cfn Lennie Westover and Cpl Oz Osbourne.

The Army men's team showed the benefits of high-quality youngsters emerging from the ranks to challenge for places. Led by the outstanding combination of

SSgt Gary Clarke and the veteran Lt Col Robbie Robinson (making an amazing 25th appearance at the Inter-Services tournament), the Army snatched the trophy from the Royal Air Force in the final match. Strength in depth was provided by Capt Tim Slater, SSgt Phil Ashman, SSgt Nigel Hissey and Sgt Ray Burke.

But the biggest margin of victory was achieved by the Army women's team who lost just three games out of 43. Their squad was made up from Lt Karen Wallace, WO2 Michelle Quaife, Cpl Julie Horobin, SSgt Shirley Strickland, Capt Kath Gould, Cpl Helen Nolan and LCpl Kerri Davies.

The Army veterans lost 4-1 to the RAF and beat the Navy 3-2 to finish as overall runners-up in their competition.

The Army is to host the 2000 championships at *Temeraire* on February 2-4.

SHORTS

Indoor athletics

VICTORIES in the men's and women's 60m and the long jump were highlights for Army athletes who took part in the RAF's invitation meeting at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham. Pte Joselyn Thomas and Sgt Alvin Walker won the sprints and Pte Donita Benjamin the long jump.

● The Army Medical Services athletics meeting will be staged in Aldershot Military Stadium on June 19.

Wye paddle?

THE Army's annual sprint and marathon canoe championships will be decided on the picturesque River Wye at Monmouth, South Wales on July 3-4, with classes designed to cater for all standards of paddler, from international to novice. Canoes will be provided for units which do not have their own and units are being encouraged to use the event as an excellent adventure training opportunity. Contact Maj Duncan Capps RLC, Advanced Command and Staff Course 2, Joint Services Command and Staff College, Bracknell, Berks RG12 9DD (home tel 01344 310961) or e-mail dunkcapps@aol.com

Loggies go gold

ALTHOUGH a possible deployment to Kosovo meant half the team missed training, 2 Close Support Regiment RLC dominated the Telforce-sponsored RLC ski meet at Rupholding to become corps champions. The regiment won gold in the giant slalom and super giant slalom and were runners-up to Support Battalion ARRC in the Nordic competition. LCpl Simon Burke (2 CS) was the individual Nordic champion with victories in every event. SSgt Kenny Young was the combined and veteran Nordic champion and the 2 CS women's Nordic team also won their competition.

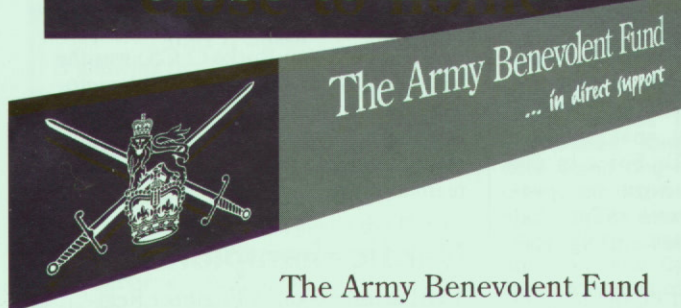
Nordic champions

THE members of 35 Engineer Regiment's Nordic skiing team, who helped the regiment retain the coveted Princess Marina Trophy for a fifth successive year, were Lt Matt Lambert, Olympic veteran Sgt Mike Dixon, Cpl Jason Sklenar, Cpl Paul Ryan, LCpl Brett Hellyer and LCpl Dan Wright, REME. The names given in our Princess Marina Cup report (Sport, Feb) were those of the 28 Engr Regt team. The 35 Engr team won the SAS Cup as Inter-Service Nordic champions and the Kentish Cup.

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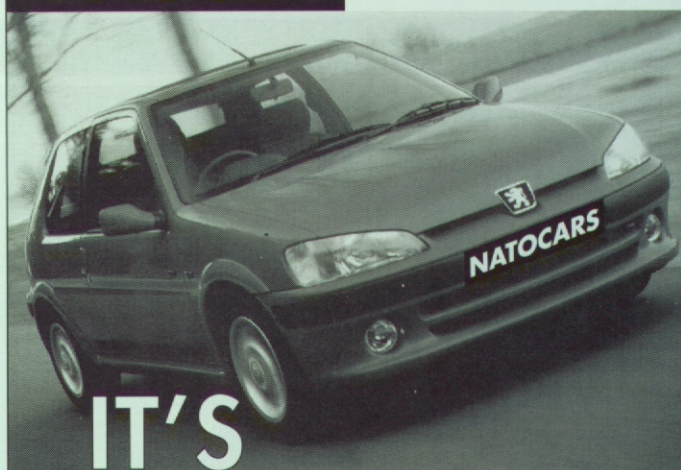
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BOXING



In the ring: Members of the Royal Logistic Corps boxing team pictured in the boxing centre at Buller Barracks, Aldershot. Clockwise from front left are Pte Mike Pinch (2 CS, Germany), Pte Scott Burton (5 AB Bde), Pte Paul Gambling (27 Tpt Regt), Pte Danny Daniel (2 CS, Gutersloh), Pte Andrew Burton (3 CS, Abingdon), Pte Thomas O'Neil (23 Pioneer, Bicester), LCpl Kane Cotterill (3 CS, Abingdon) and LCpl Jay Cochrane (2 CS, Germany). They took on an Essex select team at Chelmsford and helped to raise £20,000 for charity

Female boxers ring the changes

EIGHTEEN Royal Logistic Corps soldiers arrived a little warily at Buller Barracks, Aldershot for a two-week training and selection period.

What was different about the occasion was that they were all women . . . and the training was in the boxing gym.

With boxing undergoing major changes recently, the Army has been quick to open the doors to women who wish to find out more about the sport. The RLC, one of the Army's largest recruiters of female soldiers, held a number of exhibition bouts for women at its corps championships last year.

Because so few women know what is involved, the offer of a training camp at Buller Barracks was made, and corps coach Sgt Cliff Ross was on hand to run it. Although the volunteers were introduced to lung-bursting circuit sessions and some controlled sparring on the first

● THE 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment beat the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire by five bouts to four in a passionate final to the 5th Division novice grade 3 inter-unit competition. After 1 PWO had lost the first four contests they came roaring back to win four of the final five.

day, leaving them in no doubt about the demands of the sport, none quit the course.

Despite Sgt Ross's ever-encouraging presence and advice, the sessions relied on individual effort by those taking part. By the end of the second week the candidates were distinctly fitter and more toned, and most would have been capable of contesting a bout in the ring. Several were invited to take part in exhibition bouts at 8 Regiment RLC's competition.



Ringside manner: Women soldiers who completed a two-week boxing course in Aldershot

Bessey squad hit the national trail

ARMY expectations of national titles were strong as the Combined Services boxing team prepared for their England quarter-final contest against Western Counties in Salisbury on March 27. Seven Army boxers were on the bill, including England international Cpl Chris Bessey, four times an ABA champion.

Winners were due to go through to the national semi-finals at Bethnal Green, London on April 7.

The Army individual novices championships will be held at the Maida Gym, Aldershot on April 27-29.

With several new faces emerging into the powerful senior squad this winter, the sport in the Army is vibrant.



World-beater: Boxers from the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards had a special reason to cheer Middlesbrough contender Cornelius Carr when he won the World Boxing Federation version of the middleweight world championship. Many of them had started their careers alongside Carr at Grangetown Boys Boxing Club in Middlesbrough. Pictured with the world champion are (from left) Sgt Tony Ray (team coach), Pte Tansey, Sgt Wallace (recruiter), Cornelius Carr, Pte Robinson, LCpl Conner and LCpl Maloney (recruiter).

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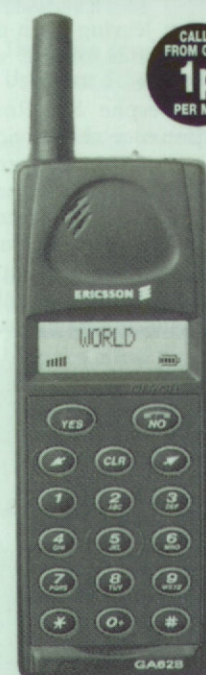
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SKELETON BOB



Going down, fast: Skeleton bobsleighter Cpl Paul George RE in action

Sgt Steve Anson (SEME Bordon) finished second in the British skeleton bobsleigh championships at La Plagne, France and in doing so won the Army and Inter-Service titles run concurrently. Bdr "AJ" Collins (12 Regt RA) was third overall, with Sgt Roch Rochester (BACB) fourth and Bdr Sean Hollier (26 Regt RA) fifth. The more experienced Army squad comfortably won the inaugural Inter-Services but the Royal Navy

and Royal Air Force expect to be a lot closer next season. Two novice training camps are booked at Lillehammer, Norway in October for skeleton (head first) and luge (feet first). The dates are Oct 8-15 and Oct 15-22 and the cost about £300. With the squad working towards the next Winter Olympics, interested athletes should write to Capt Pete McClellan, HQ Const Engr Sch, Brompton Bks, Kent ME4 4UG.

RUGBY

Sandhurst edged out by late, late try

AFTER trailing 21-10 at half time, the Combined Services Under-21 rugby team fought back powerfully to overcome the Royal Military College by 21 points to 27 at Sandhurst in the final seconds.

Trailing by a point going into the final ten minutes, Combined Services camped on the Sandhurst line and won a string of penalties, culminating in the award of penalty try for a collapsed scrum. ATpr George Woodhouse's conversion was the final kick of the match.

Man of the match was Cfn Steve Trethewey.

The Combined Services fixture against Loughborough University was cancelled, leaving the side short of match practice, and the final training session was disrupted by unit operational commitments in Kosovo.

RMAS 21 – tries, OCdt Hayden Jelard, OCdt Rob Scothern (2); conversions, OCdt Dan Coen (3). **CS 27** – tries, Cfn Steve Trethewey, Cpl Rob Gale, SAC Gareth Spain, penalty try; conversions, ATpr George Woodhouse (2); penalties, Woodhouse (1).

SKIING



Maj Ralph Cunningham, OC 205 Fd Hosp (V) led from the front as his unit won the TA trophies in the 5km Nordic relay, 10km Nordic sprint, special slalom and giant slalom at the Defence Medical Services ski championships at Jasper, Canada. The Edinburgh-based medics also won the overall Alpine competition. Cunningham won the individual Assassin Trophy for the combined Nordic and Alpine disciplines.

SHORTS

RRW forge ahead in the lottery stakes

TOP of the Army's sports lottery league are soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, who have edged ahead of 47 Regiment RA in supporting the fund-raising lottery.

Former table-toppers the Queen's Dragoon Guards are in third place while The King's Royal Hussars and 26 Regiment RA have shot into the top six.

Ticket sales for February topped the 25,700 mark, up more than 3,000 on the previous year. Prize money increases for every extra 1,000 tickets sold, which means the first prize will go up to £3,600 (out of a weekly pool of £9,700) when the 26,000-point is reached.

Last year nearly £750,000 was distributed by the lottery in grants. Of this, £300,000 went towards a new all-weather hockey pitch at Tidworth. Most grants go to teams or individual sportsmen and women for coaching or overseas tours.

Pool's news

DEFENCE Under-Secretary of State John Spellar cut the first sod for a new sports centre in Aldershot Garrison last month. The garrison pool and physical and recreational training centre will have a hi-tech 50m swimming pool incorporating a floating floor, moveable boom and three diving boards. There will also be a double-sized sports hall, six squash courts, a fitness room and a café.

Nosing ahead

Salisbury-based LBdr Mike McDermott, serving with the Royal Artillery at Larkhill, is awaiting confirmation of a world powerlifting record for completing a 100kg deadlift every two minutes for 19½ hours in aid of Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. His marathon effort resulted in a total lift of 60,000kg. McDermott is a three-times UK champion, the 1997 world silver medallist and the 1998 world record-holder in the 56kg class.

Cross-country enduro

The Army's Exercise Enduring Help 24-hour charity cross-country motor cycle event takes place at Longmoor, Hants on May 15-16. Details from Capt Jason Butler on 777 2052 or 01904 662052.

AGC triathlon

MORE than 50 individuals from 36 units will be taking part in the AGC individual triathlon championships at ATR Winchester on April 14. For details of the swim-bike-run event contact SSgt Tony Henderson on 763 2567.

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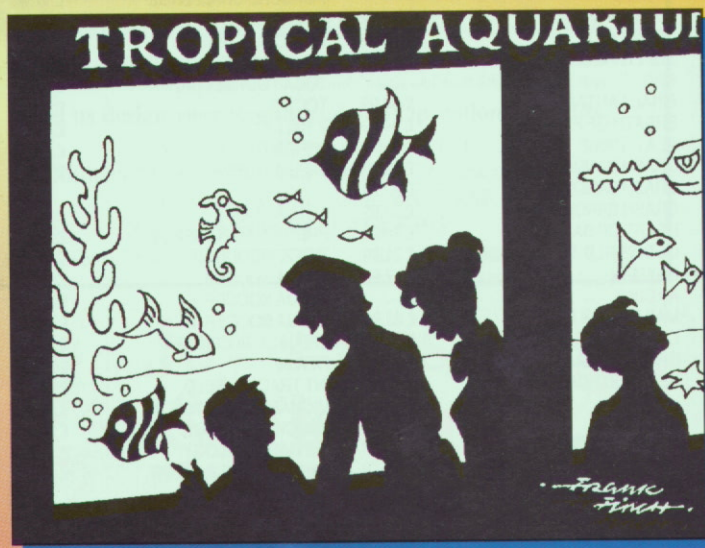
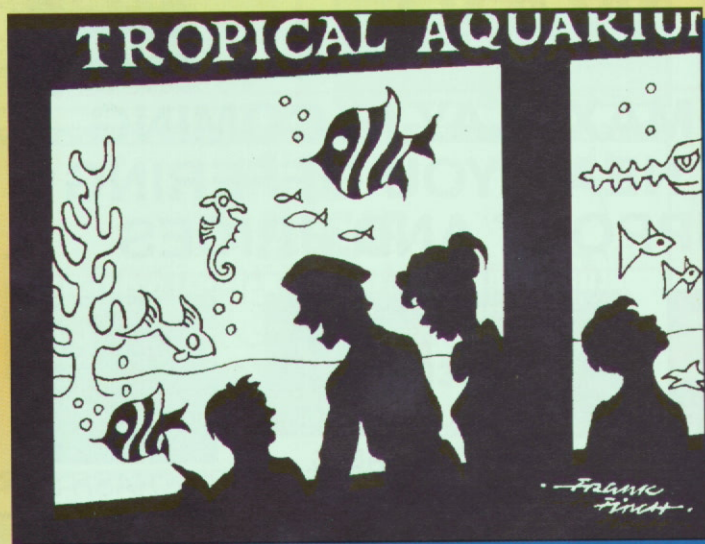
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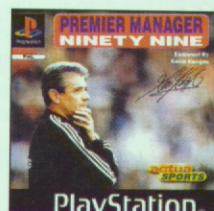
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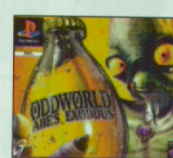
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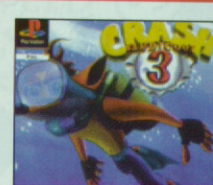
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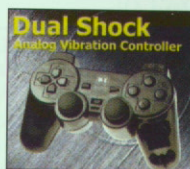


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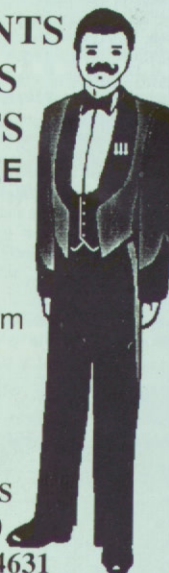
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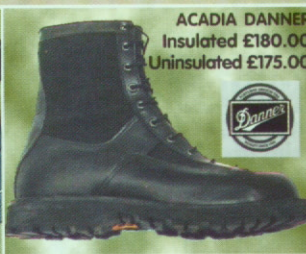
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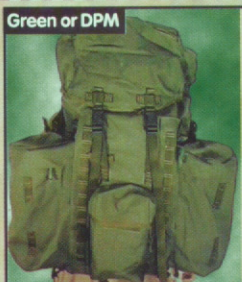


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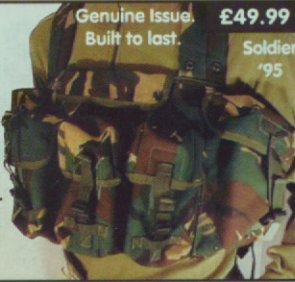
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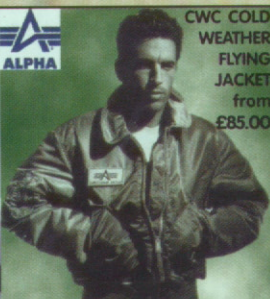
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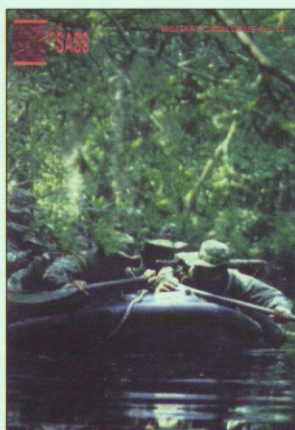
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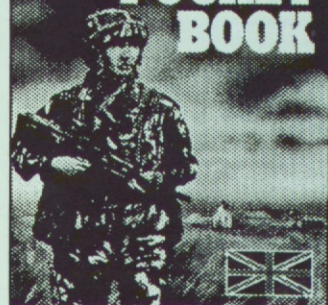
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Carol, 5'4", medium build. Attractive blonde in her forties, divorced mum to two grown-up children. Interests include walking, travel, caring for the house, garden and animals and enjoys life. Would like replies from pen pals, 40-50. **P450**

Clare, 22, 6', blonde hair, blue eyes, athletic build. Main interests are rugby, swimming, the gym, horse-riding, pubbing, clubbing, travelling and cooking. VGSOH, loves to receive and write letters. Pen pals, 20-30. **P451**

Lori, 29, 5'5", long, dark hair. A workaholic whose interests include photography, aerobics, music, clubbing and having a good laugh. Good-humoured people required for pen pals, any age. **P452**

Helen, 34, 5'4", hazel eyes, brown hair and medium build. Main interests are reading, letter writing, pubs, the cinema and going to the beach. Would like to hear from pen pals, 30+, at home or abroad. **P453**

Sue, 5'6", receptionist, own home by the sea. Busy life and varied interests. Seeking replies from single, genuine and good-humoured gents, 38-45ish. Be a devil - write. You won't be disappointed. Photo appreciated. **P454**

Janet, 5'3", long, blonde hair, blue eyes and GSOH. Divorced mother to two boys. Likes to eat out, take walks, meet people, exercise and swim. Would like to hear from pen pals, 30-50. **P455**

Paula, 5'9" 25-year-old community nurse. Main interests are music, concerts, test match cricket and the odd alcoholic drink. Would like replies from soldiers, 24+, particularly if serving abroad. **P456**

Sarah, 25, 5'8", short, dark hair, brown eyes and GSOH. Enjoys reading, pubbing, clubbing, cycling and living life to the full. Seeking pen pals, 23-34. Will reply to all letters. **P457**

Carole, 43, 5'4", medium build, dark hair and easy-going personality. Divorced with two children. Interests are eating out, the cinema, music, reading, photography and letter writing. Pen pals any age please. **P458**

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Pam, 44 years young, 5'5", slim with dark hair and brown eyes. Main interests are music, Tottenham Hotspur, the cinema, home life, watching televised sport. Would like to brighten up someone's (40-55) day and will reply to all letters. **P459**

Saorsa, 32-year-old red-haired party animal and single mum. Enjoys music, pubs, the cinema, walking and holidays. Ex-squaddie, bored with civilians and seeking pen pals, 30-40, with GSOH. **P460**

Nina, 25, 5'8", auburn hair and blue eyes. Single mum, working as catering manager for the Home Office, whose interests include cooking, socialising and clubbing. Seeking pen pals, 25-30. **P461**

BOOKS

'Blue Bonnets, Boers and Biscuits'. Boer war diary of a private in the KOSB, compiled by his granddaughter, Heather Wilson. 67, Cadogan Gardens, London E18 1LY. £8 + 80p p&p. 03/99

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"Head-dress Badges of the British Army" by Kipling & King. The Collector's Bible. Volume One: (1800-1920) £65. Volume Two: (1920-1998) £45. *Post free*. H. L. & P. King, 3 Saxon Croft, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QB. Tel: 01252 716303. 06/99

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Hi-leg Army boots wanted. Size nine or ten. Any condition including worn or damaged. Please telephone: 01705 564605. 04/99

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

FEBRUARY 20, 1999

Three-way tie for first prize (22 goals, £2,166.67 each): OCdt TJ Allison, RMCS, Shrivenham; Capt AM McCaldin, MDHU Frimley Park; SSgt (name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison.

Seven-way tie for fourth prize (21 goals, £428.57 each): Cpl JM Bowser, 1 RRW, Paderborn; Sig AG Garside, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld; Sgt MJ Mann, 15 Signal Regt; WO1 BJ McLearn, HQ Scotland, Edinburgh; Sgt P McNulty, 98 PC Sqn RLC, Gütersloh; Lt Col JRC Saville, 102 Bn REME (V), Newton Aycliffe; Lt Col A Workman, SEAE, Arborfield

FEBRUARY 27, 1999

First prize (20 goals, £3,500): Pte CE Gethin, 2 PWRR, Tidworth.

Three-way tie for second prize (19 goals, £1,300 each): Lt FFA Cartwright, Nijmegen Coy, Gren Gds, Windsor; Sgt NT Summerhayes, FIU; WO2 GN Zanelli, JSSU Oakley, Cheltenham.

13-way tie for fifth prize (18 goals, £161.54 each): Lt Col C Baines, 33 Fd Hosp, Gosport; Maj CW Brawn, 5 Regt RA, Catterick; Cpl AJ Briggs, QRL, Osnabrück; Lt I Chance, ITC Catterick; Sgt L

Edwards, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Cpl (Name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison; Cpl E Little, Tpr LB MacAngus, 2 RTR, Fallingbommel; Maj JW Pantom, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; Sgt RW Pryor, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Wimbish; Gdsm LC Smith, 1 SG; LCpl L Swain, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley; LCpl S White, 8 Tpt Regt RLC, Catterick.

Prize money up again. Due to the continuing increase in ticket sales, with effect from March 6 weekly prize money has increased to £9,700, with a top prize of £3,600.

MARCH 6 1999

Five-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,640 each): Brig JR Brown, DMS Trg Centre, Ash Vale; SSgt GA Fletcher, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; LCpl AS Fox, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; Cpl D Lister, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; Pte D Rhodan, 1 A and SH, Edinburgh.

19-way tie for sixth prize (17 goals, £78.95 each): LCpl SP Allan, 1 LI, Episkopi; Cpl KJ Allen, 2 Regt RMP, Aldergrove; Maj MA Cubbin, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; WO2 MD Donnelly, HQ 39 Inf Bde; Maj PEJ Drew, HQ RM, Portsmouth; Maj A

J Field, CATC, Warminster; Capt ML Hegan, 9 R Irish; Maj GB Hills, HQ 4 Armd Bde, Osnabrück; Cpl KA Hilton, ATR Winchester; Sgt SL Holman, HQBF Cyprus, Episkopi; Maj SG Jenkins, HQ UKSC (G), Rheindahlen; LCpl ASM Jordan, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; SSgt DP Lynch, Manchester UOTC; LCpl CW Metcalfe, 8 Tpt Regt RLC, Catterick; WO2 GR Miller, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; WO2 SA Smith, 5 Trg Regt RLC, Grantham; Cpl S Taylor, 35 Signal Regt (V), Sutton Coldfield; LCpl TW White, 2 LI Bulford; Sgt G Wildsmith, BATU Suffield.

MARCH 13, 1999

Eight-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £1,212.50 each): LCpl SR Brewster, Depot R Irish; Capt (name withheld), 63 (SAS), Signal Sqn, Thorney Island; Sgt NJM Goodfellow, 131 Avn Sp Unit RLC, Middle Wallop; SSgt KR Lock, 243 Fd Hosp (V), Bristol; Sgt SJ Munday, 1 RWF; Cpl PA Nutter, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; WO1 MAM Stacey, 1 RRF; CSgt PW toker, 4/5 GH (V), Middlesbrough.

Note: Only eight winners this week. Rule 9 applies.

5 AB BDE LOGISTIC BATTALION DISBANDMENT PARADE

will take place at Montgomery Lines, Aldershot on Saturday, July 3, 1999

An all-ranks reception for serving and past members of the Battalion and ex-REME, RAOC and RCT Airborne personnel will follow the parade in Browning Barracks. This will be the last chance to visit the Battalion and its sub-units in their present form.

DO NOT MISS IT!

Contact: Maj S J Shirley RLC, OC 63 AB CS Sqn RLC, for ticket details
Tel: 722 4541 (mil) or 01252 348541

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31	32	33	34	35

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Your 1999 pay scales

Regular Army

As the year 2000 is a leap year, all annual rates are derived by multiplying the daily rates by 366

OFFICERS – MAIN SCALE

Rank	Service years	Daily rates £
2nd Lt (UC)	On appointment	24.63
	+1 *	28.27
	+2 *	31.74
	+3 *	34.65
2nd Lt (SSLC)		
On commissioning		32.22
After 9 months		34.45
2nd Lt		43.12
Lt	On appointment	57.00
	+1	58.50
	+2	60.00
	+3	61.50
	+4	63.00
Capt	On appointment	72.71
	+1	74.67
	+2	76.63
	+3	78.59
	+4	80.55
	+5	82.51
	+6	84.47
Maj	On appointment	92.02
	+1	94.29
	+2	96.56
	+3	98.83
	+4	101.10
	+5	103.37
	+6	105.64
	+7	107.91
	+8	110.18
Special List Lt Col		127.23
Lt Col	On appointment/ under 19 years' service	129.77
	2/19 in rank/ service	133.19
	4/21 in rank/ service	136.61
	6/23 in rank/ service	140.03
	8/25 in rank/ service	143.45
Col	On appointment	150.85
	+2	154.82
	+4	158.79
	+6	162.76
	+8	166.73
		184.79
Brig		184.79

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

VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service years	Daily rates £
Captain and Major	On appointment	72.71
	+1	77.86
	+3	83.01
	+5	88.16
	+7	93.31
	+9	98.46
	+11	103.58
	+13	108.71
	+15	114.09
	+17	119.47
	+19	124.85
Lt Col	On appointment*	134.81
	+2 *	139.13
	+4 *	143.45
		150.85
Colonel	On appointment	150.85
	+2	154.82
	+4	158.79
	+6	162.76
	+8	166.73
		184.79

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

OFFICERS – REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

Years	Daily rates £
Captain	
On appointment	88.25
+1	89.72
+2	91.04
+3	92.36
+4	93.68
+5	95.00
+6	96.32
+8	97.64

OFFICERS – SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

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

Years of commissioned service	<12	12-15	15>
	£	£	£
On appointment/ commission	80.07	84.16	88.25
+1	82.11	86.20	89.72
+2	84.16	88.25	91.04
+3	86.20	89.72	92.36
+4	88.25	91.04	93.68
+5	89.72	92.36	95.00
+6	91.04	93.68	96.32
+8	92.36	95.00	97.64
+10	93.68	96.32	97.64
+12	95.00	97.64	97.64
+14	96.32	97.64	97.64
+16	97.64	97.64	97.64

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Rates payable to cadets joining RMCS

Year	Daily rates £
1	22.61
2	32.59
3	35.23

SOLDIERS – SCALE RATES

Rank	Class	Band	A £	B £	C £
Pte	4	1	27.05	27.35	27.80
		3	30.44	30.74	31.19
		2	35.33	35.63	36.08
	3	1	40.76	41.06	41.51
		2	34.02	34.32	34.77
		3	38.95	39.25	39.70
	2	1	44.38	44.68	45.13
		2	37.00	37.30	37.75
		3	41.92	42.22	42.67
	1	1	47.34	47.64	48.09
LCpl	3	1	37.00	37.30	37.75
		2	41.92	42.22	42.67
		3	47.34	47.64	48.09
	2	1	39.38	39.68	40.13
		2	44.30	44.60	45.05
		3	50.15	50.45	50.90
	1	1	42.36	42.66	43.11
		2	47.28	47.58	48.03
		3	53.13	53.43	53.88
	Cpl	1	45.26	45.56	46.01
Sgt	2	1	50.16	50.46	50.91
		2	56.00	56.30	56.75
		3	62.84	63.14	63.59
	1	1	48.59	48.89	49.34
		2	53.47	53.77	54.22
		3	59.31	59.61	60.06
	4	1	53.44	53.74	54.19
		2	58.75	59.05	59.50
		3	64.54	64.84	65.29
	SSgt	1	56.50	56.80	57.25
WO2	4	1	60.41	60.71	61.16
		2	65.73	66.03	66.48
		3	72.88	73.18	73.63
	3	1	80.05	80.35	80.80
		2	84.42	84.72	85.17
		3	89.79	90.09	90.54
	2	1	69.73	70.03	70.48
		2	76.98	77.28	77.73
		3	84.12	84.42	84.87
	WO1	1	84.12	84.42	84.87

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All categories, including young soldiers, but excluding officer cadets

Age	Daily rates £
aged under 17	16.85
17 but under 17½	20.45
17½ in adult post	27.05

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Rank/Service years	Daily rates £
Chaplains Classes 4 (Capt), 3 (Maj) and 2 (Lt Col)	
On appointment	72.71
+2	78.04
+4	83.37
+6	88.70
+8	94.03
+10	99.36
+12	104.69
+14	110.02
+16	115.35
+18	120.68
+20	126.01
+22	131.34
+24	136.61
+26	141.94
Chaplains Class 1 (Col)	
On appointment	136.61
2/24 yrs in rank/service	141.94
Principal Chaplain (Col)	150.85
Deputy Chaplain General (Brig)	158.79
Chaplain General (Maj Gen)	184.79

ROYAL IRISH SOLDIERS (HSFT)

Soldiers enrolled on or after April 21, 1977 and soldiers enrolled before that date who opted to transfer to the revised financial terms of service

Rank	Class	A £	B £	C £
Pte	4	27.05	27.35	27.80
	3	30.44	30.74	31.19
	2	34.02	34.32	34.77
LCpl	1	37.00	37.30	37.75
	3	37.00	37.30	37.75
	2	39.38	39.68	40.13
Cpl	1	42.36	42.66	43.11
		53.47	53.77	54.22
		58.75	59.05	59.50
SSgt		61.80	62.10	62.55
WO2		72.88	73.18	73.63
WO1		84.12	84.42	84.87

Your 1999 pay scales

OFFICER CADETS

Rank	Daily rates £
Officer Cadet on entry	30.14

MILITARY PROVOST GUARD SERVICE (MPGS)

Rank	Class	Daily rates £
Pte	4	25.34
	1	34.67
LCpl	1	39.69
Cpl	1	45.53
Sgt		50.08
SSgt		52.95
WO	2	56.62

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI)

Year Rank	9	12	15	18	22
	£	£	£	£	£
Pte	0.91	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28
LCpl	0.91	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28
Cpl	0.91	1.28	1.56	1.56	1.56
Sgt	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.28	2.28
SSgt	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.64	2.64
WO2	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.64	3.01
WO1	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.64	3.46

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI)

Year Rank	9	12	15	18	22
	£	£	£	£	£
Pte	0.91	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28
LCpl	0.91	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28
Cpl	0.91	1.28	1.56	1.56	1.56
Sgt	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.28	2.28
SSgt	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.64	2.64
WO2	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.64	3.01
WO1	1.10	1.56	1.92	2.64	3.46

LOAN SERVICE

	1	2	3	4	5
Brig	18.48	27.72	36.96	55.44	64.68
Col	15.09	22.63	30.17	45.26	52.80
Lt Col	12.98	19.47	25.95	38.93	45.42
Maj	9.20	13.80	18.40	27.61	32.21
Lt/Capt					
(LE)	8.83	13.24	17.65	26.48	30.89
Capt	7.27	10.91	14.54	21.81	25.45
Lt	5.70	8.55	11.40	17.10	19.95
WO1	6.44	9.66	12.88	19.33	22.55
WO2	6.04	9.06	12.08	18.12	21.14
SSgt	5.65	8.48	11.30	16.95	19.78
Sgt	5.34	8.02	10.69	16.03	18.70
Cpl	4.86	7.29	9.72	14.58	17.01
LCpl	4.24	6.35	8.47	12.71	14.83
	6	7	8	9	
Brig	73.92	83.16	92.40	101.63	
Col	60.34	67.88	75.43	82.97	
Lt Col	51.91	58.40	64.89	71.37	
Maj	36.81	41.41	46.01	50.61	
Lt/Capt					
(LE)	35.30	39.71	44.13	48.54	
Capt	29.08	32.72	36.36	39.99	
Lt	22.80	25.65	28.50	31.35	
WO1	25.77	28.99	32.21	35.43	
WO2	24.16	27.18	30.21	33.23	
SSgt	22.60	25.43	28.25	31.08	
Sgt	21.38	24.05	26.72	29.39	
Cpl	19.44	21.87	24.30	26.72	
LCpl	16.94	19.06	21.18	23.80	

ADDITIONAL PAY

Officer pilots and flying instructors		
	£	£
	Regular Reserve	
Qualified aircraft comdr, 2nd Lt, Maj & Lt Col with less than 6 yrs in rank		
Initial rate	10.39	
Middle rate	17.44	
Top rate	26.35	20.52
Lt Col after 6 yrs	24.94	20.52
Lt Col after 8 yrs	23.46	20.52
Col on appointment	21.99	20.52
Col after 2 yrs	20.52	19.07
Col after 4 yrs	19.07	16.88
Col after 6 yrs	16.88	14.67
Col after 8 yrs	14.67	12.47
Brigadier	8.79	7.47

Qualified as pilot		
	£	£
2nd Lt to Lt Col with less than 6 yrs in rank		
Initial rate	5.14	
Middle rate	11.34	
Top rate	13.35	11.34

Soldier pilots and flying instructors and REME serving test pilots

Qualified aircraft commander		
	£	£
Initial rate	10.39	
Middle rate	(1) 17.44	
Top rate	(2) 26.35	20.52
Qualified as pilot		
	£	£
Initial rate	5.14	
Middle rate	(3) 11.34	
Top rate	(4) 13.35	11.34

Aircrew

	£	£
Initial rate	5.14	
Middle rate	11.34	
Top rate	13.35	11.34

Parachutist

	£	£
Qualified parachutist	3.94	
Assistant parachutist		
Jumping instructor	5.65	4.24

SAS

	Lower	Higher
All officers and WO1	17.39	24.36
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	13.96	20.89
Cpl and below	11.33	18.25

Divers (all ranks) Category

	£	£
ACAD	1	2.99
UDS	2	6.03
AAD	3	8.62
ADS	4	14.66
ADI	4	14.66

Gurkha service

	£	£
Lt Col and above	5.25	
Major	4.58	
Capt	3.90	
Lt/2nd Lt	3.30	

Gurkha language

	£	£
Lower rate	0.59	
Higher rate	1.03	

Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London)

	£	£
Basic rate	2.93	

Longer Separated Service Allowance

	£	£
Basic rate	4.29	
Middle rate	5.90	
Higher rate	8.04	

Longer Service at Sea Bonus

	£	£
2 years but under 5 years	3.27	
5 years but under 10 years	5.51	
10 years and over	6.81	

Northern Ireland Resident Supplement

	£	£
	4.72	

OTHER MINOR FORMS OF ADDITIONAL PAY

Work in unpleasant conditions	
Soldiers only	0.69
Work of an objectionable nature	
All ranks	
Basic rate	4.42
Higher rate	13.07
Experimental	
All ranks per test	1.97
Royal Logistic Corps, Helicopter Crews	
All ranks	3.61
Special Communications	
Sgts to WO1	8.33
Sigs to Cpl	6.26
Special Forces Communications	
Officers, Sgts & WOs	8.51
Cpls & below	7.29
Air Despatch	
Under Trg/Lower rate	3.61
Higher rate (after 4 years on preceding rate)	5.82

FOOD CHARGES

	Daily rate £
Married unaccompanied officer /other ranks in marital status categories 1 and 2	2.36
Officers and other ranks in marital status categories 3, 4 and 5	3.23

ENTITLED CASUAL MEAL CHARGES

Meal	Charge £	VAT £	Total £
Breakfast	0.56	0.10	0.66
Main meal of the day (either midday or evening meal)	1.87	0.33	2.20
EITHER: Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.30	0.23	1.53
OR: (high tea or supper)	0.93	0.16	1.09
(late snack or light tea)	0.37	0.07	0.44
All meals in one day	3.73	0.66	4.39
Overseas rates are as above, except that VAT is not applicable.			

MISSED MEAL PAYMENTS

	£
Breakfast	0.56
Main meal of the day (either midday or evening meal)	1.87
EITHER: Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.30
OR: (high tea or supper)	0.93
(late snack or light tea)	0.37
All meals in one day	3.73

SOLDIER

The British Army Magazine

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FAMILIES QUARTERS CHARGES

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

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas		Grade			
Type		1	2	3	4
I	F	14.00	12.38	8.13	4.88
	PF	13.23	11.68	7.64	4.58
	UF	12.46	10.99	7.15	4.28
II	F	12.64	11.14	7.35	4.42
	PF	11.94	10.52	6.91	4.15
	UF	11.25	9.89	6.48	3.89
III	F	11.09	9.79	6.48	3.95
	PF	10.50	9.26	6.11	3.72
	UF	9.92	8.73	5.74	3.50
IV	F	8.52	7.66	5.36	3.34
	PF	7.97	7.17	5.01	3.13
	UF	7.43	6.68	4.66	2.91
V	F	7.46	6.74	4.68	3.01
	PF	6.98	6.31	4.37	2.82
	UF	6.50	5.87	4.06	2.62
+Bedroom	F	0.53	0.46	0.34	0.17
	PF	0.50	0.43	0.32	0.16
	UF	0.47	0.41	0.30	0.15
D	F	6.00	5.41	3.82	2.40
	PF	5.68	5.11	3.61	2.28
	UF	5.35	4.81	3.40	2.16
C	F	5.59	5.02	3.55	2.27
	PF	5.32	4.77	3.37	2.17
	UF	5.04	4.52	3.19	2.06
B	F	5.16	4.65	3.28	2.11
	PF	4.93	4.43	3.13	2.02
	UF	4.70	4.22	2.98	1.93
A	F	3.92	3.53	2.52	1.74
	PF	3.73	3.36	2.40	1.66
	UF	3.54	3.18	2.29	1.57
+Bedroom	F	0.21	0.20	0.14	0.06
	PF	0.18	0.17	0.12	0.05
	UF	0.16	0.15	0.11	0.05

Northern Ireland		Grade			
Type		1	2	3	4
I	F	10.39	8.40	3.98	0.59
	PF	9.93	8.02	3.78	0.56
	UF	9.47	7.63	3.58	0.53
II	F	9.22	7.44	3.54	0.52
	PF	8.81	7.10	3.36	0.50
	UF	8.39	6.75	3.19	0.47
III	F	5.95	4.66	1.91	0.00
	PF	5.68	4.44	1.82	0.00
	UF	5.42	4.23	1.72	0.00
IV	F	4.58	3.66	1.58	0.00
	PF	4.33	3.46	1.50	0.00
	UF	4.09	3.26	1.41	0.00
V	F	3.99	3.20	1.38	0.00
	PF	3.78	3.03	1.30	0.00
	UF	3.56	2.85	1.22	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.53	0.46	0.34	0.17
	PF	0.50	0.43	0.32	0.16
	UF	0.47	0.41	0.30	0.15
D	F	3.63	2.93	1.37	0.00
	PF	3.47	2.79	1.30	0.00
	UF	3.30	2.66	1.24	0.00
C	F	3.33	2.68	1.25	0.00
	PF	3.19	2.57	1.19	0.00
	UF	3.05	2.45	1.14	0.00
B	F	3.00	2.42	1.13	0.00
	PF	2.88	2.33	1.08	0.00
	UF	2.77	2.23	1.04	0.00
A	F	2.29	1.85	0.87	0.00
	PF	2.19	1.77	0.83	0.00
	UF	2.10	1.69	0.80	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.21	0.20	0.14	0.06
	PF	0.18	0.17	0.12	0.05
	UF	0.16	0.15	0.11	0.05

F= Furnished PF= Part Furnished UF= Unfurnished

GARAGE AND CAR PORTS

Standard garage	0.48
Substandard garage	0.32
Standard car port	0.24
Substandard car port	0.16

SINGLE ACCOMMODATION

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas

Rank	Grade			
	1	2	3	4
	£	£	£	£
Major and above	4.44	3.94	2.77	1.70
Captain and below	3.60	3.19	2.25	1.39
SNCO	2.73	2.41	1.70	1.04
Corporals and below	1.57	1.39	0.97	0.60
Juniors	1.24	1.09	0.78	0.48

FQ WEEKLY RENT REBATES

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas		Grade			
Type		1	2	3	4
		£	£	£	£
A	F	23.11	20.38	13.33	7.82
	PF	21.77	19.16	12.50	7.26
	UF	20.42	17.95	11.67	6.70
B	F	31.69	28.13	18.57	10.40
	PF	30.08	26.65	17.52	9.77
	UF	28.47	25.16	16.47	9.13
C	F	34.69	30.65	20.38	11.45
	PF	32.74	28.91	19.12	10.72
	UF	30.79	27.18	17.85	9.98
D	F	37.49	33.30	22.20	12.29
	PF	35.21	31.23	20.73	11.44
	UF	32.94	29.15	19.25	10.59
V	F	47.61	42.58	28.13	16.47
	PF	44.23	39.54	25.96	15.11
	UF	40.86	36.49	23.78	13.75

FQ RENT AND RATE REBATES

Northern Ireland

Rent & rate rebates (£ weekly) - from April 1, 1999

Type		Grade		
		1	2	3
A	F	Rent	11.55	9.17
		Rate	2.29	1.81
		Total	13.84	10.98
	PF	Rent	10.88	8.62
		Rate	2.29	1.81
		Total	13.17	10.43
B	UF	Rent	10.21	8.08
		Rate	2.29	1.81
		Total	12.50	9.89
	F	Rent	15.85	12.66
		Rate	2.90	2.30
		Total	18.75	14.96
C	PF	Rent	15.04	11.99
		Rate	2.90	2.30
		Total	17.94	14.29
	UF	Rent	14.24	11.32
		Rate	2.90	2.30
		Total	17.14	13.62
D	F	Rent	17.35	13.79
		Rate	3.70	2.94
		Total	21.05	16.73
	PF	Rent	16.37	13.01
		Rate	3.70	2.94
		Total	20.07	15.95
E	UF	Rent	15.40	12.23
		Rate	3.70	2.94
		Total	19.10	15.17
	F	Rent	18.74	14.98
		Rate	4.38	3.48
		Total	23.12	18.46
F	PF	Rent	17.61	14.05
		Rate	4.38	3.48
		Total	21.99	17.53
	UF	Rent	16.47	13.12
		Rate	4.38	3.48
		Total	20.85	16.60
G	F	Rent	21.42	17.03
		Rate	4.46	3.53
		Total	25.88	20.56
	PF	Rent	19.91	15.81
		Rate	4.46	3.53
		Total	24.37	19.34
H	UF	Rent	18.39	14.59
		Rate	4.46	3.53
		Total	22.85	18.12

Note: All rebates for Grade 4 are £0.00

GRADE 4 CHARGES

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

	F	PF	UF
I	1.50	1.20	0.89
II	1.39	1.12	0.86
III	1.28	1.05	0.83
IV	1.23	1.01	0.80
V	1.16	0.96	0.77
D	0.99	0.87	0.74
C	0.94	0.83	0.73
B	0.89	0.80	0.71
A	0.85	0.77	0.69

SINGLE QUARTERS UTILITIES

Charge (daily) All areas except Northern Ireland

Rank	
Major and above	0.79
Captain and below	0.58
SNCO	0.49
Corporals and below	0.46
Juniors	0.39

Territorial Army and Reserve Forces

As the year 2000 is a leap year, all annual rates are derived by multiplying the daily rates by 366

TA OFFICERS

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates
		£
2nd Lt	On appointment	53.44
	+1	54.84
	+2	56.25
	+3	57.66
Lt	On appointment	59.06
	+1	60.47
	+2	61.88
	+3	63.29
Capt	On appointment	64.70
	+1	66.11
	+2	67.52
	+3	68.93
Maj	On appointment	70.34
	+1	71.75
	+2	73.16
	+3	74.57
Lt Col	On appointment	75.98
	+1	77.39
	+2	78.80
	+3	80.21
Col	On appointment	81.62
	+1	83.03
	+2	84.44
	+3	85.85
Brig	On appointment	87.26
	+1	88.67
	+2	90.08
	+3	91.49

Your 1999 pay scales

Territorial Army and Reserve Forces continued

ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates
		£
Chaplains Class 4 (Capt), Class 3 (Maj)		
	On appointment	68.17
	+2	73.16
	+4	78.16
	+6	83.16
	+8	88.15
	+10	93.15
	+12	98.15
	+14	103.14
	+16	108.14
	+18	113.14
	+20	118.13
	+22	123.13
	+24	128.07
	+26	133.07

QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates
		£
Lt/ Capt/ Maj	On appointment	82.73
	+1	84.11
	+2	85.35
	+3	86.59
	+4	87.83
	+5	89.06
	+6	90.30
	+8	91.54
	+10	92.91
	+12	94.30
	+14	95.71
	+16	97.15
Lt Col	On appointment	109.49
	+3	111.03

VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates
		£
Capt/ Maj	On appointment	68.17
	+1	72.99
	+3	77.82
	+5	82.65
	+7	87.48
	+9	92.31
	+11	97.11
	+13	101.92
	+15	106.96
	+17	112.00
	+19	117.05
	+21	122.09
Lt Col	On appointment	126.38
	+2	130.43
Col	+4	134.48
	On appointment	141.42
	+2	145.14

OFFICER CADETS AND JUNIOR ENTRANTS

Rank	Daily rates
	£
Cadet on entry	28.26
Junior Soldier	15.80
Young Soldier	19.17

OFFICERS IN THE ARMY SECTIONS OF THE CCF AND ACF

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates
		£
2nd Lt	On appointment	38.50
Lt	+1	50.89
	+2	52.23
	+3	53.57
	+4	54.91
Capt	On appointment	56.25
	+1	64.92
	+2	66.67
	+3	68.42
Maj	+4	70.17
	+5	71.92
	+6	73.67
	+7	75.42
Lt Col	On appointment	82.16
	+1	84.19
	+2	86.21
	+3	88.24
Col	+4	90.27
	+5	92.29
	+6	94.32
	+7	96.35
Brig	+8	98.38
	On appointment/ U 19 comm service	115.87
	2/19 in rank/ service	118.92
	4/21 in rank/ service	121.97
	6/23 in rank/ service	130.27
	8/25 in rank/ service	133.69

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates
		1/4/99
		£
Capt	On appointment	65.44
	+1	67.20
	+2	68.97
	+3	70.73
	+4	72.50
	+5	74.26
Maj	+6	76.02
	On appointment	82.82
	+1	84.86
	+2	86.90
	+3	88.95
	+4	90.99
Lt Col	+5	93.03
	+6	95.08
		116.79

CHAPLAINS IN THE CADET FORCE

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates
		£
On appointment		64.92
	+2	69.68
	+4	74.44
	+6	79.20
	+8	83.96
	+10	88.71
	+12	93.47
	+14	98.23
	+16	102.99
	+18	107.75
	+20	112.51
	+22	117.27
	+24	121.97
	+26	126.73

FULL-TIME RESERVE SERVICE OFFICERS

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment - X-factor)		
		Full -12%	Limited -5%	Home -0%
		£	£	£
2nd Lt		43.12	40.43	38.50
Lt	On appointment	57.00	53.44	50.89
	+1	58.50	54.84	52.23
	+2	60.00	56.25	53.57
	+3	61.50	57.66	54.91
Capt	+4	63.00	59.06	56.25
	On appointment	72.71	68.17	64.92
	+1	74.67	70.00	66.67
	+2	76.63	71.84	68.42
Maj	+3	78.59	73.68	70.17
	+4	80.55	75.52	71.92
	+5	82.51	77.35	73.67
	+6	84.47	79.19	75.42
Lt Col	On appointment	92.02	86.27	82.16
	+1	94.29	88.40	84.19
	+2	96.56	90.53	86.21
	+3	98.83	92.65	88.24
Col	+4	101.10	94.78	90.27
	+5	103.37	96.91	92.29
	+6	105.64	99.04	94.32
	+7	107.91	101.17	96.35
Brig	+8	110.18	103.29	98.38
	On appointment/ U 19 service	129.77	121.66	115.87
	2/19 in rank/ service	133.19	124.87	118.92
	4/21 in rank/ service	136.61	128.07	121.97
Lt Col	6/23 in rank/ service	140.03	134.34	130.27
	8/25 in rank/ service	143.45	137.76	133.69
	On appointment	150.85	145.16	141.09
	+2	154.82	149.13	145.06
Col	+4	158.79	153.10	149.03
	+6	162.76	157.07	153.00
	+8	166.73	161.04	156.97
		166.73	163.88	161.85
Brig		184.79	181.94	179.91

ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment - X-factor)		
		Full -12%	Limited -5%	Home -0%
		£	£	£
Chaplains Class 4 (Capt), Class 3 (Maj)				
	On appointment	72.71	68.17	64.92
	+2	78.04	73.16	69.68
	+4	83.37	78.16	74.44
	+6	88.70	83.16	79.20
	+8	94.03	88.15	83.96
	+10	99.36	93.15	88.71
	+12	104.69	98.15	93.47
	+14	110.02	103.14	98.23
	+16	115.35	108.14	102.99
	+18	120.68	113.14	107.75
	+20	126.01	118.13	112.51
	+22	131.34	123.13	117.27
	+24	136.61	128.07	121.97
	+26	141.94	133.07	126.73

QUARTERMASTER CATEGORY

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment - X-factor)		
		Full -12%	Limited -5%	Home -0%
		£	£	£
On appointment		88.25	82.73	78.79
	+1	89.72	84.11	80.11
	+2	91.04	85.35	81.29
	+3	92.36	86.59	82.46
	+4	93.68	87.83	83.64
	+5	95.00	89.06	84.82
	+6	96.32	90.30	86.00
	+8	97.64	91.54	87.18
	+10	99.10	92.91	88.48
	+12	100.59	94.30	89.81
Lt/ Capt/ Maj	+14	102.09	95.71	91.15
	+16	103.63	97.15	92.53
	On appointment	116.79	109.49	104.28
	+3	118.43	111.03	105.74

VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service Years	Daily rates (Commitment - X-factor)		
		Full	Limited Home	-12% -5% -0%
Capt/ Maj	On appointment	£ 72.71	£ 68.17	£ 64.92
	+1	77.86	72.99	69.52
	+3	83.01	77.82	74.12
	+5	88.16	82.65	78.71
	+7	93.31	87.48	83.31
	+9	98.46	92.31	87.91
	+11	103.58	97.11	92.48
	+13	108.71	101.92	97.06
	+15	114.09	106.96	101.87
	+17	119.47	112.00	106.67
	+19	124.85	117.05	111.47
	+21	130.23	122.09	116.28
Lt Col	On appointment*	134.81	126.38	120.37
	+2 *	139.13	130.43	124.22
	+4 *	143.45	134.48	128.08
Col	On appointment	150.85	141.42	134.69
	+2	154.82	145.14	138.23

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

SOLDIERS - SCALE RATES

Volunteer reserves on voluntary training / other duties

Rank	Class	Band	Scale			
			A	B	C	
			£	£	£	
Pte	4	1	25.34	25.64	26.09	
		1	28.52	28.82	29.27	
	3	2	33.10	33.40	33.85	
		3	38.19	38.49	38.94	
	2	1	31.88	32.18	32.63	
		2	36.50	36.80	37.25	
		3	41.59	41.89	42.34	
	1	1	34.67	34.97	35.42	
		2	39.28	39.58	40.03	
		3	44.36	44.66	45.11	
	LCpl	3	1	34.67	34.97	35.42
			2	39.28	39.58	40.03
3			44.36	44.66	45.11	
2		1	36.90	37.20	37.65	
		2	41.51	41.81	42.26	
		3	47.00	47.30	47.75	
1		1	39.69	39.99	40.44	
		2	44.31	44.61	45.06	
		3	49.79	50.09	50.54	
Cpl		2	1	42.41	42.71	43.16
			2	47.01	47.31	47.76
			3	52.48	52.78	53.23
	1	1	45.53	45.83	46.28	
		2	50.11	50.41	50.86	
		3	55.58	55.88	56.33	
	Sgt	4	50.08	50.38	50.83	
		5	55.06	55.36	55.81	
		6	60.49	60.79	61.24	
	SSgt	4	52.95	53.25	53.70	
		5	57.92	58.22	58.67	
		6	63.38	63.68	64.13	
WO2	7	69.95	70.25	70.70		
	4	56.62	56.92	57.37		
	5	61.60	61.90	62.35		
WO1	6	68.31	68.61	69.06		
	7	75.03	75.33	75.78		
	4	60.38	60.68	61.13		
WO1	5	65.35	65.65	66.10		
	6	72.15	72.45	72.90		
	7	78.84	79.14	79.59		

SOLDIERS - SCALE RATES

Limited Commitment

5% X-factor

Rank	Class	Band	Scale			
			A	B	C	
			£	£	£	
Pte	4	1	25.34	25.64	26.09	
		1	28.52	28.82	29.27	
	3	2	33.10	33.40	33.85	
		3	38.19	38.49	38.94	
	2	1	31.88	32.18	32.63	
		2	36.50	36.80	37.25	
	3	3	41.59	41.89	42.34	
		1	34.67	34.97	35.42	
	1	2	39.28	39.58	40.03	
		3	44.36	44.66	45.11	
	LCpl	3	1	34.67	34.97	35.42
			2	39.28	39.58	40.03
2		3	44.36	44.66	45.11	
		1	36.90	37.20	37.65	
1		2	41.51	41.81	42.26	
		3	47.00	47.30	47.75	
3		1	39.69	39.99	40.44	
		2	44.31	44.61	45.06	
1		3	49.79	50.09	50.54	
		2	1	42.41	42.71	43.16
3			2	47.01	47.31	47.76
		1	3	52.48	52.78	53.23
Cpl	2		1	45.53	45.83	46.28
		2	50.11	50.41	50.86	
	1	3	55.58	55.88	56.33	
		3	4	50.08	50.38	50.83
	2		5	55.06	55.36	55.81
		1	6	60.49	60.79	61.24
	SSgt		4	5	57.92	58.22
		6		63.38	63.68	64.13
		3	7	69.95	70.25	70.70
			2	4	56.62	56.92
		1		5	61.60	61.90
			3	6	68.31	68.61
WO2		4		7	75.03	75.33
			4	60.38	60.68	61.13
		5	5	65.35	65.65	66.10
			6	6	72.15	72.45
		7		7	78.84	79.14

GROUP A NRPS -

SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt After 3 yrs 6 yrs 9 yrs			
	£	£	£	£
Pte	33.30	33.40	33.50	33.60
LCpl	38.13	38.23	38.33	38.43
Cpl Class 2	45.84	45.94	46.04	46.14
Cpl Class 1	48.82	48.92	49.02	49.12
Sgt	53.57	53.67	53.77	53.87
SSgt	56.32	56.42	56.52	56.62
WO2	66.29	66.39	66.49	66.59
WO1	76.38	76.48	76.58	76.68

GROUP B NRPS -

SOLDIERS' NORMAL RATES

Rank	On appt After 3 yrs 6 yrs 9 yrs			
	£	£	£	£
Pte	33.30	33.40	33.50	33.60
LCpl	38.13	38.23	38.33	38.43
Cpl Class 2	45.84	45.94	46.04	46.14

ADULT INSTRUCTORS IN THE ARMY CADET FORCE AND COMBINED CADET FORCE

Rank	Daily rates	
	£	£
RSM	50.45	
SMaj	47.71	
SSgt	43.38	
Sgt	40.41	
School Staff	47.71	

SOLDIERS - SCALE RATES

Home Commitment

0% X-factor

Rank	Class	Band	Scale			
			A	B	C	
			£	£	£	
Pte	4	1	24.12	24.42	24.87	
		1	27.15	27.45	27.90	
	3	2	31.51	31.81	32.26	
		3	36.36	36.66	37.11	
	2	1	30.34	30.64	31.09	
		2	34.74	35.04	35.49	
	3	3	39.59	39.89	40.34	
		1	33.00	33.30	33.75	
	1	2	37.40	37.70	38.15	
		3	42.24	42.54	42.99	
	LCpl	3	1	33.00	33.30	33.75
			2	37.40	37.70	38.15
3		3	42.24	42.54	42.99	
		1	35.13	35.43	35.88	
2		2	39.52	39.82	40.27	
		3	44.74	45.04	45.49	
1		1	37.79	38.09	38.54	
		2	42.18	42.48	42.93	
3		3	47.41	47.71	48.16	
		1	40.38	40.68	41.13	
Cpl		2	2	44.75	45.05	45.50
			3	49.97	50.27	50.72
	1	1	43.35	43.65	44.10	
		2	47.71	48.01	48.46	
	3	3	52.92	53.22	53.67	
		4	47.68	47.98	48.43	
Sgt	5	52.42	52.72	53.17		
	6	57.59	57.89	58.34		
SSgt	4	50.41	50.71	51.16		
	5	55.15	55.45	55.90		
	6	60.35	60.65	61.10		
	7	66.60	66.90	67.35		
WO2	4	53.91	54.21	54.66		
	5	58.66	58.96	59.41		
	6	65.04	65.34	65.79		
WO1	7	71.44	71.74	72.19		
	4	57.49	57.79	58.24		
	5	62.23	62.53	62.98		
	6	68.70	69.00	69.45		
	7	75.08	75.38	75.83		

Diary

All-conquering Para runners back on course at Longmoor

WATCHING the 1999 Army cross-country championships at Longmoor with particular interest were members of the all-conquering 1960s team of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Under the leadership of the then CSM Gordon Burt, who was at Longmoor to mark the 30th anniversary, they won the title for a record nine consecutive times between 1961 and 1969. Spurred on by their success, the battalion became a major force on the sports field, winning Army-level boxing, cross country and football titles in 1966.

What made their running achievements so special was that the battalion relied on its own athletes rather than cross-posting from other battalions. During the Sixties, both 2 and 3 Para finished as runners-up from time to time.



Runner: Maj Gordon Burt MC

CSM Burt's squad also won races in the Middle East, Cyprus and Kenya and was one of the most successful in the South of England. They also won the gruelling Ben Nevis mountain race.

Gun ho...

The 1942-vintage 25-pounder now gracing the roundabout outside Aldershot station was used by the Desert Rats and left behind in Africa at the end of the Second World War. Taken over by the South African Army, it was later decommissioned and returned to Britain.

Flight of fancy

Want to fly? Each year the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators offers a number of scholarships worth £5,000 to enable would-be fliers to achieve a private pilot's licence. For an application form, send an sae to Cobham House (Attn Brenda Thomas), 291 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8QF (tel 0171 837 3323, fax 0171 833 3190 or e-mail the.gapan@pop3.hiway.co.uk

Return to Kalamata

Sixty or so veterans of the Greek campaign (1940-44) are to return next month to the port of Kalamata in the southern Peloponnese for a remembrance ceremony at the memorial they built there in 1994. The town was the site of a ferocious battle on April 28, 1941 and the Greek Army provides a guard of honour for the annual service of remembrance. Edwin Horlington is anxious to hear from any old soldiers not yet in contact with the **Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign**. He can be contacted at 163 Walton Road, Walton-on-Naze, Essex CO14 8NE (tel 01255 677178).

Museum money

Two military museums are to be transformed with Lottery money. **Durham Light Infantry Museum**, in Durham City, has won £670,000 to refurbish its galleries and focus on the wartime experience of ordinary people in the county, while **Aldershot Military Museum**, housed in a Victorian barrack block, is to receive £186,500.

A £900,000 Lottery grant will fund half the cost of six memorial gates across Constitution Hill at Hyde Park Corner near Buckingham Palace in honour of soldiers from the Indian sub-continent, Africa and the Caribbean who fought for the Empire in two world wars.

An interesting Cove...

A Nazi battle standard captured during the assault on the Dutch island of Walcheren in November 1944 was presented eight weeks later to the Corps of Royal Engineers at Aldershot and soon afterwards went on display at Delville Barracks in nearby Cove to inspire new generations of combat engineers.

If you want to know anything else about how Cove was affected by events of the Second World War, Arthur Lunn has written just the book for you. His *Cove: A village at war* (Footmark Publications, price £5.85) includes an

Noted performer

Musn Louise Hallett of the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers receives one of three prizes from the eminent composer Joseph Horowitz at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. She won prizes as best brass instrumentalist, best female musician of the course and the bronze medal for best instrumentalist of the year. Louise is based with the band at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

Collection of Pals

Accrington may not be the obvious home for some 1,500 volumes on the First World War, but in fact the town library has a valuable three-part collection of material relating specifically to Lancashire units and regimental histories. The Local Studies Library concentrates on material relating to the **Accrington Pals** and, to a lesser degree, other county regiments. The third strand is the William Turner Pals Collection of photographs, newspaper cuttings, audio and video recordings and memorabilia. For details, contact Accrington Library, St James Street, Accrington BB5 1NQ (tel 01254 872385 or fax 01254 301066).

Gallipoli register

Patrick Gariépy has for the past ten years undertaken the mammoth task of compiling for publication a detailed biographical register of all 34,000 British and Dominion Servicemen killed during the Gallipoli campaign of 1915-16, including those who died of wounds and illness and those who died in captivity. He wishes to contact family members who can provide any details, letters, diaries or photographs of men killed at Gallipoli and offers, free of charge, whatever information he can provide. He can be contacted at 3966 Robin Avenue, Eugene, OR 97402, USA or patrickg@efn.org

Poetry prize

A cash prize of £250 is on offer to the winner of a new poetry competition and the organisers say they will publish at least 100 of the runners-up in an anthology entitled *Those Who Serve*. It is open to current and serving personnel, families and those interested in the Services. Send one poem only on a Service theme (20 lines, 160 words maximum) by June 28 to Soldier Poem, Byword, 1 Yorke Street, Burnley BB11 1HD (tel 01282 459533, fax 412679, website: byword.net



Honour for soldier hurt in first air attack

DAVID Ireland has a unique claim to his footnote in the annals of modern warfare. The 100-year-old Scot was one of the first soldiers to be wounded by aircraft fire on the battlefield.

David, who has been resident at Stratheden Hospital, near Dundee, for the past 75 years as a result of shell shock suffered during the First World War, recently received the Legion d'Honneur, awarded by the French Government to veterans of the Western Front to mark the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.

Pat Lee, chairman of the Royal British Legion (Scotland), handed over the medal during a ceremony in the hospital.

David enlisted at Kirkcaldy in March 1916 days after his 18th birthday and became a despatch rider with the Highland Cyclist Battalion of the 3rd Royal Highlanders, The Black Watch.

Later that year he was shot through the shoulder by a German bi-plane and, after convalescing in Britain, returned to France for the Battle of Arras in April 1917 when he was shot through the left knee. Discharged as unfit for military service, he returned to his home town of



War veteran: David Ireland with Pat Lee of the RBL (Scotland) Picture: The Courier, Dundee

Cupar to resume his job as a gardener, but the effects of his wounds and his experiences caught up with him and he was admitted to Stratheden in 1924.

Monkey moves

TA sappers serving with 108 (Welsh) Field Support Squadron, R Mon RE(M) stepped in to help when chimpanzees had to be moved from a wildlife park near Neath to a new home at Abercrave. The

chimps' new owners were unable to transport a very large exercise and play cage, so asked Army HQ at Brecon to help. Maj Jenny Pride, OC 108 Sqn, said the project was an excellent training opportunity... and beneficial to the chimps.

Treasures of the National Army Museum



10



Delivered from the enemy: Detail from George Carter's painting of Gen Elliott and his officers observing the destruction of the Spanish floating batteries during the Siege of Gibraltar, September 14, 1782

Rock saved by fireballs

WITH British sovereignty on Gibraltar again under the spotlight, an 18th century painting in the National Army Museum is a vivid reminder that today's border dispute is merely the latest incident in the Rock's turbulent history.

While Britain was preoccupied by the American War of Independence, Spain set siege to the garrison on the Rock. The assault began in 1779 and reached a crisis in September 1782 when the weakened defenders were bombarded at close range by a number of specially-designed "floating batteries".

RED-HOT SHOT

Seeing his cannon balls bouncing off the thick wooden sides of the Spanish batteries, garrison commander Gen Augustus Elliott ordered his gunners to fire red-hot shot to set them alight.

The climax of the action is depicted, with Elliott and his staff witnessing the Spanish defeat.

Artist George Carter (1737-94) went to great lengths to make the painting as true to life as possible. He visited Gibraltar, consulted state papers and sought the advice of one of the principal participants.

George Carter's painting is on display in the Redcoats Gallery at the National Army Museum in Chelsea. Admission is free.

Bulletin board

SEARCHLINE

Movement Control: Following last year's successful reunion at South Cerney, it is hoped to hold another this year. Anyone who served or is serving with Movements, RE, RCT or RLC and wants details should contact Ray Taylor, MC Historical Society, 2 Plumpton Close, Chippenham, Wilts SN14 0YS (tel 01249 461262).

Band of 8th KRI Hussars plans possible reunion late 1999 or early 2000. If you are interested, contact Colin Ridgers, 117 Vanner Road, Witney, Oxon OX8 6LL (tel/fax 01993 774694) or e-mail Largolout@AOL.com

The Museum of the Allied Landing at Nettuno in Italy is compiling a record for publication of veterans of the **Anzio-Nettuno beachhead**. Curator Silvano Casaldi wants a few details of each veteran, plus two photographs of each, one taken during the Second World War and a current one. He can be contacted at the museum, Sangallo Castle, Via Gramsci 5, 00048 Nettuno (Rome), Italy (fax 06 98840155).

E-mail contact list for former members of **Royal Corps of Signals** has been created by John Hopkins, life member Royal Signals Association. He can be e-mailed at royalsignals@snikpoh.freemove.co.uk or write to him at 14 Newlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PH.

Anyone who served with the **Infantry Demonstration Battalion** in Warminster (Composite Battalion) and is interested in forming an association is asked to contact Archie Reid, 60 Rushmere Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 2XR (tel 0151 285 0832).

BBC Television is looking for families willing to take part in its **Holiday Swaps** programme in which people agree to exchange the break

they have booked for something completely different. Ring 0117 974 6767 and leave your name, daytime number and holiday dates. Or write to Holiday Swaps, PO Box 229, Bristol BS99 7JN with the same details.

Sky One is looking for single people aged 18 to 35 to spend a week in a Spanish villa this summer for its new **Love In The Sun** series. Ring 0640 900 909 (calls cost 50p) or write to The Villa, PO Box 2883, London W1A 5RF.

Bill Fleckney wishes to make contact with ex-Regimental Policemen from the **Garrison Detention Centre, Bovington Camp, 1946-48**. Replies to 14 Buckland Path, Buckland, Portsmouth PO2 7DB.

Ex-RE Boys colleagues who served at Malta Barracks, Aldershot, 1956-58 sought by Dave Williams, who moved to Old Park Barracks, Dover in 1958. Replies to 13 Oswald Place, Dover, Kent or tel 01304 204906 after 1900.

Has anyone got a Korean Medal inscribed "22530250 Pte J W C Collins 1st Bn Gloucester Regt"? Mr Collins, who has one inscribed with the name "Cpl J Hopkins 22273468 RASC", would like to get his own back. Contact him at 20 Woodland Way, Gunnislake, Cornwall PL18 9JA (tel 01822 832241).

Dan Huxley, ex-private in the DCLI, seeks news of his best man, **Phillip Griffiths**, in time to mark his golden wedding on June 19. Last seen in June 1949 when Dan went to Korea with KSLI. Phillip, who came from the Sheffield area, was a lance corporal in the

RASC and also worked in the QM's office in Walker Lines, Bodmin. Replies to 6 Twyford Place, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8BZ (tel 01823 666380).

The BBC has re-released the video **Zulu Dawn**. Copies will be available from the **South Wales Borderers Museum, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB**, priced at £14.99 plus £1.25 UK p&p. BFPO customers should add £1.50 p&p. Sterling cheques or postal orders only should be made payable to The South Wales Borderers Museum. Enquiries to Celia Green on 01874 613311 or fax 01874 613275 or e-mail celia.green@ukonline.co.uk

John (Jonah), ex-PTI or medic attached to R Anglians at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, 1986-88, sought for reunion in The Bull public house, Crouch Street, Colchester. Contact Cathy on 01206 520274 or write to 73 Sheepen Road, Colchester CO3 3LF.

Former staff and pupils of **Durrington Secondary Modern School (1971-75)**, near Salisbury, Wilts, sought for reunion next year. Replies to Lyn Prescott, 16 New Road, Port Isaac, Cornwall PL29 3SB (tel 01208 880327).

Information sought about Pte Henry Bywater, No 9952, 1st Bn, Sherwood Foresters, killed in action Nov 17, 1914. Born Hucknall/Baysford, Nottingham and lived in the Kolar Gold Field in India. He is survived by a daughter, 13 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren, who seek information. Replies to Dr M J Dang, e-mail rankent@emirates.net.ae or fax (Dubai) +971 4 815517.

DISBANDING

Following SDR, V (The **Liverpool Scottish Company, 5th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion, The King's Regiment** is to disband. Anyone who has made a presentation to the battalion is invited to reclaim the item or give a preference for its disposal. Contact Capt M F Thompson c/o the unit at Forbes House, Score Lane, Liverpool L16 6AN (tel 0151 722 7711).

Regiment: Annual regimental reunion at Pitchcroft Racecourse, Worcester on June 12. Details: RHQ WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA (tel 01905 354359).

Combined Ex-Services Association: Reunion weekend, June 18-20, Bridlington, E Yorks. Contact G Thomas on 01262 673101.

30 Battery (Rogers's Company) RA: All ranks battery reunion to be held over Waterloo weekend, June 18-20, at Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich. Wives welcome. Contact Capt C Brook, (Battery Reunion), 30 Bty, Napier Lines, Woolwich, London SE18 4BQ (tel 0181 781 3832).

mander HQ Catterick Garrison, Feb 15; D F Davies - To Colonel SPS2 DSPS(A), Feb 15; A M Hood - To Colonel LSP4, Feb 15.

Lieutenant Colonels: D N Challes RA - To DERA, Apr 19; D B Doherty RLC - To HQ NI, Mar 12; R W Douglas AGC - To TSEOTC, Mar 1; P A Hinds REME - To DGES(A), Feb 1; A G Rowe RLC - To ACDS(L), Apr 19.

Retirements Brigadiers: C D Parr, late Int Corps, Feb 21; P J Wagstaffe, late RA, Feb 15; J R Smales, late 14/20 H, Feb 24.

Colonel: M J N Richards, late RA, Feb 19.



In tune: Musn Lucy Ellis, left, and Musn Joanna Williams are pictured at Chelsea Barracks, London, where they became the first female members of the Band of the Welsh Guards. Both completed a one-year course at the Army School of Music, Kneller Hall, Joanne on the flute, Lucy on

the French horn. They are due to take part in their first changing-the-guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace next month.

Capt Philip Shannon, Director of Music, said: "I hope more young ladies will join in the future, making them feel even more at home. They are both very good musicians."

Armourers' Association: Annual reunion for armourers and Art Wpns serving and retired, RAOC and REME at Victory Services Club, London, June 19. Details from secretary Chris Dennis on 01905 755334.

National Children's Home, Sheringham, Norfolk: Reunion planned for June 25-26 at St Andrew's Church Halls, Cromer Road. Contact Shirley Phyll (née Chambers), 14 Hildreth Road, Prestwood, Gt Missenden, Bucks HP16 0LU (tel 01494 890220).

Joint Services Hong Kong: Reunion in Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Services Club, London on July 3. Details from Bob Downie or Mandy Niblett, 8 Gauntlet Crescent, Kenley, Surrey CR8 5ER (tel 0181 645 9824).

16 Regiment RA Sgts' Mess: Reunion dinner with speaker to be held in WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Woolwich on July 17. All former members, serving and retired of any cap badge, welcome. Details from WO2 (BSM) A Dean, 16 Regt RA, RA Barracks, Woolwich, London SE18 4BH.

RE Darland Boys Association 1939-41: 19th reunion dinner at King Charles Hotel, Gillingham on Sept 10 will mark the 60th anniversary of the forming of the Army Technical School at Fort Darland. Details from Jim

Winchester, 8 Durham Road, Luton, Beds LU2 0RB (tel 01582 727569).

22nd (Cheshire) Regiment Band and Drums Association: Annual dinner to be held in Chester on Sept 11 (Mons reunion, Sept 12). Details from Maj Ron Goodwin, c/o RHQ The Cheshire Regiment, The Castle, Chester CH1 2DN.

7th Fd Coy/Sqn RE: Annual reunion at Leicester in Oct. Details from Mrs G Bignell, Dovecote House, Claypole, Newark NG23 5BJ.

Boys Squadron RAC: Reunion planned for Oct 2 in Birmingham. Contact Charlie Welchman on 01929 553466 for details.

Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders Battalion: Fifth annual reunion dinner for former boys/junior leaders who served at Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth or Oswestry will take place on Oct 16 at 5 RGJ Training Centre, Milton Keynes. Details from Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentrych, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel 01222 891274).

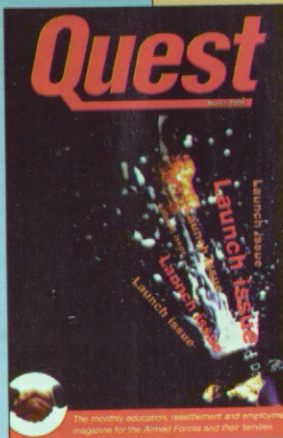
Arborfield Apprentices, Intakes 50A and 50B: Reunion planned for October 2000. Contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.

Quest is born

A NEW monthly magazine featuring articles and information about education and resettlement matters is to be issued free to all units. Aimed at soldiers and their families, **Quest** explains where to get advice and what funding is available to the individual.

It will include articles on academic and vocational training, news on Army initiatives to award civilian qualifications for military achievements and ideas about personal development in areas that people may not have thought of before.

The Career Transition Partnership, which provides resettlement advice and training, will have a regular feature in **Quest**, to ensure that readers are kept abreast of changes and developments.



Fund set up to restore Battle of Cambrai tank

AN appeal has been launched to finance the recovery, preservation and display costs of a British Mark IV tank excavated near Flesquières in northern France last November. It was discovered by Philippe Górczynski, a Cambrai hotelier and scholar of the world's first tank battle, who financed the excavation.

The Mk IV is believed to be D51, nicknamed Deborah, which took part in the Battle of Cambrai on November 20, 1917 until it sustained five direct hits. Four of its crew of eight were killed and its commander, 2nd Lt Gustave Heap, was awarded the MC for his actions.

Only three other First World War tanks exist, in Australia, in Belgium, and at the Tank Museum at Bovington.

It is intended that the tank will be displayed in a visitors centre to be established at Flesquières, near Cambrai. Anyone wishing to support the project should send donations to The Cambrai Tank Fund, PO Box 1369, Wrexham LL11 5ZA. Donors will be recorded in a memorial book kept at the centre. Further details from Glyn Trevor on 01978 853691 (day), 01978 751683 (evenings).

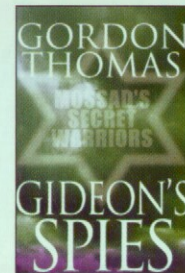
Long-server



SSGT Alan Van Eker, left, currently serving as Accommodation SNCO with Support Battalion, HQ ARRC at Rheindahlen, has joined the exclusive club of soldiers entitled to wear a clasp to their Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, signifying a total of 30 years' loyal service.

Princess's driver linked to Mossad

DEVOTEES of the murky world of the cloak and dagger will relish **Gideon's Spies: Mossad's Secret Warriors**

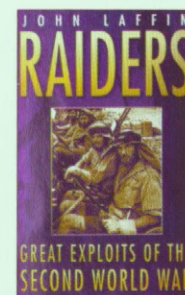


(Macmillan, £16.99), in which Gordon Thomas digs deeply into the secrets of the Israeli intelligence service. We are told that as a result of being given exclusive access to secrets he learned, among other things, of an alleged

link between Mossad and Henri Paul, Princess Diana's driver on the night she died, and of a Mossad agent in the White House who helped influence the Middle East peace negotiations. A pacy read.

Raiders of the lost cause...

AS John Laffin points out, in modern times the British armed forces have been the pre-eminent

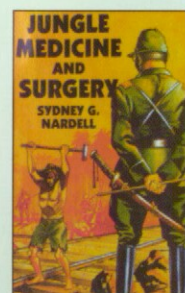


— though not necessarily the most "cost-effective" — raiders. Some raids, such as Dieppe in 1942, were disasters, but, he adds, many succeeded, including most carried out by the SAS in North Africa in 1941-43. In **Raiders** (Sutton, £19.99), Laffin

relates more than 20 such operations from the Second World War, including Operation Jaywick against Japanese-occupied Singapore in 1943, the only one in which no raider died. They make gripping reading.

The Burma Railway: a surgeon's story

AS a surgeon at a casualty clearing station on the Burma railway, Sydney G Nardell, a Japanese



PoW, saw unspeakable barbarities which he describes unflinchingly in **Jungle Medicine and Surgery** (The Book Guild, £10.95). He tells also of quiet acts of bravery and common decency, from fellow prisoners, natives and sometimes even from his

brutal captors. A member of the Indian Army Medical Corps, he was fortunate to survive his wartime experiences and to continue his distinguished career in England but sadly did not live to see his book published.



Combat SAR: Soldiers carry a wounded comrade towards a waiting Scout helicopter for evacuation to a field hospital during the Falklands War. Some rescues were carried out under fire. Picture: AAC Museum

Rescue under fire in the Falklands

WE HAVE all heard of the exploits of Harriers and Sea Harriers and larger helicopters such as the Wessex, Sea King and Chinook in the battle for the Falklands in 1982.

Less publicised but no less critical was the work of the Army Air Corps' small fleet of Westland AH-1 Scout helicopters, which provided armed support for the troops on the ground and undertook dangerous casevac missions to recover wounded soldiers.

As Andy Evans tells us in this book, these often took place at night, in bad weather, and sometimes under fire. Many of the more powerful Gazelles, he adds, were pressed into service in a similar role.

The Scouts carried stretchers and pods that could be attached to the skids to protect a casualty from the elements.

Capt Sam Drennan received

Combat Search and Rescue by Andy Evans (Arms & Armour, £20).

the DFC for his actions when he and co-pilot/gunner Cpl Jay Rigg were tasked to recover wounded soldiers from Mount Tumbledown and take them to a medical dressing station near Fitzroy on the night of June 13. Drennan's Scout brought out 16 Scots Guardsmen and Gurkhas from 1/7th Rifles, including Lt Bob Lawrence, who had a bullet lodged in his skull, and a young wounded soldier who had become separated from his platoon and spent hours in the field before being found.

"Both of these rescues were undertaken in the face of Argentinian small-arms fire and mortar rounds," Evans writes.

Drennan was involved in another hairy rescue with WO Mick Sharp when they lifted a sick Welsh Guardsman from

Sapper Hill in a blizzard on a pitch-black night and landed him safely against the odds.

The concept of Combat SAR is thought to have originated at the time of the Battle of Britain when German HE 59 seaplanes painted with large red crosses began landing on the water to pick up downed aircrew from both sides.

Britain latched onto the idea and set up air-sea rescue squadrons, but it was not until the Vietnam War that dedicated combat SAR "took off". One of the most famous recent incidents, the rescue of Capt Scott O'Grady in Bosnia after being shot down in June, 1995, is one of many described by Evans in detail.

This is claimed to be the first book devoted to this subject and certainly fulfills a need to relate the story of a rescue method widely used in peace and war.

Although the book's main value is as a specialised reference guide to major incidents, it uses eye-witness accounts well and if casual readers can tolerate the Americanisms, acronyms and technical jargon, they will find plenty of interest. — CH

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 professional military booksearch. Helion & Company, 26 Willow

Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England 9tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315). E-mail address: books@helion.co.uk Website: http://www.helion.co.uk

Fall and rise of the Paras

PARAS are among the elite soldiers. They have a unique *esprit de corps* and share a camaraderie visibly symbolised by the red beret and the coveted airborne wings.

As Robin Hunter puts it: "That spirit comes in part from the shared experience that all parachute soldiers must endure, that of leaping into hundreds of feet of damn-all from a transport aircraft, and trusting life to an assembly of silk and nylon cord called a parachute."

What is remarkable about these brave soldiers — infantrymen, gunners, sappers, signallers, medics and others — is that they have so rarely been called upon to employ the parachute in battle.

Hunter, a former Royal Marines Commando, reminds us that in the Second World War, when The Parachute Regiment was created, there were fewer than a dozen airborne landings — by glider as well as parachute — and on only one occasion since, at Suez in 1956, has the regiment parachuted into battle.

However, the regiment has more than enough experience in its purely infantry role, from peace-keeping in Malaya, through Aden, Borneo to Northern Ireland and the Falklands 17 years ago, to have built a formidable

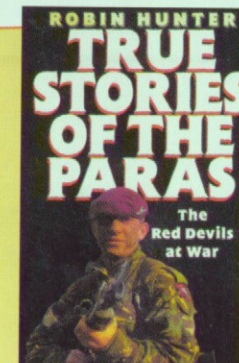
Win this book

WE have FIVE copies of *True Stories of the Paras* to give away, courtesy of Virgin Publishing. Just answer this question:

To which town is The Parachute Regiment due to move its HQ from Aldershot?

Send your answer on a postcard addressed to *Soldier* by May 4. Mark your entry "Paras Competition" and don't forget to include your own name and address. The first five correct entries out of the hat win a copy of the paperback. Our decision is final.

Our address on Page 55.



True Stories of the Paras: The Red Devils at War by Robin Hunter (Virgin paperback, £5.99).

reputation based on the solid foundation of well-documented history.

The facts are told well, with the help of colourful detail, comment and eye-witness accounts from many soldiers, and apart from its vivid operational narrative this 250-page book includes an enlightening description of the Parachute Course, which makes or breaks many an ambition (and probably many a bone).

Since 1996 the recruit's initial two jumps have been from a helicopter rather than a cage dangling below a barrage balloon. The author describes the first:

"There is not much sensation of falling. Those who keep their eyes open after they

have dropped — which is advisable — will see their feet come up as they pass 100ft, and then there is a tug on the shoulders and the parachute — wonderful creation that it is — has opened.

"You are going to live... You land, hopefully without breaking anything, roll out the shock in the approved manner and feel like a god. Then you have to do it again."

The second, he says, is always the worst. If he doesn't botch that, before too long the successful recruit will have turned into one of the toughest soldiers in the world — ready for anything, as the motto goes.

It is summed up by a British soldier's reply to abuse from a woman in the Bogside, Londonderry, at the start of the troubles in 1969: "You'll get tired of this before I will, darling." — CH

OTHER PAPERBACKS

A Tour of the Arnhem Battlefields by John Waddy. Well-illustrated guide to the nine critical days in September, 1944, as they were fought on the ground. (Leo Cooper, paperback, £12.99.)

The Mask of Command: A Study of Generalship by John Keegan. Companion volume to *The Face of Battle*, the author's classic study of the individual soldier. (Pimlico, £12.50.)

War and our World by John Keegan. Distinguished military historian's 1998 Reith Lectures for the BBC, in which he distilled his thoughts on warfare and its social implications. (Pimlico, £9.)

Gallipoli by Robert Rhodes James. The acclaimed 1965 study, with a new introduction in which the author makes the link between April, 1915 and June, 1944. (Pimlico, £12.50.)

The Somme by A H Farrar-Hockley and **The Dam Busters** by Paul Brickhill. Two classics reissued in the Pan Grand Strategy series at £6.99 each.

Vengeance — Hitler's Nuclear Weapon: Fact or Fiction? by Philip Henshall. In a new introduction, the author outlines his research into both German and Japanese nuclear weapons programmes. (Sutton, £12.99.)

A clearer view of the Russian Front

Access to previously unpublished sources gives author Charles Winchester an edge in his **Ostfront** (Osprey Military, £19.99), his account of Hitler's war on Russia, 1941-45. He is able to present a more

balanced view after the Nazis' propaganda and decades of "massaged" Soviet history. The lucid text, supported by 180 photographs, plus colour artwork and maps, make this one of the more reader-friendly narratives of the horrors of the Russian Front — the greatest land campaign in history and the decisive theatre of the Second World War.



Jewish hit squads executed top Nazis

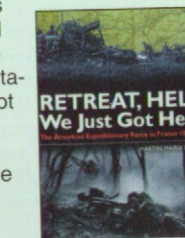
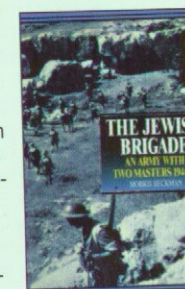
WHEN Churchill announced the formation of the Jewish Brigade in 1944 it gave Jews all over the world a long-awaited

chance to wreak revenge their arch-persecutors, the Nazis. The 5,500-strong "army", drawn from 52 nationalities and speaking 20 languages, fought with extraordinary courage. After the war, as Morris Beckman relates in **The Jewish Brigade: An Army with Two Masters 1944-45** (Spellmount, £18.95), roving squads hunted down and executed 1,500 high-ranking Nazis, while 20,000 Jewish refugees were helped on their way to Palestine.

THE CYNIC'S view of the Americans' role in the two world wars might be summed up as: "They arrived when it was almost too late and tried to steal all the glory". This uncharitable perception is not the view of Martin

Fine tribute to the Americans

Marix Evans, who has produced a fine tribute entitled **Retreat, hell! We just got here!** (Osprey Military, £14.99: Osprey Direct 01933 443863). His story of the American Expeditionary Force in France, 1917-18 is thoroughly researched and illustrated with contemporary and modern photographs, as well as maps and diagrams.



Mailbag

Bank on leave for when you plan to leave

THE prospect of soldiers taking little or no leave in order to increase their disposable income ("Time to cash in on unused leave", Mailbag, Feb) will never be accepted by the chain of command.

Such a system would be open to abuse both by the soldier and his less scrupulous masters, who might use it as an excuse to minimise their efforts to ensure maximum taking of leave.

Unless planned for a really long break, carry-overs lead only to an even larger number of days that will not be taken. Plainly, unless it is accepted that 30 days' leave is merely an aspiration, an alternative solution must be found.

It used to be the case that, when serving overseas, one could accumulate up to 25 per cent of annual leave, to be added to disembarkation leave on return home.

RESETTLEMENT

An eminently sensible idea these days could now be during resettlement. Had I been allowed to "bank" a proportion of my lost days, *à la* accumulated leave, I could be facing the prospect of several months of paid job-searching... in effect, providing my own additional graduated resettlement time.

The only penalty would be that personnel would have to be released earlier. As well as the retention element, a bonus would accrue to units, which would enjoy reduced disruption by having to make less allowance for personnel who, for months prior to run-out, require odd days off for interviews and briefings.

To accommodate the really restricted, carry-over would still apply and run in tandem with this system. Between the two, no one would ever have to miss out again. — Maj R R McFaulds, 205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (V), Glasgow.

DOWNLOAD...

HERE are some e-mail responses to our Vox pop question on the two-can alcohol rule.

● IN the Israeli Defence Forces we are not allowed to drink at all because of the heat and the fact that soldiers don't know how to control their drinking. I believe a modern equivalent of the old rum tot should be issued to those on operational duties so the officers know how much each person is getting. I understand the need for control, and know from my service "north of Israel" that you never know when you are going to need a clear head and focused mind. — Dave Garret, Ramat Gan, Israel.

● WHY the fuss? At least you are allowed to drink on deployments. — Sgt Jason Merwin, Military Police, US Army.

● I AM serving with the Aussie-led Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville. There are no beers here at all. I really envy you blokes in the British Army. — Capt John Liston, Australian Army.

TA soldier better paid than Regular

FURTHER to SSgt Anderson's letter (Feb) on possible discrimination in that Regular soldiers lose out on not being able to serve to 50, here's another question worth asking. Under the One Army concept, why does the Regular soldier get paid less for his monthly service than the Territorial Army soldier?

I refer to the fact that a private in the TA is contracted to work for 27 days of the year, for which he or she receives 27 days at £24.45 = £660.15 (taxable). In addition, he or she is also paid a tax-free sum of £1,000.50. This gives a total of £1,660.65, the equivalent of £61.51 for each day's work.

In effect, TA soldiers above the rank of

lance corporal could be earning more than the Regular staff sergeant instructing them. Is this discrimination? — SSgt J Sayer, 220 (1st Home Counties) Fd Amb (V), Aylesford, Kent.

SSGT Anderson has a point, but the issue I'd like to raise is this: if a person can join at 17 and go on until 50, that makes 33 years of dedicated service. Yet he or she gets nothing but a handshake at the end of it.

What do other readers think and would anybody have any ideas about some sort of official "thank you" for long-serving members? — Cpl W Smyth, 153 Wksp Coy REME (V), Grangemouth.

No comparison!

HAVING received the February copy of *Soldier* at our remote mountain location, where this sub-unit of technicians and fitters is currently deployed on a six-month operational tour, we were dismayed to read in your special report ("What are you worth?") that one of our chosen specialist trades was "broadly the same" when compared with a "production worker at Ford".

Class 1 Vehicle Mechanics require approximately five years to become fully qualified, diversifying in the repair of anything from Challenger 2 main battle tanks to motor cycles and generating sets.

This fitter section has deployed as part of an AS90 gun battery with all of the basic and specialised tools required to diagnose and repair the array of equipment held by such a unit. Working conditions are far from ideal. We are located in a disused sawmill and repairs must be carried out to the highest standard in temperatures that recently dropped to minus 30C, with a metre of snow outside. It was minus 5C inside the working area.

If any research had been done at all into what REME mechanics actually do, this seemingly off-the-cuff comment may not have been made. The only real comparison that can fairly be made is that both professions use hand tools of some description and work on vehicles.

REME repair broken down equipment, Ford production workers, as far as we know, put together newly-manufactured, pre-positioned parts as the shell of a

Sub-zero sawmill is far cry from Ford's cosy assembly line

partly-completed car slowly rolls past. No in-depth knowledge of automotive systems, failure diagnosis or repair techniques required there.

As just one of dozens of REME fitter sections deployed worldwide, we feel this letter should be published in *Soldier* to highlight an ill-judged comparison. We are, in fact, repair specialists, able to carry

Prize letter

out various levels of repair on varying equipment in diverse working conditions, using whatever resources are available to get the job done. Does such a profession exist in civilian life? Certainly not at Dagenham. — SSgt S W McGill, Artificer Vehicles, J (Sidi Rezegh) Bty, Fitter Section, 3 RHA, Op Palatine, Fort Glamoc.

● No offence intended. All Army trades are unique. In the offending sentence, we were attempting to exemplify the fact that some jobs have more in common with their civilian counterparts than others (to which civilian trade should you compare a gunner?). The AFPRB does not look at direct job-for-job comparisons, but takes a broad approach. With his experience and expertise, SSgt McGill (and his fitters) has little in common with a production line worker... and obviously deserves a prize from our gift collection. — Editor.

Write us a prize letter

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

A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing! Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU ● E-mail: solmag@btinternet.com

THEN AND THEN

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1949

A little of the British Army can go a long way and in Eritrea it

has to: one battalion of the Royal Berkshires and one battalion of the King's Own Royal Regiment are the main units of the army of occupation in a country of 45,000 square miles occupied by the British Army since 1941. The garrison's future is to be decided soon by the UN.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1974

In a bid to beat the energy crisis, the Royal Military

Academy Sandhurst has resorted to its stock of 650 bicycles, relics of a chapter of military history dating back nearly 90 years. Normally the bikes are used only for pottering around the academy's grounds... now they are used to get to nearby training areas (see picture).

Terminal leave is totally inadequate

I AM a Regular soldier currently serving in Germany. After 16 years' service I have decided to terminate my engagement to pursue a career in civilian life.

Until December this year it has been normal for soldiers who have served more than 12 years to be allowed their last six months attached to a unit in the UK. The reasons behind this are obvious enough, with housing, family, career and schooling arrangements all taking up considerable time.

You can imagine my horror when I found that the MoD has changed this policy and will allow this privilege only to those who have completed the full 22 years. The rest of us are entitled to 28 days' terminal leave in which to start an entirely new life.

I believe this to be an injustice on those who have served long and hard for their country, including Gulf and Bosnia veterans such as myself and others I know in the same situation.

I cannot believe it is the Government's intention to disadvantage in this way soldiers with such records of service and

assume that it is a direct result of the horrendous overstretch problems units such as mine are feeling at the moment. Prohibiting the successful transition of soldiers to civilian life will not assist and will lead — as it is doing now — to a great deal of resentment.

I believe this matter needs to be given the widest public airing in order for the MoD to realise the injustice this policy will cause. — Sgt C M Cooke, B Squadron, QRL, Osnabrück.

● SOLDIER has been told by the Directorate of Manning (Army) that the rules were changed in DCI (Army) 116/98 para 23 and that, as shown in AGAI Vol 2 Chap 60.91, six months' terminal leave attached to a unit in the UK was never a right but a privilege. "We are responsible for targeting our limited resources, hence the change in the regulations. The AGAI is about to be amended," we were told. DM(A) added: "One factor that we feel is worth taking into account is the 'pension loss' between the ages of 40 and 60. The author will lose between £150,000 and £200,000, dependent on rank, tax free, in the amount of immediate pension he would have received. Perhaps he might consider signing on again." — Editor

PS...

Have I got mail?

I SEEK your assistance. Who or what is "armymail"? Who's got it? Who's going to get it? And when? Is "armymail" going to connect to "rafmail", "rnmil" and "modmail"? As a connected saddy, I'd be interested to know the answers. I would be even more interested to know who in the Army feels they have the definitive answers. — Maj Bob Hartley AGC(ETS), Defence IT Management Training Centre, RMCS Shrivenham, Swindon.

Slouch grouch

THE photo of an Australian soldier placing a hat on a British Army soldier (Dec, Page 11) was incorrectly captioned. It was not a bush hat but a slouch hat or "dumpy", as we call it. I look forward to your excellent magazine every month. — Rick Meadows (ex-RAE), Blue Mountains, NSW, Australia.

Matchless facts

FURTHER to the subject of battle bikes, I don't know where Capt J F Mapstone (Nov) would have been riding the Matchless he says he was issued with in Palestine in 1947. I was there at that time and all bikes in my unit (KRRC), stationed at Rehovot and Quastina, were taken off the road because the bad guys were reputed to be stringing ropes or wires across the roads. Bikes were replaced with jeeps with sharpened T-bars fixed to the front. — D Wilson, Leeds.

Burma drops

I READ your feature on air supply (March) with interest. As an aircrew member of 194 Squadron RAF, which took part in the Arakan campaign, the sieges of Kohima and Imphal, and the dropping of supplies to Chindits, I can state that we did our own despatching and that no Army personnel were used. Hard-working soldiers did load the aircraft on the ground. — Denis Vevers, Leeds.

'Drifting' badges

APOLOGIES for perpetuating the topic of "drifting" cap badges, but having read D L Owens's letter (March) I was incensed. T P O'Connor (Feb) was quite right to state that it is a sloppy trend that has crept in in recent years, mainly instigated by the Paras and the Royal Marines. — R F Cooks, ex-sapper, Leominster.

Dhofar so good

RECENTLY I became aware of the existence of the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal, awarded in recognition of at least 36 months' campaign service, mainly or exclusively in Northern Ireland. I find it puzzling that campaigns such as Dhofar and the Lebanon can be considered in the accumulation process while other campaigns cannot. — D Mitchell, ex-Gordons, Stonehaven.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

How do you take to adventure?

It is all very well for someone in a nice warm office to claim that adventurous training is just the thing for soldiers, but what do the trainees think about it? We put this question to ten wet and tired gunners at the Royal Artillery's Adventurous Training Centre in Snowdonia.

Gnr Alan Livin

Apart from fitness it's all about working as a team and using a bit of the grey matter trying to sort out some of the problems that they throw in front of us. We have to take it turns to be team leader so it's a matter of getting a grip of all the lads and sorting the problems. Excellent! Brilliant!



Gnr Andrew Myers

For me it's about confidence and skills you don't usually get to use, such as rock climbing, orienteering and canoeing. Some people have a fear of heights and they can overcome their fear just by gaining some knowledge. Knowledge dispels fear.

Gnr Colin Johnson

We've got to have some get-up-and-go because some of these things are difficult. We had to do a 30-second dive under water the other day, breathing through a pipe. That was a nightmare because the water was so cold. But we knew we were going to work hard. I'm a tired man for it.



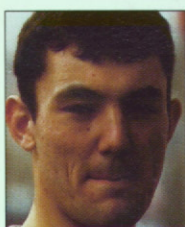
Gnr Andrew Frost

It's not been too bad. It shows us a bit about leadership and I'm getting something good

out of it. I'm useless at map-reading but I learned a bit more about it yesterday. I've done a lot of rock climbing in my time so I'm quite happy about that. Adventure training generally is good because it brings lads from different regiments together and we help each other get through it.



Gnr John Gardiner



I have never done anything like this before. It's been good training. Yesterday was tough, orienteering up hill. I'll be glad when it's all over but I will look back and smile. We got a bit lost one day and the lad in front of me fell about 20 feet. He wasn't hurt and he even laughed when he got to the bottom. He wasn't laughing on the way down, though.

Gnr Steven Renwick

The walking was the most challenging part; physically very hard. I've done abseiling and rock-climbing, and another group did canoeing. It's a break from the norm, getting out from Army life and into a bit of fun and activity. It's hard work but it's still fun.



Gnr Wayne Hurren

I didn't know much about map-reading but I've learned all about contours and how to trust the land rather than a map. Look around before



you take a decision. It's taught us a lot. You start taking notice of the blokes behind you, making sure that they are keeping up and everyone's OK. It's been very worthwhile, a good course.

Gnr Samantha Jones

It teaches everyone to work together. It has stretched me a bit, especially going up the hills. I'm the only woman, unfortunately, and I'm not going to sprint up hills as fast as the men do. But helping the slow ones is part of the training. The best part was when we got lost and finally made it to a cave for the night.



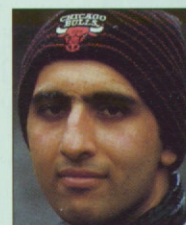
Gnr Lee Phillipson

Yes, it is definitely worthwhile. I've got more confidence now and I've come out of myself a bit. The accommodation is a little bit cramped but it's quite good because you all muck in together. The high point was the hill-walking because I conquered my fear of heights doing it.



Gnr Asif Mahmood

I am getting a lot of leadership skills out of the course. It's all about putting our thoughts together and trying to get an outcome. It'll help me when I go to Northern Ireland later on this year when I'm on road controls, using a compass and a map. The best point is that it gets you out of the military life back at camp. You have a good laugh with the lads.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston

COMING SOON

Even horses have holidays. Join the "Blacks" of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment as they enjoy a three-week break in the quiet countryside of East Sussex. It beats tramping around London's unforgiving streets in full ceremonial regalia.



Also:

How "garments" designed by the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency will make Challenger 2 less visible to the electronic eye.

We look at Britain's new "joint" approach to defence and its implications for the Army.

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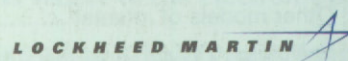
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