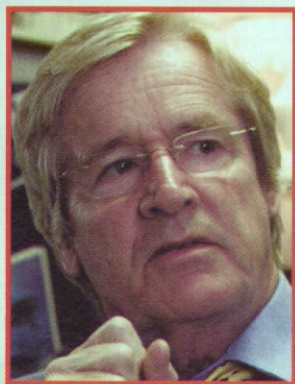


SOLDIER

Kelly's eye for glory

Page 46



Corrie's Ken: My five years in the Army

Page 34



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Cover picture

Bronze age: Cpl Kelly Morgan, of 3 Close Support Regiment RLC, won her first major international medal when she finished third in the javelin competition at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Pictures and story in Pages 46-47.

Picture: Graeme Main



"I assure you sir, the camp was here yesterday"

● Troops in Northern Ireland are first to get quick-build, portable accommodation – Pages 4-5

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



Take four soldiers, put guitars and a set of drums in their hands, stand back and enjoy. This is Groovycide – rock band – Page 39

"Front-bench soldiers" on Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme – Pages 42-43

Stitch in time saved the MoD £122.50

'My quartermaster's department wanted to dispose of my £125 boots because a small area of stitching had come loose. I took the boot to a local cobbler who repaired it in less than ten minutes and charged me £2.50.' – Talkback, Page 74

PLUS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 18 Money column | 64 Diary |
| 21 Chip cartoons | 66 Wish list |
| 23 Kitstop | 68 Books |
| 46 Sport | 71 Audio-visual |
| 53 Win £100 | 74 Mail |
| 62 Info section | 78 Vox pop |

4 All mod cons for singlies

Type Z barracks win approval in Northern Ireland

18 Taking on the poachers

REME helps Zambia in fight to save the elephants

24 For Bruggen, read Elmpt

Army moves into former Royal Air Force base in Germany

27 In their true colours

National Army Museum paintings enjoy a facelift

28 Diplomatic mission

How a small Army-led team helps East meet West

31 Written in stone

Veterans return to 'Wipers' for Menin Gate anniversary

33 CGS is listening to you

Here's how to make your point to the head of the Army

34 My Army: Bill Roache

Corrie's Ken Barlow spent five years as an infantry officer

37 Sit-ups are no pushover

Rehabilitation centre students give their verdict

40 CATT will soon be purring

Be amazed by Sennelager's new virtual battlefield

Army enters space age

Soldiers move in to roomy Type Z private rooms in Northern Ireland

Report: Andrea Frazer
Pictures: Sgt Paul Brownbridge

A NEW form of living accommodation for single soldiers has been introduced to Northern Ireland and troops based in 3 Infantry Brigade's area have been the first to benefit.

Soldiers at Mahon Barracks in Portadown and Abercorn Barracks in Ballykinler have been settling into the Type Z quarters. A 60-room block at Portadown and a 36-room block at Ballykinler have already welcomed their new residents and a third block comprising 26 rooms was handed over last month in Portadown.

Col Glyn Taylor, who heads up the customer focus team for Project Slam (Single-Living Accommodation Modernisation), said: "The projects in Northern Ireland are part of a long-term rolling programme and we are dealing with the worst first."

Apart from the rest of the UK, projects are already planned for Cyprus and Gibraltar and in time all permanent overseas locations will be upgraded.

The Northern Ireland blocks offer high-quality living accommodation for single soldiers. Each individual bedroom comes with an *en-suite* bathroom facility, a wider 3ft Army single bed, telephone line, TV and computer point and a comprehensive range of fully-fitted furniture.

There is a communal utility room, bathroom, baggage room, transit room and



Brew up: LCpl Michael Hepworth, right, enjoys a cuppa with Sig Ryan Mitchell, both of 3 Inf Bde HQ and Signal Squadron at Mahon Barracks, Portadown

kitchen located on each modular floor, lifts have been fitted and some blocks include a separate communal lounge area.

Sig Ryan Mitchell, of 3 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, said: "Many of us have lived in four-, six- or eight-man rooms before so it's a big improvement for us to have our own individual living space."

"The rooms are pretty spacious, the wardrobes are large with lots of storage space and the *en-suite* bathrooms have everything we need – hot shower, loo, wash-hand basin and even a heated towel rail."

Northern Ireland G4 Estates programme manager Ian Morrison said "The Type Z modular accommodation has advantages



Sig Andrew Young:

"This is definitely the best accommodation I have experienced since I joined the Army"

in its speed of erection. This reduces on-site construction time considerably and, where an operational requirement exists, allows the provision of facilities within a reasonably short space of time.

"This form of construction is the way many repetitive types of accommodation such as university halls of residences will be built in the future and is currently the methodology we are investigating for the provision of all new single-living accommodation within the province."

Capt Stu Nicholson, 3 Infantry Brigade, said: "The new accommodation has improved the living conditions and quality of life for a number of single soldiers in Portadown and Ballykinler considerably. Soldiers from 3 Brigade have been actively involved at all stages of the process and many of our recommendations have been included by the programme manager and project sponsor



Iron man: Fus Iain McMillan, foreground and Fus Ian Stephens, both RHF, in Ballykinler

during the design process. The soldiers involved are absolutely delighted that this new type of accommodation has reached them first."

Fus Iain McMillan, 1 RHF, currently based in Ballykinler, said: "I think the best bit is the privacy provided by having your own room and bathroom. We now have the option of relaxing in the communal areas or closing the door and having our own space in which to chill out. It's definitely good for morale."

Fus Ian Stephens, 1 RHF, said: "Some of our mates are quite jealous of the standard of accommodation we have here. It's a quality block, like nothing I have ever experienced before. No complaints at all."

LCpl Danny Aitken, also 1 RHF, said: "The facilities provided in the rooms give us the opportunity, if we wish to take it, to have our own telephone line, internet access and Sky TV. It really is all-singing, all-dancing accommodation."



Spotless: Soldiers enjoy *en-suite* bathroom facilities at Mahon Barracks, Portadown



Sig Ian Bradshaw:

"I think the best bit is the *en-suite* bathroom. It's great to just be responsible for our own space and not have to clean up anyone else's mess"

LCpl Michael Hepworth:

"The accommodation is brilliant, I love it. It is definitely the best I have ever lived in. It's great to have your own bedroom, own shower and basically your own personal space"



Update: Sig Andrew Young, of 3 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn, tunes in at Mahon Barracks



A seriously
injured recruit
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Gen Walker to be new defence chief

GEN Sir Michael Walker is to become the Chief of the Defence Staff in April next year in succession to Admiral Sir Michael Boyce. Replacing him as Chief of the General Staff will be Gen Sir Mike Jackson, currently C-in-C Land Command.

Lt Gen Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, the Adjutant General, is to succeed Gen Jackson at Wilton in January in the rank of general. Lt Gen Sir Alistair Irwin, at present GOC Northern Ireland, will take over the reins



Changing places: From left are Generals Walker, Jackson, Granville-Chapman, Irwin and Trousdell

at Upavon as Adjutant General in January and is to be replaced at HQ Northern Ireland at Lisburn by Maj Gen Philip Trousdell, who will be promoted lieutenant general. He is currently Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

dell, who will be promoted lieutenant general. He is currently Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Passing moment

More than 700 students passed out from the Army Foundation College at Harrogate in one of the largest military graduation parades held in the UK. The young soldiers now begin phase two training in the Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Artillery. The Red Devils marked the occasion by dropping in on the parade.

Picture: Chris Barker



Two dead in Kabul shooting incident

Two others die while training in Oman

TWO British soldiers on peacekeeping duties in Afghanistan died in a shooting incident at Kabul Airport last month.

Sgt Robert Busuttill, a single man aged 30, of Swansea, and Cpl John Gregory, 30, a married man from North Yorkshire (both RLC), were serving with the British contingent attached to the International Security Assistance Force.

Both men were based with the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) Combat Service Support Battalion at Bulford, Wiltshire and had been in Afghanistan since July 10.

There was no hostile enemy involvement in the deaths and a full enquiry is underway.

Lt Col Paul Miller, commanding officer of

AMF(L) CSS Bn, said: "The news has been utterly devastating. The families have lost loving sons and a husband, and the battalion and the Army have lost highly respected professional soldiers and close colleagues."

"Their personable manner and willingness always to help others is exactly what I would expect from dedicated, high-calibre soldiers."

"This incident is a tragic loss of life and the thoughts of all members of the battalion are with the families."

OMAN DEATHS

Two soldiers died while training in Oman. SSgt Kevin Butterton, Royal Engineers, and Cpl Lee Tandy, of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, died in separate incidents.

Pte Kevin Sharman, 17, an apprentice tradesman in training at the Army Technical Foundation College at Arborfield, died in a caving accident at Ystadfette in Powys.

All five deaths are the subject of formal investigations.

Nato force to disband

NATO is disbanding one of its main rapid reaction units, the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force Land (AMF) (L), a move which will affect key British support troops.

AMF(L)'s Combat Service Support Battalion, based at Bulford, which contributed about 180 soldiers to the 6,000-strong force, is being disbanded and personnel re-posted. Troops from 249 Signal Squadron, also at Bulford, will be re-posted when it too is disbanded. About 150 soldiers will be affected.

Elements of 5 Regiment RA, at Catterick, and 158 Provost Company RMP, at Bulford, will be reassigned.

The AMF(L), a multinational brigade-sized formation consisting of units from 14 Nato nations, was created in 1960. Its last exercise, Cooperative Exchange, will take place in the Ukraine next month.

Rapid issue of modified SA80

ABOUT 4,000 of the modified SA80 A2 weapons are being issued to the Services each month, Defence Minister Lewis Moonie said in a parliamentary written answer.

The latest figures, dated July 19, show the armoured regiments as having been issued with 514, the airborne regiments with 2,137, the infantry with 2,415 and other units (including the TA) with 9,622. Dr Moonie said the deployment of the modified weapons was expected to be complete by May, 2006.

TA in Afghanistan

A Territorial Army infantry platoon is supporting the International Security and Assistance Force in Afghanistan for three months until the end of November. It is composed of members who have specifically volunteered to be called out for the task.

You dozy bunch!



Toddler patrol: Ptes Michael Bailey, left, and Dean Webster of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, push sleeping daughters Chloe and Naomi on the parade square at Dhekelia during the regiment's Salamanca Day celebrations to mark the Peninsular War battle in which all its predecessor regiments fought. Picture: Cpl Pete Mobbs

Who's that girl?



Charlie's heroes: The sixth running of Exercise Enduring Help's 24-hour cross-country motorcycle marathon attracted 65 teams of four to Longmoor training area in Hampshire and raised £14,500 for the Army Benevolent Fund, ChildLine and the REME Museum Fund. TV gardening personality Charlie Dimmock, representing the ChildLine charity, waved the riders off in a Le Mans-style start. In the past four years the event has raised more than £65,000 for charity. It will be staged next year over the May 24-25 weekend.



Getting ready: Members of the British Army rifle team prepare to advance down the range during the Soldiers' Cup match at the 47th Canadian Forces small-arms competition held on Connaught Ranges outside Ottawa. More than 350 marksmen from the UK, USA, Australia and Belgium competed against Canadian teams. Picture: Sgt Peter Hartwig

Minister confirms Challenger 2 claim

SIXTY-FOUR Challenger 2 tanks were not fully operational in the six front-line regiments on March 31 this year, Defence Procurement Minister Lord Bach confirmed in the House of Lords.

Lord Vivian, who raised the matter in a debate, also asked: "Has the skilled labour force been increased to avoid having 11 Challenger 2s lying idle and awaiting work?"

And he sought confirmation that enough major assembly spares were now held to allow for immediate repairs, so preventing long periods of delay in repairs to Challenger 2s.

Lord Bach replied that the figure of 64 tanks was recorded at the end of the build-up training period and that many of the tanks "could become fully operational at literally an hour's notice".

Soldiers coast to a finish

EIGHT soldiers circumnavigated the coast of Great Britain last month in two high-performance rigid inflatable boats. The adventurous training exercise, Rigid Lion, helped raise funds for St Dunstan's. The project was the brainchild of Maj John Winskill RS, an experienced powerboat instructor.

Military bands in county jubilee tribute

THE Bands and Bugles of the Light Division, the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps and pipers of the Scots Guards will be in concert in Winchester Cathedral on November 6, starting at 1930, in a Hampshire tribute to the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Staged by the Army Benevolent Fund and SSAFA-Forces Help, the event will also feature the cathedral's choir. Tickets (£20, £15 and £10) can be obtained through Music at Winchester, The Brooks Shopping Centre, Winchester SO23 8QY (tel 01962 877977, fax 01962 877654).

IN BRIEF

- Kuwaiti snipers, right, brush up on field techniques during a three-week tailor-made course run by 15 instructors from the Senior Tactics Company at the Infantry Training Centre Wales, Brecon. Thirty Kuwaiti soldiers were put



through a wide range of battlefield skills as part of the international defence diplomacy and income-generation programme.

- The Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral



Eyes front: Gen Sir Sam Cowan, Chief of Defence Logistics and the Queen's representative at the 139th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, inspects graduates, accompanied by the Commandant, Maj Gen Philip Trousdell. The Sword of Honour went to JUO Edward Cartwright, who will join the Paras. Picture: Graeme Main

Suez medal bid 'is special case'

AN "exceptional" award of a general service medal for the Suez Canal Zone 1951-54 may be considered by the Government.

Former Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Lord Guthrie has been appointed to chair a small sub-committee of the Honours and Decorations Committee to report on the matter.

However, Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie, announcing the move, stressed that the Government was anxious not to create wider precedent or breach long-standing principles which underpin the making of such awards. He said in a House of Commons written answer:

"The Government considers it important to respect the principle that where there is a clear, demonstrable decision taken within five years of a campaign that a general service medal should not be awarded, that decision should not be reopened.

"The evidence relating to a consideration of a general service medal for the Suez Canal Zone is, however, less clear-cut. A number of representations have been made by the veterans of that campaign with which the Government has considerable sympathy." He said the sub-committee had been set up "in view of these exceptional circumstances".

Brunei aviators settle for the long haul

A DETACHMENT of ten men and one Bell 212 from Brunei-based 7 Flight AAC travelled 3,000 miles to support Gurkha soldiers exercising in Australia. A crew of two pilots and two technicians spent five days flying the helicopter across Malaysia and Indonesia to Townsville, where they joined their colleagues who had arrived by charter flight. Their mission was to provide night and day troop lifts, abseiling and recce task support for exercising troops from C Company, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Sir Michael Boyce, visited the headquarters of the new Italian-led rapid reaction corps at Solbiate Olona, near Milan. Among those he met were the Deputy Commander, Maj Gen Seymour Monro.

- The MoD has signed a new agreement with English Heritage to secure the future

of wildlife-rich sites on MoD land. The department looks after 180 sites of special scientific interest.

- The Army Foundation College, Harrogate, has been named as one of the UK's top training providers by the Government's Adult Learning Inspectorate.

TLC: Turtle loving care



Star turn: Cyprus-based Army vet Capt Ian Moran gives Myrtle the Turtle an affectionate pat on the back. After fisherman rescued the badly injured turtle, thought to have been hit by a speedboat, Ian restored it with advice from marine biologist Andrea Demetropoulos and London Zoo's Tony Sainsbury. With intense nursing, Myrtle soon regained her strength and ripped through three seawater-filled paddling pools at the Cyprus Defence Animal Support Centre before being moved into the unit's shower.

Tragically, two days after Myrtle was released into a 40,000-litre sea-water tank at a fish hatchery – an event covered by three TV crews – she was found dead. It is believed she had become over-buoyant as a result of lost body weight and was unable to right herself when diving for food.

Now Ian is treating an owl, named Bu Bu, suffering from a damaged wing. Picture: Cpl Pete Mobbs

Some troops to remain in Sierra Leone

ABOUT 130 British soldiers are to remain in Sierra Leone following the return home of a further 200 troops in July.

The withdrawal follows the West African state's successful elections and significant progress in the security situation. It signals the end of the British Army's Operation Silkman to stabilise the diamond-rich country.

Personnel remaining have training roles with the Sierra Leone Army or staff duties in the Sierra Leone defence ministry.

Britain's military involvement began in May 2000 when a task force led by The Parachute Regiment deployed on Operation Palliser to evacuate UK nationals as rebel troops threatened the capital, Freetown.

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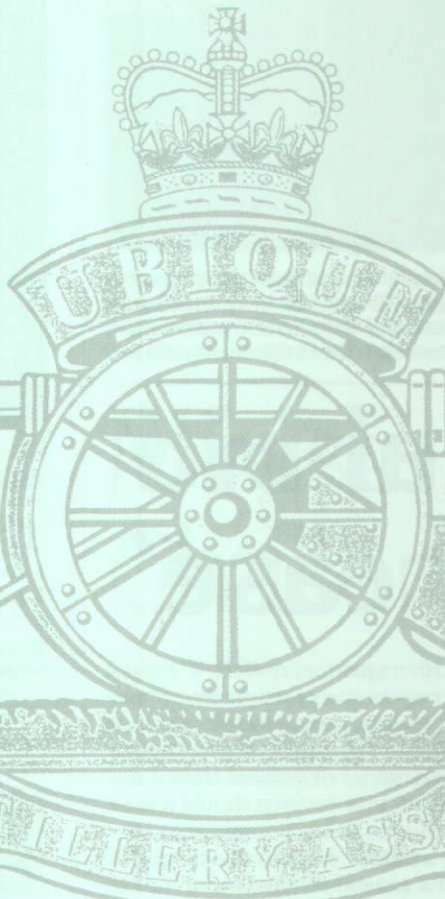
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S126 RA Grenade earrings. Silver and marcasite. Pierced fitting. Compliments S128 Brooch.	29.50
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S97 China ashtray. Oblong. Cobalt blue band with gold keyline and RA Cypher in gold.	9.35
S98 China ashtray. Square. Cobalt blue band with gold keyline and RA Cypher in gold.	8.75
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S60D Clarendon plain crystal brandy bowl. RA Cypher.	9.60
S168 Executive crystal hand cut brandy bowl. Large 20oz.	24.60
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S174 Small clock. Lead crystal. RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	33.35
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S166 Executive crystal hand cut square Decanter. RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	57.50
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S86 RA Gun Badge on black leather martingale.	5.90
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Attack repelled: The armoured vehicle pictured left sustains another direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade... and survives virtually unscathed.

Army officers, MoD customers and US witnesses watched as the vehicle – protected by British-developed electric armour – was subjected to repeated attacks. Post-shot examinations showed it to have sustained no internal damage. It was driven away under its own power, scarcely the worse for a barrage which would have destroyed other vehicles many times over.

The MoD has tasked the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) to reduce the weight and bulk of armoured vehicles, making them 70 per cent lighter and 50 per cent smaller over the next two decades.

Rocket neutralised by electric armour

THIS dramatic photograph captures the split second in which a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was neutralised by revolutionary new “electric armour” protecting an armoured troop carrier.

Army officers watching the demonstration laid on by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) saw the vehicle survive repeated attacks which would normally have destroyed it many times over. The system reduces the effect of RPGs to almost zero.

No internal damage was sustained by the troop carrier, which was driven away under its own power.

The shaped charge of an RPG explosive warhead is designed to shoot a rapier-like jet of hot copper into the target, invariably resulting in loss of life and the probable destruction of the armoured vehicle or tank.

The system unveiled by Dstl scientists consists of bulletproof metal plating, insulation, power distribution lines and storage capacitors. Weighing in at a couple of tonnes, it has a protective effect reckoned to be equal to the vehicle carrying an extra ten to 20 tonnes of steel armour.

Prof John Brown of Dstl said: “RPGs can be picked up from street stalls for as little as \$10 in most of the world’s trouble spots. It only takes an individual on a rooftop in a village to press the trigger to cause major damage to passing armoured vehicles.

“The Dstl electric armour system is an exciting advance, which has generated a lot of interest in both UK and US defence circles. I am confident that our system is the way forward for lightweight defence of military vehicles.”

When a vehicle is threatened by an RPG or shaped-charge warhead, its outer skin of metal plates can be rapidly electrified to several thousand volts. The incoming copper jet has to pass through the electrified layers, where it is instantaneously dispersed by the high temperatures in much the same way that a 13-amp current can “blow” the fuse of a domestic electrical appliance such as a hairdryer.

Any residual debris created by the impact is absorbed by the vehicle’s ordinary armour-plating.

The electric armour system in, say, a troop carrier would be powered by the vehicle’s normal electrical supply and the load imposed by stopping an RPG attack is said to be no greater than that for starting the engine on a cold morning.

● **Shielder** – see **Kitstop**, Page 23

Naples, alfresco

A PROFESSIONAL gardener has transformed a strip of overgrown land into a private outdoor area for single Service personnel based at Nato’s regional headquarters in Naples. The space, now equipped with a barbecue and outdoor furniture, was initiated by SSAFA-Forces Help.

Loggies deliver in Kenya

A SHORT-term training team from the School of Logistics deployed to Kenya for three weeks to deliver an inventory management and provision course. Capt John Elsey, WO1 Steve Freeman and WO1 Dave Singleton, all from the Supply Operations Division, took 19 Kenyan officers through the principles of provisioning processes, depot procedures and mounting and costing UN operations.

Reserves out in force

A 35-STRONG UK delegation played a leading role at a congress representing reserves across Nato and partner countries. More than 600 officers from 29 nations attended the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) and reserve medical officers (CIOMR) in Strasbourg, France. Lt Col Alison Hamilton was elected secretary general of the medical body.

Over to you, RSM



Baton change: WO1 Eddie Asquez, left, bids farewell to his post as regimental sergeant major of The Royal Gibraltar Regiment and hands over his pace stick – symbol of the office – to his successor, WO1 Steven Victory. But Eddie will not be leaving the regiment... he has been awarded a late-entry commission and promoted captain.

Grandad Capt Norman wins green beret

A 55-year-old former soldier and grandfather has become the oldest man to be awarded a green beret by the Royal Marines. Capt Norman Fox, a full-time reservist, completed the all-arms assault course at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone.

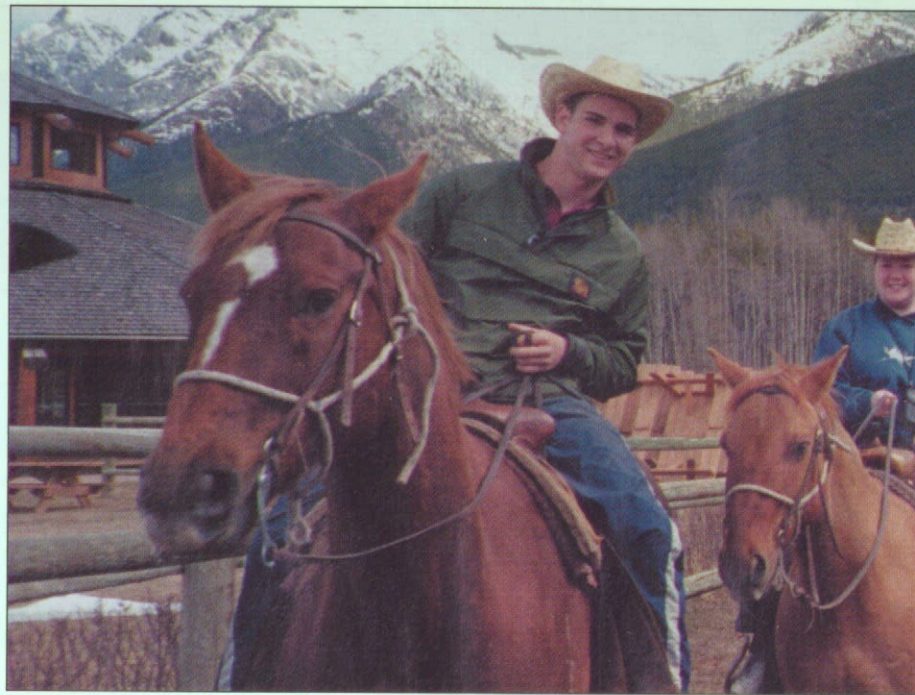
The former Army marathon champion enlisted in 1965 and served with the 7th Parachute Regiment RHA until 1983 when he joined 45 Regiment RA as a sergeant major.

Stints with 16 Cadet Training as RSM, 4 Regiment RA and 24 Cadet Training Team followed before he left the Army in 1997.

Capt Fox was accepted for Full-Time Reserve Service last year and posted to Plymouth-based 29 Commando Regiment RA in January. He attempted the assault course so that he could say he had completed it himself when encouraging youngsters in his post as regimental careers manager.

Stephen jumps to it

STEPHEN Menary, the Army cadet injured when a torch bomb exploded at a London training base, will fulfil an ambition when he makes a tandem freefall jump with the Red Devils. Stephen will jump at Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire on September 4 for charities including St Dunstan's and SSAFA-Forces Help. Donations can be made to banks or building societies (sort code 08-60-72, account number 11865000).



Once more into the breach...



Filling in: Sappers from 5 Field Squadron based in Bosnia use a combat engineer vehicle to position a fascine in an anti-tank ditch during a breaching exercise on Manjaca ranges near Banja Luka.

The unit, which is part of 22 Engineer Regiment's pan-Balkan deployment, has enhanced the helicopter landing site at the Banja Luka Metal Factory base so

that larger UK support helicopters could land there.

Sappers have also been involved in constructing a hangar on the site. When its tour ends at the end of this month, the squadron will be handing over to soldiers of 1 Armoured Engineer Squadron before preparing for a Lion Sun exercise in Cyprus in January.

IN BRIEF

● Earl Attlee and Lord Lyell, from the House of Lords Defence Committee, called on troops serving in Kosovo during a three-day visit to look at the role of Territorial Army and reservist soldiers on operational tours.

● Soldiers from the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment based at

Pudsey in West Yorkshire flew to Germany for their annual exchange exercise with 272 Luftlander Battalion near Bremen.

● President Rugova, right, presents Minden roses to soldiers of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment based in Kosovo. The roses mark the Battle of Minden in

Trail-busters: Pte Pizza Simmons (6 Regt RLC); LCpl Helen Silvers (2 Bn REME); LCpl Darryl Dawson (13 Regt RLC); LCpl Danny Riley (Batus permanent staff); and Pte Lesleigh Piper (6 Regt RLC) ride out in the Rockies during a spell away from their duties at Suffield. All except LCpl Riley are temporary summer staff attached to 105 (Batus) Squadron RLC, which supports battle-groups exercising across the Alberta prairies

Loggy cowboys take to Rockies

TWELVE junior NCOs serving with 195 (Batus) Squadron RLC, the unit which supports battle-groups exercising in Alberta, Canada, hit the trail on horseback during an adventurous training period in the Rockies.

The loggies also tried their hands at cliff-jumping and white water rafting.

Much of the squadron's work is done in the background at the British Army Training Unit Suffield. Members of the ammunition troop, in particular the ammunition technicians who monitor all wire-guided firings on the prairie, have a busy summer.

Sgt Mark Comerford and Sgt Keith Rickerby are usually on the prairie by 0500 during the training season and often do not return until the early hours if a battle-group is exercising through

the night. They are plagued by mosquitoes during the day, experiencing searing heat or freak snow storms and flash floods. They patrol the prairie, offering advice and guidance to safety staff and exercising troops and deal with malfunctions of ammunition, including AS90, breach blocks and stray hypervelocity missiles.

Recently a member of the squadron for the past three years, Sgt Bob Quayle, was presented with a command-in-chief commendation for his outstanding contribution to both community life and the working environment. He has taken up a new post in Germany.

The squadron is constantly looking for permanent and temporary staff from all ranks and trades.



1759, where the regiment's forebears fought.

● Members of the Royal Engineers Export Support Team, part of the Defence Export Services organisation, raised £10,000 for the British Heart Foundation and Demelza House Children's Hospice in Kent. The sappers took part in the Three Peaks Race up

Cook and run...



Wheel get there in the end: REME craftsmen and RLC chefs, above, serving with Kosovo Force (Kfor) Main units in Pristina pulled a suitably decorated trailer 19km around British bases in the Multinational Brigade (Central) area to raise more than €2,000 (about £1,250) for the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity. It took the volunteers about nine hours, starting and finishing at the Waterloo Lines base in Pristina.

Tankies take up challenge

SEVENTEEN teams of three took part in the second Alpine Challenge, which has replaced the Harz Mountain Marathon as the Army's premier extreme event in Germany following the reorganisation of adventurous training.

Only seven teams finished the course, held over 37km on day one and 25km on day two. The Royal Dragoon Guards entered five teams and provided markers and manpower to run the event. The Alpine Training Centre in Bavaria will be looking for 30 teams for the 2003 challenge. Last year's event was cancelled because of foot-and-mouth in the UK.

The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment was first in 15hr 23 min, an hour ahead of 12 Regiment RA. SSO Hohne were third, three minutes behind the gunners, and 1 General Support Regiment RLC, the first mixed team, fourth.

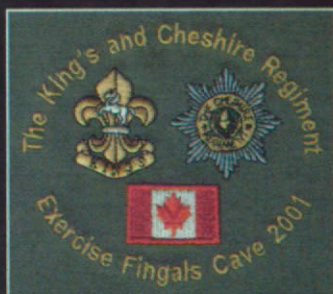
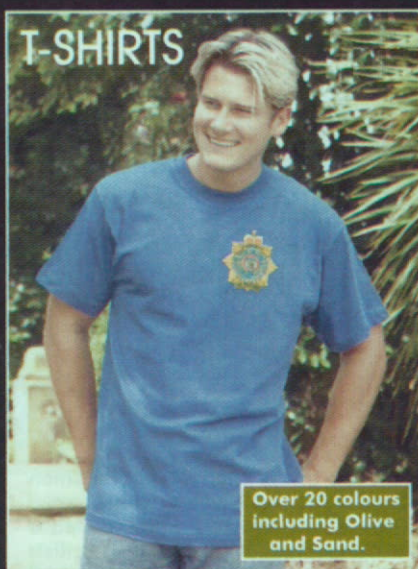
Territorial Army Pay 2000 details

New scales for all reserves, R Irish (home service part-time) and Military Provost Guard Service will appear in the October edition. They apply to all ranks from brigadier down.

Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon.

● Cadets and staff from Allerton Army Cadet Force Detachment, West Riding Artillery rowed ten miles across Windermere to raise £1,1310 for a hospice. The unit is attached to Leeds-based 269 (West Riding) Battery, 106 (Yeomanry) Regiment RA (V).

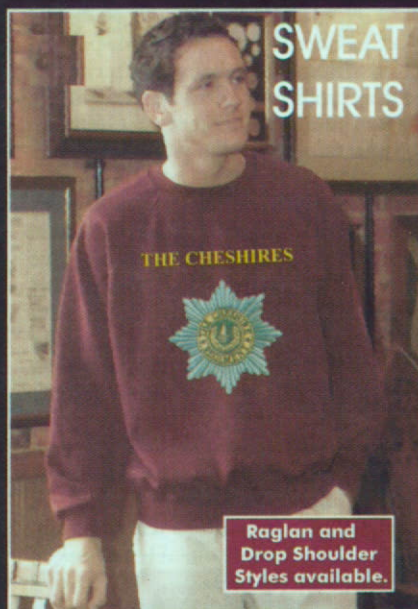
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Goodbye and good luck: The 522 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Works) sign is taken off the wall as the unit leaves Hameln, its home in Germany for the past 27 years. Since 1992 it has been based with 28 Engineer Regiment at Bindon Barracks.

The specialist sappers are relocating under the command of the Military Works Force based at Chilwell in Nottingham. From

left are WO1 Ian Drummond, RSM of 28 Engr Regt, Lt Col Callum Skeat, CO 28 Engr Regt, Maj Mark Johnson-Ferguson, OC 522 Sqn, and WO1 Keith Baker. With an increasingly global role, the unit has already deployed this year to Afghanistan, Belize, Cyprus and Sierra Leone. Its members provide design and technical advice on military works supporting operations and exercises abroad.

Bomb kills worker at Territorial Army base

Music aids charity



Note-able achievement: The 50-piece marching band and bugles of the Light Division treated the people of Leicester to a dynamic programme of music and drill to mark the Golden Jubilee and collected £400 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

DISSIDENT republican terrorists killed a civilian contractor at Caw Camp Territorial Army Centre, Londonderry on August 1. David Caldwell died after picking up a booby-trapped lunchbox.

The attack was similar to an explosion which maimed a 49-year-old member of the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service at Magilligan training centre in February. It was the first murder, despite numerous attempts, carried out by terrorists in the province since the 1998 Omagh bombing, in which 29 people died.

Caw Camp is the headquarters of two Army cadet units and the base for medical staff from 152 Ambulance Regiment RLC and 253 Field Ambulance RAMC. Like all TA establishments, it has no role in security operations and has been closed since July 2001 for refurbishment.

An Army spokesman said: "It's a centre for medical units engaged in humanitarian missions all over the world. It's outrageous such an incident should occur there."

Coffin party to receive Sovereign's recognition

SOLDIERS and officers involved in the funerals of the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret and in the celebrations organised to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee year have been recognised in a special honours list.

All the honours, announced the day after the Queen Mother's birthday, are for the Royal Victorian Order, a personal award for services performed on behalf of the Sovereign.

For services to the Queen Mother
Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO): Capt Charles Radclyffe (equestrian services).

Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO): Capt Mark Grayson (temporary equerry). Gun carriage party of Capt Robin Batson, WO1 Leonard Evans and WO2 Stephen Evans (all from King's Troop RHA). Bearer party of Capt Fabian Roberts and WO2 Christopher Oswald (both IG).

Royal Victorian Medal (Silver): Bearer party of Gdsm Adam Azab, LCpl Simon Campbell, Gdsm Robert Fleming, Gdsm Paul Hewitt, LCpl James Major, LCpl Gavin O'Neill, LCpl John Organ, Gdsm Wayne Sampat, Gdsm Andrew Travis and Gdsm Matthew Wall (all IG). Gun carriage party of SSgt Mark Fisher, Sgt Christopher Lloyd, LBdr James Padbury, Gnr Gemma Stacey, SSgt Mark Watson and LBdr Matthew Wright (all King's Troop RHA).

For services to the Golden Jubilee
LVO: Lt Col Richard Bodington, Brigade Major HQ, Household Div (Army ceremonial).

MVO: Lt Col Andrew Gordon, HQ Household Div (Army ceremonial).

Home from home

THE Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency (ESHRA), which helps former soldiers and their dependants in need of residential and nursing care, has been relaunched as part of the Royal British Legion after a two-year trial.

Contact ESHRA on 020 7839 4466 or visit www.eshra.com

Trailwalking Down Under

A FOUR-man team from the **British Defence Liaison Staff** in Canberra completed the Australian version of Exercise Trailwalker, held over 100km between Hunters Hill, Sydney and Brooklyn to the north of the city. Exchange officer Maj Mike Cole, WO1 Adrian Bell, Flt Sgt Dick Morton and civilian Nicola Kent were one of only 80 teams out of 300 to finish the 48-hour trek.

Running total

A CHEQUE for £4,350 has been presented to the Army Benevolent Fund by the Tidworth-based **1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment**. The money was raised by soldiers running in a unit half-marathon.

So efficient

GRANTHAM-based **5 Training Regiment RLC** won the Babcock SGI-sponsored annual 4 Division Army energy efficiency award. The successful entry came from the unit's quartermaster team, led by SSgt Boris Kilner.

Beacon of excellence

THE Royal Artillery has received the highest award for work-based training provision. Beacon status was presented by Education Secretary Estelle Morris to the RA Vocational Qualification Cell, HQ Director RA, which supports soldiers worldwide. The gunners are one of the first organisations to achieve the award.

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Soldier Price: £104.90 inc. P&P



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Soldier Price: £144.90 inc. P&P



S3601V

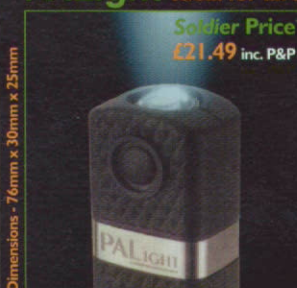
Titanium case. Velcro strap. Screw-down crown. Hardened sapphire glass. Lithium 8-year battery. Civilian Price: £204
Soldier Price: £164.90 inc. P&P



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PVD coated stainless steel case & strap. Screw down crown. Hardened sapphire glass. 8-year lithium battery. Civilian Price: £245
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Now there's a funny thing: The Duke of Edinburgh was amused by an exchange of words with Sgt George Clarke, far right, while inspecting D Squadron during his visit to The Queen's Royal Hussars at Athlone Barracks, Sennelager. Immediately behind the Duke is his equerry, Lt Col Richard Bennett REME. It was Prince Philip's first visit to the regiment since he succeeded the Queen Mother as Colonel-in-Chief of the QRH.

Picture: Sgt Teresa Pickin

Eagles have landed in Galloway assault

EIGHTEEN Army Air Corps helicopters, including Apache, flew above Dumfries and Galloway when 16 Air Assault Brigade took part in Exercise Eagle's Strike.

Lynx and Gazelles of 3 AAC also operated with RAF and USAF Chinook and Puma helicopters and Harrier, Jaguar and Tornado jets. On the ground, 1,800 soldiers led by the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, put 400 wheeled



Refuelling: A Lynx at Castle Kennedy

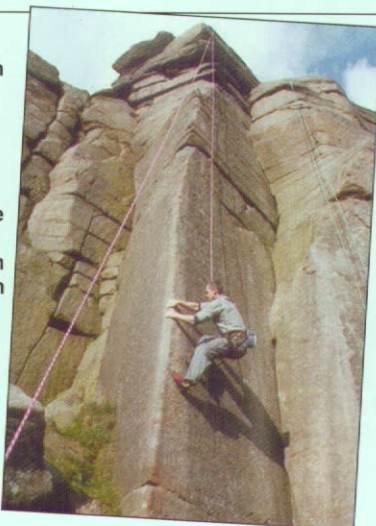
Picture: Morris Service

vehicles and eight tracked reconnaissance vehicles into the field following a high-altitude insertion by a unit of Pathfinders.

The Army helicopters were based at the disused airfield at Castle Kennedy after it had been "captured" by troops. Up to six helicopters at a time hovered over the runway to take advantage of forward air refuelling points set up at Castle Kennedy.

Finger-tip control: Doing his Spider-man impression on Scurr nan Gilleann, the highest peak on the Black Cuillin's ridge on Skye, is Sgt Si Lewis, of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. He and other climbers from the Cyprus-based battalion were on the island to brush up their mountaineering skills for an expedition to the Himalayas in October.

They plan to climb a 6,540m peak at Chulu East in Nepal.



A team of London firemen led by former Para Leon Back raised more than £2,500 for the Meningitis Trust by completing a charity walk in the Brecon Beacons.

The firemen were supported by staff at Derring Lines, Brecon, during their march across the Black Mountains. Their efforts were a tribute to Chandler, the son of Cpl Paul Biddis, 1 Para, stuck in at birth and unable to see or speak.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● British troops could be deployed to the Democratic Republic of Congo to support international attempts to end its four-year civil war, Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, said. — *Daily Telegraph*

● DIY fan Steve Eckton started digging the foundations for his new patio and found 3,000 grenades. Police rushed to his semi at Kingsclere, Hampshire, evacuated the area and called in an Army bomb disposal unit. A spokesman later confirmed that a number of type-59 Second World War grenades had been removed. — *Sun*

● More than 30,000 British troops have been ordered to be ready for firefighting duties as concern mounts at the prospect of the first national firemen's strike since 1977. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● Nurses struggling to find affordable homes in central London could be housed in former Army accommodation at Woolwich and Aldershot. — *Daily Mail*

● The SA80, the Army's much-maligned assault rifle which failed repeatedly during operations in Afghanistan, is to be scrapped. The weapon will be withdrawn in four years' time. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● The state of South Australia has declared an end to the Second World War after discovering, 57 years after the close of hostilities, that peace had never been proclaimed formally. — *Daily Telegraph*

● The MoD has paid £1.74 million to 20 paratroopers injured in a Nato exercise in front of a VIP crowd in Sardinia. The men were among 76 who were hurt when they parachuted on to ground that had been baked hard as concrete by weeks of sunshine. — *Times*

● One in every 25 members of the Armed Forces is ruled out of deployment overseas on medical grounds, according to MoD data collated by the Liberal Democrats. — *Financial Times*

● Being a painter and decorator is more dangerous than working for the military, according to a study of fatal accidents at work. The most dangerous job in Britain is trawler fishing, says an Oxford University study published in the *Lancet* medical journal. Military personnel were 28th on the list. — *Daily Telegraph*

Manage your money



David Mapes is Assistant Director of Credit Action and will be pleased to answer specific questions addressed to the Editor. These will be treated in confidence.

Don't let anxiety spoil the return from holidays

THE holidays are over, the kids back at school and we're back in our normal routine. We've (hopefully) had some quality relaxation and family time... maybe even some sun and good food.

Unfortunately, we can spend money very easily while on holiday. Either we set a budget and to stick to it – more or less – or we spend what we wanted and hoped that we could afford it.

As I mentioned last month, September is the time we see our credit card statements arrive through the letterbox. Has your anxiety level risen as you wait for it?

Try not to panic

Don't ignore the post. Open it. Find a quiet place where you won't be interrupted and start assessing what's happened.

Hopefully, you've done a budget with your income and expenditure "balanced". What do you owe? Can you afford to make payments to the creditors?

If you can (you may be among the 40 to 50 per cent who pay credit-card balances in full each month), that's great. You can review your saving strategy, which we'll be looking at next month.

If you can't, then you have some decisions to make. Can you afford contracted payments on loan(s) and make the minimum payments on the cards? Answer yes, and you've got time to look for a way forward and pay minimum interest. Answer no, and you may be tempted to do something hasty.

Recently I was working with a client who had gone to a bank in a panic and taken on a consolidation loan (covering credit- and store-card balances). She felt it was a good decision at the time but, unfortunately, she hadn't done a budget.

She took out a loan (an expensive one at about 15 per cent APR) and was paying back a little less on the loan than the total of her card payments. But her budget still didn't balance and she couldn't afford the loan repayments. And the loan was scheduled over seven years! Understandably, she was feeling very sick and very angry.

Don't be hasty

Take time to look at your situation. Write down your finances. Think about the options. Shop around for solutions.

If you would like to talk to someone about your finances, call the Credit Action Helpline below. We'll send you a booklet and give you practical, confidential help. If you need someone to chat with about money matters, call the Helpline and talk with a counsellor – it's free. Alternatively, visit our website at www.creditaction.com

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www.creditaction.com

Lads join war on poachers

Report and pictures: Chris Fletcher

SOLDIERS serving with 26 REME and personnel from 11 Royal Air Force Engineering returned from Zambia knowing that their skills and expertise could provide a stay of execution for some of the region's most majestic wildlife.

Volunteers drawn from REME Arborfield, New-castle-based 101 (Northumbria) Regiment (Volunteers) RA (V), and RAF Akrotiri's Engineering Branch in Cyprus repaired and serviced vehicles, weapons and equipment used by the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) in its war against some of southern Africa's most persistent poaching gangs.

Helping Hand III, the third such exercise masterminded by Maj Nick Weller, followed similar trips to Zimbabwe in 1998 and Zambia in 2000. All have been supported by the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation set up by the renowned wildlife artist.

The last expedition was estimated to have saved Zambia's overstretched wildlife authorities around £100,000 in repair bills alone. This time the 38 Servicemen, who raised £75,000 between

REME specialists give African country's wildlife rangers tools to tackle poachers



Elephant graveyard: Sgt Ian Moyle, left, and Maj Nick Weller examine tusks confiscated from poachers in Zambia. About 17 tonnes of ivory is now under lock and key at the Zambian Wildlife Authority's Chilanga headquarters

them for the project, repaired more than 100 weapons, 20 vehicles, three boats, 20 radio sets and 20 computers.

They also handed out medical supplies to clinics, books and stationery to schools,



and donated five refurbished Land Rovers to the parks authority.

But for most of the tradesmen, who spent three weeks in Zambia, their abiding memory is of the smiles of local children. As Sgt Jason Painter said: "There's nothing better than seeing the faces of people you have helped."

The five Land Rovers were handed over to Zambia's wildlife authorities during a formal parade in front of guests including British High Commissioner Tim David and Zambia's tourism minister.

Bought in a dilapidated state from an MoD disposal auction in Cyprus, they had been totally refurbished and driven from the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

Helping Hand III results will contribute towards efforts to prevent the Zambian elephant going the same way as the country's once great herd of rhinoceros. There are now five white rhino in the country and they were imported from South Africa after the indigenous black species were poached into oblivion.

Greed was once the sole motivation of the poachers, but now the spectre of famine has compounded the problem, and the country's severely depleted elephant herds are in real risk of extinction.



An AK47 assault rifle can be bartered for a small bag of maize, the profits from a single elephant's tusk can feed a family for

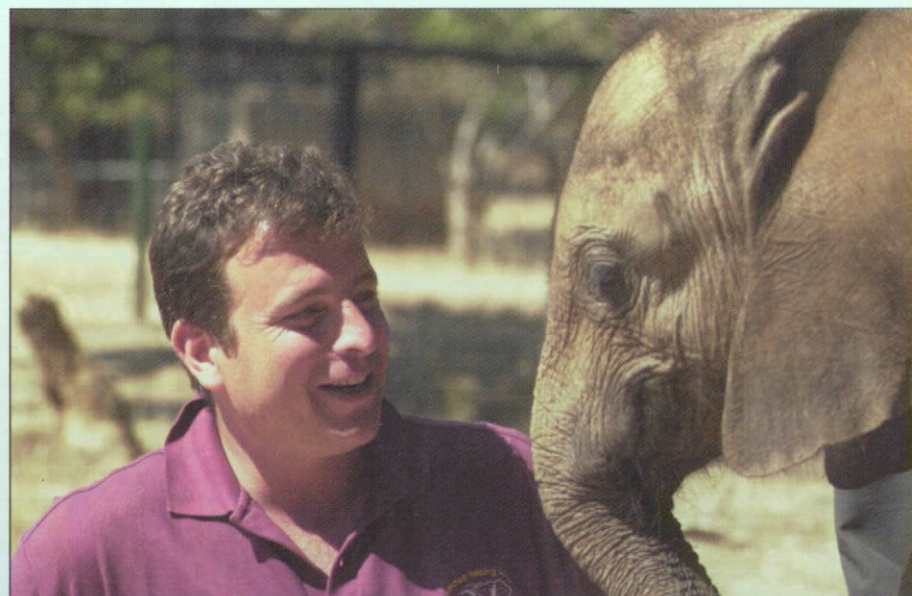
On the move: Cheering Rangers welcome three of the five refurbished Land Rovers to the ZAWA headquarters at Chilanga, above

Dangerous business: Cpl Mark Parsons REME examines AK47s with a group of game rangers, left. Poaching gangs are frequently armed with automatic weapons

a year... it's not a difficult calculation to make. Widespread starvation throughout southern continental Africa is inevitable and the prospect of locals turning to bush meat to stave off hunger is only too real.

By the time Exercise Helping Hand IV comes along many of the animals witnessed by troops on this exercise may well be dead.

Sadly, for that matter, so may many of the smiling children Sgt Painter so fondly remembered.



Rising star: Maj Nick Weller REME, the man behind Helping Hands III, meets Phoenix, an orphaned elephant being cared for in an animal sanctuary in Lusaka. Is Phoenix smiling?

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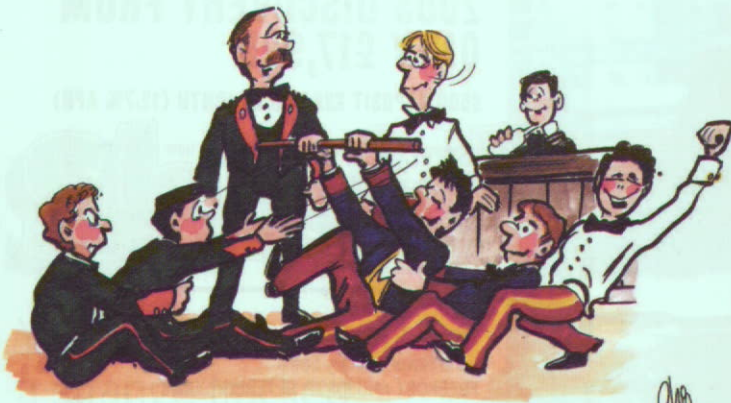


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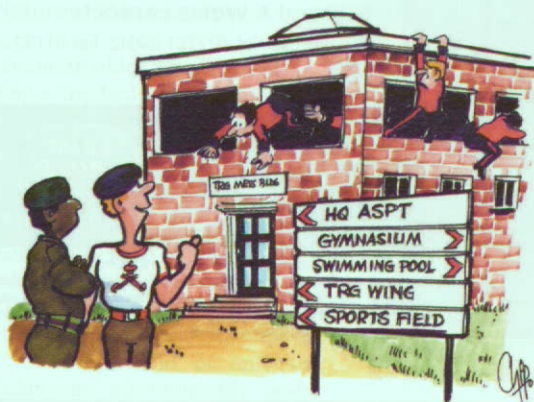
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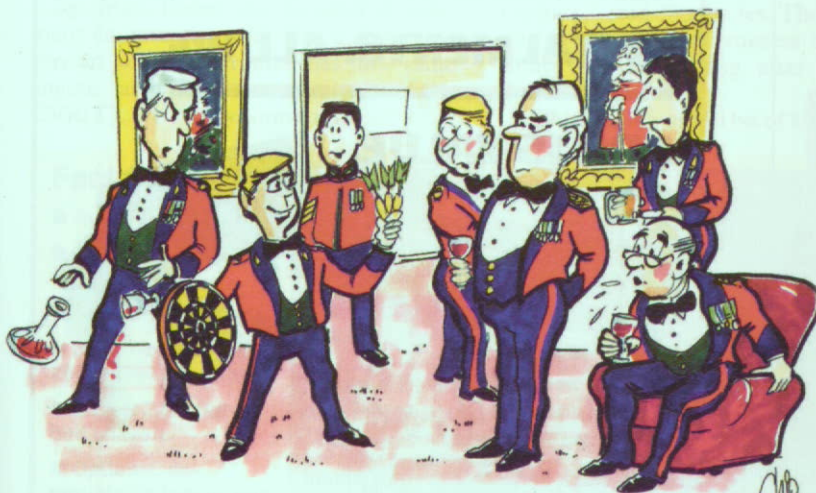
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Messing about

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Shield of armour

You might have seen a strange tracked vehicle on exercise. We take a look at what Shielder can do

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

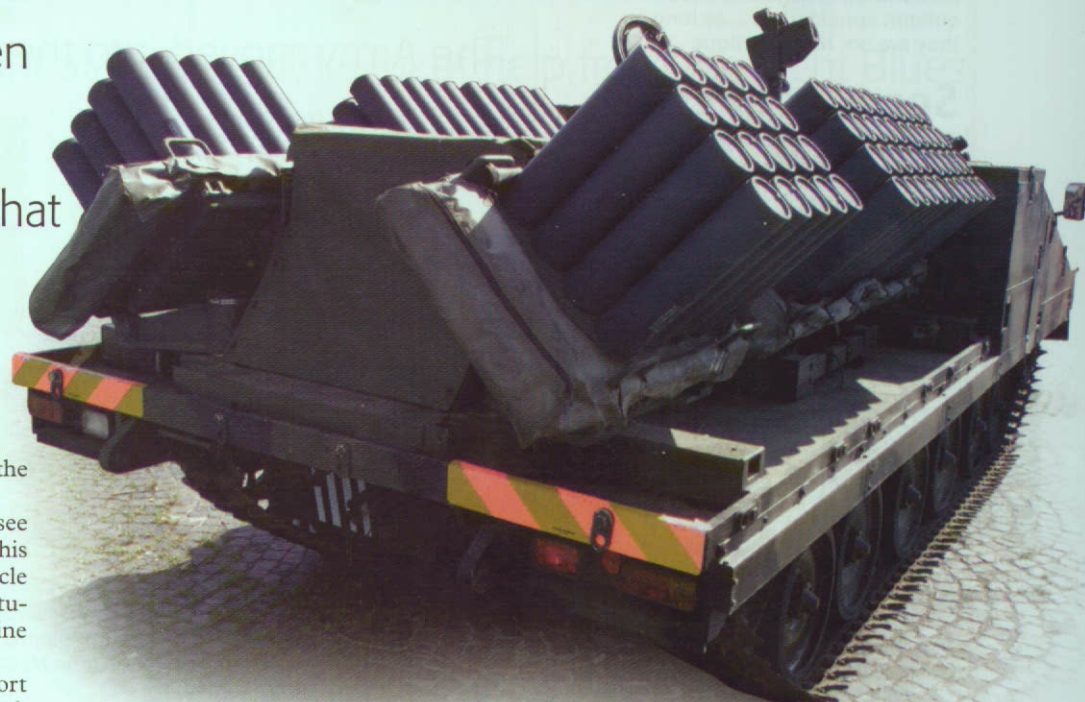
On first seeing Shielder you might ask yourself why a tracked vehicle should be transporting 120 bottles of the colonel's favourite malt whisky?

Look again, however, and you'll see that the strange tube arrangement on this variant of the CVR(T) – combat vehicle reconnaissance (tracked) – family is actually a Vehicle-Launched Scatterable Mine System (VLSMS).

It allows Royal Engineer close support regiments to sow a field of anti-tank mines quickly and automatically under armour.

The Shielder detachment of 44 HQ Squadron, part of 36 Engineer Regiment based at Barker Barracks, Paderborn, took delivery of its first vehicles just over a year ago. The system, built by Alvis and based on its Gulf War-proven Stormer, entered service in 1999.

Sgt Matt Eades, the Shielder detachment commander said: "It's a converted version of Stormer and has the same engine as the latest variant of the CVR(T). It is a very sound vehicle."



No way to transport the colonel's single malt: Shielder with its tubes of anti-tank mines

Shielder's role on the battlefield is something its USA-designed Volcano mine system achieves at an impressive rate. In just 15 minutes, three vehicles working together can lay a minefield 1km long and 80m wide.

"Because we comply with the Ottawa Protocol the mines are fuse-timed to explode," said Sgt Eades. The squadron has a 100 per cent success rate of the mines self-destructing after a defined time.

"Shielder is a useful bit of kit for closing

small areas fast. But if we use more than one, we can cover a bigger area very quickly."

The vehicle, which exercised in Poland and Oman last year, has a two-man crew. With all their kit stowed inside, it can get cramped.

Commander and driver are protected by full armour and against NBC attack.

When it is not "armed" with mines, Shielder has to carry an equivalent weight in the tubes because of the way the chassis is configured. On those occasions they are loaded with concrete plugs.

Vehicle driver Spr Grant Harrison is impressed with the handling. "I am used to driving CVR(T) but this better," he said. "It holds the ground well and the suspension is good. It is relatively simple to maintain and access to the gearbox and engine is very good."

As well as simplifying driver skills and training, the automatic transmission doubles the period between overhauls.



Sgt Matt Eades



Spr Grant Harrison

Fact file

- Automatic gearbox
- Maximum weight 13.5 tonnes
- 4.0-tonne payload
- Euro 2-compliant 250hp diesel engine
- 3.1m x 2.5m flat-bed chassis
- Optional, de-mountable fuel bower
- High level of cross-country mobility



Explosive disposal experts could get stronger and more flexible body armour following the award by the Defence Logistics Organisation of a contract to NP Aerospace Ltd. It will design

and develop a new helmet and suit for EOD operators.

The first operational **Apache helicopter squadron** is expected to be ready in August 2004.

Operational trials of the **Bowman communications system** are to start in November next year at battalion level.

A contract to provide the Army's

new **anti-tank guided weapons system** has been awarded to Saab Bofors Dynamics. NLaw – Next Generation Light Anti-Armour Weapon – should enter service in 2006-07.

backchat

All contributions to this occasional column considered... as long as they are not too scurrilous

Sorry, your crisis will have to wait until we get back

WITHOUT further comment, we pass on this item from the Royal Naval Association website:

Army Official Voice Mail: "Thank you for calling the British Army. I'm sorry, but all of our units are out at the moment, or are otherwise engaged. Please leave a message with your country, name of organisation, the region, the specific crisis and a number at which we can call you. As soon as we have sorted out the Balkans, Iraq, Northern Ireland, marching up and down bits of tarmac in London and compulsory equal opportunities training, we will return your call."

"Please speak after the tone or, if you require more options, listen to the following numbers:

If your crisis is small and close to the sea, press 1 for the Royal Marines.

If your concern is distant, with a tropical climate, good hotels and can be solved by one or two low-risk bombing runs, please press # for the Royal Air Force. Please note that this service is not available after 1630 or at weekends.

If your enquiry concerns a situation which can be resolved by a grey funnel, some bunting, flags, a damn good cocktail party and a first-class marching band, please write, well in advance, to The First Sea Lord, The Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1.

Jim meets a warrior

WHEN comedian Jim Davidson launched the now-defunct *Forces Weekly News* in March, 2000 to make money for his British Forces Foundation charity, he took

a few bundles to Macedonia, where he was to entertain the troops preparing to move into Kosovo.

In his autobiography *Close to the Edge*, out now in paperback from Ebury Press at £6.99, he tells of his encounter with Gen Sir Mike Jackson, who will become Chief of the General Staff in February 2003.

"I looked up at this man, who had a face that looked like it had worn out five bodies, and I thought, 'Here is a real soldier. This guy's not a desk general. This man is a warrior'."

Davidson adds: "Here was a general who knew his troops and whose troops loved him... I knew that if he did go into Kosovo with his troops, outnumbered as they were, that he would be victorious. He just had this air about him."

Bye-bye Bruggen, hello Elmpt

The Army moved into the former RAF site at Bruggen – now known as Elmpt Station – with a lot of help from the Light Blues

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

FOR almost 50 years, tens of thousands of British soldiers have flown into and out of RAF Bruggen. It was a place of transit, a step towards home or a return to duty.

Now a couple of thousand soldiers have moved in to the base midway between JHQ Rheindahlen and the Dutch border. For RAF Bruggen read Elmpt Station.

At first glance, nothing has changed. The runway is still there, as is the control tower, although neither are in use, while the departure and arrivals hall, familiar to many soldiers, is now a gymnasium.

Light-blue uniforms have been replaced by green and, significantly for the single soldiers who have moved into accommodation vacated by their RAF colleagues, every one has a private room.

Elmpt Station comprises Javelin Barracks (the main RAF Bruggen site), Wildenrath; a large married-quarter community a few miles up the road, and a

smaller married patch in nearby Bracht. Lt Col John McCurdy, KOSB, led the planning team which ensured the transition from RAF station to Army site went smoothly.

"The decision to close RAF Bruggen was taken in 1996 with the withdrawal of the RAF back to the UK," he said.

"We saw an opportunity to concentrate on the best real estate available and to capitalise on the excellent working facilities that were offered there, particularly for REME. We were also able to reduce our running costs by consolidation on a single site."

Lt Col McCurdy said the main reason for the move was to give single soldiers individual rooms. "They are used to having that freedom at home and the Army is coming round

to that conclusion too. At the stroke of a pen we were able to give every soldier, and many were living in four- or ten-man rooms at Krefeld, single accommodation, albeit without en-suite bathrooms. That was the number one reason for taking Elmpt."

The move to Elmpt meant a number of other sites were handed back to the German state authorities,



Elmpt planner: Lt Col John McCurdy

Look who's there...

● 7 and 16 Sig Regts; 280 (UK) Sig Sqn; 12 Flt AAC; Rhine Tp, 921 Sqn; 11 EOD Regt, RLC; Rhine Area Wksp REME; 43 Army Ed Corps; Defence Storage and Distribution Agency; M and S Shipping; Defence Sales Agency.

notably in and around Krefeld and St Tonis.

Another major plus for Elmpt Station was its training area. The Javelin Barracks estate covers 960 hectares, allowing exercises to take place behind the wire. As a consequence, training areas near Krefeld were returned to the Germans and are now open to the public.

When 16 Signal Regiment relocated to Elmpt, land at its previous home at Rheindahlen was released.

Units going into Elmpt have come from west of the Rhine, taking with them almost 2,500 soldiers plus families.

Roughly half the married population is housed in quarters inside the wire, and most of the rest in ex-RAF accommodation at Wildenrath, 15 minutes away.

With trooper flights no longer using Bruggen, soldiers now transit through Monchengladbach airport, a few miles to the east of JHQ.

Local people are happy with the change, particularly as the last Tornado roared out of Bruggen a year ago. While four Gazelles operated by 12 Flight AAC

continue to fly, noise levels have dropped dramatically. Years of ear-splitting jet aircraft flying low overhead in this western corner of Germany and eastern Holland have come to an end.

"One of the challenges we had was to retain the operational readiness of units moving in. Both 7 and 16 Signal Regiments, the two lead units at Elmpt, are part of HQ ARRC and had to undergo an evaluation exercise during the time of the transition, so it was quite a challenge for them," said Lt Col McCurdy.

The Rhine detachment of 921 Squadron EOD, which caters for all explosive disposal activity west of the

Rhine, also remained operational as did 12 Flight.

Army and RAF planning teams worked so well together that the handover was brought forward two months and under budget. The RAF even continued to maintain the fabric estate while they were moving out.

"I cannot overstate how amicable the arrangements were with the RAF. It was matter of pride from both sides and any difficulties were resolved at local level," Lt Col McCurdy added.

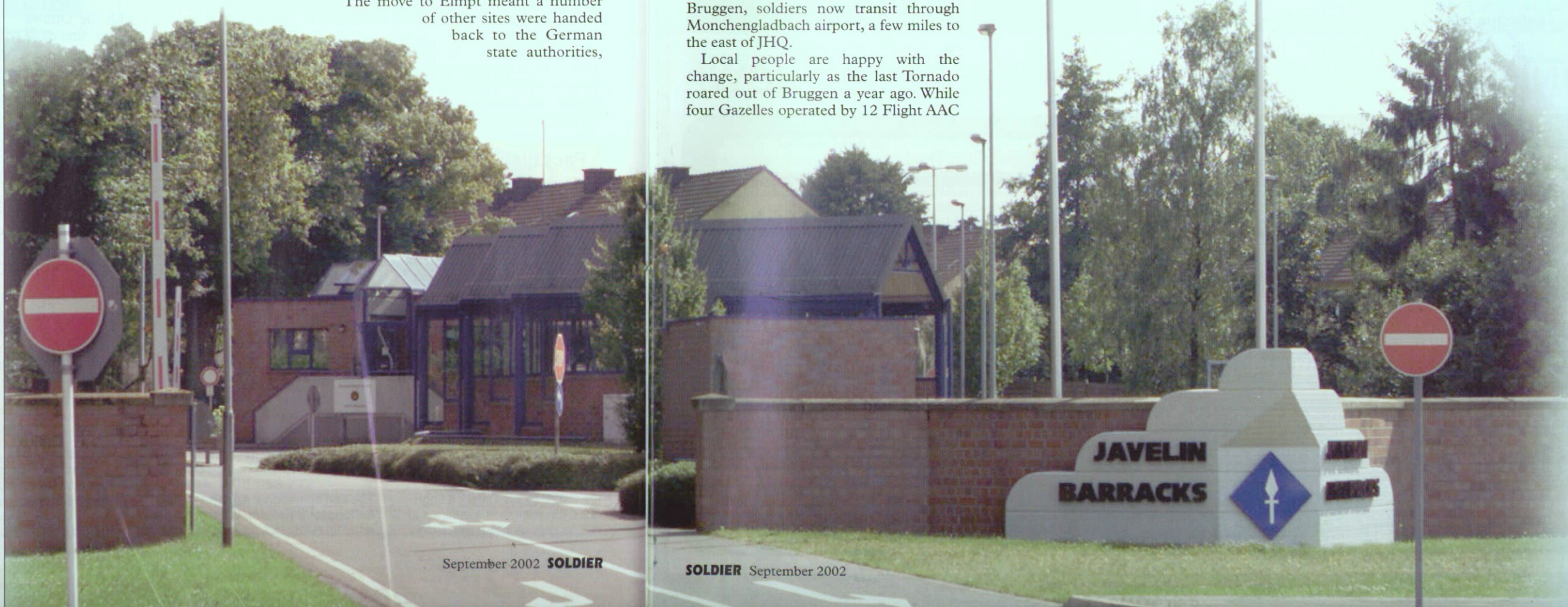
"Cynics might say we only took on Bruggen because it has an excellent 18-hole golf club, and a lake for fly-fishing."

But one look around would show there was more to it than that.

● Next month: The challenges awaiting new arrivals and what's on offer to soldiers and their families.

● See Vox pop – Page 78

Javelin was chosen as the new name of the barracks at Bruggen because the 1st Signal Brigade has a javelin emblem and Javelin aircraft were once based at Bruggen.



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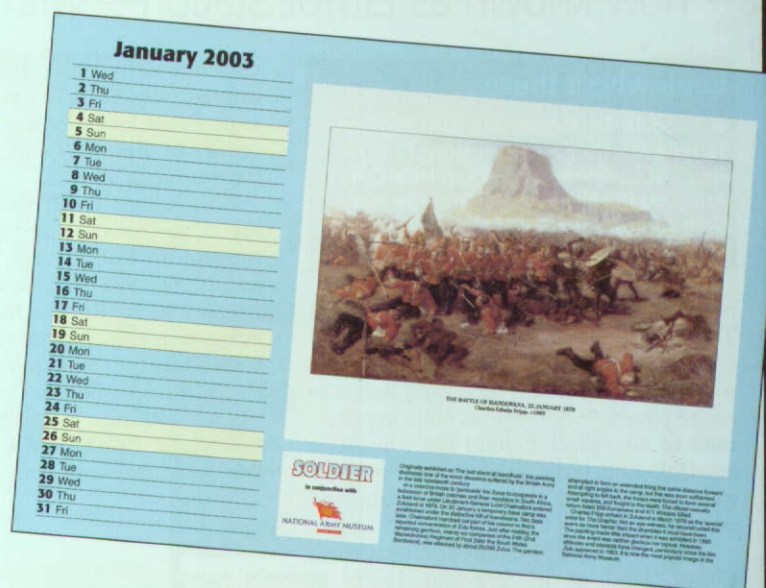
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In his true colours

The National Army Museum's art gallery has been given a facelift – and so have many of the paintings

**Report: Ray Routledge
Picture: Mike Weston**

IN a basement in a London suburb, painstaking work is carried out by an expert. Day by day, she pores over her subject, applying years of expertise in a meticulous quest for perfection.

The results of her past labours are available for you to see and enjoy.

Susan Beale is a picture restorer in the Conservation Department of the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

The canvas she is working on is more than 300 years old. *King William III and his Army at the Siege of Namur* was painted in oil by Jan Wyck in 1695. It will join more than 80 others in the museum's impressive collection. Four hundred others are in storage awaiting exhibition. The museum is also home to more than 55,000 prints and drawings.

Some of its paintings hang in the museum foyer, others on the walls of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Many were bought with the help of the National Art Collections Fund, others acquired through donations, with help from the Heritage Lottery Fund, from various private trusts and foundations, and from bequests.

The art gallery has a friendly and inviting atmosphere and examples of campaign furniture add to the feeling that you are visiting an informal country house.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough and Rex Whistler are among the artists exhibited. Yet the canvas that captures the imagination of many is *The Battle of Isandhlwana*, painted by Charles Fripp in 1885. It depicts the battle in which six companies of the 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment were all but wiped out by a Zulu army.

Modern works range from life in PoW camps to nuclear, biological and chemical drills.

Visitors can admire two fine examples



Expert touch: Restorer Susan Beale puts new life into a painting of William III at Namur

of recently-restored and conserved work. A rare 1702 painting of *John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough*, attributed to Michael Dahl, was dark, dirty and buckled when it arrived. Jan Wyck's painting, *Major-General Randolph Egerton*, dates from 1672 and is the first colour image of an officer in uniform.

Back in her studio Susan is busy on the *Siege of Namur*. "When we buy pictures we prefer to have them unrestored," she said. "That way we know what we are getting because restorers can sometimes over-restore and ruin a picture."

Newly-arrived works are photographed, a process which can have the effect of penetrating layers of varnish to show the restorer what problems there may be. Sometimes even the photographs are misleading.

"This Jan Wyck picture didn't look very good at all and was very dirty," said Susan. "The photographs showed brown streaks, but when we cleaned it there was nothing wrong. The streakiness was an aberration from an earlier restoration."

Cleaning a painting is a real test of skill because there is no margin for error. "If you go too far, it's gone. The most

common cause of a dirty picture is the original varnish, usually made from natural tree resins. They darken with age within 50 years," said Susan.

Varnish is cleaned off with cotton buds soaked in a solvent which breaks down the resin but not the painting. But if the artist has used resins in his paint, there could be further problems. After cleaning, Susan puts a layer of varnish on the painting to separate her work from the old. She does this because she believes restoration work should be reversible. If part of the painting is missing, she applies a water-soluble putty to the area before painting over it.

The making of her paints, a combination of pure pigments, modern acrylic paint in resin form, and solvents, is a dark art. "It is just a question of colour matching and all restorers have their own methods," she said.

The fruits of her slow and meticulous work can be exciting. As Susan strips away decades of veneer in her basement, her subjects reveal their true colours. She brings them, literally, back to life.

● The gallery is occasionally closed for functions and corporate events. To ensure it is open before planning a visit, ring 020 7730 0717. Normal opening times are 1000-1730 daily except December 24-26, January 1, Good Friday and early May Bank Holiday.

Soldier and the National Army Museum have joined forces to produce a striking calendar for 2003, featuring 12 of the museum's most significant paintings. See opposite page for details.

Diplomatic mission

Building trust, forging friendships, helping east meet west... welcome to the world of defence diplomacy

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

WHEN it comes to taking the initiative in the world of defence diplomacy, few can match the energy, efficiency and subtlety of the British.

And playing a leading role in the strategy is the British Army.

Encouraging such ideas as arms control, establishing secure and stable environments and developing new friendships and alliances around the world is the name of the game.

And a small Army-led team based in the MoD's Metropole Building in London is at the centre of making it happen.

Established in 1999, Army Staff Duties (International) – known in short as ASD(Inter) and presently under the command of Col Christopher Price – analyses priorities and then passes on requests for defence assistance from countries all over the world.

"But everything we do is driven by defence policy and defence objectives," Col Price emphasised during an interview with *Soldier*.

Although diplomatic activity has been going on for many years, it was only formally recognised as a defence mission in its own right after the Strategic Defence Review of 1998, which highlighted the importance of developing relations on the rapidly changing political face of Europe. The creation of the ASD(Inter) branch was therefore a natural and progressive step.

And the work within the branch is growing all the time.

"Defence diplomacy involves joined-up government and we link into the work of

the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)," said Col Price.

"The MoD Central Staff actually drive defence policy and in the case of the defence diplomacy mission we cascade it down to Land Command, AG staff and others, who provide the troops to deploy on the commitment.

"It is a question of balancing defence diplomacy tasks against capability output and the latter of course has to take priority."

Col Price's team is the focus for all non-operational activity, of which defence diplomacy is only a part.

His three desk officers divide the world into three. Lt Col Hans Kling, a German exchange officer, is responsible for all Nato and western European business; Lt Col Steven Windmill looks after central and eastern European countries, the former Warsaw Pact; and Maj Andrew Hodgkinson covers the rest of the world, with particular interest in

the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.

The military tasks of defence diplomacy are mainly focused on the central and eastern European countries and Africa. It also includes arms control, non proliferation, and confidence and security building measures all aimed at dispelling hostility, building and maintaining trust and assisting in the development of democratically accountable armed forces.

Central and eastern Europe has the highest defence assistance priority within the MoD. The work there, known as the Outreach Programme, was established in



Ex Urban Wolf: Sgt Greg Broadstock, 1 Kings, works closely with students at the Czech Republic Military academy as part of the MoD's outreach programme

1995. This year alone the Army has engaged in more than 700 activities in 24 countries.

The programme, often using British Military Advisory Teams (BMATTs) supported by defence attachés, is seen in the context of Nato's Partnership for Peace initiative and is focused on countries looking to join Nato. It is generally a long-term strategy looking ahead ten to 20 years in the hope that the people being trained and developed now will be officers in positions of influence in the future.

But concentrating on individual nations isn't necessarily the best way of achieving results.

The strategy centred on BMATTs and British Peace Support Teams (BPST), both in eastern Europe and Africa, is to work on a regional basis rather than taking a country-by-country approach.

The 25-man BMATT in the Czech Republic, a Nato country since 1999, was set up in 2000. But the bulk of the activity is in support of the eastern European non-Nato countries. It runs courses at all levels and has had a huge impact in the

region. There are plans to set up a junior staff college in eastern Europe for 2003 and that would act as the hub for the surrounding countries.

Meanwhile, Africa has many problems, with 15 countries involved in internal or inter-state conflict. Since 1960, about eight million people have been killed, 14 million displaced and there are at least six million refugees.

There is enormous poverty and AIDS kills one million Africans a year. A child dies of famine or malnutrition every three seconds. To tackle these issues, Africa needs stability and it is to this background that BMATTs and other teams go about their business on this continent.

The 100-strong advisory team in Sierra Leone, for example, continues its good work and the BMATT in Ghana is well established. There is a British Army colonel working in the Nigerian MoD and the BMATT in South Africa, originally

set up to assist with the homeland integration, is now planning to work on force structures and a peace support capability.

"And we have a new BPST in Nairobi," said Col Price.

"Kenya has an excellent peace support centre with a first-class staff college and two British Army lieutenant colonels are instructors in the school."

The plan is to put another BPST in southern Africa at the earliest opportunity to replace the original BMATT formerly based in Zimbabwe but withdrawn last year.

"What we have to remember is that wherever we go and no matter how good our intentions, it is their country and we can't go in and tell them what to do. We try to help them enhance African peace-keeping capability."

The Sierra Leone team is held up as an example of a successful operation. "It is right in the heart of government. We have

Eastern promise

A typical example of a request for assistance came from the MoD's Directorate for Central and Eastern Europe (DCEE) earlier this year.

"They asked for a team of Royal Engineers to go to Russia to teach de-mining techniques and wanted them in a fortnight," said Lt Col Windmill.

Royal Engineers are in high demand and after negotiations it was agreed a small team would go to Russia to teach on a "train-the-trainer" basis.

Arrangements were also made to bring Russian de-mining engineers to the UK. Cost is an important factor, even in the world of diplomacy.

"We have to clarify what needs to be achieved and how it is to be done. It is a balancing act using the minimum number of forces to achieve the maximum impact. And that is our philosophy."



East European expert: Lt Col Steven Windmill

'Putting a country back on its feet doesn't happen in a year and the military assistance programme is but a part of the equation'

trained a complete army and we can look to the future with cautious optimism.

"But putting a country back on its feet doesn't happen in a year and the military assistance programme is but a part of the equation."

ASD(Inter) is also supporting the central staff to develop a programme of peace support training for both the Russians and the Chinese, assisted by the Land Warfare Centre at Warminster.

"The programmes are aimed at senior officers responsible for doctrine and training – 'train-the-trainers'."

With the Army providing 70 per cent of the British defence attachés around the world and 60 per cent of loan service personnel it's clear that defence diplomacy is on the move and that the Army is in the vanguard.

And it's not just an officer thing. Almost half of Army loan personnel are senior ranks, as is the case with the Short Term Training Teams as well as the Army support staff in embassies and high commissions.

And ASD (Inter) is taking the lead in making it happen.



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Report: John Elliott
Pictures: Graeme Main



Cascade of poppies: Petals form a crimson carpet on the road beneath the Menin Gate, above. Inset, Pipe Sgt Anthony Draper, Scots Guards

Written in stone

Veterans mark 75th anniversary of unveiling of Menin Gate memorial

THREE centenarians, all veterans of the First World War, were guests of honour at a service to mark the 75th anniversary of the Menin Gate memorial, the awe-inspiring tribute to 55,000 British and Commonwealth troops lost without trace during the four battles which churned a wide area of fertile West Flanders countryside into a desolate, bomb-cratered bog.

Jack Davis, 107, Harry Patch, 104, and Arthur Halestrap, 103, joined the Duke of Kent as guests of honour for a remembrance service beneath the soaring dome of names erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1927 to honour the dead who have no known grave.

As the ceremony ended a crimson swirl of poppy petals was released into the "Hall of Memory", falling gently to the road past the endless lists of officers and men whose names are engraved in Portland stone panels attached to every surface. The Duke, president of the commis-

sion, said of the towering reinforced concrete structure: "It stands as a symbol of the sacrifice made by one-and-three-quarter million members of Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars."

Harry Patch, back at Ypres for the first time since he fought in one of the battles which take their name from the town now known as Ieper, said: "This is a very emotional time for me. I lost three of my best mates on Pilckem Ridge and I've never been back."

The bugle call *Last Post* brought tears to the eyes of many at the service, which was led by the Ven John Blackburn, Chaplain-General Land Forces. The Clive Band, Prince of Wales's Division, and Pipe Sgt Anthony Draper, SG, provided the music.



Veteran: Harry Patch

Every evening of the year, firemen from the Belgian town sound *Last Post* at the memorial. At 2000, traffic stops as their bugle call echoes across the roadway under the arches. The 25,000th playing took place on October 31 last year.

The Menin Gate is one of four major memorials to soldiers who went missing in the series of drawn-out and costly battles fought across the Ypres Salient between the end of 1914 and mid-October 1918.

The others are in the military cemeteries at Tyne Cot, Buttes and Messines Ridge.

The memorial at Ieper, built over what was the gateway out of the town on the road to Menin, was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick. It was unveiled by Fd Marshal Lord Plumer on July 24, 1927.

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Listening brief

Not happy with your barracks or concerned about your children's education? Here's how you can make your point to the head of the Army

Report: Anthony Stone
Picture: Graeme Main

ONCE the ball got rolling, the NCOs were not backward in coming forward. A dense barrage of observations, criticisms and even a fair amount of praise rained down on the Chief of the General Staff's briefing team. Nothing was off limits.

Over coffee and biscuits a dozen soldiers from different cap badges sat in a large office in the former Army Staff College, Camberley and let rip.

It's doubtful whether the Victorian general who stared down from the musty portrait on the office wall would have kept his ramrod stiff composure if he had ears to hear.

"Why is there such disparity between the size of officers' quarters and those of NCOs?", one sergeant wanted to know. "You can't tell me officers need more space than a senior NCO or anyone else. I thought we were supposed to be equal in this Army."

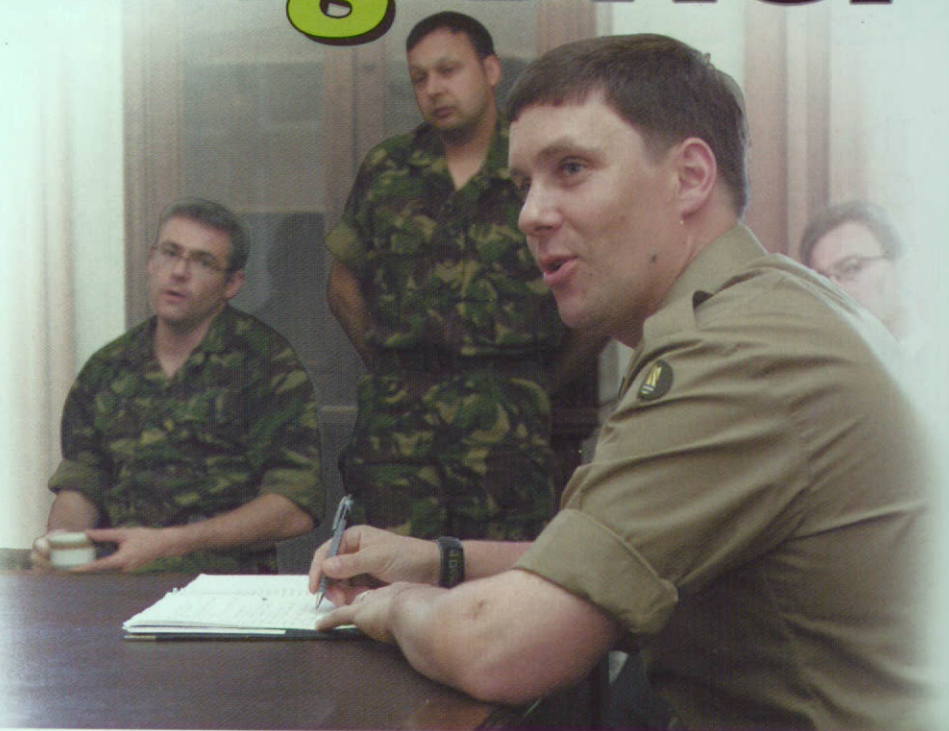
No sooner had Cpl Jason Shepherdson, RE, the junior member of the team, written down the remarks than someone else wanted to know: "When we are not in uniform we are civvies. So why can't I have a beer in barracks if I want one?"

That was quickly followed by: "Now cannabis has been downgraded, what difference is that going to make to compulsory drug testing?"

To express such thoughts in the Victorian general's day might have resulted in disciplinary action. But today's soldiers are encouraged to articulate their opinions and their concerns go to the very top of the Army. How many firms with 100,000 employees have a direct route to the chief executive?

Explaining how CGS's briefing team works, Cpl Shepherdson said men and women are formed into peer groups – officers, senior NCOs, junior ranks, civilians.









Everyone is encouraged to take part in



And another thing: Cpl Jason Shepherdson takes pages of notes during the briefing session



Some topics raised during the briefing session

-  Why is there disparity between infantry and corps when it comes to resettlement packages?
-  What's happening about poor accommodation?
-  The difficulties of firing SA80 for left-handed people.
-  When will the Army recognise long-term relationships?
-  Young soldiers are not as aware of learning initiatives as they should be.
-  Has Gulf War Syndrome been recognised?
-  Concerns over private firms taking over Army chefs' jobs.
-  Problems connected with administration of pay.

an honest and forthright manner, even the most junior soldiers in the Army whose contribution to the great debate might consist of: "Tell CGS the money's crap."

Generally the criticisms are of a more constructive nature. But even if they are not, CGS is made aware of them.

"I record each soldier's comments almost word for word and that's how they appear in my report," Cpl Shepherdson said. "Each member of the Army Board

gets a copy and then we are required to go and explain to CGS about the major issues. It can be quite daunting, since he often asks for my perspective, but I feel as if I'm speaking on behalf of the junior ranks of the Army, so I can't duck it. CGS takes the whole process very seriously, it's far from being a paper exercise."

Since its formation three years ago the briefing team has been busy highlighting concerns close to soldiers' hearts. The team spent the summer touring camps and units in mainland UK after completing visits to Northern Ireland and Germany.

WO2 Alan Cameron, RHF, the team's newest member, said: "CGS writes his comments on the summary of the report and this is sent down to unit level. When I first saw this I could not believe it since here was the man at the top being put on the spot on all sorts of issues that are close to my heart and he doesn't mince his words."

Col Stephen Kilpatrick, PWRR, who heads up the team, said: "It would not be fair of me to claim great success since we complement the chain of command and the Continuous Attitude Survey, but let's just say we have highlighted some issues that are clearly of frustration to soldiers and brought them to the attention of those at the top of the Army."

● To request a visit by the team, call WO2 Alan Cameron on 94261 5314 or e-mail apt.mod@btinternet.com

Streetwise

The man behind *Corrie's* Ken Barlow spent five years as an officer in the British Army . . . and thoroughly enjoyed it

Interview: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

KEN Barlow is rather well known in the fictional town of Weatherfield. The linchpin of the TV soap *Coronation Street* since it was first broadcast more than 40 years ago, he's been a teacher, community worker and newspaperman in his time.

But before the long-running drama began in 1960, Ken's *alter ego* – actor William Roache, known to most people as Bill – enjoyed five years in the Army.

Chatting to *Soldier* in his Granada Television dressing-room in Manchester, this witty and erudite native of Ilkeston, Derbyshire revealed that he was called up for National Service basic and battle training for the Korean War.

"Four of us were selected as potential leaders and joined what was called the PL platoon," he said. "We were treated like rubbish and made to clean the latrines and that sort of thing before we went in front of the War Office Selection Board."

After four days of tests Bill was recommended for officer cadet training. He laughed as he claimed it gave him an early indication that he might enjoy life on the stage.

"I so convinced them that I was potential officer and gentleman material that I realised I was a good actor," he said.

His four months of officer cadet training at Eaton Hall in Cheshire was a worrying time. He was in The Royal Welch Fusiliers and assumed that on passing out he would go to Korea. Not so. His posting notice read: "2nd Lt William Roache – Caribbean". He was going to join the 2nd Battalion in Jamaica. It was a dream come true as, armed with a short-service commission, he headed for the sun.

"I played cricket five days a week and rum was twopence a tot," he recalled.

"We used to go out to banana plantations. The cricket fields were surrounded by trees and had no proper boundaries.



Our Ken: Actor Bill Roache reflects on his careers in the Street and the Army

Steel bands would start up, the rum would be brought on to the field and we never knew when the game ended."

Militarily, Bill suggested wryly, his unit could have been better. "When we tried to do a battalion exercise it started to rain, so they called it off. We really were pathetic."

Nevertheless the battalion was mobilised and sent to Georgetown in British Guyana in response to the threat of a *coup d'état*. "We marched through the town and hoped to impress people not to rise up. Had they done so I don't think we would have been able to stop them."

He recalled that there was one gunshot injury "when an officer unloading his

revolver shot another subaltern in the leg".

Bill's Jamaican tour ended in Bermuda with security duties for the Big Three summit meeting in December, 1953, attended by Eisenhower, Churchill and French Premier Joseph Laniel.

After a brief spell in England, the battalion was posted to Dortmund, which Bill hated because it was "proper military stuff".

He promptly volunteered for the Trucial Oman Scouts – Arab soldiers led by British officers – in the Gulf, envisaging himself as "some sort of latter-day Lawrence of Arabia. I was seconded to the

What does Bill think of Ken?

"He is the intellectual of the street, his father called him a little snob because he didn't like the milk bottle on the table and all that. He is different because he has a university degree yet is bonded in the cobbles of the street. He is a caring man and feels he wants to make a contribution."



"Ken's had 23 screen lovers and three wives, which is not bad going. Is he a Lothario or pathetic at keeping his women? I think it's the latter."

"He desperately wants a family but his inability to keep one gives him this loser aspect that keeps him there."

Foreign Office, promoted to captain and put in charge of a 140-man squadron," he said. "Our job was keeping peace among the seven warring sheikhdoms that eventually became the United Arab Emirates."

"I was sent with my squadron to the virtually inaccessible Buraimi Oasis, which was like a Beau Geste mud fort, and spent two years living there as a Bedouin in a quite primitive way. It was fascinating."

After completing his five-year stint as an officer, Bill turned to acting. Breaking into the profession was not easy and he soon realised that it was a craft. An early interview with Sir Laurence Olivier provided inspiration.

His first job was a summer season at Clacton-on-Sea, followed by Nottingham Rep as an assistant stage manager, then Oldham Rep for a year during which the company performed a play a week. It became Bill's drama school.

He landed a small part in a film called *Behind the Mask*. "I had two lines and Vanessa Redgrave had one," he said. There was a bit part for him in the TV series *Ivanhoe*, starring Roger Moore, and more TV and film work followed. His acting career was actually happening.

"I was asked to come to Manchester to do the pilot for a 13-week series called *Florizel Street*," he recalled. "I had just played the lead in *Play of the Week*, very prestigious in 1959, and told my agent I didn't want *Florizel Street*."

His agent convinced him it was a good idea, however. *Florizel Street* became *Coronation Street* and the 13 weeks has so far stretched to 42 years. "I am still waiting to go back and pick up my career," he joked.

Work on *Corrie* may sound glamorous but the hours are long and intense. "We have no rehearsal, no prompting, and have to be word-perfect," said Bill.

"Production time is Sunday to Friday, seven in the morning to seven at night, and if you are in most of those scenes, you go home at night to learn the lines and scenes for the following day to the exclusion of everything else."

"But nobody has a major story for long – you would just burn out. We have a big cast and the load gets spread around."

"There is a lot of pressure to be word-perfect. Learning is a chore but it something you have to do."

"My next scene is with Anne Kirkbride, who plays Deirdre Rachid, and I will run through the lines with her, then go and do it."

The gruelling timetable brought on by the show's

four- or five-nights-a-week broadcast schedule is a far cry from the regime of the early days, but that had its own pressures.

"When we started we would do one live and record a second one straight after. It was pressure of a different sort."

Bill doesn't mind when fans or passers-by greet him as Ken. "I treat it as a nickname. It's a bonus if people know your real name."

"There was a time when I wanted to be in films, but I don't regret staying in the Street. It has been good to me."

"There is job satisfaction, it is not mundane. It is pressurised and demanding. Sometimes you are just ticking along and something frightening or exciting happens."

"A bit like the Army, really."

'You are just ticking along and something frightening happens. It's a bit like the Army, really'

Doing time behind bars

Another in our series about ex-soldiers and their new jobs

MANY former soldiers turn to a second career in either the police or prison services, writes Ray Routledge. One did both... and he's written a book about it.

Richard Papworth was a police cadet before spending time with the Royal Military Police during his National Service days. He later rejoined the civilian police before a career switch took him to Birmingham's Winson Green Prison.

His book, *Key Man*, recounts almost 30 years' service in some of Britain's toughest "nicks".

Now retired to Findern in Derbyshire, Richard recalled that hanging was abolished shortly after he started.

His takes a light-hearted look at court work (one judge gave him racing tips), reveals how prisoners managed to smuggle in contraband and tells how it really was in a tough Warwickshire borstal.

He said: "I enjoyed my prison career and rose from a basic grade officer to running my own establishment." That was at Foston Hall, a satellite of Sudbury Prison. It followed 16 years as principal officer at the main jail.

SHOW NO FEAR

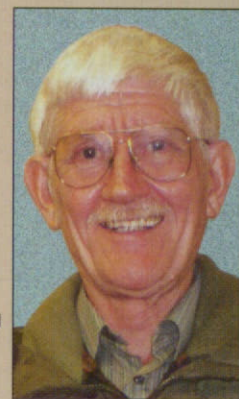
Prison life was not easy. "If you showed any signs of fear, an opportunist prisoner would take advantage," he said.

Although there was a constant battle of wits, a great camaraderie existed among the staff and sometimes between staff and prisoners.

Richard believed the abolition of National Service was a mistake. "Many of the borstal boys would not have been there had National Service intervened at a crucial time in their lives."

It took him nine years to complete his book, much of it written during a final career as a commissionaire at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. *Key Man* is available from W H Smith, Waterstones, Bookthrill and Ottakers at £7.99.

● Are you ex-Army and now in an interesting second career? If so write to us or e-mail rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



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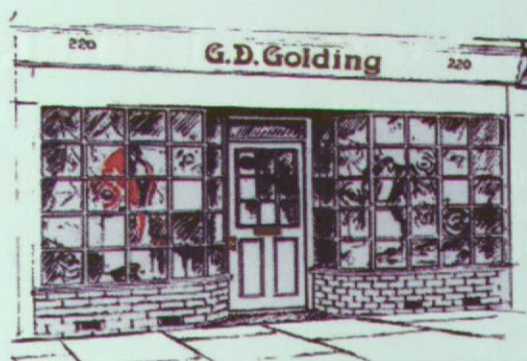
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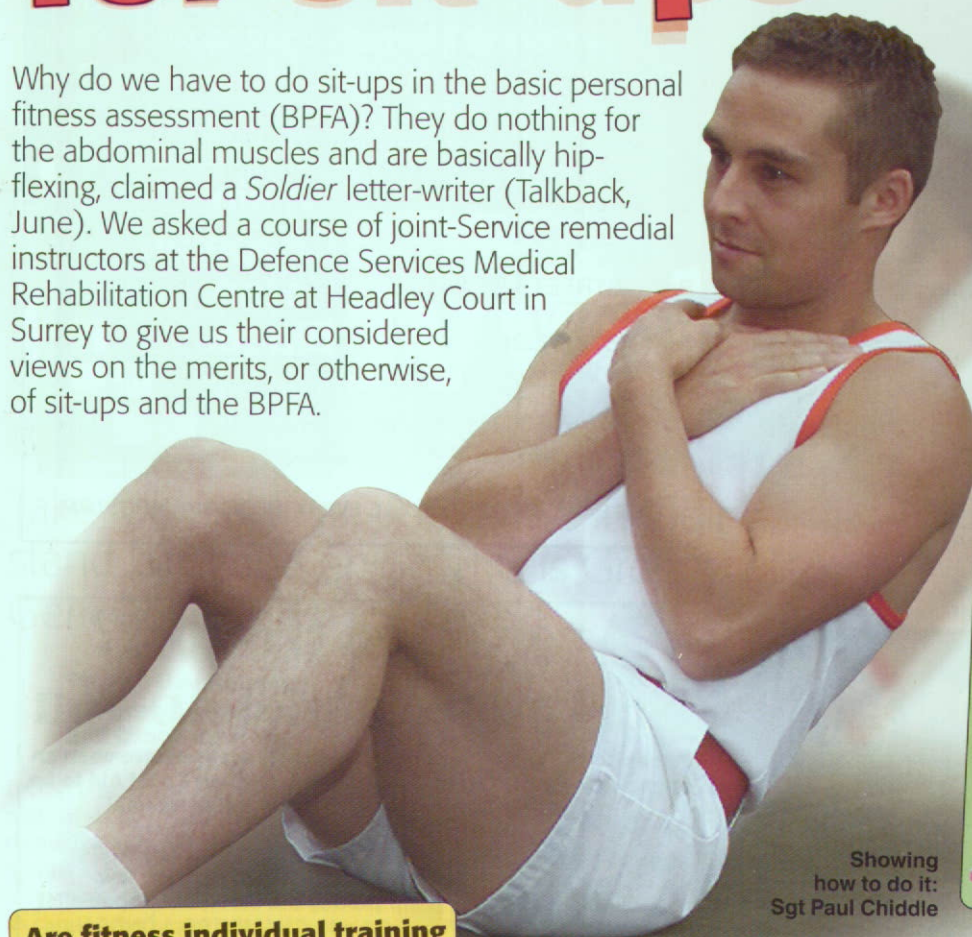


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Thumbs-up for sit-ups

Why do we have to do sit-ups in the basic personal fitness assessment (BPFA)? They do nothing for the abdominal muscles and are basically hip-flexing, claimed a *Soldier* letter-writer (Talkback, June). We asked a course of joint-Service remedial instructors at the Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey to give us their considered views on the merits, or otherwise, of sit-ups and the BPFA.



Showing how to do it: Sgt Paul Chiddle

Are fitness individual training directives appropriate?

Sgt Damon Godfrey APTC

BPFA's should be carried out randomly, in the same way as compulsory drug tests. Individuals would then have to be better prepared all year round. Everyone would still be assessed, but would not know when during the training year it would happen.



SSgt Paul Magill APTC
ITDs are conducive to the role of the general Army population. It is good that they are adaptable to different cap badges. Standards must be maintained throughout the Army, especially in these days of so many operational commitments.

Do the individual elements of the BPFA assess general levels of fitness?

SSgt Gary Hayes APTC

Assessment involves all components of general fitness related to the mainstream military role and is gender-free.



Sgt Rob Greaves APTC

The sit-up element of the BPFA assesses hip flexors and the abdominal region, which are a central source of power for many soldiering activities such as speed-marching, rope-climbing and regains as well as all types of lifting and carrying exercises.



Sgt John Mills RAF

The BPFA encompasses upper body, mid-region, and lower-limb while measuring the aerobic fitness of the individual. The assessment is simplistic, with definable start and finish points. Sit-ups are used in place of other abdominal exercises that are more specific but harder to measure.



Sgt Mark Galley APTC

Sit-ups as part of the BPFA are an important aspect of physical fitness. Abdominals are a major contributing area to aiding good posture they also support and help to prevent back problems – the biggest single medical reason for days taken off work.



Why is the BPFA a good assessment of a Service person's level of fitness?



Sgt Steph Collins APTC

Physical testing will always be controversial; the nature of the subject dictates this. The BPFA covers the upper body, mid-section and lower limbs. The individual exercises are easily measurable and have many years of testing for research and comparisons.

Sgt Chrissy Mann RAF Ped

The BPFA is a good example of a modern-day fitness assessment. The main advantages for the BPFA are that assessment is easy to administer anywhere, despite the constraints of the operational environment; it is easily recordable; and assessment covers all areas of the body by using easily measurable exercises.



POPT Sue Gibson RN PTI

The BPFA's aim is to assess the whole general level of fitness of an individual. It is quick, convenient and uses limited equipment. And it can be conducted in any environment. In addition, the base core subjects – or cardiovascular, mid- and upper-body elements – are addressed.



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Music on the Groovycide

Take four soldiers, put guitars in their hands, stand back and enjoy. This is Groovycide, Germany's latest rock band

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock
and Groovycide

DON'T be surprised if you hear the roar of heavy metal while walking through Gutersloh in the late afternoon.

It won't be a Drops truck shedding its cargo – the heavy metal concerned comes from a rock band called Groovycide.

Formed by four Army Air Corps soldiers (two of whom have since left the Service), Groovycide's members rehearse in the attic of an accommodation block at the camp.

Recently they were joined on stage by former Marillion front man Fish, and earlier this year they featured on the same bill as legendary rockers Slade.

The four are drummer Taff Addey, now a civilian working for Naafi; lead guitar Chris Botley, who left the Army to become editor of *Sixth Sense's* magazine, *Lifestyle*; lead singer Cpl Richie Addison, still serving with 1 Battalion REME at Osnabruck; and bass player LCpl Des Clayton of 652 Squadron, 1 AAC.

Separation can make band practice difficult... when *Soldier* visited, LCpl Clayton was on exercise.

Groovycide formed in the late 1990s when Addey and Botley starting jam-

ming. They found new members and starting taking the venture more seriously.

"We play rock music," said Chris "Butch" Botley. "We are not Led Zepelin or Deep Purple, but we try to make it as heavy and fast as we can, yet with a radio-friendly edge."

It's worked and the band's music is often featured on BFBS in Germany.

Over the past couple of years the boys have gone from strength to strength, culminating at this year's Rhine Army

Are you ready to rock? Chris Botley on guitar, Taff Addey on drums and Richie Addison strut their stuff during rehearsals

Summer Show (Rass) when Fish joined them on stage for a couple of numbers. It went down a storm.

"Rass was a real triumph," said Richie Addison.

It followed months of work with DJ Dave Simon from BFBS, who heard a demo CD the boys had made. He took the band to Lava Studios in Paderborn to cut a second disc.

Taff told how the Army had helped the band. "When we were in the AAC and needed somewhere to practise, we built this room as a bar with the full backing of the regiment," he said. "Although three of us have left the AAC, and two have left the Army altogether, we have an arrangement that we can continue to use the facility for a fee."

The band generates a lot of goodwill and has played at a number of private functions. Breaking into Naafi events is proving difficult,

however.

"The crazy thing is we can't play for soldiers in the Naafi here on camp," explained Addison. "We have to go through a UK management agency which books all the acts for the Army. We have to phone the UK to get the agent to book us to play in Germany."

There are no plans for gigs in the UK, but they would like to take part in shows put on by Combined Services Entertainment in Bosnia or Kosovo.

For up-to-date news about the band, log on to www.groovycide.com



Rass calling: LCpl Des Clayton, second left, completes the line-up at the summer show

CATT will soon be purring

The last word in training is completing trials in Germany (on a virtual battlefield). Prepare to be amazed

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

WHEN it comes to training, the British Army is rightly regarded as being up there with the best in the world.

That reputation is about to take a huge step forward when the next generation of warfighting simulators goes live at Sennelager, linking up with its sister site in Warminster.

The Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) is thought to be the largest and most sophisticated virtual training facility in the world. It's as real as it gets without going out on the ground.

Trials on CATT started at Warminster in June last year and this May the Wiltshire site was taken into service. The Sen-

nelager operation is trialling the integration of the system and twin-site operations.

Built at a cost of £330m, the more advanced CATT is based on an American system called the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT).

"We have 98 simulators," explained Lt Col Simon Bacon, R Anglian, the SO1 CATT Germany. "It has been developed by us to meet our requirements because we operate differently from the Americans."

"They focus their virtual environment training at sub-unit level and below; we concentrate on battle-group and below."

CATT is designed to deliver a combined arms environment drawing in armour, armoured infantry, armoured engineers, offensive support artillery, attack helicopters and special-to-arms players. It brings them together under one command battle-group HQ.

Soldiers using the CATT in Germany can be involved on the same exercise at the same time as troops in the Warminster facility.

During *Soldier's* visit, two battle-groups were pitched into action on the same battlefield, the Irish Guards fighting their end in Sennelager while The Royal Dragoon Guards were practising their procedures at Warminster.

Although the system is not quite live yet, ways are being looked at to integrate it with the American version. "Right now we don't actually have the ability for CATT and CCTT to operate together, although it is being investigated," said Lt Col Bacon.

As well as offering up to five sub-unit exercises at the same time, CATT can put 29 Challenger tanks, two com-

panies of Warriors, four specialist gunner vehicles and a recce troop of eight Scimitars into the "field". Soldiers sit inside individual simulators, mock-ups of the interiors of the vehicle they would operate in combat. Cut off from the outside world, they can concentrate fully on their roles.

Every detail of their performance, including all movements, communications, attack and defence postures and refuelling stops are fed electronically to the control centre.

Characteristics of the particular vehicle are part of the equation. If a commander sends his computer-generated Warriors across sandy ground at the wrong speed the vehicles will probably bog in or throw a track.

Generic simulators enable CATT to replicate 16 types of armoured fighting vehicles, Apache helicopters, Stormer,



Nearly for real: Tpr Chris Bergin, left, and Tpr Gareth Jenkins, C Sqn RDG, are put through their paces in a Challenger simulator



CATTman Germany: Lt Col Simon Bacon



Striker and 12 dismounted infantry stations. Here soldiers can get out of their simulated Warriors and go into a dismounted station to continue the exercise as if they were operating on foot. The

system allows for Milan and machine-gun use, while artillery soldiers can set up forward observation posts.

Everything is linked on a local area network. If there aren't enough soldiers to operate simulators, CATT has the capability to create blue forces. For example, a company of Warriors can be "manufactured".

With the exception of wind, CATT can simulate all weather conditions.

Opposition forces (Opfor) are supplied with familiar "enemy" equipment such as the T-80 tank and BRDM reconnaissance vehicle. Opfor numbers and levels of competence can be added to the mix.

The all-important after-action analysis, ranging from battle-group to individual vehicle level, takes place in one of four superb review suites.

Computer-generated images are as good as the best games console.

"The ground itself is for real and includes a UK terrain database," said Lt Col Bacon. It is based on Southern England. Other scenarios include North-West Europe and the desert.

It is all housed in an air-conditioned centre, complete with rest rooms, classrooms and offices.

"We can help units before they go to Batus in Canada or Poland and can assist on armoured infantry conversions so they can practise low-level skills. It gives us a tremendous flexibility and the chance to improve training and to make training more effective and safer," said Lt Col Bacon.

Despite the incredible sophistication of CATT, he acknowledges that it will never replace live training. "It is here to enhance and make live training more effective because troops have had a chance to practise in the virtual environment. While it is a tremendous training facility, it can never replace the real thing."

The CATT project is set to become a familiar environment for soldiers over the next few years.

Prepare to be amazed.



Spoiled for choice: Soldiers dig in for lunch at the new Lancashire Restaurant

Dining in style

SOLDIERS and visitors to the Army's prestigious Combined Arms Tactical Training (CATT) facility at Sennelager eat in style.

Army chefs at the purpose-built Lancashire Restaurant, a few yards from CATT's front door, feed up to 600 personnel at each meal in three-hour sessions in the dining hall-and-kitchen complex.

They can cope with another 200 on top of that, and when the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) exercises later this year, the chefs expect to double that figure.

Every exercising unit brings its own chefs and catering staff, so there is a rapid turn-over of personnel behind the scenes. Only front-of-house employees, all locally-employed civilians, are permanent. Each unit bids for them based on the number of soldiers they have to feed.

LINE FEEDING

Line-feeding (in other words, queueing up) is the method used to distribute meals quickly, and that goes for officers too.

Life for the chefs, always hot, is eased by the air-conditioned kitchen, which boasts huge extractor fans and state-of-the-art catering equipment.

Regimental catering warrant officer WO1(SSM) Andy Carter, 1 UK Armoured Division HQ Signal Regiment, looks after the complete catering function within the regiment and 1 Div HQ. He said: "We have to supply between 3,500 and 4,000 calories a day to each soldier."

He is very impressed with the new site. "It was purpose-built as a catering facility so the food preparation rooms are away from the kitchen." Food is taken from the temperature-controlled preparation areas to the kitchen at the last minute to be cooked. The place radiates hygiene and good management.



Mission control: Sigs Craig Virtue, front, and Chalky White, centre, 4 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, and Gnr Lee James, 4 Regt RA, operate the G3 HICON/EXCON at the CATT

Front-bench soldiers

What do politicians know about defence? Five joined the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme and learned a lot from the Army

Report Ray Routledge

NEXT time you are on a small-arms range, in a pit repairing a Land Rover or charging across the prairies in a Challenger 2 take a closer look at the person beside you.

It might be your MP.

If it is, the chances are he or she is taking part in the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (AFPS).

Shadow Defence Secretary Bernard Jenkin, the Member for North Essex, for example, is one of five MPs who opted to "join" the Army under the scheme. The others are Greg Barker (Bexhill), David Drew (Stroud), Sandra Gidley (Romsey), and Stephen O'Brien (Eddisbury).

So why are five MPs roughing it on Salisbury Plain or BATUS in Canada when they could be taking tea on the terrace at the Palace of Westminster? The simple answer is that they are getting a first-hand taste of what military life is about.

The scheme was the brainchild of Sir Neil Thorne, former MP for Ilford South, who was a National Serviceman and went on to spend 30 years in the Territorial Army. During the Falklands War, three years after his election, he felt during the long debates the conflict provoked that MPs were not as well informed as they should be.

"I felt we should try to improve the quality of debate and that if they wanted to criticise, they should do so from an informed position," he told *Soldier*.

The germ of an idea was beginning to form when Sir Neil took part in a scheme by which industry showed MPs how it worked. "Members from all parties were each attached to a particular company," he said. "It was useful, so I suggested to ministers that we could do the same thing for the MoD."

The scheme was launched after the 1987 election. Sir Neil reasoned that



"When he shouts 'Halt, who goes there?' you don't reply 'I'm the Member for North Essex'!"

when MPs went on official visits to the Forces, they were given two-star treatment... not necessarily a true taste of military life.

"Ideally, every MP would spend time in the Services, but the best I could do was to give them a flavour of it."

So the AFPS was born and ever since, MPs and members of the House of Lords have spent a year making visits and going on exercise. Each chooses a Service to specialise in.

"I decided the best they could do was spend time as a major, or equivalent, because I wanted them to experience life where they are in constant touch with people at all ranks."

With the Royal Marines joining in, Sir Neil persuaded companies including Plessey, British Aerospace and Vickers to

sponsor the scheme.

After the 1997 election there were so few MPs in the house with experience of the military that it was decided to expand the concept. MPs are asked to commit to

30 days a year with their Service of choice. To "graduate" they must complete a minimum of 21, not always easy to achieve in the busy parliamentary schedule.

Members must complete at least five days with one unit.

They have their own cap badge and cipher (the crown portcullis over the letters "AFPS"). Those on the post-graduate tour - scheme members on a refresher course - have a Tudor rose and portcullis badge.

Graduates attend a black-tie ceremony in March at the Speaker's House, where they are joined by the Chief of the Defence Staff and Service chiefs.

MPs seem delighted with what the scheme delivers.

"I was always attracted by the idea but never thought I'd have the time," said Mr Jenkin, whose constituency includes Colchester Garrison.

"Not having any formal military background, I thought it would be an ideal opportunity to familiarise myself with the Armed Forces when I was appointed Shadow Secretary."

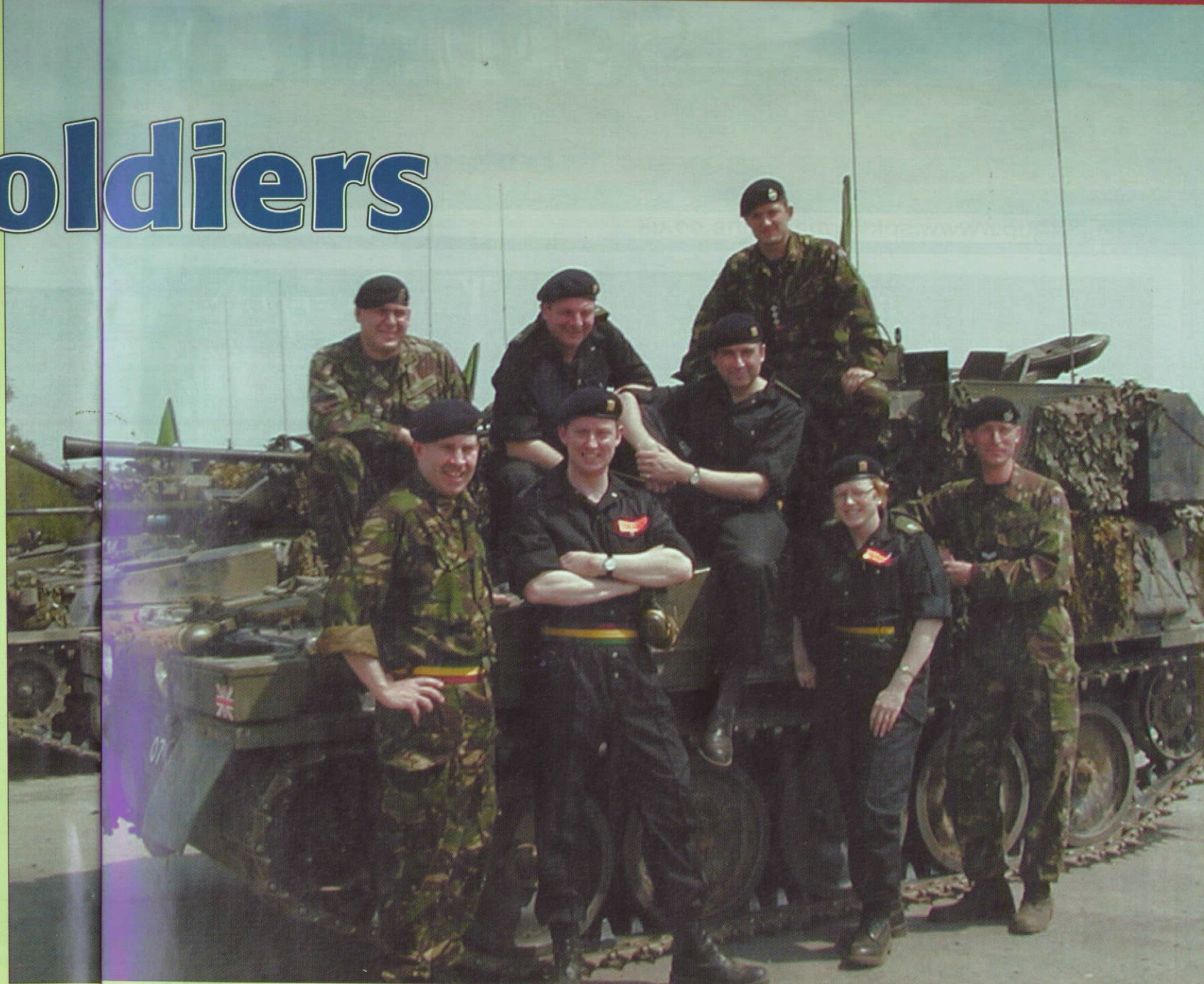
He opted for the Army because he felt it was the Service he knew least about.

"The most useful elements for me have been the chance to understand the rank structure and weapons systems," he said.

So far this year he has visited Shrivenham and Fallingbowl, where he thoroughly enjoyed his stay with the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

He has lived in a tent in Kabul, where he was kept awake not by a nearby generator but a snoring colleague. He has also visited the Armoured Centre at Bovington and hopes to go to the Infantry School in the Brecon Beacons and to BATUS.

"I like to hear the views not just of the top brass but of sergeants, corporals and squaddies," he said. "The reaction we get is strange when we meet a group of soldiers who see a bunch of MPs, in uni-



Army MPs at Lulworth: On the Scimitar are, from left, Cpl Craig Halkerston RTR, Stephen O'Brien, Bernard Jenkin and Capt Carl Evans RTR. Standing, from left, David Drew, Greg Barker, Sandra Gidley and Cpl Boris Towell

Picture from the personal collection of Bernard Jenkin MP

"Ideally, every MP would spend time in the Services, but the best I could do was to give them a flavour of it"

Sir Neil Thorne



form, who clearly don't know how to wear a beret.

"Yet they are soon interested in what we are doing and we encourage a frank interchange. They tell us what they think of MPs and they can be forthright. Although a squaddie isn't happy unless he has got something to whinge about, you can tell when he has got something serious to say."

Mr Jenkin is impressed by what he has seen of the Armed Forces. "The degree

of commitment, the professionalism, spirit and determination to get things done, even when it is difficult, is very impressive and encouraging," he said.

"The Armed Forces are one part of British life that seems to have survived when other

things have gone. It is down to their ethos and values, responsibility, teamwork, mutual help and diligence. These are good values that we need to spread to other parts of society.

"And we are all indebted to Sir Neil Thorne, the driving force, for his extraordinary commitment to the scheme."

A final word on Army catering: "Army food is very good, even the hot picnic I had sitting on top of a tank in the rain."



"What happened to contract catering we voted in years ago, David?"

SOLDIER WEB WATCH



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Army's wealth of talent

Soldier's six-page Commonwealth Games round-up starts here ...



1,500m

Kelly Holmes (former APTC)

Old soldier marches on

FORMER APTC sergeant Kelly Holmes won the second major gold medal of her career at the City of Manchester Stadium – eight years after winning her first in Victoria, Canada.

Holmes, who joined the Army in 1988 and served as an assistant physical training instructor for two-and-a-half years before completing an 18-month stint as a recruitment officer, beat Wales's Hayley Tullett and England's Helen Pattinson across the finish line in the 1,500m.

The 32-year-old's clear victory by a 2.47sec margin marked an end to years of injury worries and signified her return as a potential world-beater over middle distances.

Maj Peter Lyons, secretary of Army Athletics, said: "Kelly was, and still is, a tremendous ambassador for the Army and someone we hold in high regard."

"We still keep in touch and follow her progress – we're naturally very proud of her achievements."



JAVELIN

Pte Kelly Morgan (3 CS Regt, RLC)

Against the odds

DESPITE being hampered by an injury to her throwing shoulder debutant Pte Kelly Morgan won the first senior international medal of her javelin career in Manchester.

The 22-year-old managed a respectable 57.09m with her opening throw, but failed to better that distance with her following efforts and had to settle for bronze behind Australia's Cecilia McIntosh and Laverne Eve of the Bahamas.

Morgan had been firm favourite for the gold having thrown 64.48m, a British record and the second longest throw in the world this year, at the European Championship trials in Birmingham just two weeks before the Games.

Indeed, had Morgan been able to reproduce that effort then she would now be Commonwealth champion. Laverne Eve's winning throw, her best this season,

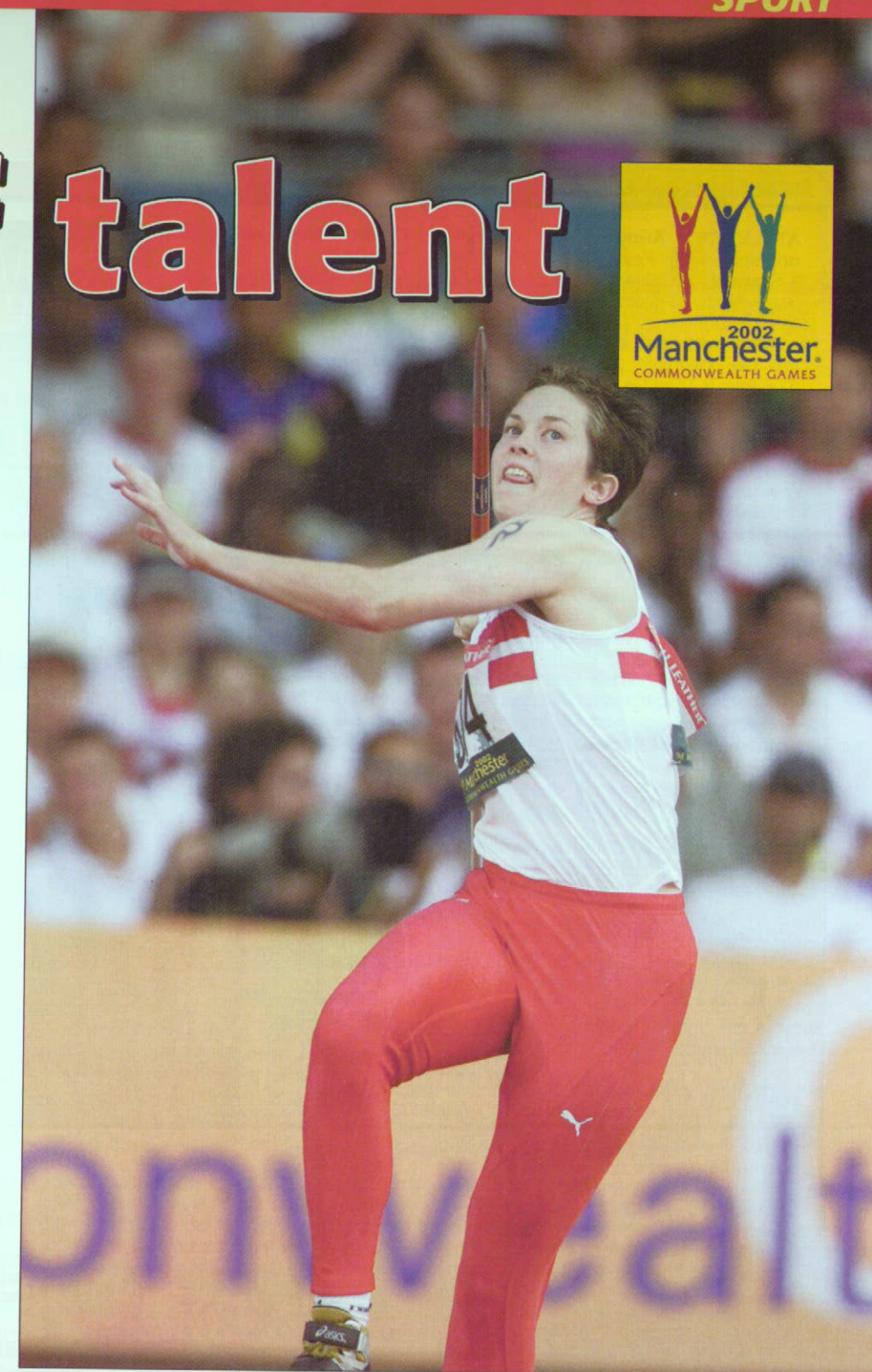
measured 58.46m – 6.02m shorter than Morgan's British record.

Morgan said of her failure to live up to her billing as favourite: "I had a chest infection before the Games and had to have a number of injections in my shoulder, but that's no excuse."

"I am disappointed not to have done better and it is hard not to think about what could have been."

◆ Morgan's shoulder injury, thought to be similar to the complaint that ended Fatima Whitbread's career prematurely, is due to be looked at by specialist surgeons this month.

"It has been going on for two years now and I am looking forward to finding out exactly what the problem is," she said. "I am certainly committed to continuing in javelin – I am by no means satisfied yet and won't be until I am the best."



Medal soldier: Pte Kelly Morgan throws for glory in Manchester

Picture: Graeme Main

CYCLING

Cpl Duncan Urquhart (1 RTR)

Racer switches track

SCOTTISH cycling champion Cpl Duncan Urquhart plans to switch the road for the indoor track in an effort to reach the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Having flown the flag for Scotland in the road time-trial and 113-mile road race in Manchester last month, the 28-year-old is determined to make a swift return to international competition and believes that a change in discipline will keep him in contention for a place in Great Britain's next Olympic squad.

"The whole experience and atmosphere at the Commonwealth Games was amazing and I've now got the bug for the big occasion," explained Urquhart.

"If I switch to the track I will have a better chance of being selected for the Olympics because there is no way I could make the British road-racing or trial team as I would be up against too many professionals."

"The training will be more or less the

same, but I will have to build on my power so that I can go all out for four-and-a-half minutes," he said.

"I'll also be going to Manchester and Edinburgh a lot to use the track facilities there."

Competing against world-class opposition for the first time, the Army Cycling Union rider finished 19th in the Commonwealth time trial after being the first Scot to complete four laps of a seven-mile circuit.

He crossed the finish line in a time of 1:08.26 – less than eight minutes behind Australia's gold medallist Michael Rogers.

"I went too hard at the start and was really going for it," conceded Urquhart. "It was my first time in such a big event and I got carried away. My coach warned me not to – next time I'll listen."

In the road race event, which circumnavigated the Upper and Lower Rivington Reservoirs, Urquhart finished 16th in a field of 87.



Picture: Graeme Main

WEIGHTLIFTING

Capt Ray Williams (APTC)

Veteran raises his game

SENIOR athlete Capt Ray Williams performed admirably in the up-to-69kg weightlifting event but failed to trouble the leading pack at Manchester's International Convention Centre.

The 42-year-old, who won gold in the under 60kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986, started the snatch with a lift of 105kg and then watched as his team-mate and current Welsh champion Afron Roberts lifted 107.5kg.

However, Williams, who considered qualifying for the 2002 Welsh team as great an achievement as his victory 16 years ago, was not to be outdone and danced a jig of delight after successfully lifting 110kg.

That fabulous effort, combined with a 140kg lift in the clean and jerk, saw him climb above his fellow countryman in the final standings and into ninth place.

The event was won by Cameroon's Tientcheu Dabaya, who set a Games record with a combined lift of 310kg.

RESULTS SERVICE... RESULTS SERVICE...

ATHLETICS: Army 10km championships – 1, Cpl Kevin Conlon (3 UK) Div & Sig Regt; 2, Cpl Ian Smith (3 UK) Div & Sig Regt; 3, SSgt John Castle (3 UK) Div & Sig Regt.

Army decathlon championships – 1, Pte Lee Okoroafo (3 CS) Regt RLC 6,063pts; 2, LCpl Gez Manville (2 PWRR) 5,814pts; 3, SSgt Chris Oakes (ASPT) 5,772pts.

Army heptathlon championships – 1, 2nd Lt Katie Taylor (CUOTC) 4,517pts (new record); 2, Cpl Jacobs (29 Regt RLC) 2,825pts; 3, Sig Hay (3 UK) Div & Sig Regt 2,170pts.

Inter-Services decathlon championships – 1, Pte Okoroafo (Army) 5,678pts; 2, SSgt Oakes (Army) 5,489pts; 3, LCpl Manville (Army) 4,672pts.

Inter-Services heptathlon championships – 1, 2nd Lt Taylor (Army) 4,228pts; 2, SAC Tanya Bosworth (RAF) 3,010pts; 3, Sgt Tanya Jacobs (Army) 2,974pts.

Inter-Services championships, men's – 1, RAF (153pts); 2, Army (141pts); 3, RN (63pts). **Women's** – 1, Army (167pts); 2, RAF (92pts); 3, RN (63pts).

BASKETBALL: AFC Harrogate tour of Sweden – AFC Harrogate 51 Arvika 68; AFC Harrogate 69 Karlstad U19s 48.

CRICKET: Combined Services (282 and 217-5) beat Cambridge University (160 and 335) by five wickets; Combined Services (209-9) beat SW Australia U21s (81) by 128 runs; Combined Services (195-9) beat Club Cricket Conference (148) by 47 runs; Combined Services (227-6 dec) beat Sir Paul Getty's XI (184) by 93 runs.

British Police (237-5) beat Army (163) by six wickets; Army (260) beat Fire Service (259) by one run; Army v Yorkshire Academy U17s (match abandoned); Army (180) beat Bath CC (150) by 30 runs; Army (151-3) beat Civil Service (149-9) by seven wickets; Army (97-2) beat Dorset (96) by eight wickets; Middlesex 2nd XI (175) beat Army (173-9) by ten wickets.

DIVING: Inter-Services championships – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN.

Triangular championships – 1, Combined Services; 2, Civil Service; 3, British Police.

GOLF: RTMC Golf Society summer competition at Morley Hayes Golf Club – 1, Sgt Mick Wingfield (RF) 39pts; 2, WO1 Steve Launchbury (AGC) 38pts; 3, Mark Thacker 37pts. **Longest drive and nearest to pin** – Lt Col Paul Kelleth (LI).

MARTIAL ARTS: Sixth Inter-Services championship winners: Karate, senior team – Army. Junior team – RAF. Senior men's – Pte Graham Thomas (RRW). Junior men's – SAC O'Dell (RAF). Senior women's kumite – Cpl Leanne Gabbittas (RLC). Junior women's kumite – Gnr Donna Kelly (RA). **Women's kata** – Cpl

Gabbittas. **Men's weapons kata** – Cpl De Vry (RAF).

Taekwondo, senior team – RN. Junior team – RN. Senior men's – Mne Tang (RM). Junior men's – OM Jefferies (RN). Senior women's sparring – WSA Brown (RN). Junior women's sparring – LCpl Cerianne Chew (AGC). **Women's patterns** – SAC Bingham (RAF).

RUGBY LEAGUE: RDG (BA(G) champions) beat SEAE (BA(E) champions) 46-42 aet.

Army (Germany) Cup, quarter-final – RDG beat 28 Engr Regt 46-16.

BA(G) 36 Scottish Students 28.

SHOOTING: Sniper cup winners – 1 RGR. School of Infantry shield winners – 1 RGR (B). Infantry corps cup winners – 1 WFR (C Coy). **Queen Victoria trophy winners** – RDG. **Eastern Command cup winners** – 32 Engr Regt. **King Edward VII cup winners** – 5 Bn REME. **Artillery cup (A) winners** – RMAS (5A Waterloo). **King George V cup winners** – 1 RGR. **Artillery cup (B) winners** – 30 Sig Regt (250 Sqn). **Hopton cup winners** – 1 Regt AAC (652 Sqn). **Duke of Connaught cup winners** – 4 R Irish (A Coy).

SWIMMING: Inter-Services open water championships. 1.5km race winners, men's – Capt Iain Brown (3 RSME). Women's – Lt Rachel Wilcocks (RLC).

Inter-unit team championships, Major Units – 1, 21 Sig Regt; 2, RMAS; 3, 16 Sig Regt; 4, 1 QDG; 5, 1 D & D. **Minor Units** – 1, ATR Bassingbourn; 2, 32 Regt RA; 3, 19 Mech Bde & Sig Sqn; 4, 5 Regt AAC Wksp; 5, 3 Inf Bde & Sig Sqn. **Women's** – 1, 21 Sig Regt; 2, RMAS; 3, 7 Sig Regt; 4, 1 GS Regt RLC; 5, 3 CS Med Regt RLC.

Single event relay competition winners, men's 4 x 100 freestyle – SEAE. **Men's 4 x 1 length breaststroke** – 32 Regt RA. **Women's 4 x 1 freestyle** – 4 GS Med Regt RLC. **Men's 4 x 1 butterfly** – 1 GS Regt RLC. **Men's 4 x 1 backstroke** – 26 Regt RA. **Women's 4 x 1 medley** – 4 GS Regt RLC. **Men's 6 x 1 freestyle** – 32 Regt RA. **Men's 4 x 1 medley** – 26 Regt RA. **Women's 4 x 1 breaststroke** – 4 GS Regt RLC.

Inter-Services championships, men's – 1, RN; 2, Army; 3, RAF. **Women's** – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN.

Triangular championships – 1, British Police; 2, Combined Services; 3, Civil Service.

TUG OF WAR: Inter-Services championship winners – Army.

WATER POLO: Army championships – 1, 21 Sig Regt; 2, 2 PWRR; 3, 16 Sig Regt; 4, 25 Engr Regt.

Inter-Services championships – 1, RAF; 2, Army; 3, RN.

Quadrangular championships – 1, British Universities; 2, British Police; 3, Combined Services; 4, Civil Service.

BOXING



Picture: Graeme Main

Dishing it out: Cpl James Whitfield, right, in Commonwealth action

Cpl James Whitfield (RLC attached to 2 R Anglian)

Welsh wonder

ARMY chef Cpl James Whitfield served up some tasty boxing when he met highly-rated Australian Ben McEachran in the quarter-finals of the Commonwealth light heavyweight event at Wythenshawe Forum in Manchester.

But despite landing some good punches, particularly in the penultimate round of the five-round contest, the Welsh ABA champion eventually lost the bout by a 27-18 points decision.

"I thought that I could have won it but that's boxing for you," he said. "I shall now take this experience into next season's Welsh Championships and the Four Nations matches."

Whitfield was one of seven Welshmen to make it through to the quarter-final stages of the competition – an achievement that Wales's head coach Mike Haines attributes to the help given to his squad by the Army.

"The fact that we did so well is largely down to the Army boxing coach, SSgt Vinny Powell, who invited us down to the Aldershot headquarters before the Games," he said. "The Army squad gave up a lot of their time to help us spar and we benefited from their fitness and experience."

◆ Although Whitfield was the only member of the Army boxing team to appear in the Commonwealth ring, his teammates were kept busy on the other side of the ropes.

Led by Lt Col David Richardson, a member of the Commonwealth Games Boxing Committee, more than 30 members of the team were charged with ensuring the smooth running of the boxing tournament, which featured a total of 220 competitors from 41 countries.

Lt Col Richardson, who works in the policy section of the Directorate of Infantry Training at Upavon, said: "One of our main tasks was to produce all of these boxers as and when they were required throughout the Games."

TARGET PISTOL

Cpl Robert Doak (3 Royal Irish)

100M

LCpl Joselyn Thomas (3 CS Regt, RLC)

Hotshot

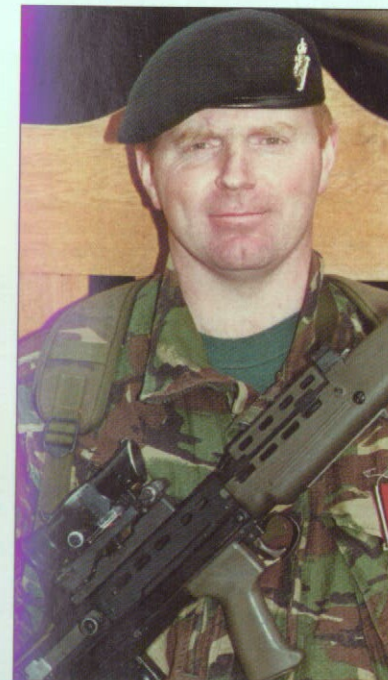
THE venue for the shooting events at the 2002 Commonwealth Games will have held no fears for Northern Ireland's Cpl Robert Doak.

The sharpshooter is no stranger to the National Shooting Centre at Bisley, having twice won the prestigious Queen's Medal and coveted title of Army marksman of the year there.

And put at ease by his "home advantage" Doak, pictured right, more than held his own against a truly international field in the Games' pistol events.

His best result came in the 25m centre fire pistol finals, where he finished just seven points adrift of a place on the medal winners' podium, and 13 points behind India's Jaspal Rana, who set a new Games record with his score of 583.

Doak also recorded a top-ten finish in the 50m pistol contest, which was won by England's Michael Gault.



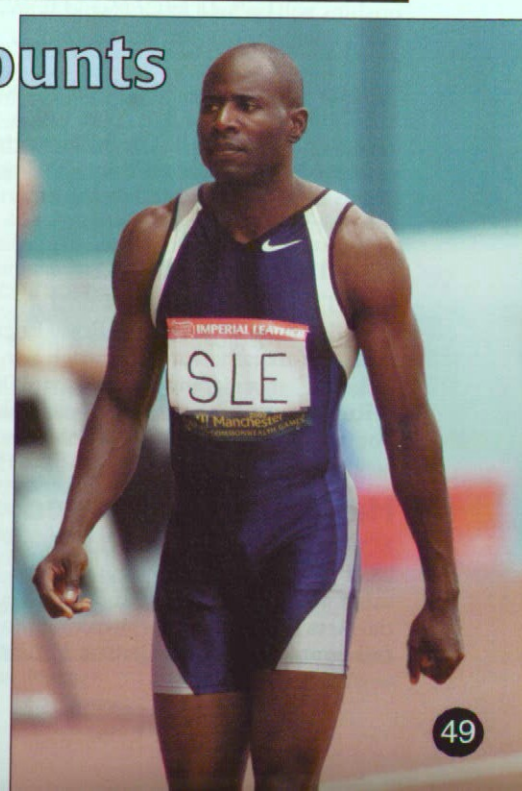
Every second counts

REPRESENTING Sierra Leone in his third Commonwealth Games, LCpl Joselyn Thomas took on England's finest in the 100m and 4x100m sprint competitions at the City of Manchester Stadium.

Thomas, whose twin brother Josephus was also selected as part of the Sierra Leone squad but did not compete, progressed to the second round of the 100m event with a third place finish in heat six – crossing the line just behind eventual finalist Jason Gardener with a time of 10.53sec.

In the next stage Thomas lined up against pre-race favourite Dwain Chambers, but despite shaving six-hundredths of a second off his opening run, finished in fifth place and an agonising 0.02 seconds off a semi-final spot.

The 30-year-old sprinter suffered a similar fate in the semi-finals of the 4x100m relay. The Sierra Leoneans finished in fifth position (0.29sec off a qualification place) behind Nigeria, eventual gold medallists England, Canada and Cameroon.



SHORTS

University challenged

STAFF at De Montfort University in Leicester have been awarded a major project grant of £136,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Board to look into "Sport and the Military".

The three-year fellowship will study the part played by the Armed Services in promoting sport in Britain from the late 19th century to the latter part of the 20th century. It will cover all three Services in peacetime as well as war, and will include sport played by Regulars and, after the Second World War, National Servicemen.

Oar-some achievement

PARATROOPER Maj Murray McLeod-Jones became the first Army oarsman to have both rowed (Thames Cup 2000) and sculled (Diamonds Challenge Cup 2002) at the Henley Regatta this summer.

McLeod-Jones's unique achievement was complemented by the Army Rowing Club's record entry in the international competition. The Army was represented in the single scull, coxless pairs and eights.

For more information about Army rowing contact Maj Mike Schofield on Mil 94371 5436.

New season approaches

THE first race of the 4 Div cross country season is due to be held this month. Anyone who wishes to enter the league should contact WO2 Dot Larmour on Mil 94661 2361.

Tri-ing times for athletes

THIS year's REME triathlon championships will be held at Cotswold Water Park, near Cirencester, on September 15.

Entry to the event, which will include a 400m lake swim, 20km cycle and 2.5km run, costs £18. For further details write to: WO2 (CSM) Wright, B Coy SEAE Regt, Hazebrouck Barracks, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NH.

Runners required

MILITARY and civilian personnel are invited to enter teams for the Royal Engineers half-marathon at Waterbeach Barracks in Cambridgeshire on October 20.

Runners must be at least 17 years old. For further details contact the race secretary on 01223 204458 (Mil 94658 4453).

Hard-hitter rewarded

FORMER Paratrooper Paddy Doyle has been awarded a lifetime achievement award by the United States Martial Arts Association for breaking ten full-contact karate, ju-jitsu and boxing world records.

JUDO

Judo star's Hart of bronze

Scottish protégé wins second Games medal

NOT many sportswomen can claim to be a seasoned international competitor at the age of 21, but LCpl Stephanie Hart already has two Commonwealth campaigns – and two medals – tucked under her black belt.

The Aldershot-based soldier first confirmed her place among judo's elite four years ago, when, at the age of 17, she won Commonwealth gold for Scotland in Kuala Lumpur.

Hart failed to rediscover that unbeatable form at Manchester's G-MEX Centre last month, but still managed to add a bronze to her Commonwealth medal tally after finishing behind England's Simone Callender and Wales's Angharad Sweet in the over-78kg event.

Her bronze was one of ten medals in the sport for the Scots and part of her country's best medal haul since Edinburgh hosted the Games in 1986.

"It was great to come away from Manchester with another medal," she said. "I was really happy to win the bronze, but at the same time I was also a little disappointed with myself. I really believe that I was capable of going one better and winning the silver."

"The Games were a completely different experience to four years ago – there was a far better atmosphere in Manches-

ter," she explained. "Even though I didn't win the gold this time round it still ranks as one of my best sporting memories."

"The support from the crowd was amazing and the cheering during the fights was almost deafening."

Hart, who decided to follow in the footsteps of her father, brothers and uncle, and joined the Army two years ago, now intends to focus on becoming Great Britain's number one on the mats.

"I was number one about two years ago and I intend to fight my way back to the top," she said. "Balancing judo and being a soldier has been harder than I thought."

"My unit has been very supportive and has backed me 100 per cent and I'd love to be able to say that work has not affected my performances, but I can't."

"It is very difficult to dedicate the time needed to become a champion when you have a job outside of judo."

But the Scottish international is not ready to give up on either front and has her mind set on further sporting success.

"My long-term goal is to compete at the Olympics – although that will probably not be in Athens because team selection takes place next year and I'm not back at my best yet – 2008 is a far more likely target."

◆ Hart's Army team-mate Lt Simon Childs was selected to represent Northern Ireland in the Games, but lost in the opening round of the men's under 81kg competition to Nigeria's Omagbaju.

LCpl Stephanie Hart (7 Para RHA) and Lt Simon Childs (RGBW)



Highland fling: LCpl Stephanie Hart, right, beat Nigeria's Eunice Ekeobi on her way to winning bronze for Scotland at the 2002 Commonwealth Games

Picture: Chris Barker

SHORTS

ABF swings into action

THE Army Benevolent Fund Northern Ireland and the Gurkha Welfare Trust Northern Ireland division are holding a charity golf day at the Galgorm Golf and Country Club near Ballymena on September 30.

Entry to the charity competition costs £200 per team (of four golfers) and includes lunch and refreshments.

Anyone interested in taking part in the competition should contact Mr Cook on 0289 0420278 or 07718 373516.

And finally...

EXPECTING an easy run-out, the Combined Services football team readily accepted the offer of a match against passengers aboard the P&O cruise ship Aurora during their recent tour of Gibraltar.

However, when the challengers' team bus arrived at Devil's Tower Camp and the first four players off were Ray Clemence (Liverpool and England), World Cup winner Alan Mullery (Fulham and England), Norman Hunter (Leeds and England) and Ronnie Glaven (Celtic and Ireland), any hopes of a walk in the park evaporated.

All four former internationals made second-half appearances in a closely-fought match which finished in a 2-2 draw.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to September...

ATHLETICS: 8 – Llanberis half ironman (Llanberis, Wales); 15 – Cotswold sprint (Cotswold), REME triathlon championships (Cotswold Water Park).

CANOEING: 6 – Inter-Services marathon championships (Nottingham); 7-8 – Inter-Services sprint championships (Nottingham); 14-15 – Army surf championships (Newgale, Wales); 30-Oct 6 – Inter-Services slalom championships (Grand Tully, Scotland).

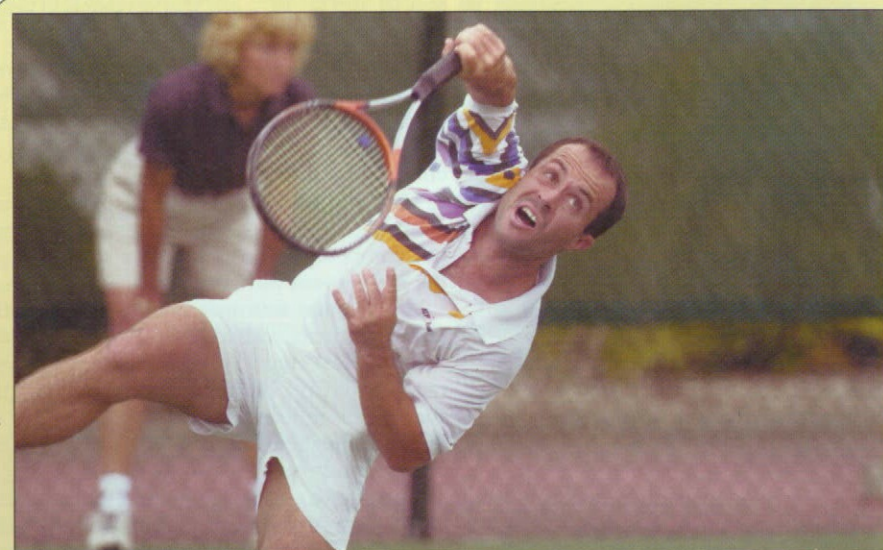
CRICKET: 2 – Scarborough Festival, MCC v Combined Services (Scarborough); 5 – Minor Units final (Aldershot); 6 – Major Units final (Aldershot).

EQUITATION: 2-6 – Beginners course (Warminster Saddle Club); 9-29 – Basic course (Melton Mowbray).

FOOTBALL: 1 – Army women v Southampton reserves (Aldershot); 16 – Uxbridge v Army (Away); 23 – Camberley Town v Army (Away); 30 – Army v Carshalton Athletic (TBC).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 11 – Lawson Cup final (Aldershot); 20 – RAF v Army (TBC); 27 – Army v Navy (TBC).

WINDSURFING: 18 – Inter-corps competition (Netley).



Winning return: Habitual finalist Capt Austin Coventry (RE) en route to the silverware

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Reversal of fortunes

FOR the third successive year the final of the men's singles event at the Thales-sponsored Army tennis championships in Aldershot was contested by Capt Austin Coventry (RE) and Maj Nigel Watts (AGC).

However, in a reverse of last year's result, Coventry defeated Watts, the 14-times champion, 7-6, 6-3.

Watts exacted his revenge in the final of the open doubles competition, where, alongside Capt Ally Mills (REME), he beat defending champions Coventry and Capt Olly Gardener (R Signals) 6-4, 6-4.

In the women's singles final 2nd Lt Sacha Macey (REME) dethroned

reigning champion Capt Nell Mead (RAMC) in an exciting three-set match, which took more than two-and-a-half hours to complete and finished 6-1, 6-7, 8-6.

Unsurprisingly, the pair proved a formidable force in the women's doubles, enjoying a smooth ride to the final before comfortably beating Maj Susie Greenwood (QARANC) and SSgt Hilary Greig 6-0, 6-1.

In the veteran's competition, Maj Bill Herlihy (AAC) retained the singles title for the third successive year and, alongside Lt Col Andy Westcott, took his tally of doubles championships to three.

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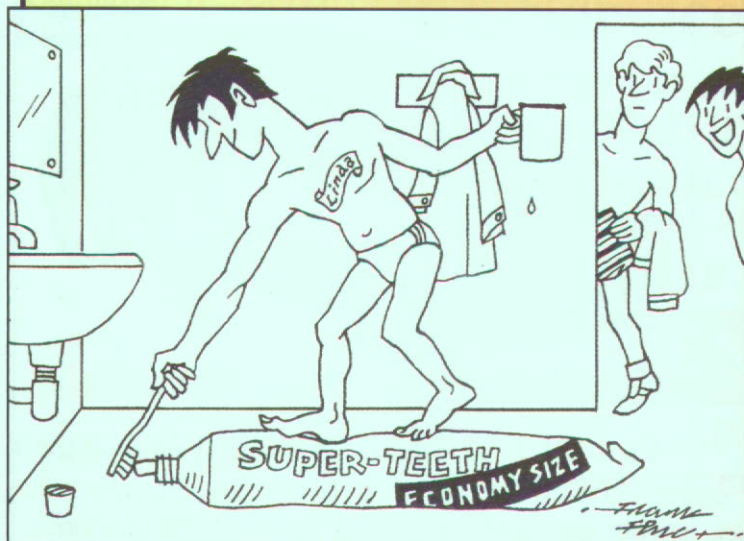
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No 730



How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 730, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by September 30.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn

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

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

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

July issue (No 728): First correct entry drawn at random was from Sgt J Childerley, Optronics Section, ASF, JFLU, Mount Pleasant Airport, Falkland Islands, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr M Burgess, of Bentley, S Yorks and Mr S A Leonard, of Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancs, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: tree branches; gate; Flambo's sleeve; matchbox; flames; can handle; curtain; O in sign; girl's hair; grass under wheel.



Freeze frame

"Pte Snodgrass had forgotten just how allergic he was to stinging nettles"

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in August 1952. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by September 30.



We've awarded the prize for our July competition to D Githero, 118 Recovery Coy REME (V), Corby for his caption: "Keep back, sir, the Naafi wagon has arrived."

We also liked "Flying on Wednesdays spoils the RAF's weekends, so we dry-jumped into Aldershot" from Col (Retd) Roger Thompson, ARU, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot; "Right, lads, 'falling tree' attack tactics...", from Nathan Kedwards, Def Estates, Sutton Coldfield; "High



altitude training was a slow yet progressive process" from LMA Dempsey, Mil Admin Cell, MDHU Frimley Park; "P Section reluctantly agrees to act as targets for bayonet practice" from Simon Saunders, Media Ops, London District; and "It's just like the Arsenal offside

trap. As soon as I raise my arm we all step forward" from Cpl Flynn, UK PC Tp, Mrkonjic Grad, Bosnia.

Finally, a dishonourable mention for Cpl D Parker of 7 Evac Sqn at Tidworth for: "The Execution Regiment's multiple hanging was a great success."

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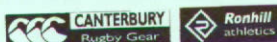
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P158

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P160

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P163

Maria (34), 5'4", slim brunette. Enjoys swimming, dancing, reading and having a laugh. Seeking pen pals, 28-40.
P164

Sally (48), 5'5", with dark hair and eyes, size 12, divorced, out-going and sociable. Enjoys walking and cycling. Seeking pen pals, 40-48.
P165

Sandra (36), 5'5", blonde with medium build. Enjoys music, football, videos/films, learning Spanish, gardening and DIY. Seeking pen pals with a mad sense of humour and must like beer, 30+.
P166

Laura (29), 5'8", medium build with strawberry blonde hair. Enjoys staying in, going out, having fun and all the normal things in life. Seeking pen pals, 26-36.
P167

Catherine (25), 5'8", blonde dental nurse with blue eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs and keeping fit. Seeking pen pals, any age group.
P168

Tanya (26), 5'9", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys watching sports, pubs, clubs, travelling and writing letters. Seeking single male pen pals, any age group.
P169

Deborah (41), 5'2", with red wavy shoulder-length hair and blue eyes. Single graduate and working full time. Enjoys going out with friends, watching Newcastle United win at football, Internet and the cinema. Seeking honest, sincere male pen pals, 38+.
P170

Wendy (39), 5'3", size 12 with dark hair and green eyes. Enjoys clubs, going out for drinks, theatre and general socialising. Seeking pen pals, 30-40.
P172

Irene (33), 5'10", slim, single mum with dark hair and blue eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs and quiet evenings in. Seeking pen pals for friendship and maybe more.
P173

Donna (27), blonde with blue eyes and a great sense of humour. Enjoys reading, listening to music, good nights out but also quiet nights in. Looking for something other than bills to fall through my door.
P174

Jane (38), 5'8", with long curly light brown hair and green/brown eyes. Works as a domestic in an infant's school. Friendly, outgoing and likes meeting new people, animals, writing letters and reading sci-fi. Seeking pen pals in the armed forces, with GSOH and easy going, 38+.
P175

Alison (35), petite with blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys running, holidays, reading and music. Seeking pen pals in the Army, 26-40.
P176

Samantha (32), 5', blonde with green eyes. Enjoys going out, yoga. The rest of my time is spent working and looking after my son Dillon aged 6. Seeking pen pals, 30-40
P177

Michelle (28), 5'5", slim with long dark, curly hair. Enjoys pubs, clubs, music, dancing and horse-riding. Seeking pen pals, any age group.
P178

Rachael (23), 5'10", slim build. Enjoys clubs, pubs, keeping fit and having a good time. Single mum, part-time worker soon to be a college student. Seeking pen pals, 22-30.
P180

PEN PAL REPLIES:

To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to address below:
Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

- * The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies.
- * Replies should consist only of letter and photograph if requested.
- * Replies received more than three months after the cover date, large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

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4th (480 runs, £1,600): LCpl DC Blanchard, 2 R Anglian
5th (478 runs, £1,300): OCdt DRJ Calder, RMCS, Shrivenham
6th (464 runs, £1,000): Capt MS McClellan, RAC Centre Regt, Bovingdon
7th= (455 runs, £600): LCpl M James, 2 PWRR, Aldershot
7th= (455 runs, £600): Pte MN Mason, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon
9th (453 runs, £300): Sig MG Cull, 21 Signal Regt (AS), Chippingham
10th= (447 runs, £66.67): SSgt CG Palmer, HQ RSME, Rochester
10th= (447 runs, £66.67): Sgt RC Walter, MDHU Frimley Park, Deepcut

10th= (447 runs, £66.67): Cpl A Whelan, 3 R Irish, Portadown

20 July 2002

1st (486 runs, £5,800): Capt A Masson, 21 Signal Regt (AS), Chippenham
2nd (483 runs, £2,900): Maj M Alman, Gibraltar Regt
3rd (471 runs, £2,000): Maj S Erskine-Tulloch, AFPAA (WD), Worthy Down
4th (466 runs, £1,600): Cpl C Williams, CATC BG, Warminster
5th (461 runs, £1,300): WO2 GA Stanley, 17 Port & Mar Regt
6th (451 runs, £1,000): Lt Col DG Robertson, ITC Catterick
7th (449 runs, £700): Sgt LD Morgan, ATR Pirbright
8th (448 runs, £500): LBdr A Catterick, 1 RHA, Tidworth
9th (446 runs, £300): WO2 DM Fullman, 200 Signal Sqn, Sennelager
10th= (431 runs, £100): Capt FFA

Cartwright, ITC Catterick

10th= (431 runs, £100): WO2 CJ Lawson, AMF (L) CSS Bn, Bulford

27 July 2002

1st (758 runs, £5,800): WO2 PS Fisher, 152 (U) Amb Regt (V), Lishburn
2nd (743 runs, £2,900): Cpl SLR Cooke, 2 RRF
3rd (730 runs, £2,000): Cpl RTO Lucas, 160 Pro Coy RMP, Aldershot
4th (720 runs, £1,600): Cpl C Morelli, KRH
5th (706 runs, £1,300): Lt Col DJ Lumb, APC - R Sigs/Int Div, Glasgow
6th (705 runs, £1,000): Sgt AJ Stokes, 1 Coldm Gds, Londonderry
7th (703 runs, £700): LCpl J Eltringham, 2 CS Regt, Gutersloh
8th (696 runs, £500): Gdsm RA Biggart, 1 SG
9th (693 runs, £300): Cpl MJ Cooper, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon

10th (689 runs, £200): WO2 KM Hayes, RMA Sandhurst

03 August 2002

1st (379 runs, £5,800): WO2 ND Roberts, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon
2nd= (362 runs, £2,166.67): Sgt DW Evans, 40 (U) Sig Regt (V), Belfast
2nd= (362 runs, £2,166.67): LCpl LK Smith, 3 UK DSR, Bulford
2nd= (362 runs, £2,166.67): Sgt NS Thomas, SEME, Bordon
5th (358 runs, £1,300): Cpl KJ Jennings, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln
6th (349 runs, £1,000): Maj MT Scarff, 2 LI, Bulford
7th= (344 runs, £600): LCpl KS Hanbury, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh
7th= (344 runs, £600): Pte JR Heywood, 4 R Irish, Omagh
9th (343 runs, £300): Maj JST Sykes, 36 Signal Regt
10th (342 runs, £200): LCpl DP Randell, 1 RGBW, Ballykinler

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Radio Equipment sought: I am an ex-Grenadier/collector of foreign military radio equipment ranging as far back as WW 11 and seek examples of radio equipment and ancillaries repatriated during the Falklands, Gulf and Balkan conflicts to add to my extensive working collection. As a licensed radio amateur, I would also welcome contacts from suitably-qualified radio hams. Telephone: Stuart on 01384-872157. 09/02

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SEARCHLINE

Angela Markie asks if anyone visiting **Le Grand-Luce War Cemetery**, Sarthe, south-east of Le Mans, would take a snapshot of her grandfather's grave. He was 2570606 Pte J Allison, killed at Dunkirk, June 12, 1940, serving with 9th Bn, Highland LI (City of Glasgow). He is buried in Row B, Grave 1. Her mother has never seen her father's grave. Replies to djangie_baby@ntlworld.com

Ex-BLA (1944) 52nd (Lowland) Div, 80 Fd Regt RA, especially **318 Fd Battery**, asked to contact **Lt John Marshall**, who is keen to reminisce over **Alton Towers, Forbes and Walchern**. Write c/o Miss C E B Marshall, 25 North Grove, London N6 4SH.

Ray Filler would like to hear from ex-members of **6 Inf Wksps REME Hamm/Munster 1958-61** and **1 Inf Wksps REME, 24 Inf Bde, Kaharwa, Kenya**, especially **Kilimanjaro party**. E-mail rayfiller@eurobell.co.uk

8 Sqn, 27 Regiment RCT (Cyprus 1989-90 UN tour, Gulf 1991) reunion planned. Contact jason.whalley@castlecement.com or 33 Colhurst Drive, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 2EJ.

E&F Sqn, 1963 JTR/ACC, 40th anniversary reunion in February. Phone 01977 730874 or e-mail petermurthick@hotmail.com.

Detail sought on **John McCleod** (or McCloud) who was located in the same house as **de Vos** - The Fox resistance group - in Rotterdam before liberation and returned to NW London area in 1946. Contact Michael Bell, 42 Cambridge Avenue, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2LL, tel 01606 861333 or michael.r.bell@bt.com

R Sigs Jnr Ldrs, Kohima, Iron Tps, 11 Sig Regt, intake 1991-92 reunion. Contact Dean Owen (Kohima) at deanstuartowen@aol.com

ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

Falklands Veterans Foundation fundraising group, set up by Colin Waite, ex-RM, and Derek Cole, ex-RN, will work with the South Atlantic Medal Association to help veterans with psychological wounds and to contribute towards anniversary events in 2007. FVF will benefit from sales of book being compiled by Bob Mullen and Guy (Tug) Wilson, both formerly HMS *Sheffield*, featuring ditties, songs, humour and poetry gleaned from Servicemen and women who spent time in the Falklands. Contributions by e-mail to bobmullennium@hotmail.com or guysaved@aol.com

Details from Colin Waite on 01833 640502.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Soldier of Fortune Gold (July) Winners: LCpl Cook, London; J Malone, 225(H) Fd Amb (V), Dundee; R Hammonds, Ruislip; Joel Jones, Brecon; Chris Robert, Ringwood, Hants; Les Newport, Oxford; Sgt J Ashford, ACIO Mansfield; J Simm, London; Cpl Duckworth, BFPO 808. Answer: John Mullins.

Commandos 2 (July) Winners: WO1 P Duggan BFPO 30; A Ruddock, North Shields; Mrs Ramsay, BFPO 38; Pte Sutton, BFPO 559; S Finneran, W Yorks. Answer: Pyro.

Soundbug (July) Winner: Hazel Rea, Colchester. Answer: Dutchie.



Home front: Mrs Valda Harrold, left, with Lt Col Keith Kiddie outside her old cottage in the village of Tottington, taken over for military training during the Second World War.

Above, a general view of the houses still standing in Tottington.

REUNIONS

6/7 Queen's/PWRR: Annual meeting and reunion, Horsham Royal British Legion, Sep 2 at 1945. Details from Steve Bell 01444 870092

The Staffordshire Regiment: Annual reunion Sep 14 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Details from RHQ 0121 311 3240 or send SAE to RHQ, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY.

Battersea Army Cadets (1930-2002): Reunion to be held Sep 21 at Clapham Junction. Details from Maj McNeil 01442 264515 or Maj Joannau, TA Centre, 27 St John's Hill, London SW11 1TT.

4th (1/4th and 2/4th) and 4/5th (TA) Battalions, The Royal Hampshire Regiment: Reunion at Newburgh House, Winchester, Sep 28. Enquiries and tickets from Maj Ian Taylor, c/o Western HQ PWRR, Serle's House, Southgate Street, Winchester SO23 9EG or telephone 023 80694771.

Junior Leaders' Regiment RE: Reunion in Blackpool, Oct 4-7. Open to all members of the JL Branch of the REA. Book now to secure a place. Contact Tom Graham 01256 420335 or e-mail tom.graham@ntlworld.com or Capt Andy Nixon RE at andy_nixon@lineone.net

Glosters Band and Drums: Reunion in Cheltenham, Oct 5. Details from Jeff Hinchcliffe, 3 Madeley Road, Havercroft, Wakefield WF4 2HU or 01226 701375.

RGBW Freedom of Bristol: Reunion at this event to be held on Oct 12, all former members

of RGBW and forming units welcome. For details ring 01452 522682 or 01722 414536 or log on to www.rgbw.co.uk

Desert veterans: All, including women and QAs who served in any of the Armed Forces during the desert/North Africa campaign are invited to attend a reunion and commemorative events in Perth, Scotland on Oct 26. Contact Dr Tom Renouf MM, 14, Windsor Gardens, Musselburgh, EH21 7LP.

46 (Talavera) Battery OCA: Third annual reunion to be held at the Mabs Cross Hotel, Wigan on Oct 26. Contact Bill Montgomery 01642 659664 or juheemam@hotmail.com

3 Regiment RHA, past and present members' association: Reunion to be held at the Village Hotel, Warrington, Nov 2. Details from WO1 RSM T Lynn (0049) 5051 962479, or www.uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/3rdppma

Rapier maintainers: Dinner to be held Nov 16. Full details from Stu Overal 0118 9763355 or rapiermaintainer@btopenworld.com

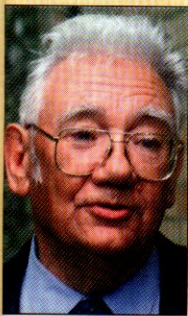
Ex-129 (Dragon) Battery: Sarawak reunion weekend will take place Nov 22-23 at 40 Regiment RA, Topcliffe. Contact Sgt McKenzie 01845 59 5428 or linzi.mckenzie@virgin.net

Ex-REME artificer instruments, serving instruments technician SNCOs: Reunion dinner, WO's and Sgts' Mess at Arborfield, Nov 29. Numbers limited so ring SSgt Everett at SEAE for booking pro forma. Tel 0118 976 3755 (military 94251 2755).

Villagers see homes they lost to war

FORMER inhabitants of Norfolk villages taken over for military training during the Second World War returned for a 60th reunion party at the headquarters of Stanford Training Area.

The military exercise ground extends over countryside once populated by the people of Stanford, Tottington, West Tofts, Buckingham Tofts, Landford and Sturston. But they were cleared on the orders of the War Office 60 years ago to house troops returning from Dunkirk and to train forces preparing for the invasion of Europe.



Return: Joe Balls

More than 80 former residents were welcomed by STANTA commandant Lt Col Keith Kiddie before being taken on a coach tour of the area. They were shown the remains of their old villages and several conservation projects going on in the middle of one of the

Army's busiest training facilities.

Some took flowers to lay on graves of family members in the carefully-maintained churchyards.

Joe Balls, who was brought up in Tottington Post Office, which still stands today, has vivid memories of July 1942: "Some folk had to move away to houses that had previously been declared unfit for habitation. But some came up smelling of roses... they found new houses with electricity, running water and inside toilets.

"They had not seen any of those things in their cottages in Tottington," he said.

The old post office has been used for countless exercises in the past 60 years, so looks a bit different today.

Mrs Valda Harrold walked into her old cottage in Tottington for the first time since 1942. "I can still remember these rooms," she said.



X marks the spot

PLYMOUTH'S Electoral Registration Service has issued a reminder to Service personnel and spouses of the rules for electoral registration.

Since February 16 last year members of the Armed Forces have had the option of registering to vote by Service declaration or by completing an electoral registration form in the same way as civilian voters.

Service declarations are now valid for only 12 months from the date of entry in the register, so it is essential that all members (or their spouses) maintain their voting rights by using one of the two options open to them.

Electoral registration officers (EROs) are required to send a reminder to those whose declarations are due to expire. In Plymouth the number of Service person-

nel registered fell by 2,500 between February 2001 and July 2002, and is likely to increase to 3,000 by the end of the year.

To save disappointment at the next election, all Servicemen and women and spouses are being encouraged to check with their local ERO that they are registered to vote and that their declaration is not about to expire. Local authorities are due to issue electoral registration forms to households this month, giving Service personnel the opportunity of registering in the civilian style.

Anyone who has moved address permanently should apply immediately to have their name added to the register at their new location. Postal and proxy voting facilities are available for those posted away from home.

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: D McDowall, SOinC (A) HQ R Signals, Jun 24.

Colonels: D A R Thorpe, Comdt SEAE, Jun 17; M E Wilcox, DA Bogota, Jun 17; T J P Watts, COS UN HQ Dem Rep of Congo, Jun 17; W H Farrington, COS APC, Jun 24; G Hughes, Col (W) Trg/CAE HQ Dir EME, Jun 24; G A James, Asst Dir J6 Ops Dir of Commitments (Jt Warfare), Jun 24; A M F Potter, Dir Corps of Army Music, Jun 24; D J Clements, Comd 107 (Ulster) Bde & NI Trg Gp, Jul 8; N Dransfield, Asst Dir Ops (Customer and Management Services) AFPA, Jul 8; A D K Inkster, Dep Comd IMATT SL, Jul 12; C J Kitchener, Col Tech Dir SPS(A), Jul 8;

Lieutenant colonels: I C Adkins REME, CM(M), May 20; M Barker REME, BLO Germany, Jul 12; C H G Baulf AAC, DAAvn, Jun 17; A P Bourne AAC, HQ Kfor, Oct 28; I A Brazier RRF, HQ Land, Aug 12; J C Campbell RA, JDCC, Jul 26; J R Chiswell, Para, JSCSC, Apr 8; J W Clark, R Signals, HQ 1(GE/NL) Corps, Sep 2; M R Complin, R Signals, HQ UKSC(G), Jul 15; J W Cooper, R Signals, HQ SOinC (A), Jun 18.

T R Craven, R Signals, SHAPE, Mar 11; B P Edwards, Scots DG, HQ 3 (TU) Corps, Aug

1; R N M Eggar RA, SHAPE, Sep 30; S A Fordham, R Irish, HQ Fd Army, May 31; K R Gillies RS, DSTL, Sep 16; A L Grew RA, DGD&D, Sep 16; J W Hall LI, BCD (A), Jun 1; M A C Harding-Rolls QRL, HQ SFor, Jun 26; G Hearn, R Signals, HQ SOinC (A), Apr 2; D C James QRL, RHQ AFSOUTH, Jul 22.

T J Lai R Irish, UNAMSIL, Jun 17; R W Lapslie, R Signals, Nato C3 Agency, Aug 12; M A J McGovern, R Irish, JSCSC, Jul 1; T D McMurtrie LI, JSCSC, Aug 26; P H Mills, Coldm Gds, MONUC, Jul 9; M P J O'Hanlon, R Irish, NDC, Aug 12; A W Phillips RE, DEP, May 13; C R Prince RLC, HQ Land, Jun 24; D J Pritchard RA, DCS PAC, Aug 30; D R Quinn-Hall RLC, CM(M), Sep 30.

N J Rynn GH, WSBA Cyprus, Jul 31; G Smith, R Signals, TFCS IPT, Mar 19; D L Strawbridge RE, HQNI, Jun 11; T C Tomlinson, Int Corps, HQ MNB(C), Sep 17; A V Tucker AAC, RMCS, Jul 29; T R Urch RE, JHQ Land, Sep 27; D B Warne, R Signals, DCSA, Aug 6; J Whiteley, Int Corps, HQ Land, May 22; J C E Whitwam RRF, HQ 3 (TU) Corps, Aug 1; A G C Wiley AAC, DGD&D, Sep 2; D G Wilson AGC(ETS), IMATT SL, Jul 18; L R Wright RGJ, BLMF SFOR, May 6.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000;

www.armybenevolentfund.com

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

Army Families Federation 01980 615525;

www.aff.org.uk

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's

Association 020 8590 1124;

www.blesma.org.uk

Confidential support lines:

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Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

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Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 01372 841600;

www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families

Association Office (0900-1700) 01482

808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812;

www.ngvfa.com

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011; www.rfea.org.uk

Royal British Legion's Legionline 0845

7725 725; www.britishelegion.org.uk

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment

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

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021;

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

SAMA 82 (South Atlantic Medal Association)

for Falklands conflict veterans 01495 227577

e-mail: densama@aol.com

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783;

www.ssafo.org.uk

SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory

Service 01722 436400

Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions

Agency) 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044

1253 866043 (from overseas);

www.veteransagency.mod.uk

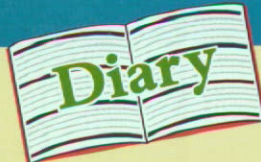
Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA

Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from

outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272

WRVS General enquiries 02920 739906;

www.wrvs.org.uk



DATES

SEPTEMBER

7: Brompton Barracks open day, Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham.
15: Winchester and District Militaria Society annual exhibition and fair, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500.

OCTOBER

26: Golden Jubilee concert in aid of Army Benevolent Fund, featuring Bands of the Dragoon Guards and Parachute Regiment and Minden Band of Queen's Division. Charter Hall, Leisure World, Colchester. Tickets (£13) from ABF on 01206 782169 or box office on 01206 282020.

* A memorial to the **2nd Battalion, The Essex Regiment** has been dedicated at Bayeux, Normandy. The town, which the Pompadours, supported by tanks of the Sherwood Rangers, reached the day after D-Day, was the first to be liberated by the British Army following the June 6, 1944 landings.

Veterans of the 2nd Battalion attended the dedication in the grounds of the Museum of the Battle of Normandy. Later they watched a beating retreat ceremony by the Normandy Band of The Queen's Division and the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

* Maj Derek Heffernan, pictured, holds the Standard presented to **C (Glamorgan Yeomanry) Troop, Royal Artillery (Volunteers)** during a unique ceremony at Cardiff Castle. The occasion was enlivened by the last firing of a Royal Salute

by the troop's 25-pounders before they are replaced by 105mm light guns. After the smoke had cleared the Standard, which had been approved by the Royal Artillery Committee providing it is never paraded when the guns are present, was handed over. Gunner units do not normally have standards

because their guns are considered to be their colours. The Standard was presented by Commander 160 (Wales) Bde, **Brig Robert Aitken**.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths



Lt Andy Cooney, above, a 23-year-old serving with the RLC at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham, is raising funds to finance an expedition that would make him the youngest person to walk to the South Pole. He decided to make the 750-mile attempt from Hercules Inlet to the Pole to raise money for the **Oesophageal Patients Association** after his father contracted oesophageal cancer.

Mike's site is a GEM

CSgt Michael Isted's superb website for The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment has earned him a cheque for £1,000 from the MoD's GEMS staff suggestion scheme.

In his own time, Michael, right, single-handedly constructed the site on behalf of the Tigers after describing their existing material on the Army website as "a bit bland". He was told to put his money where his mouth was – and did so. The result is a website that has proved highly successful as a recruiting tool and won international acclaim. It is also used for communication between the regiment's two Regular battalions, the Territorial Army battalion, cadets who wear the PWRR cap-badge, old-and-bold Tigers and the public.

Michael, who has been serving as signals permanent staff instructor with the 3rd Battalion at Canterbury, is due to rejoin the 2nd Battalion as a rifle company quartermaster sergeant.

See the PWRR website for yourself at www.123pwrr.co.uk



Sent from Coventry?

EXPERTS at the **National Army Museum** are intrigued by a red coat dating from the Napoleonic Wars. The tunic, acquired by the museum at auction, belonged to Lt Col William Troughton, commandant of the 129th Regiment of Foot. The buttons are inscribed "Coventry 129" and the epaulettes are adorned with the insignia of an elephant surmounted by a castle, inscribed "Coventry Regiment". The coat was accompanied by a third epaulette.

Curator of uniforms Lesley Smurthwaite said: "The 129th existed for only two years, between 1794 and 1796. We know the elephant-and-castle motif is the crest of the City of Coventry, but we don't know why the soldiers of this regiment were known as "The Gentlemen of Coventry", or what the regiment's links were with the area."

MELTDOWN? We've just heard that members of a military expedition on Ellesmere Island inside the Arctic Circle lit a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Expedition leader Capt Tom Martin, 1 RGJ, tells us the event was at the Canadian Forces Station Alert, 500 miles from the North Pole. Let's hope the ice was suitably thick.

Music mission to Pakistan

FOUR members of the Corps of Army Music spent four weeks at the Army School of Music in Abbottabad, Northern Pakistan to assess training and prepare musicians for a joint concert with the Band of The Royal Dragoon Guards. The quartet was **CSgt Malachy Bellew** and **Pipe Maj Brian Kidd**, both R Irish, **Sgt Phillip Hopkins**, IG, and team leader **WO1 (Bandmaster) Jason Griffiths**, RHG/D.



Father John Harvey, left, became the first priest to be ordained in St Augustine's Church, Holly Road, Aldershot in its 95-year history. John,

who retired from the RAMC in 1998, is employed as regimental secretary of the corps. Based in Camberley, he will minister at St Augustine's, where he and his

family have worshipped since a posting to Cambridge Military Hospital in 1974. His ministry will be on a part-time basis alongside the vicar, **Fr Keith Hodges**.

School lunch for Annand VC

RICHARD Annand, at 87 one of the oldest surviving holders of the Victoria Cross, was an honoured guest at his old boarding school in Pocklington, East Yorkshire, after **Maj Roger Chapman**, curator of The Green Howards

Museum told the headmaster about his deeds while giving a lecture at the school on holders of the VC. The first man to win the medal in the Second World War, 2nd Lt Annand was serving with the Durham Light Infantry near Brussels on May 16, 1940 when his platoon ran out of ammunition while under attack. He was wounded as he drove the Germans off with hand grenades, but returned after treatment to inflict further heavy casualties with grenades.

When the platoon eventually withdrew, he rescued his injured batman, carting him off in a wheelbarrow before losing consciousness from his wounds.

Maj Chapman and **Brig Andrew Farquhar**, Commander 15 (North East) Brigade, both old boys of Pocklington School, joined the headmaster, governors and Combined Cadet Force officers for lunch with Mr and Mrs Annand.

A depiction of the young officer pushing his batman to safety is to be cast in bronze and incorporated in the school's new art and design centre.



Richard Annand VC

St Augustine's enjoys ordination of one of its own



Although the World Cup is already a distant memory, we thought it worth sharing with readers the good fortune of Army chefs **WO1 Tim Crawshaw**, of HQ 1st Signal Brigade at Rheindahlen, and **Sgt Matt Boyle**, pictured above, a member of 7 Signal Regiment at Elmpt Station. They found themselves watching Brazil beat Germany in the Yokohama International Stadium after winning a raffle organised by Naafi and British American Tobacco. The two travelled and lived in luxury, flying club class from Heathrow to Tokyo and spending four nights in Yokohama's five-star New Grand Hotel. They reckon the exquisite pre-match VIP meal – lobster, caviar, truffle, shitaki mushrooms, washed down with fine champagne and wines – gave them plenty of ideas for the Combined Services Culinary Challenge to be held at Sandown Park Racecourse on October 7-9.

Craig's designs on terror flyers

AS the horrified world looked on a year ago when aircraft were flown by terrorists into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Centre, one British soldier put his mind to how such an atrocity could be prevented.

Sgt Craig Whyting, who is serving at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester, sent his idea to Virgin boss Sir Richard Branson and then to President Bush himself.

Drawing on his deep and abiding interest in aircraft, Sgt Whyting came up with an idea for what he has called his Aircraft and Airport Anti-Terrorist Intelligence System (AAATIS).

"It's not a complete design, merely a concept," he told *Soldier*.

His system comprises a computer link from air traffic control to the aircraft. If the plane is hijacked, the on-board computer sends a signal to the ground, where flight control is overridden.

Although Sgt Whyting's brainchild would not necessarily mean that passengers on the aircraft itself would be safe in the event of a hijacking, he believes it could prevent terrorists from flying into a ground target as they did on September 11.

Colours saved again

A BATTLE flag rescued from the Buffalo River in South Africa after the disastrous defeat at Isandhlwana on January 22, 1879 has been hermetically sealed to save it from disintegrating. The Queen's Colour of the **24th Regiment**, which hangs in Brecon Cathedral, and the Regimental Colour which accompanies it, were sheathed in high-grade acrylic material after an anonymous benefactor met the costs of a preservation appeal.

During the battle, in which the British force was virtually wiped out by a Zulu army, Lts Melvill and Coghill were ordered to save the Colour. They fought their way to the banks of the Buffalo River, where they were cut down, and the Colour was carried away by the river. The two young officers were awarded posthumous Victoria Crosses.

College company honours links with Burma veterans

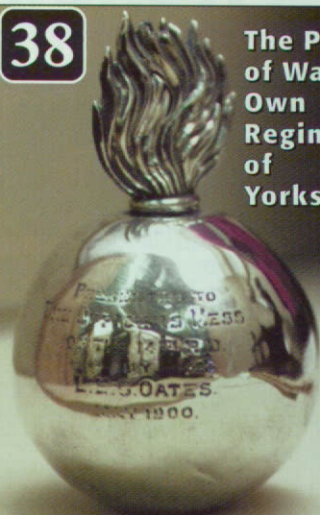
JUNIOR soldiers training in **Burma Company** at the **Army Foundation College** in Harrogate deployed to the National Arboretum to work on the Burma Star Memorial Grove.

Armed with shovels, pickaxes and wheelbarrows, they dug paths and trenches, planted trees and shrubs and moved a statue so that it faced East. Permanent staff from the college were also involved in the work, which is part of the company's ongoing tribute to those who fell in the Burma campaign and its close links with Burma Star Association veterans.

Legends of the regiments and corps

38

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire



Silver grenade: A lighter presented by Capt Laurence Oates to his old battalion

Gift of a true hero

A PRESENT to his old battalion from a quintessential English hero is a treasured artifact in the regimental museum of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire in Tower Street, York.

Capt Laurence Oates presented a cigar lighter in the shape of a grenade to his old regiment, the 3rd Militia Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own, on transferring to The Inniskilling Dragoons in May 1900.

Thirteen years later the manner of Oates's death while on Scott's successful but ultimately ill-fated expedition to the South Pole earned him a special place in history.

He had joined the party to look after the ponies that Scott was relying on to get his supplies into position.

SACRIFICED HIMSELF

On the desperate return trip from the pole, Oates sacrificed himself in the belief that his colleagues would make quicker progress without him. Scott recorded in his diary that Oates, who was crippled by frostbite and weakened by hunger, walked out into a blizzard with the words: "I am just going outside and may be some time".

It was, wrote Scott, the act of a brave man and an English gentleman.

The Oates connection is a further link between the two parts of the military museum, which also houses the collection of The Royal Dragoon Guards. Both recruit in Yorkshire.

The Military Museum of The Royal Dragoon Guards and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire at 3a Tower Street, York, can be contacted on 01904 662790. Admission is £2 (adults), £1 (senior citizens and children) and the museum is open Mon-Sat 0930-1630.

www.armymuseums.org.uk

Calling all curators: If your museum has not yet appeared in this column, please contact the Editor

Retail reconnaissance

Switched on . . .



ENDANGERED SPECIES

YOU might have thought that the Monkey made famous by the ITV Digital ads was an endangered species. Indeed, until now, he's been so rare that he's been traded on internet auction sites for as much as £80. But thanks to the gadgetshop you can now buy a lager-swilling, curry-eating sidekick of your own.

① £25, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).

FLAT PACKED

DESIGN meets functionality in this slimline FM desk radio.

Measuring just 125mm x 88mm x 10mm deep it is perfect for use at home, in the office or out in the field.

Requiring two AA batteries, the Slimline Radio, pictured below, has an easy-to-use scan mechanism and automatically homes in on the strongest signal.

① £10, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).



PROPELLER POWER

THIS revolutionary new Sea-doo Seascooter is one of the lightest and most efficient personal water propellers in the world.

Ideal for swimming, snorkelling and diving, it can run at a speed of up to 2mph at a depth of up to 30ft and has a built in buoyancy regulator.

Its battery lasts up to one hour and comes complete with mains recharger.

① £330, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).

Game on . . .

CAPCOM VS SNK PRO, PSX

A FOLLOW-UP to the original arcade title, *Capcom Vs SNK Pro* pits 15 fighters from Capcom's *Streetfighter* series against 15 from SNK's *King of Fighters* and *Fatal Fury* games.

Although dated in appearance compared with the slick 3D titles now available on next-generation consoles, this 2D PlayStation title more than matches its contemporaries in terms of gameplay.

One for the beat-em-up purists, *Capcom Vs SNK Pro* offers players a variety of proven game modes – including arcade, pair match and single player.

The arcade mode features a novel points system which enables players to choose up to four characters to take into each bout. Each character is assigned a value from one to three points depending on ability and players are given a four-point team total.

All modes allow the players to select either the Capcom or SNK groove fighting styles, regardless of which stable they select their fighters from. The SNK groove lets players charge their own power bar by pressing a combination of buttons, whereas with the Capcom groove the power bar fills after successful attacks. Once either bar is filled players can unleash their characters' special moves. In addition, gamers can select normal or turbo-play modes.

VERDICT: Classic arcade action.

8/10

OUT NOW



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

For your chance to win one of five copies of *Capcom Vs SNK Pro* for the PlayStation, simply answer the following question:

How many *Streetfighter* characters are featured in *Capcom Vs SNK Pro*?

Send your answer on a postcard to *Capcom Vs SNK Pro* competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU by October 1. Usual rules apply.

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

ELECTRONIC Arts have announced that super-spy James Bond will be back on our computer screens by the end of this year.

James Bond 007: NightFire is set to feature a single-player storyline that stays true to 007's 40-year legacy of intense action and intrigue.

THE multiplayer real-time PC strategy game *Time of Defiance* will celebrate the birth of a sibling this November, as Nicely Crafted Entertainment (NiCE) announces a version for Pocket PC 2002.

While most PPC games are stripped-down ports of grander titles, the handheld *Time of Defiance* includes all the features of the home version – enabling players to log-in and update their progress during full-blown network games. This is the first time Pocket PCs and desktop PCs have been able to network in such a game and marks a technological leap in the field of wireless gaming.

EIDOS Interactive is set to release its second title for Nintendo's GameCube next month. *Ace Golf* is being touted as a fast-paced golf game combining comical characters with real-world golf physics and intuitive gameplay.

PRISONER OF WAR, PS2, XBOX & PC OUT NOW

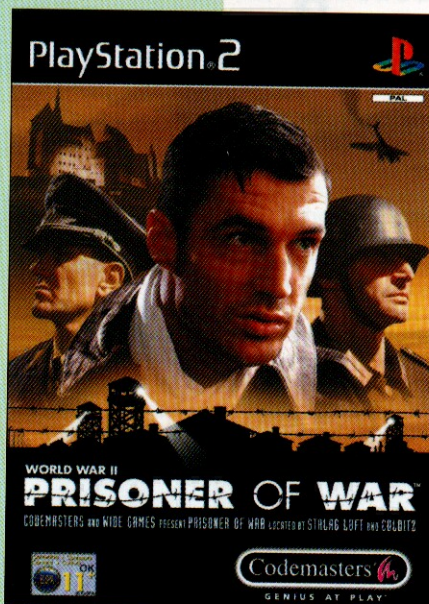
IN normal circumstances stealing a car, breaking and entering, and impersonating an officer will land you in the glasshouse, but in *Prisoner of War (PoW)* these are offences that need to be mastered to ensure a safe passage out of prison.

Based on the heroism of Allied escape attempts from German prisoner-of-war camps during the Second World War, Codemaster's 3D adventure delivers a tense gaming experience where the only weapons available are the gamer's bravery, stealth and cunning.

Players assume the role of Capt Lewis Stone, a pilot shot down over enemy territory, who discovers that German scientists are using the cover of their camps to develop a piece of highly advanced weapons technology.

Stone must use all his ingenuity to reach restricted areas, steal objects and undertake an audacious plan to uncover information. Daringly avoiding guards both at night and in broad daylight, he has to find a way to report his findings to Churchill's Special Operations Executive in London.

Refreshingly this is a game where you can not rely on huge explosions, blowing the enemy away and racing around at breakneck speed. Instead players have to think their way out of their situation, hiding in the shadows, using items they have found or stolen and turning the camp's routine against itself.



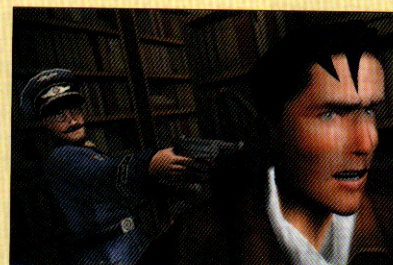
To add to the authenticity of the title, *PoW*'s developers, Wide Games, have created accurate models of both Stalag Luft and Colditz Castle and the camps' guards run their patrols with realistic military precision thanks to state-of-the-art artificial character intelligence.

VERDICT: First-class stealth-'em-up gameplay. 9/10

WIN...WIN...WIN

SOLDIER has joined forces with Codemasters to offer you the opportunity to escape to victory.

For your chance to win one of ten limited edition copies of *Prisoner of War* for the PlayStation 2, simply answer the following question:



What rank is held by *Prisoner of War*'s lead character Lewis Stone?

- a) Lieutenant
- b) Private
- c) Captain

Send your answers on a postcard to *Prisoner Of War* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by October 1. Usual rules apply.

CRICKET 2002, PC & PS2

OUT NOW

WITH all ten international teams represented, *EA Sports' Cricket 2002* is the most definitive cricket title on the market.

The gameplay revolves around a television-style presentation, which includes full action replays, a third umpire, animated ducks and graphic overlays.

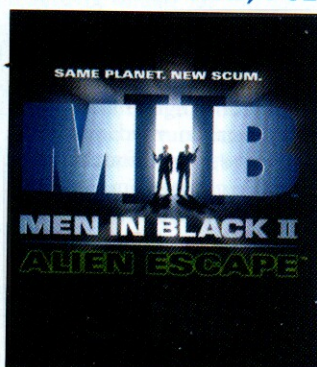
And for cricketing buffs there is no end to the detail with commentary by the legendary Richie Benaud, 22 accurately modelled stadia and the option of playing in test matches or one day internationals.



VERDICT: Worth two boundaries. 8/10

MEN IN BLACK 2, PS2

OUT NOW



VERDICT: Master blaster.

7/10

MEN In Black 2: Alien Escape is not your run-of-the-mill movie tie-in – it's actually quite good.

This 3D, third-person shooter from Infogrames allows gamers to play as either Agent Jay (Will Smith) or Agent Kay (Tommy Lee Jones) as they attempt to save the Earth from the worst scum of the universe – again.

Equipped with an arsenal of unearthly ammo, players' fingers will rarely stray from the trigger as they pursue extraterrestrial escapees through New York City.

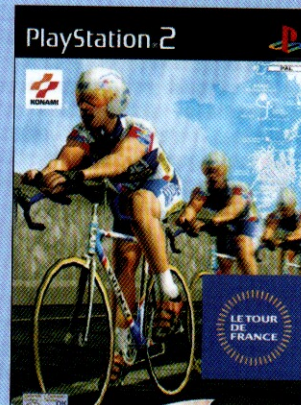
LE TOUR DE FRANCE, PS2

OUT NOW

KONAMI's cycling simulator *Le Tour De France* showcases the skill and endurance needed to secure the Maillot Jaune – cycling's most famous yellow jersey.

Strictly adhering to the rules of the world-renowned tournament, the game also faithfully recreates the many towns and locations of the actual race.

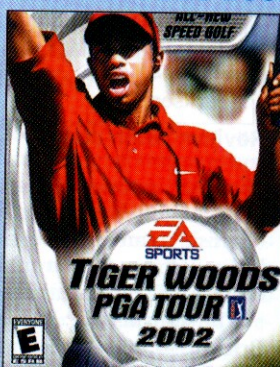
This attention to detail extends to the gameplay, where players can opt to take part in training sessions, short arcade races or the long haul of the actual Tour de France.



VERDICT: Perfect? On your bike. 6/10

TIGER WOODS 2002, PS2

OUT NOW



VERDICT: Tee-rific.

8/10

Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2002 allows golf fans to test their putting skills on seven different courses – including four real-life PGA Tour venues; Pebble Beach Golf Links, Sawgrass, Royal Birkdale and Princeville.

Players can also choose to compete as, or against, pros such as Tiger Woods, Colin Montgomerie and Vijay Singh; or as amateurs such as Taa Vatu.

But perhaps the game's biggest asset is its split-screen/speed golf mode, which lets players compete against each other in a race for the hole.

Military memories of remote beauty spot

MEMORIES of time spent in the Outer Hebrides and St Kilda as a National Service lieutenant form the basis of this fascinating history by James Mackay. **Soldiering on St Kilda** (Token, £29.95) is full of quirky details, befitting such a beautiful and bizarre posting. Where else would you find a military base in the middle of a nature reserve commanded by an education officer? The most remote of the British Isles, St Kilda's military history stretches back to the Jacobite Rebellion 1745-6 and until 1999 it was still occupied by the Army.

Gripping account of celebrated stand-off

ADRIAN Greaves brings something new to the party with his reappraisal of **Rorke's Drift** (Cassell, £25), the famous engagement where 85 British soldiers, although outnumbered 45 to one, still managed to hold off six full-scale Zulu attacks at the cost of only 27 casualties. Research suggests that while Rorke's Drift was the scene of undoubted bravery – 11 Victorian Crosses were awarded – there were also flagrant cases of cowardice. The author believes the battle was "spun" to divert attention from the appalling British mistakes at the earlier defeat at Isandhlwana.

Tigers' tracks leave historic fighting trail

COPIOUSLY illustrated with black-and-white photographs, **Fighting Tigers: Epic Actions of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment** (Pen & Sword, £19.95) charts the characters and commanders of its various battalions through 14 classic actions and campaigns. Author Matthew Richardson tells the regiment's story from the siege of Ladysmith, through the world wars and on to the hills of Korea and the jungles of Borneo, at each stage recording the honours won. This is a detailed work but not overwhelmingly so, allowing the voices of the men who fought to speak vividly through its pages.

Telling a book by its cover

IT must be unusual, if not unique, for a book not to display its title on the front (see right), but in the case of **Galloping out at Windsor** it seems understandable. After all, who would want to spoil a work of art?

This limited-edition publication, compiled and edited by Maj (Retd) William G Clarke, records the work of the late military and equestrian artist Miss Joan Wanklyn and her association with The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery over a period of 44 years.

For once, you can tell a book by its cover. Most of the paintings and drawings reproduced in this stunning landscape-format book – described in Gen Sir Alex Harley's foreword as "mini-masterpieces" – were reproduced on King's Troop Christmas cards which became collector's items. The last of these appeared in 1999, the year of the final Royal Tournament and the year the artist died.

The book is available at a special rate to serving personnel of £25 per copy plus £5 p&p, from Maj (Retd) W G Clarke, The Ramblers, 199 Bulford Road, Durrington, Wilts SP4 8HB (fax 01980 653426), e-mail abfabook@waitrose.com

Soldier ordering service

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

● Book briefs – Page 71

Exploding the Chindit myth

Wingate's men were brave, but did not 'turn the tide'. That happened at Kohima and Imphal

The Imperial War Museum Book of the War in Burma, 1942-45 by Julian Thompson (Sidgwick and Jackson, £30).

Review: Brian Jewell

IT WAS in Burma that the British fought their longest land campaign of the war, but "British" is an incorrect description: far more Indian troops fought in Burma than all the other Allies put together.

The statistics are: 340,000 Indian, 100,000 British, 90,000 African and 65,000 Chinese. The 10,000 Americans who also took part included 47 USAAF squadrons compared

with the 51 of the British and Commonwealth. Beginning on December 14, 1941, when the Japanese took Victoria Point on the southern tip of Burma, this deadly and uncomfortable campaign came to an end in August 1945, when the first nuclear weapon in history was dropped on Hiroshima.

The author does not set out to give us a campaign study but rather to provide the reader, by means of oral and written material from some of the men involved, what it was like to fight in this war.

These accounts reveal in vivid detail the horrors of the vicious struggle fought in an unfamiliar and hostile climate on a difficult terrain against a highly motivated and resourceful enemy.

Some of it does not make pleasant reading, with descriptions of hand-to-hand fighting and the ever-occurring theme of hara kiri by hand-grenade and on one occasion by means of the jagged lid of a bully-beef tin, for the Japanese soldier sought at all costs to avoid

capture and very few prisoners were taken. The fact that it was a matter of honour not to fall into the hands of an enemy explains the contempt in which Allied prisoners were held.

In popular opinion, Maj Gen Orde Wingate's Chindits (men of the 3rd Indian Division, whose name was derived from the Chinthee, a mythical animal half lion, half eagle guarding the entrance to Burmese pagodas) have been synonymous with the Burma campaign, but in fact they were only a part of the picture, making their first appearance in action on February 14, 1943.

In Julian Thompson's view, "The Chindits achieved much on a personal level in courage, endurance and sacrifice... Less clear is what they achieved in the overall operational-level picture."

The author also quotes the view of the Chindit Lt Richard Rhodes-James (mistakenly listed with his brother, Capt William, in the index as Rhodes-Jones) as taking the view

that although the media frequently claimed that Wingate turned the tide, he did not – it was turned at Imphal and Kohima, March-April 1945, by the 14th Army.

Although Thompson's densely-packed documentary spares us no horror, it is frequently leavened with humour, notably in the character of Lt Col Robert Scott of the Royal Norfolks, a man of redoubtable presence and energy whose career was interrupted by an injury caused by his misjudging a kick at a Japanese grenade.

According to CSM Gilding, Scott was heard to exclaim: "Cover my bloody arse up!" as the stretcher-bearer removed his nether clothing to apply a field dressing.

Well detailed with glossary, maps and photographic material as well as a comprehensive chronology of the campaign, **The Imperial War Museum Book of the War in Burma** presents a memorable record of the sights, smells, sounds and experiences of a war collected by those who were there.

Shedding light on shadows of history

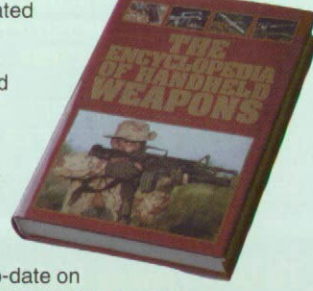
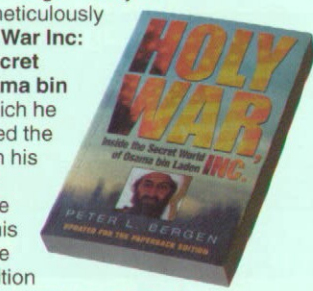
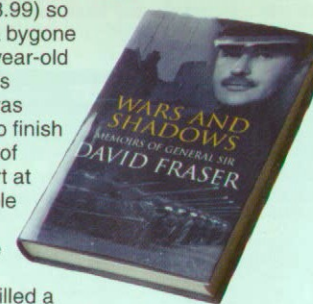
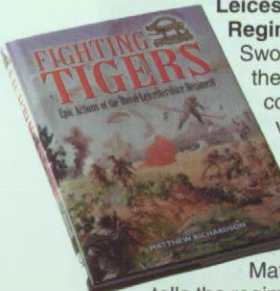
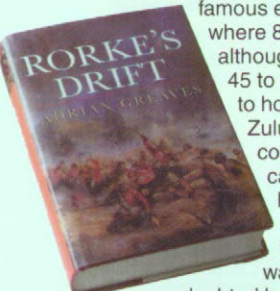
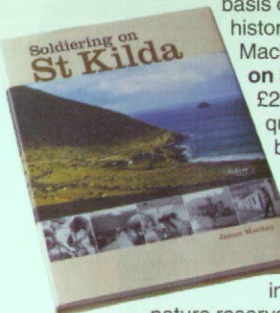
IT'S the personal touches that make **Wars and Shadows: The Memoirs of General Sir David Fraser** (Penguin, £18.99) so evocative of a bygone age. The 82-year-old recalls how his grandfather was encouraged to finish off decanters of claret and port at the dinner table while still a boy, the same relation who accidentally killed a fellow student during a friendly sabre duel at university. The anecdotes continue through war, Whitehall and years spent in the Ministry of Defence, revealing glimpses of great figures including Eisenhower and Montgomery.

Bin Laden still alive, terror analyst argues

WHEN terror hit America a year ago, CNN's Peter L Bergen was just finishing his meticulously detailed **Holy War Inc: Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden**, for which he had interviewed the man himself in his lair four years earlier. Now he has updated his analysis for the paperback edition (Phoenix, £7.99) and argues among other things that pending results of American DNA tests on the remains of al-Qaida fighters, there is not a scrap of evidence to suggest that the world's most wanted man is dead.

Encyclopedic – but only up to a point

WHILE **The Encyclopedia of Handheld Weapons**, edited by James Marchington (Brassey's, £16.99), extends to more than 350 illustrated entries and is undoubtedly a substantial and valuable international guide, it is surprising that this newly-published British work is not more up-to-date on developments concerning our very own SA80 personal weapon, or the L85A1 as it is referred to throughout. To be fair, recent media speculation on its future came after publication, but there is no mention at all of the £92m modification programme which followed adverse reports on aspects of its performance.



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EXAMPLE ONE

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Six copies of Mel Gibson blockbuster to win

RELEASED this month is Mel Gibson's Vietnam War film, **We Were Soldiers**, and we have six VHS copies to give away.

Co-starring Madeleine Stowe (**The General's Daughter**) and **The Last of the Mohicans**, the film is based on the events surrounding the brutal battle for Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley – the Valley of Death.

The story was first told by Lt Col (later Lt Gen) Hal Moore and war correspondent Joseph L Galloway in

their book **We Were Soldiers Once... and Young**. Both men lived through the battle and vowed to tell the story of the troops who died there.

Mel Gibson plays the part of Moore, whose regiment of 400 found itself surrounded by more than 2,000 North Vietnamese soldiers and drawn into a savage fight for survival.

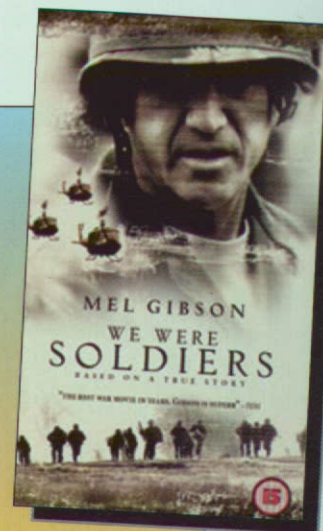
To have a chance of winning, tell us on a postcard which sci-fi film first rocketed Aussie superstar Mel Gibson to fame and fortune. Was it:

a) **Mad Maude** b) **Mad Mike**
or c) **Mad Max**

The first six correct answers drawn from the hat will win the videos.

Remember to include your name and address. The closing date is September 30 and the usual rules apply.

● **We Were Soldiers** will be available to buy or rent on VHS and DVD from September 2. It is being released by Icon Home Entertainment. More information is available at www.weweresoldiers.com



BOOKS IN BRIEF

The New Face of Terrorism: Threats from Weapons of Mass Destruction by Nadine Gurr and Benjamin Cole. The eerily prophetic book, published well before the events of a year ago, is now updated to take account of September 11 and asks: What next? (I B Tauris, paperback, £14.95.)

The Full Monty: Montgomery of Alamein 1887-1942 by Nigel Hamilton. Controversial biography, now out as a chunky 900-page paperback. (Penguin, £8.99.)

Blindfold and Alone: British Military Executions in the Great War by Cathryn Corns and John Hughes-Wilson. The Army executed 346 of its own men, but they were only about a tenth of those sentenced and most were deserters rather than cowards. This masterly study, first published last year, is now out in paperback. (Cassell, £16.99.)

England's Last Hope by Louis Samuels. Light-hearted memories of National Service in the Royal Corps of Signals, 1956-58. (Paperback, £9.99 plus £1 p&p, from Finial Publishing, 15 Hoburne Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 2SL.)

74 Days – An Islander's Diary of the Falklands Occupation by John Smith. Originally published in paperback in 1984, now in hardback with updated postscript and previously unpublished photographs. Part of the proceeds will go via the Army Benevolent Fund to charities supporting veterans of the South Atlantic campaign. (Quetzal, Old Basing, Hants RG24 7EB, £12.95.)

The Traveller's Good Health Guide by Ted Lankester. Indispensable handbook for military and civilian travellers alike, with new sections on diseases such as anthrax and ebola. (Sheldon Press, paperback, £9.99.)

The Tattered Remnants by Eric Burgoyne. Recollections by a Royal Corps of Signals sergeant major of the appalling quest for survival among 500 officers and men who

escaped from the fall of Singapore, only to be captured by the Japanese in Sumatra. (Book Guild, £17.95.)

British Army: A Pocket Guide 2002-3 by Charles Heyman. Amazing detail on organisation, equipment and tactics, plus useful abbreviations guide, crammed into 208-page compact paperback. (Pen and Sword, £4.95.)

Espionage: An Encyclopedia of Spies and Secrets by Richard M Bennett. Spook anoraks will devour this. One can only surmise it is not quite as "comprehensive" as is claimed. (Virgin, £20.)

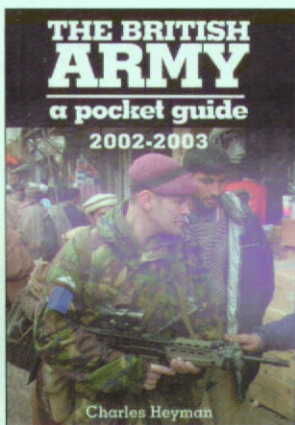
Anti-Aircraft Artillery by Ian V Hogg. Second World War and Korea gunnery veteran's history from 1870 to the present includes 170 photographs. (Crowood Press, £19.95.)

Bonaparte's Horsemen by Richard Howard. Those unfamiliar with these historical novels in the Sharpe and Hervey moulds have a lot of catching up to do – this is the sixth in the series. Almost as much fun will be trying to guess the author's real identity: we are told Richard Howard is the pen-name of a best-selling author. (Time Warner, £15.99.) The fifth in the series, **Bonaparte's Avengers**, is also published in paperback. (Time Warner, £5.99.)

The Illustrated Directory of Modern American Weapons, edited by David Miller. Detailed text makes up for the fact that appreciation of some of the stunning double-page pictures is restricted by the tightness of the binding. (Salamander, paperback, £8.99.)

Churchill's Desert Rats 2 by Patrick Delaforce. Story of the 7th Armoured Division, in the soldiers' words. (Sutton, £16.99.)

The Amazing Hiram Maxim by Arthur Hawkey. Colourful "intimate" biography of the inventor of the machine gun and the electric light bulb, whose philandering and bigamy did not exclude him from royal circles. (Spellmount, £18.99.)



VIDEO/DVD

Private Elvis is not another exposé of the singer's love life but the story of his US Army service, 1958-60. Recent interviews with his buddies and colour cine film of his off-duty moments show his vulnerability and why he was so popular with his fellow soldiers.

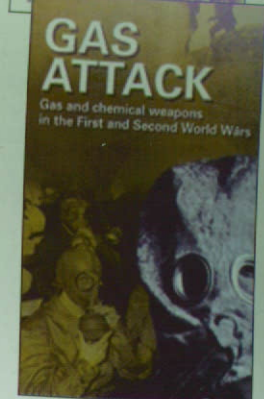
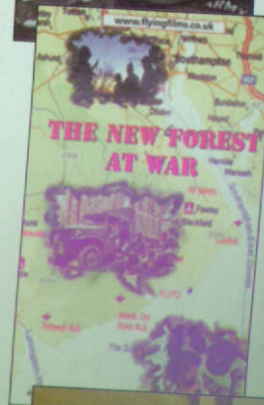
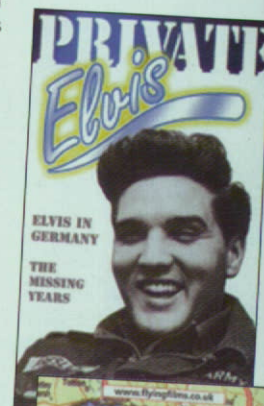
While this is a must for all devoted fans, they may be disappointed that some of the soundtrack songs seem to be performed by a very good soundalike rather than the great man himself. (DD Video, 75min approx, £10.99.)

The New Forest at War, featured in our January Diary, mines a rich vein of historic film footage – some recently discovered – to tell the story of this beautiful area's vital role in the D-Day operation.

The hour-long video also makes clever use of re-enactments, aerial photography and personal anecdotes. Available from outlets in the South including Aldershot Tourist Information Centre and the Airborne Forces Museum. Also direct from Flying Films, Roundway Studios, 50 Roundway, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 7QD. Cheques (£14.99 plus £1.75 p&p) payable to Flying Films.

Gas Attack uses previously unreleased training footage, public information films and once top-secret archive material to reveal the horror of gas warfare during two world wars.

If they had invaded Japan conventionally instead of atomically, the US apparently planned to gas 25 cities. Available in shops at £12.99 or direct from DD Video, Unit 1, Pool Bank Business Park, High Street, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8JH or 24-hotline on 01829 741490 (add £1.75 p&p).



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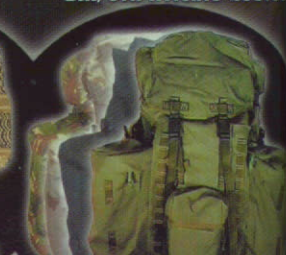
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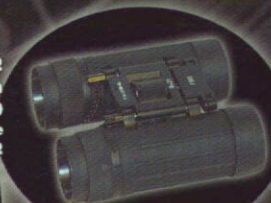
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SOLDIER to soldier

Posh way to beat the stress

ENGLAND cricketers on Ashes duty in Australia this winter are being offered a video-phone system as a way of staying in touch with their families and easing the stresses of the tour.

The system is, apparently, the same one used by Posh and Becks during the World Cup.

Seems like a good idea for our lads and lasses in the Balkans, Sierra Leone, Kabul and elsewhere. We already know the concept is feasible, because, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, 22 Engineer Regiment in Pristina set up a live video link with loved ones back in Tidworth.

It wasn't perfect – delays and dodgy vision quality were reported – but was still enthusiastically received.

◆ ◆ ◆

The cricket authorities have turned to technology to help star players tormented by personal problems exacerbated by time spent away from home and children.

Many in the military community, for whom long absences in dangerous parts of the world are part of the job, will feel that an English winter spent playing games in the Sydney sunshine is a doddle. To be fair, cricketers selected for the Ashes trip, a tournament in Sri Lanka and the World Cup in South Africa could be away for nearly eight months.

◆ ◆ ◆

After the players expressed strong support for the idea their employers, the English Cricket Board, threw itself behind the project. Sports psychologists have said personal unhappiness can contribute to physical breakdown, so if a video-phone can contribute to a joyful team returning with the Ashes, it would be well worth treating them to some Beckham-style facilities.

Video-phone links are not cheap, but if they are a good thing for Posh, Nasser and the lads, they could just do the biz for our boys in Bosnia.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

It might be the silly season . . .

. . . but not for these families moving to new quarters

IT may be September as you read this, but as I write it is August, the slough of despond for journalists, when all sane humanity is taking a break, switching off, and no news is definitely good news.

The politicians have retreated to their constituencies or, more likely a foreign villa, the telly is churning out programmes for the brain-dead, the newspapers are deep into the silly season and someone appears to have pressed "pause" on life's video tape.

But things go on pretty much as normal for soldiers and their families. Take three friends of mine who have just moved quarters on posting. One was on her own with two boys and a dog while her husband flew to Kosovo to join his new unit with no time to see his family settled; another moved from one abysmal quarter to another not quite so abysmal, but still with a non-functioning boiler and no lock on the back door (and yes, the housing people did know about both problems well in advance).

The third experienced the worst move so far, thanks to an inefficient removal



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

outfit. None of my friends fell apart as a result, of course – although they may have banged their heads just once or twice on the nearest wall or had a quick bawl in the loo. They just got on with re-creating their home in another house as quickly as they could, not to mention sorting out little essentials such as schools, doctors, dentists and jobs. As we do.

It says something about the system that none of the three had a stress-free move – par for the course, except possibly in the Northern Ireland Move Out trial!

I sometimes wonder what would happen if the Services and their families weren't quite so wilco about getting on and making the best of it, and doing the very best job despite the circumstances.

I confess we gave up on quarters on this last posting – well, Him Indoors and I are pretty old-and-bold, and we're almost next on the Escape Committee's list, so it was time to borrow a chunk of money to buy our own shack.

All we have to do now is work into our seventies to pay it all back

No easy answers to these concerns

BEFORE knocking off to run away and play in the garden with our very own netties, I finished work on a full report of the events at AFF Conference 2002 for the September *Families' Journal*. Concerns raised by Army spouses and families' officers in the 550-strong conference audience included:

*** When is the delayed upgrade programme of DHE housing in England, Scotland and Wales going to be completed?**

*** Why are there no flights for children of separated parents overseas?**

*** What is going to happen about partners, and is anyone going to ask Army families how they feel about the issue?**

*** Why can't families use military dental facilities when NHS dentists are so hard to find?**

*** Why are we losing surplus quarters needed for welfare purposes?**

*** Why are children over 18 not in full-time education entitled to a bedroom in**

the family's quarter?

*** Why are foreign spouses not entitled to travel home?**

*** What can be done about the cost of first and last moves?**

Needless to say, none of these questions found easy answers, but the discussion on each topic by our Question Time panel revealed the difficulties the Army and the MoD have in meeting expectations, and their resolve to do more.

You can read what they had to say in the September *AFJ*, now arriving at a unit near you.





Stitch in time saved the MoD £122.50

RECENTLY a very small area of stitching on my issue Gore-Tex Proboots came undone. As the boots were new and in otherwise first-class condition, I asked in the quartermaster's department where I could have them repaired.

I was told there was no contract for the repair of footwear and that I should hand them in, to be disposed of. When my unit goes to Kosovo in October I would be issued with a new pair.

I took the boot to a local cobbler who repaired it in less than ten minutes and charged me £2.50. The last time I saw these boots advertised they were £125 a pair. With MoD budgets always overstretched, is there a case here that needs addressing? – **Name and unit supplied.**

▲ Land Logistic Support responds:

There is a standard procedure for reporting defective new equipment through the chain of command to the relevant Integrated Project Team (IPT). In this case the Gore-Tex Proboots should have been returned to Defence clothing IPT with a completed defect report (MoD form 1197) in accordance with Mat Regs Vol 3, Pam 1, Sec 1, para 119 & 120.

Funding is available within brigade budgets for cobbler repairs where authority is granted.

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them brief. The more space you take up, the less room there is for others, and we are anxious to use as many as we can.

E-mails should include your name and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication). Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

Please be brief

Our trooping jet showed its age

ON a recent air trooping flight from the UK to Hannover I noticed that the civilian aircraft concerned, a "senior citizen" Boeing 737, looked even more tired and elderly than the usual selection.

Checks with the Civil Aviation Authority showed that the aircraft, G-BYYF, was 23 – older, in fact, than many of its passengers. Although I'm sure the reputable company which owns it conforms with all CAA safety requirements, any study of air accidents will show that advanced age leading to catastrophic fatigue and failure plays a part in many of them.

Two examples are the recent apparent mid-air break-up of a Taiwanese 747 of a similar age, and the superb airmanship of the pilot of an ancient Hawaiian Airlines 737 who landed safely after a large part of

the fuselage and some of the passengers disappeared in mid-air.

Where the lives of soldiers and families are concerned, the emphasis should be on absolute safety rather than the price of the contract. I will in future decline to travel on air trooping flights until more modern aircraft are used.

The comment of a crew member to the effect that "Concorde is older" is irrelevant, since those aircraft spend

a comparatively short part of their life in flight and the airlines do not aim to make a profit, so that the cost of maintenance is not a factor.

The same applies to the RAF's remaining VC-10s, quite apart from the fact that the latter are renowned as being built like the proverbial "brick khazi". – **David Chown, 35 AEC, Osnabruck.**

Prize letter

SO2 Airlift Charter, Defence Transport and Movements Agency, responds: It is confirmed that the aircraft in which David Chown travelled was manufactured in 1979. However, all aircraft chartered for MoD requirements are either registered within the UK or USA, or are national flag carriers.

By articulating this controlled requirement with each Invitation to Tender, it is mandatory that aircraft operators conform to rigorous national safety, airworthiness and maintenance regulations.

Specifically, the fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft chartered on the Germany trooping schedule, operated by European Aviation Air Charter, is registered on the Boeing Ageing Aircraft Programme. This involves a series of stringent periodic structural and corrosion checks on each aircraft. Most of these 737s are "half-life" aircraft, which means that they have accumu-

lated flight hours and landings equivalent to 50 per cent of the aircraft's design life. The aircraft in question – G-BYYF – has more than half its life remaining.

Regarding the interior condition, the airline confirmed that unlike most of their B737 fleet, this particular aircraft has not yet been through the interior refurbishment programme, so the seat covers are still in their original Sabena colours. Additionally, the aircraft is also a Quick Change type and has therefore carried cargo containers, which cause wear and tear to overhead lockers. These will be refurbished during the aircraft's next major C-check, which was due in August.

If readers wish to pass comment on any aspect of a charter task, then Annex A to DCI JS 72 2002 can be completed and submitted for investigation. If required, a response will be provided.

Home loan starting age to be same as Navy's

I AM hoping you can shed some light on my confusion concerning the Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP). For those not in the know, this is, according to the Army pamphlet "Should I stay or should I go", an interest-free loan of up to £8,500 for house purchase available to Armed Forces personnel. What the pamphlet fails to mention is that this is available only to people over the age of 35 – if you happen to be in the Army or the Royal Air Force. The Royal Navy makes it available to personnel from the age of 23.

With house prices spiralling out of control, it would make sense for the Forces to encourage all personnel to get a foot on the property ladder as early as possible, making the eventual transition into civilian life that bit easier.

Or does the Army believe that 35 is a good age to wait until you purchase your first house, leaving you paying a standard mortgage until your 60th birthday? – **SSgt S Lamont, NICSS Regiment.**

▲ PS10(A) responds: SSgt

Lamont is correct in highlighting the differences between the Royal Navy and the other two Services regarding eligibility for LSAP. Neither the Army nor the Royal Air Force believes that 35 years is a good age to wait until purchasing property.

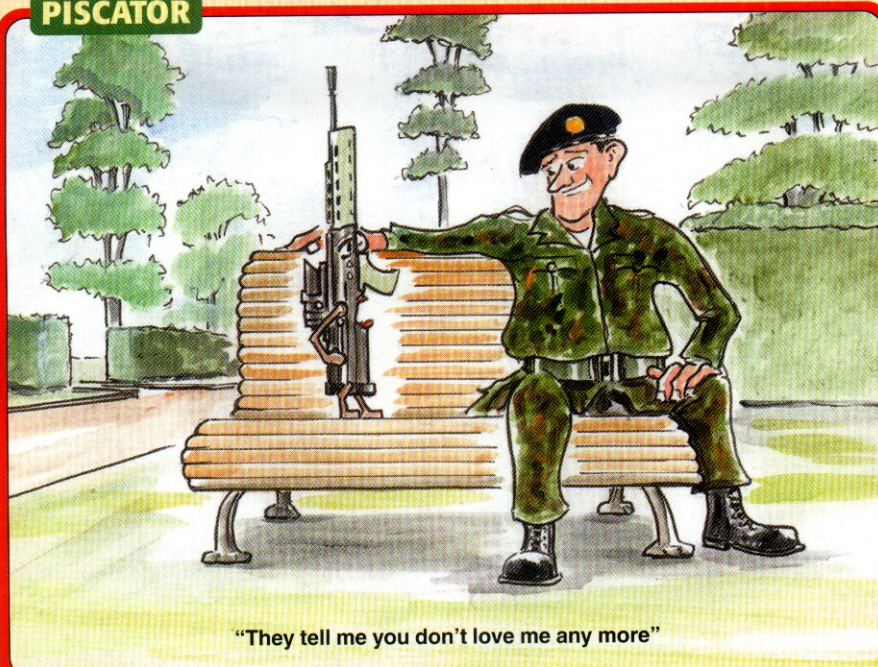
We are reviewing the scheme this year and will put recommendations forward for implementation. Our aim is to harmonise with the RN, removing inequities, and to provide our soldiers with a 12-repayment profile, as enjoyed by their naval counterparts. This review was planned for last year but delayed while costing work was carried out.

The introduction of LSAP for the

Army and RAF was as a replacement for the Assisted House Purchase Scheme, withdrawn in 1996. The scheme had existed in the RN for almost 20 years. On introduction we recognised the benefits of the scheme but, regrettably, affordability was a major factor. It was for that reason that the difference in eligibility exists.

We recognise the benefits of home-ownership and are currently trialling an Assisted House Purchase and Letting Scheme in the Colchester area. If it is successful, we would hope to extend the scheme worldwide. Full details will be published in *Soldier* as soon as they become available.

PISCATOR



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I was let down by a mortgage agent

DURING the property boom of the late 1980s I bought a flat in London to provide a capital base for house purchase when I came to leave the Forces. The rent effectively paid the mortgage.

This was not widespread at the time as there were very few lenders who would provide a mortgage for what has now become known as "buy to let".

The only way to do so then was through specialist agents. I found such an agent through the recommendation of a fellow Serviceman who had the same aim and had obtained a mortgage.

My flat has never been empty and capital growth has been very good. All very satisfactory . . . except that the endowment to cover the mortgage was mis-sold by the agent; so ruled the Ombudsman in

July last year after I had fought for a year for compensation.

But that was only the halfway stage. Another year of embattled correspondence with the agent eventually saw me move through various levels of compensation offers to a final settlement of more than £17,000.

The agent who sold me the original policy was based in Surrey. I know he dealt with other serving personnel at the time. My message is simple, if you have had similar dealings, look very closely at your policies and if you think you may have been mis-sold an endowment, take your case to the Ombudsman.

It's hard work and takes time but ultimately may be worth the effort. – **Name and address supplied.**

PS . . .

Parade of swords

I WONDER if any of your readers have a sword tucked away in the attic?

At Sandhurst we are currently increasing our holding of swords for ceremonial parades and would be very happy to give a dignified new life to a family heirloom.

We are in the process of refurbishing our stock so could accept swords which are not up to parade standard. We would of course arrange collection. – Col Michael J Vacher, late RA, Chief of Staff, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4PQ, or e-mail Ac.hq.rmas@dial.pipex.com

Gallant fellowship

THE response to your story ("League open to gallant members", Update extra, March) was so great that the Gallantry Medallists' League has decided to offer a new class of membership called Friends of the League.

It is open to all holders of Level III gallantry awards and their families and encompasses the following: British – DSC, MC, DFC, AFC, QGM, DSM, MM, DFM, AFM and, when awarded for gallantry, CBE, OBE, MBE and BEM. Australia – DSC, DSM, CSC, Medal for Gallantry, Bravery Medal. Canada – Medal of Military Valour, Medal of Bravery. New Zealand – Gallantry Decoration, Bravery Decoration.

The league aims to promote a spirit of comradeship, assist members in distress and need, organise social events, reunions and parades and provide information through a newsletter.

More details from D Harper GM, Hon Secretary, The Gallantry Medallists' League, 3 Orchard Close, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 2DF. – Lt Col (Retd) J M Gaff GM, President, Finchampstead, Berks.

Plan your career

I WISH to reply to Rob Aldridge (June 2000) regarding his idea that some Forces personnel could benefit from studying for a degree. I am partly in agreement, although higher education is only one option.

Having worked with Service personnel and their spouses since March 1997, it has become apparent to me that, for a variety of reasons, individuals do not plan their careers early enough. For those with three years to complete (or, if you prefer, 36 pay statements) now is the time to start thinking about the transition. You will have to overcome various hurdles before you reach the winning line. Even then, there is no guarantee that you are going to like civilian life.

It is vital to ensure as smooth a path as possible towards a new life/career and by using careful preparation and planning, coupled with motivation, engaging in the early stages of the process should be less painful. Good luck on your journey. – Peter Frew, careers adviser, Ipswich.

Bottle of pop was dearer behind wire in Bulford

I RECENTLY went into the Naafi Spar shop in Picton Barracks, Bulford, which is "behind the wire". I noticed that a small bottle of Coca Cola was priced at 89p, while the identical item was priced at 85p in the nearby Naafi Spar outside the camp.

I asked the shop assistant if the bottle was marked with the correct price, and she told me that it was. She explained that Naafi Spar has a policy of raising prices within camps.

I spoke to the Naafi Spar Regional representative on July 16 and was told that shops outside camps are considered to be the same as their railway platform kiosks (her example), and items are priced accordingly. She said that in this way Naafi Spar can "maximise profits".

It cannot cost more to deliver to two shops, which in Bulford's case are 200 metres apart. The staff costs cannot be different and I imagine that rental is probably cheaper inside camp. Insurance premiums, for instance, should reflect the higher amount of security afforded by perimeter fencing and guard patrols.

Is Naafi Spar guilty of having a policy aimed at victimising soldiers who use their outlets within camps? Even though the price difference in this case is very slight, it can mount up. — **Cpl Colin Harker, RMP, Bulford.**

▲ **Heidi-Beth Hudson, Head of Marketing, Naafi Spar, responds:** Your correspondent raised the issue of differences in price between Naafi outlets. Cpl Harker is absolutely right; we do operate a multi-level pricing policy, offering products at different prices in the UK and internationally, depending on a combination of factors that take into account overheads and the cost of transporting goods.

This is a common policy operated throughout the retail sector.

Unlike the rest of the retail sector, Naafi does not retain any profit it makes and returns funds to the Services welfare funds at both tri-Service and local level throughout the world.

It is not in our interests to mark up prices to the disadvantage of customers, who will choose to go elsewhere.

In the specific case of Bulford, I agree that with two shops so close together this pricing policy is unsuitable and we will now change our prices so that these two shops are both on the same (lower) price band.

Many thanks for drawing our attention to this issue — we do value comment from our customers.

Please have respect for singlies' private spaces

AS a ten-year, time-served corporal, I have been given great responsibility in the workplace, but as soon as I leave work and return to my single-living accommodation I am treated like a recruit.

After a hard day at work most soldiers like nothing better than to go "home" and relax — something that is not always possible as they may be subjected to a short-notice block inspection for the following morning. Any plans for a relaxing evening go out of the window, as the whole block has to be cleaned for inspection, no matter how few people might be available to do the work.

In my female accommodation block, communal areas are cleaned on a weekly voluntary basis.

My main objection is to room inspections, which are intrusive and do not respect my right to privacy. The average age in my block is mid-20s, so why can we not be trusted to maintain the standards in our own personal space, having shown in the past that we are more than capable and take pride in them.

Would the powers-that-be allow me to inspect their accommodation? I think not. I understand that, theoretically, married quarters are subject to the same type of inspections, although I have never heard of any married quarter being checked except for cleanliness at handover.

Allow us singlies the same respect as married personnel — privacy in our own home. — **Name and unit supplied.**



Gun-ho: The magazine-fed Bren, above foreground, was finally abandoned for the fast-firing, belt-fed, open-bolted GPMG, right, pictured during the Falklands War

Machine-gun lessons of 1945 are long forgotten

WITH public concern about infantry weapons at something of an all-time high, your brief report (July) on trials for a new light machine-gun (LMG) caught my eye. It took my mind back to the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham in 1989, around the time the SA80 was coming into service.

Dan Rasschen — inventor of the Rasschen Bag for supporting mortars on soft ground — was one of the senior lecturers on weapons technology there.

He reminded us that experience had constantly shown the Bren gun (a magazine-fed weapon with a closed-bolt action and a low rate of fire) to be significantly inferior to all the German machine-guns, (all belt-fed, all firing from an open bolt) of the Second World War. That is why the

Bren gun was eventually abandoned in favour of the fast-firing, belt-fed, open-bolted General Purpose Machine-Gun (GPMG).

He also pointed out that the light support weapon (LSW) was shown in trials to have the further disadvantage of growing so hot in sustained use, such as might be expected in an honest-to-God fight for your life, that it became impossible for firers to rest their faces on the cheek-piece and take aim.

As we congratulate ourselves on learning lessons from Sierra Leone, Kosovo and Afghanistan, we might well ask how many of them are lessons forgotten since 1945. — **Maj P A Sturtivant, RRF, Army Management Consultancy Services, Camberley.**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1977: The last exercise under 7th Artillery Brigade in Germany also proved to be the swansong of two of the weapon systems – the Thunderbird missiles of 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment and the 40/70 Bofors guns of 16 Light AD Regiment.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1952: SSjt S P Boardman REME, above, with two modified Weasels. Painted orange so they can be seen in the snow, the vehicles will be used by four soldiers preparing to spend two years in the wastes of North Greenland with a 25-strong British expedition.

PS...

Tailors' business

IN response to the letter referring to the payment for court-mounting of medals (Aug), Army policy is quite clear (see Mat Regs, Vol 3, Pam 10). Court-mounting is a dress decision of the individual director for each arm or corps. The Army Dress Committee at MoD PS12(A) does not authorise the court-mounting of medals at public expense.

When an individual complies with their parent arm or corps dress regulations, the cost is a private matter and borne by the individual. Should the services of a local contracted tailor (providing military tailoring services authorised at public expense) be used, the tailor may charge whatever he or she thinks fit.

Monies exchanged are a private business transaction between the individual and the tailor, which explains why the monies obtained by tailors for court-mounting of medals are not subject to public audit.

Mat Regs for the Army do authorise the tailoring of swing-mounted medals at public expense, a service which is subject to public audit.

The Logistic Support Inspection Policy, owned and disseminated by Land Log Sp, does not require the inspection of a contract tailor's services and costs. This is a budgetary matter which rests with the local formation HQ or contracts branch. The Logistic Support Inspection deals with the audit of the clothing account in accordance with the policy procedures detailed in Mat Regs for the Army Vol 3 and Interim Supply Chain Procedure No 20. – WO1 (Cdr) M P Hammond RLC, Log Sp Br (Supply), HQ Land.

Our war in Malaya

I WAS interested in the articles on the 20th anniversary of the Falklands War (June). A pity no such coverage has ever appeared on the Malayan Emergency. Perhaps this was because it was never called a war, although a war it surely was.

During the 12 years between 1948 and 1960 more than 100,000 members of the Armed Services were involved, with close to 2,000 losing their lives due to enemy action – numbers far in excess of both the Korean and Falklands wars.

There were no parades for troops when they returned home, and to my knowledge there is no national monument to honour their achievements. They were awarded the General Service Medal, but no distinctive medal was struck.

These men, the majority of whom were National Servicemen, accomplished something the Americans could not do in Vietnam. They beat the communist forces, stopped the Domino Effect in East Asia and ensured the people of Malaya a peaceful future.

All forgotten now, except for those who served there. – Richard Scott, ex-Suffolk Regiment, Tappen, BC, Canada.

Where do we stand on £1,000 bonus?

A COLLEAGUE and I recently returned from deployment, both of us having spent more than 280 days out of the UK in the past two years. We believed we were in line for a £1,000 bonus, as advertised in the regimental administration office, but were informed by pay staff that neither of us had qualified.

They also told us that when you receive a Longer Separated Service Allowance

PS10(A) responds: Your correspondents are raising what is essentially a pay and allowances query as opposed to a challenge to current allowances policy. The rules on receiving LSSA are unequivocal – although we are conscious of the fact that they are somewhat complex.

The LSSA(AT) bonus is a taxable lump sum of £1,000 payable to those who have been receiving LSSA for 280 days or more in a two-year period.

A second taxable bonus of a further £1,000 (LSSA(AT+)) is payable to individuals who receive LSSA for 365 days or more within the same two years.

Because bonuses may only be made once within any given two-year period, each bonus is subject to two separate counts, each starting on the same date. The first day of this count is known as the qualifying date.

(LSSA) for the first time, your total is returned to zero. You are then on a rolling two-year period and, on the anniversary of the first payment, you again return to zero. The only advice published in the RAO office reads: "If you spend over 280 days out of the UK in any two-year period you qualify for a £1,000 bonus".

Where exactly do we stand? – Names and addresses supplied.

Once an AT bonus is paid, the AT count is reset to zero – the effective date being the second anniversary of the qualifying date. The count for the AT+ bonus continues; however, the AT+ count remains valid only until the second anniversary of the qualifying date, after which it is also reset to zero.

The correspondents obviously feel that they are entitled to these bonuses. Any soldier in this position should set out a case with all the relevant dates and facts for adjudication through the chain of command.

If their RAO believes them to have a good case and that the rules are either arbitrary or require alteration, the case must be dealt with by PS10(A), who are responsible for policy.

If the RAO or a higher level within the chain of command rejects their case, they may appeal for a ruling at a higher level or submit a Redress of Complaint.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Creature comforts

There is a widely-held belief that the RAF enjoys comforts only dreamt about by their Army counterparts. We asked soldiers in former RAF barracks at Bruggen (now Elmpt Station) for their opinion

Sig Kimberley Smith, 7 Sig Regt

I recently joined the regiment from phase two training and am in single accommodation, where we have our own rooms. But there is a lack of storage space. I have used the WRVS facility on the camp and the bars have a relaxed atmosphere.



LCpl Matthew Page, 7 Sig Regt



The RAF has a reputation for higher-standard accommodation and facilities, so coming to a former RAF station I thought it would be much better than it actually was. Facilities were more on a par with the Army than we believed. Although I was in an old-style single room at

Krefeld, accommodation here is 100 per cent better, with kitchen facilities and a common room. The big problem is getting into town, especially for those who can't drive. They have to rely on taxis or scrounging lifts. When they get a few more amenities on camp it will be an improvement.

compared to the housing my family had in Northern Ireland. The Army has only just moved in so they have to concentrate on getting the working side of things up to speed before starting on the amenities.



Cpl Eddy Head, 280 Sig Sqn

My wife wasn't impressed with the quarter, which she regards as small compared with our last place when we lived in Germany. There are some good facilities – the camp has a swimming pool and there are parks where I can play with my kids. We could do with a families' bar. The big drawback is that to go off



camp you need a car.

Lt Brian Jeffery, 16 Sig Regt

Accommodation in the mess is very good and the quarter is very impressive, with decent-sized bedrooms and a good cellar. Given the size of the camp, there are few facilities, but more are coming on-line. The site also has an exercise training area behind the wire, which is a big bonus.



WO2(SSM) Den Yates, 255 Sig Sqn, 16 Sig Regt

I live in married accommodation at Wildenrath, [a large married quarter community nearby] and the standard is very good. We have teenage children and needed a big place to accommodate them. For space, location and amenities, it is the best we've had. It would be a good template for the Army for future planning.



LCpl Paul McInnes, 12 Flight, AAC

I am in married accommodation, which is so-so, the usual Army-standard. But it is nothing



WO2 Gordon Calland, RLC, att Rhine Area Wksp REME

The workshops and offices are good but we don't have a toilet facility, although there is one

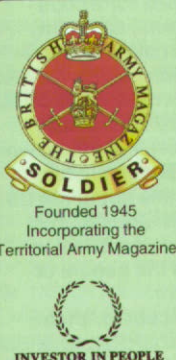
nearby. The camp does have a good fitness centre, there are plenty of sports facilities and the Naafi has been upgraded.

Capt Sue Jeffery, 7 Sig Regt

I prefer Elmpt to Krefeld, my previous station. The mess accommodation is very good. The sporting facilities are OK and getting better. Some people think it is remote but I think it is nice and peaceful. We have units on site that are in the same corps, which creates a good atmosphere.



Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Steve Dock



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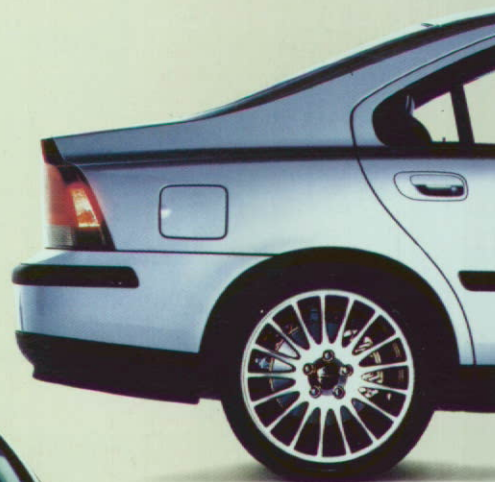
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