

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

SOLDIER

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VIRTUAL IRAQ

Cyber cure for
combat stress

LATIN LIAISON

Falklands adversaries
find common ground



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SOLDIER

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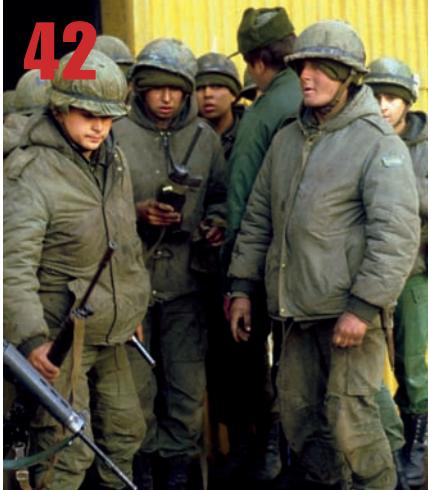
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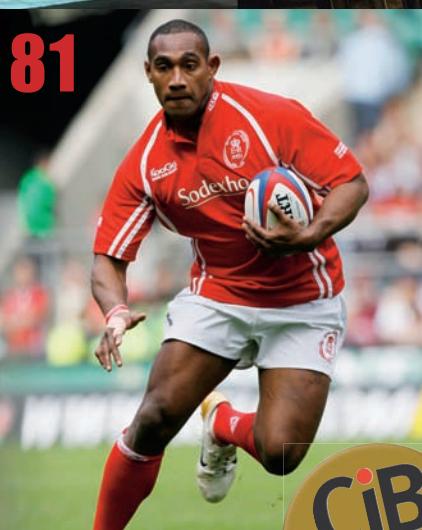


Cover picture (left): A virtual tour of duty – scientists develop a cyber cure for combat stress. See Pages 19-21 Picture: Steve Dock

Background image: State-of-the-art training – A Coldstream Guardsman launches a dawn attack during Wessex Warrior, a collective training exercise run by the newly-formed Field Training Group (UK). See Pages 23-25 Picture: Steve Dock



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"It may be popular with our lot, RSM . . . but the Muktar insists that LCpl Stephens's high-volume rap is driving some of his people into the ranks of the Taliban for some peace and quiet."

● Hotstepper – Pages 33-35

'We did our job'

IT WAS an extraordinary sight. A former British infantry officer and more than a dozen Argentine Marine veterans talking about a war in which they fought on opposite sides – a war that claimed more than 1,000 lives.

It was a meeting of reconciliation that had started nervously in the lobby of a Buenos Aires hotel; a few words of introduction through an interpreter, some cautious gestures of welcome. But just a few hours later there were handshakes and hugs as the time came for them to part.

These men were separated by just about every barrier imaginable – by country, hemisphere, language and politics. But what ultimately united them was their shared experience of battle. Their common military values of loyalty, respect, sacrifice and professionalism came to the fore.

The reminiscences that came from both sides were remarkably similar – the sense of black humour, the comradeship and life on the wind-swept islands. And their words were almost indistinguishable – "great courage on both sides", "proud to fight as gentlemen", "a war from another era" . . . and "we did our job".

Interviewing Argentine veterans (see Pages 42-43 and 90) was, perhaps, a controversial assignment for the British Army's in-house magazine. War is not impersonal; forgiveness and reconciliation between veterans can, understandably,

FIRST SIGHT

be impossible. But with the military facts of the campaign well established, we felt we owed it to a generation born after the momentous events of 1982 to let them hear the voices of those who were there and read of the personal sacrifices made. Above all, we must ultimately appreciate the effect of war on those we send to fight.

For some veterans, both British and Argentine, the Falklands War is still being fought today.

In his response to a letter ("Advance in reverse", April), Brig Jamie Gordon, the Director of Personal Services (Army), wrote that 100 per cent advances of travelling expenses could be made to lance corporals and below and for collective arrangements.

No longer, unfortunately. He tells us that since he penned his reply there has been a change to MoD policy in that only 90 per cent can be advanced (except for resettlement course fees) and the dispensation for lance corporals and below and collective arrangements has been removed.

It seems things can move as quickly in policy-making as on operations, but not necessarily for the better. ■

Courageous call

Respected commander endorses decision to cancel Prince's tour of duty

A VETERAN Army commander has praised the Chief of the General Staff for making the difficult decision to pull Prince Harry out of his tour of Iraq.

In an exclusive interview with *Soldier*, Col Bob Stewart said it was clear that the third-in-line to the throne was facing a "specific and direct threat" in theatre and that Gen Sir Richard Dannatt should be commended for his brave call.

The retired officer also stressed that soldiers, whatever their background, could expect the same treatment if they were likely to be personally targeted.

Col Stewart, who commanded the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment during the Bosnian civil war, added: "If the Army considers that anyone, whether prince or pauper, is facing a specific threat it is highly likely they will be removed from theatre.

"This has happened before with troops under my command and in Northern Ireland – Prince Harry is no different and everybody is treated equally."

Col Stewart was speaking after Cornet Wales's removal from the forthcoming Op Telic 10 tour sparked allegations of preferential treatment in the media.

Reports in some newspapers quoted bereaved family members of soldiers killed in Iraq, claiming they were angry at the decision to keep the Prince at home. But in announcing the move, Gen Dannatt emphasised that the proposed deployment of the young officer, who is serving with the Blues and Royals, had always been kept under review.

He made his final decision after wide consultation and a personal visit to Iraq.

Gen Dannatt said: "There have been a number of specific threats, some reported and some not reported, which relate directly to Prince Harry as an individual. These threats place not only him but also those around him to a degree of risk that I now find unacceptable.

"A contributing factor to this increase in threat has been widespread knowledge and discussion of his deployment. Now that I have decided that he will not be deploying with his troop, the risks faced by his battle-group are no different to those faced by any other battle-group."

Gen Dannatt said he had asked Prince Harry's commanding officer to develop the Royal's career but declined to speculate on his activities over the months and years ahead.

Clarence House later confirmed that Prince Harry was "very disappointed" to have been pulled from his tour but he remained committed to his career.



Picture: Steve Dolk

Disappointed: Cornet Wales, a troop leader with the Blues and Royals, will not deploy on Op Telic 10

JPA hits the ground running

THE Army is on course to have its Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system at full operating capacity by the end of July.

Initial response from units suggests the process of paying individuals under the ground-breaking self-service admin regime has been hugely successful.

As this issue went to press, 167,000 passwords had been issued and units were logging on in an "order of march" drawn up by HQ Land.

JPA, which became a reality for the Army at the end of March, has been overseen by an ops room at HMS *Centurion*, the

Royal Navy's shore establishment near Portsmouth. It guided both the Navy and the Royal Air Force when they introduced the system.

Drawing on the experience of the other two Services, the Army has been able to resolve swiftly the small number of low-level hiccups, mainly concerning paying by cheque individuals who have no bank account. One lesson learned is that it is vital that everyone accessing JPA has a bank account.

Units have reported the system to be user-friendly and easy to access and say it has speeded up the payment of claims.

Paper Talk

What the Press has been saying

● CHOCOLATE that doesn't melt in the mouth may not sound that appetising, but for British troops struggling in Iraq's fierce temperatures, it could be a godsend. The milk chocolate in their ration packs soon melts in the desert heat of 40C or more. But Australian scientists are developing a recipe for bars which remain firm at temperatures as high as 49C. The chocolate will be distributed to their soldiers within a few months – and the recipe will be passed on to British troops. – *Daily Mail*

● THOUSANDS of squaddies have been getting extra pay for polishing their boots – due to an obscure tax law. Revenue inspectors have now suspended the perk which allows crown servants to reclaim the cost of dress required for their jobs. Soldiers started claiming up to £1,000 a year for boot polish and cloths, and for washing and dry-cleaning their uniforms. After being bombarded by so many soldiers' requests, shocked tax men are withholding the rebate pending a review. Claims can be back-dated as far back as six years. – *The Sun*

● A ZIMBABWE court has agreed to extradite the former British special forces officer Simon Mann to Equatorial Guinea to face coup plot charges against the president Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Mann, 54, was convicted in September 2004 of attempting to purchase weapons for the plot. – *The Independent*

● AN "unknown Englishman" murdered outside Rome by fleeing Nazis was a secret agent who had been landed by submarine to organise anti-Fascist resistance on Sardinia. The officer, whose anonymous grave lay in a wood dedicated to victims of a 1943 massacre, was recently named by Second World War veterans as Capt John Armstrong. But historians now claim that Armstrong was Gabor Adler, a Special Operations Executive agent code named Gabriel. – *The Times*

● AS a young soldier, Siegfried Sassoon chronicled the horrors of the trenches in his anti-war poems. He wrote about throwing away part of his gallantry award into the River Mersey in protest at the senseless butchery on the Western Front in the First World War. But now the long-lost Military Cross, awarded for helping a wounded soldier back to British lines while under fire, has been discovered in an attic "treasure chest". – *Daily Express*

Showcase

Old enemies join forces for Falklands exhibition

FORMER adversaries who fought in the Falklands were reunited for a special event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the conflict.

Maj Gen Julian Thompson, who commanded 3 Commando Brigade in the war, and senior Royal Air Force officer Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire were among the personalities at the launch of the showcase at the Imperial War Museum in London.

The British dignitaries were joined by Argentine Navy Commander Diego Garcia Quiroga, who was in a special forces unit tasked to capture Falklands Governor Sir Rex Hunt in an opening raid on the islands on April 2, 1982.

The exhibition included memorabilia and photos, many of which were on display for the first time, plus first-hand accounts from both sides.

In an interview with *Soldier*, Maj Gen Thompson, who helped set up the Falklands showcase, said he was delighted with the final result. He was also pleased that the Argentine dimension was represented.

"My aim was to tell the story of the conflict from those on the ground – the soldiers, sailors and airmen who made it happen," he said.

Cdr Quiroga was equally impressed with the museum's presentation. He was also delighted to have met several

British veterans. He said: "I feel I have been talking to people who want to share experiences.

"I look back on that time in 1982 as the most exciting moments of my life and it is fair to say that everything that has happened to me since has been influenced by them.

"I lost a lot of good friends, but I also have had the pleasure to make good friends that I did not know before," Cdr Quiroga reflected.

● The liberation of the Falkland Islands will be commemorated with a rugby match and dinner in aid of the South Atlantic Medal Association at NEC Harlequins' Stoop stadium on June 16. The Hercules Group-sponsored match will be between a Task Force Invitation team and the Penguins International XV.

England Rugby World Cup winner and former Royal Artillery officer Josh Lewsey said: "In an age when we forget the sacrifices made by our military personnel, supporting the veterans and relatives of the Falklands Task Force through a sporting occasion is a fitting way to commemorate the campaign and the men and women who fought in the battles."

For more information and ticket details visit www.falklandstaskforcerugby.co.uk

● Falklands 25 – Pages 39-47

Combat cover

Soldiers encouraged to protect their loved ones

ARMED Forces personnel now have access to significantly more financial muscle to look after their families and loved ones should the worst happen.

The Service Life Insurance scheme introduced by the MoD complements the existing death-in-service benefits for troops and covers them for the threats of war zones.

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents are among the risks included, while special premiums are available for specific trades such as bomb disposal. Cover for hazardous sports recognised by the Armed Forces, such as parachuting, skiing and diving are also included in the policies and there are discounts for non-smokers.

The initiative was introduced in response

to the difficulties experienced by Service personnel in getting life cover following the 2003 war in Iraq.

Insurer Stirling Life is the sole provider, having come top in a competitive tendering process run by the MoD. The company has pledged a "carefully tailored product".

Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said the new life package would complement existing schemes.

He added: "It gives our personnel the option to take out cover that is tailor-made to reflect the unique nature of what they do.

"Cover is available to each and every Serviceman or woman across the unit, ship and regiment at every stage of their career – whatever their job, wherever they are."

● www.servicelifeinsurance.co.uk



Picture: Sgt Gary Tyson RLC

Wash-out: Army personnel rescued more than 2,000 young people from Dartmoor after treacherous weather forced the cancellation of this year's Ten Tors Challenge. Vehicles manned by 700 military staff and civilian helpers swung into action when organisers called off the annual event on its first day because of heavy rain and swollen rivers.

Two Army Gazelle helicopters and two Sea King aircraft were also deployed and evacuated around 800 young people between the ages of 14 and 20 to nearby Okehampton Camp. A few participants suffered sprains and chills, but there were no serious injuries and everyone had been brought to safety six hours after the rescue began. All of the teams

had camped on the moors overnight before the rescue operation began the following morning.

"Yesterday it was a different and sensible risk area. Today it presented a silly risk so I made the decision to call the challenge off," Ten Tors director Brig Jolyon Jackson, Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade, said afterwards.

Uncomfortable facts

Iraqi prisoner abuse case not closed insists Chief of the General Staff

MILITARY police may carry out a further probe into the death of an Iraqi man in British military custody, the Army's most senior officer has revealed.

Gen Sir Richard Dannatt, the Chief of the General Staff, made it clear that the prosecuting authorities could look again at the evidence in the case of Baha Musa, who died in a detention centre on September 14, 2003.

The announcement follows a high-profile court martial in which one soldier was jailed and expelled from the Army for his part in the death of Mr Musa.

Cpl Donald Payne, of the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, is currently serving a 12-

month prison term after admitting inhumane treatment of a person.

Six other defendants were acquitted of charges relating to Mr Musa's death.

But in a statement, Gen Dannatt insisted that the end of the court martial did not mean the case was closed and that further investigations may take place. He said: "Whichever way you look at it, this case contains uncomfortable facts. The facts are that a number of civilians were arrested by the Army on 14 September 2003 and detained in our custody. One of them, Mr Baha Musa, died."

A post-mortem showed the victim had suffered asphyxiation and 93 injuries. Others in detention showed signs of similar treatment, having been "subject

to a conditioning process that was not lawful," said Gen Dannatt.

"The end of this trial does not mean the case is closed – we know how Baha Musa died, but we do not yet know who is responsible. The Prosecuting Authority and Service police will now consider whether further investigation, in light of any evidence that has become available during the course of this court martial, is appropriate and further formal action might follow," he said.

"In addition, in 2005, my predecessor commissioned a body of work to identify lessons to be learned from this and other cases involving the deliberate abuse of Iraqi civilians – this will report shortly and its findings will be made public."

A digest of what is being said on Army matters in Parliament

Decision looming for ARRC location

THE question of where the HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps will be based in future could be settled this summer.

Responding in a written answer to a question from fellow member Laurence Robertson, Veterans' Minister Derek Twigg said RAF Innsworth in Gloucestershire was among "several options" being assessed as a potential base for the Nato force, currently based at Rheindahlen, Germany.

He added: "This work represents no more than a developing plan at this stage. Final decisions will not be made before the summer and moves will not take place until 2009 at the earliest."

Helicopter comms: Defence chiefs are to consider fitting the full Bowman communications suite to the Apache helicopter. Responding to a question from Lord Astor of Hever, Defence Procurement Minister Lord Drayson said the helicopter already had effective communications plus some Bowman capability. But Lord Drayson stressed: "Decisions on full integration of this platform into the Bowman network will be made in time for the Apache's mid-life upgrade."

Earning commission: Numbers taking up Gap Year Commissions have been growing again after tailing off. Figures show 60 officers joined the scheme between last April and February 2007. Numbers fell to a low of 30 between 2003 and 2004. The Gap Year Commission was introduced as a replacement to the Short Service Limited Commission seven years ago.

Iraq attacks: More than 1,800 attacks have been reported against troops in Basra province, Iraq, during the past year, Defence Secretary Des Browne revealed. There had also been 25 strikes in the nearby province of Al Muthanna, 36 in Dhi Qar and 76 in Maysan between June 2006 and April this year.

Guardsman hailed hero

Soldier killed defending colleagues in Helmand

A BRAVE young soldier died protecting his comrades and friends during a ferocious engagement with Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan.

Gdgn Simon Davison, of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, was killed while manning a checkpoint in the town of Garmisir, Helmand province on May 3.

The soldier's team had come under fire from about ten Taliban fighters during a battle in which artillery and an air strike were called in.

The 22-year-old, who was manning a general purpose machine gun, was shot during the fighting.

He was pulled out of the firing line and evacuated to the main base at Camp Bastion but medics were unable to save his life.

Gdgn Davison, who was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, joined the Army in 2005 and signed up for 1 Gren Gds after completing his training.



● Gdgn Simon Davison

A carpenter before he enlisted in the military, he was also a keen sportsman and remembered by friends for his enthusiasm for Thai boxing.

Gdgn Davison's superiors paid tribute to him as a motivated and committed soldier who would be sorely missed by comrades in the regiment.

His company commander, Maj Will Mace, said: "He was a soldier of the highest calibre and it is a tribute to his professionalism that he fell performing his duties and protecting his friends.

"His death is a great loss to the company and our thoughts are very much with his family at this tragic time."

Lt Col Carew Hatherley, Gdgn Davison's CO, also paid tribute to the young soldier who, he said, had been proud to serve as a Grenadier. He said: "Reliable and trustworthy are the words most used when his colleagues describe him – he will be sorely missed and never forgotten."

Kit fit for purpose

Critical shortage claims played down by officials

CONCERNED senior officers have moved to allay concerns after newspaper claims that there are "critical shortfalls" of kit on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In addressing media reports that there is a lack of armoured vehicle spares, a backlog of Bowman communication suite repairs and a shortage of Land Rovers, the MoD insisted that equipment was "becoming more plentiful".

The Ministry said that the claims were founded on an apparently leaked quarterly report from the equipment branch of Land Command near Salisbury.

But while the document was candid about problems with the provision of some kit, senior officers emphasised that its conclusions were generally positive.

Brig Simon Levey, Assistant Chief of Staff for Equipment at Land Command and author of the report, said: "Forces on operations are well equipped."

"We have a shortage of equipment for two reasons – firstly because we are focusing on operations, and, secondly, because we are continually improving our equipment. To do this it has to be temporarily removed from service."

The MoD insisted that the spares issues with vehicles was being addressed, and priority had been placed on making sure workshops on ops were well stocked.

Bowman repairs were "well ahead of expectations" while Defender Land Rovers were currently being reconditioned and enhanced.

Rhodes runner

FORMER soldier Matt Rhodes overcame severe disabilities to cross the London Marathon's finishing line after ten hours.

Featured in *Soldier* last year, Rhodes woke from a two-month coma with serious brain and limb injuries after a motorbike accident in 1995. Although his Army career was over, the former private of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment battled his way back to health. He took on the 26-miles to raise more than £1,000 for St Dunstan's, the charity for blind ex-Servicemen, which helped him with his recovery.

Despite enduring unbearable pain in his legs after 22 miles in record temperatures, Rhodes kept going because his soldier training wouldn't let him give up. He said: "In the Army, running those exhausting uphill cross-country races, I dreamt of doing the London Marathon. I felt so proud crossing the finishing banner as it still fluttered in the wind."

Hot reception

SUPPORTERS of the Army Benevolent Fund managed to curry favour with the charity after spicing up their lives to raise much-needed funds.

There was solid backing for the World's Biggest Curry Lunch event, which invited everyone to cook up some hot dishes for family and friends in April. According to the ABF, more than 3,300 fund-raising packs were sent out to help 40,000 supporters plan their meals. Troops and civvies turned out in force to dine in the UK and as far afield as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The charity, which relies on voluntary donations, needs to raise £6 million this year to help soldiers and their dependants in the wake of operational casualties.

Sharpshooters

THE Royal Signals outclassed some tough competition to take the Joint Corps Skill-at-Arms combat snap honours for the second year running.

Held at Hampshire's Ash Ranges, the four-man R Signals team showed superior athletic prowess, scrambling over and under walled obstacles before pulling the trigger on some crack-shot rifle work.

Capt Nirmal Gurung, Queen's Gurkha Signals and team leader, told *Soldier* it was a major achievement to defend their inter-corps combat snap champion title. He said: "The regiment deploys soon to Op Herrick and although we planned for two weeks of training, we only had one week in the end but we still managed to win."

Three fall in Iraq attacks

Telic troops mourn loss of respected colleagues

TRIBUTES have been paid to three soldiers killed during a black fortnight in Basra.

Kgn Alan Jones, Rfn Paul Donnachie and Pte Kevin Thompson all died from injuries suffered during attacks between the last week of April and the first week of May.

Kgn Jones, 20, of 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, was fatally wounded by small-arms fire as he provided top cover from a Warrior armoured vehicle in the Al Ashar district of central Basra on April 23.

The Everton football fan was born in Liverpool and signed up for the Army in August 2003.

He joined his local unit, the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, after completing basic training and was selected for the Reconnaissance Platoon in 2005.

His regiment amalgamated with The King's Own Royal Border Regiment and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in July 2006 and Kgn Jones deployed to Iraq with 2 Lancs on Op Telic 9 in November last year.

Lt Col Mark Kenyon, CO of 2 Lancs, said: "Kgn Jones will be remembered as a very professional soldier who was loyal to his regiment and his friends. Above all he was a cheerful and likeable young man who always had time to help others."

Small-arms fire also claimed the life of 18-year-old Rfn Paul "Donny" Donnachie, 2nd Battalion, The Rifles, as he carried out a routine patrol in the Al Ashar district of Basra on April 29.

Rfn Donnachie was escorting a police training team when he was shot by a gunman. He was immediately evacuated to Basra Palace, but died from his injuries.

Born and raised in Reading, Rfn Donnachie completed training in December as a Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry recruit.

Maj Alex Baring, his company commander, said: "Rfn Donnachie was the epitome of what it is to be professional.

"He loved the Army, he loved the Rifles and he died protecting those around him.

"He really was the best of British."

Pte Kevin Thompson, 21, of 19 Combat Service Support Battalion, RLC, was in a large resupply convoy in Basra when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) in the early hours of May 3.

Pte Thompson received first aid at the scene and underwent surgery at Basra Air Station before being evacuated to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham. But his condition deteriorated and he died with his family at his bedside on May 6.

Described as a keen and enthusiastic soldier, Pte Thompson joined the Army in 2004 and was posted to 19 Tank Transporter Squadron in Bulford following training at Catterick. Lt Col David Golding, Pte Thompson's CO, said: "He was a professional tank transporter driver – a logistician – a man who fearlessly got on with the job of supporting combat troops in this tough campaign to rid the streets of violence and bring peace and security to the ordinary people of Iraq."

● A SENIOR officer from the UK is en route to fill a key post in the Middle East. It has been announced that Maj Gen Paul Newton is moving from his role as Senior Army Member Royal College of Defence Studies to become Director General Engagements, Multi-National Force Iraq, this month.

His previous post is being filled by Maj Gen Sebastian Roberts, who was Major General Household Cavalry Division and GOC London District.



● Kgn Alan Jones



● Rfn Paul Donnachie



● Pte Kevin Thompson



Picture: Captain Ian Forsyth, RIC

Criminal crackdown: Troops from 38 Battery, 40 Regiment, Royal Artillery took part in the operation to search for illegal weapons, munitions and equipment

No hiding place

British deliver warning message to insurgents operating in southern Iraq

COMMANDERS in Iraq have spoken of their satisfaction after their troops netted a gang leader believed to be responsible for roadside bomb attacks.

The arrest was made after scores of British troops descended on addresses in Basra city and the province's rural areas of Safwan and Al Hartha.

Soldiers from 19 Light Brigade seized the gang boss, also wanted for kidnap and extortion, as they continued their crackdown against criminals.

Three other suspects were arrested and detained during the swoop.

As the raids were carried out, senior officers pledged there would be no hiding place for rogue militias and hinted there could be more ops soon.

Brigade spokesman Capt Ollie Pile confirmed that troops from the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment came under fire during their raid and it is believed that a terrorist gunman was shot dead in the contact.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland and 40 Regiment, Royal Artillery also took part in the operation. The British troops worked alongside Danish allies and Iraqi security forces as they moved against the suspects.

Capt Pile said: "It is hoped the outcome of these operations will be welcomed. Relations between multina-

tional forces and the people of Safwan remain positive. The operations are part of a campaign we have been conducting with Iraqi forces. The aim is to capture key criminals and deny the influence of

those intent on creating and benefiting from criminal disorder."

As this issue went to press, 19 Light Brigade were due to hand over to 1 Mechanized Brigade.

Triathlete tragedy

BRITISH troops have been mourning a gifted officer and accomplished sportsman following his death in a tragic accident at the Contingency Operating Base in Basra.

Maj Nick Bateson, of the Royal Signals, was rushed to hospital after his bike was involved in a collision with a coach on May 1. But he later died from his injuries.

The officer, who was 49 and married, had been serving in the Headquarters of Multi-National Division (South East), supporting communications in theatre.

He had served in Iraq for three months and been on detachment from the Defence Information Infrastructure Integrated Project Team at Corsham, Wiltshire.

Born in Chislehurst, Kent, Maj Bateson had represented the Army in triathlon and orienteering as well as being a top-level

competitor in other sports. His CO, Lt Col David Craft, paid tribute to the dedicated sportsman. He said: "He was one of the most competitive men I knew; he was also one of the nicest. Nick had a zest and energy second to none."

Friend and work colleague Capt Alex Yates paid tribute to a well-liked and respected officer who "never failed to inspire those around him". Capt Yates added: "You could not help but respect him, not least for the morals and true determination he showed in abundance on many occasions in the Army and in sport."



● Maj Nick Bateson

● May's inaugural inter-unit road relay championships at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, were dedicated to the memory of Maj Bateson. A minute's silence was held before the event.



Picture: Hailand Quarrrington

Lynx legacy: Following an investigation into a helicopter crash in Iraq last year, flights in theatres will be subject to more stringent manifest procedures

Downed over Basra

Army helicopter was destroyed by enemy fire, board of inquiry concludes

A LYNX helicopter that crashed in Iraq last year was shot down by a surface-to-air-missile, a board of inquiry report has confirmed.

The investigation found that the aircraft, which had been on a routine sortie over several locations around Basra, was hit near the Old State Building.

The helicopter exploded in mid-air before falling into a residential area. Soldiers attempting to secure the crash site came under fire from mortars, rifle fire and blast and petrol bombs as riots broke out. All five personnel on the Lynx were killed, among them Capt David Dobson, an Army Air Corps officer serving with 847 Naval Air Squadron.

Air accident investigators are continuing to probe what types of missiles could have been used in the attack, although the devices suspected have not been revealed.

Among the seven recommendations suggested by the board of inquiry, which the MoD said were being implemented "as a matter of urgency", was the need for more stringent passenger manifest

procedures for flights in operational theatres. There was no record of two personnel being carried on the flight, and investigators said this process needed to be tightened up by the Joint Helicopter Force in Iraq. Command guidance on carrying passengers in a threat environment also needed addressing, the board's report concluded.

In presenting the report, Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said his thoughts were with the families and friends of the personnel killed.

Mr Ingram added: "I hope the release of the board of inquiry will help the families gain a better understanding of the events leading up to the deaths of their loved ones."

Tragedy on two fronts

ONGOING operations in southern Afghanistan and Iraq have claimed the lives of a further two British soldiers, the MoD confirmed as this issue went to press.

LCpl George Russell Davey, 23, of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment died as a result of a firearms accident on the British base at Sangin in Afghanistan on May 20. The Royal Military Police has begun an investigation into the accident involving the soldier, who was married with two daughters.

A day after LCpl Davey's death, a soldier was killed by small-arms fire in an ambush on a British military resupply convoy in the Al Tuwaysa district of central Basra in southern Iraq. The soldier was evacuated to Basra Palace for treatment, but later died of his wounds.

A civilian contractor also died in the attack when the fuel tanker he was driving was set on fire.

● Full obituaries of both soldiers will appear in July's issue.

Satisfied by Service life

STRONG pension benefits, high standards of health care and generous leave entitlements are among the perks that continue to make the Army a satisfying career.

According to the latest Continuous Attitude Survey, most soldiers and officers are generally happy with being in the Service and proud to wear the uniform. The study, which was carried out between September last year and January 2007, surveyed 911 officers and 1,151 soldiers. More than 90 per cent of those were men, with a small number of foreign and Commonwealth soldiers among them.

Nearly half of officers and more than 50 per cent of soldiers said they wanted a full military career, with child education opportunities, health care and job security being key reasons to stay.

But they were less pleased with their salaries compared with civilian counterparts, the way pay enquiries were handled and the standards of accommodation.

The survey revealed that time away was also a worry – nearly 40 per cent of troops and half of officers felt that there were too many operational tours. Of further concern was the effect of Army life on their personal lives, with 56 per cent of officers and 50 per cent of soldiers dissatisfied with the impact their job was having on their spouse's career. In addition, nearly half of soldiers were unhappy with the maintenance of their accommodation with the figure rising to more than 50 per cent for officers.

Responding to the findings, the MoD said improvements were in the pipeline to boost single living accommodation and this year's pay rise was well above the rate of inflation.

Top photos in the frame

OUTSTANDING military snappers have the opportunity to pocket prizes for their best work by entering the prestigious Army Photographic Competition.

The event has seven different categories and is open to amateur and professional photographers in the Regular and Territorial Army and their dependants as well as cadets, those in the University Officers' Training Corps and MoD civilians. Winners will be entered for the wider Defence Photographic Competition.

Photos need to have been taken between May 1, 2006 and the end of this month. Entries must be with the judges at MoD Main Building in London by June 29.

Further details and an entry form are available by visiting www.army.mod.uk/whatson/apc/index.htm



Picture: Tim Wright

Land ahoy: *Adventure* and her crew are expected to dock at Gosport early this month after a year at sea

Homecoming

Royal Signals sailing adventure enters final leg

ADARING Army sailing crew was due back in British waters as this issue went to press after a year-long expedition around the world.

The soldiers on the yacht *Adventure* were expected to arrive in Gosport at the beginning of June having competed in the Antigua Race Week.

The event marked the final part of the Mercury Challenge expedition, which was organised by the Royal Signals and started last July.

The challenge has been a testing endeavour for the soldiers taking part. The second half of the trip proved particularly tough, during which the

crew was put through its paces in the treacherous Southern Ocean.

During the Antigua regatta, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, the Army sailors took part in five inshore races in punishing Caribbean heat.

Mainsheet trimmer Capt Rachel Nicklin said: "It has been a fantastic experience racing against top performance yachts and professional sailors."

Skipper SSgt Windy Gale was delighted with his crew's performance. "I'm very proud of them – they have all worked really hard out on the water and have gelled really nicely as a racing team," he added.

Virtual Iraq

**Counselling for the PlayStation
generation: Scientists develop
cyber cure for combat stress »**



Report: Stephen Tyler

A COMPUTER game created to prepare US troops for battle in Iraq has now been adapted to blaze a trail in the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for returning soldiers.

The original incarnation of Xbox title *Full Spectrum Warrior* started life in America as an invaluable tool for getting its Service personnel mentally and tactically ready for operations in the Gulf.

But following an increase in the number of war veterans falling victim to PTSD, researchers at universities on both sides of the Atlantic have teamed up to tackle the problem by developing the Virtual Iraq exposure therapy system.

Using graphics lifted directly from *Full Spectrum Warrior*, Virtual Iraq immerses combat stress patients in a computer-generated Middle East in which they can face up to and ultimately overcome the sights, sounds and even smells that triggered their condition.

The system was created at the University of Southern California, where PTSD sufferers put on a headset and moved around the virtual world using a keyboard while a therapist sat beside them controlling aspects of the environment such as weather and insurgent attacks.

It came to the attention of Reading University cybernetics professor Paul Sharkey during a conference on disability and virtual reality in September last year, and now the academic's team is making great strides in bringing the benefits of Virtual Iraq to these shores.

The most striking change Prof Sharkey has made is taking the programme from its small-screen origins and porting it into a 3m x 3m room where three-dimensional

images are projected onto three walls and the floor, negating the need for the user to wear a headset. Prof Sharkey explained that gradually exposing patients to the environment that created their combat stress allows clinicians to treat a condition that currently places a huge strain on both the individual and the state that has to support them.

"It's a little bit more immersive than watching a TV programme but in a non-threatening way," Prof Sharkey told *Soldier*. "I thought that the act of putting on a headset would be too much like putting on a helmet or a pair of night vision goggles and that might be a traumatic experience."

"You need to start off with something that is very, very benign."

"You then gradually build up the threatening elements so they can come in, put on a pair of glasses and explore a virtual Iraqi city or desert road."

They are able to see other soldiers or a Humvee and hear the sounds of the city like the call to prayer or a helicopter coming in.

"This builds to a point where they are comfortable enough for you to transfer them to the laptop version with the headset."

"Then the rest of the therapy can happen in a therapist's office or a clinic."

"In the States there's something like 20,000 US Army personnel receiving state benefits for stress."

"If we can remove a small fraction of those then they get to lead a better life and don't have to drain financial resources from the state."

The vast expanses of Virtual Iraq are housed inside the Cave Automated Virtual Environment (CAVE) room in the visualisation centre of Reading University's cybernetics building.



'Something like this might be seen as less stigmatising for them than saying 'I'm going to see a counsellor'



Picture: Hall and Quarrington

Users stepping into the CAVE put on a motion-tracking headset and a pair of glasses which allow them to view the projected stereo image in three dimensions.

A controller with a thumbstick similar to that found on a PlayStation pad is used to move in any direction to explore people, buildings and the surrounding desert. Crouching down or jumping in the air changes the user's perspective accordingly. A therapist sits at a computer out of the patient's sight and can introduce gunfire, explosions and shouting depending on the patient's reactions.

Despite the system still being in its infancy, the latest version of Virtual Iraq also makes it possible to hide behind objects, look around corners and even step inside a Humvee and look out of the window. The usefulness of the software's evolution from a combat training tool to a therapy aid has been clinically tested in California, where four soldiers reported positive effects after undergoing the headset-based treatment.

And although Prof Sharkey is concentrating on changing the display method of Virtual Iraq to a full three-dimensional environment, he eventually hopes to get the go-ahead to carry out a similar clinical trial in England.

"People find it difficult to imagine something that traumatises them and that is why this system was developed using assets from *Full Spectrum Warrior*. It's gone full-circle from showing





soldiers what it was going to be like to regenerating what it was actually like," he said. "We are now at the stage of trying to ask the MoD to fund the next step, which is to look at case studies."

Prof Sharkey and researcher Ronan Jamieson believe that the novelty of walking around a living, breathing Iraqi city from the safety of a room in Reading combined with the system's blurring of the line between gaming and counselling will help convince PTSD patients from the so-called PlayStation generation to seek the help they need.

"A lot of the soldiers using it will be

young people who have grown up with PlayStations and are used to game scenarios. Something like this might be seen as less stigmatising for them than saying 'I'm going to see a counsellor'. They can say they are going to use Virtual Iraq for a couple of weeks because they have some issues to sort out instead." ■

Clockwise from above, Reality: British soldiers patrol Basra; **Ready for action:** Soldier reporter Stephen Tyler sets out on a virtual tour of duty; **Countering combat stress:** A scene from Virtual Iraq; **Cyber contact:** Air support arrives as the action heats up during a fictional firefight



Sim city

Troops prepare for the rigours of Helmand using the latest training technology »

Big brother's watching you: A Coldstream Guardsman remains alert during Wessex Warrior – a collective training exercise run on Salisbury Plain by the newly-formed Field Training Group (UK)



Report: Andrea Webb
Pictures: Steve Dock

WITH Herrick on the horizon, pre-deployment training rather than public duties was on the minds of soldiers of the Coldstream Guards battle-group as they embarked on an intensive six-month programme to prepare them for the rigours and realities of a high-tempo tour in Helmand.

On hand to help them make the transition from bearskins to the battlefield was Salisbury Plain's Field Training Group (UK) – a new organisation which forms part of the Land Warfare Centre Collective Training Group and brings together the capabilities of the Battle-group Training Unit at Westdown Camp and the Urban Operations Wing at Copehill Down.

Recognising that the Army's operational environment is constantly changing, the FTG (UK) offers a more current and comprehensive collective training package than ever before to help equip troops to counter the complex threats of regular and irregular forces.

Soldier caught up with Capt Al Hill, RE, who helps co-ordinate the group's collective training exercises which complement the Operational Training and Advisory Group's (Optag) theatre-specific pre-deployment training.

"We exercise brigades and battle-groups in their skills and drills with everything we can throw at them to replicate a contemporary operating

environment," he said. "Soldiers on the ground can expect to encounter a live enemy and the simulated effects of different weapon systems. They will also come across foreign role players who help to tease out lessons in the use of interpreters, how to conduct local key leader engagement and how to respond to threats posed by insurgents, militia, or the needs of civilians."

The hi-tech training packages use the Tactical Engagement Simulation system (TES) – a computer-controlled laser system which replicates direct and indirect fire on every deployed person and vehicle. Using GPS, TES can track every vehicle and player on the training area and is used to provide feedback after each mission.

Capt Hill added: "Machine guns, rocket launchers, IEDs and suicide bombers – if it's happening out in theatre we can replicate it here"

it's happening out in theatre we can replicate it here.

"You can't hide from the TES system. You can't bluff it and it doesn't lie. If you are not up to scratch, if you are not doing what you should be doing, it will 'kill or wound' you. That will put a burden on the admin system that has to look after you so from the lowest level up, everyone gets tested. That's the beauty of it."

Casualties are simulated with shocking realism using amputee volunteers and professional make-up artists. "Gone are the days when a bit of pig's blood and ripped combatants were sufficient," Capt Hill said. "When a guy



Clockwise from main picture,
Fast and furious: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards provide fire support;
Pick a window: Sappers from 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, QGE lead a break-in during a dawn attack;
Rolling thunder: Scimitars from A Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers move into position

is lying there with bits of flesh flying and no leg it really drives home the point.

"And rather than making assumptions or trying to second guess a culture we are not part of, we bring bilingual and bi-cultural assistants in to give us that extra dimension. Our exercises are current almost to the day," he added. "Core observer controllers, all of whom have recent theatre experience, are on hand alongside mentors who we bring back from operational theatres specifically for each exercise."

The manoeuvres completed by the Coldstream Guards were far removed from the spit and polish of ceremonial duties for which they are famous, but thanks to the ultra-realistic training now on offer care of the FTG (UK), they will be prepared for the rigours of southern Afghanistan. ■



Field feedback

“You can’t bluff your way when you are using simulated kit,” said Capt Michael Pepper, Coldm Gds. “If you are in the line of fire and you don’t take cover you will get shot.

“The kit is fantastic – it can map your movements around Salisbury Plain down to an individual.

“It will tell you what wounds you have received – whether you have strayed into a minefield, whether you have been mortared or been killed by artillery fire. It’s a huge leap in terms of training.

“The scary thing for many people is the amount of casualties you get using this kit. It reinforces the lessons and basic skills you need to develop before deploying on operations.”





Electronic Facial Identification Techniques (EFIT)

“WANTED” posters have been used to catch criminals for centuries, but CSIs now have psychological techniques and sophisticated software to help witnesses build a picture of a scene and suspect.

First, they ask the witness questions known to trigger memory. After recalling a general description, EFIT is used to construct individual features and characteristics of a person.



Quasar (quasi laser) fingerprinting

SCIENTIFIC advances can now reveal fingerprints lifted from surfaces that cannot undergo the traditional, but still valid, dusting. Exploiting the natural phenomenon of fluorescence, where a substance gives off light and appears to glow in the dark, the quasar shows the light by using a laser.

This fingerprinting method reveals tagged protein molecules called amino acids, which are found on the surface of fingers and are transferred to the surface of any object that is touched. Chemical treatment of that object attaches a fluorescent substance to the amino acids, which show up as a fingerprint pattern under the Quasar.

Banged to Rights

How the British Army does justice . . .

ONE reason for the international regard in which the British Army is held is its reputation for good discipline, writes John Elliott.

So new statistics give an insight into the nature of offences dealt with under the Military Criminal Justice System (MCJS) that underpins that discipline. They range from the plain criminal to behaviour of a standard unacceptable in the military community.

Sexual assault, deception, theft, attempting to pervert justice, drugs, unlawful wounding, arson and burglary were some of the more significant criminal cases dealt with under the Army's disciplinary code during a six-month period last year.

A warrant officer pleaded guilty to sexual assault and was sent to prison.

In another trial resolved between July and December, a sergeant was reduced to the ranks and fined nearly £6,000 for theft, a lance corporal was jailed and demoted for possessing a prohibited weapon, and two private soldiers were detained for periods of several months after pleading guilty to arson.

Significant cases of soldiers found guilty of going absent without leave (AWOL) or desertion were punished under the MCJS in the main by fines and detention, and in a few instances by dismissal. One individual who had been absent for two months short of three years was sent to prison.

Major administrative action during

the six months resulted in 109 letters of censure, 57 rebukes, 38 expressions of severe displeasure, 16 reductions in rank and five terminations of service.

Drink-driving and alcohol-related misconduct incidents, of which 154 were processed, led to punishments ranging from oral warnings to terminations of

service. Most cases attracted letters of censure, rebukes and expressions of displeasure. The system also deals with redress of complaints, of which 78 went to COs during the six-month period. Grievances on career paths, confidential reports, discrimination, harassment and pay were some of the areas dealt with. ■

A simple guide to the MCJS

HIGH profile cases involving soldiers alleged to have committed crimes in Iraq have brought the Military Criminal Justice System (MCJS) into sharp focus. So what is it? Here's a guide to what it is and how it might affect you.

- It applies from Aldershot to Afghanistan, Bordon to Basra, Catterick to Cyprus.

- It applies whether you are on ops or exercise, playing sport or in barracks.

- It is fair, consistent, administered in language you understand and compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.

- Under the MCJS, cases can be dealt with in countries which are unstable, hostile or have no functioning – or simply a different – legal system. Courts martial can be held in the field.

- Its guiding principles are the values and standards of the British Army – if you breach them you can expect to be dealt with.

- The Army's standards are more rigorous than those of civvy street, so incidents such as insubordination or failure to report for duty are always dealt with when they might be treated differently in the civilian world.

- Both the RMP SIB and the Army Prosecuting Authority (APA) are independent of the chain of command and are subject to regular and rigorous external inspection. Courts martial have similar conviction rates to civilian courts.

- The system should be quick and offer the right of appeal against any sanction. In the case of the sergeant reduced to the ranks and fined nearly £6,000 (see main story) his fine was quashed on review.

- The Office for Standards of Casework (Army) was created in 2001 to monitor and drive down delay in disciplinary and administrative casework. Commanded by a brigadier, it is independent of the chain of command.

In the frame

**Army crime scene investigators put
themselves under the microscope »**

Main picture, Softly softly: Cpl Sarah Longworth, RMP, treats a document with ninhydrin, a chemical that will reveal the forensic evidence of fingerprints

Below right, Caught on film: WO2 Andy Gibson, RMP, records evidence as digital images in clothing which protects any other samples at the crime scene from contamination



Report: Karen Thomas
Pictures: Mike Weston

PRIME Suspect may be guilty of misleading viewers on the ease with which samples can be lifted from a crime scene but the top TV series is not wrong about the power of forensic evidence.

Founded on the century-old principle that when two objects come into contact they leave material traces on each other, forensic science is the most conclusive evidence when linking a suspect to a crime.

However, although samples such as fingerprints, hairs and DNA can provide damning proof in court, it falls to the crime scene investigators (CSIs) to collect uncontaminated evidence for laboratory analysis that cannot be contested. Since the justice system places great weight on forensics, it is essential the public can trust CSIs are doing their job effectively in bringing hard evidence to court.

To reassure the 35,000 soldiers and their families based in Germany of the integrity of its forensic capability, the Special Investigation Branch (SIB) of the Royal Military Police in Rheindahlen came forward for its own investigation. It asked a body outside the Army, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies, to go over CSI activities with a fine toothcomb and check for any irregularities. Since CSIs can be called to suspected crime scenes involving the Army across Europe and support colleagues on operations, SIB wanted the people they serve to have confidence in its policing.

After a thorough investigation, the independent review concluded they had the resources, skill and expertise to conduct investigations of serious crime.

Lt Col Mal Grainger, CO of SIB(G) RMP, confirmed that removing any doubts about his team's competence had boosted their confidence to deal with around 300 investigations each year. "We have access to everything a civilian police force has so we're comparable to a small constabulary and able to respond to the whole spectrum of crime," he explained, adding that soldiers were largely law-abiding and not the career criminals usually found in civvy street.

"We have the forensic side covered and there are no problems with cross-contamination, so I'm confident about the team's skill and ability."

Cross-contamination occurs when other materials are allowed to touch evidence during the course of an investigation and can cause a case to collapse. An eventuality that a recent £205,000 investment in refurbishing the forensic laboratory suite at Rheindahlen has virtually eliminated.

Nevertheless, finding and removing intact evidence such as fingerprints and blood remains tricky and the first 24 hours after a crime has been committed are the most vital for collecting undamaged samples.

WO2 Andy Bishop heads up the CSI team and manages crime scenes. He must prevent cross-contamination by human traffic trampling around a crime scene and safely remove possible evidence to the labs for further examination. "Let's say there's a knife with blood on it and a body with a stab wound. Most people would assume that's the knife that was used but this must be proved because otherwise it's just speculation."

In this scenario, the team must lift the most intact fingerprint or blood spot from the knife without destroying any other evidence. The better the print, the better a match will be made to a suspect and the quicker the crime is solved.

Unlike the TV shows, the process takes a lot of time, diligence and attention to detail but SIB(G) CSIs are aided by an array of the latest hi-tech equipment in the forensic suite. Crime may still be a fact of life but Lt Col Grainger is confident that it's still a rare occurrence and his team have the method and motivation to put away criminals.

"Victims can be reassured that we will deal with your crime in a professional and competent way. And suspects should know we have the means to catch you." ■

'Suspects should know we have the means to catch you'

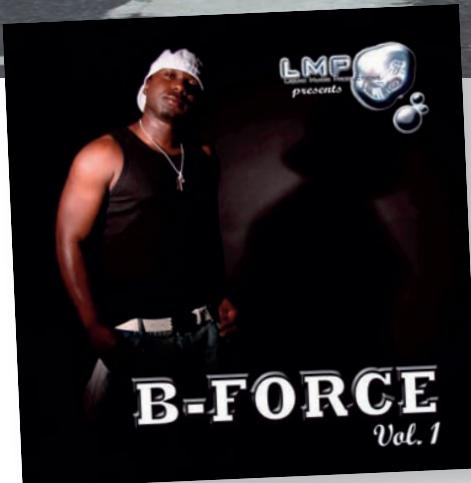


Hotstepper

Rapper sapper mixes hip hop Herrick with Kandahar ska »

Keyed-up: LCpl Caron Stephen, RE, does not intend to let a tour of southern Afghanistan get in the way of his plans for world domination as a music producer





Report: Karen Thomas
Pictures: Graeme Main

TOASTING the Taliban took on a whole new meaning when Royal Engineer LCpl Caron Stephen – aka CEO B – arrived in Afghanistan's hostile Helmand province.

The co-founder of the Liquid Music Productions (LMP) Crew had just produced his first album from rap artist B-Force when duty called on Op Herrick. A six-month Helmand hiatus could have choked the fledgling company's momentum so the surveyor sapper checked his laptop and mini-keyboard through Brize Norton.

Now LCpl Stephen is laying down a few beats for LMP's budding MCs, as well as the foundations needed to reinforce British Army camp infrastructure and security in Kandahar.

Soldiering, surveying and hip hop must be one of the more unusual combinations in the Army but the calm and measured producer mixes a life equally devoted to drills, geometry and grime with a maestro's ease.

He quickly recognised the Army skills that would prove invaluable to music production and managing his artists.

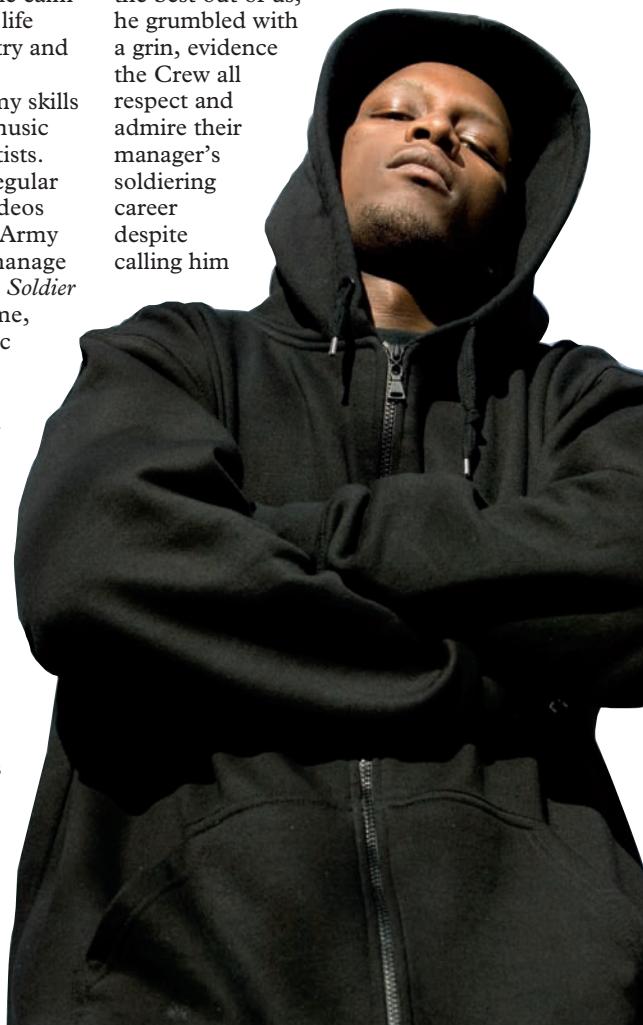
"I have a mini-studio and a regular salary to put towards making videos and buying studio time but the Army taught me how to budget and manage my money," LCpl Stephen told *Soldier* on London's Abbey Road – home, for a while, to the Beatles' music – just days before deploying to southern Afghanistan.

"As a soldier I've been trained to be a leader and to get people to work seriously for me. Timekeeping is also critical but maybe I am a bit bossy because the Crew do tell me 'hey, you're not in Northern Ireland now, so chill'."

Sudden eruptions from three other Crew members bury LCpl Stephen into his hot chocolate to block out the complaining. But his second rapper, Escalate, made no bones about his producer's demanding Army traits.

"Everything has to be perfect. If we have to be somewhere at 0800, then he

wants us there five minutes early. He pushes us to the limit but he does get the best out of us," he grumbled with a grin, evidence the Crew all respect and admire their manager's soldiering career despite calling him





Making a splash: The latest fleet of support vehicles dominate the worst extremes of tough battlefield terrain

Mighty trucks

No battlefield limits on armoured workhorse supplying combat troops

Report: Karen Thomas
Pictures: Graeme Main

FRONT-line soldiers will soon have a fleet of advanced, comfortable and mobile support vehicles (SVs) tabbing alongside them with vital supplies for fighting in combat zones.

Carrying full loads, the monster trucks were put through their battlefield paces on an off-road course mimicking ground conditions commonly found in theatre. They ate up extreme slopes, marshy ditches and deep floodwater in a robust cross-country demonstration at the Millbrook Proving Ground near Bedford.

Built by MAN ERF in a £1.3 billion MoD procurement deal, the new vehicle design focuses on off-road mobility across extreme ends of wet, dry, steep and craterous terrain, with an assortment of trailers hitched to a generic cab.

The SX range, available as 6x6 and 8x8 wheel drive, is expected to accompany troops moving into virgin combat zones. Boasting improved mobility while transporting medium and heavy cargo, as well as when hitched to recovery and fuel tank trailers, the SX trucks are capable of breaking through where only tracked vehicles could previously venture. The HX range of the vehicles will be used to deliver

logistic requirements to established bases and outposts.

But it's the ergonomic cab redesigned for maximum human comfort that will most impress Army drivers. Weighing in at one-and-a-half tonnes when fitted with armour, the cabs are fully air-conditioned to cope with temperatures reaching 50C but they can also be heated for use in sub-zero climates. Equipped with a global positioning system and hands-free communications, the cab also integrates computer technology capable of diagnosing faults and storing electronic maintenance reports to save on paperwork.

There's plenty of room for the truck's three air-suspension seats, which absorb the shocks and jolts of trucking on the battlefield. As the only 4ft 10in female test driver with 7,000 litres of fuel loaded

on her trailer, this *Soldier* reporter can give a personal recommendation on the ease

of driving the vehicle whatever your physique or stature.

SSgt "Smudge" Smith, RLC and subject matter expert for SV fuel, confirmed the fleet would be a great asset to the Army on operations.

"These SVs beat existing transport built in the 70s hands down. They are bang up-to-date. You put the vehicle in drive, push the buttons on the dashboard and it is in your control."

"To combat driver fatigue, the cab is quieter and more comfy with space for three people on proper seats. The cruise control is quite good and the air-conditioning is a priority for Ops Herrick and Telic."

Roll-out of the SVs to units began last month and manufacturing will continue until 2013, by which time the MoD will have taken delivery of 7,285 vehicles.

There will be a further 20 years of support from MAN ERF to accommodate the expected life span of the British Army's latest workhorse – a Tonka truck lookalike brought to life. ■



The mighty trucks beat off the competition by:

- approaching slopes of up to 40 degrees
- departing slopes of up to 35 degrees
- crossing ditches up to 1.9m wide
- climbing steps 0.6m high and 60 per cent gradients
- driving through water to a depth of 1.5m



Word Up

Soldier's guide to Street speak

Toasting – chatting over the beats

Hip hop – dance, art, music and MCing

MCing – rhythmic rhyme (rapping)

Beats – instrumental tracks for rap

Grime – brutal rap to aggressive beats

Ska – calypso mixed with jazz and blues



militant. "CEO B's Army life has made his music very passionate because of the hardship, intensity and struggle. It inspires me."

Army life for LCpl Stephen began when he turned 22 and joined up in his home country of St Lucia. Already an accomplished musician – he enrolled in music school for classical training – he realised his childhood ambition of becoming a soldier. The idealistic youngster pursued engineering because he wanted to help with the rehabilitation of underdeveloped countries recovering from natural disasters.

It was with some irony that he laughed at being "stuck in Northern Ireland for two-and-a-half years". But it was during that time that his beats began to resonate and he joined forces with LMP co-manager Sway.

"LMP started in my house with a group of people passionate about music," explained Sway. "CEO B used to come over at the weekend and tickle the keyboard with the beats – the rhythm and melodies – for rapping."

As LMP, LCpl Stephen and Sway now manage Escalate, who is finishing his debut album, and B-Force, The Gambia's number one artist. Although being in Afghanistan will put the music

production on hold, the sapper reckoned he would still find time to compose.

"I will write music and lyrics while on tour, getting a lot of beats ready as the rest of the Crew get on with the vocals, so when I'm back I can do the studio mix," he said. "But I hope the LMP Crew makes lots of money while I'm away because I want to buy a Land Rover Sport with all the extras."

Not a bad reward for all the hard work and effort often achieved in the face of Army colleagues dissing his music.

"A lot of people at work think it's a joke so it will be quite something for them to see I've succeeded with B-Force's CD launch," he smiled. "I've kept my music low key but now LCpl Stephen is in *Soldier* so check it out."

He stressed there had been no outside help and the Crew, Army-style, had to look to their own resources to create the LMP beats, videos, graphics and publicity. Having experienced the hard graft first-hand, LCpl Stephen is keen to help talented struggling artists and welcomed soldiers who wanted to rap on his tracks.

Cutting the LMP hip hop mustard could lead to being signed up.

"I'd like to see each of our artists and the label become more widely known.

With a few more albums and artists under our belt, and a bigger studio, we can grow. But ultimately I would like to let really talented artists use a community studio so their music gets listened to."

So, any MCs-in-waiting are invited to try out their talent by emailing LCpl Stephen at Impbeats4life@yahoo.com or visiting www.myspace.com/Impcrew

● Thin Lizzy interview – Pages 76-77



Top, Fab four: CEO B leads the LMP Crew, B-Force, Sway and Escalate, over the Abbey Road crossing made famous by the Beatles Centre, **Escalate:** Allan Kamau hides his gentle character behind his rap persona Far left and above, **Cutting it:** B-Force CD cover and insert



FALKLANDS 25

SOUTH ATLANTIC SPECIAL

Latin spirit – Pages 42-43

Ships on fire – Pages 44-45

Reconciled – Pages 46-47

After the war – Page 90

Emotional return: LSgt Jamie Simeon, SG, remembers his father, who was among those killed in the battle to take the heights around Stanley

Days of glory

British and Argentine veterans remember those who fell in the battle for the Falklands – and how their lives changed as a result of the war »

TWAS a journey back in time; a visit as emotionally testing as it was physically draining for the strung-out line of veterans plodding up the slopes of the mountain.

The Falklands landscape was stark and harsh. Only the occasional patches of red berries broke the monotony of the peat and lunar-like rocks. The wind attacked from all directions, sucking air from the lungs.

Yet the veterans continued their advance towards the peak of Mount Tumbledown. As they climbed higher they saw the detritus of battle; discarded mess tins; rusting field kitchens; the occasional glimpse of spent ammunition.

A quarter of a century ago, on this mountain side, one of the decisive battles of the Falklands war was fought. In pitch darkness and sub-zero temperatures, soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards assaulted enemy positions with bayonets fixed. It was a hammer blow, which directly led to the end of the Argentine occupation.

Reaching the summit of the mountain, where a simple cross stands as a tribute to the nine British soldiers who gave their lives in the fighting of June 13-14, 1982, was a poignant moment for LSgt Jamie Simeon of the Scots Guards. His father, Sgt John Simeon, was among those killed during the attack, and standing close to where he died brought mixed feelings.

"Being here gives you some idea of what it must have been like for those men," he said.

"The fighting was fierce, with hand-to-hand combat, but the battle showed everything that is good about

the British soldier – the courage and discipline got them through."

For those involved in the battle, reaching the summit rolled back the years to a mountain side enveloped in darkness and a bitter, raging wind. The conditions on that southern winter night were nothing less than gruelling.

Having assembled at Goat Ridge, west of the mountain, the British troops had moved more than three miles on foot before they started trading rounds with the enemy in an initial diversionary attack at 2030.

The main assault, which began 30 minutes later, was planned as a two-fold attack – the Left Flank Company would initially push ahead, before handing over to the Right Flank Company for the final move on the crown.

But as soldiers surged ahead to take the mountain, they came under heavy fire, and more than eight hours of fighting ensued before the handover could take place.

Maj Alan Crawford, who was then a 25-year-old platoon sergeant on the right flank, recalled the anxious waiting as the battle raged ahead of him.

"The terrain was horrendous and the weather bad," he said. "I also knew we had suffered numerous casualties. Something that was really harrowing for our lads was seeing the number of stretchers coming back."

"But when we started our move our training kicked in."

"To be honest I didn't appreciate how difficult the feature we were taking was until I saw it in daylight."

During the attack, Maj Crawford

recalled how the lights of Port Stanley, which suddenly appeared below during the assault on the summit, dazzled the soldiers. Caught by surprise, three guardsmen were wounded by enemy machine-gun fire.

But Maj (now Lt Gen Sir) John Kiszley, leading the company, attacked to draw attention away from his injured men.

"It worked," said Maj Crawford. "The three lads lived to tell the tale."

As the guards moved on Argentine positions in bloody hand-to-hand combat, civilians in Stanley were aware of the fierce battle raging nearby.

"You couldn't hear the individual guns because of the shelling," recalled

broadcaster Patrick Watts, who then ran the radio station.

"The British were firing towards Stanley and the Argentines were hitting back at the mountains – those last three days of the war were horrific.

"Houses in the capital were being hit and destroyed and you didn't know where the next shell was going to land. They made an awful whistling sound as they came down."

"It was the worst part of the war – worse even than the invasion. Islanders were sheltering underground."

At his gun emplacement on Mount Kent, some miles from Tumbledown, John Francis – a sergeant major with 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery, Royal Artillery – was still waiting for his orders to fire in support of the guards.

The senior NCO, who retired from the Army as a major, had been living on the remote hillside for several days and had already pounded targets around the capital. Now, in the most crucial of battles, his gun was silent. But Francis was unaware of the progress of the fighting and that orders to start shelling had not been given because key personalities responsible for coordinating the bombardment had become separated.

"We did not fire for a long time, which was confusing and frustrating," said Maj Francis. "But towards the end of the battle, when the Argentines were clearing off the mountain, we provided harassing fire."

By this stage in the war, the reality of what opening fire meant was no longer alien to the NCO – and the potential human cost of his actions was a sobering thought.

"We weren't seeing the end result of what we did," he admitted. "But part of the mission drill was being given a description of what you were going to do and afterwards what the result was, and when we were told after one mission that nobody had got up when our rounds had landed, I did feel





Reflections: Veteran Maj Alan Crawford remembers the fight for Mount Tumbledown
Below left: Victorious: Guardsmen from 7 Pl, G Coy, 2 SG pose on the top of Mount Tumbledown for *Soldier* photographer Paul Haley. Paul had been the first to tell them, two minutes earlier, that Port Stanley had fallen and the Argentines had surrendered

sympathy for those on the other end.

“The Argentine soldiers were doing their job – it was a job that didn’t pay as well as ours – but it was still a job that they were employed to do.”

By 0900 on the morning of June 13, the Scots Guards had taken Tumbledown. At a cost of nine dead and 45 wounded, at least five of which had lost limbs, the Argentine forces had been driven from their positions. Their occupation of the islands would end a few hours later.

The assault on the mountain was a pivotal moment; the final act in a drama that would ultimately change the lives of many thousands of people.

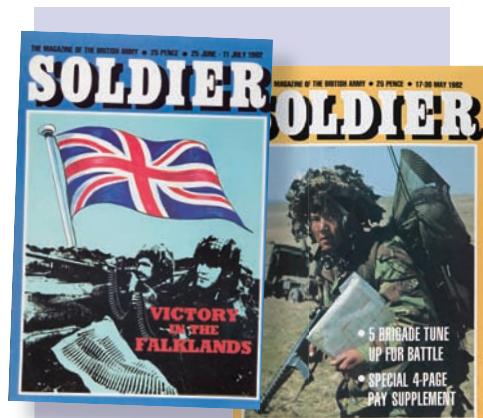
In particular, the end of the war heralded a new era for the Falkland

islanders who would make the most of victory to build a strong and prosperous economy. In Argentina, the brutal dictatorship of Gen Leopoldo Galtieri collapsed, heralding the eventual restoration of democracy.

Tumbledown was also a turning point in the lives of individuals. As a young man in his 20s, LSgt Simeon, became determined to follow his late father’s example of courage and dedication. “The battle is the reason I joined the Army,” he reflected.

“I know that my dad would have been enormously proud and very supportive of what I have chosen to do in the military.

“I know, too, that part of me will always be here in the Falklands.” ■



See Victory in the Falklands online
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk/flashback

Latin spirit

Argentine troops remember the last days of bitter fighting for the islands

Report: Cliff Caswell

Pictures: *Soldier* archive

EVERY morning the Argentine gunners dug into the mountains around Port Stanley would keep a watch for the appearance of El Chero, The Milkman.

He would invariably appear at the same place and around the same time, and the troops would sit tight and pray that he didn't single them out for a delivery.

El Chero was an unwelcome and chilling sight. It was the nickname given to the Harrier pilot who would appear in the skies during the freezing early mornings, relentlessly looking for the artillery pounding British positions.

"We had a mass at my battery and the priest gave the soldiers some icons of the Holy Virgin for each gun," recalled artilleryman Tommy Fox, a retired lieutenant colonel who was a forward observation officer for the Argentine Army in June 1982.

"Thankfully they worked. One day we had an artillery duel and one of the guns of the Holy Virgin was hit, but because of the soil and the way the shell landed, nobody was hurt. It was a miracle. We had a lot of situations like that."

Fox needed miracles. He had a dangerous and thankless task. In the final phase of the war, as British troops marched eastward to retake Port Stanley, renamed Puerto Argentina by the South American forces, he

was responsible for directing fire against them. But this made his guns a target and him a marked man. British commanders quickly worked out his position in the mountains and responded in kind whenever they heard the thud of the Argentine artillery.

"It was a bit of a problem," said Fox. "I was much closer to the British than my guns and my radio communications were being monitored. The British would fire back at me eight or ten times a day and I'd have to take cover quickly."

Despite his best efforts the British continued their relentless advance, tightening the noose around the capital. Fox was taken prisoner on the morning of June 12 as Argentine troops of the 5th Marine Infantry Battalion were preparing to make a stand at Tumbledown.

Under the command of Carlos Hugo Robacio, the battalion had a fearsome reputation. Sent to the islands soon after the Argentine invasion of April 2, they were well dug in. They had been taking artillery fire and were eager for battle.

The commitment of the marines had impressed Gen Mario Benjamin Menendez, the senior officer sent by Buenos Aires to govern the islands when he visited their positions on the eve of battle. He was less impressed, however, by the lack of kit and the limited control he had been given over the deployment of the defending forces. With a shortage of basic equipment such as backpacks, Menendez persistently warned his

senior command that his troops could not move easily.

His superiors had also proved reluctant to ship stores through the British exclusion zone around the islands, and the British naval and air forces had exacted a grievous toll on the resources he had.

Hugo Carlos Robacio, who went on to pursue a successful military career after the Falklands War and retired as a rear admiral, agreed with Menendez

How the war was conducted by both sides belongs to another era'





that he had to make the best of a tough situation. "We were in a hole, about to fight a 1914 battle against a 1982 force," he said. "But there was great courage on both sides."

The marines themselves faced a huge task. Divided into three companies, designated N, O and M, they were charged with defending an area that ran across the mountains around Stanley.

"The front was very large," recalled Eduardo Villaraza, officer commanding N Company. "I was responsible for an area of 6km with a force of 220 men, mostly conscripts who had between four and 14 months of experience.

"The weather was freezing, but we had been on exercise in snow and didn't suffer from the conditions."

On the afternoon of June 13, however, a ferocious British artillery bombardment began smashing into the Argentine positions. "We received



between 1,200 and 1,400 shells from then until well into the following morning," Villaraza added. "At 2200 we were in action. It was a close-quarter battle, man-on-man, only 50 metres between us."

For the battalion's M81 mortar troops, being able to fire back was a relief after the pounding they had received. "Every single night we had been getting a bombardment and felt powerless about it," said Pantano Sergio. "But when the fighting started, we were able to relieve our frustration."

Luis Montero also welcomed the chance to shoot back. "When the orders came through we were constantly firing," he recalled. "Our orders were to be firm in the face of attack."

Despite putting up fierce resistance, the marines were finally overwhelmed by the Scots Guards.

Yet as the British troops moved to secure Stanley, none of the Argentine veterans who spoke to *Soldier* recalled personal bitterness. "Obviously for me it was a terrible thing to be taken as prisoner of war," remarked Tommy Fox.

"But years later I was in Rwanda, where I served alongside a British officer from 42 Commando, Royal Marines, which had attacked my position. We were able to talk about the battle.

"I think that says something about us. And I believe the Malvinas (Falklands) war and how it was conducted by both sides, belongs to another era.

"We did not touch civilians. There was no robbery, no rape and no violation – we all behaved as soldiers and with respect." ■

Main picture, Falklands flashback: Argentine troops pictured in Port Stanley in 1982. Left, Artillery in action: Guns open fire. Above, Sky terror: British Sea Harriers were a frequent and deadly threat to Argentine ground troops



Reconciled

Former officer talks shop with men who tried to kill him 25 years ago

Interview: Cliff Caswell

Picture: Steve Dock

WHEN Falklands War veteran Maj Mike Seear touched down in Argentina, he was well aware that his planned meeting with men who had tried to kill him was going to be an interesting experience.

On one hand, 25 years had passed since he met them in battle; on the other, their accurate mortar rounds had wounded his friends and colleagues and nearly cost him his life. But when the moment came to shake hands with the men from the 5th Marine Infantry Battalion in an emotionally charged atmosphere at the Argentine Navy Hotel in Buenos Aires, it was common ground between soldiers, rather than animosity between adversaries, that made the occasion.

"This has been very strange for me," Maj Seear told the veterans, many of whom were young conscripts when the Falklands conflict broke out in 1982. "But it has also been a great honour – I certainly respect your mortar bombs."

By all accounts, the former Gurkha officer, who was 35 in 1982, was on the end of a lethally accurate barrage. Scores of shells had pounded his headquarters as his battalion moved towards Stanley. The attack nearly succeeded in halting their advance, tying up valuable men to deal with the wounded.

Maj Seear, however, is keen to promote reconciliation between veterans. As the author of the acclaimed autobiography *With the Gurkhas on the Falklands: A War Journal*, he has now been to Argentina on four occasions to piece together both sides of the war and the impact it has had on fighting men. He is currently researching a second book on the conflict, looking at issues including veterans' support, which is due for publication in 2010.

Seear's interest in reflecting the Argentine side of the Falklands War began when he was operations and training officer with the 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

With the fighting over and the clean-up operation under way, some Gurkhas discovered the abandoned personal effects of an Argentine soldier.

"The kit belonged to a man called Nicolas Urbrieta, who was a section commander in the Argentine 4th Infantry Regiment and had fought at the Battle of Two Sisters," he said. "As well as a sheep carcass his bag contained letters to his mother, aunt, cousins and girlfriend plus a roll of camera film. I took the kit back to the UK and had

the letters translated – they provided a great description of what it was like to be sitting on the side of a mountain, waiting for battle, in the middle of an Antarctic winter."

After featuring Urbrieta's story in his book, Seear became determined to return the soldier's belongings and set about tracking him down.

"The names and addresses of ten men in his section were written on a piece of toilet paper in his kit and I wrote to every one of them," he said.



Meeting old adversaries: Maj Mike Seear, right, talks to veterans from the Argentine 5th Marine Infantry Battalion, who shelled his position in June 1982 and, inset above, as a young officer during the Falklands



Mike Seear – MY ARMY



“Fortunately I hit the big time with one of the names and my letter was passed to a member of the Argentine National Congress.”

Seear’s search for Urbreta caused something of a stir in Argentina. It spurred the media into action, with the national newspaper *Clarín* running a feature, while documentary makers also picked up on the story.

The former Gurkha officer’s first visit to Argentina took place in 2002, when he was introduced to some of the key South American players in the Falklands War. He later met and interviewed personalities including Gen Mario Benjamin Menéndez, the governor of the islands under Argentine occupation and Rear Admiral Carlos Hugo Robacio, who commanded the 5th Marine Infantry Battalion at the Battle of Tumbledown.

The most extraordinary story, however, was to come from Urbreta himself. Retreating and under fire from British troops, the soldier had broken ranks to rescue his seriously wounded commander, Jorge Pérez-Grandi.

He was highly decorated for his bravery and it was ultimately Pérez-Grandi who opened the door for

Seear to meet the man whose story he had told through the pages of his autobiography.

But Seear, who was initially commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport in 1968, admitted that the journey that led him to Argentina had been far from easy.

Having retired from Service life in 1988, he settled in Norway with his wife and family and began a civilian job with Scandinavian Airlines. He very quickly discovered, however, that the experience of going to war had changed him forever.

A workaholic, he was tackling a demanding job, dealing with domestic life and writing his book. Constantly driven and always busy, he was burning the candle at both ends – and the cocktail of stress finally took its toll on his health.

“In Easter 1993 I collapsed on holiday and was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome,” he said. “Three years later I was unemployed, suffered a nervous breakdown and my marriage imploded.”

But a three-week spell in a psychiatric hospital proved to be the way back.

Resuming his life with a new vigour, he began his writing again and took the first steps on the road that would ultimately take him to South America.

Seear is adamant that the experience he gained from the conflict has also been responsible for shaping the successful civilian he has become. After going through a divorce, he re-married seven years ago and is now a successful crisis management consultant in Norway.

“My experience is something that I recognise as post-traumatic growth, effectively the other side of the coin to post-traumatic stress disorder, which allowed me to learn from what I had seen in war,” he asserted.

It is an education that Seear insists has been enriched through forging links with Argentine veterans. “Ultimately we all experienced the same thing – we were both scared,” he concluded. “But what has really struck me is how warmly I have been received by everyone here in South America.” ■

‘Ultimately we all experienced the same thing – we were both scared’



TALKBACK

LOA cut is bad for singles

I'm a section commander at the Army Foundation College but will soon be returning to my unit in Germany. I've heard local overseas allowance (LOA) rates for Germany are being slashed again because the cost of living there has reduced. This

may be the case but the cost of living in Germany for a single soldier is much more than that of living in the UK and LOA should be increasing.

You need a car and insurance prices in Germany are double those in the UK. I am entitled to one warrant a year to get home to the UK from Germany. At other times it will cost me a ferry fare and the extra money in fuel. And the

PRIZE LETTER

Naafi is more expensive than the local supermarkets. Although there are great advantages to living in Germany (such as tax-free alcohol, cigarettes and cars) they do not make up for the financial disadvantages for single soldiers living there. – **Infantry corporal, AFC Harrogate.**

Stephen Sartain, SP Policy Allowances, replies: The reason for the reduction in LOA in Germany – which it should be noted was held in abeyance for three months – is not simply because the cost of living there has reduced; actually, it may well be increasing.

But, at the time of the LOA update on which the new rates will be based, the cost of living in the UK was found to have increased at a faster rate than that in Germany. It is this that contributes towards a reduction in LOA. He is right about high car insurance premiums in Germany;

within LOA, the figure we use for the UK is £390 a year, compared with nearly £930 in Germany.

It must be remembered, however, that although we take account of additional costs associated with the many legal requirements of running a vehicle in Germany and the average mileage driven by personnel, these are set against the greatly reduced price paid for petrol, and the absence of certain UK vehicle taxes.

Also, we do not take account of the ability to purchase tax free vehicles anywhere in the world.

The differential in food prices between the Naafi and local supermarkets is recognised within LOA. At the last LOA update, a typical shopping basket was found to be between three and 25 per cent more expensive in Germany than in the UK.

My team will be in Germany again in June to assess prices, which will result in new LOA rates being announced later this year.

PS...

YOU published a bling letter in the April edition from an ex-soldier who deployed on Op Granby 2. He said he did not get a medal despite being there for "many months". It is worth him checking his entitlement via the Defence Medal Office or the Veterans Agency.

I deployed on Granby 2 to Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia between March 22 and July 26, 1991 and received the GSM with Kuwait clasp. It was awarded to personnel stationed in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait after the war.

Around 3,500 were issued, most to the Logistic Support Group (the "clean up" gang for Granby). – Name and address supplied.

My lost two days of grub

I AM in the Military Provost Guard Service and work a shift system of four days on, four off, so miss meals for four days. Yet I can only claim for two days out of the four. Why? My admin cell can't give me an answer. Can Soldier? – Name and address supplied.

Capt Danny Read, Academy Admin Officer, RMAS, replies: The period referred to is the four-day stand-down between shifts, the normal pattern being four days on, four days off duty. The soldier in question is serving married unaccompanied so pays an abated food charge of £2.75 a day. He

lives in the Sergeants' Mess while on duty and returns home during periods of stand-down (as opposed to a period of leave). We have therefore applied the three-day rule for shift work (see JSP 754, Ch 9, Para 09.1013b on exemption to the food charge) and as a result refund the soldier two days of food charges.

I'm afraid I cannot comment on the point that will arise, that he is paying for food that he is not eating when he is not in station. You may wish to note that both food and accommodation charges are applied to soldiers who are not shift workers when they stand down for a normal weekend.

Brief is best

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of soldiers' agendas . . . but please keep them brief. Emails (mailto:soldiermagazine.co.uk) MUST include your name and location (although we won't publish them if you ask us not to). Anonymous letters go in the bin. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to edit for length, clarity or style.

Before you write to us with a problem, you should first have tried to get an answer via your own chain of command. Our postal address is on Page 5.

Five pages of your letters and emails on issues of the day

A good move – for civvies

I DECIDED to buy my own house because I am in the final three of my 22 years and want to settle my family and get my children into college in time for the new term in my home town.

Please explain why, as I don't have a posting order (I am not due posting until March next year, halfway through the school year), I am not entitled to disturbance allowance or removals?

I have read the rules and though I don't agree with them, I accept them.

However, my sister-in-law's fiancé works for the Defence Logistics Organisation at Andover and has been given a job at DLO Bristol. He will get £3,000 towards expenses and their legal fees will be paid. And so long as their

new house in Bristol is similar to the house they are selling, DLO will offset the extra cost of the mortgage.

They are selling a £225,000 house and looking at houses around £295,000.

You are looked after better as a civilian working in the MoD for three years than as a soldier with 19 years' service.

– **Name and address supplied.**

Brig Jamie Gordon, DPS(A), replies: As you have found out, the current rule is: no order to move (posting order) equals no Army requirement to move you, and consequently you are not entitled to disturbance allowance or removals.

If, as it would seem, you are due to be

posted next March and you have or are about to buy your own house, and what you are after is an early move for your family, then you may make a case to PS4(A) through your commanding officer for your personal effects to be moved now, rather than on posting.

The same applies to Disturbance Allowance. Although, there is no entitlement for an early move, your case would be viewed sympathetically.

On the second issue, the simple explanation is that soldiers and civil servants are on different terms and conditions of service. The Army provides Service housing at an abated charge while civil servants have to find and pay the market rate for their own accommodation.

ID's OK for some things

I FEEL compelled to reply to the answer given to Sgt Weddell's letter ("ID failed to get us into Akrotiri Naafi", April).

I have served in the Army for the past 16 years and been told on many occasions that we get paid 24/7, 365 days a year.

No one ever informed me that my ID card was linked to my leave pass. I find it funny that it always seems to work when going through a movement control check point to an operational theatre such as Iraq or Afghanistan, or

even for a compulsory drug test team.

Some of the points raised in the reply were valid reasons with regard to security, however most if not all areas of sensitivity within military establishments are either manned around the clock, have bars on the windows or are alarmed.

Some of the facilities at RAF Akrotiri are second to none and those of us lucky enough to serve there appreciate it, so why can't other serving members with a valid ID card?

As for all items in the Naafi being

duty free, I would like to know what items, other than those you have to present your ration card for, are?

Have you seen the price of magazines?

While on the point of not being able to enter military establishments for social access, could somebody please explain to me why mess functions are full of expats with honorary membership and their tribe of guests?

Unlike the US military, who look after their troops for life, the British military quite embarrassingly does not and once you are out, you are out. Why can't we look after those still serving?

I am sure that Sgt Weddell's ID would have worked for the RMP if he were out of bounds. – **Name and address supplied.**

Please shine some light on fuel budget scheme

IN MY pay statement at the end of March, I noticed that my fuel and light had been stopped and a slight refund given. I spoke to my pay clerk at once about it and was told to call Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).

They told me it wasn't a pay problem and I would have to take it up with Defence Estates (DE).

DE told me it was a pay problem and that since JPA had come into effect they could no longer talk to the pay people about fuel and light problems.

I spoke again to the JPA office to a person who said he "had never dealt with fuel and light before" but he would get someone to call me back within ten working days. My main concern now is that my fuel and light has not been paid for two months and I need to double

the amount I pay as I have been told the bills have been increased by a factor of two.

Most of my unit is on Op Herrick 6 so we are waiting to see how this will effect the soldiers who will have a hard time getting hold of JPA from the middle of nowhere. – **Cpl C Smith, 4 GS Medical Regiment.**

Maj Andy Larner, DPS(A), replies: The Fuel and Light Budget Scheme allowed personnel to set aside an amount of their choice each month to offset against their annual fuel and light bill. The scheme closed on transition to JPA and personnel had their contributions refunded in March. Anyone wishing to use the new JPA facility may do so but they must make contributions at the UK normal rates.

PS...

I SERVED with pride and was advised by the Veterans Affairs Department to apply for the Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM) but was told I was ten days short of qualifying service. I served in both the British Army and the Australian Defence Force and received the Australian Defence Force Medal, yet my own country, which I served for nine years, gave me only a General Service Medal for Northern Ireland. We ex-Servicemen and women deserve better. – Philip Martin JP, ex-RRF, Australia.

Super solutions?

New large garrisons promise much but aren't the answer to everything

THE move to super-garrisons is well on the way but I'm not sure anyone truly knows how they are going to work in the long term – particularly in helping stability for Army families.

Many are convinced that they will solve a lot of our problems in one fell swoop. Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram recently said: "[Super-garrisons] will help to make life more stable for personnel and their families, improving continuity in schooling and access to dental and medical care, and helping them to put down roots."

I can't say I'm convinced; it's simplistic to expect all soldiers and their families to be less mobile in the future.

The end of Arms Plotting must have saved a tidy sum but it doesn't mean soldiers will be staying put from now on.

Units may nominally remain in one place – assuming that long-term planning is correct – but personnel will still have to be mobile because of promotion, courses and postings. I cannot envisage an entire military career spent within striking distance of Catterick for example.

What will be good about super-garrisons is that money can be spent on better infrastructures – for soldiers and dependants. Families will hopefully have better medical, dental, leisure, childcare and community facilities.

One issue arising out of the super-garrison concept is what will happen when, and if, we pull out of Germany. Plans to bring back 20,000 personnel (plus families) and the problem of housing them in the UK must be causing headaches in the corridors of power.



A personal view from Catharine Moss, Editor of the *AFF Families Journal*

Encouraging soldiers to buy their own homes, particularly in super-garrison areas, is one solution but is still beyond the financial reach of most soldiers. The much-touted Key Worker Living Programme will help qualifying families who want to buy in the south of England, but mobility issues will exclude many

soldiers from using the scheme.

Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) – which can be used to buy a house – is set at £8,500, which isn't going to go far in Aldershot for example, where the average house price is more than £190,000. Also, LSAP can only be used if the house is being bought to live in – this rule is understandably in place to stop personnel using the allowance for their own gain, but it also means that soldiers who are mobile and committed to accompanied service can never take advantage of the scheme.

(According to the last Continuous Attitude Survey only 12 per cent of personnel had received LSAP – although worryingly, more than 13 per cent had never even heard of it!)

I know house purchase is high on the list of what many Army families want to achieve and that by facilitating this the MoD will also help to solve the expected shortage of Service families accommodation in the future. However, families need to be assured that if circumstances change they will always have access back into Service life and good quality Service accommodation.

If I try to weigh up the pros and cons of Service life today for those families whose

soldier is in the Army for a full career, many of the cons haven't changed since the 1990s. Except that in today's Army, soldiers now spend a lot more time away for operational reasons (CAS figures show that more than 30 per cent of families were dissatisfied with the amount of time they spent apart from their soldier).

The poor standard of accommodation and rising rental charges also mean that families are no longer willing to put up and shut up about this issue and, although it's a national problem, not being able to access NHS dental care on posting is a key irritation factor for families (more than 50 per cent of Army spouses were unable to find an NHS dentist on their last move).

The swing side should be the allowances and incentives we receive which help to sweeten the downside of Army life, but these seem to be gradually being removed – usually in the name of progress.

Often it's losing the small things, which individually don't cause much angst, that cumulatively cause a feeling of not being valued.

Things like no longer being able to view a quarter before we move and the fact that the number of mess functions is now dictated by the catering contract rather than the need to boost morale.

The push towards treating the Services as a business is also having an effect on our quality of life and means we feel more like we're part of a spreadsheet rather than a family. ■

'Treating the Services as a business is also having an effect on our quality of life'

Find out more about the AFF at

www.aff.org.uk

Keith's column offers you a confidential way to tackle debt – and it won't cost you a penny

MANAGE YOUR MONEY

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



Ten and out

INFLATION and rising interest rates are making it more difficult to keep on top of our money. If you think debt could be creeping up on you, take the Financial

Services Authority (FSA) debt test at www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk

If you say "yes" to any of these questions, contact CCCS on 0800 1381111 or visit www.cccs.co.uk as soon as possible.

- 1) Do you use your credit card to bail yourself out before every pay day?
- 2) Do you use one card to pay off the debt on another?
- 3) Have you had to borrow to maintain the minimum payments?
- 4) Have you taken out a new card because you maxed out the old one?
- 5) Is your credit card debt rising?
- 6) If you add up the money you owe (excluding mortgage) does it equal more than the equivalent of your net income over six months?
- 7) When you add up all your monthly outgoings, is it equal to more than

half your monthly income?

8) Have you missed more than two months' payments on your cards, rent or mortgage?

9) Are you having to dip into your savings to pay bills?

10) Do you struggle to pay the minimum amount off your credit card?

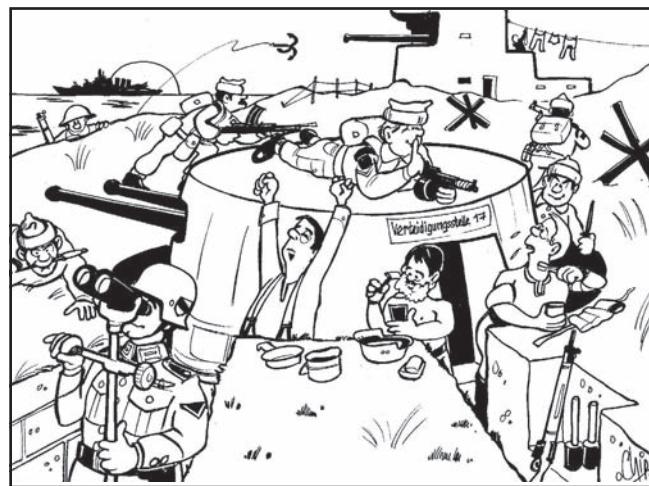
Half of us are unaware that as few as three missed credit card repayments could be enough to make us ineligible for high street mortgages. As more financial services are priced on individual risk, anyone with previous debt could end up paying more for loans, overdrafts and credit cards. ■

**0800 1381111 or
www.creditaction.org.uk**

NO. 787

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

WIN £100



TEN details have been changed in the latest in the series of drawings by our cartoonist, Chip. Circle the differences in the left-hand image and send the whole panel to **HOAY 787, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU** by June 29.

A photocopy is acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers. The results will be announced in the August issue.

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

April competition (No 785): First correct entry drawn at random and winner of the £100 prize was **Pte Dawes, 98 PC Sqn, 24 Regiment, RLC.** Runners-up **Mrs S Stocks c/o GWO, 1 RRF, Trenchard Barracks, BFPO 23** and **Sgt Clarkson 30 PC Sqn, RLC, BFPO 38,** each win a £25 gift voucher.

The differences were: Roundel on balloon; signpost on ridge; door in pill-box; searchlight on truck; side-pocket on left leg; Iron cross on pilot's chest; lance corporal stripe; rivets on propeller; 2nd Lt rank badges; barbed wire and post; rifle strap.



Winner of our April competition (inset)

IT was tough to choose between the best of your captions for the April image, but in the end we awarded the prize to Sgt A Edwards, ACIO Bridgend, for "The new testing conditions for Daz had become a little too extreme".

Close behind were Richard Simmons, ex-RAOC, of Brüggen, Germany, with "And the next simulation demo of a Harrier taking off will be at 2 o'clock" and SSgt M P McChesney, AFCO Manchester, with "The Royal National Ballet School was not amused by ex-Para Sgt Smith's rendition of Swan Dive instead of Swan Lake".

The mythical "Sgt Smith" also came into play for Sandra Shephard, FMO Rheindahlen, who suggested "Sgt Smith realised too late that he shouldn't have had the curry lunch".

Vince Scott, admin officer, 299 Para Sqn



Military top brass were quite rightly impressed by the state-of-the-art "two-men-standing-on-a-table push-it-on" Drops vehicle variant

WIN A BOOK: Write your own caption for the photo, above, from our January 1961 issue and send it to us by June 29. The best, in our opinion, will win a copy of *Heart of Oak*, the latest Bolitho dynasty story from Alexander Kent, the master of maritime adventure. (William Heinemann, £17.99.)

RE, Wakefield, came up with "Surely not! Unmanned reconnaissance flights can't be a thing of the past. This new concept is nuts – what about the camera?" while Simon Harrison of Ludgershall offered "Now Capt

Jones knew what the CO meant about his predecessor being a hard act to follow". LCpl O'Brien, MPGS RAF Linton-on-Ouse, gets a mention for "It's at times like this you could do without gravity".

Garrison guide

Aldershot

COMEDY

Saturday, June 2 – Short & Curly: Sandi Toksvig and Bonnie Langford, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and Mill Studio, Guildford
Sunday, June 10 – Hecklers Comedy Club, West End Centre, Aldershot
Saturday, June 16 – Brendon Burns and Jon Richardson, The West Wing, Slough
Saturday, June 23 – Russell Kane and Craig Campbell, Windsor Arts Centre, Windsor
Saturday, June 30 – Guy Pratt, Windsor Arts Centre, Windsor

LIVE MUSIC

Saturday, June 2 – Cry Wolf, Pyrford Social Club, Woking



Mastermind: Derren Brown is in Woking on June 11

Friday, June 8 – The Music of Dirty Dancing, Royal Horticultural Gardens, Woking

Catterick

COMEDY

Friday, June 1 – Comedy Club, Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham
Tuesday, June 12 – Black Comedy @ The Black Swan, Black Swan Inn, York
Saturday, June 16 – Charles Ross, St George's Concert Hall, Bradford

Tuesday, June 26 – Danny Dawes and Dave Ward, Glass Spider, Sunderland

LIVE MUSIC

Friday, June 1 – Who's Next, The Forum Music Centre, Darlington
Friday, June 15 – Dervish, Arc (Stockton Arts Centre), Stockton-on-Tees
Thursday, June 21 – Asere, Darlington Arts Centre, Darlington
Friday, June 29 – The Blueprints, New

Saturday, June 9 – Manic Street Preachers, Hexagon Theatre, Reading
Thursday, June 14 – Blackmore's Night, Hexagon Theatre, Reading
Wednesday, June 27 – Take On That, The Camberley Theatre, Camberley

THEATRE

Monday, June 4 – The Colin Fry Tour, Hexagon Theatre, Reading
Friday, June 8 – Twelfth Night, The Old Barn, Reading
Monday, June 11 – Derren Brown, New Victoria Theatre, Woking
Monday, June 25-30 – The Buddy Holly Story, Hexagon Theatre, Reading
Thursday, June 28-30 – Sweet William: Michael Pennington's one-man Shakespeare show, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and Mill Studio, Guildford

County Arms, Northallerton

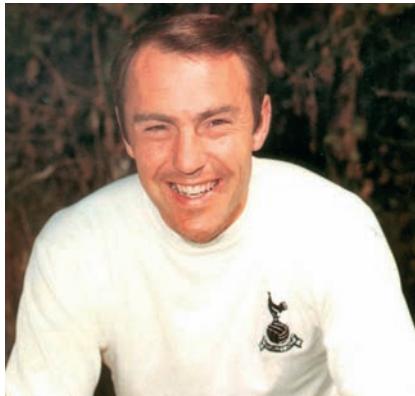
THEATRE

Monday, June 4-9 – Footloose: The Musical, Civic Theatre, Darlington
Tuesday, June 12-16 – Dangerous Corner, Civic Theatre, Darlington
Tuesday, June 19-23 – The Decorator, Civic Theatre, Darlington
Wednesday, June 27 – As You Like It, Swinton Park Hotel, Ripon

Saturday, June 23 – Absolute Swing, Mercury Theatre, Colchester
Saturday, June 30 – Trencher and Loss Leader, Colchester Arts Centre, Colchester

THEATRE

Saturday, June 2 – A Green Mist Rising: Essex Story Tellers, Colchester Castle Park, Colchester
Wednesday, June 6-9 – Hello Dolly, Spa Pavilion Theatre, Felixstowe
Monday, June 18 – An Audience With Jimmy Greaves, Mercury Theatre, Colchester
Thursday, June 21 – Jim Fixed It For Me: Laurence Clark, Colchester Arts Centre, Colchester
Monday, June 25 – Hits From The Blitz: We'll Meet Again, Spa Pavilion Theatre, Felixstowe



Loan signing: Greavsie joins Colchester on June 18

COMEDY

Saturday, June 2 – Sue Perkins, The Junction, Cambridge
Tuesday, June 12 – Cannon and Ball, Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, June 14 – Roger Monkhouse and Martin Coyote, Waterfront, Chelmsford
Thursday, June 28 – Lee Lard's Peter Kaye Experience, Pavilion Theatre, Felixstowe
Friday, June 29 – Jimmy Carr, Charter Hall, Colchester

Thursday, June 14 – Papa Noel, Colchester Arts Centre, Colchester
Friday, June 22 – Elkie Brooks, Mercury Theatre, Colchester

LIVE MUSIC

Tuesday, June 5 – Johnny Mental, The Twist, Colchester

No.1 for Entertainment

Ents24 is the UK's number one entertainments listings and ticketing resource, constantly updated with the latest gigs, theatre, club/bar and comedy events. For the most up-to-the-minute information, and for details about your local cinema listings, visit www.ents24.com or call our ticket hotline 0871 230 2601 to book your tickets now.

Bulford/Tidworth

COMEDY

Tuesday, June 5 – With My Condiments: John Shuttleworth, Salisbury Art Centre, Salisbury

Monday, June 6-9 – The New Statesman: Rik Mayall, Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Thursday, June 14 – My Bass and Other Animals: Guy Pratt, Tower Arts Centre, Winchester

Sunday, June 24 – Paul Foot, Dylan Bray, Reeves Peterson and Ed Gamble, The Railway Inn, Winchester

Wednesday, June 27 – As Used On The Famous Nelson Mandela: Mark Thomas, Theatre Royal, Winchester

LIVE MUSIC

Friday, June 1 – The Blackjacks, The Huntsman, Salisbury

Wednesday, June 6 – Julian Lloyd Webber, Salisbury Playhouse, Salisbury

Friday, June 15 – Whole Lotta Led, Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury

Sunday, June 17 – Big Band Brunch, Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury

Friday, June 29-30 – The Beerex Festival, Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury

THEATRE

Tuesday, June 5 – A Life Stripped Bare: My year trying to live ethically: Leo Hickman, Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury

Thursday, June 7-9 – Pete and Dud: Come Again, Theatre Royal, Winchester

Wednesday, June 13 – The Colin Fry Tour, Salisbury City Hall, Salisbury

Sunday, June 17 – As You Like It, Lainston House Hotel, Winchester

Friday, June 29 – The OperaBabes, Theatre Royal, Winchester

Ready for battle: Channel 4's comedy guerilla Mark Thomas presents his take on governmental and corporate exploitation at the Theatre Royal in Winchester on June 27

DEFENCE DIARY

JUNE

2: Major General's Review of Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade. Tickets on 0207 4142479.

2: 100 (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery Royal Salute, Nottingham Castle.

9: Colonel's Review of Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade (tickets as above).

9: Field Gun 100 Day, HMS Collingwood, Fareham, www.royalnavy.mod.uk/fieldgun100

10: 150th anniversary of the investiture of the Victoria Cross commemorative service, Lichfield Cathedral.

12: Household Cavalry Pageant, Horse Guards Parade. Book online at www.ticketmaster.co.uk

16: Queen's Birthday Parade, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade.

28: Royal Review of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery at 1430, Cavalry Parade Ground, Hyde Park.

30: The Minden Band of the Queen's Division and The Parachute Regiment Band perform "Pop Fest" and a tribute to Glenn Miller at ATR Bassingbourn.

30: Britisches Festival, Paderborn city centre. Celebrating the regional traditions represented by units within 20 Armd Bde and Paderborn Garrison.

JULY

14: Manchester Military Tattoo, MEN Arena. Featuring the world famous motorcycle display team, The Imps, and a demonstration by the Manchester Field Gun team. Tickets, priced £11 adults and £4 children, on 0870 190 8000. *Soldier* has five pairs of tickets to give away. To stand a chance of winning, simply tell us in which county Manchester is found. Answers to the usual address. Closing date for entries June 29.

14-15: Aldershot Army Show, Aldershot, www.armyshow.co.uk

14-15: Royal International Air Tattoo, RAF Fairford, www.airtattoo.com

AUGUST

3-25: Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Tickets and details from +44(0)8707 555 118 or www.edinburgh-tattoo.co.uk

■ Got a date for the diary? Email diary@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Bulletin board

Defence directory

Army Benevolent Fund: 0845 2414820

Army Welfare Information Service: 01722 436569/436461; www.army.mod.uk/aws

Army Families Federation: 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association: 020 8590 1124. www.blesma.org

Career Transition Partnership: 0207 766 8020

Children's Education Advisory Service: 01980 618244; enquiries.ceas@gtnet.gov.uk

Confidential support lines: UK 0800 731 4880; Germany 0800 1827 395; Cyprus 080 91065; Falklands #6111; from operational theatres Paradigm Services *201; from anywhere in the world (CSL operator will call back) +44 1980 630854. Lines open 1030-2230 (UK) every day.

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society: 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service: 020 74639249

Forces Pension Society: 020 78209988

Gulf Veterans Association: 0191 2301065

Joint Service Housing Advice Office: 01722 436575

MoD Medal Office: Medal queries to JPAC Enquiry Centre on 94560 3600 or 0141 224 3600

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group): 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office: (0900-1700) 01482 808730; 24-hour helpline 01482 833812; www.ngvf.org.uk

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

Royal British Legion: 0845 7725 725

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre: 01622 717202/718484; www.rbl.co.uk

Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency (ESHRA): 0207 8394466; www.eshra.com

St Dunstan's charity for blind ex-Servicemen and women: 0207 7235021; www.st-dunstans.org.uk

SAMA 82 (South Atlantic Medal Association) Falklands conflict veterans: 01495 227577

Services Cotswold Centre: 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help: 020 7403 8783; Western Europe 02161 472 3392

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA): 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

Victim Support: Germany 02161 472 2272; UK 0845 3030900, www.victimsupport.org

WRVS (24-hr answer service): 02920 739016; general enquiries 02920 739016

Reunions

Airborne Ordnance Reunion: Jun 15-17 at WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Deepcut. Contact WO1 (RSM) Hutchson on 07793 989727 or email hutchabco@btinternet.com

C (251 Sunderland) Medical Squadron (formerly 251 Fd Amb): Third reunion on Jun 16 at TA Centre, Dykelands Road, Seaburn, Sunderland SR6 8DP, starts 1830. Ex-members welcome. Contact Graeme New on 07769 948685 or graemenew@btinternet.com

Royal Northumberland Fusiliers: Aden veterans' commemoration starts 1130, Jun 20 at Cenotaph Haymarket and afterwards Three Bulls Head, Percy Street, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear. Contact A Batey 20 Wroot Road, Finningley, Doncaster DN9 3DN.

Royal British Legion Devon County Rally: Drumhead service and Beating Retreat by Band of the Royal Marines, Jun 24 at Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, Devon. Great day for Legion members, families and friends. More details 01392 272111 or 01837 840757.

Medical Support Unit, HQ Hereford Garrison: Past-and-present reunion, Jun 30. Ring Andy on 01432 357311 ext 2918, quote "MSU Reunion".

Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment: Annual pilgrimage to Crich on Jul 2. Remembrance service starts at 1500, gates close at 1430. Contact Maj (Retd) M J Green, RHQ, WFR, Norton Barracks, Worcester WR5 2PA.

Royal Pioneer Corps: Association reunion on Jul 6-8, Bicester. Contact Norman Brown on 01969 360694 or email pioneers@rpca.fsnet.co.uk

144 Para Medical Squadron/23 Para Field Ambulance: Annual reunion past-and-present dinner at the TA Centre, Hornsey, London, Jul 7. Ring Capt Roy Hatch on 0208 341 3664 or 07730 977989.

723 (CS) Kings Squad RM 1959-60: Fourth reunion to be held at Chesterfield, Derby, Jul 8 at 2000. Contact Taff Prichard on 02920 790233.

59 Independent Commando Squadron RE: Reunion weekend Jul 13-15 at Royal Marine Barracks, Chivenor. Final squadron reunion before transition to 24 Commando Engr Regt next year. Details on unit website at www.army.mod.uk/royalengineers/org/59sqn/index

Joint Helicopter Support Squadron: Ex-hookers wanted for 25th anniversary celebrations on Jul 20. Contact WO2 (SSM) Dai Andrews on 01256 702134 Ext 7474 or 95235 7474 or email odijhsu-ssm@odiham.raf.mod.uk

AMF (LI Supply Coy RAOC): Past-and-present reunion on Jul 28 at Ward Barracks, Bulford, of AMF personnel stationed at Bulford Camp 1987 to 1992. For more details, write to John White, 4 Gedling Rd, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 3FJ or ring him on 01159 530312.

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment:

Annual reunion on Sep 9 in Maidstone. For more details contact B Bartlett, 185 Park Crescent, Erith, Kent DA8 3EB

Royal Hampshire Regiment: Reunion lunch for 4th, 1/4th, 2/4th 4th (post-war) and 4/5th Bns on Sep 29 at Southampton University Officers' Training Corps, 32 Carlton Place, Southampton. Midday for 1300. Contact Maj Ian Taylor at 4 Cedar Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 7LN or 02380 694771 or email him at p.b.taylor@btinternet.com

Singapore schools: Reunion for former pupils of all Singapore schools on Sep 29 at Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Hatfield. If you want to be there, email singaporeschool.reunion@googlemail.com mentioning the name of the school and the year(s) you attended.

Queen's School, Rheindahlen: Reunion in London on Oct 6 for pupils and staff, Jan 1955 to 1980s. For details see website at www.queenschoolrheindahlenassociation.co.uk

Scots Guards Band: Reunion on Oct 6. For details contact Lee Dawson on 0207 414 3266 or email bsm@scotsguardsband.co.uk

Roadshows

THE Army Presentation Team wants to hear from members of the public who would like a personal invitation to its exciting hi-tech roadshow.

The event starts with a reception, is followed by a presentation and questions-and-answers session and culminates with a finger buffet. Military personnel will be on hand to answer your questions.

Call 01276 417000 or email your name and address to apt.mod@btinternet.com with the event you are interested in attending.

June – 12, Stockton on Tees; 13, York; 14, Hull; 25, Portsmouth; 26, Oxford; 27, Slough.

July – 10, Esher; 11, Woodford; 12, Watford; 24, Buxton; 25, Leicester; 26, Braintree. **August** – No presentations.

Competitions

Rogue Trooper PS2 winners:

PS2 game – E Gough, Rochdale Barracks, BFPO 39; W Henderson, Hornsey TA Centre, London. *Rogue Trooper* books – M Pipe, Lisburn; A Paling, 21 Signal Regt, Colerne; H Timothy, Thiepval Barracks, BFPO 801; S Renwick, Droylsden, Manchester; Sgt J Green, AFCO Brighton; Sgt A Edwards, ACIO, Bridgend. **Answer:** Sylvester Stallone.

Dave Pearce Dance Anthems 2007 Album winners:

WO2 N Land, Hohne, BFPO 30; Sgt D Watkins, Palace Barracks, BFPO 806; M O'Shea, Wembley, Middx. **Answer:** Fedde Le Grand.



Back in black: Advanced showings of *Dark Sector* show an impressive mix of action and puzzle-solving



Mutant mayhem

Covert black op takes on terrifying edge in forthcoming console actioner

Preview: Cliff Caswell

FINDING his way into the chaos of a radioactive town populated by mutant creatures, trigger-happy soldiers and toxic waste is just the beginning of a very bad day for CIA agent Hayden Tenno.

Dispatched to Eastern Europe to find out what is going on in the nightmarish settlement of Lasria, the élite black ops specialist is attacked by an unknown assailant and beaten unconscious.

When he wakes up, he finds that some disturbing modifications have been made to his body.

For starters, one of Tenno's hands has been changed into a bizarre circular saw, which, when thrown, returns to his grasp like a boomerang.

But despite the obvious shock at having a large lump of his anatomy removed, it proves to be a blessing. Almost immediately he is confronted by less-than-friendly enemy troops clad in full nuclear, biological and chemical kit

and his new-found weapon proves an effective way of dealing with them.

And so the stage is set for Digital Extremes' strange and disturbing title, *Dark Sector*, due for release on both the Xbox 360 and PS3 in October. *Soldier* was given an advance preview of the game and was suitably impressed.

The three-dimensional environment is presented in a similar way to Capcom's *Resident Evil* series and fits well with the dark and moody atmosphere. The graphics are richly detailed, the sound impressive and considerable thought has obviously gone into the bizarre and off-the-wall storyline.

"We have been working on *Dark Sector* for the past three years, and it will have more than 15 hours of gameplay," said Josh Austin, producer at Digital Extremes. "When we were considering the story we looked at films such as *Spider-man* and *Batman Begins* for inspiration. During the game your character effectively evolves into a hero.

"Hayden Tenno is also a bit like Jack

Bauer in the TV series *24*. He runs off a lot on his own and he does things on his own terms."

There is certainly plenty of scope to do your own thing in *Dark Sector*. While there is one story underpinning the game, there are plenty of sub-plots to discover and puzzles to solve.

The scenery is also interactive and players can enhance their buzz-saw hand attachment by throwing it into flames, or get it lethally charged by lobbing it at power cables.

"Some of the puzzles are quite tricky although we didn't want the player to stumble around too much," Austin asserted. "If you manage to solve certain puzzles, you will find that you will have an easier time later on."

"There will be a lot of side paths that players can take in the game outside of the main plot. It's a pretty massive playing environment and there are some wide open spaces in it."

Players certainly need all the upgrades they can get and must keep



mentally and physically alert – as well as taking on enemy troops battling to keep the mysterious biological threat under control, they will also come face-to-face with some bizarre monsters, who will not lie down and die easily.

Working out weaknesses and using the environment to best advantage are the key to survival, as is finding out the town's deadly secret, which dates back to the Cold War and represents the root cause of all the havoc.

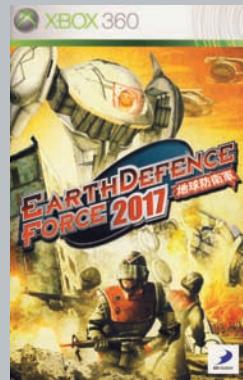
Dark Sector looks the part and the demo shown to *Soldier* was paced well with a good mix of raw action and puzzle-solving.

The capabilities of the next-generation consoles are used to the full, with some superb lighting effects and outstanding animation, which makes the mutant-infested playing environment all the more impressive.

While full details have yet to be announced, *Dark Sector* will also feature a multiplayer mode along the lines of Ubisoft's *Splinter Cell*.

Certainly the environment in which the game is set offers some interesting possibilities and has plenty of potential for some fun online encounters.

Dark Sector looks set to attract quite a cult following when it is released in the autumn. ■



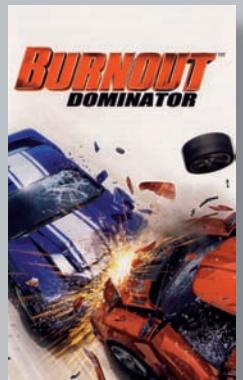
Earth Defence Force 2017, Xbox 360

THE video game equivalent of a B-movie, *Earth Defence Force* puts players in a squad dedicated to repelling an alien invasion. It sounds good but don't be fooled; this title is a turkey with few, if any, redeeming features. Gameplay is repetitive to the point of tedium, the dialogue cringing and animation questionable. If you want a good apocalyptic shooter set in an alien infested world, get a copy of *Lost Planet* instead. *Earth Defence Force* brings nothing new to the party and will have you reaching for a decent football game in minutes.



Attack on Pearl Harbour, PC

BILLING itself as an uncomplicated Second World War flight sim, *Attack on Pearl Harbour* puts players in the boots of pilots battling for supremacy in the Pacific theatre. There are plenty of period aircraft to choose from on both the American and Japanese sides, including the F4U Corsair fighter and its nemesis, the deadly A6M1 Zero, which proved the scourge of the US forces throughout the war. Players can also take to dive bombing in the US Dauntless or Japanese Val aircraft and brave ground fire. Released on June 22.



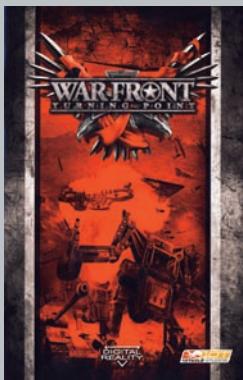
Burnout Dominator, PSP

THE latest in an expanding library of PSP driving games, the next installment in the *Burnout* franchise should please racing fans. Players get to drive like lunatics around the roads, getting rewarded for trashing other cars and grazing crash barriers. It's pretty slick although the game is frequently interrupted at the beginning with irritating tutorials. While EA has delivered another strong offering with this one, all racing game fans should make sure that they get their hands on *Outrun 2006: Coast-to Coast*, now often found in the bargain bin.



Metal Gear Solid: Portable Ops, PSP

HIDEO Kojima's legendary games series continues its PSP run in *Portable Ops*, with more stealth and close-quarter combat action. As always, players assume the role of hero Snake, this time back in the 1970s as he puts together his élite Foxhound unit. Presentation is suitably slick here but the controls have a tendency to tie your fingers in knots and the dark three-dimensional environments can make it difficult to see what is happening on such a small screen. Fans of *Metal Gear*, however, will not be disappointed.



Warfront, PC

HOW would the Second World War have played out if Hitler had died early on and the new German leaders started using experimental weapons? The answer, according to *Warfront: Turning Point*, is a conflict fought between Nazis on jet packs and Allied troops with earthquake bombs. An unlikely scenario, but one that has been crafted into a fast-paced, real-time strategy game in which players must make money to build up an army before doing battle. An engrossing war game enriched by an action-packed ten-person online multiplayer mode.



Power Monkey, mobile gaming accessory

SOLDIER thought this useful piece of kit was worth a mention after it proved its value on trips away. Effectively a compact battery pack, it will provide hours of charge to handheld entertainment systems such as the Sony PSP, Apple iPod or your mobile phone. The kit comes with different adaptors that will fit all kinds of equipment, thus making it a great accessory to keep in your hand luggage on long-haul flights. The *Power Monkey* itself can also be charged up in the UK, US, Australia and Europe thanks to different adaptor heads.



The Lynott years: Thin Lizzy's re-released *Greatest Hits* collection is testament to the band's appeal through the decades

Acclaimed axeman: Scott Gorham, pictured right, continues to be one of the driving forces behind the band's twin-guitar sound



The Thin man

Lizzy guitar legend carries on rocking through the 21st century

Interview: Cliff Caswell

WHEN little-known hard rockers Thin Lizzy released a single called *The Boys Are Back In Town* in 1976, the band could never have predicted that the anthem would resonate into the 21st century.

From the favourite watering holes of soldiers around the world to football terraces, clubs and even movie soundtracks, the song has been a favourite for more than 30 years. The immortal guitar intro is synonymous with nights to remember.

For Scott Gorham, one of the band's two original guitarists, the longevity has been particularly satisfying. The Californian-born musician, who is now leading a reformed Lizzy featuring the talents of John Sykes on vocals and guitar, legendary drummer Tommy Aldridge and Marco Mendoza on bass, has been delighting a new generation of fans with the hits of times past.

"I can see why those serving in the Army would like *The Boys Are Back In Town*," the 56-year-old reflected. "It's about guys going out on the town and having a great time. It could almost be their own song."

Appearing on the *Jailbreak* album, the anthem catapulted Lizzy into the premier league of heavy rock outfits. Fronted by the charismatic Phil Lynott on bass and vocals, Brian Downey on drums and Brian Robertson partnering Gorham on guitars, the band proved a firm favourite and a legendary live act.

Life with a UK hard rock outfit, however, was a far cry from Gorham's youth in the USA, where he grew up in the shadow of the Vietnam War.

"The fighting was going on when I was around 18 or 19-years-old," he told *Soldier*. "All they had to do was to call me up and I would have gone. When I think of British soldiers serving abroad now, I realise I could have been in their position back then."

For Gorham, however, the lure of the UK music scene pulled him away from war in South-East Asia and into an audition with Thin Lizzy. Being on the front line of the British music scene was a dream come true.

"My teenage years were in Los Angeles during the 1960s, when we had the likes of The Beatles out there," he recalled. "I came to live in the UK because I'd always liked the British bands and I've now been here for 30 years."

"I was always fascinated by how there was so much music coming out of one island and when my brother-in-law came over and joined the band Supertramp, that was all the persuading I needed. I was straight on the plane."

With Thin Lizzy, Gorham went on to be a key driving force behind a clutch of acclaimed studio albums, including *Nightlife*, *Renegade*, *Johnny The Fox* and *Black Rose: A Rock Legend*, as well as the immortal concert sets on *Live And Dangerous* and *Life*.



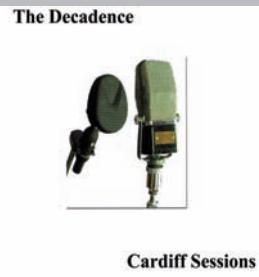
Brian Robertson quit the band in 1978, after which Gorham played with guitarists, including Gary Moore and John Sykes before the Lizzy members finally went their separate ways in 1984.

There had later been rumours of reforming the band, but it never played together in its original form again. In January 1986, Lynott died after losing his battle against drugs.

"Phil was an odd character, and I mean that in a good way," Gorham said. "He had the hard man persona of this Wild West gunfighter, but when you got to know him he had a much softer side. He'd even written a poetry book. We both had the same problems with six years of drug and drink abuse. Phil didn't make it through and I did."

After spending time recovering from the years on the road, Gorham returned to Lizzy with a new vigour in the late 1990s and has been playing ever since. He admits to feeling the same buzz as when he first performed three decades ago.

"Obviously I'm a little older now, I don't stay up as late, and the jet lag between different time zones on tour catches up with me more quickly," Gorham joked. "But getting up there on stage and playing those songs is well worth it every time." ■



Cardiff Sessions (The Decadence)

TWO paras, currently on operations, are also advancing in the music business. Their superb sound is like the old **Rolling Stones** stuff but a bit grittier and LCpls Gaz Hart and Andy Wicks have made some quality tunes. At www.myspace.com/thedecadenceuk you can listen to two excellent debut tracks, *Heartbreaker* and *Walkaway*. But it was their battle experiences in Afghanistan that inspired the duo to pen *Better Days*, a single that will be launched later this year in aid of the Poppy Appeal.

Pte Chris Annear, MPGS



Ain't Nothing Like Me (Joe)

ONE of the leading acts in the bump 'n' grind R&B style returns from a four-year break. This is consistent and confident grown-up, sexy music, as **Joe** croons his tales of love and romance over a backdrop of slick sounds. It's the kind of CD that falls into one groove then remains there for the duration. Some of raps' big-hitters appear as guests, including **Nas**, **Dre** and **G-unit**, whose title track is a slow burning club banger. This is a near perfect soundtrack to seduction. Recommended.

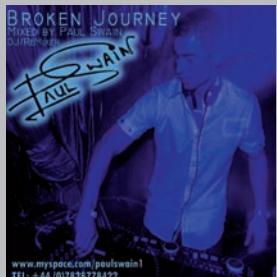
Cpl Charlie Lloyd, RLC



On The Leyline (Ocean Colour Scene)

ON The Leyline is **OCS** doing what they do best. The five-piece have matured since exploding onto the scene some 11 years ago with *Day We Caught The Train*. Their latest album is weighted by a folk edge rather than Brit Pop and the influence of the Mod-Father, **Paul Weller**, is still very much a part of the carefully cultivated sound. Listening is more than comfortable and there is a good deal of variety. The album radiates sunshine and should prove to be a popular soundtrack to the summer.

**Cpl Tom Robinson,
151 Tpt Regt, RLC**



Broken Journey (Paul Swain)

THIS download, available at <http://djmixtape.net/mixinfo.php?mixid=3028>, will appeal to a lot of squaddies out there. It is a typical mix of upbeat trance similar to *Clubland* although the track selection is not as commercial. The one annoying thing is the repetition of the DJ's name at several points throughout the mix. I don't know if it is a ploy to make you remember his name but it does spoil what, otherwise, is a very professional mix. The DJing is of a high standard, with tracks blending seamlessly.

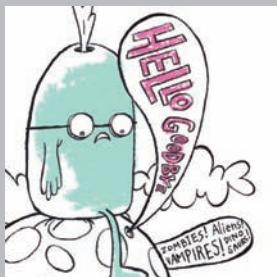
**Bdr Luke Stevens-Burt,
5 Regt RA**



The Boy With No Name (Travis)

THIS offering is a very welcome return for Scottish indie band **Travis**. The melancholic vocals are instantly recognisable but this album feels decidedly more positive than their last. The distinctive sound of **Fran Healy's** voice always risks a group like **Travis** sounding a bit samey – not so with this eclectic collection of new tracks. The first single, *Closer*, is already awakening a new set of fans who missed out on the band's last collection three years ago. This album has something for everyone and is one everybody should have.

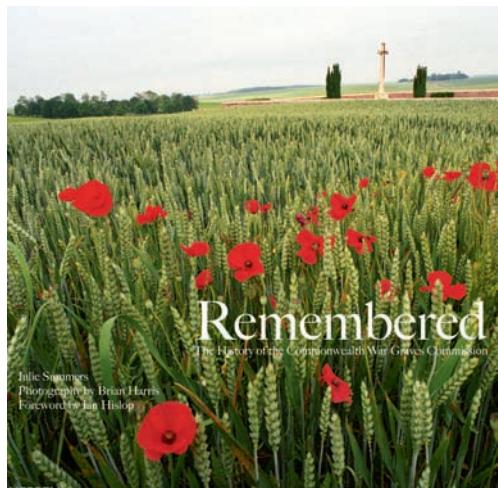
WO1 David Greaves, REME



Zombies! Aliens! Vampires! Dinosaurs! (HelloGoodbye)

HELLOGOODBYE have caused a sensation in the USA with their debut single *Here* reaching the top ten based on internet downloads alone. The album is a collection of cheerful tunes, playful lyrics and varied styles. **HelloGoodbye** deliver upbeat singalong love anthems and, at their worst, they descend into trashy Euro Pop. The electronic percussion can be annoying but this is an energetic, talented band that writes catchy songs. It will be interesting to see if they succeed in the UK.

Pte Patrick Jordan, RAMC



Remembered in perpetuity: Rancourt Military Cemetery on the outskirts of a small village on the N17 road between Bapaume and Peronne on the Somme. The cemetery was begun by units of the Guards Division in the winter of 1916-17 and used again by the burial officers of the 12th and 18th Divisions in September 1918. Six more graves were added later. German fallen are buried in the wood in the background.



Never ending

After 90 years, terrific work of the War Graves Commission goes on

Remembered: The History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, text by Julie Summers, photographs by Brian Harris (Merrell, 192pp, £29.95).

Review: Chris Horrocks

RUDYARD Kipling called it "the biggest single bit of work since any of the Pharaohs and they only worked in their own country".

The great man, whose son John was listed as missing in the First World War, was referring to the achievements of the Imperial (latterly Commonwealth) War Graves Commission, established by Royal Charter 90 years ago. As its literary adviser, Kipling chose the inscriptions for

the Commission's memorials, including the most resonant – "Their Name Liveth For Evermore" from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (The Apocrypha).

Visionary and driving force of the Commission was Maj Gen Sir Fabian Ware (to give him his eventual title), who was inspired by voluntary service with the Red Cross in France to create an organisation to register the exact burial places of men who fell in battle.

Cornerstone of the Commission's philosophy was that the memorials should bear no distinction between officers and men, a radical departure from earlier tradition. The watchwords were uniformity – regardless also of race or creed – and "remembrance in perpetuity".

Today the Commission looks after war graves at 23,000 locations in 150 countries, honouring the 1.7 million dead of both world wars. The

cemeteries, funded by member countries of the former British Empire – Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK – are visited by more people now than ever before.

Pictures of those memorials grace two-thirds of this magnificent book. Many of the images captured by award-winning photographer Brian Harris are, like their subjects, works of art. He takes us on a breathtaking photographic journey to Canada, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Malta, Crete, Gallipoli, Egypt, India, Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand.

But this publication would not live up to its title without the written word. Although the large-page format favours the pictorial content over the wide columns of text, Julie Summers has risen to the daunting challenge of chronicling the story of such a vast and complicated undertaking. She reminds us that behind the headstones are many human stories, perhaps the most heart-rending being that of Annie Souls of Great Rissington

Soldier ordering service

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



in Oxfordshire, who in the Great War lost five sons. Her sixth son, too young to fight, died of meningitis.

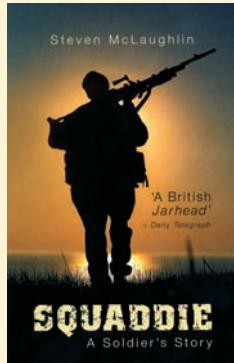
"She kept a candle burning in the window of her cottage," she writes, "in case her eldest son, Fred, who was lost in the Battle of the Somme and has no known grave, returned home."

Now, 90 years on, work has begun to scan more than 3.5 million original documents held in the Commission's Maidenhead premises. They will be linked to the Casualty Database to form an archive accessible to the overseas offices for the first time via the internet. So in the spirit of Ware's pioneering vision, the prodigious work goes on using 21st century technology.

Ian Hislop, TV presenter and Editor of *Private Eye*, who traced the graves of his grandfather's comrades who had fallen at Cambrai, writes in his foreword: "Winston Churchill, in one of his less celebrated roles as Chairman of the Commission, promised in 1920 that the memorials would 'excite the wonder and reverence of future generations'. And he was right."

The book, all royalties from which will go to the CWGC, accompanies an exhibition at Canada House, London, until July; at the Imperial War Museum North, Manchester, Nov-Feb 2008; and at other locations. ■

For more reviews, go to
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

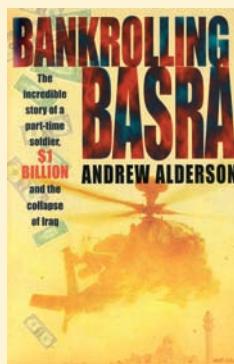


Squaddie

by Stephen McLaughlin

BILLED as a British **Jarhead**, this unusual book tells the story of the author's three years in The Royal Green Jackets, writes **Maj Mike Peters AAC**. McLaughlin joins the RGJ after the death of his brother in the aftermath of 9/11; at the not so tender age of 31, he undergoes training as an infantry soldier. His story is pitched at grass-roots level and gives his own candid view on being an infantryman on patrol in Northern Ireland and the grim realities of soldiering in post-war Iraq.

Mainstream, 318pp, £7.99

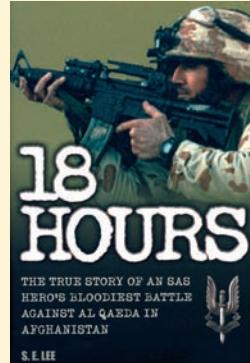


Bankrolling Basra

by Andrew Alderson

THE true but scarcely credible account of how a British merchant banker serving in the Territorial Army ended up running a multi-billion pound economy for the whole of British-controlled southern Iraq in the days following the 2003 invasion. Alderson received an MBE for his time as Basra's "Chancellor of the Exchequer", a job which occasionally involved stuffing millions of dollars into plastic bags to keep the country functioning.

Robinson, 272pp, £8.99

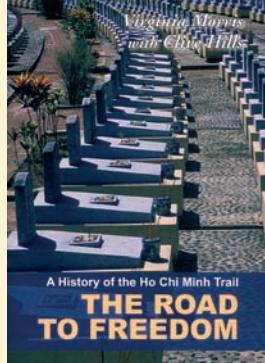


18 Hours: The story of an Australian signals specialist with the SAS in Afghanistan

by Sandra Lee

MARTIN Jock Wallace received Australia's highest award for gallantry (apart from the Victoria Cross) for his part in Operation Anaconda and other joint Australian/US operations in Afghanistan, writes **Maj Mike Peters AAC**. The author is a female journalist and there is a newspaper style to the narrative. I found it a little too gung ho at many points. Short on maps but long on photographs.

John Blake Publishing,

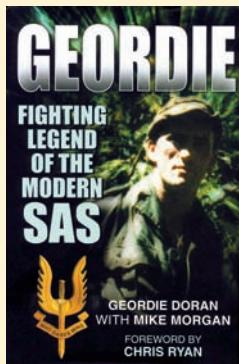


The Road to Freedom: A History of the Ho Chi Minh Trail

by Virginia Morris with Clive Hills

WHO said there were no new adventures out there? Author Morris and husband Hills, a former Para-turned-photographer, traced the 20,000km Ho Chi Minh Trail – the first westerners to do so – to unravel the story of an extraordinary military achievement and the soldiers behind it. Their words, images and maps shed light on the mythical supply route which defied every attempt by the world's most powerful military nation to bomb it out of existence.

Orchid Press, 180pp, £17.99



Geordie: Fighting Legend of the Modern SAS

by Geordie Doran with Mike Morgan

GEORDIE Doran grew up in Jarrow during the 1930s and joined The Light Infantry in 1946. His 40-year military career included active service in Cyprus, Korea, Suez, Oman and Yemen, and he turned himself into a jungle warfare expert in Malaya and Borneo. When his soldiering days were cut short by a serious road accident he carved out a new role for himself instructing new recruits training for the Special Forces.

Sutton, 252pp, £17.99

SOLDIER SPORT



Captain fantastic: Victorious 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt skipper Sgt John Stephenson lifts the Army FA Challenge Cup after a hard-fought win over 5 Scots Picture: Graeme Main

UP FOR THE CUP

Tense final settled by wonder goals



Six of the best

Reds claim Inter-Services record after sixth consecutive Twickenham win

Report: Stephen Tyler

Pictures: Graeme Main

THE Army rugby team played its way into the history books after overcoming the Royal Navy for a sixth successive time in a pulsating Babcock Trophy game at Twickenham.

Head coach WO2 Andy Price (WG) predicted a fast, free-flowing Inter-Services encounter, but even the adventurous Welshman was impressed at the attacking intent on show from both sides as early as the first minute.

Eight tries from two teams determined not to repeat last year's drab affair added an extra sheen to a deserved 39-25 victory for the Reds in their centenary year.

"In times gone, the Navy have come to Twickenham to punch the red beast hoping it will fall over – today they played football," WO2 Price told *SoldierSport* after the match. "For the independent it was a great game."

Neither side mustered a single try

in 80 minutes last year, but barely 60 seconds had passed this time around before the red half of the 41,730 Twickenham crowd was celebrating the first five points.

Right wing Spr Ben Seru (RE) ghosted into the Navy 22 and set up the industrious LCpl Chris Budgen (1 R Welsh) who battered his way towards the try line. The ball was spread wide left to Spr Peceli Nacamavuto (RE), who stood his man up and burst over for the game's first score.

A heel injury forced Army skipper Sgt Mal Roberts (RLC) to hand over kicking duties to fly half Gdsm Rob Sweeney, and the Welsh Guardsman made no mistake with the conversion to give his side a 7-0 lead.

Much had been made in the build-up to the game of Navy head coach Cdr Mark Deller's disposition for expansive rugby and his team refused to let the early setback dull their attacking instincts on a perfect Twickenham pitch.

Strong pressure from the restart led

to a high kick into the Army 22 which Roberts duly caught and marked. But referee Martin Fox spotted a late tackle and Navy captain LAET Dave Pascoe scored the resulting penalty.

The Blues took their first lead after 14 minutes when electric Fijian right wing CH Josh Drauniniu showed blistering pace to wriggle his way within a few yards of the Army line.

From the breakdown, AB Jamie Caruana delivered an expertly weighted cross-field kick that dropped neatly for left wing AET Andrew Vance to dive over the line for a 7-8 Navy lead.

The unrelenting pace of proceedings allowed both sides to focus on playing good rugby and it was telling that the game's first and only flare-up came after 20 minutes when Seru unceremoniously dumped Pascoe into touch.

A good spell of Army pressure paid off soon after. Capt James Gill (AMS) moved the ball left to Pte Apolosi Satala (1 Scots) who handed it on to man-of-the-match Nacamavuto.





The centre was tackled and the Blues cleared the ball, but Budgen made the hard yards from the resulting line-out and fed Satala, who ran full-pelt into the Navy's defensive wall and stayed on his feet long enough to pop a pass to LCpl Malakai Magnus (RLC). The loggie kept his composure to sidestep Navy fullback Mne Rob Lloyd and touch down under the posts.

A Sweeney conversion stretched the score to 14-8, but the Army went behind again three minutes later when Drauniniu danced his way around two tackles to score a converted try.

The game swung tantalisingly from one side to the other as Sweeney and Pascoe exchanged penalties to leave the score at 17-18 after 33 minutes.

A further three-pointer from Sweeney restored the Army lead and the Reds secured some breathing space when new England Seven's cap Hldr Isoa Damudamu (4 Scots) scored in the corner despite replays appearing to show the Fijian's foot in touch.

The second half began with a spell of Army pressure before a sloppy pass from lock Cpl Darrell Ball (RE) was picked off by Drauniniu in his own 22 and the winger enjoyed the freedom of Twickenham to sprint the length of the

pitch for a converted try. A shocked Army side showed resolve and were soon back in business following the try as Budgen charged down a kick, Gill passed to Seru at fly half and the winger accelerated past the Navy defence to score under the posts.

Strong defensive work from Roberts helped nullify the Navy's final attacks and the game was sewn up in injury time when Sgt Steve Trethewey (REME) touched down after the

Army's pack stampeded forward from a well-worked line-out. The final score of 39-25 was a fair reflection on a memorable Inter-Services game that was far removed from last year's 9-3 encounter.

Sgt Roberts, who deploys for a six-month tour of Afghanistan in

September, praised his teammates after lifting the Babcock Trophy.

"We knew it would be a hard game, but it was quite a good team performance and I think we dominated at the scrum and the line-out. I don't think it was ever in doubt that we were going to win," he said.

WO2 Price hoped his side's victory went down well across the Army.

"I have sat on operations watching the Army v Navy match.

"We might have boosted a little bit

of morale and that's important," he explained. "Chris Budgen and Mal Roberts are among six people being deployed on operations over the summer. That's important to remember because these guys take pride in the fact that they are soldiers first."

● **The Army's veteran and women's squads completed an Inter-Services clean-sweep against the Royal Navy. The veterans triumphed 53-0 and the women's side recorded their fifth straight win with a 34-3 victory in front of a 1,500-strong crowd at Kneller Hall.**

Tries from Maj Mike Nawaqaliva (RLC), SSgt Taff Reed (RE), a brace from WO1 Hywell Thomas (REME) and three conversions from Reed opened up a 26-0 lead for the veterans after just 20 minutes.

Further tries in the second half from skipper Maj Steve Burton (AGC), WO2 Taff Lock (RLC), Sgt Dale Jeffries (RA) and two from SSgt Andy Kershaw (LD) put the cap on a deserved victory. ■

Clockwise from top left: LCpl Ledua Jope (AGC) on the rampage; Pte Apolosi Satala (1 Scots) takes on the Navy defence; Army skipper Sgt Mal Roberts (RLC); Hldr Isoa Damudamu (4 Scots) jinks his way through; LCpl Malakai Magnus (RLC) rounds LAET Marsh Cormack; Army players battle for possession; LCpl Chris Budgen (1 R Welsh) steamrollers towards the line; Man-of-the-match Spr Peceli Nacamavuto (RE).



'In times gone, the Navy have come to Twickenham to punch the red beast hoping it will fall over – today they played football'



Million dollar

Commonwealth javelin medallist set to become a big hit in the boxing ring

Report: Stephen Tyler
Pictures: Graeme Main

WHEN a shoulder injury temporarily put the brakes on her burgeoning sporting career, dual international Sgt Kelly Morgan (APTC) could have been forgiven for resting on her laurels.

Having already set a British javelin record, won a Commonwealth bronze



Commonwealth credentials: Kelly Morgan shows off the bronze medal she won at the 2002 Games

medal and represented England at netball by the age of 22, the time seemed right for Kelly to take a step back from competing to recover from surgery in February last year.

But with javelin off-limits during her rehabilitation period and with time on her hands, Kelly decided to fulfil a childhood dream by turning her hands to boxing and is already showing signs that the sport will be another in which she packs a formidable punch.

Her training began in earnest in February this year and it took just two weeks before she was celebrating victory in her first competitive bout.

"My coach told me the girl I was fighting had only just started out as well so I didn't mind having my first fight so soon," Kelly told *SoldierSport*.

"It turned out to be a bit of a lie to give me more confidence because she had actually already had five bouts. It was a real buzz when I won."

Kelly followed up her successful debut fight with victory in the Army individual championships at Aldershot's Maida Gymnasium.

'Everybody has a dream and I am no different, but I've only just started out so it's too early to tell whether I have even half the potential needed to fight for England'

Urged on by a lively crowd, she used her longer reach and tactical nous to good effect, landing a series of telling jabs before ending the fight by knockout with a crunching body shot towards the end of the first round.

The victory was swift – perhaps too quick for a fighter craving a longer

contest in which to test her skills – but the light middleweight was pleased to get more competitive experience under her belt.

"It was a short night's work, but I think that any experience in the ring is good experience.

"It bodes well for future fights so I'm not going to argue with it.

"The key is to hold on to that momentum and try to build on it," she reflected.

The burning desire to lace on a pair of gloves began for Kelly at the age of five when most of her peers were still playing with dolls.

Kelly spent hours pestering her dad to take her to a gym to learn how to box, but it wasn't until her transfer to the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot that she got the chance to turn her dream into reality.

"I think watching boxing on the TV with my dad might have triggered it, but I couldn't tell you what made boxing a passion for me.

"It's just something I have wanted to do from a very young age, but never had the opportunity.

"Every time I have gone to a new unit I have made enquiries and tried to pursue it, but until now it has never been available.

"It was only when I joined the APTC from the RLC that I contacted the Army Sport Control Board (ASCB).

"They put me in touch with a coach and it really took off from there."

Through the ASCB, Kelly teamed up with coach SSgt "H" Harkin (27 Regt RLC) and conditioning expert Brian Kitchener to get into peak condition.

She is now preparing for her final fight of the season at the Amateur Boxing Association's women's championships in Hendon later this month, after which she will be taking time off to concentrate on her military career as a physical training instructor.

Lowe on a high

ARMY duathletes warmed up for their assault on the world championships by completing a clean sweep at the Inter-Services championships.

Sgt Tom Lowe (R Signals) lived up to a reputation built on a seventh-place finish at the 2006 world élite championships by racing to victory in the senior men's competition at Thorney Island.

British international Lowe quickly established a clear lead in the first 5km run and battled against a strong headwind to put further distance between himself and the chasing pack on the 20km bike ride.

The final 3km run proved to be a formality as Lowe crossed the finish line 3min 30sec ahead of runner-up Cpl Gaz Gerrard (RM) and third-placed WO1 Rick Hunt (Rifles).

Welsh triathlon champion OCdt Carla

Molinaro (RMAS) celebrated her first year in the Army with victory in the women's competition after winning her battle with Sgt Pat Smith, a guest runner representing the police force.

The results from the individual races helped the Army's men's and women's teams to secure the overall team prizes ahead of their Royal Air Force and Royal Navy counterparts.

Following their Inter-Services success, several Army duathletes switched their attention to the 2007 world championships in Hungary. Sgt Lowe joined up with an impressive British squad which also featured OCdt Molinaro, OCdt Jamie Hall (RMAS), Capt Imogen Hutter (RMAS) and Maj Nikki Porter (RADC).

Read next month's *SoldierSport* to find out how they got on.

Morgan



Box clever: Kelly Morgan took advantage of her longer reach to pick off Sig Kelly Bradley (1 UK ADSR) from range during their Army championship bout

And although the sterling start to her ring career could make Kelly's mind drift on to the potential of boxing on the world stage, she is determined to keep her feet firmly on the canvas.

"I think it would be hugely inappropriate for me to say that I'm going to end up boxing for England," said Kelly. "Everybody has to have a dream and I am no different, but I have only just started out so it's too early to tell whether I have even half the

potential needed to fight for England.

"People have asked me 'why boxing?', but out of all the sports I have taken part in it is the most friendly and honourable I have known.

"Everyone has a lot of respect for each other for getting in the ring in the first place.

"Boxing is the most complete sport I have ever been involved with both mentally and physically.

"It's the complete package and

everything about it is so disciplined.

"I think it is the most important sport in the Army because of the attributes it helps to develop. There's nothing else that even comes close." ■

● **Sgt Kelly Morgan has been appointed as Army women's boxing officer and wants to hear from anyone interested in taking up the sport. For more information, contact her on mil 94222 8020.**

SPORTSHORTS

RUGBY REFEREES REQUIRED

ASPIRING Rugby League referees can learn the tricks of the trade at a one-day course being held at Aldershot's Army School of Physical Training on June 20. The Combined Services Rugby League Referee Society course costs £25, 80 per cent of which can be claimed back through standard learning credits.

Anybody interested in attending the course should contact Sgt Darren Work on mil 94660 6049 or email daz_work@yahoo.co.uk

MARATHON EFFORT

HALF-marathon runner LCpl Haggi Chepkwony (14 Sig Regt) claimed the 2007 Inter-Services title with a powerful performance on a windy Fleet course. Chepkwony completed the race in 66min 37sec to secure both the Inter-Service and Army crowns.

Cpl Issy Menzies (DMSTC) won the women's event in 82min 46sec, with Maj Douglas Briscoe (Batsc IPT) securing the men's veteran title in 78min 20sec. The men's team event was won by 21 Sig Regt with DMSTC taking the women's team honours.

CUP GLORY FOR SIGNALS

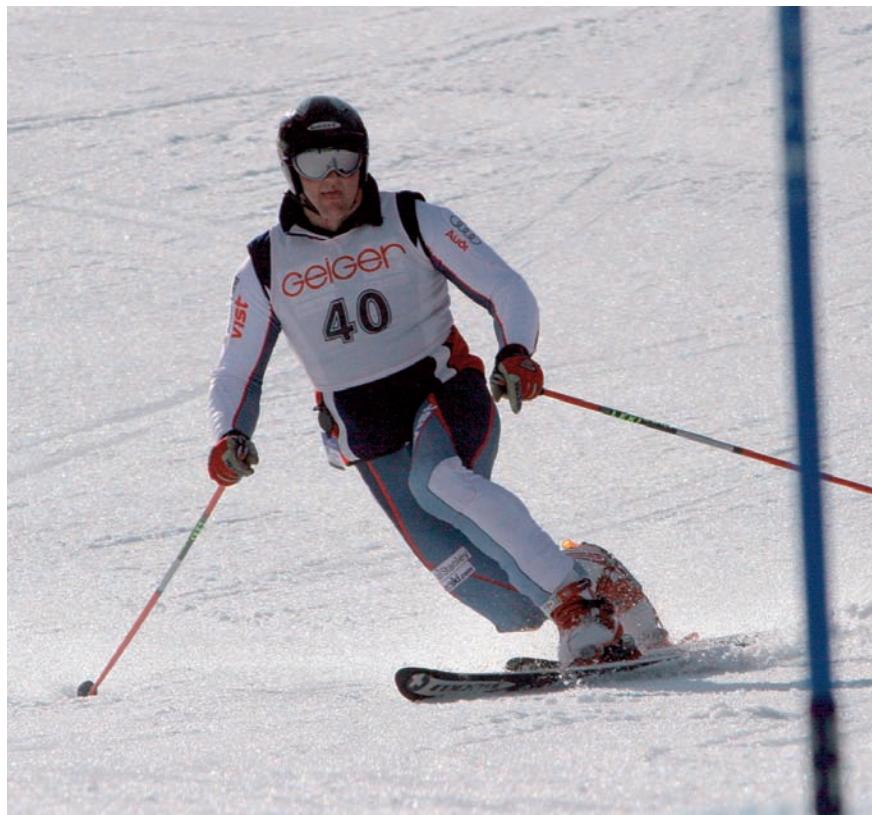
THE Royal Signals left it late to beat the Infantry and claim the Army Woolwich Cup during a fascinating football final.

Trailing 2-1 and heading for defeat, the signallers' bid to lift the silverware was saved when a last-gasp equaliser from a corner forced the tie into extra time.

Despite being reduced to ten men soon after the restart, the Royal Signals – still buoyant from their great escape – managed to steal a goal and take a 3-2 lead. Forced to chase the game, the Infantry paid the price for committing more men forward – conceding a further four times before the final whistle and eventually going down 7-2.

ALPINE CHALLENGE

INTREPID sportsmen are being invited to test their physical and mental endurance by taking on the 2007 Alpine Challenge. The event unfolds over undulating terrain at the Army's Alpine Training Centre in the Allgau region of southern Germany from June 22-24. Application forms can be obtained from DIN (2006DIN06-201).



Free heel: Maj Andrew Clarke demonstrates the distinctive turning method used by telemark skiers

Cold calling

New recruits sought for skiing's best-kept secret

SKIING enthusiasts are being asked to answer the call to help awaken a sleeping giant of alpine sport.

Telemark – a form of skiing that combines aspects of downhill, slalom, ski jumping and cross-country – has been growing steadily in popularity across continental Europe, but is still relatively unheard of in Britain.

Now Maj Andrew Clarke (RA) is trying to change that and is leading by example after representing Great Britain at the Telemark World Cup and World Championships earlier this year.

It was the first time for more than a decade that Britain has been able to raise a team to compete in the sport's premier competitions.

"For me it's a great honour to be able to represent the nation in any sport," Clarke told *SoldierSport*.

"The results were brilliant considering it was our first season and if we get the right type of training and funding then there is no reason why our team can't make the top 20 or even break into the top ten. It's a chance to represent your nation, so my message is that even if you don't think you are good enough you should come forward, stand up and be counted."

The main difference between telemark and conventional skiing is that the bindings on the skis only attach to the front of a skier's boot, allowing the heel to move around freely.

This results in the skier adopting a crouched stance and leading into turns with their heel flat on the outside ski and the inside ski pulled tightly underneath their body.

Competitive events vary from a giant slalom race to the telemark classic.

Regular skis can be used for telemark, but the bindings are unique to the sport and, combined with other essential equipment, the cost of competing has proved prohibitive for the Defence Academy-based major.

"I want to get people to understand what telemark is," he added.

"Telemark is not an Olympic sport yet, but we hope that it will be a part of the Games by 2014. People should think about getting involved now because there's every chance that Britain can be very good at it."

● Anyone wanting to find out more about telemark should email ajaclarke@aol.com or visit www.gbttelemark.co.uk ■

ATHLETICS

June 6 – Army individual and inter-corps championships (Tidworth); 20-21 – Army inter-unit team semi-finals (Tidworth).

CANOEING

June 2-3 – Army slalom championships (Llandysul).

CRICKET

June 4 – Army XI v Sussex; 5 – Army XI v Stock Exchange; 6-8 – Inter-corps Twenty20 (Aldershot/Deepcut/Sandhurst); 12 – Army XI v British Police; 20 – Tri-Service Twenty20 (Portsmouth); 27 – Army XI v Huntingdonshire; 28 – Army v Essex Development XI.

CYCLING

June 3 – National 25-mile time trial championships (Liverpool); 9-10 – Bristol bike festival; 17 – National 50-mile time trial championships (London).

FENCING

June 2-3 – Winton Cup (Stoke on Trent); 25-29 – Inter-Services championships (Plymouth).

GOLF

June 5-6 – Inter-regional championships (Worksop); 14 – Army v Police (Ganton); 17 – Army v The Army Golf Club (Army Golf Club); 18 – Army women's championships (Army Golf Club).

JUDO

June 9 – Inter-Services judo championships (Aldershot); 16 – British national team championships.

LAWN TENNIS

June 2 – Army v Ryde Mead (Ryde Mead); 3 – Army v Hurlingham LTC (Hurlingham); 16 – Army v Southbourne B (Aldershot); Army women v Hurlingham (Hurlingham); 24 – Army women v Lensbury (Lensbury); 30 – Army v Thornden A (Aldershot).

ROWING

June 1 – Army sprint championships (Dorney); 8 – Army rowing championships (Dorney); 17 – Combined Services regatta (Peterborough).

RUGBY LEAGUE

June 6 – Army U23 v Royal Marines (Aldershot); 13 – Army v Prison Service (Wakefield).

July 3 – Combined Services v Australian Students (Uxbridge); 25 – Army v Civil Service (Castleford).

RUGBY UNION

June 4-10 – 25 Engr Regt tour to Estonia; 16-30 – RLC tour to Canada.

SAILING

June 23-24 – Round island event (Solent/Channel).

SHOOTING

June 9 – Army service pistol championships (Pirbright); 16-17 – Army target rifle inter-counties match (Bisley); Army small-bore target rifle v Wales (Tondhu).

SWIMMING

June 6 – BA(G) team championships (Rheindahlen); 13 – Army individual championships (Aldershot); 14 – Army single event relay and inter-unit team championships (Aldershot); 15 – Army water polo championship finals (Aldershot); 25 – Inter-Services open water championships (Lake Bala).

Champions

Wonder strikes settle nervy Challenge Cup final

Report: Stephen Tyler

Picture: Graeme Main

TWO stunning second-half strikes proved decisive as 3 (UK) Division HQ and Signal Regiment overcame a determined 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland team to lift the 2007 Army Challenge Cup.

Both teams struggled to cope with the wet conditions and slick pitch during a tight opening half of few chances at the Aldershot Military Stadium.

The Scots players were looking to go one better than their counterparts from the battalion's boxing team, who lost in the major units final, and it looked promising for them as they fashioned two shots from the edge of their opponents' penalty box in the opening ten minutes.

Playing into a strong wind, the signallers struggled to clear the ball and had to rely on a solid rearguard action led admirably by man-of-the-match LCpl Mark Hankey for much of the opening 45 minutes.

Neither side was willing to give up possession without a fight and the referee was forced to penalise some particularly full-blooded challenges before blowing for half time.

If 5 Scots took the first 45 minutes on points, they were firmly on the ropes for the second period as their cup rivals

'They were the better team in the first half but once we got the first goal that was the end of it'

came out of their shells and played some fluid passing football that was only let down by the final ball.

The breakthrough finally came on the hour mark when the ball rebounded out of a crowded Scots' penalty area to the feet of left back WO2 Peter Tagg.

More than 25 yards from goal but with nothing else on, Tagg put his foot through the ball and watched his volley arc over the Scottish defence, leaving the keeper flat-footed on its way into the top right-hand corner.

The goal ratcheted up the pressure and the eventual champions nearly doubled their lead when an acrobatic volleyed shot fizzed inches over the bar.

However, the tie was settled when Army cap Cpl Wes O'Connor shifted around his marker on the edge of the box and drilled a powerful shot low and hard into the bottom corner beyond the despairing dive of 5 Scots' keeper.

Speaking after collecting the trophy, 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt's jubilant skipper Sgt John Stephenson told *SoldierSport*: "The first half was real backs-to-the-wall stuff for us.

"We know that's what they are all about so we gave them total respect.

"They were the better team in the first half but once we got the first goal that was the end of it." ■

Slide to victory

Army bobsleigh team win back ice track crown

THE Inter-Services bobsleigh trophy is back in Army hands for the first time in three years after a hugely successful competition in Igls, Austria.

The Army entered four sleds into the men's team championships as it attempted to wrestle the Mo Hammond Trophy from the grasp of holders, the Royal Navy.

An enthralling series of runs on the first day of racing ended with the Army's top two sleds occupying second and third places and keeping pace with the overall leader Royal Navy 1. There was no change at

the top after a further two runs on day two and the Army squad were eventually crowned as team champions ahead of the Navy and Royal Air Force.

Not to be outdone, the two Army women's teams put in scintillating performances to claim first place ahead of the RAF. The Army 1 sled, driven with finesse by double Olympian Cpl Jackie Davies and with LCpl Paula Walker (both R Signals) handling the brakes, capped a memorable championship by adding the individual competition title to their team award. ■



Leading by example: Sgt John Stephenson (3 (UK) Div Sig Regt) dodges a 5 Scots tackle during his team's hard-fought 2-0 Challenge Cup victory at Aldershot

League leaders

Best of British provide tough test for young guns

RUGBY League coaches are refusing to be too downbeat after watching two Service teams slip to narrow defeats against the best amateur players in Great Britain.

The Army's first 13 and their counterparts from the academy side travelled to Heworth to take on the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

BARLA's quick passing from the tackle in the senior match bewildered the Army and allowed the amateurs to build a deserved 22-2 lead at half time.

The opening five minutes of the second half continued in the same vein before the Army stepped up a gear, grabbing 12 points to bring the score to 22-14 before a final

BARLA try killed the game as a contest.

The academy side fell into a similar trap as the senior 13 as they paid too much respect to the BARLA Under 21 team to trail 20-6 at half-time.

An early BARLA score in the second half looked to have put the result beyond doubt, but the Army's superior fitness and a man-of-the-match performance by Spr Dean Wildbore (RE) brought the score back to a very respectable 26-20 by the final whistle.

First team manager Capt Richard Naivalurua said he was delighted with the overall performance and with the progression of his young players. ■

MASSEY TABLES

MASSEY TROPHY – DIV 1

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
RE	9	6	2	1	12	20
RLC	12	6	2	4	8	20
RA	9	6	1	2	16	19
R Sigs	9	5	2	2	7	17
REME	9	4	4	1	12	16
Infantry	12	3	1	8	-11	10
AMS	12	0	0	12	-44	0

MASSEY TROPHY – DIV 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
APTC	10	8	2	0	27	26
RAC	10	6	1	3	-2	19
AGC	10	5	1	4	18	16
Int Corps	10	4	2	4	5	14
AAC	10	3	2	5	7	11
CAMUS	10	0	0	10	-55	0

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on a hot topic

After the war

We asked the soldiers and civilians of the Falklands conflict how the events of a quarter of a century ago had changed their lives

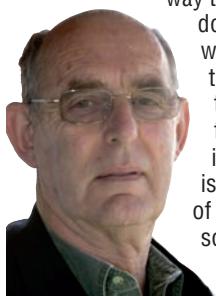
**Richard Davies,
legislative councillor**

There were huge sacrifices in the 1982 conflict, but we feel they have been worthwhile. We have made the most of opportunities and the islands are generating income with the sale of fishing licences and the growth of tourism. The Falklands are a good example of a vibrant democracy.



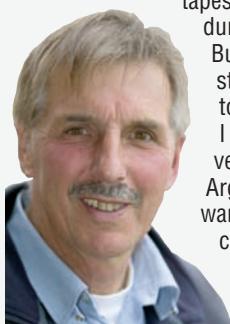
**Richard Cockwell,
legislative councillor**

The liberation of the Falkland Islands on June 14, 1982 was a defining moment. It enabled the islands to develop in a way they could not have done before, and it would have been totally wrong had that development not taken place. There is a saying on the islands that the roar of a Tornado jet is the sound of freedom.



**Patrick Watts,
former FI radio broadcaster**

For 20 years I was never interested in the war; I never read a single book about it and couldn't bring myself to listen to the tapes of my broadcast during the invasion. But recently I've started doing tours for veterans. I think if any veteran, either Argentine or British, wants to come and clear their mind, it has to be a good thing.



**Cdr (Retd) Eduardo Villaraza,
veteran, Argentine Marines**

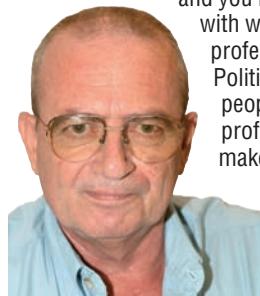
Soldiers from both sides of the conflict have a good understanding of the consequences of combat.

When you go to fight, your life changes because you go through an experience that is not at all normal. You look at your life in a different way and appreciate things that really have importance.



**Lt Col (Retd) Tommy Fox,
veteran, Argentine Army**

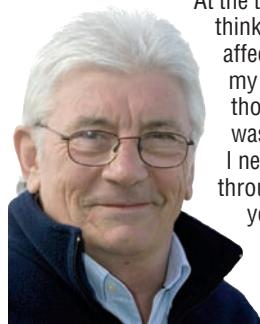
For a soldier, the experience of war changes a lot in your life. I had not expected to be taken prisoner. But you are a professional and you have to deal with what happens professionally. Politicians are the people who reap the profits of war. They make the work for soldiers. We went out and did our job.



**Maj (Retd) John Francis,
veteran, 7 (Sphinx) Cdo Bty RA**

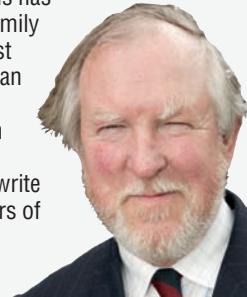
Looking back, the Falklands gave me a different way of looking at life and an appreciation of the value of life.

At the time I didn't think the war had affected me, but my wife certainly thought it did. It was something I needed to talk through and 15 years later I did something about it. I'm OK now.



**Maj (Retd) Iain Dalzel Job,
veteran, Scots Guards**

I was already quite grown up before the war, but I think I grew up a lot more as a result of what happened in 1982. The Scots Guards has always been a family regiment. We lost far fewer men than I thought would be killed. Back in 1982 I reckoned I would have to write many more letters of condolence.



**Danny Minto,
veteran, Scots Guards**

The Falklands War did not change my view of the world that much. But what I did find touching was how grateful the islanders were for what we had done. People sometimes ask why we went all that way to fight. But the answer is simple – the people living there were British and we were British soldiers.



**Luis Orellana
veteran, Argentine Marines**

Returning from such an ugly experience in the Malvinas, I found my view of life had changed. Problems that appeared huge for people that had not been in the fighting seemed very small to me. I felt it was important that I passed on my experience and have explained to my son what I think is important and what is not.



Interviews: Cliff Caswell Pictures: Steve Dock and Graeme Main

Coming up . . . in SOLDIER

Reality check: We talk to Sean Morris, the wayward *Bad Lads Army* recruit turned signalman, and former officer Paul Callaghan reflects on his bruising boardroom encounters on *The Apprentice*