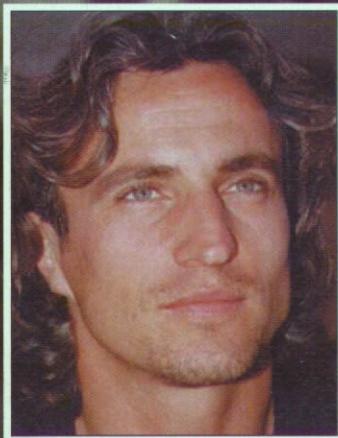


MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

August 2002 £2

SOLDIER



David Ginola

My year as
a soldier

Page 34

All-seeing
Focus on the
Recce Division

Page 18



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Cover picture

Watching brief: CSgt (SSI) Paul Kendrick, who instructs on armoured close reconnaissance at the Reconnaissance Division at Warminster, keeps an eye on proceedings during an exercise on Salisbury Plain. See Pages 18-19.

Picture: Steve Dock



"Do you think this might qualify us for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal?"

● Queen joins Armed Forces for Golden Jubilee celebration at Whale Island, Portsmouth – Pages 39-41



INSIDE ...

Sweeney – Page 24

Ginola – Pages 34-35

McMenemy – Pages 46-47

Some of our recce kit's a bit basic

'Just give me the basic equipment to do my job. Give me somewhere to put my ammunition, give me a bergen to get my equipment to task, and give me a sight so I can see' – Talkback, Page 74

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What troops thought of the welfare package in Kabul

Vikings conquer Kabul's underworld

Royal Anglian troops helped to tackle the plague of crime that had spread throughout Afghanistan's ravaged capital

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Cpl Jim Elmer

IT is hard to believe when you walk down the vibrant, market-lined streets of Kabul today that Afghanistan's capital recently ranked among the most dangerous cities in the world.

Just six months ago the cover of night-fall and long shadows cast by the city's crumbling skyline were a haven for armed gangs and opportunist criminals.

Hardened by 23 years of war, life had become a cheap commodity and brutal murders, armed robberies and rapes were becoming all too frequent.

The Afghan police force, rife with corruption and without uniform or pay, did little to curb the soaring crime rate, which, left unchecked, threatened the stability of the volatile state.

But all that changed when soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglians arrived in Kabul as part of the then British-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) in March.

"Armed crime was plaguing the city and its population when we first arrived in Kabul," explained the Royal Anglians' commanding officer Lt Col Phil Jones. "There were some brutal murders going on and gangs of up to 30 people were operating with complete freedom."

"Every crime was being politicised and it became obvious to us that this plague of criminals posed as much threat to the peace as any remaining Taliban or al-Qaida."

Responsible for the security of the south-west of the city, an area levelled by rocket attacks during the civil war of the early 1990s, the 550-strong battalion put its extensive Northern Ireland experience to good use and patrolled the streets 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The foremost function of our patrols was to deter armed crime," said Lt Col Jones. "During the early days of our tour at least 60 per cent of our patrols were done at night when the streets were completely empty and the city became a ghost town."

"We went out aggressively to show the criminals that we meant business and in the first month we had five or six direct contacts with them."

Acting on information from the local population and intelligence collected from overt and covert observation posts, 1 R Anglian patrols swamped areas where gangs were reported to be operating.

One such foray at the end of April resulted in a prolonged exchange of fire with a large group of armed criminals and the subsequent arrest of seven men – five of whom were policemen.

Lt Col Jones said: "That act of getting right up face-to-face with these guys, knocking them over in the streets and arresting them, really spelt the end of the plague of armed criminality in Kabul."

"The whole area went unbelievably quiet in terms of criminal activity after that incident. We would like to think it sent a shock wave through Kabul's underworld and that it was the reason why the three or four other gangs which had been operating stopped doing so."

Even in Barjai, a district notorious for its high levels of crime and ethnic tension, shootings and armed raids ceased.

Cpl John Kitson, a patrol leader with B Company, told *Soldier*: "Barjai was one of the busiest areas in the theatre and when we first got there crime levels were very high."

"A lot of incidents happened during the early hours of the morning when the traders came out to work. Criminals were constantly trying to jump them and steal their money."

"So we flooded the area and closed it down completely," he said. "We had men constantly out on patrols and the criminals were not expecting us to be there and did not expect to be challenged."

"The police had always been too nervous to take on the gangs but we went in with aggression and as soon as they saw that we always came forward and attacked they calmed down."

Determined to have some sort of lasting effect on the troubled city, the battalion also set about finding an Afghan



Crime watch: Royal Anglians on patrol in a war-damaged area of Kabul



Learning process: RMP Sgt Nigel King shares the benefit of his experience with Afghan policemen at a checkpoint providing security for the Loya Jirga (Grand Council) meeting

solution to an Afghan problem and worked to encourage the professionalisation of the local police force before returning to their Pirbright home last month.

Unfortunately, in the past the police force had been part of the problem and many of the "officers" who wandered the

One foray resulted in a prolonged exchange of fire with a large group of armed criminals and the arrest of seven men – five of whom were policemen

streets were themselves deeply involved in crime.

"As a matter of policy we encouraged the police to accompany us on our patrols," explained Lt Col Jones. "It dragged them out of their bases, made them patrol the community and made them confront reality."

"Previously their method of interaction with the public did not involve dialogue and was done at the end of a 12-inch stick, so we tried to show them by osmosis how they should conduct themselves."

"It also meant that when we arrived on the scene of a crime we could force them to take responsibility for the investigation as the appointed force for justice."

The Vikings also called upon the expertise of 160 Provost Company, 3 RMP,

embedding a Service policeman at each of the company's locations to act as a liaison officer and offer the Afghan police low-level training programmes.

According to Sgt Nigel King (3 RMP), this was long overdue.

"A lot of the Afghan police are former soldiers who have joined the police force with no training," he said. "Their idea of an investigation was an interrogation and a lot of them could not even read or write. How are you meant to take a statement when you can't write?"

"They were not so much addressing crime as coping with it and they were certainly not dealing with it as a trained police force with a court system above them would," he said. "The police were acting independently and if a policeman

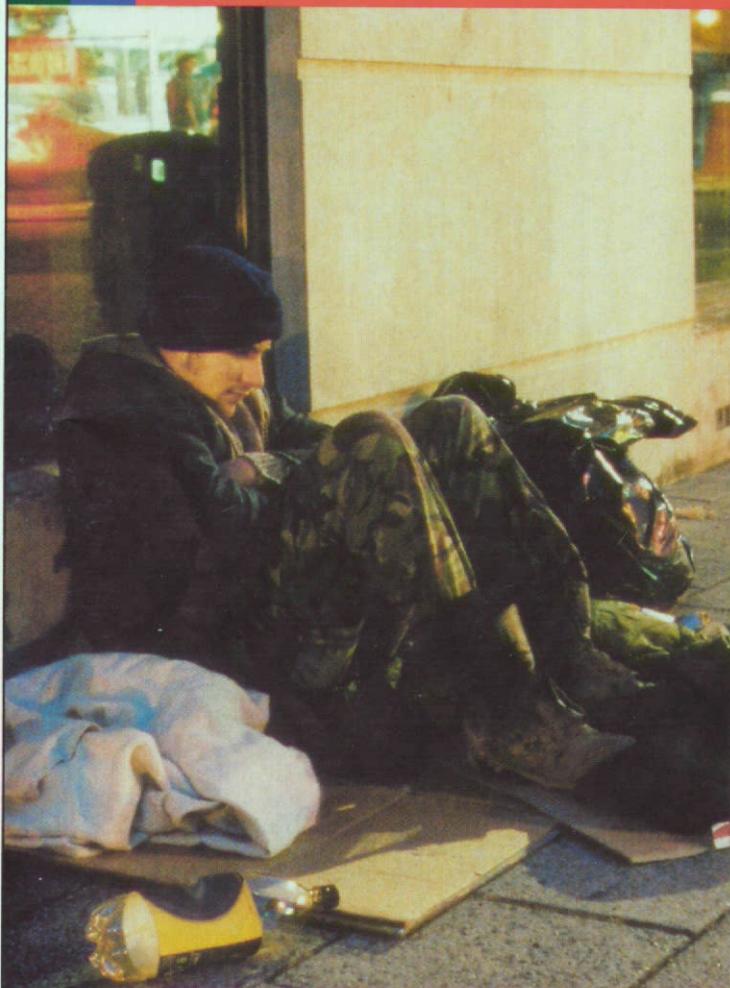
thought a punishment needed handing out then he would deal with it.

"That said, we have noticed a dramatic change in the way they do things. Those who can write now take notes, they collect evidence – albeit in their own unique way – and there are now vehicle check points all around the city."

"They are a long way off becoming as professional as a European police force but we have made a start."

And it is a start of which the Royal Anglians and 3 RMP are suitably proud. Thanks to their efforts Turkey, Isaf's new lead nation, and Afghanistan's newly-elected interim government have one fewer thing to worry about. Even the people of Kabul are beginning to believe that lasting peace could become a reality.

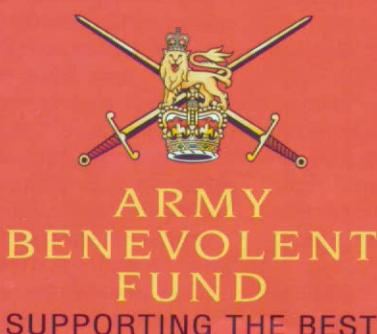
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Questions asked about reliability of SA80-A2

- MoD team investigates 'failures'
- Batches of rifles damaged in transit

MINISTRY of Defence officials are considering a report on the performance of the SA80-A2 during recent operations in Afghanistan. A team flew to Kabul to investigate why Royal Marines had problems with weapons failing to fire.

Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram confirmed in the House of Commons that three official failure reports had been filed from troops in Afghanistan, the first time the new individual weapon (IW) had been used on operations. All failures must be reported up the chain of command.

Of the three failure reports, two were because the weapons had been damaged in transit. The team has investigated the

reasons for the other reported stoppages and its findings are now being considered.

The reporting team, led by a colonel in the Royal Marines, monitored test firings staged under typical operational conditions and which included helicopter missions, very high temperatures, humidity and severe dust.

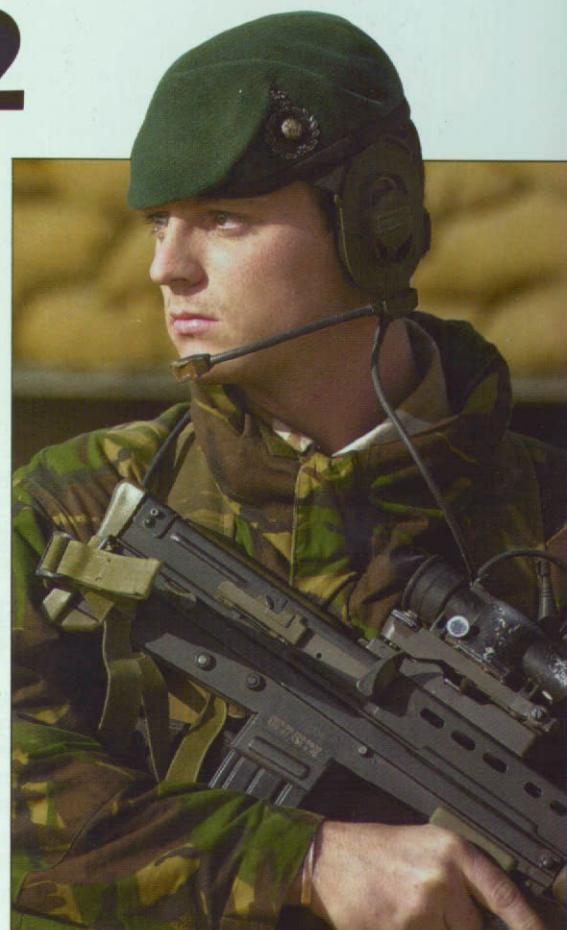
The Army's entire stock of SA80 individual weapons is currently being upgraded in a £92m programme to improve their reliability following many instances of misfirings and stoppages.

Heckler and Koch, the weapons manufacturer, carried out a series of modifications which included replacing firing pins,

some gas parts and springs, magazines and bolt assemblies. Following the improvements, stringent tests were carried out before the first weapons were issued in time for British troops flown to Afghanistan in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks on America.

Those trials included test-firings in the harshest desert, arctic and jungle conditions. Results were carefully analysed and confirmed the "new" weapon's superior capability . . . it fired 500,000 rounds and had only 158 stoppages between the IW and the light support weapon (LSW). The Kuwait trials were conducted in blown sand conditions similar to conditions in Afghanistan.

Following the return of the Royal Marines task force from their mission to hunt down Taliban



Finger on the trigger: A Royal Marine involved in the search for Taliban and al-Qaida forces in Afghanistan's mountains. He is armed with the modified SA80-A2 rifle

and al-Qaida forces in Afghanistan, reports of weapon-failures appeared in UK newspapers. Some of those articles focused on the cleaning regime necessary to keep the rifle in working order and claimed the wrong oil had been used.

It is understood that the modified weapon requires no more cleaning than the original version. Users of the A1 and A2 versions are instructed to lubricate the weapon frequently in hot desert conditions, as experienced in the Gulf War.

A spokesman for the MoD said: "We view any reported shortcomings in the SA80 very seriously. In hot and dusty conditions all weapon systems are likely to suffer stoppages."

It is understood that when all the claims have been fully investigated and assessed an announcement at ministerial level will be made.



Keep on firing: A soldier of B Company, the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment pictured on a range in the Kuwaiti desert during extensive trials of the SA80-A2 last year. Tens of thousands of rounds were fired in temperatures which reached more than 50C and in winds laden with sand and grit. Troops involved in the tests told *Soldier* at the time they were impressed with the reliability of the modified rifle

'Detect, decide and destroy' is new thrust in war on terror

FORCES that can strike hard and fast anywhere in the world, cutting down the enemy's time to think, plan and act, are the cornerstones of the New Chapter to the Strategic Defence Review developed as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Outlining key elements of a White Paper on the New Chapter, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said recent experience suggested a need for British Forces to deploy further afield more often than envisaged and an ability to operate alongside the US and others.

The capability to detect, decide and destroy – known as network-centric capability – will require extra investment in airborne and other sensors as well as the means to pass information quickly.

Measures outlined in a White Paper published last month include:

- Acceleration of the Army's Watchkeeper unmanned air vehicles development programme.
- The use of more rapidly-deployable light forces with improved mobility and firepower.
- Enhancements to target-acquisition and strike capabilities at all times in all weathers.
- The concept of a family of air-transportable medium-weight armoured vehicles.
- More and better temporary accommodation for troops deployed abroad.
- Enhanced capabilities for Special Forces.

To fallen mates



Remembering: Fusiliers who fought in Korea gathered in the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London for the dedication of a memorial to colleagues from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers who lost their lives in the war. Forty names are recorded on the roll of honour held above the memorial by war veteran ex-Fus Kevin Meade, left, and bugler WO2 Richard Stamp, 1 RRF. The memorial will be set into the north wall of the Royal Chapel Picture: Steve Dock



Shoulders to lean on: An injured police officer is taken from the baseline at Drumcree by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers after trouble erupted as demonstrators attempted to breach the barrier Pictures: Army Information Service, Northern Ireland



No go: Sappers from 25 Engineer Regiment erect a crowd-control obstacle across the bridge at Drumcree to the prevent Orange Order marching down the Catholic Garvagh Road the following day



Waiting: Security forces wait as Orangemen approach, above

IN BRIEF

- Crown Prince Aleksander of Yugoslavia visited his old regiment during celebrations to mark St Vitus Day and the anniversary of the battle of Kosovo Polje. Prince Aleksander was a subaltern in the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers during the 1970s and served in Fallingsbostel, Germany and Northern Ireland. The

regiment, now The Queen's Royal Lancers, based in Osnabrück, is serving as the UK battle-group responsible for Podujevo in Kosovo.

- Marksmen from the 3rd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment claimed top marks in the national TA shoot-

Drumcree tension reduced as Army keeps low profile

But 24 police hurt as bridge comes under sustained attack

IT was a case of preparing for the worst but hoping for the best during the marching season in Northern Ireland as a major security operation swung into action. Four battalions were deployed around Drumcree Church to support the Police Service of Northern Ireland, writes Simon Mander.

But a desire for a low-key military operation meant troops were kept well back. A smaller crowd-control obstacle (CCO) than in previous years, placed on the Drumcree bridge by sappers from Antrim-based 25 Engineer Regiment, symbolised the attempt to "normalise" the dispute and defuse tensions.

There was some trouble at Springfield Road for the return of the White-rock parade, but the potentially contentious march past the Ardoyne shop fronts – a notorious flashpoint – in North Belfast passed without significant incident.

Brig Euan Loudon, Chief of Staff, HQ Northern Ireland, said: "It was a difficult balance to strike in terms of how many soldiers to deploy. We couldn't have too few, but didn't want too many. I think we got it just about right and public safety and public order were, by and large, maintained."

Deployed at Drumcree were the resident 1st Battalions, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, supported by roulement units 1RHF and the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

In Belfast for the Twelfth were the resident 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, reinforced by roulement units the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

A stand-off developed and a number of arrests were made by the police in connection with the violence.

Three days later the threat had reduced enough to allow the sappers to replace the large CCO with two smaller versions.

But by then all eyes were on Belfast

ing championships at Bisley. The eight-man team's haul included the China Cup.

- Thousands of Russian officers have returned to civvy street thanks to help from the MoD. In the latest round of graduations, more than 1,200 army officers passed out of retraining centres across Russia. Since

the MoD resettlement scheme began in 1995, 15,000 officers have been trained.

- Teenagers from the north of England learned about Army life during a three-day careers exhibition at Marne Barracks, Catterick. About 12,000 discovered lifestyle and travel opportunities available to soldiers.

Tykes in Belgium



Sprouting leaves: Pte Sally Smith, a new recruit in the rifle platoon at Keighley TA Centre, Yorkshire, looks the part for the annual camp of The East and West Riding Regiment south of Brussels in Belgium. Picture: Cpl Jim Elmer RLC

Falcon bidders down to two

TWO British companies are in the running to provide the Armed Forces' new £430 million secure communications system, which will be used by senior commanders to direct operations on the battlefields of the future.

BAE Systems and Marconi Mobile have been named as preferred bidders for the assessment phase of the Falcon (Formation Communications System) programme.

Big increase hailed

THE biggest increase in the Defence budget for 20 years – it will rise by £3.5b between now and 2005-06 as a result of the Chancellor's 2002 spending review – was welcomed by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon as reflecting the Government's commitment to strong defence and the continued modernisation and evolution of the Armed Forces.

Expanding web

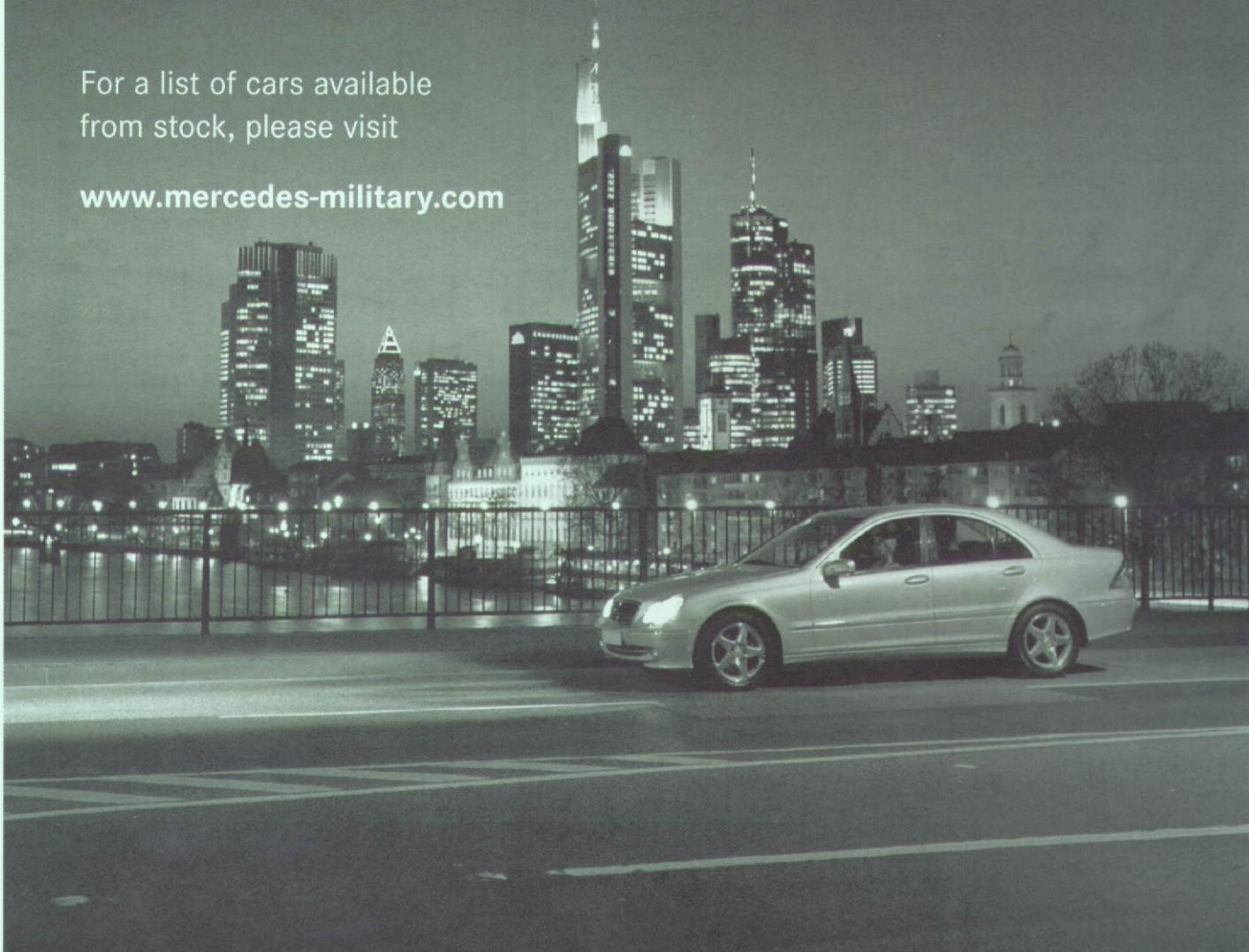
MORE than 500 new pages of useful information for serving soldiers and their families have been placed on the Army website. Creation of the pages was personally overseen by the Adjutant General, Lt Gen Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman. They can be accessed direct via www.ag.mod.uk

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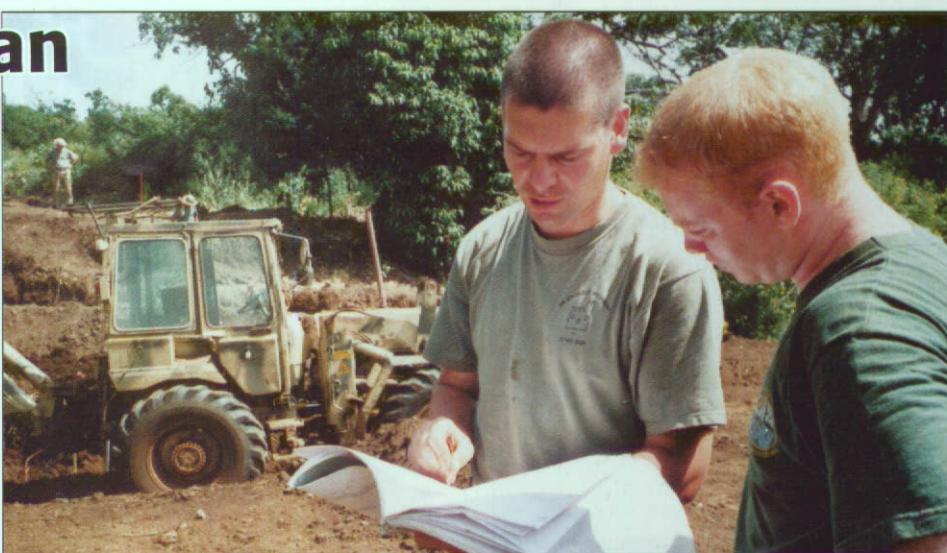


Mercedes-Benz

Unit enjoys an early return to Kenya

SAPPERS from Paderborn-based 37 Armoured Engineer Squadron enjoyed an unexpected second deployment to Kenya in two years when the squadron originally earmarked to go was put on standby for Afghanistan.

But the misfortune of 51 Field Squadron (Air Assault), 39 Engineer Regiment – trips to southern Africa are highly sought-after – was to 37 Squadron's advantage, even though the 35 Engineer Regiment unit was given only three weeks' notice. In the same week the Paderborn sappers learned that their impending Operation Agricola tour to Kosovo had been cancelled.



Best-laid plan: SSgt Dave Lloyd, left, looks at one of the bridge site designs with Spr Andy Lowe

Located on the edge of Meru National Park, towards the Somali border and a day's drive north-east of Nairobi, the

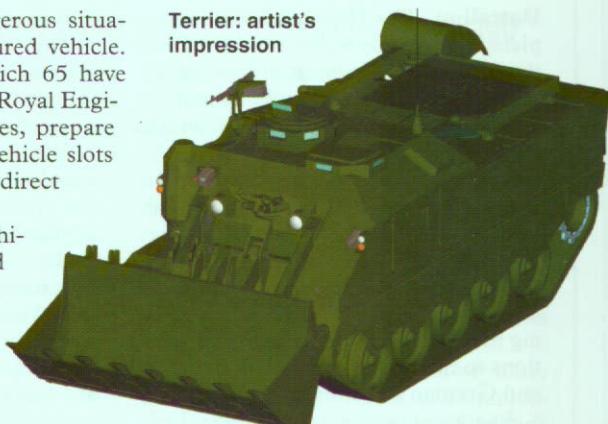
squadron was tasked with building two bridges in addition to a 20km track inside the park for the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Sappers to dig in with Terrier

SAPPERS operating in dangerous situations are to get a new armoured vehicle. The 30-tonne Terrier, of which 65 have been ordered, will be used by Royal Engineers to clear and mark routes, prepare and clear obstacles and dig vehicle slots for troops operating in the indirect fire zone of the battlefield.

The battlefield engineer vehicle is to be developed and built by Leicester-based Royal Ordnance plc in a deal worth almost £350 million. Sub-contractors Alvis will construct the hulls and assemble the vehicles, while the power-pack will be provided by Caterpillar Defence Products.

The first 20 are expected to enter service during 2008, when it will begin to replace the ageing combat engineer tractor (CET), in service since the 1970s. Terrier, which will be operated by a crew of two, will be



transportable by C-17 or A400M aircraft. It will offer more speed and mobility than the CET and better armour protection for its driver and operator.

● Batus "red-top" – see Kitstop, Page 27

Gone to the dogs

TO give the unit an enhanced capability when deployed on operations, the **1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment** sent four soldiers on a dog-handling course run by Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit. All four passed.

Dry run

SAPPERS from 51 Field Squadron and 9 (Para) Sqn RE on exercise in Scotland worked on a frequently-flooded car park at Garwachie Lochs and built a new access road.

Anyone for the Cambrian?

UP to 100 eight-man teams are expected to take part in this year's **Cambrian Patrol** over rugged Welsh terrain. The annual event for the Regular Army, Territorial Army and foreign entries will involve seven overlapping phases between October 25 and November 3. Details from the Cambrian Patrol office at Brecon on (mil) 94351 2280/2344 or (civ) 01874 613280/613344.

Ray of hope for Suez veterans

SUEZ Canal Zone veterans were clinging to a thread of hope this month after a delegation supported by four Members of Parliament met top Government officials to argue the case for a medal.

The official side was led by Cabinet Secretary Sir Richard Wilson in his role as chairman of the Honours, Decorations and Medals Committee.

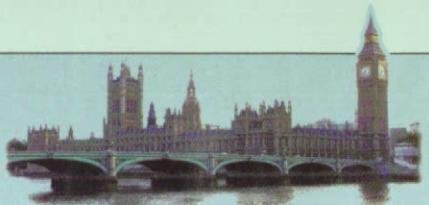
He discussed the pros and cons of the case with MP Annette Brooke and other members of the group campaigning for a medal for service between 1951 and 1954.

While making no promises, Sir Richard said he hoped to give the group a progress report before his retirement from office this month.

He said he would discuss the matter with the Prime Minister and stressed that even then any positive recommendation would have to receive the Queen's consent.

Squadron in signal-fest

SIGNALLERS from 41 countries took part in the eighth **Combined Endeavour**, the largest communications and information systems interoperability exercise in the world. The event, in Germany, involved Nato-controlled 280 (UK) Signal Squadron. Marksmen from 280 Sqn won the Minor Units' championship at the Army's Central Skill-at-Arms meeting.



Under Big Ben

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

Terror war: More TA called out

MORE Territorial Army specialists are being called out this month following the increase in intelligence work in the aftermath of the events of September 11.

With other reservists from the Royal Naval Reserve and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, they will replace the majority of the 55 called out last February who now wish to go back to their civilian jobs.

They will augment the Defence Intelligence Staffs and other headquarters organisations.

In a written answer, Defence Minister Lewis Moonie said: "We recognise the essential contribution made by these reservists to the operations against global terrorism and are grateful to them, their families and their employers for their support."

And I quote . . .

• Although we do not yet have audited figures for 2001-02, the indications are that the proportion of recruits from the British ethnic minorities joining the Army last year exceeded the five per cent goal for the first time.'

– Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, in a debate on the Armed Forces.

Commitments: About 25 per cent of the Army is now committed to operations, compared with 44 per cent at the height of the Kosovo campaign.

Tour interval: Latest assessment of the average unit tour interval is about 24 months.

Gurkhas: Two additional permanent Gurkha sub-units are to be created – a Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Squadron, part of 10 Transport Regiment RLC, and a Queen's Gurkha Signal Squadron, part of 21 Signal Regiment.

A written answer said: "This move will ensure that the Army is able to deliver enhancements envisaged under the Strategic Defence Review."

Counter-narcotics support: Counter-narcotics operations requiring military support resulted in the seizure of drugs valued at £2.3b in 1999-2000, and £40m in 2001-02. There were no seizures involving military support in 1997-98, 1998-99 or 2000-01.



Picture: Steve Dock

Guns from the sky: Troops from 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery take delivery of a 105mm light gun which had been dropped by a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter on to the main firepower arena at the spectacular, five-day Army 2002 military showcase at Larkhill last month. The gun in the background was towed on by a Pinzgauer vehicle, right, while the Chinook was about to land to demonstrate another means of delivering artillery to the battlefield. More photographs and story in Page 23

Gurkha walkers in a hurry to cross Hebrides

FIVE Gurkhas, all serving with the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, completed a 160-mile walk in six days from the most northerly point of the Outer Hebrides to the most southerly and hope to collect £60,000 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Also involved in the march, from the Butt of Lewis to Barra Head, was Neil Griffiths, former of the Royal Hampshire.

Troops from Paderborn-based 77

Armoured Engineer Squadron serving in Bosnia held quiz nights and auctions to raise more than £1,000 for UK and German charities.

A series of concerts by the **Band of the Royal Logistic Corps** in the Tela Theatre at the Princess Royal Barracks at Deepcut, Surrey, raised £3,300 for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation, the Nick Jonas Ward of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester and the Woking Hospice.

By the end of next month members should have received personal information packs consisting of a wallet contain-

Pension: It's your choice

Armed Forces members have option to stay in old scheme or to transfer to new

SERVICE personnel are to be given a choice of staying in their existing pension scheme or transferring to a new one.

The new Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS), now being developed, is in its infancy and unlikely to be introduced before 2005 at the earliest.

When it is finalised, members will be asked to decide whether to stay with the old or transfer to the new in an exercise similar to one currently being undertaken by civil servants in relation to their own pension scheme.

To help members make their choice when the time comes, staff at Service Personnel Policy Pensions (SP Pol Pens) are preparing a multi-media communications package on both old and new schemes. It will be launched with the issue of a series of easy-to-follow booklets about the current AFPS, with an easy access format.

By the end of next month members should have received personal information packs consisting of a wallet contain-

ing an introductory message from the Chief of the Defence Staff, an A4 booklet called "Your Pension Scheme Explained" and a pocket-sized (Z-fold) pull-out detailing the current pensions code.

The Z-fold will be published and distributed annually on an individual basis, showing each year's new pension code and giving contact details for in-house MoD and external help and advice about the AFPS.

Other A5 booklets in the series will also be available at this time. They can be obtained from the respective Service pensions awarding branches. Titles include "Commutation", "Increasing Your Benefits", "Internal Dispute Resolution Procedures", "Pensions on Divorce", and "Preserved Pensions/Transferring Benefits". Three more

Medics 'adopt' Bosnian school

Drawing on experience: LCpl Alan Edmunds, right, of 4 General Support Medical Regiment RAMC, lends a hand at the Lepa Raaie primary school at Bosanska Gradiska, Bosnia.

Troops from the regiment are sponsoring the school and continuing work begun by soldiers from the Household Cavalry, who started to restore playground equipment, much of which was unusable.

Having completed the restoration project, the medics are taking things a stage further. They have already rustled up books, pens, paper and other classroom equipment for the school and are on the lookout for more.

"They take contributions from anybody and everybody and have received a lot of support and help from friends and family," said Sally Sheldrake, an admin officer in G4 Resources (South) in Aldershot. She is helping to coordinate collections.

"They are grateful for anything they can get that will be useful for children," she said.

Anybody wanting to make a contribution should contact Sally on Aldershot Military (94222) 2472.



Dukes celebrate 300th birthday

New Colours were presented to the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment at Osnabrück in Germany by the colonel of the regiment, Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter.

The ceremony was a highlight of celebrations to mark the regiment's 300th birthday.

More than 2,000 "Dukes", past and present, enjoyed a musical pageant depicting three centuries and the party went on into the night. Gen Webb-Carter handed over the Colours in the absence of the Duke of Wellington, who was unable to attend because of poor health.

Recently returned from operations in Kosovo, 1 DWR is equipped with Warrior.

Regiment back in business

AFTER a 15-year absence from the Army's order of battle, 10 Signal Regiment was reformed at Basil Hill Barracks, Corsham, last month. As part of the 2nd (National Communications) Signal Brigade, it will provide close support communications and information systems for Land Command and homeland security. It was first formed at Essen in Germany on April 1, 1959.

IN BRIEF

• Troops from Tidworth-based 1 PWRR, and the QRL from Osnabrück were joined by other units making up the Kosovo Force Multinational Brigade Centre, in Pristina, for a Combined Services Entertainments (CSE) summer concert. The show featured comedian Paul Tonkinson, dance act the Kosovo Kittens and tribute band T40.

• The Band and Pipes of The Royal Irish Regiment joined 70 musicians undergoing training at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall at the annual children's concert.

• WO2 Andy Davies, left, from Hameln-based 65 Field Support Squadron, part of



28 Engineer Regiment, dives at the adventurous training centre on St George's Caye, Belize, during a break in the annual 13-week Exercise Sailfish. Tasks included extending the runway at Hector Silva airfield at Belmopan and construction projects for schools. The runway work will allow Hercules C130s to land and could signal the emergence of a

much enhanced airfield over the next ten years.

• Plant operator mechanics from 45 Field Support Squadron, also part of 28 Engr Regt, and 21 Engineer Regiment deployed to Senneiger to train on the 360-degree CAT excavator (wheel and tracked) vehicle and the Army's new Case medium-wheeled tractor.

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Big day out for very small bear

WHEN WO1 Susan Whittington, right, was invited to join the Armed Forces' celebrations for the Queen's Golden Jubilee at Whale Island, Portsmouth, she took intrepid explorer Columbus the bear as her guest.

Susan, a member of the Army Welfare Service based at Abingdon, heard about the much-travelled bear from her seven-year-old niece, Katie, a pupil at Manor Preparatory School in Abingdon. He has travelled the world with children from the school... but never met a member of the Royal Family. Now he has an "honorary"

jubilee medal to pin to his chest. "It was a wonderful day," said Susan. "I felt so proud



to be part of this magnificent display of military capability."

Picture: Graeme Main

Armed Forces' special tribute in Portsmouth marks Queen's Golden Jubilee – Pages 39-41

Sandringham gates will be Forces' gift

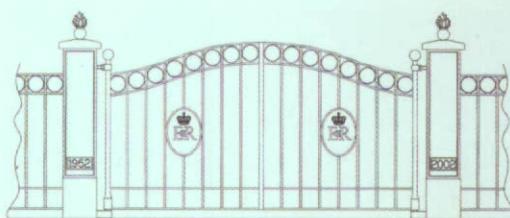
A SET of gates for Sandringham Country Park has been commissioned by the Armed Forces as their Golden Jubilee gift to the Queen.

Designed by the Military Works Force at Chilwell, Nottingham, and approved by the Duke of Edinburgh, the gates, complemented by square gateposts and flanking side rails, are being constructed by personnel from all three Services.

Sailors at HMS *Sultan*, Gosport, are casting a Royal cipher, tri-Service crests, finials (flaming "bombs" to top the posts) and other embellishments designed at HM Naval Base Devonport.

Military and civilian staff and students at the Chatham-based Construction Engineer School of the Royal School of Military Engineering are involved in the steel fabrications, while the actual construction work at Sandringham will be carried out by tradesmen drawn from the school. RAF Marham is providing admin support.

Work on the Norfolk site is expected to start in mid-September and be completed



What the Sandringham park gates will look like. They will grace the entrance to the scenic drive, opened to the public in the year of the Silver Jubilee

by mid-November, with the official opening tentatively set for January.

The Queen was presented with a picture of what the gates will look like during the Armed Forces Golden Jubilee event at Whale Island, Portsmouth.

The two gates span 4.5m and are 2.1m high, with matching ten-metre railings in three spans on each side. Fabricated from mild steel and gunmetal, they will be painted black, with gold embellishments which include the Royal cipher and dates "1952" and "2002".

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Britain is preparing to commit at least 30,000 troops from all three Services to a full-scale invasion of Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein from power early next year. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● The MoD is planning to spend nearly £600 million of its new budget trying to introduce a reliable computer system for the Armed Forces after years of expensive failures. – *Times*

● Prince Edward, who spent four months in the Royal Marines, is being lined up to become Colonel-in-Chief of one or more of the 12 regiments left without a ceremonial figurehead after the death of the Queen Mother. – *Daily Telegraph*

● A senior consultant has accused the MoD of causing unnecessary disruption to the NHS by the compulsory call-up of hospital surgeons to go to Afghanistan even though they were not required. – *Daily Telegraph*

● NHS surgeons are being trained by military doctors to help them cope with a fourfold increase in inner-city patients with gunshot and knife wounds. – *Guardian*

● Brain scans on Gulf War veterans in the United States who are suffering from debilitating diseases may have resolved why 130,000 US and British Servicemen and women complain of mystery illnesses. – *Times*

● Doctors have been advised to look out for malaria in British service personnel returning from Afghanistan after six soldiers contracted the disease. – *Guardian*

● The Queen shed a sentimental tear as WO1 Alan "Perry" Mason, Coldstream Guards, garrison sergeant major of London District and choreographer of countless ceremonial parades, performed his last duties at Buckingham Palace. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Brass nuts valued in the Ministry of Defence's inventory at £83m were really worth just £1.17p, the National Audit Office reported. – *Financial Times*

● The Army has withdrawn a recruitment video featuring two songs by the rock band Oasis on the soundtrack after the group's lawyers said that permission had not been sought. The Highlanders used *Wonderwall* and *Hello* on the video, shot in exercise in Kenya. – *Times*

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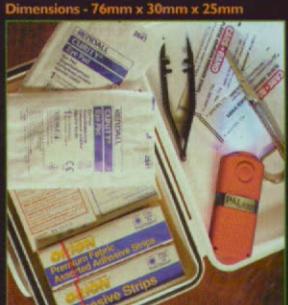
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Scars of war

How the Army and a top surgeon changed a young soldier's life

PTE Kamara Taylor of the Sierra Leone Army will never forget the day a British Army officer changed his life.

Capt James Bolton, recently transferred from the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service to the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, was going about his business as 2iC Training Company at Bengema Camp during 2 LI's tour in Sierra Leone when he was told that Pte Taylor, a recruit under instruction, was unable to cock his rifle and was finding other simple tasks virtually impossible.

The soldier claimed that a year earlier he had been tortured by Nigerian troops serving with the United Nations. Acid had been poured over his hands and arms.

Capt Bolton recalled his reaction when Pte Taylor showed him his injuries. "I was speechless, shocked and very sad at what I saw," he said.

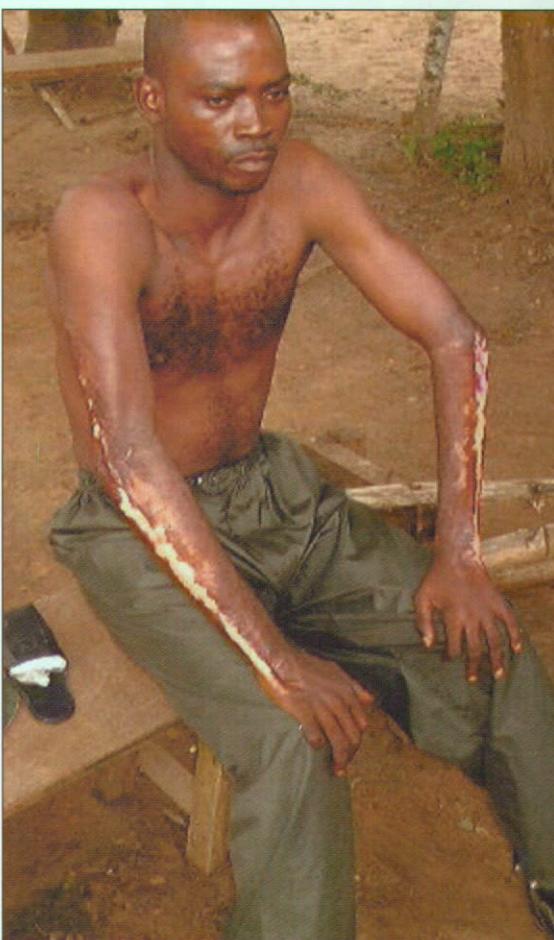
"Both arms were disfigured with white scar tissue, where his black skin and pigment had been burnt away by acid.

"His hands and fingers were distorted, due to the acid, and there was a great deal of scar tissue around his wrists. "It was clear that he was unable to move his hands properly, nor could he straighten all his fingers.

"He was in a lot of pain, but didn't show it. I was choked, especially when he told the story of how it happened."

Pte Taylor recounted that when the rebels were on the offensive, moving towards Freetown, many of his comrades deserted.

He was based at Lungi and handed himself over to a UN contingent from Nigeria for safety. But, he claimed, the soldiers mistook him for a rebel and tied him up at the elbows so tightly that it was still possible to see distortion at the elbow joint. After a beat-



Acid attack: Pte Kamara Taylor thought he was in safe hands – but mistaken identity resulted in horrific injuries

He was in a lot of pain, but didn't show it. I was choked, especially when he told the story of how it happened!

ing, acid was poured down his arms and hands. He was told he was to be executed but ran for his life when a fight broke out. With virtually no treatment available, Kamara had resigned himself to a lifetime of pain and disability.

Capt Bolton didn't know how to help, but he knew a man who could – Mr David Evans, a leading consultant plastic surgeon specialising in hands and arms, who has a private clinic at Windsor but also sees patients at the King Edward VII Hospital in London.

"Luckily," as Capt Bolton put it, "he is father-in-law to one of my younger brothers and a family friend."

Photographs of Pte Taylor's injuries were taken on the 2 LI Int Cell's digital camera and, with the help of the Royal

Signals detachment, transmitted via the camp's welfare computer to Mr Evans's home in England. The surgeon could not have responded more quickly. He e-mailed by return that he would need to examine the patient, either in England or on a mercy hospital ship then heading towards Sierra Leone.

Deciding on the first option, Capt Bolton spent months negotiating a UK visa for Pte Taylor, whose relatives, some of whom live in London, rallied round and were willing to pay for his air ticket and accommodate him.

When the stricken soldier eventually reported to the King Edward VII Hospital in February he was told he would need massive skin grafts over a long period.

He was also advised he would have to undergo further treatment and rehabilitation in Sierra Leone – something he was unlikely to get.

Mr Evans was able to improve his hands and fingers with two operations conducted under local anaesthetic at Windsor. The scars will continue to heal with the aid of specially-designed bandages.

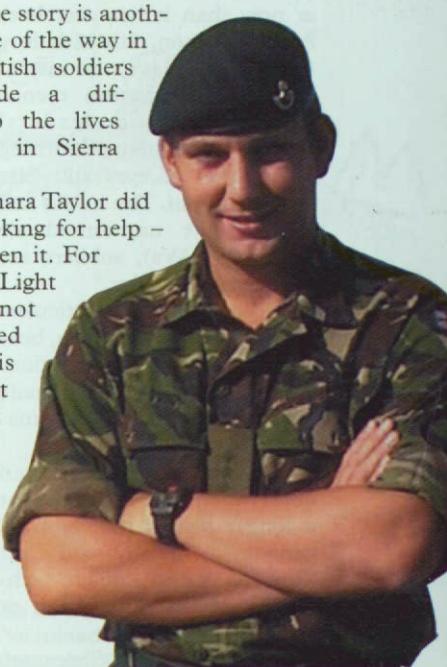
More surgery is in the pipeline – and the prognosis is good.

"We should see excellent results in the next couple of months before he can return to Sierra Leone," said Capt Bolton.

The story is another example of the way in which British soldiers have made a difference to the lives of people in Sierra Leone.

Pte Kamara Taylor did not go looking for help – he was given it. For him The Light Infantry not only helped change his country. It changed his life.

Pleased to help:
Capt James Bolton



Seeing without being seen

Reconnaissance commanders are the eyes and ears of the battle-group. A recently-formed division is where these intelligence gatherers learn to fine-tune their skills

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Steve Dock

STEALTH is the weapon of choice for the reconnaissance commander.

Even though satellites and unmanned air vehicles scan the skies to gather intelligence, there is still no substitute on the modern battlefield for a well-trained soldier with a radio and a pair of binoculars.

For the first time, vital recce skills are now taught under one roof within the newly-formed Reconnaissance Division, based at the Land Warfare School at Warminster.

All commanders responsible for providing their chain with intelligence through reconnaissance are eligible to attend for master-classes.

The need for good recce skills is greater now than it has ever been. As Capt Andy Simpson, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), an instructor on the armoured formation reconnaissance troop leaders' course, explained: "Nothing beats a set of eyes and ears on the ground. The info is fast and, unlike unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), soldiers are not easy to deceive."

Recent exercises, particularly Saif Sareea 2 in Oman, bear this out. The best information-gathering assets the brigade commanders had were formation recce squadrons.

"A soldier can man an observation post and radio for a longer period than a UAV can stay in the air," said Capt Simpson. "And satellite technology is not an option at brigade level."

Lt Col Andrew Chapman,

who heads up the division, said reconnaissance remained vital, which is why the Army concentrates on improving its capability.

"If you can't win the recce battle then the main battle can't take place," he said. "You have got to find the enemy before you can engage him, or protect yourself from him."

The division runs formation, arm-

The need for good recce skills is greater now than it has ever been

oured, mechanized and light-role reconnaissance courses and specialist modules for advanced forces including the Royal Marines Brigade Patrol Troop, the Pathfinders and The Honourable Artillery Company.

The division also trains platoons for

surveillance operations in the Balkans. It is the focus for the production and development of tactical doctrine and instruction of recce soldiers.

Experts from the Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Night Observation Centre, the camouflage specialists, have also moved recently and are now under the command of the division.

Willpower is one of the key qualities leaders have to instil and it is particularly true in reconnaissance. Second best is not good enough.

With a good recce platoon, the commander will be able to ease his battle-group into attack with fewer casualties than if he had gone in blind.

Information obtained needs to be timely and accurate. Dug-in, camouflaged, well-hidden, recce troops wait for the enemy to pass, report and then extract.

They need to be very proficient at traditional infantry skills and tend to be the better soldiers of the battalion – mature, with good communication skills. And as they may have to spend long periods silently waiting, they also need plenty of patience.

Recce is sharp-end stuff. With five days' rations on board, vehicles push forward up to 50km from their base-



Stealthily does it: Sgt Bob Jenner, 1 WFR, and Sgt John Becker, 1 RGJ, stay alert and unseen in a forward screen on exercise on SPTA



It must be around here somewhere: LCoH Andrew Marsh, HCR, left, looks for reference points as indicated by 2nd Lt Richard Moger, HCR

Quick recce of some courses on offer

ARMoured Formation Reconnaissance Crew Commanders' course:

Attended by newly-commissioned officers learning to be troop leaders and newly-promoted corporals learning to be vehicle commanders.

While officers learn from the experiences of NCOs, most of whom have numerous operational tours under their belt, troop leaders assist NCOs with skills needed to plan operations.

Courses encourage soldiers to use their initiative while being aware of the big picture, always remembering the battle could be won or lost depending on what the corporal with a pair of binoculars reports.

Successful students become qualified to command a troop or Scimitar on operations or demanding exercises.

Armoured Close Reconnaissance Course:

Aims to train commanders capable of delivering timely and accurate information on the battle-space to the relevant commander.

Infantry Reconnaissance Course:

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"And for your final test, gentlemen . . . please explain to Mrs Maggit why we probably won't pay to send little Troy to Eton."

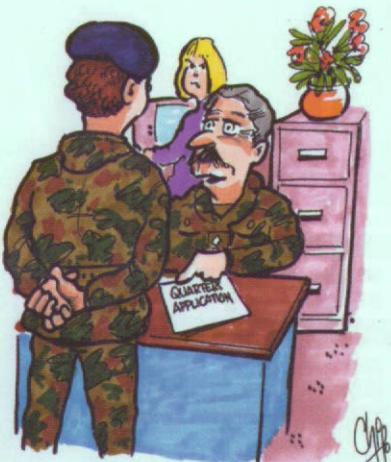
Chuckle with Chip



"I fear that referring to the minister as an 'oily little oik' may have prejudiced your case, madam."

Keeping it in the family

(... inside the secret world of the UFO)



"In your case, Perkins, I suppose seeing the same girl twice last week could be viewed as a long and stable relationship."



"Er . . . Mrs Simpkins . . . when I said if there's anything I can do to help, I didn't mean . . . er . . . personally!"



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Helicopters galore: An Apache WAH-64 flies above Larkhill in the company of two Gazelles. The Apache showed off its awesome aerobatic skills during a thrilling appearance

Show-stoppers

Big guns give unforgettable public performance on Salisbury Plain

Pictures: Graeme Main

ONE of the most action-packed – and noisy – events of the year unfolded at Larkhill last month when the five-day Army 2002 military showcase unveiled a public all-arms firepower display.

The thunderous performance stopped spectators in their tracks as a selection of the British Army's most potent weapons systems, including Challenger 2, AS90, the Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and the 105mm light gun opened fire across Salisbury Plain.

Firepower demonstrations were not confined to the ground, with Tornado and Harrier aircraft sending their rockets into targets at a safe distance in front of the crowded stands. A Lynx helicopter joined in the aerial assault.

Hands-on static displays and assault courses provided hours of entertainment for thousands of youngsters brought in by their schools and cadet units. Pensioners and families also enjoyed the spectacle.

The all-action demonstrations over three days were preceded by a two-day trade show open only to the defence industry.

Ground force: Troops from 7 Para RHA take delivery of 105mm light guns from a Chinook helicopter before peppering a target



Firepower: Spectators were treated to a lengthy, noisy and impressive display by AS90s like this one

● See also *Tour de force*, Pages 40-41





Claire joins the ranks as Forces' favourite

SINGER and actress Claire Sweeney, right, has agreed to perform a series of concerts over the next year to entertain Servicemen and women stationed around the world.

Claire, who achieved fame in the TV soap *Brookside* before moving on to *Celebrity Big Brother* and the musical *Chicago*, has been recruited by Combined Services Entertainment (CSE), a part of SSVC, to star at shows planned for theatres including Kosovo, Bosnia and the Middle East. Her overseas concerts will begin later this year and are expected to be extended to at least the end of 2003.

"These troops are doing the most fantastic job in sometimes difficult places," said the singer, whose debut album, entitled *Claire*, was released last month. "They are a long way from home and loved ones and I

hope that I can do a tiny bit to help keep them as cheerful and buoyant as British soldiers, airmen and sailors always are."

The 30-year-old has signed a five-album deal and is filming a pilot Saturday night show for the BBC.

In recent years former Page Three girl-turned-singer Samantha Fox and ex-Spice Girl Geri Halliwell have entertained troops abroad. But the most famous pin-up of all, Dame Vera Lynn, now 85, has had a special relationship with the Armed Forces for more than half a century, dating from the Second World War.

CSE General Manager Renate Foster said: "We are thrilled Claire has agreed to work with us. I know the troops will take her to their hearts as the new Forces' Sweetheart."

Picture: Sgt Shaun Lewis

Survivors pay homage over site of Britain's worst maritime tragedy

Report: John Elliott

SO many Servicemen, nurses and civilians drowned when the troopship *Lancastria* sank on the afternoon of June 17, 1940 that Churchill ordered news of the tragedy to be suppressed. Britain was still reeling from the shattering events at Dunkirk, less than a fortnight earlier.

Consequently, the nation's worst maritime disaster is little known, even today. Yet more lives, perhaps as many as 6,500, were lost than on the *Titanic* and *Lusitania* together. Just how many drowned that day is not known, but contemporary estimates suggest 9,000 may have been crammed on board. About 2,500 were rescued.

To mark the 62nd anniversary of the sinking, 21 survivors returned to the site of the wreck several miles off the French port of St Nazaire.

Among them was Bill Rose, now 83 and from Skegness, whose experiences would fill a book. He was on the top deck with 200 or so fellow Sherwood Foresters when a German Dornier 17 flew over. Three bombs hit the Admiralty-appropriated Cunard liner, which sank in 20 minutes.

Bill tried desperately to pull colleagues out of a hold before he was pushed off the side of the foundering ship and swam a mile to HMS *Cambridgeshire*.

He was soon drafted into another Foresters battalion and sailed for the Western Desert. The unit never made it. Diverted to the Far East, it arrived in Singapore at the same time as the Japanese.

Bill Rose spent the next 3½ years as a PoW, including six months in Changi Prison, two years labouring on the dreadful Burma Railway, and a year slaving in a Japanese coal mine.

In 1945 he was repatriated to Derbyshire and returned to his pre-war trade as a coal miner. He survived two fatal colliery accidents before retiring.

Bill Swinburne, a Royal Engineer and also from Skegness, and Stan Flowers, from Kent and serving in the Royal Army Service Corps, were also in France when the British Expeditionary Force began its



Frank Clements, a civilian volunteer on the destroyer HMS *Highlander*, took this picture of survivors packing her decks



Veteran Arthur Thomas and LCpl Ian White on board an Army landing craft sail from St Nazaire for a service over the wreck of the *Lancastria*. HMS *Shetland*, in the background, carried more survivors.

Picture: David Glossop



Bill Rose, 83



Bill Swinburne, 85



Stan Flowers, 84

Portraits: Mike Weston

Lancastria: ship that sank in secret

retreat. Like Bill Rose, they too marched to St Nazaire for a brief acquaintance with the ill-fated *Lancastria*. Bill Swinburne's nightmares of that afternoon include being machine-gunned by a German aircraft while clinging to the side of an upturned lifeboat. Covered in black oil and barely alive, he was picked up by a French fishing smack and transferred to HMS *Highlander* and safety.

Stan, who had been at St Etienne with No 1 Heavy Repair Shop (HRS), was in a hold in the bottom of the ship when the bombs struck. He got out with another man from Faversham (whose grave he was to find 58 years later in a French village) and survived the next 2½ hours clinging to a wooden deckchair.

He still recalls the silence and "a vast area" of oil-calmed water "with



bodies like stepping stones". The next day he shared a trip back to Plymouth with two old dogs which had been rescued from the *Lancastria*.

Stan later went to Egypt with No 2 HRS RASC and after the war returned to his trade in the shipyard at Faversham.

The survivors and family members of the HMT *Lancastria* Association were supported on the pilgrimage by the Army and the Royal Navy. Troop commander

Bugler Cpl Ian Clark, RGJ, sounded *Last Post* and *Reveille* over the wreck site, an official war grave, from the fishery protection vessel HMS *Shetland*. His calls were echoed by a bugler on board the Army landing craft *Arromanches*, commanded by SSgt Andrew Jones from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC.

Final throes of the *Lancastria*, snapped from the *Highlander* by Frank Clements

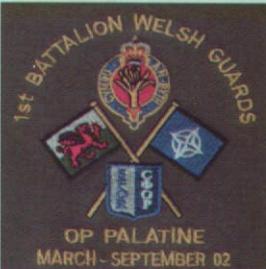
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Manage Your Money



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

Payback time for holiday fun is just around the corner

THOSE who contact our HelpLine to talk about money problems are, on average, in debt by £30,000. Traditionally, we get a peak of activity in September, when credit card statements arrive after the summer holidays.

Now may be a good time to reflect on money issues.

Remember, doing a budget is the first stage of getting out of debt. Budgeting is controlling spending. Spend more than you earn and you have to borrow (and pay interest) or use some of your savings.

Where does it go?

The great challenge is, do you know where your money goes? A good way to keep track is to write down what you spend in a notebook and make use of the stubs in chequebooks and on paying-in slips. It can be revealing.

It's helpful if we categorise what we spend money on. We suggest that they go into four categories:

Priority spending: Anything which keeps our home safe, including rent or mortgage, gas and electricity, council tax, water charges.

Formal commitments: Those things which are important and we are committed to, such as life insurance, telephone, TV licence.

Everyday spending: What we spend money on regularly each day (or week), such as housekeeping (food), fares or car expenses, children, pets, leisure, hobbies, sports.

Occasional costs: Birthdays and Christmas, clothing, appliance repairs, decorating, dentist, optician, holidays.

Add all these up (on, say a monthly basis) and take them away from your net income (what you get paid). Is there a surplus or a deficit? If there's a surplus, how do you want to save? If a deficit, what can you cut?

Why not do a budget?

Even if you're not in debt, or struggling with money, drawing up a budget may help you plan better for the future. If you are in debt, and can't repay your creditors, then this is the first step to a plan to get out of debt.

If you would like to know more about budgeting, call the Credit Action HelpLine on 0800 591084. We will send you a booklet and a budget with the different categories for you to fill in. Or you can visit our website at www.creditaction.com

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Coming to a prairie near you: Capt Clive Morgan, 2iC of Batus Workshop REME, takes a ride in the new "red-top" safety vehicle to be used on the wide open spaces of Alberta

New 'red-top' is comfortably safe

A NEW "red-top" safety vehicle is set to give temporary safety staff a much more comfortable ride across Alberta's vast exercise battlegrounds next year.

The new vehicles – 118 of them are on track for delivery in February – will replace the Land Rover Defender safety fleet currently used at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus), where Warrior infantry fighting vehicles and Challenger 2 main battle tanks range across the prairie landscape in realistic high-intensity war battle-group exercises.

It had become apparent that the Defenders could not match the mobility of either Warrior or Challenger and were suffering high failure and attrition rates.

Their replacement will be based on the GMC 2500HD crew cab truck and leased from General Motors Defense on a five-year contract.

Its 300bhp engine is coupled through

a five-speed automatic gearbox, while larger wheels and tyres and up-rated suspension will cushion the ride. Under-body protection is designed to cope with anything the rugged prairie environment can throw at the vehicle. Anti-lock brakes and air-conditioning add to the safety and comfort of users.

A further refinement will be a cupola fitted to allow the safety supervisor all-round visibility. Provision for radio communications has also been designed in. User trials were conducted during Medicine Man 1 earlier this year.

Project BARRT (Batus Alternative Replacement Red Top) is an HQ Land venture managed by Equipment Support Branch. It was initiated by Lt Col Ian McPherson and taken on by project executive Col Ian Simpson, late REME, and manager/engineer Maj Mike Tizard REME.

Showcasing a sniper rifle

On target: LBdr Deborah Williams of 47 Air Defence Regiment RA gets to grips with the Truvelo .50 Browning Mega sniper rifle on show at the Army 2002 showcase event at Larkhill last month (more pictures on Page 23).

The South African-manufactured Truvelo, featuring sophisticated electronic guiding and sighting equipment, is designed to take out heavy armaments. Others in the range include anti-personnel weapons.

Picture: Edward Furdon



Home from home

There's more to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service than a tea lady dispensing a smile and a biscuit

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston and Steve Dock

FOR more than 60 years, volunteers from the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) have supported soldiers and civilians in peace and war.

The "Weavers" – as its staff are affectionately known to the military – make up one of the UK's largest voluntary organisations. More than 100,000 members are trained to run services nationwide ranging from rest centres during civil evacuations to meals-on-wheels.

In the military environment they provide social clubs – places where soldiers can get away from the Army and enjoy some home-style comfort.

The WRVS has military branches in Cyprus, Germany and Northern Ireland, an occasional presence in Kosovo and Bosnia (depending on individual COs), and staff in all first and second training phase establishments in the UK.

LCpl Jamie Kearney, serving with the Supply Squadron RLC at Mount Pleasant Airport (MPA) in the Falklands, is one of thousands of soldiers who appreciate what the Weavers have to offer. He firmly believes that the WRVS club at Mount Pleasant was the best he had come across.

"There are long opening hours and the club is always welcoming," he said. "The two ladies there do a fantastic job and there is a wide selection of videos, papers and magazines."



Pleasant experience:
LCpl Jamie Kearney

FORMED in 1938, the WRVS has announced new strategies to tackle health, social and welfare needs in the UK. They include community schemes such as home visits, transport, prescription-collecting and help with shopping. There is also a private meal-delivery scheme for people who do not qualify for local authority subsidies.

The WRVS will continue to play a part in emergency planning by providing support during and after large-scale emergencies such as floods, rail disasters and plane crashes.

He was particularly impressed that people could always drop in and make themselves tea and toast. The women singled out by LCpl Kearney are Services welfare officers (SWOs) Pam Glover and Lorraine Adam. Between them they try to keep the club open on every day of their 12-month posting.

"Selection for the Falklands is considered quite an honour," said Pam, whose enthusiasm is obvious. "The lads and girls from all three Services look on this place as a home-from-home.

"Our role revolves around welfare and our club is a big part of the welfare package. If soldiers want to chat they can, and if they have problems we can help."

Denise Murphy, head of Services Welfare at WRVS headquarters near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, said SWOs did not offer counselling and were not trained social workers.

"They go on courses to learn how to listen and we have just recruited a head of



Home thoughts while abroad: Pam Glover, left, and Lorraine Adam welcome Service personnel to the "Weavers" club at Mount Pleasant in the Falklands

training and development to take that further," she said. "The SWOs discuss problems on a one-to-one basis and suggest which agency or individual, such as the padre, is best able to help in each case."

The Mount Pleasant club, which does not serve alcohol, has an extensive library of videos and DVDs for rent. Money raised is invested in the centre.

There is a quiet study room, a games room for table tennis, table football and pool, a no-smoking coffee lounge and a room dedicated to computer gaming. Internet facilities are also available.

"We play lots of games like Trivial Pursuit and there is a quiet room for TV," said Pam. "Our visitors can have tea and toast and the place is warm and comfortable. It is home for them and they can relax. It stops people staying in

their rooms. They come here to chat and socialise."

Pam and Lorraine arrange events such as tours of the islands. A sponsored 27-mile walk from Darwin to MPA raised funds for the club.

For many soldiers Christmas is a diffi-

cult time because they are far from loved ones. Events in the club ease the pressure.

"We had a hotpot night to put up the Christmas tree and they came in swarms," recalled Pam. "It was like being with the family."

On Christmas morning there were cakes and mince pies – many supplied by cooks from the MPA messes – fruit, sweets, party-poppers and streamers and an enormous mound of bacon butties.

"We played lots of daft games and did it all again on Boxing Day," said Pam. "A lot of soldiers said if we had not been open, they would have been lost."

So highly is the WRVS regarded that one unit raised £400 for the Weavers to say thank you.

The remoteness of the South Atlantic has its drawbacks for Pam and Lorraine. "Our biggest problem is that we can't get Thornton's chocolate," smiled Pam.

Is there a down-side for soldiers visiting their WRVS Club? "The only thing we insist on is that they do their own washing-up," said Pam. But it's worth it for that little taste of home.



Service: Denise Murphy at the WRVS HQ near Abingdon, Oxford

It's payback time for Mike

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

"I HAD a fantastic time in the Army and boy service and this is my way of paying it all back."

These are the encouraging words of Mike Moffatt, a former signaller who now runs the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at Hereford Cathedral School, where its activities are part of the curriculum, writes Ray Routledge.

Mike's military career began in 1964 in the Junior Leaders Regiment, before he moved into an Army life that included tours in Cyprus, Hong Kong and Oman.

Leaving as a WO1 in 1988, he was appointed School Staff Instructor at the campus two years later. At that time the CCF was in a bad shape.

"Fortunately the Governors, led by former Light Infantry colonel Dennis Lloyd, saved it," said Mike. Now the force is thriving and celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Dr Howard Tomlinson, headmaster of the fee-paying school established in 1384, sees the CCF as an essential part of school life. Presentation teams from the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, as well as Kidderminster-based 37 Cadet Training Team, are regular visitors.

All the class work and adventurous training is planned and managed by Mike, who runs regular camps. Destinations for climbing expeditions have included the Pyrenees and the Troodos Mountains in Cyprus.

Ages of students in the force range from 14 to 18, and first-year study is compulsory unless parents object. The alternative is to undertake community service.

There is a rank structure based on certificates and qualifications and while adults co-ordinate and supply expertise, the senior cadets train the younger ones.

A measure of Mike's success is that more than 100 students have joined the Armed Forces during his time at the school.

Yes – he truly is putting something back.

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



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Air dispatcher

The third in our occasional series on what soldiers wear to do specialist jobs features the high-flying attire of an RLC air dispatcher



Flying gloves. Provide protection when dispatching large loads and from wind-chill when exposed on aircraft's exterior

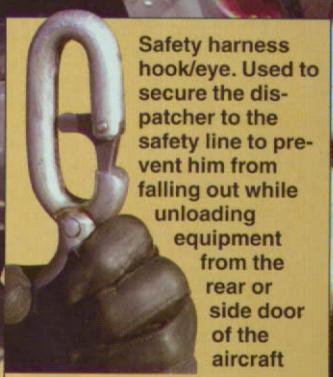


Flying knife. Used to cut the "final restraint" and detach the load from the aircraft

Load-carrying jerkin (LCJ). Holds equipment such as GPS, first-aid pack, locating beacon, flares and survival equipment. The LCJ is also fitted with a life jacket



Flying helmet. Provides head and eye protection and enables communication with other aircrew

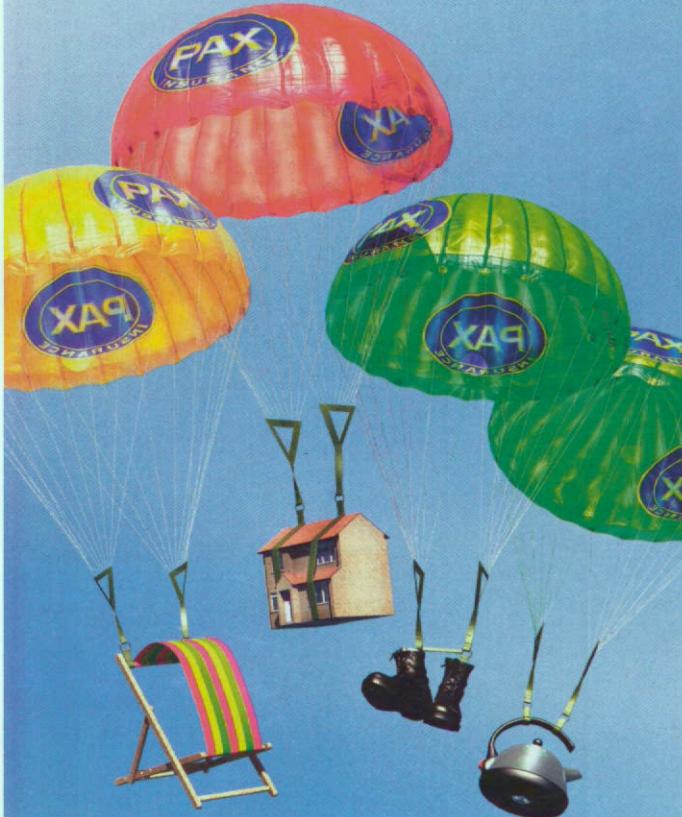


Safety harness. Prevents the AD from falling out of the aircraft and is connected to the safety line by means of an additional strap at the rear of the belt

Our model is Cpl Steve Ford, an air dispatcher with 47 AD Squadron RLC based at RAF Lyneham. Cpl Ford is wearing Combat 95 and survival equipment, the usual dress on operational flying duties. Non-operational duties are conducted wearing a normal flying suit. A personal weapon is carried by all AD crew.

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Picture perfect

Military artist Alix Baker has established an enviable reputation with her intricate work

Report: Anthony Stone
Picture: Mike Weston

SMALL but perfectly formed, the devil is in the detail. A close examination of Alix Baker's paintings reveals a near-photographic precision which seems as close to science as it is to art. Brushstrokes are intricately executed, in places so fine it is possible to count bristles on beards and beads of sweat on soldiers' brows.

Art and Service are themes which run deep through Alix Baker's family. The daughter of Fd Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker, Alix was attracted to things military at an early age. Among her childhood memories is the first emergency in Cyprus, when she drew aircraft strafing exploding trucks.

"I would probably have gone into the Army if I had been born in grey flannel shorts," she said. "But, for a girl of my generation, it was not seen as an ideal career. I naturally grew up living and breathing Service life and the idea of a life dedicated to Crown and country."

It is no great surprise then that, after art college, Alix worked at 10 Downing Street and later joined MI6 (the Secret Intelligence Service) and held jobs at home and abroad for several years, painting in her rare spare moments.

Alix has been selling paintings since she was at school and what started as a lucrative hobby has evolved over 37 years into a full-time pro-



Fine artist: Alix Baker

fession. She has established an international reputation in the military art and research field.

"I also write articles on dress, advise silver-makers involved in the crafting of mess pieces, am consulted by historians, collectors and top model-makers worldwide," she said. Her particular interest lies with how uniforms have evolved through experience, recording present-day dress as worn rather than as regulations decree.

"Combat uniforms of all periods fascinate me, as do the soldiers' grizzled, tired, dirty faces, with stubble, tears and bandages."

Such detailed work is time-consuming, each figure taking the best part of a week. "Research is the longest thing," she said. "Sometimes it takes a day, sometimes a lot longer."

The Armed Forces Art Society has elected Alix as chairman-designate – the first woman and first non-Service person to hold the honour. The society's 68th exhibition, sponsored by Thales Plc, takes place next month at The Mall Galleries, The Mall, London. More than 400 paintings and sculptures from amateurs and professionals will be on display. It is open September 4-7 from 1000 to 1700 and September 8 from 1000 to 1300.

● Find out more at www.afas.org.uk and www.alix-baker-militaryart.com



Colourful past: Pictures reflecting different aspects of the history of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) 1702-2002. Clockwise, top, a modern-day corporal, a First World War captain, a mounted infantryman of 1896, a sergeant of 1854, and a sentinel of 1702

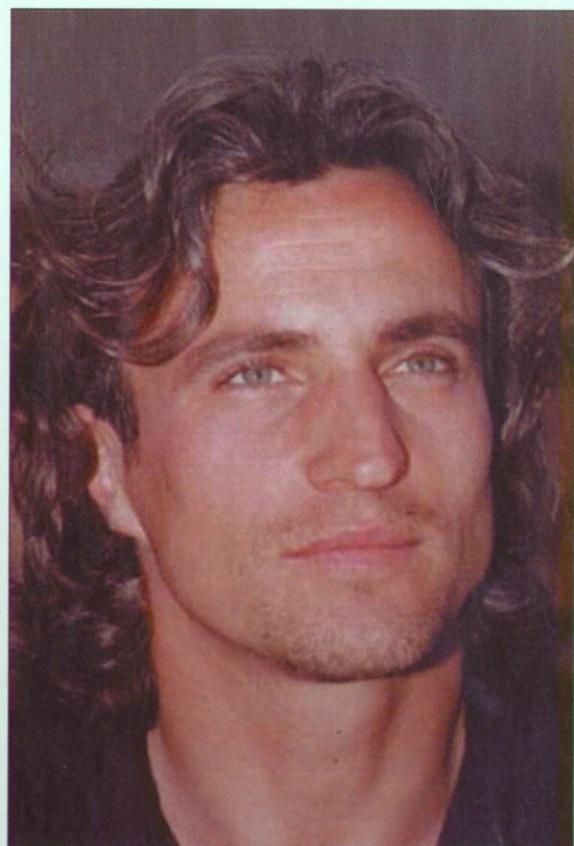
From French soldier to Toon Army

Soccer star talks exclusively to *Soldier* about his memories of National Service

Interview: Andy Simms

FOR someone who is as famous for his flowing locks, catwalk appearances and television advertisements as he is for his natural talent and penchant for the outrageous on the football field, the prospect of joining the French Army and being forced to shave his head must have been an alarming one.

Nevertheless, National Service was a reality that David Ginola readily accepted at the age of 20, despite being offered an escape route on the grounds of having a



Celebrity: David is revered both on and off the pitch

professional contract with Matra Racing FC in Paris.

"I knew that my parents wanted me to do my National Service," he reflected. "My mother thought it would be good experience for me in case I did not make it as a footballer, and my father used to be a Marine and saw serving your country as the right thing to do. My father did not order me to join up but did say, 'David, it would be nice if you did'."

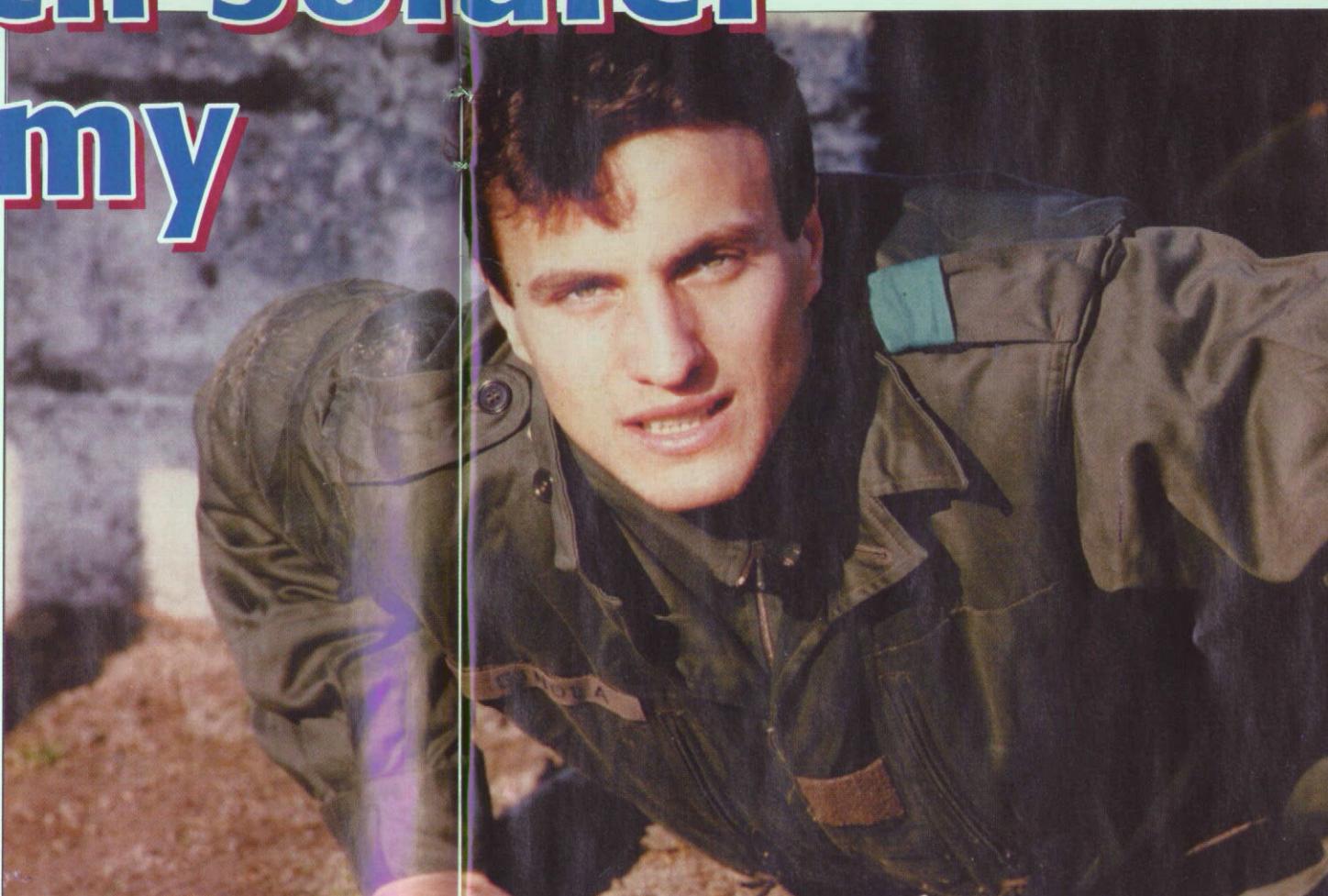
"I remember the call-up officer offering to sign my exemption certificate because I was a footballer and I think it came as a shock to him when I said that I actually wanted to serve."

Before being assigned to a special battalion for professional sportsmen, Pte Ginola had to complete three weeks of basic training and concedes that Army life came as a major culture shock.

The innovative midfielder, who began his senior football career with Toulon during the 1985/86 season, soon discovered that the standard short-back-and-sides haircut was not the only aspect of military protocol he disliked.

"I did not like taking orders and hated people calling me by my surname instead of 'David,'" he said. "I also didn't like waking up at five or six in the morning and being made to do something silly like clean the toilets – it is not really what you want to be doing before your morning coffee."

Now 35, Ginola soon discovered that being a professional footballer could be something of a poisoned



Pre-season training: A 20-year-old David Ginola "warms-up" in French Army colours during his 12-months' National Service in the Eighties

chalice. Although a lot of the other recruits revelled in the opportunity of serving alongside a football star, his celebrity status also attracted a degree of unwanted attention.

"One captain really took advantage of having a professional footballer in the ranks," he said. "He knew that generally speaking people looked after us [footballers] very well and wanted to make sure that I didn't have any help during training. There was no special treatment at all."

"It was quite a difficult period for me because I had to play games for my club in between my military training. I was playing in the Premier League in France at the time and remember one occasion when I was released for a day for a mid-week fixture against Strasbourg."

"After the game I was told I had to go back to base, and when I got there I found the rest of the guys standing by their beds in full uniform."

"It was about three in the morning and I was told that I had to go on a 10km hike with the other recruits. When I complained that I had just got back from a

game I was told that this would be my warm-down. When we got to the end of the hike we were told that we could have an hour's rest and that a truck would be along to pick us up – it never turned up."

"It was minus five degrees and we all had to walk the 10km back to base – it really was terrible, I was knackered, conscious that I had a game on the Saturday, and could not stop my teeth from chattering for hours."

Fortunately for Ginola, who made his international debut for France against Albania three years after leaving the Army and went on to win 17 full caps for his country, better times were to follow with his battalion.

Military duties became less demanding and the footballers were allowed to leave work on a Thursday, in order to catch the last training session of the week with their clubs, and not have to return to camp

I did not like taking orders and hated people calling me by my surname instead of 'David'

until the following Monday afternoon.

Ginola was also given the chance to represent the French Army's military team and impress his commanding officers with glimpses of the supreme talent which later graced the English Premiership with Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa and more recently Everton, and earned him both the English Football Writers' and PFA Footballer of the Year accolades.

The Army team at the time was coached by the former manager of the French national team, Roger Lemerre, and Ginola was selected for tours to India, Zaire and Morocco.

However, not even the foreign travel could convince the Gallic genius to sign on for more than the minimum year's service. "I think that 12 months was long enough," said Ginola. "But looking back now, I think being in the Army gave me more belief in myself."

Red Cross lands top summer signing

WHY will David Ginola, a footballer revered for his imaginative and creative ability in the middle of the park, also be remembered as a world-class defender?

Not, as any Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa or Everton fan will tell you, because of his tireless efforts to track back and protect his own goal, but for his role as an international spokesperson for the Red Cross anti-landmines campaign.

"The Red Cross approached me while I was playing for Tottenham and asked me whether I would be interested in being part of their work, and in particular asked for help in their campaign against landmines," Ginola told *Soldier*. "I told them that I would do what I could and that I would give them the best of my spare time."

It was an offer of help which led to two extraordinary close-season breaks for the French star... a trip to Angola in 1998 and more recently to Cambodia in May 2000.

"I hope that both of the trips helped people to realise that the problem of landmines still existed and that we all need to do more," he said. "The Red Cross has done a lot but I fear that it will never be able to do enough – I think the battle against landmines is one that we will fight forever."

Ginola's stay in Angola included a visit to a Red Cross orthopaedic centre in Luanda, which manufactures prosthetic limbs for landmine survivors, and coincided with the commemoration of the death of Princess Diana, who galvanised international support for the anti-landmine campaign by visiting Angola and Bosnia in 1997.

And although Ginola's own minefield tours successfully returned the Red Cross's plight to the headlines, the 35-year-old is quick to play down any comparisons between himself and the Princess of Wales.

"Even though I have dedicated a lot of time to the Red Cross it has not been a full-time job for me. I do not like to be compared to the Princess of Wales because she was completely involved and gave 100 per cent – in comparison I have only achieved perhaps one per cent of what she did."

However, the father of two intends to continue to use his fame to benefit the Red Cross's efforts. "Landmines are something that you can not just stop showing an interest in," he added. "One day I will stop playing football but doing charity work for the Red Cross is something that I will do all of my life."

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Happy families

New neighbourhood quarters at Tidworth are half the hassle and twice the fun

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Steve Dock

ARMY families moving into quarters in the UK never quite know what to expect. Some of the housing stock – damp, dismal and depressing – would wipe the grin off Carol Smillie's face faster than you can say Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

But all that is changing. In a ground-breaking shift away from previous Army housing practice, families in the garrison town of Tidworth are moving into new homes which have been built using local materials and attractive traditional designs. The 484 properties replace 533 outdated buildings constructed in the 1960s and are built in small neighbourhoods with pathways and play parks rather than one large estate.

Most importantly, Service families were included in the planning from the outset.

The Defence Housing Executive, an

agency of the Ministry of Defence, wanted to make sure it got the job spec right before it started on the £47 million project.

The Army's brief to the DHE was that it needed high-quality homes for the 21st century. The reasoning: happy families equals happy soldiers.

Questionnaires were sent out, public meetings were held in Germany, Canterbury and Tidworth and people were consulted in their own homes with a view to finding out exactly what it was they wanted.

The findings were revealing. They said that the Army "patch-edges" were often featureless with very few trees. There was nowhere to park cars and little privacy. General issues raised were the need for adequate storage, larger kitchens, a separate shower and a more homely traditional feel.

The first 213 houses have now been occupied and the occupants are delighted with the result.

Properties are laid out in a series of neighbourhoods around squares, a village green, crescents and courtyards, which gives a sense of individuality and community spirit. The design has the added effect of reducing

Key to the door: Sgt Michael Slater with his wife Jackie who, with their children, were first to move in

traffic flow and speed and making it safer for children.

Throughout each development there are open spaces and enclosed parks for children. The architect, Pick Everard, spent time looking at other developments in the West County and incorporated the traditional flint and knap frontage styles into the buildings.

‘These are the sort of houses I would choose to live in myself’

Sgt Michael Slater, of The King's Royal Hussars, his wife Jackie and their two children were the first occupants of the new houses on the Matthew and Avon estate. "I just think they are wonderful," said Mrs Slater. "They came out to talk to us in Munster and it's good to see they listened. It doesn't feel as if we're living in an Army estate – these are the sort of houses I would choose to live in myself."

Mrs Brampton, controller of south-west region DHE, knew they had passed the acid test when she was approached by a civilian who asked if he could buy one of the houses. That, she said, was proof they had got it right.

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You do us proud

Queen pays warm tribute to the Forces, their families, and the supporting organisations

Report: Chris Horrocks

Pictures: Soldier photographic team

IN a warm personal tribute to her Armed Forces when she visited them in Portsmouth, the Queen said: "You do this country proud."

She had earlier watched a series of spectacular displays and met nine serving officers and men – including three from the Army – chosen because of their achievements to represent the Services.

The Queen said: "I am only too well aware of the tremendous contribution that the Armed Forces, including the Volunteer Reserves, have made to the standing and reputation of this country throughout the world during my reign.

"I owe a particular debt of gratitude to the many members of the Armed Forces who have given me and my family their personal support in so many different ways during the last 50 years."

The Queen had special words for Service families for their tolerance of the "special strains" of frequent separation.

She also praised the work of welfare and support organisations such as the chaplains, medical services, Women's Royal Voluntary Service and SSAFA.

A day earlier, in a message broadcast by Forces radio, the Queen paid tribute to the current and recent work of the Services at home and abroad, making references to the foot-and-mouth crisis and various operational theatres. Thanking

Pick of the bunch:
Among those chosen from the Services to be presented to the Queen in Portsmouth were, from left above, Cpl Andrew Mackenzie, LG, Capt Daniel Matthews MC, Para, and CSgt Cliff Lea, PWRR. Below: the Queen spoke of a "debt of gratitude" to the Forces



everyone for their part in defending Britain and preserving peace globally, she said: "The regard in which the Armed Forces are held in the UK, and around the world, is probably as high as it has ever been over the last 50 years."

● Turn to next page

Tour de force

There was a spot of trouble when the Queen visited her troops – but with a little help from Kate Adie it all ended peacefully



Happy and glorious: The Queen inspects soldiers of No 7 Company, Coldstream Guards, above, representing the Army in a tri-Service guard of honour

Right, an Apache helicopter adds to the day's drama

You do us proud

• From Page 39

The Army trio chosen to be presented to the Queen were:

Capt Daniel Matthews MC, Para, whose two nominations for the Military Cross related to actions in Sierra Leone – the evacuation of 500 British citizens and the mission to rescue seven Royal Irish Regiment soldiers taken hostage.

C Sgt Cliff Lea, PWRR, who was Mentioned in Dispatches for his courage in leading his heavily-outnumbered patrol to capture 13 armed terrorists on the Kosovo-Albanian border in 2000.

Cpl Andrew Mackenzie, LG, who in recent years has won the British modern triathlon, the Army pentathlon (four times), the Army tetrathlon (three times), and competed with the British relay team in the World Championships.

IT was centrepiece of the biggest Jubilee celebration outside London as 250 men and women of the Armed Forces staged a show fit for a Queen.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, she sat enthralled as military scenarios were acted out noisily in three huge amphitheatres on Whale Island, Portsmouth.

The story involved British forces bringing peace to an overseas trouble-spot and action on the ground (and in the water) was complemented by video footage on giant screens. To show how real it all was, even veteran war reporter Kate Adie turned up.

Later, the royal guests were treated to sea and air displays, ending with a flypast featuring the Red Arrows and two of the Army's new WAH-64 Apache helicopters from the School of Army Aviation.

In all, 10,000 Servicemen and women, including members of 27 Army units, were involved in the military spectacular.



Almost for real: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, above, make arrests in the peace support role demonstration staged for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in one of three huge stages specially constructed on Whale Island, Portsmouth



Out of the deep: A Royal Engineers diver, above, "recce's" an airfield from a beach on one of the realistic purpose-built sets which between them cost £1.5m

We're here to help: In the peace-support demonstration segment of the display, soldiers with ordnance clearance equipment, right, help locals in a troubled village



Station's signal success

Tuned-in: Garrison Radio boss Mark Page

Since going live last year Garrison Radio has proved to be on its listeners' wavelength

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

EVEN as a boy, Mark Page was mad about radio. When his aunt gave him a little transistor set, Mark smuggled it to school where he covertly listened to *Radio 1*. This fascination with the airwaves has never left him and, today, Mark is the man behind the success story of Garrison Radio. "Now I am running four stations, which is a bit mad, but I love it," he said.

Garrison Radio took over the 1287 am frequency on transmitters in Catterick, Bulford and Tidworth at midnight on July 1, 2001. Since then Colchester and Aldershot garrisons have also come on stream providing news, views and mainstream popular music.

"After winning the contract as the first new military broadcaster since the Second World War we really cracked the mould," Mark said. "We are a bespoke Army radio service and our approach has been new and different."

"In three-and-a-half weeks from winning the contract we went to staffing, and in one case, rebuilding the studio, to getting on air. It was going some and we have kept the pace up."

The four stations broadcast one watt of power and have proved the most pop-

ular medium-wave stations in the garrisons – not bad when competing against 20 broadcasting rivals.

"We don't claim an audience outside the garrisons," said former *Radio 1* DJ Mark. "But we will be looking at cable next as another outlet. We are already on the internet."

Garrison Radio is part of the media stable of the Directorate of Corporate Communications (Army), providing the Army with radio news and garrison information 24 hours a day. The music policy and playlists are tailor-made for the UK twenty-somethings.

"We are not a dance station or a country station," Mark said. "We aim for the broadest audience possible and maintain output so you know what you are getting all day long."

Garrison Radio is hitting the right buttons, so what are the chances of getting an FM frequency?

"The ball is in the Army's court," Mark said. "We have gone from nothing to something quite substantial in a year because our approach has been new and different."

Among these innovative programmes is a regular weekly show in Nepali for the Gurkhas, broadcast on the web.

To sample what the station offers, check out www.garrisonradio.com

Knock-on effects

AFF
CONFERENCE

It's 20 years since the first families' conference began raising issues of mutual concern with Army commanders

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Steve Dock

RECORD numbers from garrisons around the world attended this year's Army Families Federation conference at Imperial College, London University.

More than 530 people took part in the day's events which celebrated 20 years of achievements while recognising there was still much work to be done.

The theme was "opening doors" and the conference was able to reflect that it had succeeded in opening many by gentle, persistent knocking.

Much has changed since Lady Elizabeth Kitson inaugurated the fledgling federation in 1982, but many of the same concerns remain: how to improve housing, education, welfare and employment opportunities for spouses.

The seriousness with which the Army and the Government views the federation could be gauged by the seniority of the speakers. Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Michael Walker, addressed the conference about his belief that the Army family was alive and well.

"Happy families," he said, "make happy soldiers, make happy regiments."

And the winner is

THIS year's community award, sponsored by Naafi, went to Mrs Sandie Roskelly in recognition of her work with the Army community over the past 21 years, particularly her involvement with ARRC families in Rheindahlen.

Sandie is pictured, right, receiving the award from AFF Patron The Duchess of Gloucester while being congratulated by AFF President Lady Walker.

Lt Col Mark Poffey, 13 Air Assault Support Regt RLC, said: "Sandie has steadfastly balanced the maintenance of her family with the needs and welfare of those around her in an exceptional way."



It's good to talk: Fielding questions from the floor, from left, Francis Canham, AFF employment specialist, Sandra Hutchinson, education specialist, and AFF chairman Lizzie Iron who exhorted the conference to "help us to help you and let's show we can open doors together"

Gen Walker, who was commissioned into the Royal Anglians in 1966 and who has moved house 21 times during a career that has taken in Germany, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Bosnia, said: "Our concern for our people is a higher priority now than it has been for anytime during my service."

The general was able to tell the meeting that 24 per cent of the Army was current-



ly engaged on operations, a figure considerably reduced from the height of the overstretch. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy and a less operationally effective soldier," he said.

He told the conference there would never ever be enough money to meet all aspirations. Resources are by their very nature limited, and the challenge therefore was to identify priorities. The AFF was uniquely placed to contribute to this debate.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, who was also scheduled to speak, had to jet off on urgent business to India, but recorded a video message.

A dynamic afternoon question-and-answer session saw a top team of defence heavyweights including Adjutant General Lt Gen Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel) Air Marshal Sir Malcolm Pledger and Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram tackle questions from the floor.

Delegates responded enthusiastically to news of a change in the

notice of address, something which will have a real impact on welfare. At present the Defence Housing Executive provides occupants with a married quarter address 28 days before date of posting for moves within UK and 56 days for those moving from overseas. This is not ideal for families looking to place their children in local schools.

But a new procedure to be introduced on December 1 will provide applicants with an address 14 days (ten working days) after receipt of application, up to four months prior to posting date. It was a timely example of the Army listening and responding to families' concerns.

The conference was a model of informative and constructive dialogue, with both sides striving for balance. No matter how passionately questions were raised by Army wives, it was always done with good humour and empathy was never far beneath the surface.

Or as Frances Canham, AFF employment specialist, put it: "The theme this year is opening doors. And we certainly have the knockers."

● See Home Truths, Page 73

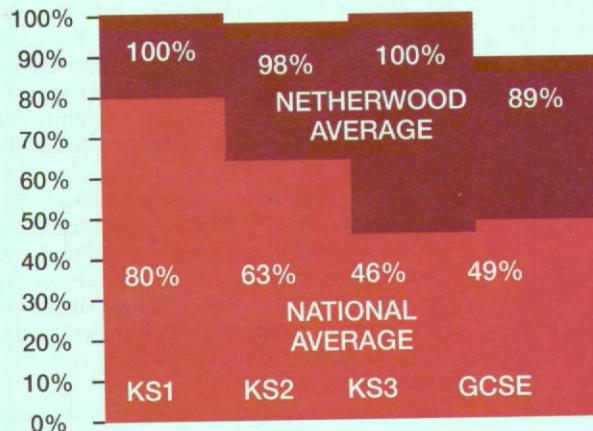
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Behind McMenemy lines

Soldier reveals what happened when former Saint Lawrie McMenemy went marching in... to the Afghan capital of Kabul

Interview: Andy Simms

FOR more than a decade the Milton End of The Dell echoed with the chants of "Lawrie McMenemy's red-and-white army" – Southampton Football Club fans' tribute to the most successful manager in their club's history.

With McMenemy at the helm the South Coast team won the FA Cup in 1976, promotion from the old second division in 1978, and finished just three points behind champions Liverpool in the first division during the 1983/84 season.

Even after his departure from the Dell in the summer of 1985 Southampton continued to reap the benefits of his management. Matthew Le Tissier, Alan Shearer and the Wallace brothers all emerged from the youth policy the

Gateshead-born manager helped to establish during his 12-year reign.

So when McMenemy arrived on Afghan soil earlier this year as part of a Football Association party which included former Tottenham Hotspur and England star Gary Mabbutt, charged with coaching the multi-national International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) and Kabul United teams for an exhibition football match, he was relieved to catch a glimpse of his former club's colours.

"We were staying with soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in an old school building," explained McMenemy, who spent a week in Afghanistan's war-ravaged capital Kabul.

"And the lad who was looking after Gary and I had a big sign in his window saying 'Phil's red-and-white army'.

"My first thought was that Phil was a Saints fan, but I couldn't have been more wrong." Unfortunately, Phil Robinson's affinity with red and white proved to be a tribute to Sunderland, the club that achieved what Manchester United failed to do – lure the four-times Bell's divisional manager of the year away from his beloved Southampton.

However, McMenemy's return to the north-east proved to be the one blip of an otherwise exemplary managerial career, which included spells in charge of Gateshead, Doncaster, Northern Ireland and three years as Graham Taylor's England assistant. During his first, and last, season at Roker Park, Sunderland were relegated from the football league's top flight.

"I really thought it was someone's idea of a cruel joke when I was introduced to Phil," McMenemy mused. "Jimmy Tarbuck is a good friend of mine and he summed up my time at Sunderland when he said: 'The thing that Lawrie and the Titanic have in common is that neither one of them should have left Southampton'."

No stranger to barrack-room banter, having completed two years of National Service with the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards during the 1950s, McMenemy took the inevitable "leg-pulling" in his stride, but found other aspects of his return to Army life a little more challenging, particularly his first trooping flight aboard a Hercules C-17.

"The plane was unlike anything I have ever seen before," said the former lance sergeant. "It was like travelling in an aircraft hangar with wings.

"As soon as the seat-belt lights went off there was a mad rush for places on top of the freight boxes. I was left bemused by it all but soon realised that the soldiers were all pros and had grabbed the best sleeping

'The thing that Lawrie and the Titanic have in common is that they should never have left Southampton'



Transfer: Former Coldstream Guard Lawrie McMenemy shows off his new team's badge

Picture: Mark Ballantyne

places. We amateurs were left to find space on the floor."

Discomfort, McMenemy quickly discovered, was to be a recurring feature of his stay in Afghanistan.

"The two things that were drilled into you in the Guards were discipline and cleanliness – everything had to be spotless," said the 66-year-old. "And the first thing that I noticed about our room in Kabul was the dust. It was just impossible to keep anything clean.

"There was a wash-basin and toilet in the room, but there wasn't any running water so you couldn't use them. Every time a vehicle moved outside, the floor got covered in a new layer of dust.

"It was also a lot colder at night than I imagined it would be," he added. "I am glad there were no cameras around to snap Gary and I all wrapped up in our thermals."

As well as having to endure the sight of Mabbutt's legs in "a very fetching pair of tights" each night, McMenemy also found the troops' modern-day ration packs a little hard to stomach.

"On our first morning in Afghanistan I was asked what I wanted for breakfast and was offered pasta-this or pasta-that, and the thought of having pasta for breakfast just didn't appeal to me.

"Phil told me to go off and have my wash and when I got back he pulled out this silver bag and told me: 'You'll like this, Lawrie'.

"I opened it and discovered it was chocolate pudding," he said. "I won't tell you what it looked like but I had to eat something – and if I'm honest it wasn't too bad.

"My four-year-old grandson Joss is passionate about becoming a soldier so I brought back some of the food rations for him.

"I recently had Sunday lunch at his house and presented him with one of the puddings. I'm not saying it put him off joining the Army, but from the expression on his face it wasn't as tasty for him as it had been for me in Afghanistan."

Although much of Lawrie's time in theatre was spent training the Afghan players ahead of their historic match in Kabul's Olympic stadium, he took time

out to talk football with as many of the British soldiers as possible.

"I had an empathy with the soldiers but I would never compare what I did in the Army to what they do," he said. "What I did in the Fifties wasn't soldiering – the closest I got to any real action was watching a copper fight off the crowds in front of Buckingham Palace. The thing that impressed me most about today's soldiers is the lads' positive attitude to the job in hand.

"When I was in the Army half the buggers were moaning all the time. None of us wanted to be there and I was one of a minority who actually said, 'Right, we're here now, let's do the best that we can'."

'When I was in the Army half the buggers were moaning all the time'

SHORTS

Kelly's national triumph



WEEKS after confirming her Commonwealth Games place with a British javelin record, Pte Kelly Morgan, left, (3 CS Regt RLC) twice bettered her record during a staggering series of throws at the European Championship trials in Birmingham's Alexander Stadium.

The 22-year-old extended the record to 63.87m with her second throw, and then improved it to 64.48m, the best in the world this year.

Cycling champions

DESPITE missing Scottish Commonwealth rider Cpl Duncan Urquhart (1 RTR), the Army Cycling Union retained both team titles at the Inter-Services ten- and 25-mile time trial championships.

Aaron Stanton (RN) blasted round the ten-mile course on a stretch of the A3 at Longmoor Camp in Hampshire to take the individual title in 21min 2sec, closely followed by REME's WO1 Paul Haggerty (21min 18sec). Haggerty's second-place and top six finishes by SSgt Gary Kristensen (REME) and WO2 Phil Marland (D and D) ensured the Army could celebrate a second successive team victory.

The same three riders led the Army to a team double by claiming second, third and fourth in the 25-mile time trial. The individual title, previously held by Urquhart, was won by the RAF's Jon Surtees (54min 9sec).

Lauren in the limelight

OCDT Lauren Slater (Welbeck College) helped the Combined Services women's judo team to a bronze medal in the British national team championships at St Helens. Slater, the lone Army representative in the eight-woman team, recorded wins in all of the team's pool matches and was instrumental in securing a semi-final showdown against Scotland's Commonwealth squad.

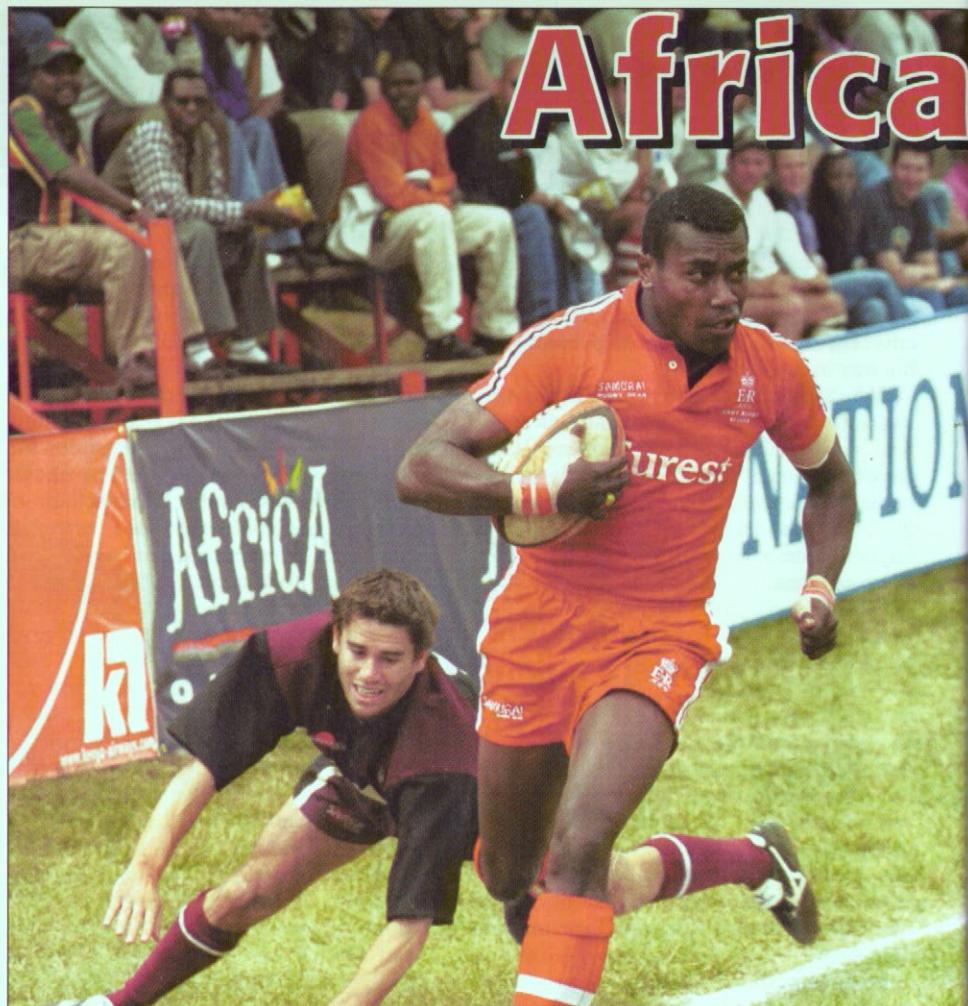
Although Slater defeated her opponent with a tremendous throw, it was the Scottish national side that progressed to, and eventually won, the final.

♦ The Combined Services men's team, which included Pte Lee Potts, Bdr Gareth Maslin and Lt Simon Childs, was denied a repeat of last year's bronze medal result by eventual champions London.

CONTACT US

SOLDIER'S sports desk welcomes your stories, results and opinions. Write to: Andy Simms, Sports Editor, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU or e-mail him at asimms@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Acceptance or rejection of copy is the decision of the Sports Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style.



On safari: Pte Epeli Qolikibua in action against Bristol International Select Picture: Roger Thompson

Easy does it

Under-25s canter to Inter-Services' crown

TWO surprisingly comfortable wins in the Under-25 cricket tournament at Aldershot confirmed the Army as worthy Inter-Services champions.

In damp, bowler-friendly conditions they ground out 174 in 48 overs against the RAF, then bowled out the defending champions for 117 in the 39th over.

Gnr Phil Carlin (7 Para RHA), who

duced a wicket and whose second was a double-wicket maiden. There was no way back for the airmen, who were bowled out 52 runs short. Carlin confirmed his all-round skills when he wrapped up the innings with 3-11 runs from 7.5 overs.

Next day the Army were inserted by the Royal Navy on another rain-affected wicket and punished them with 303-7 off their 50 overs, De Sousa smashing 50 off 33 balls before opener Sig Martyn Cull (21 Signal Regiment), 80, and Fulton (46) put on 115 for the second wicket.

Carlin's 5-23 in nine overs when the Navy batted confirmed his excellent tournament and Little picked up 3-17 as matelots were rattle out for 143, conceding victory to their hosts by a massive 161-run margin.

In the opening match the RAF beat the Navy by 56 runs.

African adventure

THE Eurest-sponsored Army Sevens squad got their season off to a winning start by successfully defending their International Safari Championship crown in Nairobi, writes Roger Thompson.

At nearly 6,000ft and in temperatures topping 30C, acclimatisation was a major hurdle – players gulping the hot rarefied air to keep the brain alert and the legs a-dancing. Strong men who might normally last the distance on full throttle had to be replaced at half-time, the accumulative effects on players becoming more acute in the later rounds.

After three warmers, the reigning champions faced stiff matches against Bristol International Select and Shuja, an African invitation team bristling with internationals from East Africa, in the quarter- and semi-finals.

The final itself, against a big, strong, hard and fast Kenyan national team, proved to be a severe test. Local expectation was high and the voluble team of stadium announcers brought the 10,000-strong home crowd to a fever pitch which remained unquenched even when the Army scored an early try and converted.

There followed some of the best Sevens the Army had played this year, with Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (1RS) and skipper Capt Howard Graham (AGC) alternating

between conductor and first violin. Whichever way the attacks shaped, Pte Epeli Qolikibua (1 RS) was in mesmeric form – sprinting, stuttering to a near stall only to accelerate through the gears to the try-line.

Of course, the grafting forwards bore the brunt of the contest to win the ball – none more so than newcomers Hldr Damu Damu (1 Hldrs) and Pte Denny Delaitamana (1 RRW) alongside old hands Pte Bul Bulumakau (1 RS) and Gdsm Alfred Vakacokovanua (SG).

The final try in a 40-7 victory came from replacement Pte Mathew Raikosa (1 RS), who surged fully 60m through and around a gallant but tired Kenyan defence to collapse under the posts.

♦ The Army have been invited to defend their Middlesex Sevens crown at Twickenham on Saturday, August 17.

The competition will feature the "Best of British", with all 12 Zurich Premier League Clubs participating alongside guest teams Cardiff, rugby league clubs Wigan Warriors and the Bradford Bulls, and Middlesex County Sevens champions 2 PWRR Tigers.

The tournament kicks-off at 11am and ticket information is available through the Army Rugby Union booking hotline on 01252 334415.



Airborne route: Pte Adrian Van Niekerk, A and SH, takes runs off the RAF Picture: Graeme Main

SHORTS

Soccer six appeal

PRINCESS Royal Barracks will play host to an Army women's football sixes festival on October 2-4.

For an entry form, write to Capt Jo Moseley, 24 HQ Sqn, 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt, McMunn Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO2 7UL.

Premium sponsorship

INSURANCE giant Norwich Union has agreed to sponsor the Army Alpine ski championships for the next two years.

Championship organiser Brig Simon Allen said: "We are absolutely delighted to have Norwich Union on board. The championships continue to go from strength to strength and we will be working closely with our sponsors to make the 2003 event even better than before."

Next year's championships will be held at Serre Chevalier on January 23-30.

Search for Olympians

WITH memories of Salt Lake City beginning to fade, the British Army has begun organising two six-day ice sports camps to help identify and develop luge, skeleton and bobsleigh athletes for the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

More than 100 places are available on the camps, which will be held in Lillehammer, Norway from October 13 and cost £350 per person.

Budding Olympians will receive training from current and former national athletes and be instructed in the whole range of ice sports skills from preparing the equipment to starting, driving and, most importantly, stopping the sleds.

For more information write to Capt Adam Johnstone, HQ DEME (A), Hazebrouck Barracks, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NH or email adamluge@yahoo.co.uk

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to August ...

ANGLING: 29-30 – Inter-Services boat challenge (Looe).

ATHLETICS: 10 – National relay championships (Nottingham).

CRICKET: 4 – Sir Paul Getty's XI v Combined Services (Wormsley); 7 – Inter-Services championships, RN v Army (Vine Lane); 8 – RAF v Losers day one (Vine Lane); 9 – RAF v Winners day one (Vine Lane).

EQUITATION: 14 – One day event (Melton Mowbray); 19-23 – Improving dressage (Warminster Saddle Club).

RUGBY UNION: 17 – Middlesex Sevens championship (Twickenham).

TENNIS: 5-6 – Inter-Services championships (Wimbledon).

Record-breaker



World-beater: Endurance champion and former paratrooper Paddy Doyle Picture: Graeme Main

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

ATHLETICS: Army individual champions, 100m: Senior men – LCpl Josephus Thomas (3 (CS) Regt). Junior men – Pte Slack (27 Regt RLC). Senior women – SSgt Lorraine Jackson (ATFC Arborfield). Junior women – Pte Chevette Mais (1 CSMR).

200m: Senior men – LCpl Thomas. Junior men – Sig Connor (11 Sig Regt). Senior women – SSgt Jackson. Junior women – Pte Mais.

400m: Senior men – LCpl Muyambi (RLC). Junior men – Pte David Smith (AFC Harrogate). Senior women – Pte Juliette Holmes (27 Regt RLC). Junior women – Pte Mason (3 (CS) Regt RLC).

100m hurdles: Senior women – 2nd Lt Katie Taylor (CUOTC). Junior women – Sig Edwards (252 Sig Sqn).

110m hurdles: Senior men – LCpl Simon Williams (21 Sig Sqn). Junior men – Pte Andrew Broadbent (AFC Harrogate).

400m hurdles: Senior men – Cpl Paul Coulbridge (3 RSME). Junior men – Pte Broadbent. Senior women – 2nd Lt Taylor.

800m: Senior men – Cpl Campbell (33 Fd Hosp). Junior men – Sig Laycock (11 Sig Regt). Senior women – Pte Browne (Coldm Gds).

1,500m: Senior men – Capt Tim Crossland (3 (CS) Regt RLC). Junior men – Pte Michael Sanchez (AFC Harrogate). Senior women – LCpl Sarah Paterson (3 (CS) Regt RLC). Junior women – Sig Natalie Curtis (21 Sig Regt).

3,000m steeple chase: Senior men –

Sgt John Creak (SEME). Junior men – Pte James Lumb (AFC Harrogate).

5,000m: Senior men – OCdt Adrian Whitman (RMAS). Junior men – Pte Sanchez. Senior women – 2nd Lt Joanna Kelsey (3 (CS) Regt RLC).

Long jump: Senior men – Spr McMullen (42 Svy). Junior men – Pte Farooq (1 R Anglian). Senior women – 2nd Lt Taylor. Junior women – JS Alison France (AFC Harrogate).

High jump: Senior men – OCdt Mark Sweeney (RMAS). Junior men – Sig Chris Tarr (R Signals). Senior women – Sig Julia Cartwright (21 Sig Regt).

Triple jump: Senior men – LCpl Simon Williams (21 Sig Regt). Junior men – Pte Adrian Lowe (AFC Harrogate). Senior women – Pte Juliette Holmes (27 Regt RLC).

Pole vault: Senior men – LCpl Gez Manville (2 PWRR).

Shot putt: Senior men – Sgt Mark Wiseman (RMAS). Junior men – Pte Antony Woolery (AFC Harrogate). Senior women – LCpl Sulueti Tagilala (21 Sig Regt). Junior women – JS Emma Fowkes (AFC Harrogate).

Discus: Senior men – Sgt Wiseman. Junior men – JS Kiel Partridge (AFC Harrogate). Senior women – LCpl Tagilala. Junior women – JS France.

Hammer: Veteran men – Capt Alec Masson (21 Sig Regt). Senior men – 2nd Lt Keith (2 Sig Regt). Junior men – Tpr Marley (9/12 Lancers). Senior women – Cpl Grimes (2 (CS) Regt RLC).

FORMER paratrooper Paddy Doyle broke the 115th endurance record of his career at Staminas Gym in Birmingham by completing 110 full contact ju-jitsu, karate and boxing rounds in 3hr 8min.

The world endurance champion, who appeared in February's issue of *Soldier*, beat the previous record, held by Brazilian Francisco Filho, by ten rounds.

"I won 59 out of the 110 but started to struggle between rounds 80 and 105," he said. "The opposition was tough throughout and I had to call on my vast experience and legendary stamina to keep out of trouble."

"Breaking world records is always a fantastic feeling but this one was made all the better for beating a Brazilian – especially in light of the World Cup."

Doyle is now set to represent Great Britain at the World Record Holders Association festival in Germany on September 1.

◆ A full list of Doyle's records can be found at www.stamina4life.co.uk

Javelin: Veteran men – Maj Martin Annis (RMAS). Senior men – 2nd Lt Keith. Junior men – 1, JS Partridge. Senior women – Capt Vicky Hemmings (15 Sig Regt). Junior women – JS France.

Inter-unit championships, Major Units – 1, 3 (CS) Regt RLC (291.5pts); 2, 2 PWRR (227pts); 3, 3 RSME (212.5pts); 4, 27 Regt RLC (201pts); 5, 1 RGBW (174pts).

Minor Units – 1, ASPT (125pts); 2, ATR Bassingbourn (107pts); 3, 39 Inf Bde & Sig Sqn (103pts); 4, Nijm Coy Gren Gds (81pts). Women's – 1, 3 (CS) Regt RLC (110pts); 2, 27 Regt RLC (106pts); 3, 3 (UK) Div & Sig Regt (89pts); 4, ATR Pirbright (60pts).

Welsh 1,000m peaks race, Services team event – 1, 4 Regt AAC (A) (19hr 2min 36sec); 2, Joint NBC Regt (22hr 42min 41sec); 3, East of England Regt (V) (23hr 28min 40sec); 4, 4 Regt AAC (B) (23hr 46min 22sec).

CRICKET: Oxford University v Combined Services (match abandoned); Army U25s (283-5) beat Stragglers of Asia (128 all out) by 155 runs; Army U25s (184-8) beat RMAS (53 all out) by 131 runs; Sussex 2nd XI (264-4) beat Army (155-6) by 110 runs.

SHOOTING: Royal Signals cup winners – 1 RMP. Kolar Goldfields Battalion cup winners – 1 RS (C Coy). 30 yards range shield winners – 1 RS. Queen Victoria trophy and ARA shield winners – 1 WFR. Infantry Company shield winners – 1 WFR. Sniper cup winners – 1 RGR.

Medicine man

SOFT words and delicate hands are hardly the stuff of real rugby front-row forwards, writes Roger Thompson.

Yet Maj Gareth Thomas (RAMC) played in the "contact cauldron" for Blackheath and British Forces Hong Kong while learning the fundamentals at the former School of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation at RAF Halton.

His love of competitive sport has led him in a natural swing from player to physiotherapist of the Army Senior and Sevens rugby teams, honorary physio to the Welsh Rugby Union and physio co-ordinator for the England Cricket Board Technical Department.

Although a Welshman through and through, Gareth has no qualms about his mixed national loyalties in sport and views his task as providing a "value-added" service for injured sportsmen.

It is a service he believes is best conducted using an integrated approach, which, in respect of Army rugby, encompasses everyone from the team physio, coach and company commander to the player himself. Rehabilitation, he claims, relies heavily on communication and understanding between all parties.

He mentions wryly the near-ritual Friday afternoon six-mile bash when the officer can invariably turn to "essential" paperwork to prevent further injury, while the soldier has to face the sergeant major and display those soldierly qualities that can undo a week of treatment.

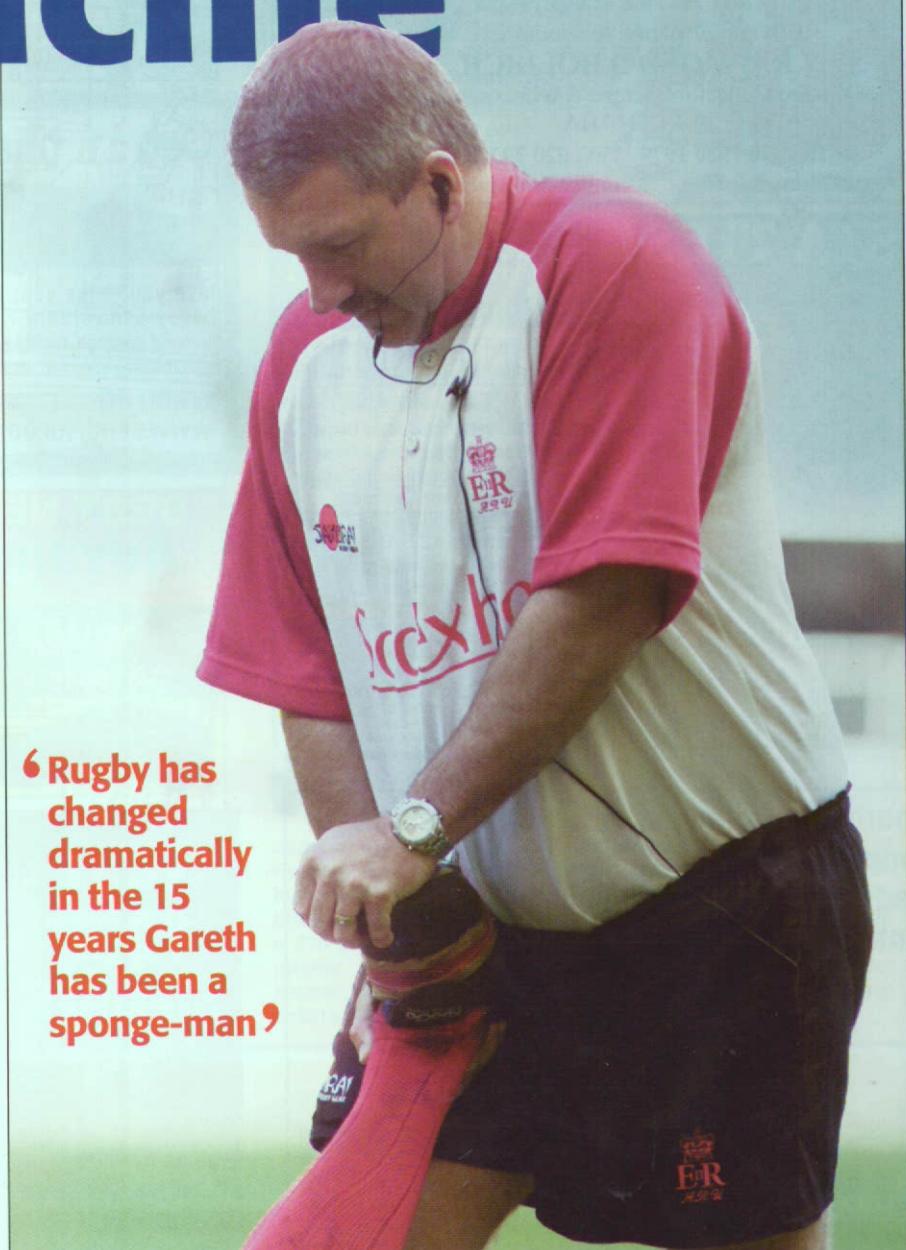
Rugby as a whole has changed dramatically in the 15 years Gareth has been a sponge-man and the nature of the modern game has seen a steady increase in the flow of traffic crossing his treatment table.

The speed and intensity of play and commitment to winning have resulted in physical aggressiveness second only to war. Players now train all hours to increase bulk and speed in an effort to gain a physical ascendancy, and, taking a leaf from the Australian Rugby League book, defence is now an offensive weapon.

The "big-hitter" or head-on high octane tackler, who increases the chances of injury to himself and the tackled player, is one feature of the game that Gareth understandably loathes.

Like the players, physiotherapists are

‘Rugby has changed dramatically in the 15 years Gareth has been a sponge-man’



Leg-work: Maj Gareth Thomas on duty during this year's Army-Navy match at Twickenham

under increasing pressure to produce the right result and are encouraged to return stars to the fray as soon as possible.

But Gareth is adamant that this is a dangerous practice and staunchly refuses to work with such coaches and managers. The old front-row forward's personality shapes to a bristle at those who would put a match result ahead of a player's best interests.

During a game there may be a thin line between mild concussion and a potentially serious head injury, a crick to the neck and pins-and-needles. The urge to get on with play – or even get a result – must be stamped on and although Gareth has only ever had to deal with two severe neck injuries and two heart resuscitations, he believes it is vital to err on the side of caution.

As with any sport, science has become an increasingly important aspect of rugby and Gareth talks eloquently about anatomy, physiology and soft-tissue pathology in the management of injuries, as well as having a detailed appreciation of the physical attributes necessary for each player's position. Gareth is in the process of adding a master's degree to his post-graduate diploma in sports physiotherapy.

Tradition, however, is not lost on Army rugby's medicine man. His greatest sporting moment has nothing to do with his first love, rugby, but cricket – the chance to sit next to the late Sir Colin Cowdrey at lunch at Arundel. An old-fashioned highlight for a very modern major.



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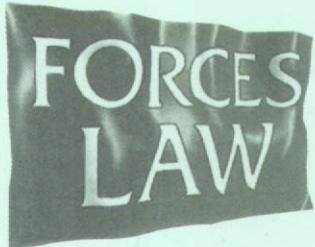
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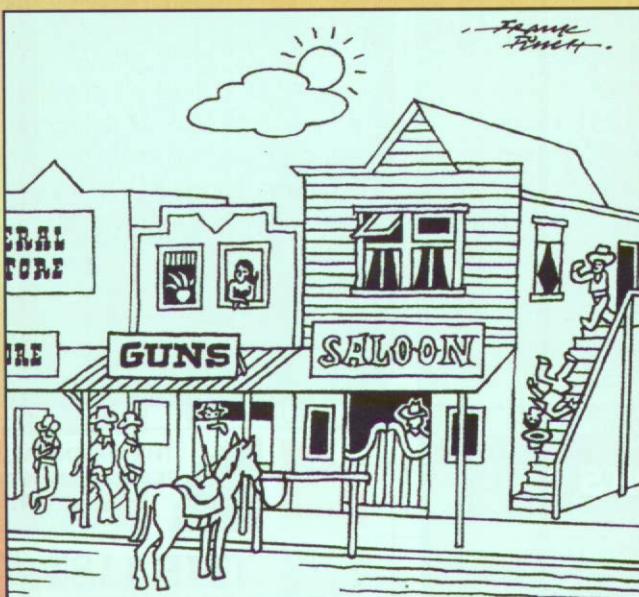
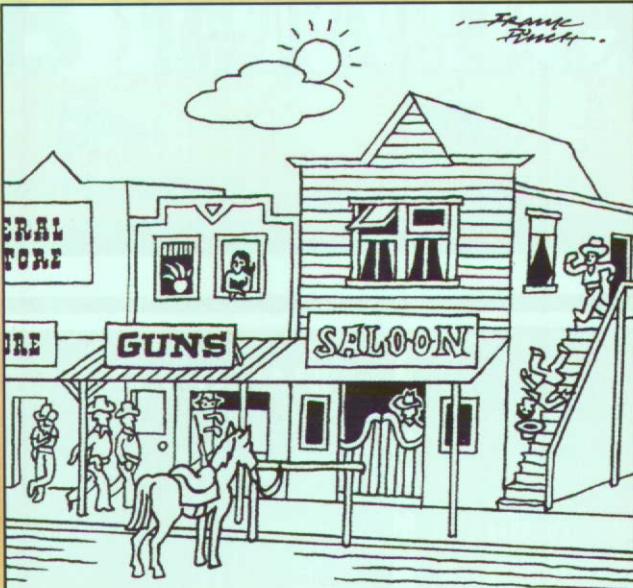
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No 729



How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 729, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by September 2.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

June competition (No 727): First correct entry drawn at random was from Mrs J Towndrow, of Bulford Camp, Salisbury, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr E G Osborne, of Surbiton, and Mr J B Owens, of Malvern Link, Worcs, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: sword; helmet plume; horse's tooth; horse's eye on smaller sculpture; saucer; stirrup; sculptor's smock; saddle blanket; bird's wing; debris on floor.



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"They don't make these kukris like they used to."

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in March 1954. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by August 30.



WE are sending the prize for our June competition to Peter Copeland of London who suggested "What I don't understand, chaps, is why he put his helmet in his mouth in the first place".

There were good tries by C Duckworth of Bury St Edmunds with "... and you'll all be individually armed to the back teeth"; Reg Briggs of Peterborough with "But Sir... khaki lipstick?"; Rebecca Jones of Beckenham with "You soldiers



today... can't you go to a qualified body-piercer like everyone else"; and Cpl A Grant of 5 Regt RA, Catterick, with "The Regimental Medical Officer was delighted to see that Pte Jones had eaten all his greens".

We also liked "OK, Osama... you are surrounded. Come

out!" from Keith Renicor of Harrogate; "Serious? Put it this way, if he were a sheep he'd be shot" from Charles Golder of Bolton; and "When they asked for volunteers to be made up I thought it meant promotion" from J Armstrong of Chester-le-Street.

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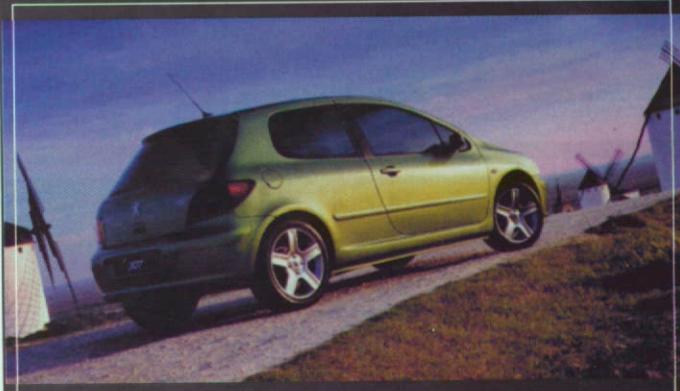


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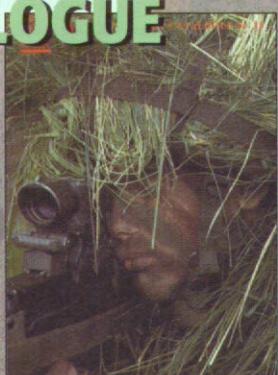
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

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08 June 2002

1st (287 runs, £5,800): Cpl G Wraith, 3 CS Med Regt, Catterick
 2nd (280 runs, £2,900): LCpl TJ Littlefair, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen
 3rd (276 runs, £2,000): WO2 MA Parkin, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon
 4th (275 runs, £1,600): Pte LP Senior, ITC Catterick
 5th (274 runs, £1,300): WO2 C Brews, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn
 6th= (273 runs, £540): Capt RA Baker, HQ 4 Armd Bde, Osnabruck
 6th= (273 runs, £540): Maj DJS Cochran, 1 KOSB, Catterick
 6th= (273 runs, £540): Cpl RJ Guest, 1 RRBW, Ballykinler
 6th= (273 runs, £540): Spr DB Monks, 22 Engr Regt, Andover
 6th= (273 runs, £540): Sgt T Severs, 1 R Anglian, Pirbright

15 June 2002

1st (361 runs, £5,800): SSgt K Barnett, RTMC, Chilwell
 2nd (344 runs, £2,900): Cpl DC Larkman, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn
 3rd (342 runs, £2,000): Cpl IC

Broomfield, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham
 4th= (341 runs, £1,450): Maj TJ Lai, 1 BW, Fallingsbostel
 4th= (341 runs, £1,450): Sgt DA Morgan, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon
 6th (339 runs, £1,000): SSgt NA Waitt, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabruck
 7th (332 runs, £700): Cpl WJ Craig, 2 Para, Colchester
 8th (331 runs, £500): Sgt PC Smith, QRH, Sennelager
 9th= (329 runs, £250): WO1 DR Beattie, 1 R Irish, Canterbury
 9th= (329 runs, £250): SSgt AJ Corlett, DM Longtown

22 June 2002

1st (648 runs, £5,800): WO2 MED Alder, RDG, Munster
 2nd (641 runs, £2,900): Sgt MF Flynn, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth
 3rd (639 runs, £2,000): Bdr RJ Thomas, 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh
 4th= (634 runs, £1,450): WO2 NC Johnson, 3 RSME Regt BEW, Minley
 4th= (634 runs, £1,450): Maj LJ Read, LSSU RLC UKSC (G), Rheindahlen

6th (632 runs, £1,000): WO1 JN Skirton, HQ 12 Mech Bde, Aldershot
 7th (631 runs, £700): WO1 MP Williams, 16 Signal Regt, Rheindahlen
 8th (630 runs, £500): Sgt WR Moore, 170 Pro Coy RMP, Edinburgh
 9th (628 runs, £300): SSgt SA McNally, JSSU, Ayios Nikolaos
 10th (627 runs, £200): SSgt M Lowe, 19 Regt RA, Colchester

29 June 2002

1st (489 runs, £5,800): LCpl AW Austin, QRH, Sennelager
 2nd (483 runs, £2,900): Sgt SA Cadby, 4 GS Med Regt, Aldershot
 3rd (478 runs, £2,000): Cpl MP Jones, 1 LI, Paderborn
 4th (470 runs, £1,600): LCpl DW Jones, 47 AD Sgn RLC
 5th (466 runs, £1,300): Cpl KS Bradley, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham
 6th (465 runs, £1,000): Col IR Thomson, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth
 7th (461 runs, £700): Cpl G Roberts, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn
 8th (459 runs, £500): Sgt L Taylor, 4 Bn REME, Bordon

9th= (448 runs, £166.67): WO1 M East, 23 Pnr Regt RLC
 9th= (448 runs, £166.67): Capt WE Findlay, 9/12 L, Hohne
 9th= (448 runs, £166.67): Capt IAJ Turner, 1 IG, Munster

06 July 2002

1st (354 runs, £5,800): Maj CLS Butler, RMCS, Shruivenham
 2nd (353 runs, £2,900): CSgt F Donnison, OPTAG
 3rd (344 runs, £2,000): CoH MJ Roberts, HCR, Windsor
 4th= (339 runs, £1,450): LCpl LS Dransfield, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon
 4th= (339 runs, £1,450): LCpl SG Lister, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh
 6th (338 runs, £1,000): Maj NB Berragan, BOD Donnington
 7th (334 runs, £700): Sgt IA Boardman, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne
 8th= (333 runs, £400): Cpl TJ McMurray, 3 R Irish, Portadown
 8th= (333 runs, £400): Pte LM Newburn, 34 Fd Hosp
 10th (332 runs, £200): Sgt MW Marvell, AMF (L) CSS Bn, Bulford

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FLORIDA, Kissimmee, Orlando, three-bedroom, two bathroom, villa with own private heated pool. Sleeps up to eight, 15 mins Disney. From £325 per week. Call 01440-707176. Email: ladypea200@aol.com Web: www.floridavilla.com 05/03

ORLANDO. Brand new, luxury four bed, two bath villa, ten mins to Disneyworld. Sleeps 8-10. Own heated pool. From £450 p/w. Details at www.floridapinesonline.com. Email: penny@floridapinesonline.com or Tel: 01932 706282 10/02

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NOTICES

Charity: The combined fund of the former York & Lancaster Regiment and The Hallamshire Battalion.

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft scheme can be seen at: MESSRS BENSON CLEGG, SOLICITORS, 32 WILKINSON STREET, SHEFFIELD, S YORKS S10 2GB or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

SERVICES

OldOppos.co.uk is special because it provides a link of friendship between the serving and the retired, the young and old. It is not a contact website for old comrades, not a reunion website for old comrades, not an association of old comrades. It is not any of these things, it is all of them and more. 08/02

Post Box Pals pen pal service. For more information send a SAE to Post Box Pals, PO Box 8469, Birmingham B33 9BW UK. 09/02

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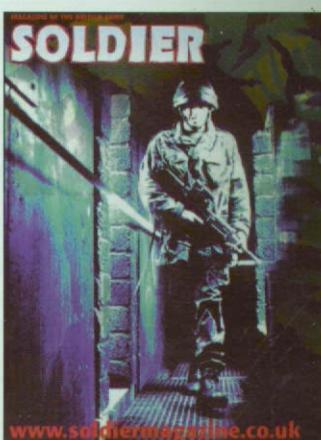
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SPORTS



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SEARCHLINE

James Albert Stratton, former member of the Tank Corps in North Africa under Montgomery, is sought by niece, Pam White, SP, 3424 West Lyons Ave, Spokane, WA 99208-4742, USA or pwhitesp@aol.com

School pals from Healing Comprehensive, Grimsby seek **Graham Wheatley** and **Jayne Edwards**, both possibly serving with Army Medical Services, for planned 22-year reunion. Contact Carol Marley (née Wright) crifortuna@aol.com or 01652 655818.

Trucial Oman Scouts circa late 50s and early 60s sought by Mick Lee, ex-S&T Sqn, 2 Para and 63 Para Coy RASC. leesy@ca.com.au

Calling all ex-airborne REME, who would like to be involved in forming an association, also any widows of former serving soldiers or officers who would like to get together for commemorative and social events. Contact SSgt Marty Carrhar, 8 CS Coy, McMunn Bks, Colchester, 01206 571795 (mob 0790 1502193) or mcarrahar@supanet.com

Ernie Hobbs, ex-Pioneer 1949-51, is looking for old mate "Steve" Stevens, ex-208 Pioneer Corps, Nescliffe, Shropshire. Contact him at mail@ruth99.freeserve.co.uk

Ex-C Troop, 170 Ind Mortar Bty RA, Hong Kong 1953-54 old mates sought by Alan Michael Hart, whose unit was also attached to the Glosters in Solma-ri, Korea. Telephone 01449 781726 or mickhart@onetel.net.uk

Spr Gary Watson would like to catch up with Sprs Adam Marshall and Dave Gardener via tiger10106936472@aol.com or 01255 221687.

Ex-260 Signal Squadron (SAM) Shoebury and Dortmund 1960s and 70s are invited to join association. Write to R F Andrews, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ, phone him on 01227 264551 or e-mail www.260sigqsnsam.abelgratius.co.uk

Calling former **RASC, Suez 1956-58**. **Ed Forte**, batman/driver to the **Rev Morton** (C of E chaplain) at El Cap, Suez, with 1st Bn York and Lancs, would like to make contact with anyone from the Y&L, also anyone from his training days at Blandford or A PI, 14 Coy, 3 Inf Div at Hobbs Bks, Lingfield. Replies to A E Forte, 10 Higher Brimley, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8JS or 01626 772911.

APPOINTMENTS

Major General: J H T Short, to be COS Joint HQ (N) Stavanger, May 5; P G Williams, to be HD of NATO Mil Liaison Mission Moscow, May 20; P A Wall, to be GOC 1st (UK) Armd Div, Jan 2003; D R Bill, to be GOC UK Sp Comd (Germany), Oct 2003.

Brigadier: W R Rollo, to be Dir Mil Ops, Jul 2.

Colonel: P R Farrar, to be Comd Adv Trg Gp (Army), Jul 1; N J Lipscombe, to be ACOS Fire Co-ord Nato HRF (Italy), Jul 1; A P Cross to be Comd Geo Engr Gp and Thatcham Stn Comd, Jul 1.

The World In Need charity seeks sponsorships to enable Afghan children to travel for surgery. Contact Ron George, World in Need, PO Box 109, Crowborough, E Sussex TN6 2ZN.



Double act: Lt Col David Eadie, left, commanding officer of the Royal Aroured Corps Training Regiment at Bovington Camp, Dorset, and younger brother Lt Col Peter Eadie, CO of 7 Regiment AAC based at Netheravon, are believed to be the first siblings to appear in the same command list in 20 years.

Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble

REUNIONS

Glosters 28/61st: Reunion and social hosted by Royal Forest of Dean Branch, Sept 6, Berry Hill Rugby Club, Coleford. Tickets (£6) available from Richard on 01594 834510 or www.glosters.org

Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC: Reunion dinner Aug 17 in unit drill hall for past OCdts, TA or Regular officers, permanent staff and PSIs. Event marks retirement of adjutant, Capt Pat Gill. Tickets from Capt B Simpson on 0141 3396611 or gsuotc@talk21.com

Queen's Own Buffs, Royal Kent Regiment OCA: Service of remembrance and reunion to be held in Maidstone on Sept 8. Details from Bryan Bartlett on 01322 346053.

3 RRF 1968 Endex: Sept 14-15 hosted by 2 RRF at North Luffenham near Peterborough. Full programme, full board, come for all or part. Contact Capt Bob Keating on 0207 8204042 or threeRRF@btinternet.com

204 (NI) Fd Hosp (formerly 204 (NI) Gen Hosp) RAMC(V): WOs' and Sgts' Mess reunion dinner for past, present and attached members to be held Sept 21. Further details from WO1 RSM Parkes on 028 90640966.

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

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

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

Glosters Band and Drums: Reunion in Cheltenham, Oct 5. details from Jeff Hinchcliffe, 3

Madeley Road, Havercroft, Wakefield WF4 2HU or 01226 701375.

5 Field Force/Armd Fd Amb/Fd Amb GS Regt: Second annual reunion Oct 19 in Manchester. Contact Axel (Richard) Foley on muppet787@hotmail.com or 07801 443799.

Parachute Regiment WOs' and Sgts' (Past and Present) Dinner Club: 44th annual dinner on Oct 19 at Colchester. Details from WO2 Nobby Clarke, RHQ 38 Sig Regt(V), Manor Top TAC, Hurfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN or paradinnerclub@aol.com

68 Artillery Clerks: Reunion and association dinner, RA Sgts' Mess, Oct 19. Details from WO1 (SSM) Tibble on 01276 412250.

SNCO Recovery Mechanics: Reunion and dinner in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess at SEME, Bordon, Oct 26. Contact WO1(ASM) Forbes, Recovery Section, SEME or 01420 485526.

RAMC: Reunion for ex-members and their partners, Nov 9, at Lincoln. Details from michael.mccran@ntlworld.com

3 Regiment RHA, past and present members association: Reunion to be held at the Village Hotel, Warrington Nov 2. Details from WO1 RSM T Lynn (0049) 5051 962479, or www.uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/3rdppma

47 Regt RA Officers' Mess: Reunion Nov 9, RA Mess Woolwich. Contact Maj T C Edwards RA, BC 25/170 Bty RA, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island, Hants PO10 8DH, 01243 388364.

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

63 Airborne/Air Assault Brigade Support Squadron: Annual officers' dinner, HQ RLC Mess at Deepcut, late Nov. Details from Capt Ash Loudon, 63 Squadron, McMunn Barracks, Colchester or ashloudon@hotmail.com

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

August 2002 **SOLDIER**

Where is Armed Forces Pension Scheme going?

Society's vital role in guarding Service people's interests

FROM reading the financial pages in the popular press one could be excused for thinking that the Armed Forces Pension Scheme, which is a final salary scheme, and other similar public sector schemes are the envy of everyone else and lucky to survive, writes **Lt Cdr David Marsh**, pensions secretary of the Forces Pension Society (FPS).

However, three of the principal factors which are driving private sector schemes away from defined benefits do not apply to the Armed Forces scheme because there is no actual fund to be adversely affected by recent changes to taxation, accounting practice standards or poor performance of the stock market. Benefits are paid from general taxation and are not subject to such vagaries.

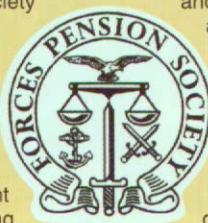
There is, however, no room for complacency... but in the opposite direction. There is ample evidence to show that the Armed Forces Pension Scheme has fallen well behind modern good practice standards and is overdue for a thorough overhaul.

The MoD is conducting a major review of the scheme to bring it into the 21st century,

The subsequent report was highly critical and strongly recommended that MoD should revisit many of its proposals to meet their responsibilities as a good employer

and last year produced a consultation document setting out its proposals for introduction in about 2005.

Many individuals and organisations have contributed to this consultation exercise, none more so than the Forces Pension Society, which submitted very full and analytically-based evidence to benchmark the proposals against modern good practice.



The FPS exists solely to ensure that the Armed Forces are offered pension conditions which are at least as good as standard practice elsewhere, particularly in comparison with other public sector schemes. This membership society lobbies influential bodies to help persuade the MoD to put right anomalies and injustices of the past, and to offer a scheme for current and future Servicemen and women that is just reward for the unique commitment which they make to their country throughout their careers. Service people deserve no less. Most recently the FPS was asked to give formal evidence to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee on the proposed new pension scheme. The subsequent report, published in May, was highly critical and strongly recommended that MoD should revisit many of its proposals to meet their responsibilities as a good employer.

How the MoD will react is yet to be discovered. Nevertheless, such a reaction from the Defence Committee to the MoD's proposals and evidence, following pressure from the FPS, amply demonstrates the society's value and credibility. No one else can speak out like this.

FPS membership is open to all retired and serving personnel. It is less than the price of a pint of beer a month and members who take advantage of many of its special offers could easily recoup the annual subscription cost. It also offers a respected advice service on often complex issues surrounding pensions.

● Details from the Membership Secretary by phone on 020 7820 9988; e-mail memsec@forpen.co.uk or by visiting the society's website at www.forpen.co.uk

ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

Camouflage is to be the subject of a documentary for BBC Radio 4. Anyone who was involved in painting and creating camouflage during the Second World War is asked to ring John Goudie, Editor, Arts Unit, BBC Radio 4 on 020 77655037 or john.goudie@bbc.co.uk.

Orders and medals researcher requires information about **Lt Col Richard George Hart Anderson**, ex-officer of The Green Howards (1941-54), who was seconded to the Indian Army (6th Rajputana Rifles) during the Second World War and served with the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces from 1954 to his retirement in 1973. He was born on Jan 10, 1921 in Harlow, Essex, educated at Coatham School, Redcar and died at the Royal Star and Garter Home in 1993.

Colin Hole of the Orders and Medals Research Society would welcome any details about Anderson, holder of the Sultan's Distinguished Service Medal, particularly his involvement with *Empire Windrush* disaster of 1954, service in the Indian Army, his British and Sultan's Army and pre- and post-Army days. All letters will be acknowledged and costs of photocopying covered. Write to 54 Priory Bridge Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1QB.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Combat Mission (June) Winners: Cpl D Martin, Kirton-in-Lindsey; H Black, Annan, Scotland; N Shippam, Shoreham-by-Sea; D Clarkson, Chippenham; A Bowyer, Kettering. Answer: Second World War.

Simpsons Road Rage (June) Winners: LCpl Rendall, Bristol; Cpl I Evans, Blandford; R Scott, Co Tyrone; C Watson, Kirkham; T Zeliffe, Texas USA. Answer: Maggie.

Travelling fellowships

THE closing date for applications for the 2003 Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships, open to all UK citizens to undertake study projects overseas related to their trade, craft or profession, is October 3. Send a sse to Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR, tel 020 7584 9315, fax 020 7581 0410, e-mail office@wcmt.org.uk

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000; www.armybenevolentfund.com

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

Army Families Federation 01980 615525; www.aff.org.uk

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

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841600;

www.combatstress.com

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association Office (0900-1700) 01482 808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812; www.ngvfa.com

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

Royal British Legion's Legionline 0845 7725 725; www.britishlegion.org.uk

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

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

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

SAMA 82 (South Atlantic Medal Association) for Falklands conflict veterans 01495 227577 e-mail: densama@aol.com

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

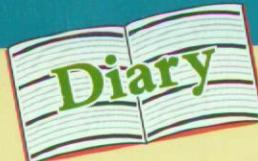
SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783; www.ssafa.org.uk

SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service 01722 436400

Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions Agency) 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); www.veteransagency.mod.uk

Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272

WRVS General enquiries 02920 739906; www.wrvs.org.uk



DATES

AUGUST

2-24: Edinburgh Military Tattoo. More details on www.edintattoo.co.uk

7: Kneller Hall concert, 2000 (RA, R Irish, Gurkha Bands). Tickets £5 from 020 8744 8633 or available on the night.

28: Army Benevolent Fund charity race day, Brighton. Special £10 "day member's badge" available in advance from Judy Welsh or Sara Bellingham on 01273 603 580 (quote ABF, minimum of two tickets per booking).

SEPTEMBER

7: Brompton Barracks open day, Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham.

* If you fancy a day at the races, Brighton on August 28 would be a good place to be (see Dates above). The course is hosting an **Army Benevolent Fund** race day, including the prestigious £22,500 Listed Virginia Rated Stakes.

Gates open at noon and the first of seven races starts at 1400. Admission is £10 to the Tattersalls Enclosure or £15 to the Members' Enclosure. But a special advance day-member's badge will set you back £10 and give you free parking and access to the members' bar and restaurant . . . and £5 of it goes to the ABF. See phone numbers above.

To sponsor a race, call Robin Bather on 01435 810076.

* **RAF Linton-on-Ouse** is producing a distinctive first-day cover to support Cancer Research UK and the RAF Benevolent Fund. The limited edition of 2,000 will commemorate the Queen's Jubilee Military Review flypast on June 27.

Cheques payable to Golden Jubilee Commemorative Cover should be sent to 1 Squadron, RAF Linton-on-Ouse, York YO30 2AJ.

A second cover with a 45p VC10 stamp, white rose franking and station badges will be sold to support the Multiple Sclerosis Society. It costs £7.50, payable to Service Funds, RAF Linton-on-Ouse, and sent to MS Cover, FS Lee, Air Traffic Control, RAF Linton-on-Ouse, York YO30 2AJ.

* **Footnote:** A form of words has been agreed for the plaque to be erected in Larkhill Garrison Church to gunners killed in the **Suez Canal Zone** (see "Suez heroes to be honoured", Diary, March). Following a request by veteran Roy Wilson, the plaque in St Albans' will proclaim: *Suez Canal Zone 1947-1954. In memory of members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who died whilst on duty.*

New medals for the medics

FOUR new medals have been commissioned by the Army Medical Services and will in future be awarded to the winners of annual RAMC prizes.

The awards are funded by legacies and until now have been sums of money.

Clockwise from top left are the **Consultants' Prize**, a silver medal which will accompany a purse of £330 provided by a fund raised after the Second World War by wartime consultants. It goes to a Regular Army medical officer for an essay on any subject of professional medical interest.

The **Parkes Memorial Medal** comes with a prize of £275 and is designed to encourage mainstream and late-entry AMS officers who are not professionally qualified to enter papers on relevant subjects, in particular papers that advance the duties of such officers.

Regulars and Territorial Army officers and soldiers are eligible for **DGAMS' Special Award**, made annually to an individual or unit for a period of meritorious service warranting formal recognition within the AMS. It is accompanied by a £100 cheque.

The **Knott Memorial Prize**, consisting of a silver medal and £140, goes to a general practitioner. The prize was instituted in 1976 from a fund given by Lady Knott in memory of Lt Gen Sir Harold Knott, Director General AMS from 1961 to 1965.



● Past winners can buy the medals retrospectively. Details for this, or entry procedures, can be obtained from MA/DGAMS, MoD AMD, FASC, Slim Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4NP.

Woolwich mess opens doors

THE Royal Artillery's magnificent Officers' Mess at Woolwich – the oldest in the country – is to open its doors to the public on August 31 and the weekend September 21-22. Tours are from 1030 to 1600 and no advance booking is necessary. For more information, ring 0208 781 3097.

Access to the mess follows the major success of a public day on May 4, the first in its 200-year history. Thousands of people turned up for guided tours under the Golden Jubilee Festival's "String of Pearls" event linking 80 great buildings and institutions along the banks of the Thames.

Top catering job for colonel

A FORMER head of the Army School of Catering has been appointed chief executive of the Hotel and Catering International Management Association (HCIMA), the 20,000-strong professional body for managers in the hospitality industry worldwide.

Col Philippe Rossiter, left, now on the Defence staff at the British Embassy in Paris, will take over next month.

He has been involved in several important initiatives related to the industry, including chairing its Modern Apprenticeship Working Party and forging ties between the Army and trade associations.



QRH to have charger's medals

A memorial to a Manchester hero of the Charge of the Light Brigade has been moved, with his medals, from St Benedict's Church, Ardwick, where they have been kept for the past 100 years. With the church about to close, the brass plaque to **Pte Ferdinand Stanley** of the 4th Light Dragoons, who was in the second wave of the famous cavalry charge, was passed, via SSAFA-Forces Help, to The Queen's Royal Hussars for safekeeping.

The 4th were amalgamated several times over the years and are now part of the QRH, which has just returned to its barracks at Sennelager, Germany, from a six-month tour of Kosovo.

Pte Ferdinand was buried in 1898, aged 80, in St Benedict's and his medals given to the church.

Picture: Maj Roy Bevan



Shropshire soldier honoured

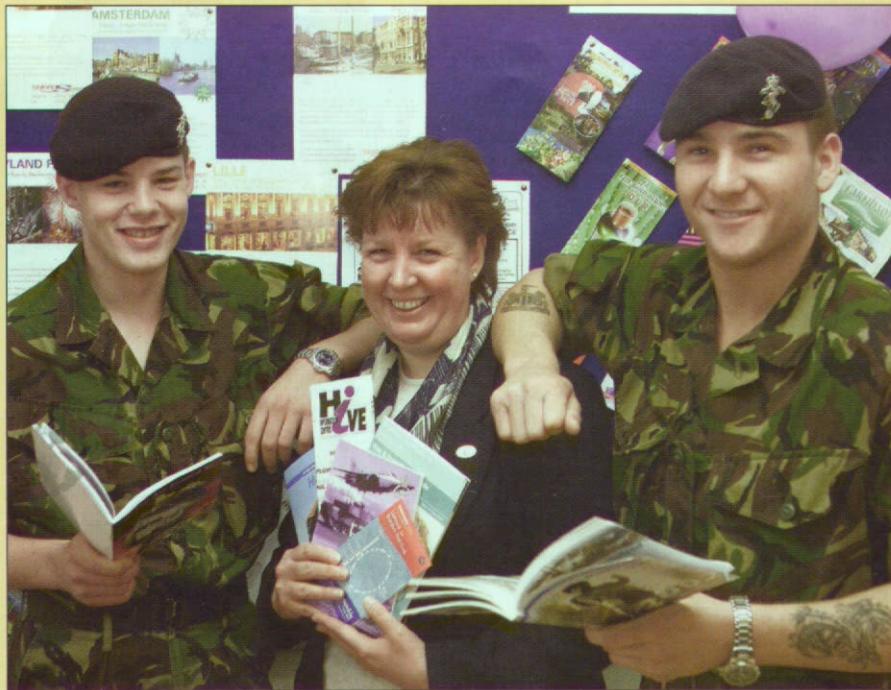
Lt Col Peter Davies, left, CO of Dhekeilia-based 2 LI, lays a wreath at the recently renovated grave of Pte McCormack of The King's Shropshire

Light Infantry in the British Cemetery at Troodos in Cyprus.

The grave, dating from about 1885, was in a poor state until Maj (Retd) Bob

Humphries and his wife **Diana**, who used to teach at Service schools on the island, tidied up, replaced stonework and repainted the lettering on the headstone.





Hive of activity: Janet Lloyd-Baker, centre, the HIVE co-ordinator at Bordon in Hampshire, wasted no time in identifying a need for phase two trainees at SEME Bordon to be able to access information on their post-training movements. With the support of the garrison commander and the CO of the SEME Regiment, she found a room between the barber and the WRVS and opens it every weekday between 1145 and 1300.

The response has been terrific from single soldiers, including Cfn Adam Rayner, left,

and Cfn Shaun Mitchell, who can find a wealth of details about future posting locations as well as local information aimed specifically at them.

Plans are now afoot for soldier HIVEs to open at Deepcut and Keogh. Picture: Steve Dock

Brian's grave comment sparks a spring clean

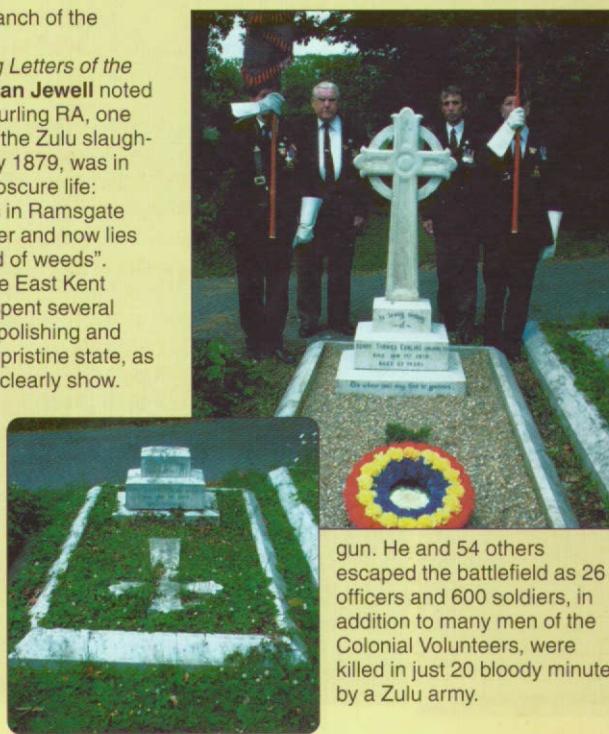
WELL done the East Kent Branch of the Royal Artillery Association.

In his review of *The Curling Letters of the Zulu War* (Books, March), Brian Jewell noted that the grave of Col Henry Curling RA, one of a handful to have escaped the Zulu slaughter at Isandlwana in January 1879, was in keeping with his somewhat obscure life: "there is a white marble cross in Ramsgate cemetery which has fallen over and now lies forgotten in an overgrown bed of weeds".

Cath Solly, secretary of the East Kent Branch, and husband Allan spent several evenings weeding, cleaning, polishing and restoring the grave to its now pristine state, as her before-and-after pictures clearly show.

The branch subsequently turned out in force for a ceremony at which members paid tribute to Col Curling. On parade were the branch and county standards. Special thanks are due to the Royal Artillery Association Memorials Fund for its support.

At the time of Isandlwana, Curling was a lieutenant in charge of a

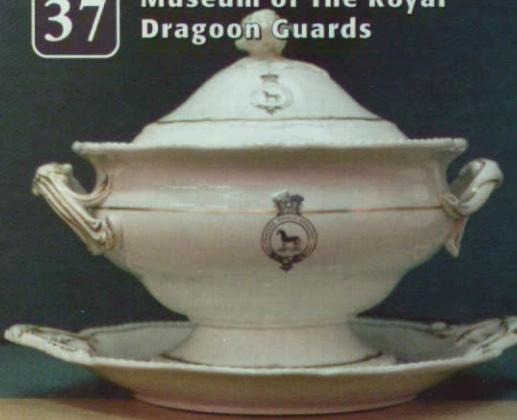


gun. He and 54 others escaped the battlefield as 26 officers and 600 soldiers, in addition to many men of the Colonial Volunteers, were killed in just 20 bloody minutes by a Zulu army.

Legends of the regiments and corps

37

Museum of The Royal Dragoon Guards



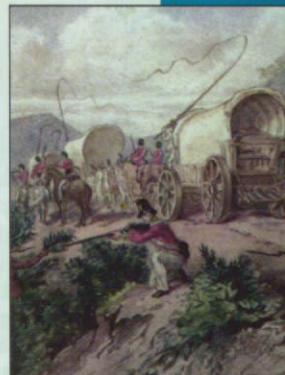
Nearly a lost cause: the 7th's heritage

There you are, my old china

WHEN a large force of spear-wielding natives ambushed the 125 ox-drawn wagons which made up the baggage train of the 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards in South Africa on April 17, 1846 they were met with fierce resistance by escorting troops.

Although the ammunition wagons were saved, 52 others – including those carrying the officers' mess baggage – were lost to the attackers.

More than 50 years later the 7th returned to South Africa to serve in the Boer War, and appealed through local newspapers for news of the long-lost property.



Detail from a painting depicting the attack on the baggage train

CHINA RETURNED

Although no silver was recovered, the commanding officer received a letter from a Mr Gillan of Port Elizabeth saying he was in possession of some items of mess china, which were duly returned to the regiment.

The pieces on display in the joint Military Museum of The Royal Dragoon Guards and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire in York are now treasured items.

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

www.armymuseums.org.uk

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

Retail reconnaissance

Switched on . . .



LIGHT LOAD

WEIGHING only 146g and measuring just 14.8mm in depth, Packard Bell's PocketGear 2060 represents state-of-the-art computing mobility.

Based on the Microsoft Pocket PC 2002 operating system and powered by an Intel 206 MHz processor, the PocketGear sports 64MB of RAM and a touch-screen backlit VDU.

£379, from www.packardbell.co.uk

Game on . . .

XTREME AIR RACING, PC

GET set for the world's greatest adrenalin rush with Just Flight's stunning and highly realistic flight simulation game for the PC, Xtreme Air Racing (XAR).

Placed in the cockpit of a turbo-charged, nitrous burning aircraft with more than 3,000 horsepower at their fingertips, players can soar between 50-200 feet above the ground as they compete in racing's most dangerous discipline.

XAR allows gamers to experience the thrill of racing around pylons and flying so low to the ground that their propeller touches the sagebrush, while being surrounded by seven relentless competitors.

The nose-to-nose action is viewed from the cockpit of any one of the game's 20 highly detailed aircraft and, together with realistic 3D-terrain graphics, provides a frighteningly realistic high-speed racing experience.

Players can choose to compete in a single race or complete an entire season, which will allow them to fly over a number of exotic locations around the globe. As well as featuring the sport's birthplace, Reno Nevada in the United States, XAR's race venues include the jungles of Thailand, the scenic coastlines of England, the snowy fjords of Iceland and the majestic Swiss Alps.

VERDICT: Should soar to the top of the charts. 8/10

RINGING ENDORSEMENT

THE IACM 4000 Internet Alert Call Manager eliminates the need for an additional phone line or dedicated internet connection.

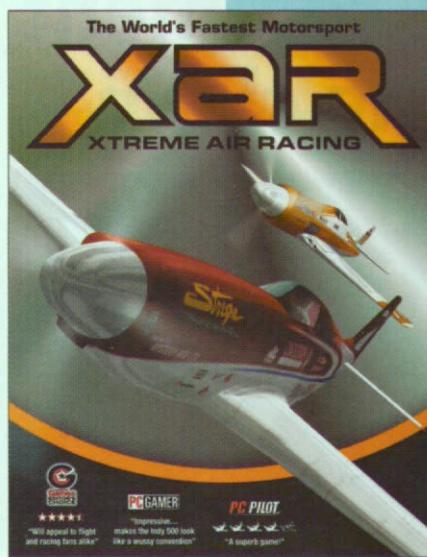
Compatible with all BT and Cable networks, the unit, pictured below, alerts online users to the presence of callers by flashing, bleeping and displaying a name and number.

It logs the last 80 incoming calls, includes a 40 name/number directory and can also detect incoming faxes.

£39.95, from www.firebox.com (0870 2414289).



OUT NOW



www.xtremeairracing.com

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

COURTESY of Just Flight, Soldier has four copies of the fantastic XAR up for grabs. For your chance to take to the skies, simply answer the following question:

What format is XAR published on?

Send your answers on a postcard to XAR competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU by September 2. Usual rules apply.



EXTRA PROTECTION

SOUNDLINX'S watertight and shockproof mobile phone cases are an ideal accessory for soldiers working in the field. The protective polyurethane plastic cases' flexible, transparent and sound conductive keypad surface enables users to make calls in all conditions.

£25.99, from www.soundlinx.co.uk (01827 69069).

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

THE sale of the original Lara Croft outfit has raised £4,400 for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The outfit was auctioned over a ten-day period on eBay and attracted bidders from all over the world.

SPORTS Interactive has made a bid for the nation's most beloved marketing creation of recent times, ITU Digital's "Monkey" character.

The games developer has not revealed the size of its offer, but have confirmed that . . . wait for it . . . it's more than a monkey.

KONAMI has announced that October will mark the release of the most anticipated football title for the PlayStation 2 - *Pro Evolution Soccer 2*.

The original sold more than 350,000 copies and unlike many sequels, the new title is said to have been vastly reworked.

TITUS Interactive Studio's *Robocop: The Future of Law Enforcement* is expected to be released on the PlayStation 2 in October.

The first-person shooter is based around the 1987 hit film *Robocop* and its sequels.

MEDAL OF HONOR: FRONTLINE, PS2 OUT NOW

HEAD back behind enemy lines with Lt Jimmy Patterson in *Medal of Honor: Frontline*.

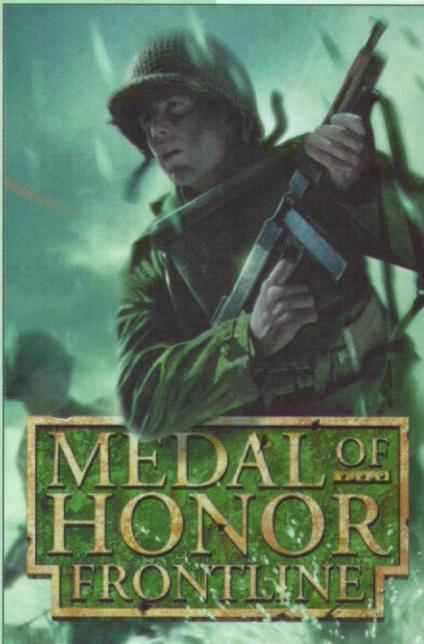
In this installment of the smash-hit series from Electronic Arts, Lt Patterson must use the confusion of the real-world offensive Operation Market Garden to infiltrate the German front line and steal the HO-IX flying wing, an experimental Nazi weapon so powerful that it could turn the tide of the Second World War.

In keeping with the strengths of the previous games, *Frontline* puts gamers in control of Patterson as he carries out his critical missions in full 3D.

Patterson is charged with completing 15 crucial assignments, which range from destroying a German naval base, rescuing a captured OSS operative from a Nazi-held Dutch manor house, stowing away aboard a speeding Nazi armoured train, to disarming the undercarriage of Nijmegen Bridge, made famous by the film *A Bridge Too Far*.

Players have a small squad of soldiers and a slew of new weapons – ranging from the Liberator pistol, Panzerschreck and MG42 mounted machine gun – to help them achieve their goals and can opt to attack enemy units alone or as part of a crack military squad.

Patterson's allies and foes in this first-person shooter boast improved artificial intelligence, making for tense and heated



large-scale battles, with friends, foes, and even civilians all on screen at any given moment.

VERDICT: Intense realism and a gripping storyline make *Medal of Honor: Frontline* the best combat simulator available on the PlayStation 2. **9/10**

WIN...WIN...WIN

SOLDIER has joined forces with Electronic Arts to offer you the opportunity to step back in time.

For your chance to win one of five copies of *Medal of Honor: Frontline* for the PlayStation 2, simply answer the following question:



What rank is held by *Medal of Honor*'s lead character?

- a) Captain
- b) Private
- c) Lieutenant

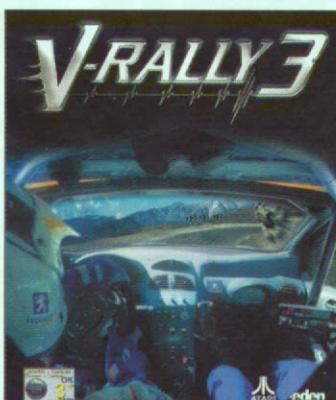
Send your answers on a postcard to *Medal of Honor: Frontline* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by September 2. Usual rules apply.

U RALLY 3, PS2

INFOGRAMES have finally driven their hugely-successful *V-Rally* brand out of the garage and on to the PlayStation 2.

The original game debuted on the PlayStation in 1997 and became one of the system's benchmark racers, and this latest reincarnation looks capable of emulating that feat on the next-generation console.

V-Rally 3 brings gamers all the tyre-spinning realism of rally driving with an incredible range of tracks, fully detailed cars and a super-fast game engine.



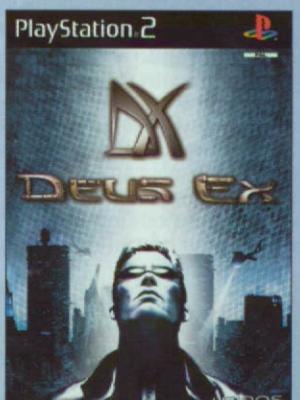
VERDICT: High performance drive. **9/10**

OUT NOW

DEUS EX, PS2

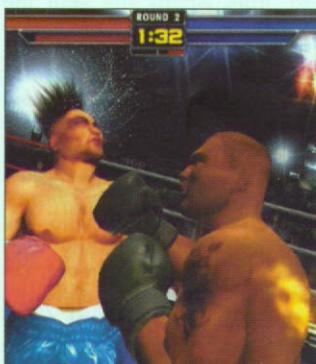
TWO years after scooping a BAFTA for *Best PC Game of the Year*, Ion Storm-Austin's first-person action adventure *Deus Ex* is making its console debut.

In terms of plot the game is largely unchanged with players taking control of JC Denton, a rookie anti-terrorist agent charged with investigating a mysterious plague known as the Grey Death. However, this PS2 version boasts a number of improvements including a graphical overhaul and a new control system that takes full advantage of the Sony Dual Shock Controller.



VERDICT: Worth waiting for. **8/10**

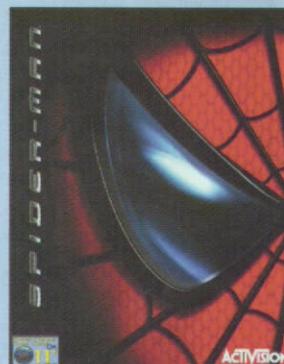
MIKE TYSON BOXING, PS2 & XBOX OUT NOW



VERDICT: Champion contender. **7/10**

HE may have been dumped on the canvas by Lennox Lewis, but flooring Iron Mike is still a real challenge in *Mike Tyson Heavyweight Boxing*.

The self-acclaimed baddest man on the planet lands the hardest punch in this boxing simulator from Codemasters and gamers will have to hone their defences before facing him in a championship match. Aside from Tyson 16 other heavyweights are featured, including Hasim Rahman, Danny Williams and Audley Harrison.



VERDICT: Top movie spin-off. **8/10**

SPIDER-MAN: THE MOVIE GAME OUT NOW

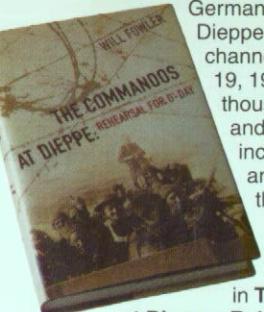
BASED on the box-office smash starring Tobey Maguire and Willem Dafoe, this action adventure game from Activision allows players to assume the role of the super-hero of the hour, *Spiderman*.

The high-swinging, web-slinging title follows Spidey as he attempts to thwart crime and bring the criminal mastermind Green Goblin and his evil henchmen to justice.

All-new aerial combat, in-air control and free-roaming capabilities add to a franchise that has already enjoyed considerable success.

Daring raid taught Allies vital lessons

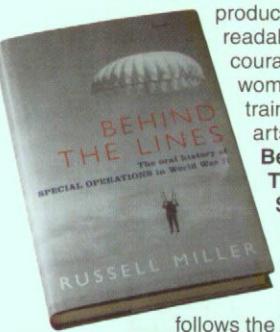
FOR the Allies it was one of the biggest disasters of the Second World War. The raid against the German-held port of Dieppe on the French channel coast on August 19, 1942 claimed thousands of British and Allied troops including 3,164 men and 215 officers from the 2nd Canadian Division. But it wasn't all a failure, as Will Fowler tells in *The Commandos at Dieppe: Rehearsal for D-Day* (Collins, £17.99). No 4 Commando's successful supporting raid disabled heavy German guns and was also the first instance in which US troops fired shots at the Germans.



at Dieppe: Rehearsal for D-Day (Collins, £17.99). No 4 Commando's successful supporting raid disabled heavy German guns and was also the first instance in which US troops fired shots at the Germans.

Shedding light on war fought in the shadows

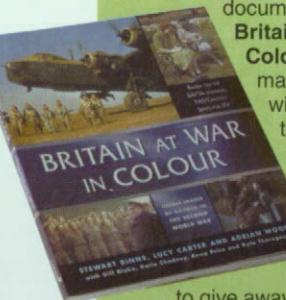
BY using diaries, letters, interviews and first-person accounts Russell Miller, a former *Soldier* writer, has produced a hugely readable history of the courageous men and women who were trained in the black arts of warfare.



Behind The Lines: The Oral History of Special Operations in World War Two (Secker & Warburg, £16.99) follows the agents from France to the Balkans and Burma. Faced with torture and execution if captured, agents carried out espionage and sabotage using ingenious methods including exploding rats and invisible ink.

Win this collection of colourful memories

FOR 50 years, media memories of the 1939-45 war were largely in monochrome. Then along came the Bafta award-winning ITV documentary series *Britain at War in Colour*. If you marvelled at that you will be fascinated by the 100 or so rare colour stills in the softback book of the same name (Carlton, £12.99). We have two copies to give away. Just tell us on a postcard by September 3 the date 63 years ago on which Britain and France declared war on Germany. Winners will be drawn at random. Usual competition rules apply.



Fight hard, play hard

Giants of sport whose skills on the field of play was matched only by their courage on the field of battle

Fields of Glory: The Extraordinary Lives of 16 Warrior Sportsmen by Gavin Mortimer (Andre Deutsch, £16.99)

Review: Roger Thompson

GAVIN Mortimer's sole claim to a military connection is that he shared a ration pack with a girlfriend in the Brecon Beacons.

It is not surprising, therefore, that he has not attempted seriously to dissect the weighty evidence he presents in this book, which records the daring of 16 famous sportsmen and how they won their decorations.

While many questions remain unanswered, one statistic sticks out a mile. Of the 1,353 Victoria Crosses awarded since 1856 to the many millions of men under arms, only seven went to international sportsmen.

Looking at a level beneath the Victoria Cross, Maj Blair Mayne, twice a British Lion, was awarded the DSO four times. Contemporary writing and thought, since reviewed

by the author, have suggested that only vindictiveness – towards the person and maybe the SAS cap badge – prevented at least one VC landing on Mayne's chest.

Charlie Buchan, the Sunderland, Arsenal and England captain, was exalted as "the man who was too good" because his skills mystified his team-mates.

He enlisted as soon as the league season finished in 1915 and, in the Grenadier Guards at Passchendaele and Cambrai, he fought in the most brutal hand-to-hand encounters and was decorated with the Military Medal. On the pitch and in the trenches he demonstrated exceptional leadership.

The main proposition that arises from *Fields of Glory* might be that sport produces men who in extreme peril value team performance so highly that they are able to subdue personal fear for the common good.

If sport, as described by the author, enables men to subdue their personal fear for corpo-

rate good, even for a second or two, then we have a case.

Since the Second World War the only recorded decoration to an international sportsman was in 1967 to the Irish and British Lion, Maj the Rev Robin Roe, who won the MC in Aden, but there are other examples that draw us towards a strong link.

A rather dapper soldier, who played many times in the Army-Navy match, and rose to a Welsh trial in the 1980s awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal – twice.

Captain Ron Wilkinson RAOC (Army and London Irish) went forward to defuse the bomb at the Birmingham pub terrorist attack in 1970, and was killed.

Gavin Mortimer's unique book recounts the tales of men of distinction both on the playing field and the battlefield. *Fields of Glory* is hard to put down, but asks more questions than it produces answers.

With sport so closely linked to recruiting and military life, maybe we should examine the "bottom line" on the value of sport in the Army.

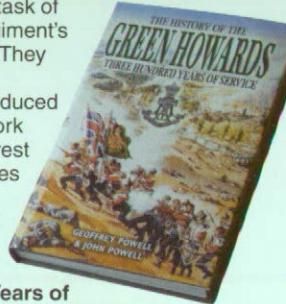
Certainly readers of this book would be in a strong position to offer loads of advice.



First division: 2nd Lt Donald Bell of The Green Howards is the only professional footballer to have been awarded the VC. He won it in 1916

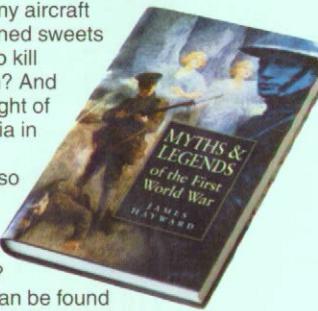
Glorious history is brought up to date

FATHER-and-son team Geoffrey and John Powell, distinguished members of The Green Howards, have taken on the mammoth task of reflecting their regiment's illustrious history. They have risen to the challenge and produced an entertaining work that will be of interest outside the confines of the regimental family. *The History of The Green Howards: Three Hundred Years of Service*, (Pen & Sword, £25) makes good use of the regiment's rich archive of photographs and paintings and benefits from a comprehensive index, notes and appendices.



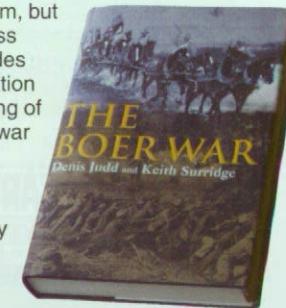
Ghosts and gunfire on the battlefields

Did angels and ghostly cavalrymen escort retreating British troops from France? Was there any truth in the story that enemy aircraft dropped poisoned sweets in an attempt to kill British children? And how, at the height of acute spy mania in 1914, did the British become so xenophobic that even Dachshunds were attacked? The answers can be found in the intriguing *Myths and Legends of the First World War* (Sutton, £18.99), said to be the first comprehensive study of its kind.



Boer War was not a black-and-white issue

FIGHTING the Boers in South Africa was not the British Army's finest hour. True, there were incidents of remarkable heroism, but there were also less honourable episodes such as concentration camps, the shooting of Boer prisoners of war by Lt "Breaker" Morant, and the embezzlement of military supplies by officers. These themes have already been well explored in other works but the strengths of *The Boer War* by Denis Judd and Keith Surridge (John Murray, £25) is a new take on the relationship between the Boers and British, one more complex and self-serving, the authors contest, than had previously been assumed. The overriding aim of both sides was to maintain European supremacy.



Gentleman who dared and won



LORNA Almonds Windmill, whose book about her SAS pioneer father Jim Almonds, now aged 88, is out in paperback and reviewed here, comes from a staunch Army family.

Its members span all ranks from lance corporal (her sister Gloria, who served in the 1960s) to brigadier (her brother John – the baby in the book who nearly dies).

Lorna herself was the first winner of the Signal Officer in Chief's Rose Bowl award for WRAC officers. Her last job was in 30 Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, from where she sent the first British Army detachment dealing to Northern Ireland in July, 1969.

The family trend has continued with both of her brother John's two daughters going to Sandhurst. Maintaining the service tradition – albeit in light blue – is Lorna's niece, Gina McConville, who has been combining university with service in the RAF Regiment. On its launch, *Gentleman Jim* was described by Earl Jellicoe as a "stirring and truthful testimony to a very special and gallant man to whom the SAS owes so much".

Gentleman Jim – The Wartime Story of a Founder of the SAS and Special Forces by Lorna Almonds Windmill (Robinson, £7.99)

Review: Alexander van Straubenzee

WRITTEN by a proud daughter of an inspirational member of the Special Air Service (SAS), this book tells of the formation of the force, based on the diaries of a regimental icon and right-hand man who supported both David Stirling and Blair (Paddy) Mayne in the desert and France during the Second World War.

"Gentleman Jim" Almonds was one of the Tobruk Four, who brought much of the raiding expertise to the original L Detachment. David Stirling had heard of the unorthodox activities of Jock Lewes's team of Guards Commandos and recruited them to his newly-formed unit.

Sgt Almonds was well-suited to the new environment and excelled at developing ideas, building boats and even a parachute jumping tower. He was captured during an attempt to retake Benghazi and became a PoW in Italy. He escaped twice, and walked for 32 days before reaching Allied lines, winning a bar to his MM for mapping minefields en route. Back in England in 1944, he

rejoined Paddy Mayne and 1 SAS for operations in France. Here, as SSM to my uncle, Ian Fenwick, he spent two months working with the Resistance, harassing the enemy with devastating effectiveness.

The account of Operation Gain is brilliantly told – tales of roaring around the Foret d'Orleans in jeeps, shooting up trains and getting mixed up in German convoys; the tragedy of Fenwick's death, which saved the lives of French villagers about to be executed by the Germans; and Almonds receiving the Croix de Guerre followed by his commission from Montgomery.

It is a wonderful story. One of his commanders told me: "He never lost his poise. If Jim was with us, we knew everything would be all right."

● Capt (Retd) van Straubenzee served in The Royal Green Jackets from 1971 to 1979 and now works for the *Spectator*.

Soldier ordering service

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



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RANKED HIGHLY, MAJOR RESIDUALS

V70 / S60
THE VOLVO

VOLVO HAVE A REPUTATION OF BUILDING CARS THAT PROVE EXCEPTIONAL VALUE OVER TIME. IN FACT, THE VOLVO S60 SPORTS SALOON HAS JUST WON THE AUTO EXPRESS USED CAR HONOURS AWARD FOR 2002, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER CARS IN IT'S CLASS. THE LEGENDARY VOLVO V70 ESTATE HAS BEEN WINNING BOTH NEW AND USED CAR AWARDS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS BY COMBINING A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF POWERFUL PETROL AND DIESEL ENGINES WITH MAXIMUM VERSATILITY. WHEN IT COMES TO CARS THAT HOLD THEIR VALUE, THE VOLVO S60 AND V70 CONTINUE TO BE RANKED HIGHLY.



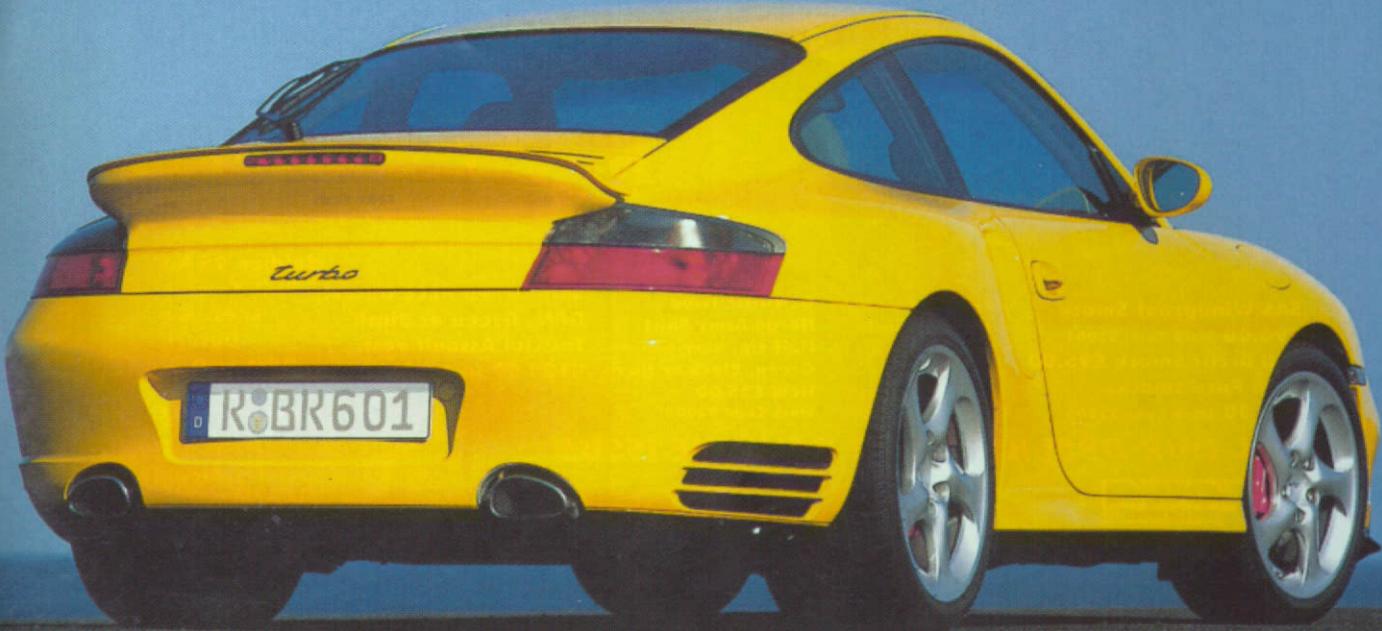
HEAD OFFICE

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Tel: +44 1707 262388

Email: bms@volvocars.com

Models shown for illustration purposes only. V70 roof rails are an optional extra. Prices quoted are tax free and are correct at time of going to press.

Controlled aggression



This car is as different from a normal 911 as a musket-ball is from a high-velocity Armalite round . . .

I WAS in one of the best places on earth – a Porsche Turbo, with an empty road ahead across the Welsh Marches, a delightful destination in mind and nothing to lose but ennui, writes **Syd Taylor**.

In an instant we hit the sort of velocity that makes these cars so desirable. I changed up into sixth and felt the Porsche settle down four-square and resolute as the world whizzed by.

This car is potent all right, but not in any way aggressively raw or hard-edged. Part of the appeal is the everyday civility. Your grandmother could drive it to Sainsbury's – provided, of course, that you put a block under the throttle pedal.

A 911 Turbo is as different from a normally aspirated 911 as a musket-ball is from a high-velocity Armalite round. Where a 911 is fast, the Turbo is explosively so: 190 mph fast, in fact – which is enough performance to fill anyone's ears with steam. So it needs careful handling and a deep respect.

When the boost is at its peak you're forced back into the cushioned recess of

Porsche 911 Turbo

Bodyshell

Coupé 2+2
Engine 3.6-litre, six-cylinder horizontally opposed, water-cooled, dry-sump lubrication, twin turbo-chargers and intercoolers, four valves per cylinder, Vario Cam Plus, 420 bhp at 6,000 rpm, 560 Nm torque

from 2700 -4,600 rpm.

Transmission Four-wheel drive, six gears (optional Tiptronic S).

Chassis and suspension

Front: MacPherson design. Rear: multi-link.

Brakes Vented discs front and

Tech Spec

rear, four piston calipers.

Wheels Six-spoke alloys.

Tyres Front: 225/40 R18.

Rear: 295/30 R18.

Weight 1540kg

Performance Top speed about 190 mph.

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the supremely comfortable electrically adjustable leather seat.

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‘But your granny could drive it to Sainsbury's’

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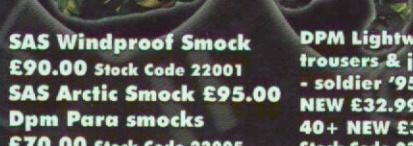
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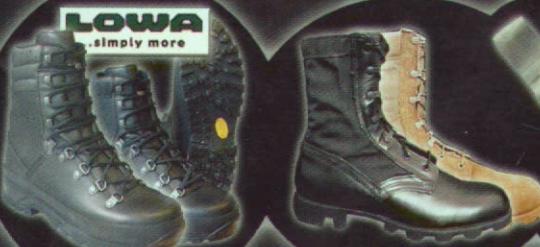
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SOLDIER to soldier

Heart of the matter

PEOPLE. It's a word that can mean all manners of things, depending upon who is using it and about whom.

People power... government by the people for the people... "my people will talk to your people..."

On this page, Sue Bonney urges consideration of people (that is, soldiers and their families) as much as hardware when the extra Defence money is divvied up.



In this edition we also report that families have been involved from the outset in planning fine new homes at Tidworth and there is little doubt that the "people power" of the Army Families Federation (Pages 42-43) has become increasingly influential over the past 20 years in the business of getting to the heart of human problems and getting them solved.

But perhaps the most meaningful words about people in this edition came from the Queen.

Enjoying a Jubilee in which the nation as a whole has shown an unexpected scale of enthusiasm for their sovereign, she demonstrated the special warmth she so obviously feels for her Armed Forces and their families when she addressed a representative gathering of them in Portsmouth (Page 39).



"You do this country proud," she said – and the words were spoken from the heart.

After all, she is head of a family which, in two world wars and in the Falklands, was made well aware of "the special strains" of separations endured in service to the Crown.

It was a moment which seemed to symbolise the deep respect which her people have for the Queen – and she has for her people.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Without people, guns and planes aren't much use

SO, what's on your shopping list for the Army, then?

Within minutes of the announcement by a beatifically-beaming Chancellor of the increase in the Defence budget over the next four years, TV pundits were spending it on hi-tech communications with more bells and whistles than a squad of Morris dancers, the Eurofighter (an aircraft, apparently, not a supporter of the franc or Deutschmark), a couple of boats for the Royal Navy, a nice new rifle for the Army, and lots and lots of computers (which will hopefully be able to speak to each other).

A press release from the MoD was unsurprisingly rather more restrained, and spoke of spending the extra cash on modernising equipment, capabilities and information systems, and fully implementing the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) and the 2002 spending review.

No one is going to get any argument from me on the need to properly equip and train Service personnel. A navy needs ships, an air force needs planes and the Army appreciates decent combat trousers and the right kind of boots.

If you are going to ask people to risk their lives, then the least you can do is make sure that they have the best means to do their job with the minimum of risk.

And it helps no end if they can all talk to each other. But if anyone had asked me, or the audience at AFF's Conference 2002, to name a couple of goodies on which to spend a bit of spare cash, I am pretty sure the answer would have been accommodation and allowances.

The MoD formally recognised the importance of people in the SDR, and people these days place a great deal of importance on the standards of their living accommodation. Both the housing



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

and the single-living accommodation upgrade programmes are in need of secure funding if they are going to provide modern accommodation in this decade rather than the next.

There are other issues – such as first and last moves and travel for foreign-born spouses – which could be addressed by an adjustment in allowances which the Army would like to progress, but which will cost money.

The Chief of the General Staff said at our conference that he believed that concern for people is a higher priority now than it had been at any time in his service, but there would never be enough money to meet all aspirations and people issues could not be dealt with at the expense of other areas.

It was very clear from question time at Conference 2002 that money, or the lack of it, was the problem we all had to wrestle with. The answer from Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram on a number of issues was "is it a priority"?

He clearly understood the concerns but could not give any promises or deadlines on likely action. There was a will, certainly in the Army, to address the issues, but absolutely no spare resources.

Priorities have to be set. Make up your mind what's important, because we can only spend the money once. And if it goes on housing, then there will be nothing spare for much else.

Perhaps the good news from the spending review will mean that there is now some room to manoeuvre and that, after the equipment and technology, there will be some reasonable amounts of cash left over for people issues. A purse, even.

It might help to demonstrate that people really do matter – because guns, boats and planes aren't much good without them.

**It was very clear
from question time
at Conference 2002
that money, or the
lack of it, was the
problem we all had
to wrestle with ,**

Army Families Federation Conference 2002 report – Pages 42-43



Some of our recce kit's a bit basic

IF I remember rightly the Strategic Defence Review and Options for Change heralded a smaller, better-equipped and more effective Army. So why are Royal Armoured Corps reconnaissance regiments issued with webbing on the other arms' scale of one ammo pouch, one utility pouch, one water bottle and pouch, rocket pouches and a bergen or "combat handbag" (which is surprisingly full once you put your sleeping system in it)?

Prize letter

▲ HQ DRAC responds: The points raised in the letter are well made and reflect the views of HQ DRAC that Formation Reconnaissance (FR) regiments would benefit from enhancements to current equipment, particularly in the dismounted role.

Improved night-viewing equipment for FR regiments is one area that is currently being reviewed to see where improvements can be introduced to enhance the night-fighting capability of dismounted crews.

In the short term, the planned introduction

Recce regiments are equipped with tracked combat vehicles and their war-fighting role takes them in front of the front line to provide accurate information.

We have a limited night-viewing capability for our personal weapons and a man-portable OTIS (optical thermal image sight), which has poor picture quality.

Army patrol bergens have to be bought second-hand to incorporate infra-red reflective material. Aircrew are issued

of a number of personal equipment enhancements will provide the majority of RAC soldiers, particularly those crewing CVR(T), with a superior personal webbing arrangement to cater for each soldier's particular needs.

Additional water and ammunition carrying capacity, as well as the ability to transport essential equipment are the most urgent. Allied to this will be the introduction of an improved sight for personal weapons.

Finally the introduction of Bowman will provide the additional communications capability

items for survival in case they are downed behind enemy lines, yet we work there and have nothing.

Just give me the basic equipment to do my job. Give me somewhere to put my ammunition, give me a bergen to get my equipment to task, and give me a sight so I can see.

As for communications, I will keep on using my mobile at no cost, of course, to the Government. – **Name and address supplied.**

that the Army, and not just the RAC, requires.

As always, achieving such improvements relies on the availability of equipment and funding. While some improvements will be introduced within a relatively short time frame, others may take longer.

HQ DRAC remains committed, in conjunction with the Defence Logistics Organisation, to seeking solutions to its priority operational equipment requirements, which will help address the issues that the reader has raised.

Why I dread an end to life with Territorial Army

I AM in my 15th year in the Territorial Army and would like to use *Soldier* to recommend it. I am a busy Army wife with four young children but find time to attend drill nights and training weekends.

I've served in six different units in the UK, and been to Germany, Gibraltar and Cyprus. I even deployed to the Gulf during 1991.

The TA has given me an insight into the work of the Regulars, making it easier to relate to my husband's job. Membership has given me a sense of independence and enabled me to make great friends.

When I joined, I never contemplated being a part of it for so long and now it is such an important part of my life I dread the day when I will have to leave. – **Marianna Finch, Cpl, RAMC (TA), York.**

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

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

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

Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

Please be brief

Lads' Army was out of step with modern ethos

I WOULD like to use your letters section to comment on the ITV programme *Lads' Army*.

Although it was set in the 1950s it depicted Army NCOs as intimidating bullies who derived pleasure from constantly boasting and punishing new recruits.

My son is about to finish his basic training and, although the standards expected of recruits in training camps are still very high, they are not subjected to any treatment similar to that portrayed in the TV programme.

I should imagine that the Army's top brass are seething. They are trying to recruit to the Service, only to find a programme like this having a possible detrimental effect on their recruiting levels.

I think ITV should have made a statement at the end of each programme to highlight that

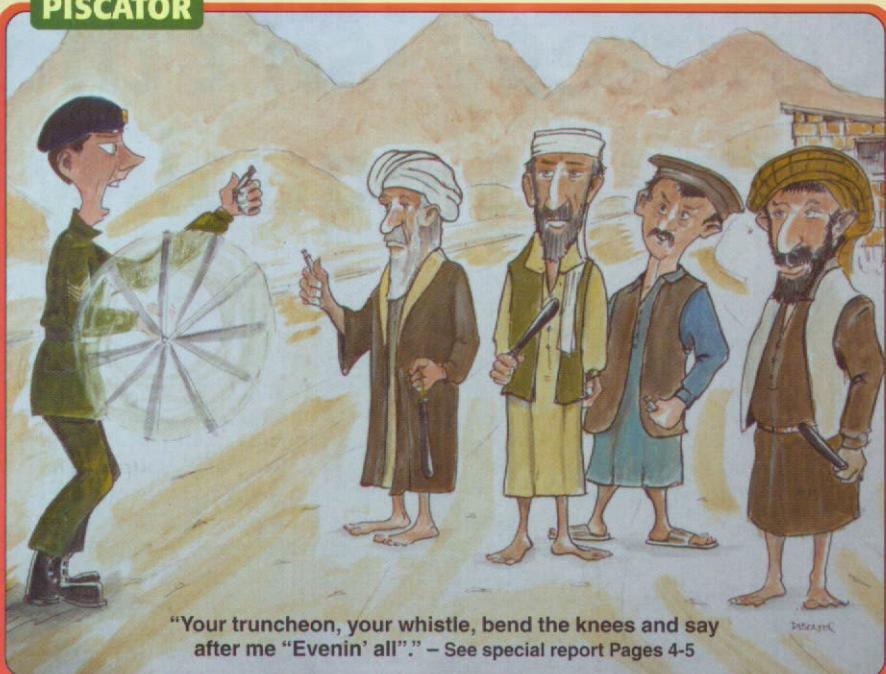


Bully boys? Platoon Sgt Mark Sullivan, above left, discusses life with a "recruit" on *Lads' Army*, the reality series which recreated National Service days in a barracks at Brownhaw, Gosport, in Hampshire. Cpl Richard Nauyokas, left, makes his feelings clear

this 1950s-type of intimidation of recruits no longer takes place. – **J A McCabe, ex-Cheshire Regiment.**

▲ A voice-over stated *Lads' Army* was a 1950s reconstruction and did not represent the modern army. – **Editor**

PISCATOR



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Why should we pay for the court-mounting of medals?

I AM confused by instructions in Material Regulations in respect of individuals paying for the court-mounting of medals. In particular, I ask, why should I pay and where does the money go?

The RLC supply chain provides for unit tailors, including a local purchase facility at both QM and brigade level for tailoring items. If it is necessary for soldiers to pay, which is questionable, surely the money should filter back to MoD or Government auditors.

This could be done by a debit system through unit regimental admin offices as per present billing procedures. I have sub-

mitted this to the MoD's GEMS scheme for innovative ideas.

During three years of conducting Logistic Support Inspections (LSIs), it was rare to find audit trails for tailoring accounts.

Considering the operational climate of the past ten years, and the recent issue of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, there have undoubtedly been many medals mounted at the personal expense of soldiers, usually at inconsistent rates. Can anyone explain where this money is now or if indeed payment is justified? - Name and address supplied.

We're a bit short of gongs over here

I READ your April letters page, regarding the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal. It is worth noting that Canada will mint only an estimated 46,000 for the whole country. The Canadian Forces' strength, regular and reserve, estimated at 80,000, will be awarded 6,000 to 8,000. It has ruffled a few feathers among members of the military. - Capt G R Hayes, Canadian Forces, Kingston, Ontario.

PS . . .

Civil unrest brewing

I read with interest the letter (July) from Peter Brown, a civil servant, complaining that he was the equivalent of a captain but only paid as a civil servant.

Equivalent? How does he think he is equivalent to a captain? I spent a year at Sandhurst and four months on a troop commanders' course before I even started service with the field army. I spent 14 months on the Ammunition Technical Officers' Course before taking up my first ATO post as a captain.

I go on operational tours, live away from my wife and participate in military training and exercises when told. I do duties, sometimes over weekends, and whatever else I am told to - as do the majority of all your readers. He goes home every night and no doubt works nine to five. Please, let us not have any more letters from civil servants pleading equivalence. Anyway, I thought this was *Soldier*, not *Civvy Magazine*. - Capt Mark Wilkinson, Didcot.

▲ Civil servants working with the military are accorded "equivalent" status to allow them to slot into the organisation at the appropriate level, for example in the mess. Mr Brown's civil service grade equates to the rank of captain. - Editor

Baton in his sack?

IN 1946 while serving with the 8th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Palestine, our platoon commander, who had been with us since 1944, returned to England. His replacement was an 18- or 19-year-old, straight from officers' training and parachute school. He introduced himself to us as Lt Nigel Bagnall and told us he hoped to make the Army his career. I have recently read that Fd Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall has died. Could this be our old platoon commander? - W Austin, Epping.

Omitted from Court

WE were surprised to find that the name of this unit had been omitted from your list of the Queen Mother's regiments and corps (May). Her Majesty was Royal Honorary Colonel of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry and subsequently of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Cadre until it was disbanded in 1975.

She expressed her wish to continue as Royal Honorary Colonel of all parts of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, the principal element then being 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V). The squadron took part by invitation in her 90th and 100th birthday parades as well as marching behind the coffin at her funeral. - Maj (Retd) R J B Gentry TD, 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V), London.

▲ Our error entirely, for which sincere apologies to 68 Squadron. - Editor

Soaring home prices overtake moving refund

I AM a house-owning single Serviceman and I have been posted to a new location beyond commuting distance from my home. As I wish to be with my partner, living in the mess is not an option and I am not eligible for a quarter.

The Army pays an allowance to homeowners to assist in relocation and the regulations allow for a refund of legal and other related expenses (survey, stamp duty and estate agents' fees) up to a maximum of £5,000. This level of refund was set on April 1, 1991 and is based on a house price average of £100,000.

This is now inadequate for anyone moving within the overpriced South-East of England, due to rocketing house prices pushing up estate agents' fees and stamp duty. I have calculated that I will be out of pocket by £9,488 if I move.

While I hesitate to make the comparison, civil servants employed by the MoD have no such limit on the amount of expenses they can claim. PS10 will say that our £5,000 limit is in place to avoid a liability for tax, however MoD is happy to pay the tax bill incurred by civil servants.

In an organisation which routinely requires its personnel to relocate, it seems astonishing that the costs of relocation are not met in full. — **Maj R M Pendleton AGC(ETS) Upavon**

No medals for those National Service days

FURTHER to T A G McEwen's claim (*Soldier*, June) to being one of the last to hold the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal (EM) and Territorial Army Decoration (TD), I was awarded the EM in 1973, the TD in 1985, the bar to the TD in 1991, and the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal (VRSM) in 2001.

Am I the first to achieve this, will I be the last, or am I simply unique?

A 15-day camp and six weekends a year for 12 years (total 324 days) could qualify you for the TEM and TD. A 15-day camp and six weekends a year for ten years (total 270 days) will now qualify you for the VSRM. For those of us who did the 730 days of National Service, which took two years of your life, there was no medal issued. Need I comment further? — **Lt Col A J Hamilton TD RAMC**

Courtesy isn't the same as equality

I DO not often feel compelled to write regarding letters and articles in *Soldier* but I believe the letter from Maj (Retd) T W Worster ("Unequal beings", July) warrants a response.

I have been in the Army for 22 years and served with both the Infantry and the Cavalry. At most regimental dinners I have attended, the gentleman next to me has pulled out my chair to offer the seat. I have taken this as courtesy and thanked him.

It is ridiculous to presume a well-mannered soldier who pulls out a chair for his female colleague would feel obliged to carry her weapon and bergen in the field.

Female soldiers are no longer fighting

for equality because they already have it. Not one female soldier I have met has had her personal equipment carried in the field – and neither would she expect it.

It is interesting to note that the original letter is from a retired major who, along with a great many of his era, are reluctant to accept females as equals. Times have changed and it is a great shame that good manners and equality are seen as one and the same, which they are not.

It is also a pity that there remains such ignorance in the Army. Let us hope that, with a younger, more aware society, the slippery slope of old has ended. — **WO1 (RSM) N E Thorne AGC (SPS), Beaconsfield**

I ENJOYED Capt Neely's letter (July) on the anomaly affecting the pensions of late-entry (LE) officers. I was in a similar position when I left the Regulars in 1996 aged 44.

Having enlisted as a boy entrant at 15, been commissioned at 38 and left six years later, I found my pension was based on 23 years' service (from the age of 21), instead of the 26 years I expected from the age of 18.

Unjust system

A close friend in the same regiment who left at the same time with the same rank and same years in uniform, has a pension based on 27 years' service due to the fact he was 21-plus when he first joined. The anomaly is the fact we both served the same time, but he leaves with a larger pension than I do. Over the years this equates to a considerable sum. The system is not just. — **PD Barlow, ex-QRL**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1977: "As teenage dole queues lengthen in the UK, I have come across a forgotten queue of young people ... with no dole, no benefit, and no nothing at the end. They are the children of soldiers serving in Rhine Army who leave school either in the UK or in Germany and join their parents." — Exclusive story by Anne Armstrong

50 YEARS AGO

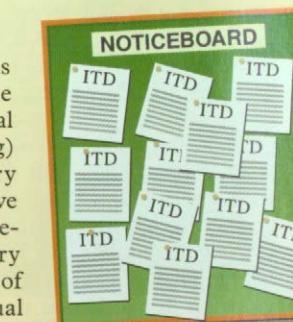
From *Soldier*, August 1952: "Soldiers of the Glosters, the battalion which gave a classic battle demonstration on a hill by the Imjin River in Korea, show how to use flame-throwers on Salisbury Plain, above. The Gloucestershire Regiment is currently supplying the School of Infantry's demonstration battalion, which is based at Knock Camp near Warminster."

Training – an alternative view

THE Army is constantly trying to implement government policy by aligning military and civilian work practices (for example in the areas of health training (HT), health and safety (H&S) and equal opportunities (EO)).

The burden for this, as well as soldiers' careers and development for re-introduction to civilian life, falls on Phase 3 training.

Industry presents information about HT, H&S and EO on noticeboards for its workforce to read (without addressing



issues such as substance misuse or moral understanding) while military personnel have to receive a presentation every year as part of their individual training directives (ITDs). As our military commitments increase and training facilities

ITD(A) is the responsibility of a nominated sponsor (for example the Director of Infantry, who has responsibility for shooting policy in the Army, sponsors ITD(A) 1 – Personal Weapon Training).

The G3 ITDs(A), such as shooting and NBC, set what is considered by the Field Army to be the minimum standard of training an individual must attain before embarking on team, collective and, ultimately, operational tasks. Capt Huish's question, however, relates more directly to the "softer" G1

reduce, and with the priority given to units to use those facilities, it becomes ever more difficult to achieve all 12 ITDs as well as conduct career and personal development courses.

If the military were to adopt the civilian approach and present the information on those ITDs on noticeboards, there would be more time for soldiers to devote to career and educational courses such as maths, English and IT literacy.

The individual training directives could be refreshed every three to five years, or

ITDs(A), which either support the moral component of fighting power (for example equal opportunities and moral understanding), or are mandated as a consequence of Government legislation (for example health and safety at work). Most would agree that subjects such as EO and substance misuse can not be addressed in a satisfactory and auditable way by a fact sheet pinned to a notice board (although training can be reinforced by the use of such media). Equally, all of us are aware that we live in a society in

which the culture of compensation is well established and that the Armed Forces can no longer claim Crown Immunity. The MoD pays substantial sums in compensation annually. Clearly the Army wants to be a good employer, as well as reduce the amount of money that would otherwise be paid in compensation so that it can be put to better use. Getting the balance right is not always easy.

We have invited CESO(A), as the sponsor of ITD(A) 9 (Health and Safety at Work), to respond on this issue.

Things Army taught me stood me in good stead

I WOULD like to endorse the recommendations of Rob Aldridge (June) regarding university education for ex-Servicemen and women.

I joined the Army as a junior bandsman in 1969 at the age of 15. All I ever wanted to do was be in the Army, I served worldwide with the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and my discharge as a corporal after more than 24 years came all too soon.

I had plans to settle down and get a decent job but for seven years worked as a care assistant and a domestic, part-time and low-paid employment. I could not settle down and was in the doldrums.

It was suggested that I try university, but as I had left school with no qualifications I felt I had little chance. How wrong I was. After completing and passing my access course I was accepted by Lincoln University in September 1997 and graduated in June 2000, with a 2.1 in social policy.

Determination, self-discipline, can-do attitude, self-pride and sheer hard work – all the things that the Army had taught me – stood me in good stead and contributed to my degree success.

I now work at the Home Office and have a confidence and self-assurance which has enabled me to move on.

I am currently enrolled on an Open University course and will start my Master of Arts next year. I would strongly advise any serving or ex-serving personnel to seriously consider what our universities have to offer. — **Pete Foxton, Sheffield**

PS . . .

Switched-on move

FURTHER to my letter "Driving offence blights my career" (Nov 2001), following my rejection for a switch from the Royal Logistic Corps to the Royal Military Police because of a minor driving misdemeanour, I am writing to update you. On the subsequent advice of an ex-soldier who is now a police inspector and who responded to my letter, I applied to join the civilian police and have been accepted by the West Yorkshire force. — **Mick Battle, Catterick**

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Cpl Simon Panther

The welfare package we had in Afghanistan was very good and things like the free internet access should be extended to places like Northern Ireland. In terms of improvements, I would have liked more than just one 20-minute phone card a week and a CSE show would have gone down really well.



Dmr Carl Chatfield

I do not think British soldiers should have to pay tax while they are out in Afghanistan. Soldiers from all the other countries in theatre were exempt from paying taxes and I do not see why we should have been any different.



Pte John Knight

Aside from the World Cup football, we only received the BFBS news channel in Afghanistan and it would have been good to have more movie or sports channels to watch in the evenings.



LCpl Michael Eastwood

The welfare package was first class. Considering the conditions in Afghanistan I think the Army would have been hard-pressed to improve it.



Capt Gareth Allen

The welfare package was set up really well and we got a lot of things out there that we were not expecting to get. The gym facilities were excellent, probably better than those we have back in the UK, and my only real criticism is that one 20-minute phone card a week was not really enough to keep up with what was going on back at home.

Pte Matthew Harger

We arrived in Afghanistan to find a gym, computers, phones and television. There could have been more of each, and perhaps an extra phone

card a week, but otherwise it was very good.



LCpl Lee Meadows

A lot of the lads had been worried they were going to miss out on the World Cup, so having televisions at every location was a real bonus. I do not think that there was anything that the Army could have supplied that they didn't.



Sgt Chris Hopkin

As a whole I was impressed with the package but it would have been nice to have more television channels. Having the football was a bonus but we did miss out on the biggest fight of the century.



LCpl Ash Hill

I do not think we should have had to pay tax considering the standard of living we had to endure out there. The Germans all laugh at us and it is no wonder that other nations call us cavemen.



Interviews: Andy Simms Pictures: Graeme Main

SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU
Distribution and enquiries: 01252 347353 (or Aldershot mil (94222) 2353)

Fax 347358 (2358)

E-mail:

mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit our website on

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Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 01252 347355 (Aldershot military ((9)4222) 2355)

Editor John Elliott 347356 (Aldershot mil 2356)

Assistant Editors Anthony Stone 340462 (5462),

Ray Routledge 340753 (5753),

Andy Simms (Sport) 347362 (2362)

Art Editor Les Gwyer 347169 (2169)

Chief Photographer Mike Weston 347357 (2357)

Photographer Graeme Main 347357 (2357)

Librarian Stuart Robinson 347351 (2351)

Marketing Manager Andy Clarkson 347352 (2352)

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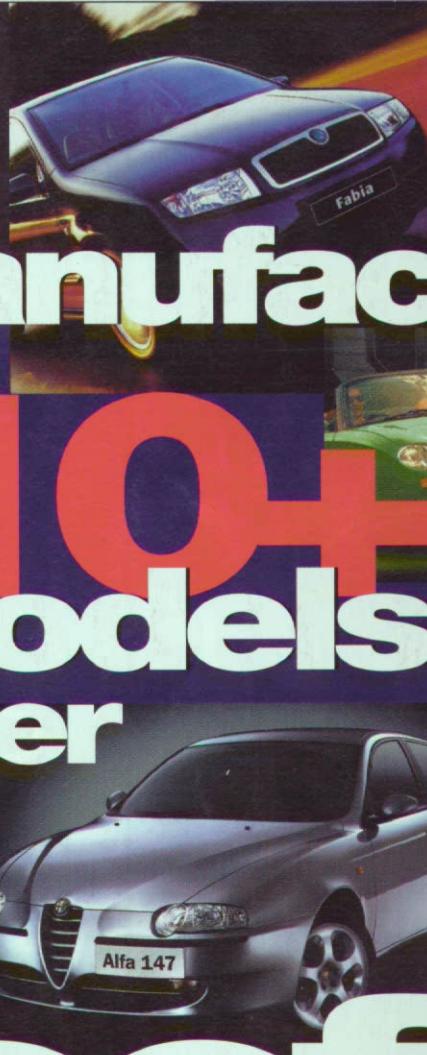
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