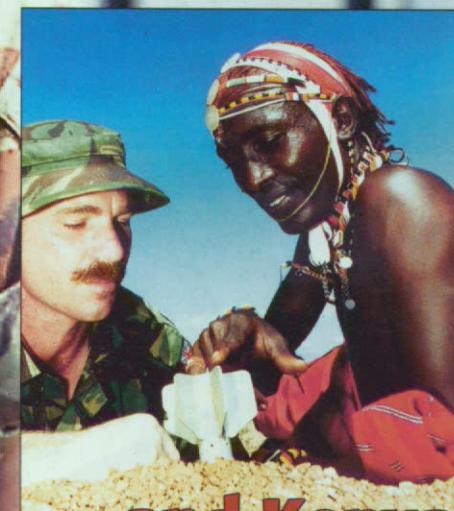


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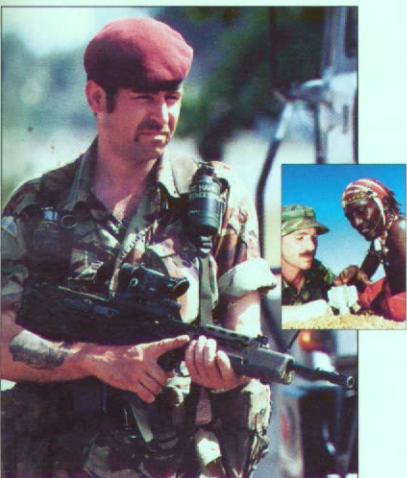
For the second time in three years *Soldier* has been voted the best internal magazine in Britain.

The latest accolades bring to 17 the number of awards won by the magazine since it switched from fortnightly to monthly publication in 1997.

- Page 11

Let single soldiers rent Army quarters - Mailbag, Page 75

A 35-year-old warrant officer in a steady, unmarried heterosexual relationship argues his case for being allowed to rent a quarter

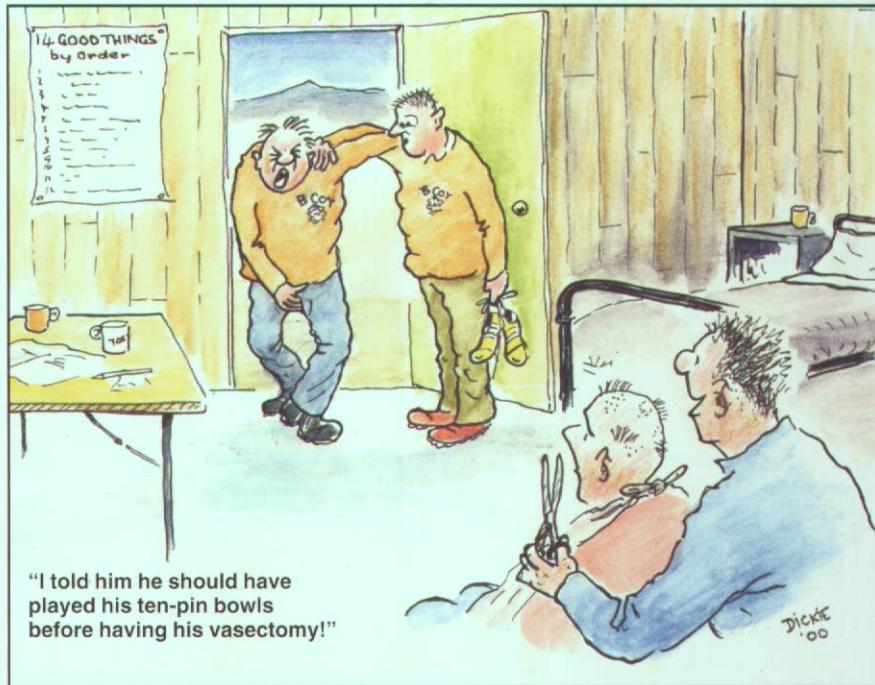


4-5 Cover story

Main picture: Cpl Bob Morgan, of 12 Platoon, D Company, 2 Para, mans a checkpoint on a road connecting the Aberdeen peninsula to Freetown in Sierra Leone. Picture: Cpl Jim Elmer RLC

Inset: SSgt Rob Firkins warns a local tribesman about unexploded ordnance found on ranges in Kenya. See Pages 16-17. Picture: Kevin Capon

How to contact *Soldier*
- see Page 78



• Focus on the Falklands - see Pages 36-41

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SOLDIER
to soldier

Restoring calm out of chaos

IT cannot be a coincidence that every time the British Army is asked to take on a difficult, dangerous job overseas it accomplishes its mission with a degree of professionalism that leaves observers groping for superlatives.

Within hours of its arrival at Freetown, Sierra Leone, the 1 Para battle-group had brought calm to a situation on the very brink of chaos, despite the presence in the country of relatively large numbers of UN troops.

A few hundred lightly-armed British soldiers flown at short notice into an alien environment simply got on with the job for which they are so well trained. In no time at all local forces were seemingly inspired to repel previously unstoppable rebel advances and the terrified citizens of this troubled nation - at least in the areas controlled by British troops - were rejoicing in unfamiliar stability.

And we can say with pride that we have seen it all before . . . from Bosnia to the Gulf, from Kosovo to Rwanda, from the Falklands to Northern Ireland.

FORGOTTEN WAR

On another far-off shore, an older generation of British soldiers have been remembering the time they made a difference . . . and paying tribute to colleagues who died in doing so.

Fifty years ago more than 1,000 troops from the UK were killed defending South Korea and western liberty. Many of those who survived feel their sacrifice has been largely forgotten. As we report elsewhere in this issue, the people of South Korea have not forgotten, and pledge they never will.

As we see it, the legacy of those veterans is in safe hands. Most recently in Sierra Leone.

Swift, strong, flexible

Operation Palliser, the emergency mission to troubled Sierra Leone, involved a para-led task force which reacted with extraordinary speed

Pictures: WO2 Dave Brown RLC and Cpl Jim Elmer RLC

BRITISH soldiers have once again shown their remarkable resourcefulness and ability to deploy quickly in a time of crisis.

Flown at short notice into the powder-keg West African state of Sierra Leone to evacuate UK and other "entitled" nationals and to assist the UN, a small force based on the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment made an immediate impact on a highly-charged situation, securing Lungi airport and the Aberdeen peninsula in western Freetown for the evacuation.

They have now made way for the Royal Marines, having achieved their objective and brought calm, reassurance and stability to the frightened population of Freetown. The atmosphere lightened noticeably after the paras took control.

Although the British Government soon made it clear that the UK forces were not part of the ongoing UN mission, the paras were drawn into the conflict, killing four rebel soldiers during an unprovoked night raid which lent potency to Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's warning that British units would respond to attack.

The four Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, part of a group of 40, were killed in a fire-fight with paras patrolling at the Lungi Loi road junction near the airport, 12 miles north of Freetown. No British soldiers were hurt during the ten-minute gun battle.

The force deployed to Africa's west coast under Brig David Richards, commander of Britain's Rapid Reaction Force. The battle-group, formed on the duty Spearhead Battalion, 1 Para, commanded by Lt Col Paul Gibson, and supported by a company from 2 Para, arrived from Dakar in Senegal on May 7. It quickly



In Sierra Leone: Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff



Digging in: From left, D Coy, 2 Para completes a gun position on the outskirts of Aberdeen; a checkpoint on the road to Freetown; LCpl Kristian Sheldene mans a .50 calibre machine-gun mounted on a WMIK Land Rover guarding an evacuation point in the West African republic; soldiers from 1 Para help an evacuee, one of about 60 to board an RAF Chinook at the British Army's reception point on the Aberdeen peninsula, to the north-west of the capital, Freetown



to Freetown; LCpl Kristian Sheldene mans a .50 calibre machine-gun mounted on a WMIK Land Rover guarding an Chinook at the British Army's reception point on the Aberdeen peninsula, to the north-west of the capital, Freetown

seized control of Lungi airport and established positions at other strategic points.

Assisting in the front line were soldiers from several units representing many cap badges. Among them were 20 Fd Sqn RE, 7 Para RHA, 16 Air Assault Brigade, 16 Close Support Medical Regiment, 30 and 14 Signal Regiments, 4 GS Regiment RLC, 49 Squadron (EOD) RE, 2 Military Intelligence Battalion, 98 Postal and Courier Squadron of 1 GS Regiment RLC, 80 Postal and Courier Squadron of

29 Regiment RLC, 4 Regiment AAC and 9 Support Regiment RLC.

They were joined by drivers and REME engineers from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment. Ten military policemen from 156 Provost Company were part of the force, while an 18-man detachment from 16 Air Assault Bde's 216 Signal Squadron provided communications at locations in and around Freetown and at the rear operating base in Dakar.

The speed of the deployment meant

that soldiers flew in with what they could carry and had little spare clothing.

Cpl Rob Murray, of 216 Sig Sqn, told *Soldier* he and his colleagues were living in prefabricated accommodation and sleeping on roll mats.

"It's very hot and humid, about 30C," he said. Soldiers were drinking huge quantities of bottled water to prevent dehydration and bartering items from their ration packs for fresh fruit, mainly mangoes and pineapple. Plenty of fresh

bread was available, he said, and morale was very high.

Support also came from two platoons of Gurkhas as the Royal Marines stood by in a Royal Navy amphibious group which included the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious*. Within 24 hours of the paras arriving on the ground, the evacuation had begun and nearly 450 civilians flown out.

British forces advised staff of the UN mission in Sierra Leone and provided technical and military advice to the gov-



Getting out: LCpl Nicky McDougall interviews a Senegali evacuee at the British Army reception point on the Aberdeen peninsula. British troops helped with the safe evacuation by RAF Chinook helicopters of about 60 Senegal passport holders, mainly women and small children

ernment. They also helped the UN to transport vehicles and airlifted 230 Jordanian soldiers to their battalion.

While British troops have no UN role, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon suggested they might continue their logistical support when the UN force reaches its full complement of 11,000 by mid-June.

One of the world's poorest countries, Sierra Leone is nevertheless rich in natural resources, including gold and diamonds. The country has been devastated by a long-running civil war in which 50,000 people have died and many more suffered appalling injuries.

The crisis was sparked when RUF units captured more than 500 Zambian peacekeepers and unarmed UN personnel. One of those held, Maj Andrew Harrison, Para, was later handed over to an Indian

battalion at Kailahoun in the east of the country, an area still controlled by the RUF.

The UN was monitoring a peace agreement which had been on the brink of collapse. Within days of the UK involvement, thousands of refugees fled into Freetown as RUF forces closed in amid reports of clashes with Nigerian and Jordanian peacekeepers. Government and UN soldiers beat off an attack as British forces offered Chinook heli-blue-beret forces into defensive positions.

Three British officers and a New Zealander escaped after being captured by the rebels. Maj Andrew Samsonoff LI was one of the group who crossed 40 miles of bush to rendezvous with friendly units.

In the Commons, Mr Hoon said: "I would like to congratulate the Armed Forces on the work they have done so far. It is a remarkable demonstration of their flexibility and speed of deployment."



Cpl patrol: Men from 1 Para cordon off an area on Sierra Leone's Aberdeen peninsula used for the evacuation of British and other nationals





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People, places, events

Nearly 1,000 troops on parade for Queen Mother

FORTY military and more than 300 civilian organisations are to be involved in the nation's 100th birthday tribute to the Queen Mother.

Regiments with which the Queen Mother is closely linked, including some from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, will join charities and associations in a spectacular event on Horse Guards Parade on July 19.

Tri-Service massed bands, massed

mounted bands, massed pipes and drums, the King's Troop RHA and the Household Cavalry will add a dash of military musical pageantry to the occasion during a colourful march-past. Senior Pipe Major will be WO1 Danny Fleming, Scots Guards.

Musicians and colour parties will be supplied by the QRH, Scots DG, SG, BW, RS, RA, RTR, RGR, LI, IG, QDG, 9/12 L, Kings, R Anglian, RAMC, RY, Londons,

London Scottish, Royal Hamps Fusiliers and Aberdeen UOTC.

The tribute is being produced by Maj Michael Parker, whose CV includes more than 70 major national events.

Other national celebrations include a thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral on July 11 and a procession on the actual birthday, August 4. Stands used for the Royal Military Tattoo 2000 from July 10-15 will be left up for the Horse Guards event.

Satellite links let soldiers phone home

SIXTEEN satellite telephones were flown to Sierra Leone under the MoD's Project Welcome - Welfare Communications Everywhere - scheme to provide links for British troops struggling to keep in touch with their families back in the United Kingdom.

Eight hundred soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment battle-group on the West African coast were being permitted a weekly allocation of up to 20 minutes of free calls.

Back in Aldershot, home to many of the soldiers' families, wives and girlfriends were given a comprehensive briefing on the deployment and current situation by Lt Col Mark Banham, the commanding officer of 7 Parachute Regiment RHA. His regiment contributed 23 gunners to the battle-group.

With Royal Logistic Corps postal and courier personnel involved in the initial



They're there: Lt Col Mark Banham, left, CO of 7 Para RHA looks at a map of Sierra Leone with wives and children of Aldershot-based soldiers deployed in Africa. From left are Michelle Sutton and Daniel, 3, Maureen Gargan, Lynn Blacklock and Rachel Bhamra. In front are Lee and Adam Blacklock. Picture: Graeme Main

move, mail links to the UK were quickly in place to allow regular deliveries of letters and small parcels. A plentiful supply of blueys - the forces' airmail letter forms - was also available.

- Bedside phones in barracks - Page 9
- Cross lines - Pages 36-37

IN BRIEF

● The Ryder Defence Quality Shield for the REME unit which has shown the greatest improvement in the application of excellence has been awarded to 3 Close Support Regiment RLC Workshop REME. It also received a cheque for £500 from Ryder Defence, sponsors of the competition which endorses the corps' culture of quality.

● Soldiers from 170 Pioneer Squadron RLC, Support Battalion, HQ ARRC, hosted 15 cadets from 193 (Southall) Detachment RLC during a week-long visit to Rheindahlen. The cadets took part in a night exercise.

RGJ 'win' a Bafta

Warriors, the TV drama telling the story of the early days of British involvement in Bosnia, has won a major prize at this year's Bafta ceremony. And soldiers from 2 Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets were singled out for praise by a TV sound man who also scooped an award.

The award for Best TV Drama Serial went to Peter Kosminsky, director of *Warriors*, at a prestigious event in London, while sound man Maurice Hillier landed the coveted award for his work on the TV drama first shown last November. He said it had been made possible by the

Green Jackets. "The Bafta is highest award the industry can give and I could not have done it without the help and co-operation of the RGJ, especially WO2 Phil Jeffries and LCpl Lee Henderson," said Maurice.

"For several weeks we often worked more than 12 hours a day on set and all in the middle of the Czech winter. The soldiers didn't have to do that."

STIFF COMPETITION

In scooping the sound award, *Warriors* faced stiff competition from dramas such as *Great Expectations* and *Wives and Daughters*.

Maurice recently completed the popular ITV series *Midsomer Murders* and is about to start location work for a new film starring Christopher Lambert. "I'd like to do a sequel to *Warriors*," he said. "The award added to the pleasure of having worked on the original production. Thank you, Royal Green Jackets."

Starring Ioan Gruffudd, *Warriors* told the story of a group of soldiers serving with UNPROFOR during the early days of the crisis.



● Capt Max Hutton, pictured, of the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers, won the Chairman's Trophy for champion shot at the 42 (NW) Brigade skill-at-arms meeting at Altcar training camp. Capt Hutton is captain of the TA's national shooting team.

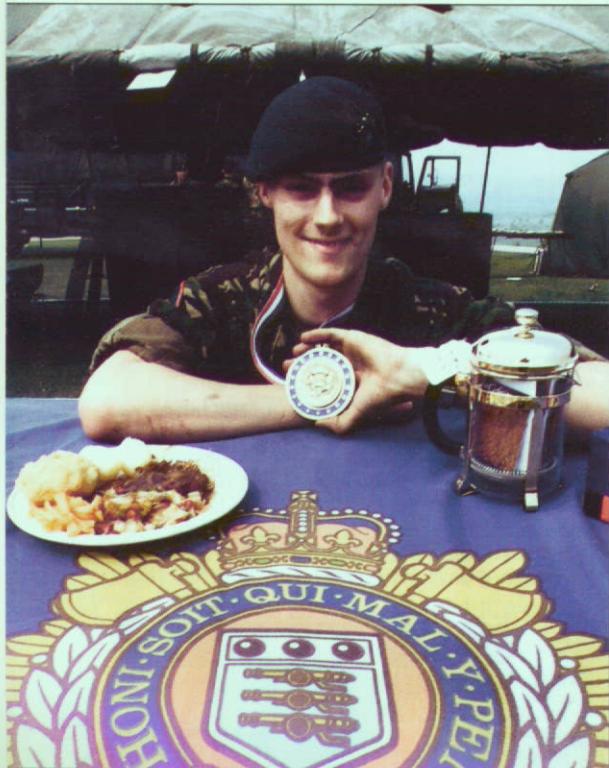
People, places, events

Bear in front line



Decorated: Cpl Edward Bear, Newton Aycliffe-based 124 Recovery Company REME (V)'s much-travelled mascot, shows off his UN Medal for service in the Balkans to fellow members of his unit. Edward has toured the world extensively since joining up in 1983, serving in Canada and Kenya. After a short spell of R & R he is off to Salisbury Plain, which he knows well, having parachuted there from a Hercules on his last visit.

Ready, steady ...



Top chef: Pte Tony Powell, 2 LI, holds the medal he won at 3rd (United Kingdom) Division's improvised field catering competition at Bulford Ridge near Bulford, on Salisbury Plain. Picture: Mike Weston

Terriers reach top of Everest

WHILE two Territorial Army soldiers were standing on the summit of Everest, two sergeants, one a Royal Marine, were conquering the summit of the third highest and perhaps the most treacherous mountain in the world, Kanchenjunga.

SSgt Mark James and SSgt Dan White, both members of the 12-strong British Everest 2000 North Ridge expedition organised by British Army Reserve Forces, were planning to plant their regimental flags on the highest spot on the planet.

It was hoped a third member of the expedition would reach the summit if a suitable opportunity presented itself.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the Himalayas, Sgt John Doyle joined Sgt Ady Cole, Royal Marines, in enjoying the view from the 28,169-ft on Kanchenjunga. They were accompa-

nied by two Sherpas – Nima Dhorje and Pemba Norbu – and had to wade through waist-high snow for much of the climb. Remarkably, they did it without fixed ropes or oxygen.

The climbers were part of a multi-Service team and only the second British expedition to climb the southwest route to the top. The first was achieved nearly half a century ago.

Situated in a remote part of north-east Nepal, Kanchenjunga is rarely scaled. It takes two weeks to just to walk to the base of the mountain and there are no easy climbing routes.

The team was led by Steve Jackson, Royal Navy. Joining Sgt Doyle from the Army were Sgt Neil Greenwood RE, Maj Roddy McArthur of the Highlanders and SSgt Dave Bunting APTC.

● Follow further daily progress of the expedition on www.bluedome.co.uk



Top of the world: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment pose on the summit of Cathedral Peak during a ten-day trek in the Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa. They also visited Zulu war battlefield sites, including Rorke's Drift, white-water rafted on the Tugela and parachuted with the South African Army's 44 Para Brigade.

IN BRIEF

● The Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Regiment will remain at RAF Honington in Suffolk. The NBC specialists have been based at Honington since the formation of the regiment on April 1 last year and became operational in December.

● 14 Indep Topo Sqn RE won the rifle

and fire team matches at the UKSC(G) skill-at-arms meeting at Haltern training area, Germany, with 14 Sqn Sp Bn ARRC taking the team pistol honours. The falling plate match went to 170 Sqn Sp Bn ARRC. Sgt Lynch, WO2 Ashcroft and LCpl Lawrence won the individual LSW, rifle and pistol titles.

Corpsam 2000 report – Page 49



Unique: For the first time at the annual Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association gathering at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park, standards and guidons of all Regular and Yeomanry units were paraded together with escorts of soldiers in the full dress of each regiment. On the right is Sgt Neil Newman KRH.

The event marked the 76th anniversary

of the unveiling of the memorial. Fd Marshal Sir John Stanier, deputising for the Queen Mother, took the salute and laid the Combined Cavalry wreath. All regiments of Regular cavalry, many Yeomanry regiments, the Indian Cavalry and other Commonwealth cavalry units were represented at an open-air church service after the march-past. Picture: Graeme Main

All mod cons... at the bedside

SIX thousand soldiers living in barracks in the Salisbury Plain area are to have bedside access to a telephone line, cable TV and the internet.

The communications company ntl has installed Centrex telephone lines under a package which gives soldiers based in the Andover and Salisbury

areas free calls between all connected barracks and provides a heavily discounted tariff for outbound calls, dramatically cutting the cost of national and international calls. Access to cable TV and the internet will follow.

The system will end the need for soldiers to queue to use a pay-phone

More Army bases to go

FOLLOWING the latest assessment of security in Northern Ireland, the Army is to demolish or vacate a number of its bases in the Province.

Cookstown base is to be pulled down, as is the Cloghogue observation point in south Armagh, while Fort George on the west bank of the Foyle and OPs at Broadway and Templer House in Belfast are to be vacated. The land currently occupied by Fort George will be

returned to the Londonderry Harbour Commissioners.

Announcing the measures, the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary said that, subject to a continuing reduction in the level of threat, they would be followed within three months by the demolition of the observation sangar overlooking the square in Crossmaglen. Further "normalisation" steps will be considered at the same time.



• Seventeen-year-old Pte Daniel Green, right in picture, has joined his proud father, Sjt Garry Green, left, in the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry based in Bulford, Wilts. Sjt Green has been with the battalion for 20 years and is delighted that Daniel has joined up. They are the battalion's only father-and-son team.

ATR trainee works with Mexico's slum kids

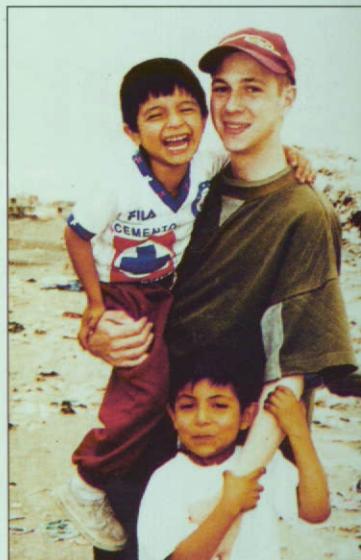
A YOUNG soldier fresh out of phase one training at the Army Training Regiment Winchester has spent two weeks working with impoverished children in Mexico City.

Pte Christian Barton, who is joining the Intelligence Corps, undertook the work with Christian Aid International before beginning the next phase of his military training at Chicksands in Bedfordshire.

With the permission of his commanding officer, Lt Col Huw Morgan, Pte Barton raised £355 for Christian Aid from fellow recruits and instructors at the ATR. The money was donated to help support Mexico City's thousands of street children.

His preparations for the trip were helped by staff at Winchester and advice from the British Embassy in Mexico City.

Pte Barton was trained in youth work during his first week in the country and then thrown in at the deep end, teaching desperately deprived children about life-saving skills and the dangers of drugs.



Friends: Pte Christian Barton with street children in Mexico City

Medal moment

Feather in her cap: Cpl Elaine Weatherall, a medic attached to Ashington-based Z (Fusiliers) Coy, Tyne-Tees Regt, in Northumberland, shows off her Nato Medal for service in Kosovo after being presented with it by the Duke of Northumberland at the Fusiliers' St George's Day Parade in Morpeth





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People, places, events

Simply the best

Soldier wins top magazine award for second time

FOR the second time in three years, *Soldier* has been voted the best internal magazine in Britain.

The accolade was one of a host of successes for the British Army's "upbeat but honest" magazine in the prestigious Communicators in Business Awards.

One judge commented: "Quite simply, I can't fault this excellent publication."

Attracting 1,000 entries, this long-established national competition for business and public sector communications is the biggest of its kind in Europe.

Soldier representatives who attended the awards ceremony in Manchester on May 5 left with four trophies and a clutch of certificates. As well as topping the internal monthly magazine category, *Soldier* headed the classes for best feature and best colour picture and won awards of excellence for picture editing, news coverage and a second colour photograph.

This was the Rev Andrew Totten's dramatic contributed picture of QRL Chal-



The eyes have it: *Soldier's* Kath Adams with ten certificates

lenger tanks firing at night on a range in Bosnia, evidence that the Army is very much part of *Soldier's* winning team.

Handing the magazine the Gold Award against competition from magazines produced for the likes of Shell International, Unilever, ICL and Texaco, the judges said *Soldier* had "gone from strength to strength".

Earlier the judge who shortlisted the magazine for the final stages of the competition said: "This was my first encounter with the magazine of the British Army and

I had to keep reminding myself that it was an employee publication . . .

"It goes for celebrity interviews, action-packed photography and has a gripping feature list covering the Gulf conflict, Bosnia, Kosovo and wherever else the Army has been called into action. Editorially, the magazine sets an upbeat but honest style with the added appeal of punchy images from an action-oriented profession."

Commenting on *Soldier's* picture editing, another judge said: "This is a magazine which perfectly fits its target readership. It is packed full of exciting images of equipment and exercises. But most importantly, of personnel. Quite simply, I can't fault this excellent publication."

Soldier, voted top internal magazine in Britain in the same competition two years ago, has now won 17 awards since switching from fortnightly to monthly in 1997. Last year the magazine was voted into the top ten publications of its class in Europe in a competition run by the Federation of European Industrial Editors' Associations.

Award details:

- Gold Award for best internal magazine in Britain.
- Class winner, internal monthly magazines (February 1999 issue, which also won an Award of Excellence).
- Class winner for best feature: "Get down and get dirty" on the Army Motor Cycle Association, written by Graham Bound with pictures by Mike Weston, May 1999 issue. Also won an Award of Excellence.
- Class winner for best colour photo: "The Invisible Killer" by Mike Weston, with feature on sniper training, June 1999. Also won an Award of Excellence.
- Award of Excellence, picture editing: Feb 99 issue.
- Award of Excellence, news reporting: Crisis in Kosovo, written by Graham Bound with pictures by Mike Weston, May 1999.
- Award of Excellence, colour photo: "Night Attack" by Rev Andrew Totten, attached to Scots DG, Feb 99.

Charlie Charlie's number 1

CHARLIE Charlie One, the Army's regular video diary, has won top accolades in three different competitions.

It shared the limelight with *Soldier* at the Communicators in Business Awards ceremony in Manchester, scooping an Award of Excellence for videos in the internal communications category, won a second Award of Excellence at the US International Film and Video Festival, also for internal communications, and picked up a bronze award in the regular communications category at the Interna-

tional Visual Communications Association (IVCA) ceremony.

Charlie Charlie One, which provides a comprehensive video record of Army operations and exercises, new equipment and lifestyle issues, is produced by Duncan Page of Creation Communications of London for the Directorate of Corporate Communications (Army).

Much of the footage for the videos is shot by the Wilton-based Mobile News Teams attached to the Media Operations Group at UK Land Command.

IN BRIEF

● Fancy and evening with comedian Jim Davidson? Free tickets for Service personnel are available for *Jim Davidson Presents . . .*, a variety show at the Cambridge Theatre in Earlham Street, London WC2 (nearest tube, Covent Garden) on June 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15 (doors open 1800). No one under 18 will be admitted. Also *Jim Davidson Live* (18 or over) at the same theatre on June 17, 18 and 19 (doors open 1800). Just ring 020 8576 1227 or e-mail tv.ticket.unit@bbc.co.uk

● The Rheindahlen Rooms, one of JHQ Reindahlen's premier entertainment and leisure venues, dating back to the 1950s, were re-opened by Maj Gen Christopher Elliott, GOC UKSC(G) following a major refurbishment programme.

● The Multinational Division Central (Air-mobile) has completed a computer-assisted exercise in the Arnhem area. About 1,500 soldiers from four nations were involved.

● Vosper Thornycroft has been selected by Archer Communications Systems Ltd and the MoD as the preferred subcontractor for training on the new Bowman communications system.

● The Army Careers and Information Office at Bishop Auckland, manned by WO2 George Henderson RA and Sjt Chris McGlynn LI, recruited a record 84 people (against a target of 60) in the past 12 months, its best for enlistments in 30 years.



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People, places, events



Tribute: A Colour party from The Royal Irish Regiment was among hundreds of serving and retired soldiers who attended the official dedication of the Irish Infantry Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas near Lichfield in Staffordshire on May 6.

Trees and shrubs native to Ireland and a plinth of Irish granite bearing the names of all Irish infantry regiments have been used to create a place of pilgrimage and a focus of recognition for all Irish soldiers, past and

present, who have served in the British Army.

● Hundreds of former soldiers of the Ulster Defence Regiment gathered in Belfast for a service of remembrance last month on the 30th anniversary of the formation of the regiment, which disbanded in 1992. During its 22 years of continuous operational service in Northern Ireland the regiment lost 197 soldiers killed on duty.

Sixty former members of the UDR were murdered after they had left the regiment.

Pension benefits review for discharged reservists

IN FUTURE all volunteer and Regular reserves will be eligible for attributable pensions benefits if they are medically discharged at any time due to reserve service.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said on May 18 that past claims from Gulf War reservists would be re-examined under new rules.

"Any new claims will also be considered," he added.

Existing anomalies in the regulations, under which reservists have been treated differently depending on which Service they come from, will be removed.

Attributable benefits for reserve service were introduced in 1980, since when it has been the practice to award them only

where members of the reserve forces have been medically discharged at the end of a period of active duty.

During periods of recalled service for operations, individuals could claim benefits only if they were medically discharged at the point of demobilisation. But new legal advice suggests Army reservists are eligible to claim attributable benefits if they are medically discharged at any time.

● **Westminster summary – Page 35**

Veterans' advice on the internet

Former members of the Armed Forces can contact the MoD's Veterans Advice Unit online by e-mail via its new internet web site at veteransadvice@veterans.mod.uk

IN BRIEF

● Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Presiding Officer to the National Assembly for Wales, was guest of honour at a parade in Barker Barracks, Paderborn at which soldiers of the **1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales** received Nato Medals for their deployments to Mrkonjic Grad in Bosnia and Kosovo.

● Hermanville-sur-Mer in Normandy provided the backdrop for the formal twinning of **24 Regiment RLC** with its French counterpart.

503 Regiment Du Train. A parade and memorial service were held in the town, where the British 3rd Division landed on D-Day.

● **A (Queen's Royal Surreys) Company, 3 PWRR** marched through Farnham at the invitation of the mayor, town council and residents. Mayor Victor Scrivens and Colonel of the Regiment Brig Richard Holmes took the salute. The company also took part in a weekend exercise on Salisbury Plain with the Regulars of 1 PWRR.

Battling Tommy



Hail to the Chelsea Pensioner: Ex-Parachute Regiment soldier **Sgt Tommy Battle**, an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, salutes the large bronze statue unveiled in front of the hospital by the Duke of Westminster on May 4. The striking figure, by Philip Jackson, is one-and-a-half times life-size. Picture: Steve Dock

Sound of Fusiliers



Fusilier magic: Royal Regiment of Fusiliers drummers put on a show for entertainment-starved people in Pristina. **Drum Maj David McKenna** came up with the idea of putting on a mini-road show to help children traumatised by the war and with nothing to do but walk the streets. So far the Fusiliers have completed three shows involving pop music, a live band, kick-boxing displays and an Army dog section display. Drum Maj McKenna, who can be reached at B Coy, 2 RRF, Op Agricola, BFPO 559, wrote to British businesses for anything the soldiers could give away to children at the shows. He has run out of items and is appealing for more toys, baseball caps, t-shirts, pens... in fact anything they can make available.

● Royal Engineers celebrated the 60th anniversary of the formation of **RE bomb disposal sections** last month at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent. The celebrations were organised by 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) and its TA sister, 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V).

● Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie has launched an **Integrated Land Management Plan** for the MoD's training estates.

Africa in their hearts

British Army staff in Kenya have behind them a long tradition of service to this vibrant African nation

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon

CROSSED pangas – the symbol of the British Army in Kenya – have been around in one form or another since 1939 and the days of the British East African Command. They may have changed shape slightly since the time of the East African Rifles, but then so has the role of the British Army in Kenya.

Today, the sign of the crossed pangas greets visitors to the headquarters of the British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) at Kifaru Camp in the Kenyan Army's Kahawa Barracks a few miles north of Nairobi.

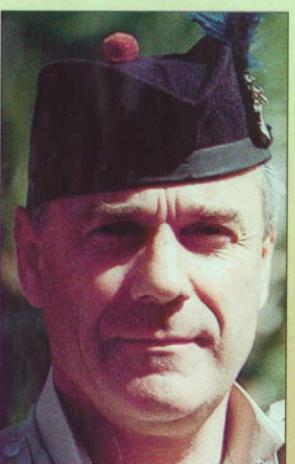
Members of the team, led by Lt Col David Broadfoot, Hldrs, are acutely conscious of their African heritage. Kifaru is Swahili for rhino, Kahawa means coffee... both commodities synonymous with this exciting, colourful and diverse part of Africa.

The pangas departed briefly in 1963 when the Scots Guards withdrew as Kenya celebrated its independence. A small training team returned soon afterwards and has evolved into BATLSK.

"We are a family," said Maj Alun Davies RWF, the quartermaster. "Many of us been together for many years. There is a family atmosphere and we all have a sense of belonging."

"The working conditions are different from Catterick and we probably see more sunshine than Aldershot but basically we provide the same support facilities for a battalion, the difference being that we are responsible for all Army training in Kenya."

BATLSK staff have an unusual workload; their main focus is on supporting the 3,500 British troops who exercise in



CO: Lt Col David Broadfoot

Kenya every year. They provide equipment for 1,000 soldiers, including more than 250 vehicles and six light guns used in the three Grand Prix exercises staged every year. Woven into Grand Prix are a series of smaller Royal Engineer exercises, help-the-community projects, adventurous training and local support.

Lt Col Broadfoot's team is made up of ten permanent staff members who live in Nairobi with their wives and families, 26 temporary duty staff who volunteer for six months with BATLSK during the frantic April to October exercise period, and 106 locally employed civilians (LECs).

The LECs are the hub around which BATLSK revolves; many have been working for the Army for more than two decades.

Two motor transport foremen, Patrick Wambugu and David Ndirangu, have more than 36 years' service between them. "There is not much that we don't know about Bedfords and Rovers," said Patrick.

"We change suspension units and tyres in our sleep," joked David.

It is a fact of life that BATLSK's vehicles take a fearful hammering every exercise season and it is up to the team workshops to rebuild the fleet in time for the next incoming battle-group.

BATLSK's fastest growing area is that of the QM, whose magnificent new buildings dwarf the old stores and have made his operation easier and more efficient. "We have grown by more than 50 per cent in the past two years," said RQMS Jack Badham WG. "If we weren't in a former colony I would describe it as empire-building."

A vast old safe dominates the office occupied by SSgt John Francis, the finance and systems administrator. "It has to be large to hold all our money," he reckoned. "It's left over from a bygone era, but today the budget is much larger and last year we had a turnover of £3 million."

Maj Chris Topham LI, the 2iC, said: "Hard work and long hours come in



spells. Sometimes we work 17-hour days, seven days a week and have to drive on roads with 3ft potholes. But the compensation during quiet times is the phenomenal resources that Kenya holds."

"It is the whole Africa experience. As well as the fantastic animals and game parks there are many other things, includ-



Going home: Temporary duty staff (TDS), above, proudly show off their BATLSK plaques at the end of their appointments in Kenya. TDS volunteers typically spend periods ranging from four to seven months

Vehicle check: Motor transport Sgt Paul Frediani, left, looks at the worksheet of one of the 250 vehicles in his fleet. Helping him is long-serving foreman David Ndirangu

Fan-tastic: SSgt John Francis, BATLSK's finance and systems administrator, right, deals with a budget of £3 million a year



ing difficult and challenging adventurous training, the Indian Ocean and the great weather."

Maj Topham's interest in conservation

led him and other BATLSK staff to help with relocating a rhino. "We work closely with the Kenyans, providing expertise and skills which they might find difficult

to acquire." He was pleased by praise from the director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, who thanked BATLSK personnel for finding an illegal logging operation in Kithindini forest on Mount Kenya.

Prompt reactions by the team allowed the wildlife service to arrest several loggers and confiscate chain saws and other



When terror came to Nairobi: BATLSK staff led the rescue mission following the bombing of the American Embassy in 1998

tools... sadly not before many 150-year-old camphor trees had been felled.

Men from the East Africa Brigade, black and white, fought and died together in Burma during the Second World War. Nearly 60 years later, Britons and Africans again serving together in Nairobi under the sign of the crossed pangas were awarded gallantry medals for their brave reactions following the devastating bombing of the American Embassy in August 1998. With nearly 250 people dead and 5,000 wounded, the situation was confused, chaotic and verging on anarchic. BATLSK staff, men and women, led frantic efforts to save life in the almost totally destroyed building for 60 exhausting hours before international help arrived.

Local people will not forget the whole-hearted help given by the Army and Kenyans appear to like and respect British soldiers.

BATLSK, with its mixed bag of nationalities and skills, is a very happy family.

● EOD operation in Kenya – Pages 16-17

Warrior to warrior

British sappers and Samburu tribesmen are working together to make a homeland safe

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon

EXERCISE Pineapple was, quite simply, one of the most satisfying jobs his squadron had been called on to do, said Sgt Mark Hotson.

"Especially," he added, "when you see a family of elephants walk over the ground you have cleared."

Mark was one of 30 Royal Engineers from 49 Field Squadron (EOD) – part of Wimbish-based 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) – who deployed to the Samburu region of Kenya on a joint venture with the local tribes and the Kenyan Army.

The object of Exercise Pineapple was to clear the tribal lands of potentially dangerous ordnance and munitions.

The northern regions of Kenya are remote and sparsely populated and the lives of the colourful, semi-nomadic Samburu people have remained unchanged for centuries. Wandering throughout the arid landscape with their cattle, they live hand-in-glove with the environment.

Since the Second World War, the region

has been used by the Kenyan, British and American armies because its remoteness and small indigenous population made it ideal to practise live-firing.

The inevitable result was that tens of thousands of artillery shells, mortar-bombs and bullets have been fired into the countryside.

Children who roam the area use the shrapnel and metal in clubs and sticks, which they use as weapons, while the women fashion it into jewellery.

It is also common for children to break open shells with rocks – with obvious potential consequences.

BRITISH EXPERTISE

Growing concern by local tribesmen over the amount of misfires and the unexploded munitions being found led to British expertise being called in. The day after the squadron arrived, it started to rain. "Not much of a change from the snow and sleet at home," said Spr Steve Daines. "But the rain soon gave way to the 40-degree heat. It's so hot we start at 0530 and have to finish at two in the afternoon."

The small community of Archer's Post is seven hours north of Nairobi – seven hours of poor gravel-and-dirt roads with 3ft potholes waiting to puncture tyres.

Many bridges which cross the area's dry river beds have seen better days and hazards such as camels, goats and elephants have to be avoided.

The four-week exercise was not easy. The region has few passable roads and the Army Air Corps supplied a helicopter to help survey the area in an attempt to find routes into the bush.

"Only the elephants and camels appear to be able to move about

without difficulty," said SSgt Rob Firkins.

LCpl Jim Purdey said 40 Samburu tribesmen had been specially trained to identify possible munitions and shrapnel and were working with the squadron searching the bush.

Lt Richard Hawkins said: "Local knowledge is key to the success of the



Sappers' school: Cpl David Powell, centre, explains the dangers of tampering with unexploded munitions to Samburu warriors

Bush patrol: LCpl Jim Purdey, left, sweeps his metal detector over the Kenyan sands and listens for the tell-tale whine in his earphones. He is directed to suspected unexploded munitions by Samburu warrior Alexander Olenyakopiro. Jim, from Torquay, is serving with 49 Field Squadron (EOD)

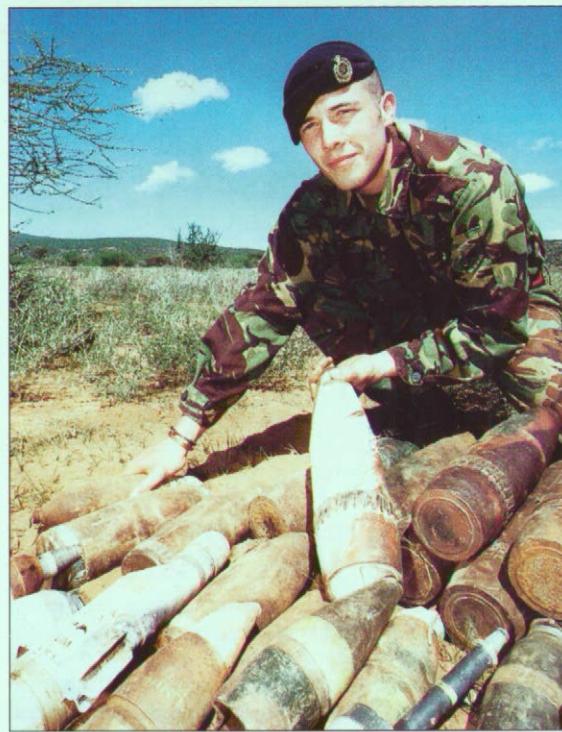
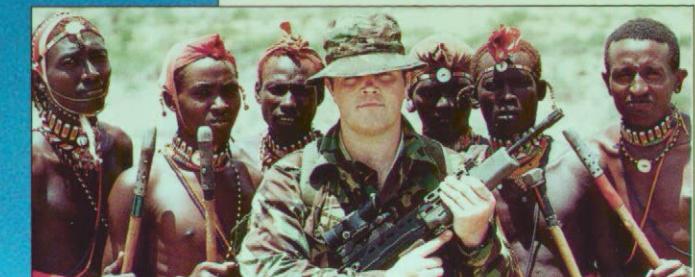
whole operation. "They know each tree and bush like the back of their hand."

To carry out the search the Samburu were formed into an extended line with sappers at each end. They walked slowly forward on a compass bearing looking for suspicious objects. If they saw something a soldier moved forward and identified it.

If, after careful investigation, the soldier was unsure the device was safe he would detonate it, much to the relief and cheers of the locals.

In a relatively short time hundreds of items were found, including 2in and 3in mortars, 105mm shells, bullets and smoke canisters. Many were blown up.

Lethal tip: Each of the tribesmen behind Cpl David Powell, above, has a homemade weapon tipped with a fragment of mortar or bomb casing to weight the end



Deadly pile: Spr Terry Low stores for demolition a 105mm shell from the ranges in the Samburu district of northern Kenya

"Let's face it, it's good to get our hands on the real thing. We're sappers and we love to hear the bangs," said Cpl Phil Johnys. "The work has its moments of excitement, especially when you are on your stomach under a thorn bush digging the earth away from a suspect device with your hands."

EDUCATING CHILDREN

Lt Hawkins added: "Part of the job is educating the children and close co-operation with the village elders is called for. We visit the local chiefs and talk to them about the problem. The lads are great, and very popular with the children."

In a desperately poor economy the wages paid to the Samburu are welcome and they are obviously pleased that their land is being made safe for their children and livestock.

As Alexander Olenyakopiro, a striking figure in traditional dress, said: "It is good that the soldiers are helping. Like us they are brave men who face danger; we treat them as equals – warrior to warrior."

Rapid-reaction support

Want an HQ? Here's one we built earlier

Nato's cutting edge ground force is the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps. Making sure its HQ hits the ground running in the field is a challenge with a multinational flavour

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

THEY don't have big guns, nor heavy armour. What they do have, though, is a heavyweight responsibility.

Put simply, the command and control of major international operations would not be the same without them. They are the soldiers of the mostly British-staffed Support Battalion, HQ Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC for short) based at Rheindahlen.

ARRC HQ's Support Battalion is one of those unsung units that does its job so well most people can't see the joins.

In the guise of the Support Battalion, the British Army is responsible for locating, establishing, defending and sustaining ARRC's HQ in the field and at home.

Lt Col Max Marriner, the CO, said: "ARRC's job is to command but it has to do so from a position of authority and communications ability. Our job is to take the ARRC headquarters from its static peacetime location at Rheindahlen and to move it into the field in a seamless and careful transition."

Not on the face of it an exciting job then? It has its moments. Lt Col Marriner described last year's move into Kosovo when his battalion became the lead unit, ahead of the main Nato battle-group.



Command: Lt Col Max Marriner, ARRC Support Battalion



"We felt vulnerable. On our left was a Serb infantry company and on the right a Serb squadron with T55 tanks. We stayed where we were."

Maj Chris Henson, the adjutant, emphasised the multinational nature of the ARRC HQ and said 22 cap-badges in the battalion served the needs of 21 nationalities.

Drivers, signallers, a power troop of Royal Engineers, Pioneers . . . you want the expertise, the battalion's got it.

"New soldiers have a bit of a culture shock when they join because they are not only dealing with British Army elements, but with multinational soldiers and their customs," said Maj Henson.

Not least of the battalion's potential problems are those faced by its chefs. "They are very much front-of-house for us in HQ," he said.

Sgt Andy Bailey, an RLC chef in the junior ranks mess at Rheindahlen, said most of the soldiers he catered for were British and German.

"We've had to learn about German tastes," he explained. "For example, they have a different style of packed meal – bread, butter and different types of sausages, whereas the British prefer cheese and tomato sandwiches or tuna."

The battalion is always on standby to move at a minimum ten days' notice, including reconnaissance time. Once in theatre the recce team will look for a defendable site with as many facilities as possible on which to set up the headquarters. If necessary, however, it will get to

It takes all sorts: ARRC Support Battalion chefs, above, have to be prepared to cater for international tastes. From left LCpl Shoddy River, LCpl Simon Munt, Sgt Andy Bailey, Pte Marie Kane and Cpl Mark Johnson

Sparkling skills: Metalsmith Cpl Daryl Green cuts through a damaged driveshaft, right

Roving operator: Cpl Rob Luke, 207 Sig Sqn, below, operates in the back of a Land Rover



work on a greenfield site. Instant communications are a vital ingredient to enable ARRC's commanders to get on with their job. Once the site has been identified, support units move in. In Kosovo, these jacks-of-all-trades laid on essential items such as roads, showers and plumbing.



SSgt Steve Stock, serving with transport troop, said his team had been prepared for the unexpected in Kosovo. He had been delighted by the response of his young soldiers.

"Many of them were under 20 and on their first tour," he said. "They matured quickly . . . as they had too. They were often expected to drive eight to ten hours a day and then take on labouring duties.

"Our REME guys did a great job

making-do with what they had at the time, despite the difficulties in obtaining spares."

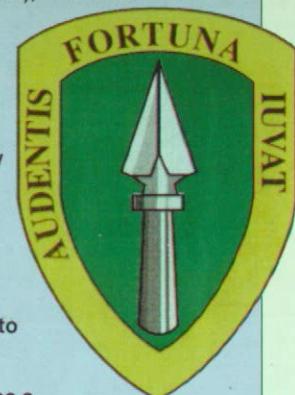
WO1 (ASM) Barry Jordan said 25 different trades were represented in Kosovo

to look after equipment which included a fleet of 60 vehicles and a mobile HQ. They also took with them their own portable electrical supply – 35 trailers each capable of generating 40kw of electricity, enough to power a field hospital.

FORMED in 1992, ARRC is under the permanent operational command of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), Gen Joe Ralston.

Its multi-national staff and military formations are ready to deploy within days and to undertake military operations ranging from peace support to high-intensity combat,

The ARRC has a standing multinational HQ, ten assigned divisions and additional corps combat and support troops. It is commanded by Lt Gen Christopher Drewry, who succeeded Lt Gen (now Gen) Sir Mike Jackson on January 31.



ARRC's Pioneers, under 2nd Lt Sam Cooke, helped sort out the administration of the camp and were responsible for defending the HQ.

"We went forward with the initial elements of the main HQ," said 2nd Lt Cooke, "and had a huge task in clearing woods, setting up the tents and putting in the light-support required to be a headquarters."

Sgt Hugh MacIntosh reckoned training had played a big part in getting it right.

"Our main exercise each year is called Arcade Fusion," he said, "and the lessons we have learned were applied in Kosovo."

INVOLVEMENT

On operations, the administration wing becomes more involved with other nationalities than in its day-to-day work at Rheindahlen.

Regimental admin officer Maj Maurice Walsh explained: "The multinational element does not give us a problem in barracks because they have their own national support with them.

"But on ops, we become more involved with them, which can create problems. For example, most countries involved in Kosovo deployed their soldiers with their own national currency. The French paid their people in francs, whereas the British Army paid their soldiers in local currency, or, in the case of the Balkans, in Deutschmarks, so they could spend the money locally."

"We were exchanging money in seven different currencies, even for the Americans, who paid their troops in dollars."

Which just goes to prove, there's a lot more to ARRC's Support Battalion than meets the eye.

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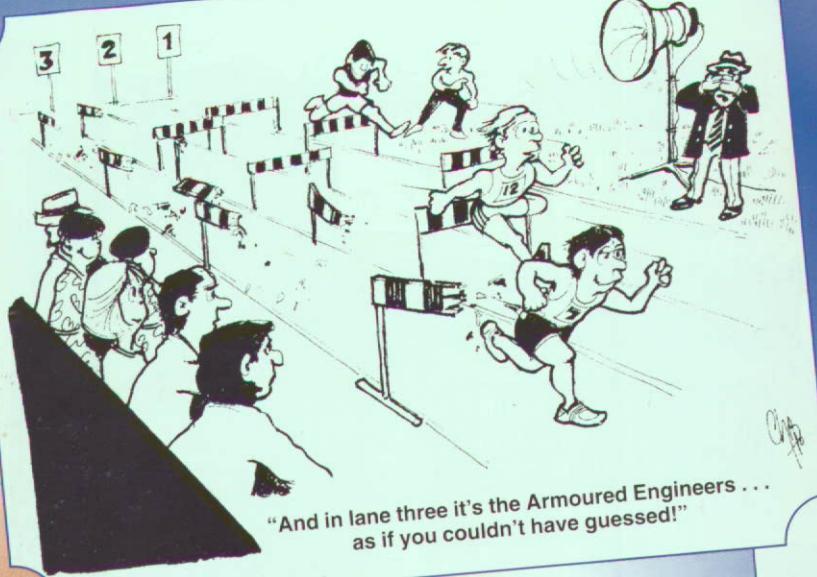
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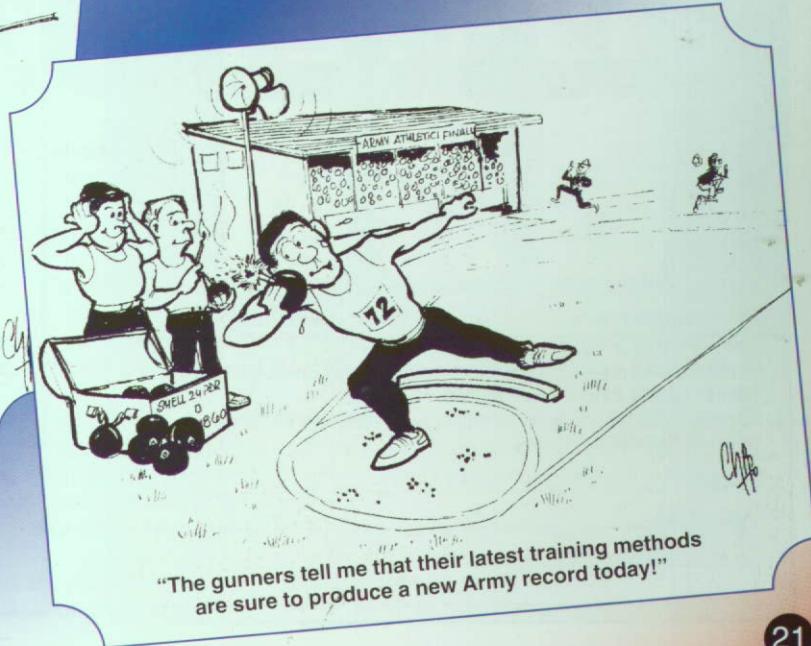
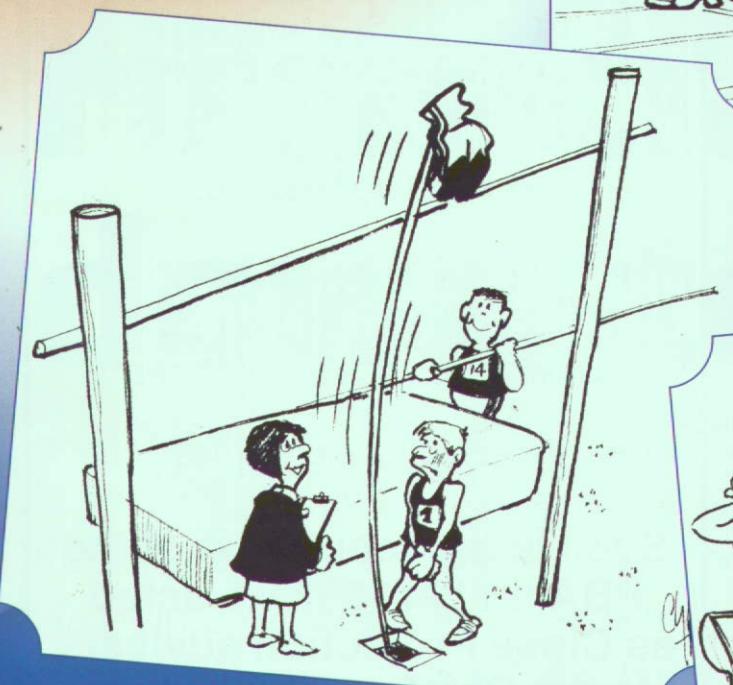
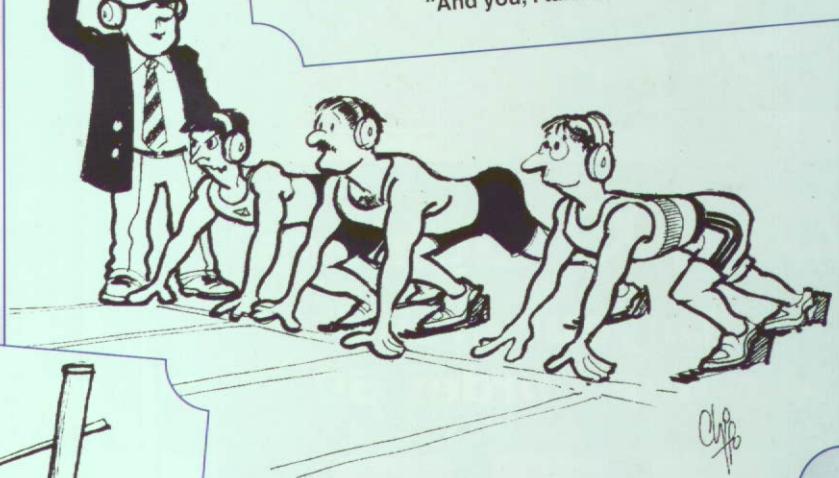
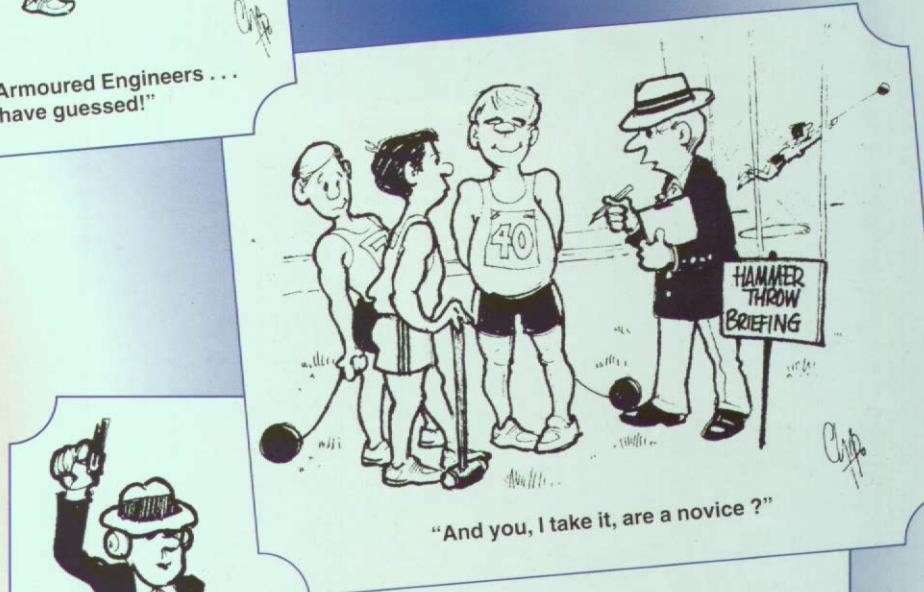
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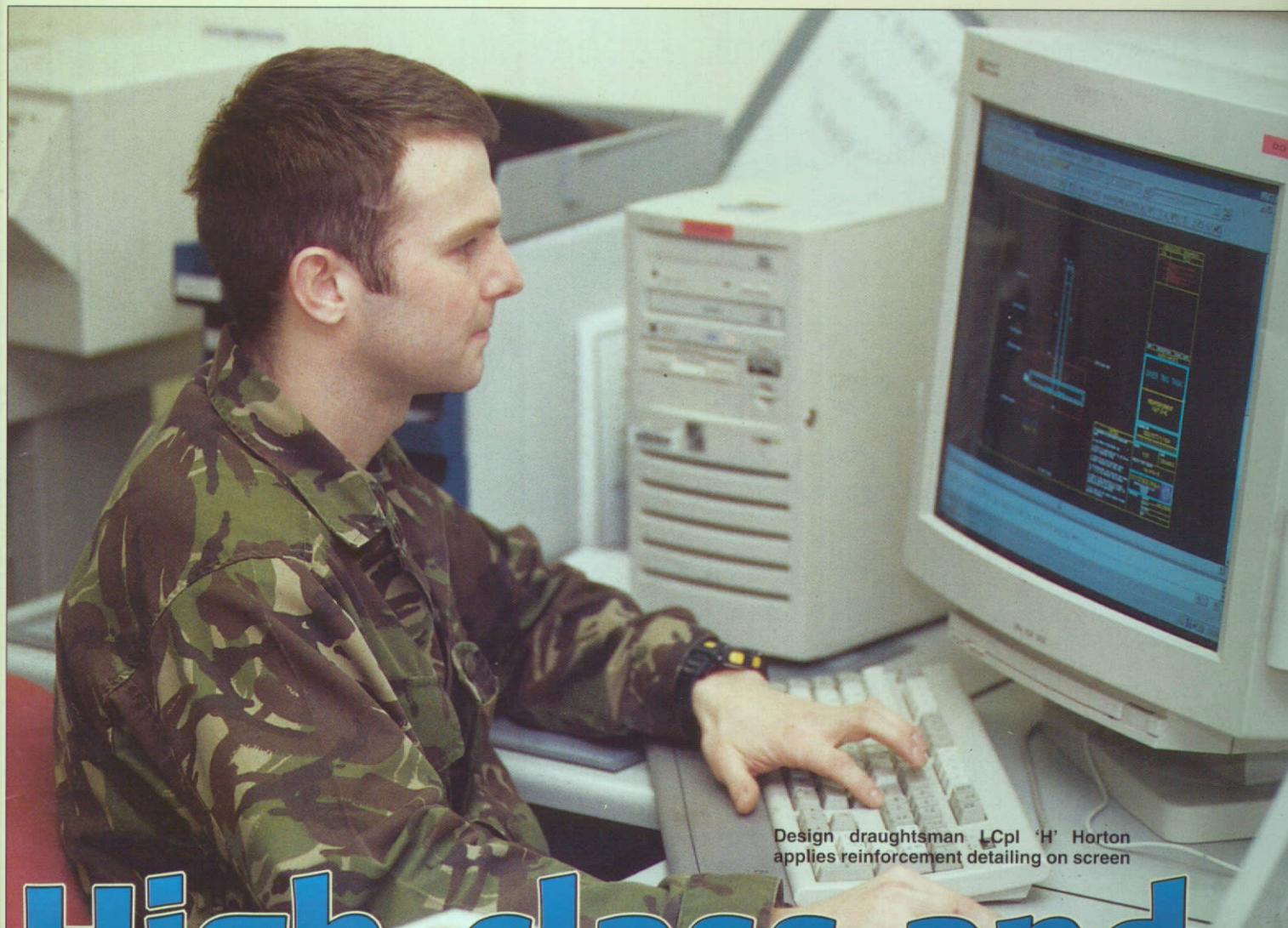
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Such is the reputation of the
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'British expertise at work through the PBA'

Specialist sappers



Design draughtsman LCpl 'H' Horton applies reinforcement detailing on screen

High-class and down-to-earth

A small section from 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln provides the field Army with a high-quality, idea-into-reality building capability

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

SO you want someone to prepare a site for field accommodation in the middle of a Balkan winter, do you? Or maybe test an airfield runway to make sure it's robust enough to take the weight of a fully-loaded trooping flight... or clean up after an oil spill. Who do you turn to?

It's not in Yellow Pages, but we've got the number of a bunch of sappers who could help. They're 552 Specialist Team, part of Hameln-based 28 Engineer Regiment. It might be a small section, but it has a remarkably large capability.

For instance, 552 has the only Army laboratory in Germany for testing construction

materials. The team can run experiments ranging from analysing the acidity of the soil to gauging the strength of concrete.

Excellent, you might say, but what's the use of that?

Maj John Newsome, the officer commanding, recalled work carried out by his troops at Pristina last year for the Royal Air Force.

"We had to ascertain the strength of the airport runway to see what aircraft could land there and what could not," he said. "We quickly discovered that because of weakness in parts of the runway, it would have to be restricted to Hercules operations."

His sappers took core samples of the runway and the ground underneath and tested them in a mobile laboratory.

● Turn to next page

Specialist sappers

Regiment covers a broad spectrum

WHEN it comes to sappers, Hameln's 28 Engineer Regiment is a bit different.

Of the four engineer regiments based in Germany, 28 is the only one attached to a division (the rest are brigade assets).

It also has 412 Troop – the only Territorial Army unit in Germany – which provides 66 soldiers in a regiment of 819, one of the biggest in the Army.

Part of 1 (UK) Armoured Division, 28 Engr Regt looks after river crossings, maintains

roads, railways and minor communications and covers a broad spectrum of activities. Its specialist wide-river crossing capability is provided by 23 Amphibious Squadron's M3 rigs.

In Kosovo the regiment built the Brazza refugee camp and went on to develop what became a home-from-home for 30,000 refugees. The sappers put in tents, sanitation, kitchens, food, water and three hospitals. And they reunited more than 50 displaced families.

pen and ink have gone and the sappers use state-of-the-art technology.

There is a considerable eventual career spin-off for 552's specialists, because the qualifications they acquire are widely recognised outside the Army.

The designers are class-one draughtsmen and have completed two courses to Higher National Certificate (HNC) level. The unit is applying to Bristol University to obtain prior-learning qualifications in the discipline. If it comes off, the soldiers could soon have degrees in AutoCAD, their powerful and sophisticated draughting computer.

With all the clerks of works having HNCs, and the officers recognised as Chartered Civil Engineers, the training spells positive career development.

Sounds good. What was that number?



Night recce: Cpl Des Nicholson looks over his orders in the helipad exercise

Meanwhile... down in the woods

THEY are in a foreign country, friendly to Nato, threatened by a larger neighbour. They are there to build a helipad to support friendly forces.

Specialist reconnaissance and construction training is the name of the game for sappers from 65 Field Park Squadron, part of 28 Engineer Regiment, being put through an exercise at the Sennelager Engineering Training Centre.

Night recce work involved three soldiers in identifying a helicopter landing site, a bridge crossing and transport routes... in the pitch dark. Then they had to write a report and come up with a workable solution by 0400 hours.

Next day, soldiers from the squadron built and guarded the sites.

All in a day's – or night's – work, really.

High-class

From Page 23

While other sapper units excavated quarries and laid down hardcore for temporary barracks, it was 552 Sqn who had to find rock sources suitable for construction.

Maj Newsome's team are called out to do environmental investigations, linking up with a specialist team at Chilwell to monitor the movement of fuel underground in cases of spillage and to set in train methods of removing it from the soil.

As part of 1 (UK) Armoured Division in Germany, the personnel of 552 Sqn are very much the resource specialists.

With a combined drawing office and survey section, they provide a complete surveying, design and construction supervision service.

"We have the capability to go through from scratch on site to get all the information, produce the design, and supervise the construction either by military labour or contractors," explained Maj Newsome. "We even have a resources specialist to purchase materials, so we really can be put down anywhere in the world. And we are also trained in the management of contractors."

Typically, a project starts with a couple of surveyors doing the ground investigation and survey. They work closely with draughtsmen to produce all information needed by the clerk of works to start designing. Sgt Dave Golding, a materials specialist, produces an underground portfolio of information.

Sappers from 552 are also busy in Cyprus to work on a range of construction projects. Closer to home others are surveying the existing tugboat dock on the nearby Weser to improve the facility.

"We have identified solutions and worked out the most cost-effective one, which we can build ourselves," said Maj Newsome. "And we are always aware of the environmental considerations."

"Our work will be done in such a way so as to have the minimum environmental impact on the river and its wildlife."

Much of the team's sophisticated computer kit can be packed up and transported anywhere in the world. The days of

Building bridges

Osnabrück-based 21 Engineer Regiment had a busy time in Kosovo. Now, while some of its bridge-building specialists take a training year, others get ready for a tour to Bosnia

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

WHILE the eyes of the world focused on the televised liberation of Kosovo a year ago as crowds of relieved citizens waved banners, threw flowers and blew kisses at Nato troops, other soldiers quietly and without fuss went about their business.

One such unit was 21 Engineer Regiment, which now finds itself in the position of being able to give most of its soldiers a deserved break from the constant round of tours to the Balkans. They have gone into training mode.

All, that is, except Number 4 Squadron, who face a seven-month tour of Bosnia.

Commanding officer Lt Col Geoff Nield acknowledged that because Bosnia is more benign now than it has been in the past, and with British Army troop levels there being reduced, only a squadron of his men would deploy where once the whole regiment would have gone.

VERY BUSY

"But they will be kept very busy," he was quick to add. "Long gone is the job of reconstructing routes, so there is an increased concentration on the smaller plant tasks. Community projects will be undertaken if there is spare capacity and, of course, the engineers are drawn into that kind of thing."

But it was essential community work that occupied his sappers in Kosovo last year. Utilities – and the infrastructure to run them – had collapsed not so much through air damage, but because of the wholesale withdrawal of large numbers of Serbs who managed most utilities. Their departure created a vacuum which the regimental group filled, providing leader-



Concentrated effort: Two members of the BR 90 bridge team stay focused as they link sections to complete a 32-metre bridge in 25 minutes

ship, direction and support necessary to recommission utilities such as the power stations.

They also started the process of opening up a vast quarry to provide hard-standing for the temporary field accommodation (TFA) being built to house British troops, and – critically – ensuring a reliable water supply to Pristina.

"When we arrived there was a real problem over water, partly because power was inconstant and there was a shortage of chemicals so water could not be chlorinated or cleaned," said Lt Col Nield.

He added: "In the rural areas wells had been polluted with the dead, both human and animal."

A 21 Engr Regt squadron was involved in revitalising the refuse disposal system as well as repatriating bodies from Albania and running the cemeteries.

Now back at Osnabrück, the bridging specialists set about another drill with the calm efficiency that good training and plenty of practice instils. As we watched, a

ten-man team took just 25 minutes to complete a single-span 32-metre bridge.

There were no injuries, something a slick team can be proud of when moving heavy kit at speed.

"Although injuries don't happen often, crushed hands are the biggest danger," explained Sgt Pete Brewster, 7 HQ Sqn. "A brief loss of concentration and a mistake happens. You have to stay focused."

RESPONSIBILITY

"There's a big responsibility on the commander. Although he is in charge of the whole operation, including safety, he has to trust the lads to know their jobs.

There is a lot going on and a lot to think about. If someone doesn't do their job properly, then accidents can happen."

Other teams specialise in the longer bridging distances, involving two spans and more.

Checking bridges already in situ was one of the tasks entrusted to the regiment across all of Kosovo as Nato moved in,

but although it took bridge-building equipment to the country, it was not used.

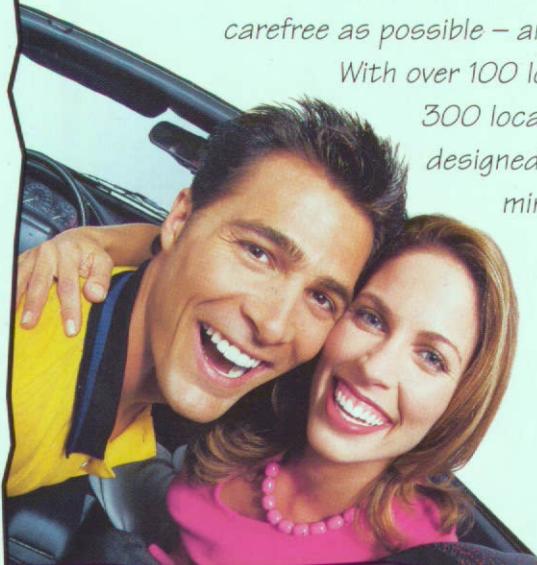
Sgt Bob Newbiggin said: "We went as a recce group and we checked the capabilities of existing bridges, making sure they were safe. There was no big drama, just the odd mine at the side of the road."

The regiment, which had a role at the Brazza refugee camp, protecting the refugees, distributing food and locating water supplies until the aid agencies arrived, can look back on their efforts in Kosovo with pride.

These tough-looking soldiers look for all the world as if they have hearts of stone, until one of them says: "We got a sense of achievement knowing that we had made a difference in these people's lives, and that made it all worth while."

They may feel their work sometimes goes unnoticed and unappreciated, but civilians and Nato personnel alike in Kosovo would certainly have felt the difference if the Royal Engineers had not been there.

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Add-on butt turns sappers' bolt gun into industry star

SAPPERS serving in the Balkans could have patched up four times more trashed houses in the same time with a simple innovation in explosive bolt guns.

That's the Army's estimate after a Defence Procurement Agency project team fixed a shoulder butt to a standard civilian Hilti bolt gun and upped its performance by more than 50 per cent.

Bolt guns are used by the Royal Engineers to fix demolition charges to solid structures such as bridges and as a useful general-purpose construction tool.

The current Sterling automatic bolt gun has been in service for 20 years and

was coming to the end of its useful life, so the DPA team, led by Maj George Maginnis, looked to the civilian market for a replacement.

Most off-the-shelf systems didn't quite match the military requirement because Royal Engineers are likely to find themselves fixing bolts into stronger, more mature concrete than is normal in industry, and doing so while hanging from a harness at night or even under fire.

The effect of attaching the shoulder butt to the Hilti DXA-41, reckoned to be the closest bolt gun to the sappers' needs, made the entire tool more reliable. It could also be used single-handed.

One in three bolts fired into high-strength concrete with the Army's Sterling system bounced back, but the addition of the butt and steadier grip reduced that to one in five. In lower-strength concrete the success rate was nearly 100 per cent.

Sapper units were due to take delivery of 130 of the new bolt gun units while Hilti is considering a civilian version of the military improvement.

- A civil variant of the Anglo-Italian EH101 helicopter, which is being considered by the MoD for the Support Amphibious Battlefield Rotorcraft (SABR) project, flew a 945-nautical mile (that's London to Helsinki, non-stop) simulated search-and-rescue mission of more than eight hours.

- In-service dates for the Armoured Battlefield Support Vehicle (ABSV) and an Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) upgrade to the existing Warrior have been brought forward to about 2009, an advance of up to four years. Deliveries would begin in 2008.



Shoulder charge: Hilti bolt gun with butt

Learn how to read a map on screen

HOW'S your map-reading? Not so hot? Never mind, help is on the way from a new self-teach land navigation CD-ROM Ordinance Survey entitled *Interactive Map Explorer*.

Don't confuse this with those CD-ROMs of maps for working out your own route to Auntie Mabel's – this is a learning package, designed to teach you how to look after and read maps, navigate with a compass, work out where you are from the features around you, plot a course by compass bearing and use satellite navi-

gation aids. It opens quickly on a PC – although the office Apple Macintosh system was more of a challenge – and takes you step-by-step through the different stages of competency.

Don't be fooled by the opening pages – it begins with lessons on how to fold a map and other basic info – into thinking this is kids' stuff. It gets a lot more complicated than that.

It retails for £29.95, but look out for a special reader offer in next month's *Soldier* and save yourself £5.

This gizmo will give you the eyes of an owl

WE'VE got a great give-away to, well, give away. It's an Owl Scope, marketed by BCB International and worth £199 in anyone's money (similar military kit can cost three times as much).

The hand-sized night vision aid intensi-



fies minute amounts of light – star- or moonlight does the trick – to enable the user to get a fair idea of the lie of the land and who might be lurking there.

Just the thing if you're out on Salisbury Plain in the middle of the night and you need to know if that rustling in the undergrowth is being made by one of your mates or a stray wildebeest.

It also features an infra-red illuminator allows you to see in absolute darkness (we know it works because we tried it out in the pitch black of our photographic darkroom).

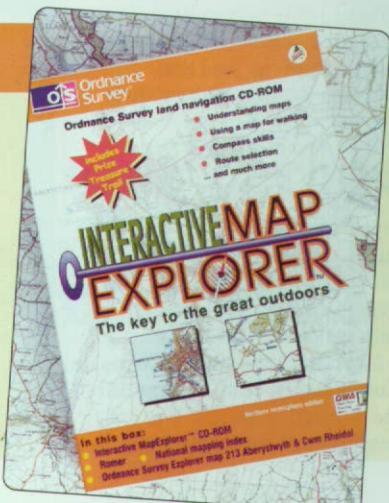
About 11x7x6cm and weighing just 300gm, the scope comes with instructions and a carrying case. It is powered by two AAA-type batteries.

To have a chance of winning the Owl Scope, tell us on a postcard or sealed envelope which planet is closest to the sun.

a, Moon; b, Mercury; c, Venus

Address your postcard to Owl Scope Competition at *Soldier*, to reach us by June 30. Usual rules apply.

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'We will never, never forget'

More than 1,000 British Servicemen died in the Korean War, which began 50 years ago this month. We joined veterans paying tribute to their fallen colleagues

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

ROBERT Threadgold's tears blended with the rain as he stood in a thunderstorm before the grave of his closest friend.

He was recalling the day he had carried Jim Eggert of the Durham Light Infantry from the battlefield after his comrade received a mortal wound. With dignity and a great sense of loss, he said quietly: "We were both 19 years old.

"Now I'm an old man, but he is still 19."

It was a war neither understood, and Robert, now in his late sixties, was sharing similar memories with 40 or so British Korean War veterans, many visiting the country for the first time since the 1950s.

But the feeling of despair 50 years ago, so vividly recalled, is eased today by the still grateful people of South Korea. Although the war may have been forgotten by many in Britain, in that corner of Asia it will always be remembered.

Remembered by men like Brig C J Ahn of the Republic of Korea Army. In an emotional speech he told the veterans at a dinner in their honour: "All Korean people will never forget your bravery.

"During the war I was only seven years old. I watched and I saw death. There were so many children on the streets, hungry. Without your help we couldn't survive.

"You fought against North Korea for us in the name of the United Nations. We will never, never forget that. God



Robert Threadgold



Grief of a mother, 92

Harry Minards, pictured left, formerly of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, added a poignant dimension to the remembrance tour when he visited a grave on behalf of a grieving mother.

"A lady of 92 lost a son who is buried here," said Harry. "She desperately wanted to come but is too frail. She asked me to lay a cross on her son's grave and say a prayer. I was proud to do so."



Kapyong: Drum Major Dylan Treacy, 1 RGBW, sounds the *Last Post* at the Commonwealth Memorial

the UK, lie in immaculately maintained grounds. Many Veterans fought hard to contain their emotions as the Rev Daniel Connolly conducted a moving service in the small memorial hall.

Then the former Servicemen, many with their families, paced along the well-tended rows of graves in a solemn search for the never-to-be-forgotten names of fallen comrades.

The skies had opened but the old soldiers had waited so long and come so far that not even this downpour of monsoon proportions was going to stop their graveside vigils.

As the week went on, the veterans never shirked an opportunity to do their old comrades-in-arms proud. Heads held high, the British contingent marched smartly at remembrance services honouring the dead from other nations – from the Commonwealth at the Kapyong memorial; from Australia and New Zealand at Mokdong-ri; from Canada at Naechon; from South Korea in Seoul.

Finally, they gathered at the British Monument commemorating the Solma-ri Combat – better known as the Gloucester Memorial – to pay their respects to their own countrymen.

From there, accompanied by the ambassador and his wife, Pam, they set off on a battlefield tour led by British Defence Attaché Brig John Baker, who recounted to a hushed audience the course of the Battle of the Imjin River, fought heroically between April 22 and 25, 1951.

IF you passed Derek Kinne in the high street, you would probably not give him a second glance. Yet 50 years ago this amiable man became such a thorn in the side of the enemy after he was captured that he was awarded the George Cross.

Derek went back to Panmunjom this year and as he looked at the Bridge of No Return he recalled the day he crossed it. "I was stark naked," he said.

It was August 10, 1953 and Derek had thrown away his ragged clothing in a final gesture of contempt towards his Chinese captors.

Fusilier Derek Kinne, of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, a volunteer for Korea, was taken prisoner at the Imjin River in April 1951. He was to endure more than two years of suffering, repeated beatings, starvation, torture and solitary confinement.

Within a day of his capture he escaped, only to be retaken before enduring a month-long march to the prison camp.

He was beaten for not informing on another PoW and beaten again for striking a Chinese officer. Strung up with a slip noose around his neck, he had to stand on tip toe for hour after hour to avoid throttling himself. He escaped again, was caught and severely beaten, then put in tight-fitting handcuffs for 81 days. He was accused of having a hostile attitude and spent five days in a box cell, sitting to attention.

On another occasion he was forced to stand to attention for several hours during which time he was beaten with a rifle butt. The gun went off and killed the guard commander, an accident for which

Unbroken spirit of a defiant man



Memories: Derek Kinne, inset, and the Bridge of No Return, which he crossed naked and defiant to the end



Derek was beaten senseless before spending a month naked in a hole.

Accused of being a reactionary, he was sentenced to 12 months' solitary detention, raised to 18 months when he complained of a lack of medical attention.

In June 1953 he defied prisoner orders and wore a rosette for Coronation Day, for which he received more solitary confinement.

When he was eventually sent home,

Derek Kinne couldn't believe he was free. On his first night back at home he wandered in a confused state down the road checking doors. The police threw him in the cells for acting suspiciously. "I went berserk," he recalled.

Today Derek lives in America. He wept when he saw the names of old comrades on the memorial in the UN Cemetery at Pusan comrades who have no grave. He, for one, will never forget the Korean War.



Ambassador honours returning heroes

VETERANS in Korea were greeted warmly by the British Ambassador in Seoul, Sir Stephen Brown, formerly of the Royal Artillery, and his wife Pam, both pictured here.

In a tribute, Sir Stephen said: "When many of you left, this city and country was destroyed, there was hardly a building over two stories. You come back today and you see the world's 12th largest economy, a country where the

values that we support, such as democracy and human rights, are well embedded.

"Your contribution and what you did has given me a tremendous base upon which to work with the Koreans and the South Korean government.

"We thank you every day for what you have done because the Koreans do not forget your contribution."

Next issue: A visit to Panmunjom and more pictures of the 50th anniversary commemorations

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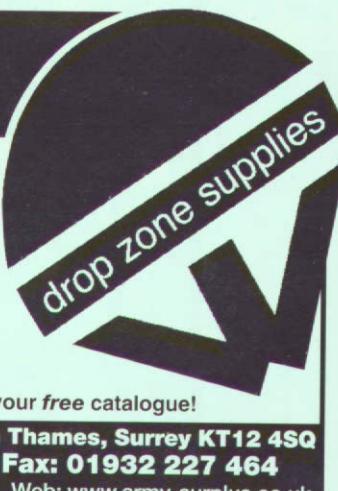
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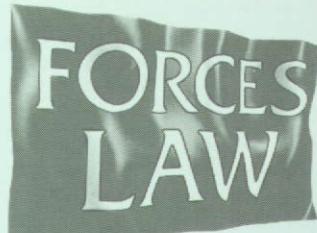
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Fine art – fine artist

A former National Serviceman has built up a formidable reputation for his beautifully accurate paintings of soldiers wearing the splendidly colourful uniforms of long ago

FORMER Carabinier Malcolm Greensmith enjoys an enviable reputation as one of Britain's foremost military artists, writes Ray Routledge.

This quietly-spoken man from Rutland has carved a niche for himself in a demanding marketplace. He specialises in painting historic military uniforms and has also turned his talents to portraiture on plates, coasters, place-mats and a variety of tasteful tableware.

Malcolm has worked extensively with the National Army Museum and Imperial War Museum as well as companies such as Wedgwood and Royal Worcester.

"Back in the 1950s I had just finished art college when it was time for National Service so I joined the Carabiniers [later to amalgamate with the Greys to form the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards]," he explained. "Because I was a trained artist I was chosen for portrait work during service at Osnabruck and Catterick."

His talent for portraiture is only half the story, as research plays an important part in his work.

Malcolm Greensmith's detailed paintings are painstakingly accurate. Examples include a soldier of The Suffolk Regiment at the time of the American War of Independence, soldiers of the 21st Lancers in walking-out dress after the Battle of Omdurman, and The Cape Mounted Rifles as they would have ap-

peared at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

One of his best-known paintings is the "Railway Sleeper", a humorous, instantly recognisable image of a soldier travelling in the 1950s. It is currently on exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

Each of his paintings takes up to four weeks to complete, not counting the time he spends on research. Faces, he said, are the tricky element. "If you look at a portrait, the face is almost certainly the first thing you see," he said.

"If you put a modern face on someone of the Victorian era, for example, it doesn't look right. I try to build a face that fits the period."

"Sometimes I break the rules by painting the face in its entirety in the first place because if I don't get that right, there is no point in continuing with the rest of the uniform."

Malcolm has never been tempted to part with his 300 originals. He makes a living by selling the copyright. With his work reproduced on a variety of products, he gets involved in every aspect of production and commissioning. His paint-

DARLINGTON

TRAIN DEPARTURES



Remember when: The picture "Railway Sleeper" portrays an attitude all too familiar to generations of travel-weary soldiers

ings appear on plates, tankards, place-mats and greetings cards.

While specialising in British Army uniforms, this former National Service cavalryman has turned his attention to the American market.

Birmingham-based Firmin and Son, who supplied both Union and Confederate armies with buttons during the American Civil War, recently presented President Clinton with a collection of civil war buttons. The company still has the original dies. Malcolm provided portraits of the warring soldiers.

"I am negotiating in America to use the painting as a fine-art print and to insert buttons along the bottom of it for the US market," he said.

Although he is a long-serving member of the Fine Art Trade Guild, it is as a portrait painter that Malcolm's high reputation rests. His real love is painting soldiers.

• Malcolm Greensmith can be contacted at Gemini Prints: fax no 01572 823838.

American Civil War.

Put your answer on a postcard or sealed envelope marked "Greensmith print" to reach us by May 31. Usual rules apply.



In his finery: A lieutenant of the 10th Hussars about 1890

• If you would like to win a Malcolm Greensmith print, tell us the name of the company which made the uniform buttons for Union and Confederate soldiers during the

Runaway winner

He was held prisoner by the Khmer Rouge and suffered horrific injuries in a landmine incident. His physical fitness and Army training were the keys to his survival. The courage of this former Royal Military Policeman inspires all those who encounter him

Interview: Ray Routledge
Main picture: Mike Weston

WATCHING Chris Moon playing in the garden with his young son, you could be forgiven for not immediately noticing that the lower half of his right leg is artificial.

Greet him with a handshake and you are confronted with a steel hook. He lost both limbs in a landmine incident in Mozambique in 1995.

He came close enough to death, he says, to smell its ghastly breath... not for the first time. Two years earlier, this young man from Wiltshire had been held prisoner by the Khmer Rouge, the most feared and ruthless guerrilla movement in south-east Asia, if not the world.

Commissioned into the Royal Military Police, Chris spent three years in Northern Ireland attached to The Green Howards before leaving the Army in the early 1990s.

CHARITY WORK

"I stayed in the Territorial Army and got a good job with a finance company but I didn't particularly enjoy the world of business," he recalled. "I wanted to do some kind of charity work."

Typically, it was dangerous. He joined the Halo Trust, a charity specialising in the removal of war debris – including mines.

"It was all about using military skills for humanitarian purposes," he said.

After specialist training from an Army EOD officer, Chris found himself in Cambodia, supervising and training local people in mine clearance.

Then came capture. It was June 1993, and the Khmer Rouge was still a force to be reckoned with. The killing fields in that corner of Asia and the horrors they spawned were still fresh in the memory.

"We had guarantees of security but the Khmer Rouge sent a group of special

Stepping out: A glutton for punishment, Chris paces himself in the Sahara, right, before completing a gruelling run in Death Valley

Danger UXB: Before the bang and Chris examines some deadly relics of war, below



MOON-BEAMS ...

'One thing I am grateful to the Army for is the development of the military sense of humour... an essential piece of equipment for any challenging situation'

'I have never asked the question: Why me? That is a loser's attitude. What happened, happened'

'Things only get better if people make an effort'

forces soldiers to kidnap me, my driver, and interpreter," said Chris.

"I remember thinking it was a very good ambush. They were really aggressive; they intimidated everyone. Put a finger wrong and they would kill you.

"We were taken into their territory and they accused me of being a foreign military spy. All this sounds like the plot of a bad film."

Chris says his military training enabled the three captives to survive.

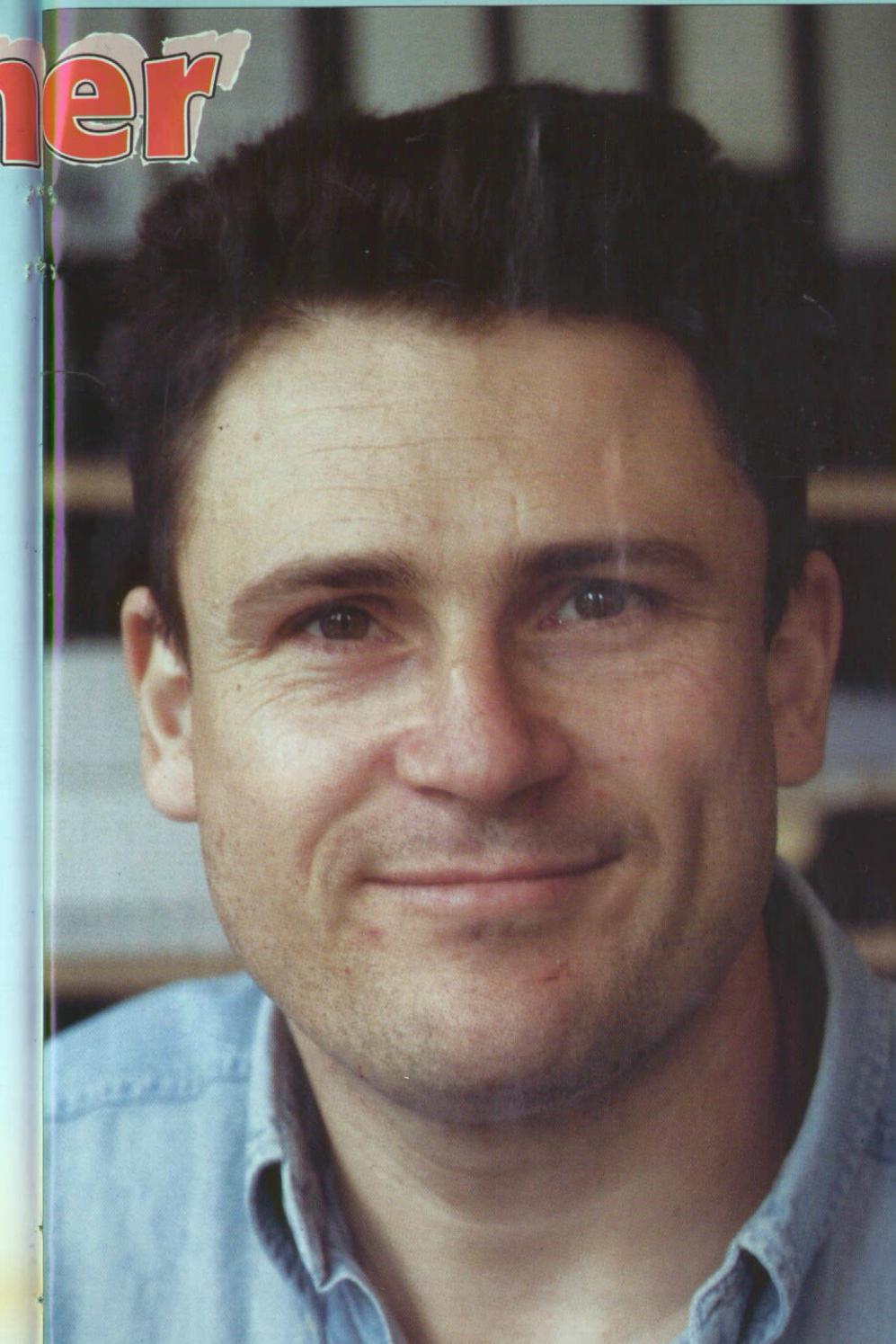
"It was a huge advantage and opera-

tional maturity gave me confidence. The Army teaches you not to flap – had I done so I am sure we would have been killed."

Lucky to survive, he and his men managed to escape through the jungle. Chris and the interpreter remain the best of friends to this day.

BLOWN UP

Fast-forward to Mozambique, March 7, 1995. Chris had been working in the country for two months when he stepped on a mine in a supposedly "cleared area".



Inspiration: Chris Moon has a positive outlook on life despite his injuries

"I am still surprised that I was blown up," he said. "I am embarrassed about it."

"I was lucky to live. It was all those basic things that the Army teaches you that keep you alive, like being fit and understanding first aid. The only reason I had no internal or head injuries was because I had my body armour, my visor and my safety glasses on."

Chris was caught in a huge blast. The South African surgeon who operated on him in Johannesburg said that, based on the evidence left in the stump of his leg, providing false limbs in Vietnam.

the device contained at least 240gm of TNT. His fighting spirit came to the fore and with it his determination not to let his dreadful disabilities become a handicap.

Amazingly, he started to run again, and just a year after leaving hospital completed the London Marathon, raising funds for mine victims in Cambodia.

Chris gained a Masters degree in security management and then completed the 250km Great Sahara Run, helping to raise £100,000 for a Red Cross centre

WIN THE BOOK

We have an autographed copy of Chris Moon's autobiographical book, *One Step Beyond* (Macmillan, £16.99) to award as a prize for a lucky reader. Simply answer the following question and send your answer to *Soldier* to arrive by June 30:

With which charity was Chris Moon working when he was captured by the Khmer Rouge?

First correct answer out of the hat wins. Mark your postcard or sealed envelope competition rules apply.

Next was a 200km run in four days with the Australian Army, all the while raising money and awareness of mine victims. In May 1999, he ran the length of Cambodia, all of 700km in 16 days. Last July he became the first amputee to complete the Badwater Death Valley Ultra-Marathon in the USA, completing 136 miles in 53 hours.

"It is an extraordinary event because it takes place in temperatures Delia Smith recommends to slow-cook a chicken," he says with a smile.

"For me, the focus is on the practicalities of what I can do for people who are disabled. From the things that I have seen in Africa and Asia, I would define disability as someone who is not as well equipped as others in their society to get through life. That could be as a result of illness or poverty – they are hugely disabling things."

"Someone who has had no education and is unable ever to have a hope of working is equally as disabled as someone who is physically handicapped."

SPEAKER

Today, between all his fund-raising work, Chris makes a living speaking at corporate events on change management and motivation.

And he is planning his next expedition – taking a group of disabled people up Kenya's Mt Kilimanjaro.

Chris says he got a huge amount out of being in the Army. "Perhaps I didn't realise it until afterwards, but people are to a certain extent the product of their training."

"Things don't happen unless someone makes them happen. For example, when I go to Kilimanjaro, I will write an op order of basic procedures for getting things done. It's prior preparation, planning and approach that prevents poor performance. All of things these are just part of everything I do and I don't notice that I do it."

"And that is thanks to the Army."

WIN! A VIP NIGHT OUT AT KEMPTON PARK

Gala Evening returns to Kempton Park on June 28, 2000 and **SOLDIER Magazine** has teamed up with Kempton to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a VIP night out. The winner will receive a pair of Premier Enclosure badges, a bottle of champagne and a £10 betting voucher.

Gala Evening at Kempton is a cross between Last Night of the Proms and the The Royal Tournament, featuring live music from the Scots Guards and a magnificent gun display. This year the Red Devils will be performing as well as a musical ride from the Household Cavalry. Other regiments on show include the King's Troop, RHA, the band of the Welsh Guards and the Pipes and Drums of the Scots Guards. The evening will be rounded off by a fireworks display in time to the 1812 Overture. As well as this array of military entertainment, there is also a competitive racecard with seven races for racegoers to mull over.



For your chance to win this fabulous night out simply answer the following question:

CAN YOU NAME TWO REGIMENTS WHO WILL BE PERFORMING ON GALA NIGHT AT KEMPTON PARK?

Send your answer on a postcard quoting 'Soldier' to Johnno Spence, Craigie Taylor, Albury House, The Street, Albury, Guildford, Surrey GU5 9AE to arrive no later than June 16, 2000.

Tickets start from £17 for the Premier Enclosure, £13 for the Grandstand and £6 for the Park.

In order to book your tickets in advance call **01372 47 00 47**.

MONUMENTS

TO

COURAGE

VICTORIA CROSS
HEADSTONES & MEMORIALS



VOLUME ONE

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From Westminster to Wapping

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

Desert jabs clue to Gulf illnesses

RESEARCH supporting the theory that multiple vaccinations given in the desert may be a cause of Gulf War-related illnesses is being studied by the Ministry of Defence.

Meanwhile, the Royal British Legion has again demanded a public inquiry into the illnesses – and the all-party Defence Committee has called for more to be done urgently for sick veterans' welfare.

The latest study by the Gulf War Research unit at King's College, London suggests that the effect of a vaccine "cocktail", combined with battlefield stress, may explain why those vaccinated before deploying are in better health than those who were given their jabs in theatre.

The MoD called the stress factor "no more than a hypothesis" but generally welcomed the detailed analysis, saying it agreed with the unit's suggestion that as far as possible immunisations should take place well before deployments.

It added that a programme of voluntary immunisation against anthrax for personnel due to deploy to the Gulf would start again when new supplies of the vaccine were available.

John Nichol, president of the Gulf War veterans' branch of the Royal British Legion, said: "We feel a public inquiry would allow the government to respond and renew the trust successive governments have lost among veterans and today's armed forces."

In its April report the Commons Defence Committee said the Government had done much to meet its "debt of honour" to the veterans. "However, it may be necessary now to accept that precise causes may never be found and to focus attention instead on



improving the current circumstances of ill Gulf veterans."

● A separate report published on May 18 concluded that United Kingdom troops were not exposed to biological warfare agents during the Gulf conflict.

Other points from Parliament:

Empty quarters cost £39m: Sir John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, reported to Parliament on April 27 that a reduction in the number of vacant defence houses from 23 per cent to 13 per cent of the total would save £17m a year. He said the present vacancies cost £39m a year in rent and maintenance.

Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie pledged to continue improvements in management of Service family quarters and to reduce the number of empty properties. Of the 14,400 vacant properties referred to in the report, he said, only 4,450 had no early planned defence use.

The MoD provides 63,000 family quarters in Great Britain, 53,000 of which are owned by

Army divorces below average

FIGURES given to Parliament suggest the Army divorce rate is lower than the national average.

In 1998-99, there were 1,135 Army divorces, compared with a Service married strength of 57,744 – a percentage of two per cent.

National divorce statistics for the married population between the ages of 20 and 34 – broadly comparable with the average age of married service personnel – show an annual divorce rate of about three per cent.

Annington Homes Ltd and leased back to the department.

Aldershot study: Defence Minister Baroness Symons told the Lords on May 18 there are no current plans to sell any Army estate in Aldershot Garrison. But a study under way to explore the possibility of redeveloping the garrison through a Public Private Partnership project could identify surplus land. The feasibility stage of the study is due to report at the end of the year.

Move to ban under-18s: A Private Members' Bill by Labour MP Paul Stinchcombe to prohibit the recruitment of under-18s into the Regular forces had its first reading in the Commons on May 17.

National Service medal: Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes presented a 10,000-signature petition to Parliament on March 11 calling for a medal and a national monument for 2.2 million people conscripted after the Second World War.

Pensions defeat: A Government defeat in the Lords on May 22 could mean that war widows who remarry will be allowed to keep their Service pensions. Social Security minister Baroness Hollis had urged peers to wait for publication of Ministry of Defence pensions review, due in June.

PoW compensation: Prime Minister Tony Blair said that following a meeting with the Royal British Legion he would examine the case for one-off payments to 7,000 "immensely brave" former Far East prisoners-of-war.

Nuke test claims: British Nuclear Test veterans have brought 144 claims for compensation, although none have been settled.

evacuate British citizens and other Europeans from Zimbabwe if the crisis worsens. – *Guardian*

● Injured servicemen and women will be compensated with a one-off lump-sum rather than automatically receiving a pension under MoD proposals to be announced shortly. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Britain's animal rights record was criticised after the MoD disclosed that training military surgeons on deliberately-wounded pigs was to restart. – *Daily Express*

● Former cavalry officer James Hewitt admitted in a TV interview that he had let the Army down by having an affair with Diana, Princess of Wales. – *Daily Telegraph*



● More Britons than ever are joining the French Foreign Legion, attracted by an official website providing information in English. Of 1,300 men accepted for training every year, 300 are British. – *Express*

● The British Government denied reports circulating in Germany that it had plans in place for a military rapid-response force to



Surfers' paradise: Fun in the Falklands

Opportunities keep knocking

ONE thing that puzzles Brig Geoff Sheldon, commander of British forces in the Falkland Islands, is why some people's eyes glaze over when they find out they are being posted to the South Atlantic.

"I think it is extraordinary that after so many years it has an indifferent reputation," he said. "I can't quite understand how it has developed."

"For me this is the best job I could be doing in the Army. I am in the lucky position of running it and having my family with me."

"The aim I gave people when I came down here was that we should be a capable, confident and happy joint force. So long as you do the job operationally there are wonderful opportunities that people should extract from their six-month tour."

WILDLIFE

"As I go around I try to encourage people to take advantage of the very good recreational facilities on the base and the opportunities to see wildlife and the beautiful islands."

Soldiers, sailors and airmen are always busy in the South Atlantic, with plenty of worthwhile work to go around. "Very much the thrust of what I am saying to people is, 'If we don't need you, we will send you home'."

Brig Sheldon advises soldiers to get to know what their colleagues from the other Services are doing.

"It may be old hat to say, but perfectly true, if you can get a ride in a Tornado or a C130 or go to sea with the Royal Navy, it is fantastic fun."

14 ways to make the most of the Falklands – see Page 38



E-blueys:
Pte Kirsty
Palmer,
RLC

Cross lines over phone charges

Opinion is divided over costly calls to home and family as MoD presses for further price reductions

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

WHEN Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon visited the Falklands recently, there was one burning issue.

Soldiers wanted to know if he was going to do something about the price of phoning home.

A £10 phone card, bought from behind the bar at the Mount Pleasant Complex, costs £9. It's good for about ten minutes.

For most soldiers phoning is the main way of keeping in touch with loved ones in the UK. At these prices it puts a real strain on finances and relationships.

There are alternatives. One of the most popular is the electronic bluey service. British Forces Post Offices operate a system where friends and family e-mail the BFPO, which in turn prints an e-bluey, a modern version of a telegram.

It is completely automatic and no one, not even the post office staff, can read it.

CYBER CAFE

E-mail and internet services are also available at Weaver's Cyber Café in The Village, which provides excellent facilities, but there are nowhere near enough terminals to cope with demand.

Most soldiers serving in the Falklands have strong opinions on the issue.

During his tour, Cpl Robert Dryden, 202 Signal Squadron 3 (UK) Div, is keeping in touch by e-mail and letter.

"I think the telephone charges are ridiculous," he said. "They should give us a free telephone card. They do in Bosnia, and the Falklands are further away."

Cpl Tracey Roscoe, AGC (RMP), said: "Their reason for not allowing free calls is that conditions here are better. But you are still away from family."

Not everyone agreed. Cpl Jill Ewing, AGC, said: "I don't think we should get



Away from
her family:
Cpl Tracey
Roscoe

free telephone calls, but I think we should get a reduction on the cost."

And Cpl Shaun Nixon, 460 Port Troop, RLC, said: "There are other things the MoD could be spending money on than free phone calls. Why should the taxpayer have to foot the bill for that?"

The MoD has been working on the Falklands-UK phone cost for some time, but it is not as simple as it appears.

The Falkland Islands telephone system is operated by Cable and Wireless, which has a contract for all non-military communications on the islands. This has been good news for the islanders, every one of whom has had a telephone installed, and the cost of calls has been kept down.

But as Wing-Cdr Steve Murkin, who works for the MoD on welfare issues, said: "For those phoning overseas the situation has not been so rosy, and until recently call charges to the UK were £1.25 per minute."

"Following representations from MoD this was reduced to 88p per minute during the week and 76p per minute at

weekends, and we continue to press for further reductions. However, there is a limit to how far C&W can go, bearing in mind the local infrastructure they are contracted to support. People serving in the

Falklands are not entitled to the free 20-minute Welfare Telephone Allowance (WTA) which is paid only to those on expeditionary operations overseas.

"Instead, as in all our garrison locations worldwide, personnel in the Falklands are paid a Local Overseas Allowance which includes an element for the cost of making telephone calls home and is reviewed regularly."

Wing-Cdr Murkin added that in recognition of the importance of welfare issues on morale, unaccompanied and single personnel receive free food and accommodation and all personnel are given free blueys, e-blueys, newspapers, books and videos. They also benefit from the services of Naafi and BFBS and most of them qualify for Long Service Separation Allowance.



Relishing the Falklands: Back, from left, Pte Christopher Scott and Pte Thomas Campbell; front, from left to right, Pte Ivan Kent, Pte Robert Lockhart and Pte John Baird

Perfect weather for infantrymen

IT must have been a shock to the system for the King's Own Scottish Borderers to give up the sunshine of Cyprus for the windswept Falklands.

But the lads from the Roulement Infantry Company wouldn't have it any other way.

With the rest of the regiment based in Salamanca Barracks, Episkopi, the rifle company is glad of the chance to man-pack five days' rations, along with bivvy kit, radios and batteries, and tab across the wild South Atlantic landscape.

The RIC divides its time between classroom training, live-firing range

work and patrols and Maj Doug Bell, RM, attached to KOSB, is not surprised the soldiers relish the posting.

"Training for the infantry here is unique," he said. "The ammunition available is seemingly endless, and Onion Range, at 130 sq km, is huge and not used by anyone else."

The tour offers great opportunities to develop leadership skills for junior commanders.

"The guys come out here and train very specifically. It is a rare privilege. Probably something they will never experience again."

Beef up your CV

"What surprises soldiers is that so much of the management theory they already do on a day-to-day basis.

"They know how to get the best out of people and how to motivate.

"Civilians would pay a fortune to learn what for most people in the Army comes naturally."



Capt Andrea
Walshaw

14 ways to do yourself a favour on THAT posting

Forget the cutting remarks. The South Atlantic is full of opportunities – so why not take them?

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

BRITISH forces serve from Canada to Kuwait and from Bosnia to Bahrain. All these postings have their pluses and minuses, but few provoke such strong reactions as the Falkland Islands.

Tell your mates that you are being posted to the South Atlantic for six months and you tend to get one of two reactions – and very little in between.

Usually the guys who grumble that there is nothing to do there are the ones who have never been. In truth, the islands are teeming with opportunities, and you won't find all of them in the tourist guides.

Soldier presents an alternative cut-out-and-keep guide of things to do in the Falklands.

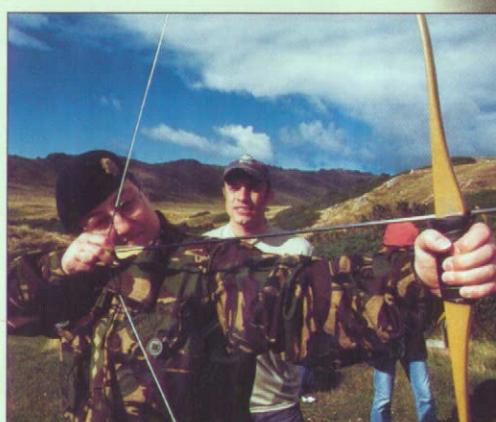
● **Get a vasectomy.** Falklands consultant surgeon Lt Col John Allen explained that many soldiers who marry young and have a family are ready for the "snip" by their early 30s.

"A lot of guys come down here keen to get it done because if they are in the UK and decide to get sterilised, by the time they have seen the medical officer, been referred to hospital, seen a consultant and been put on a waiting list, they might be posted overseas or on exercise."

"When they come down here they think it is a tremendous opportunity to get it done. The biggest operation I do on soldiers is a vasectomy."

● **Give your mate a haircut.** Another "snip", with a difference. Owing to a chronic shortage of barbers – you can wait weeks for an appointment – soldiers ask a trusted friend to give them a very short back and sides.

And if he bodes it, why



Another string: Capt Abie Fairbairn, RLC takes aim on the Shag Cove archery range



Saddle-sore: R&R riders, right, stop for a while to admire the scenery at Swan Inlet



worry? It's not as if you're going to pull...

● **Get fit.** There are a lot of people walking around Mount Pleasant who make Schwarzenegger look anorexic.

Gym facilities at the sports complex are outstanding and present the opportunity to get fitter than you have ever been in your life.

Exercise bikes, and running and rowing machines are busy from early until late, with troops burning up imaginary miles. There are also plenty of excellent fitness classes and an indoor swimming pool.

● **Go for a bimble.** Falklands-speak for taking a walk. The islands offer some of the most beautiful, unspoilt landscapes anywhere.

Take along a bimble box (picnic lunch) and enjoy the splendid isolation.

● **P-peak at the penguins.** There is no better place to

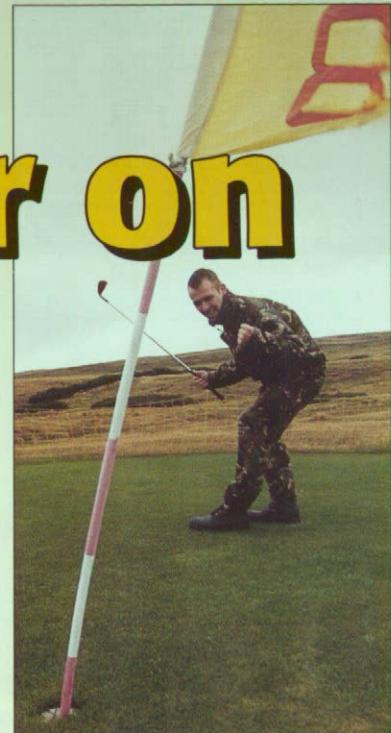
see penguins in their natural environment. Five species (king, gentoo, rockhopper, megellanic and macroni) live and breed on the islands, some very close to Stanley.

● **Horse riding.** A two-day package consisting of one day's riding to Darwin, an overnight stay in a lodge and then riding back to Swan Inlet would cost you £75, but your R&R warrant will cover it.

Two days on horseback in a Falkland Islands saddle would make a gaucho think twice, but it is also possible to go for two-hour hacks for £15.

● **Take up birdwatching.** An incredible 67 species of birds live and breed on the islands. It's a twitcher's paradise.

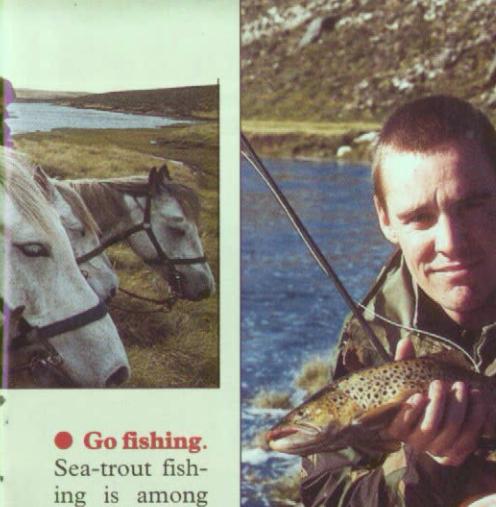
And if he bodes it, why



Watch the birdie: Pioneer Pte Daniel Pressey sinks a windswept putt



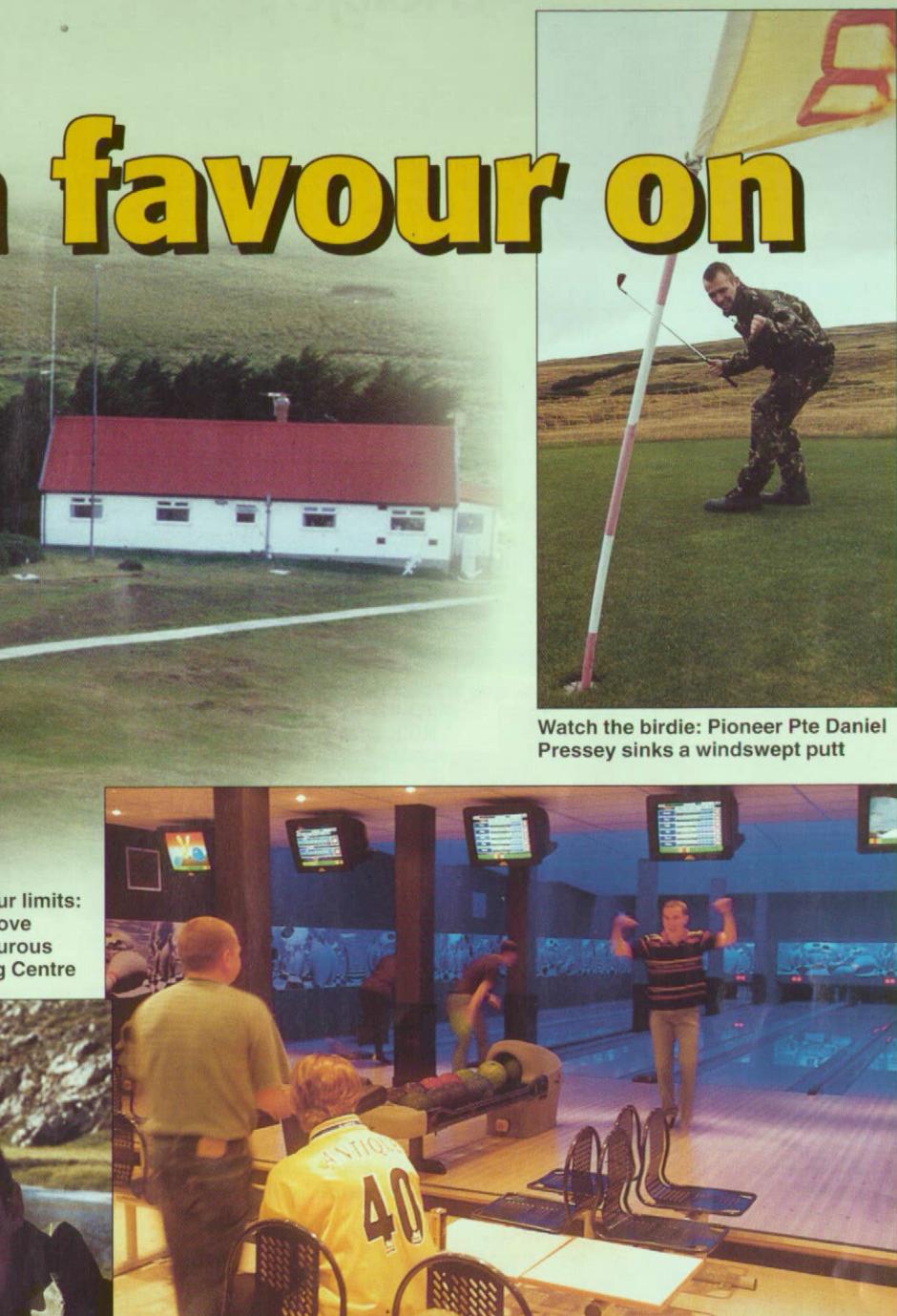
Test your limits:
Shag Cove
Adventurous
Training Centre



● **Go fishing.** Sea-trout fishing is among the best in the world, with tourists coming from all over – and paying top dollar – to try their luck. The record sea-trout taken on fly is 22lb 12½oz on the San Carlos river in 1992, with a 21lb 13½oz trout being taken on a spinner from the Malo in 1994.

● **Visit the Falkland Islands Museum.** This fascinating little exhibition area in the heart of Stanley displays aspects of the islands' rich heritage, covering domestic, maritime, social and military history.

Ask to hear a tune on the Orpheus Mechanical Zither made in 1870. The staff will be pleased to assist.



Striking out: An evening at the Naafi's new £750,000, six-lane XL Ultra Bowl

Got one: Cpl Christopher Boden, 3 UK Div & Sig Regt, left, weighs his catch

● **Try to put on an immersion suit inside three-minutes.** Everyone who flies on Sea Kings must wear one of these in case the helicopter ditches in water. A life-saver it may be, but a nightmare to get on in a hurry.

● **Take a boat trip.** Soldiers from 460 Port Troop RLC run sightseeing trips around Mare Harbour, where you are likely to be accompanied by dolphins swimming alongside the boat. In the summer, you might feel like swimming with them.

● **Strike out with a night at the XL Ultra Bowl.** This new £750,000 club has a six-lane bowling alley, shop, cinema,

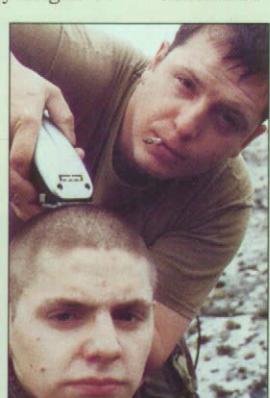
entertainments centre, bar and Tommy Tucker's, serving hot and cold food.

● **Go for a burn-up on the go-kart circuit.** Another snip, at £10 a head.

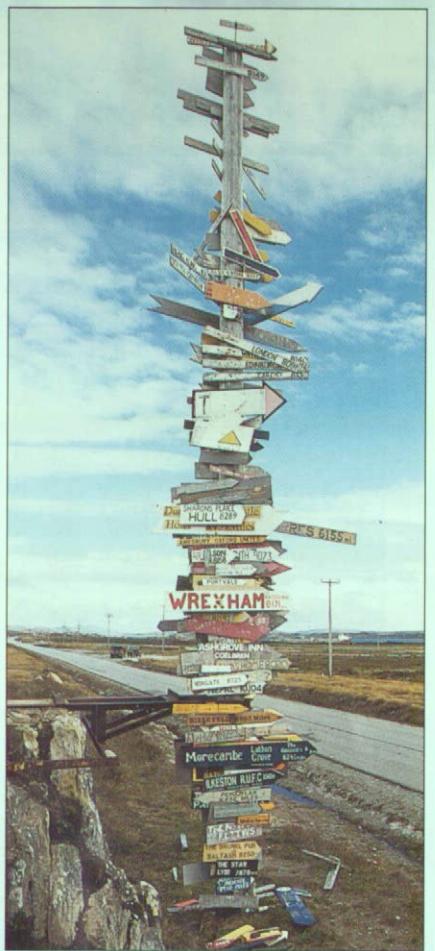
● **Push your personal boundaries at the Combined Services adventurous training centre at Shag Cove.** The 12 places available on this popular facility run by WO2 Mark Gresty APTC are quickly snapped up.

Soldiers can test themselves with rock-climbing, archery, canoeing, windsurfing or golf.

"In my 15 years in the Army I have never experienced anywhere like this. It's all about giving them a bit of perceived danger and a good day out," said Mark.



Skinhead: Sig Tom Coyle gets a number one haircut from Sig Mick Gee



Right direction: It seemed such a good idea back in 1982 when soldiers began nailing signs to a telegraph pole, just outside Stanley, that everyone soon wanted to get in on the act. Today, the "Gozome Tree" sprouts dozens of distances to hometowns and pubs, but looks as if it could do with severe seasonal pruning

Remote, but far from controlled

Pictures: Graeme Main

ITS beauty belongs to a bygone age. One of the world's last great unspoilt wildernesses, the Falklands is one of the few places left where nature is still in charge.

The two large islands and 700 smaller ones are home to elephant seals, penguins, dolphins and killer whales and also provide vital breeding-grounds for millions of sea birds.

Rolling moorlands give way to grassy plains, many dotted with lakes and ponds, with the horizon framed by hills and mountains, some climbing to 2,000ft.

Falklands weather is temperate, very like that of Britain, but with more hours of sunlight and less rainfall. This provides excellent opportunities for outdoor activities, especially walking, horse-riding and fishing.

Indeed, the islands boast some of the best sea-trout fishing in the world with tourists coming from as far as Japan to cast off.

A posting to the Falklands presents a unique opportunity to catch nature with her guard down. Soldiers can get closer than Sir David Attenborough's microphone to nesting penguins and cormorants. Many of the birds on the Falklands – such as the Flightless Steamer Duck – are unique. Others feel so unthreatened they will dive-bomb you for fun.

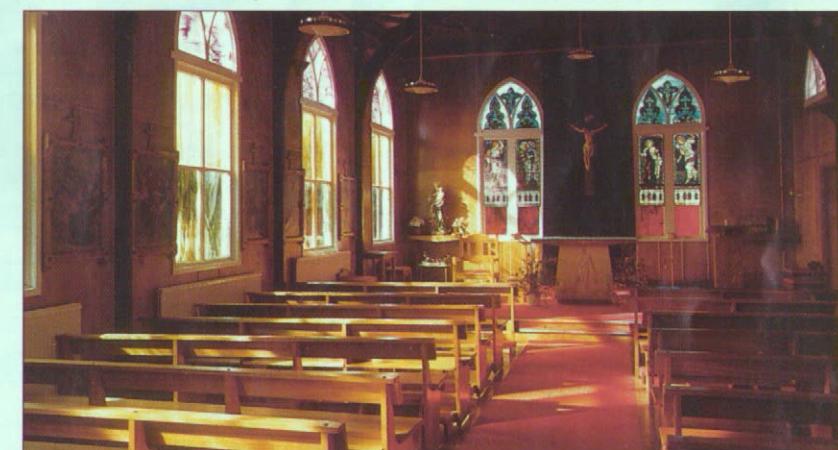
The islands cover an area nearly the size of Wales, but are sparsely populated with only about 2,220 locals. Your horizons are limited only by your imagination.



Storm damage: The seas to the south are some of the wildest in the world and there are more than 100 wrecks around the islands. Several of them lie in Stanley harbour



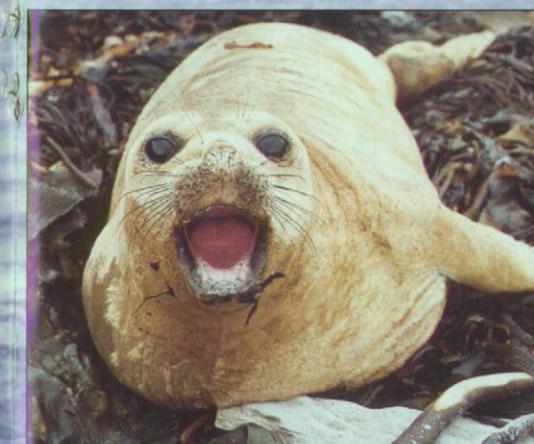
Picture postcard: Carcass Island is popular for R&R with Servicemen and women



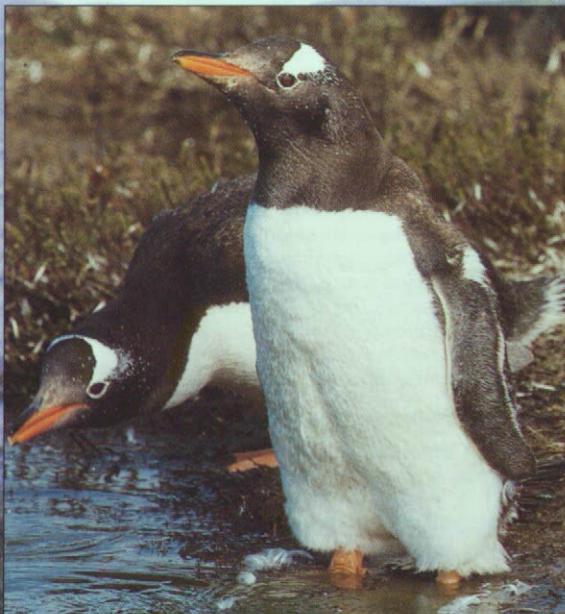
End of day: Light streams through the stained glass at St Mary's Church, Stanley



Life's a beach: A landing craft from 460 Port Troop RLC in the unspoilt beauty of Mare Harbour, East Falkland



Open wide: The Falkland Islands are a favoured breeding ground for wildlife during the summer because of the abundance of food. This sea lion pup is wondering what photographer tastes like



Bath time: Gentoos nest as far as they can inland and gather together hoping the crush of birds will give them protection from gulls and skuas who try to steal chicks

Getting the best out of reserve

Ten per cent of British soldiers in the Balkans are from the Territorial Army or reserves. They prepare for their deployments at a new training centre at Chilwell near Nottingham

Words: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

MORE than 1,000 Territorial Army and reserve soldiers are serving on operational tours in the Balkans.

The task of ensuring they receive correct training, equipment, welfare and administration has fallen to a new, dedicated unit, the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre (RTMC), based at Chilwell, near Nottingham.

A staff of 80 – a mix of Regulars, reservists and civilians – run an operation



Brothers in arms

TWO sets of brothers were passing through Chilwell when *Soldier* visited.

Cpl Ralph Sims and Pte John Sims, above, from Bridgend were preparing to join The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Kosovo to work in the motor transport section.

"We knew we were going to Kosovo, but didn't know to which unit," said Ralph, an 11-year TA veteran.

John, a former Regular with five years' TA experience added: "Our employers are keeping our jobs open for us."

It was a similar story for LCpl Les and Dave Wilkinson, both reservists and both former RCT soldiers. They arranged to serve in Kosovo together for a six-month tour.

"We both have bosses who are very supportive," said Dave.

designed for an annual throughput of more than 3,500 people.

It was created in April last year to establish a permanent focal point for mobilisation, under the command of the Adjutant General's headquarters.

"We are utilising the TA and reserves more and more," said the commanding officer, Lt Col Andy Mason, Para. "Many give up eight-and-a-half months of their lives, including training and post-operational tour leave, and it represents a big commitment."

"We aim to properly equip and look after the TA and reserves all the way through."

The process is triggered by the Army Personnel Centre at Glasgow, which calls on the Army Reserve and TA to identify specialist volunteers, who then report to Chilwell.

ACCOMMODATION

Two-thirds of the volunteers are from the TA and about eight per cent are female. Ranks range from private to full colonel and the soldiers are accommodated in a new block on the small, self-contained site.

A typical intake of 150 of soldiers starts the three-week mobilisation process with essential administration, the issue of weapons, equipment and clothing, and medical checks.

"We have a depot function in looking after their welfare, pay and documentation," Maj Paul Taylor RLC, IT manager and media ops officer, explained.

The second two weeks are taken up by a military skills package, much of it focused on weapons-handling, to ensure soldiers are confident in their abilities. They also do refresher courses in recognition, fieldcraft and battlefield first aid.

In common with Regulars they spend time with the Warminster-based UN Training and Advisory Team (UNTAT), which fills in the local detail about the area into which they are to be deployed on operations. RTMC staff accompany them to theatre and are on hand to bring them home at the end of the tour.

Kitting out the part-timers is, naturally, an important, large-scale business and



WO2 Paul Ainscough QLR, who runs the main storehouse at Chilwell, has on his books almost £2 million worth of stock including 900 SA80s and more than 100 pistols.

Also available for issue are 500 sets of Combat Soldier 95 as well as the summer and the winter supplements, and the civilian storekeepers encourage the volunteers to try clothing for size and comfort.

The store also has a demobilisation role and where possible, clothing and equipment is recycled. Uniforms are recondi-

tioned, laundered and sent for repair if necessary before being reissued.

A key element of the mobilisation process is the medical and dental check, where some volunteers can fall by the wayside. Medical officer Maj Nicki Mitchell put the failure rate at about five per cent, usually due to injuries that had not fully healed. Poor dentistry was also a factor.

"Some needing urgent dental work are referred to their own dentists," she said. "It is a big problem and with shrinking

Check list:
Armourer Sgt
Vince Ryan, left,
ensures SA80s
are ready for issue

Key role: Right,
Cpl Mark
Henderson
checks that
pay and
documentation
details on Hldr
Stevie Godfrey's
file are correct



Valued assets

IN a new video sent to all TA and reserve soldiers volunteering for operational service, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon recognises the significant role they play.

He tells them: "I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and contribution made by reservists and Territorial Army soldiers and their importance to the Regular Army particularly on operations."

"Now more than ever before the Army needs its reserve forces. You are proving the 'one Army' concept and reinforcing the fact that today's reservists are more integrated, more useable and more relevant."

"In short – we could not manage without our reservists. We have set up new procedures and new units to ensure that you are well looked-after while in the Army's care. The RTMC at Chilwell is part of that care and will do all it can to smooth your way into and out of Regular service."

"Your contribution is nothing short of vital in the way we do our business."



On the buzzer: Sgt Dave Barrow has hearing and reaction times checked in the medical centre, a vital element in the process

individual can manage without the treatment. Any who could become significantly ill if they stopped their medicine for a few hours would not be considered for Kosovo or Bosnia.

Soldiers injured in theatre are also looked after by the RTMC. "If we can sort them out to return to theatre with something like physiotherapy, it's done and they go back out."

"If they are due to go back to their civilian jobs, we try to fix them as best we can before they return."

"If it's something very serious, they will be Y-listed, as would a Regular soldier, and they are kept on the books. They will be looked after for six months until it is decided whether they will be invalided out or found a new role. The Army does not simply dump them."

The role of the RTMC was neatly summed up by Lt Col Mason as a "stepping stone" for individuals between their civilian life and Regular service.

"The centre is a demonstration of the Army's continued commitment to, and reliance upon, the reserve and its determination to make them increasingly useable, integrated and relevant," he said.

"These may be words to some, but for us they are our core business."

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Reassuring presence: LCpl Mark Whitby RGJ pauses during a foot patrol in Pristina to talk to local men involved in a street-cleaning project

Peace force

Kosovo soldiers to feature in education pack

Pictures: Nick Sidle

SOLDIERS from the The Queen's Dragoon Guards and the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets are to take centre stage in a new educational project and a major exhibition.

Sitakumari, the director of educational organisation Heartstone, said: "We are a voluntary, non-profit making body which aims to challenge prejudice and intolerance in young people.

"The organisation sent a photographer to Kosovo to picture the soldiers of the RGJ and QDG working with the local population.

"We show how using peace-keeping forces can not only maintain order but can also be positive in creating a more harmonious atmosphere."

The photographs will form the centrepiece of an exhibition opening at St George's Hall, Liverpool at the end of June before moving, provisionally, to the European Parliament in Brussels later in the year.

Education project packs featuring the soldiers and aimed at children from eight to 18 are also being prepared and will go out to hundreds of schools across the country.

"The pack will illustrate ethnic

hatred in Kosovo and what can be done to overcome it," said Sita. The children will discuss how this hatred can change history, the role of the armed forces and the options open to local people. The youngsters will then compare ethnic hatred in Kosovo with problems in their own communities.

"Since the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, there has been a huge body of opinion wanting to address all types of intolerance at an educational level," she added.

The educational pack for the older children will form part of the new citizenship studies being introduced by the Government.



How's it going, old timer? Rfn Syldred Decker RGJ on a welfare visit to an elderly Serb in Pristina

Life's a laugh

— with Doug Baker



"It's a Member of Parliament for you, Dear."



"Your two months with me may seem like years, but you still don't get a long service medal!"



"Is it true your fishcakes are to be used as targets to test the power of the new sniper rifle?"

Life quality tops pay body's list

QUALITY of life for Service personnel was high on the agenda of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body as it began a programme of visits to gather evidence for its 2001 pay award recommendations.

Although the pay body has no direct responsibility for commanding quality-of-life issues, their impact on retention means they of interest to the AFPRB.

Prime issues during the members' location visits this summer will be lost leave, separation, working hours, career and promotion prospects and the impact of overstretch on retention.

Other areas include delivery of the new pay system, common tri-Service terms and conditions of service, and standards of accommodation and related charges.

AFPRB members have visited Warminster and the Salisbury Plain training area, RMA Sandhurst and Arborfield SEE, and ITC Catterick and Northern Ireland. Trips to Germany, a field exercise in Poland, Cyprus, Colchester and the Balkans are also in the pipeline.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service

Men's Association 020 8590 1124

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0800 1827 395
Cyprus 080 91065
Bosnia 0800 731 4880
Others UK 1980 630854

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
(Combat Stress) 020 8543 6333

Family Escort Service UK 020 7463 9249;
Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272
Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

Joint Service Housing Advice

Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and
Families Association 01482 833812

Regular Forces Employment Association
0207 321 2011

AFB's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980
618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing

advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

WRVS 01235 442940



Camo queens: Fourteen brave wives from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch volunteered to find out what their menfolk get up to when they took part in Exercise Tender Steps at Fort George.

While their husbands remained at home to look after the children, they learned how

to survive in the field by cooking Army rations without gas or electricity, applied cam cream and used high-tech weapon simulators. The wives were also shown how to use a 30mm Rardon cannon and ended the day by completing an assault course and having a beach barbecue.

Jim's there to fix it for mixed estates

A NEW post has been created by the Defence Housing Executive to minimise problems on mixed estates.

Jim Blackburn, who works for the Director of Services Liaison, Brig Christopher Price, is developing a strategy which recognises the sensitivity of military patches located alongside civilian housing.

The appointment of a strategy co-ordinator recognises that as more and more surplus quarters are released, there will be an increasing number of mixed estates for the DHE to manage, and a greater potential for friction.

Mr Blackburn will advise on minimising potential problems and promote harmonious relations by developing ideas

through pilot schemes across the three Services. Lessons drawn from Bicester and Bovington, where mixed estates are already working satisfactorily, will be shared.

If you have any comments or views on mixed estates, write to the Editor, who will pass them on, or call Jim direct on 020 7921 4663.

Parents can take 13 weeks' leave

YOU are entitled to more parental leave than we said you were (Issues, May). Servicemen and women whose child is born after Dec 15, 1999 may take up to 13 calendar weeks of unpaid leave until the child reaches the age of five, and not just 20 working days as stated. Remember, it will affect your pension date.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

More to this life than separation

IT was comforting to read in the last issue that the Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon, knows what we are going through. Apparently he is away from his family a lot, too – four or five days at a time – and acknowledges the stress separation can cause.

Mr Hoon is, of course, a politician and not a soldier, and his family life is not as mobile as ours, with far less separation.

Some separation is normal to us – the problems arise when soldiers don't have enough time at home before going away again. Mr Hoon didn't say if his family had moved more than once in the past five years, or if he'd been away for the odd six months, two years running, but he did mention that on occasions his job can make him question whether it is worth the effect it is having on his family life. We can all empathise with that.

Mr Hoon wants to make us feel he understands and cares about soldiers and their families so that we feel loved and stay in the job. He wants, he says, to minimise the pressures on Service family life, and talks about the Government having achieved fewer commitments, more allowances, more pay and the Service Families Task Force. There was even a hint that he felt these measures had done the trick.

The task force has certainly addressed families' issues outside the Ministry of Defence, but tweaking allowances and operational welfare provision, while dealing with immediate problems caused by deployment, is no substitute for committing real funding to welfare.

You can e-mail the AFF on armyfamiliesfed.centraloffice@virgin.net



Sue Bonney is Editor of the Army Families Journal, quarterly magazine of the Army Families Federation

Families themselves feel there is a bit more to living with the Army than the odd bit of separation. Mr Hoon might be surprised by the number and variety of questions from spouses raising issues about Army family life which the Army Families Federation has received in advance of its forthcoming millennium conference in London.

Some of those questions have been asked for years and still remain unaddressed. Such things as the standard of housing, march-outs, council tax discrimination, school

admissions, NHS treatment, spouse employment and training, compassionate/welfare flights for foreign spouses, separation, qualifying (or not) for bonuses and allowances . . . the real nitty-gritty of life.

By the time you read this, AFF will have given spouses the chance to ask these questions for themselves, putting their views to the politicians and generals whose decisions affect our lives. With any luck, one or two of their "hits" will

have got home and someone somewhere is even now thinking about doing something about them.

The last three AFF conferences have resulted in action on a particular issue . . . so we can hope.

In any case, families' real concerns will be highlighted and communications between the people who live the life and support their soldiers and the men who make the decisions will have been opened on a real level at least once this year. Let's hope they were listening.



Cotswold haven on road with own bus

THE small boy tugged the jacket of Lt Col (Retd) Peter Druitt, commandant of the Services Cotswold Centre, and spoke in a firm voice: "There's no excuse for cancelling swimming now, is there," writes Karen Moseley.

Seven-year-old Brian Matthews was in a group of children who had been swarming over a £16,000, 17-seater mini-bus just presented to the centre by the Army Benevolent Fund. It meant he and his friends could be driven to the public swimming pool at Corsham – one of many treats provided for youngsters by the commandant and his dedicated staff.



Lt Col Druitt

The centre, in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside, is a haven for Service families who, for one reason or another, need temporary accommodation. It is unique in providing not just a comfortable roof over their heads, but also a school, counselling, medical facilities and practical advice on benefits and housing – all on-site.

More than 600 families from all three Services passed through the centre last year, and 37 families were in residence when the mini-bus arrived.

Lady Walker, president of the Army Families Federation and a loyal supporter of the centre, presented the keys to Lt Col Druitt.

Brig David Shaw, ABF's divisional director for the west, said: "The Services Cotswold Centre is a place which had a distinct need for one of these mini-buses. Previously they had to hire transport to get families about the place, many of whom do not have their own cars. We know it is going to be marvellous in filling a gap for the benefit of these families. It can be used by anyone who lives or works in the centre."

FEAT staff will help spouses pick up careers on a posting to Northern Ireland

● Spouses who have to give up a job on a posting to Northern Ireland – interrupting career opportunities and depriving the family of a second income – can turn to the Families Employment Advisory Team (FEAT) on (civ) 028 9260 8802 or 9127 or (mil) 9491 41802 or 42127. FEAT, launched earlier this year, recognises that spouses posted to Northern Ireland may have concerns about personal security, suitability of vacancies and, in some

locations, remoteness of married quarters and lack of public transport. Self-help and motivation are still seen as the keys to gaining jobs.

● A sergeant serving in Germany who cancelled his policy after Abacus Financial Management of Newbury increased his **basic kit insurance** excess from £20 to £50, a rise of 150 per cent, wants to hear, via the Editor, from soldiers who know of a better deal.

● Combat Stress, the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, received grants totalling £284,500 from the Army Benevolent Fund in the last financial year. ABF's Simon Brewis said: "Media coverage has suggested no one is assisting victims of post-traumatic stress disorder, but this is simply not the case."

● Children at the British Forces School in Naples raised more than one million lire to

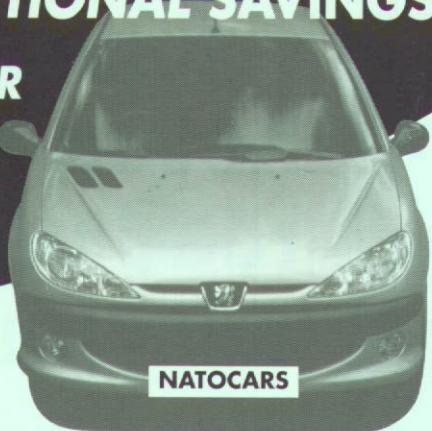
help victims of earthquakes in Turkey. The school, at Lago Patricia, 15 miles north of the Nato HQ, is expanding to a fifth classroom.

● I CAN, the educational charity for children with speech and language difficulties, is looking for people to take part in fund-raising events, including a trek in Guyana to the top of one of the world's highest waterfalls and a weekend climbing Mount Etna in Sicily. To

take part you will have to raise a £250 registration fee and a sponsorship sum. Ring I CAN's Hannah Bence on 0870 010 40 for details.

● Seria Primary School, the Service Children's Education school in Brunei has been singled out, from more than 20,000 schools, for achieving high literacy and numeracy standards. Seria was mentioned in the annual report of HM Chief Inspector of Schools.

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SPG 3

The National Ex-Prisoner of War Association

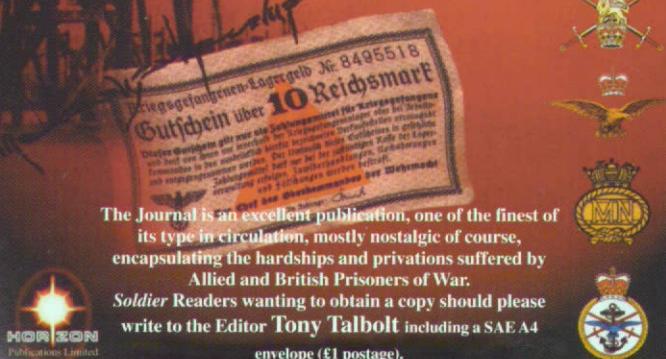
'Intrepidus' is The Journal of The National Ex-Prisoners of War Association.

Patron of the Association is Dame Vera Lynn, President is Earl Haig.

Distributed annually during Remembrance week the Journal not only raises funds for the Association, but engenders publicity for many other Veteran Associations.

The Journal is an excellent publication, one of the finest of its type in circulation, mostly nostalgic of course, encapsulating the hardships and privations suffered by Allied and British Prisoners of War.

Soldier Readers wanting to obtain a copy should please write to the Editor **Tony Talbot** including a SAE A4 envelope (£1 postage).



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Targeting corps values

Corpsam 2000, the world's largest skill-at-arms meeting, effortlessly hit the bullseye

Pictures: Steve Dock

MORE than 1,000 sharp-shooters got their eyes in at Corpsam 2000, the largest skill-at-arms meeting in the world.

Expert shots from the RE, R Signals, RLC, REME and AGC, both regular and TA, took part in the seven-day event at Ash Ranges in Aldershot.

Marksmen used rifles, light support weapons and pistols in matches that required expert skill, fitness and teamwork.

In high-scoring contests the TA winners came from the RLC and the finale of the Regular competition included three Inter-Corps matches with the "falling plates" and "team snap" both won by Capt Navindra Gurung's team of signallers.

RIFLE MATCH

But it was the RLC, led by Capt Steve Townell, that landed the Inter-Corps rifle match award.

It wasn't all competition. Entrants took the opportunity to fire weapons from the past including the Martini-Henry rifle used during the Zulu Wars, the Martini-Enfield of Boer War vintage, the Short Magazine Lee Enfield of the First World War and the Lee Enfield of the second.

There was also the Heckler Koch G36, the next generation of rifle, which proved very popular. It can be fired left or right-handed, is impressively accurate and easy to field-strip.

Attention now switches to the various Divsams and Centsams at Bisley in July.



Shoulder high: Champion Regular RE shot WO2 Paul Quilliam is chaired aloft on leaving the field, accompanied by the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Signals



Fired-up: From left to right, Sgt Gurung, QGE, Lt Col Richard Hoole and WO2 Dave Delaney, both RE, get in some practice on the range with 9mm pistols



In sight: Wearing a respirator Spr Simon Horne, 39 Engr Regt, from Waterbeach, gets ready to engage the target

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Breganze bullet

THERE comes a time when you just have to get away. Not just from home, but from family, friends and enemies: away from everything familiar – like mass market motor bikes that serve their purpose admirably, but lack the magic to steal your heart, **writes Syd Taylor**.

Happy is the man who can reconcile this animal urge through a re-acquaintance with a unique sports motor cycle which has the stamp of Italian individuality and an aura of absolute superiority.

Back in the 70s the Laverda Jota was the ultimate superbike. Even now, with bike and rider matured by time, it rekindles the unbridled lust of that first encounter. A sports bike of the old school, it's solid, raunchy, powerful and dedicated to going fast. It has the sort of style no Japanese bike will ever have.

A Laverda Jota is a piece of living art: a living, fire-breathing piece of sculpture in polished, and matt sand-cast alloy. You could mount it on a plinth in your hallway as a monument to motor-cycle engineering at its most sensual – but you would be missing it at its best.

Sadly the Jota is beginning to show its age. It is an exclusive variant of the Laverda 3C built by the Laverda Brothers (better known for their combine harvesters and aircraft parts) at their factory near the village of Breganze at the foot of the Dolomites, 60km north of Venice.

EXCEEDINGLY RAPID

The 3C used the original version of the 980cc DOHC triple engine and in its own right was an exceedingly rapid motor cycle, but British concessionaires Slater Brothers of Herefordshire encouraged the factory to upgrade the engines with higher compression pistons and hot cams. Tim Healey, the Ariel Square Four specialist, designed less restrictive silencers to get the best out of the upgraded engine and power was raised to 90bhp.

First impression as you sit astride the bike (on a seat that feels like a wooden bench) is of how tall it is but, after all, this bike started life as an endurance racer. You soon realise that the bulk and weight demands a degree of respect – particularly if you're used to modern lightweights. The multi-position adjustable handlebars mean you can tailor a position to suit.

Its air-cooled engine, with nothing but performance in mind, is a chain-driven double overhead cam, three-cylinder unit with a 180 degree crank, which means that two pistons are up while one is down.



Road test: Laverda Jota

Tech Spec

ENGINE Parallel three-cylinder, DOHC, 981cc, aluminium alloy barrels and head; three Dell'Orto carbs 32mm; electric starter

TRANSMISSION 5-speed

FRAME Duplex cradle

SUSPENSION Marzocchi hydraulic telefork and adjustable shock absorbers

WHEELS Cast alloy

BRAKES Brembo twin front discs and single rear disc

At high revs it bellows defiantly against the stifling legislation of today. You get old-fashioned power from unburstable muscle and uninhibited respiration from the Dell'Orto carbs with their accelerator pumps. I revelled in the resonance of the exhaust as, childishly, I dropped down a gear at every opportunity just to enjoy the reverberation of the exhaust note against walls . . . a snarling rasp that ruptures the air, giving my ears a treat that they hadn't had for many a long year.

It's not a smooth engine but it has a rugged gutsy feel that no "four" ever has. At tick-over the soles of your boots shake to let you know that you're sitting on a very angry motor cycle. The shakes are low frequency and almost therapeutic.

UNLEASH ANARCHY

But not even rose-tinted spectacles can make it anywhere near as quick as today's rocketships – even 600s would leave it trailing. Open the throttles, though, and you unleash anarchy in the motor. At 5,000rpm the hot cams start to do their stuff, rocketing you to a top speed of 140 mph. All this is aided by an excellent five-speed gearbox.

Cradling the lovely motor is a chassis every bit its equal in quality and perfor-

mance. Tough and rigid, it gives good handling that makes bend-swinging at high speeds feel totally safe, but not up to modern-day standards.

The real problem with Jotas is that they need to be powered through bends and when riders shut off mid-way, these bikes react badly. You need to be bold . . . in inexperienced hands a Jota can be seriously challenging. Brembo disc brakes at the front scrub off speed as quickly as you administer it. The limiting factor in stopping is yesteryear's skinny tyres.

A Jota can, in the hands of a skilful rider, be very fast. But for me the bulk and weight of the machine demanded a lot of respect at the sort of speeds of which it is capable. Despite that, the handling is surprisingly manageable. It's easy to control in town although the heavy clutch is tiresome, making me long for the open road.

The Laverda Jota won't suit the majority of riders weaned on whisper-quiet moderns, but the legend lives on. As I pulled away from a bikers' cafe, a dozen pairs of eyes followed me, drawn by the song of an old legend thundering into the distance on the Bullet from Breganze.

Thanks to Andy at Midland Classic Bikes, Walsall (01922 635141) for the loan of this excellent example.



Sport

Edited by Anthony Stone

RUGBY

Big guns sink Navy's dream

Record crowd cheers fourth Army triumph

Report: Roger Thompson
Pictures: Mike Weston and Roger Thompson

THEY came from far and wide, by coach, stretch-limo and foot, for the annual Twickenham experience in glorious sunshine. They saw the Army beat the Royal Navy by 32 points to 14 in the Army's fourth consecutive Willis Inter-Services championship success – a record, as was the 35,000 crowd.

But make no mistake it was not easy and the Navy, afloat with self-belief, considered themselves capable of victory right up until the Army's fourth and final try. Such was their confidence, they even adopted the Army's tradition of walking out from the tunnel.

The match opened with a firecracker. Cfn Gareth Slade Jones (REME) audaciously sniped blind at the first scrum to free Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones (RHA) 40 metres out. Only flagrant obstruction prevented the touchdown and an unsighted referee the penalty try.

While the Navy pack remained strong,



Catch me if you can: Kite Bavadra displays his blistering pace and power

buoyant and dangerous, it was essential to play the game in the dark blue half and thereby contain England international Msn Spencer Brown, one of the ten Royal Marines in the naval team.

The Army's backs each had the beating of their opposite numbers in all the channels of attack and none more so than Pte Kite Bavadra (RS), whose speed and ability to brush aside shrinking violets created deep incursions into the naval rear areas.

From the first such foray, 60 metres down the centre of Twickenham and to a crescendo of Army support, he made the ball available to Capt Howard Graham (AGC) who scored near the posts. Coen converted for a 15-9 half-time lead.

POSSESSION

Throughout the second half, with Fus Chris Budgen (RWF), Lt Finlay Bibby (DWR) and LCpl Steve Trethewey (REME) in the vanguard, the Army pack increasingly took control.

The Navy tackled like trains with some success but then squandered meagre possession, sometimes in scoring positions.

The Army remained cool – to coin the new phrase: "Belly on fire, brain in the fridge". Another Coen deep penetration



Raising their game: Curtis takes another clean line-out ball

kick to the left flank allowed a confident pack and half-backs to feed Graham early, and at speed.

Whereas the direct assault was "on", he chose outrageous options, selling dummies on a scale that demanded Mothercare sponsorship.

Ignoring the try-line and sweeping untouched across the face of the Navy posts, he sent Greenslade-Jones thundering in at the corner.

Moments later Coen, the steady pivot, twinkled through the naval defence,

unselfishly feeding Graham who scored at the posts. This third try, of great tactical significance, killed off any question of a naval revival. Coen converted to make the difference 25-9.

Only moments later, with the blue shirts bunched on the right flank to stem yet another direct assault, any one of ten Army players could have scored the fourth and final try on the left – the honour going to Bibby who scampered in under the posts. Again Coen converted.

GALLANT EFFORT

In between the Navy had scored an excellent try, Brown arriving from deep at best speed. However, the naval pack, gallantly led by Bob Armstrong for the tenth time, lacked the quality in numbers to counter injury and replace very tired legs.

Their strength had been sapped in the early encounters, ball supply dried up and even the 38-year-old Cpl Paul Livingstone was forced to shut up shop for the summer. Brown was effectively sidelined.

The Army were the architects of their own success. The forwards achieved early physical parity and Coen kicked the Navy onto the back foot.

With Gnr Andy Dawling (RHA) and LBdr Lee Soper (RHA) outstanding, the Army pack effectively barricaded the seamen in their own port, seldom allowing even a foray into the reds' half. The Army try line must have seemed a horizon away. At the final whistle, there were many possible choices for the Willis man of the match.

UNDER PRESSURE

Any one of the forwards could have been chosen, but TV commentators John Taylor, the former Welsh international, Richard Hill of England and Rob Wainwright (late RAMC) and Scotland, chose Coen for his generalship under pressure in the early stages and that moment of magic leading to the decisive try.

Welch forwards cut off loggies' ball supply

THE RWF overcame 4 GS Regt RLC in a rousing climax to the rugby festival of finals at Aldershot.

Before a passionate packed house, occasionally drenched in rain, the Welch forwards played a very tight game, preventing the RLC team releasing their talented backs.

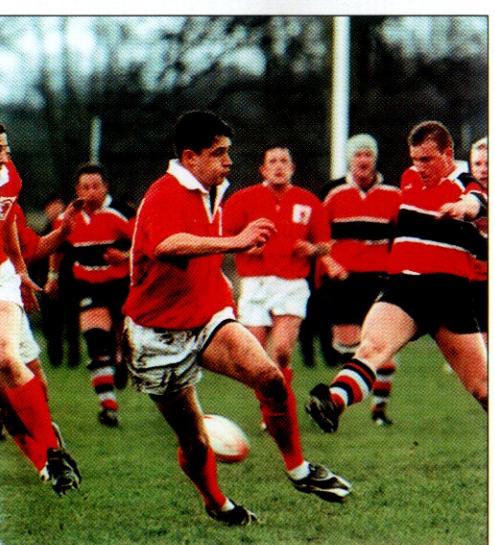
With an all-Army front row of Chris Budgen, George Kemble and Chris Coles, and Williams at scrum-half, the Welch drove the ball relentlessly towards the loggies' line until Gary Martin, their skipper, powered over from close quarters.

Only when faced with an 11-6 deficit did the RLC bring their talented backs into the contest.

Mark Botten, Andy Evans and Mal Roberts, all Army players, provided some exciting play into the teeth of the rain and only die-hard Welch tackling prevented a spectacular last-minute turnaround.



Picture: Steve Dock



Grubber: RLC kick through the Welch backline
Other results: Minor Units final – 29 Regt RLC 19, 42 Survey Gp 12; Major Units Shield – RGBW 27, 1 RSME 5; Minor Units Shield – ATR Bassingbourn 18, 10 Tpt Regt RLC 18.

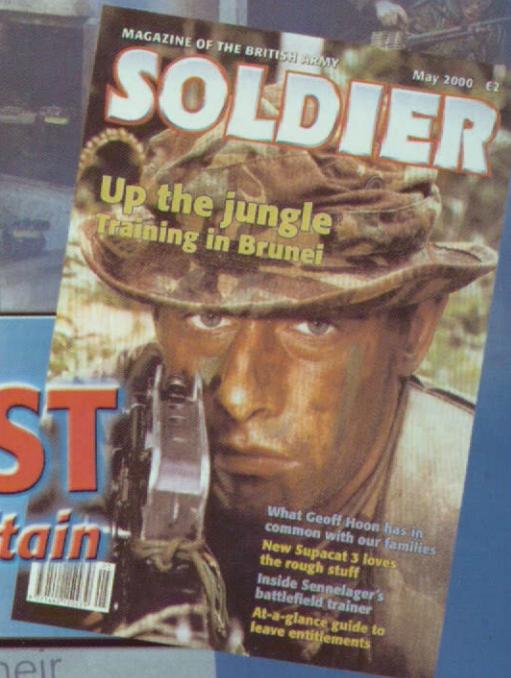


Howard Graham: Would you buy a dummy from this man?

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the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, seemed woefully unprepared, and it became obvious that only Nato's KFOR, the Kosovo peace implementation force standing by in Macedonia, could do anything to help.

Nato had never embarked on such a mission before. It did, however, have the skills of planning, supply, medical care and organisation that were needed in battle and this situation resembled just that.

The troops waded in, setting up a hospital, water supplies, food distribution and shelter. Over the next week or so their remarkable improvised operation saved hundreds of lives and showed many thousands of refugees that soldiers are to be feared.

They were flying by the seat of our pants, many of them not even able to drop their bombs accurately. The Third Battalion, Royal Dragoon Guards, with a miss

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MARATHON DES SABLES



Hot to trot: From the left 2nd Lt Tessa Loyd, 2nd Lt Katie Unsworth and 2nd Lt Kath MacPhee put in some training prior to their assault on the Everest of endurance races

Women's team crosses desert

THREE second lieutenants from the Royal Engineers have become the first British women's team to complete the Marathon Des Sables, one of the world's toughest races.

Tessa Loyd (32 Engr Regt), Kath MacPhee and Katie Unsworth (both 35 Engr Regt) were among 650 runners who took part in the gruelling test across the Moroccan desert, competing in temperatures of more than 50C.

The seven-day event covered 235km (150 miles) over dunes, wadis, mountains, oases and sandstorms, but mostly through desert.

Clad in shorts and trainers, the competitors carried a week's supply of food and equipment on their backs, although water was re-supplied during the day.

"Very little training can prepare you for the week of sweating, dehydration and blisters," said 2nd Lt Loyd. "Yet astoundingly this was not the horror story that many journalists describe, it was utterly uplifting and even fun."

"Rather than a race, the girls looked on it as a survival exercise. In fact only seven per cent of competitors ran the whole way, the rest like us ran and walked. Not racing off, and working as a team was the key to our survival in the searing desert heat."

Loyd said when they were not racing they spent their time at a series of bivouacs, sleeping on brightly coloured carpets in tents.

"The constant blast of wind drove the sand everywhere," she said. "Sand was in our sleeping bags, in our shoes and even in the meals that we cooked."

"Fatigue and darkness drove us to bed at about nine each night, where the nine occupants of our tent squeezed into their sleeping bags. Although the temperature dropped dramatically at night there was little chance of getting cold as we were so tightly packed in."

Reflecting on the race, Loyd said: "All you need is determination. Our success was largely due to good teamwork."

BOXING

Going from strength to strength

THE individual championships held at Maida Gym, Aldershot, produced some quality contests which augur well for the future of Army boxing.

Team coach SSgt Neil McCallum (APTC) said: "As long as the lads that I am bringing up through the scales stay in, I will be happy because they are the future champions. The standard within the Army is definitely improving and we have a lot to look forward to if they all carry on boxing."

Individual championships results: Fly – Pte Sayce (1 R Anglian) bt Pte Martin (1 Para); bantam – Pte Mullins (1 RRW) lost to Cpl McCullough (7 R Irish); feather – Cpl Griffin (7 Tpt Regt RLC) lost to Spr Robson (35 Engr Regt); light – Pte Brett (1 Para) lost to Pte Evans (1 RRW); light – Gnr Burchett (47 Regt RA) bt Pte Richards (7 Tpt Regt RLC); welter – LCpl Chapman (1 RRW) bt Pte Batkin (1 LI); light-middle – Pte Neill (23 Pioneer Regt) bt LCpl Jarmolinski (7 Tpt Regt RLC); middle – Cpl Redford (7 R Irish) bt LCpl Bartlett (7 R Irish); light-heavy – LBdr Okoth (1 RHA) bt Gnr Campbell (12 Regt RA); cruiser – Spr Davie (25 Engr Regt) bt Cpl Lloyd (ATR Winchester); heavy – Gdsm Hoggarth (1 Coldm Gds) lost to Bdr Crane (12 Regt RA); super-heavy – Cpl Booth (600 Sig Tp) lost to Gdsm Culshaw (1 Coldm Gds).



Big right: Action from the championships

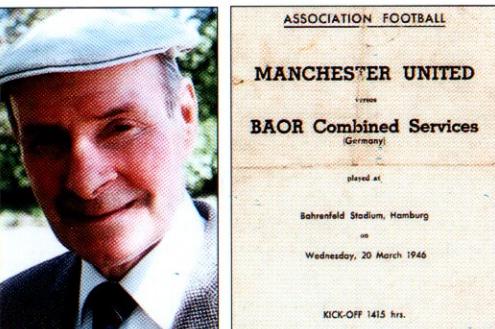
■ As *Soldier* went to press Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC) was preparing for the Amateur Boxing Association finals. He was strongly tipped to win a record sixth ABA title at light-middleweight.

SHORTS

Still kicking about

IT was more than 54 years ago and the Second World War had not long finished, but Ian Aitchison, then in the Royal Signals, still has vivid memories of the afternoon he spent in Hamburg cheering on a Combined Services side as they took on the might of Manchester United. Can you imagine Sir Alec doing the same thing today?

The game made such an impression on young Ian, pictured, that he kept the programme. The military team boasted two internationals among its ten club players. Ian wonders if any other Service-men remember the match?

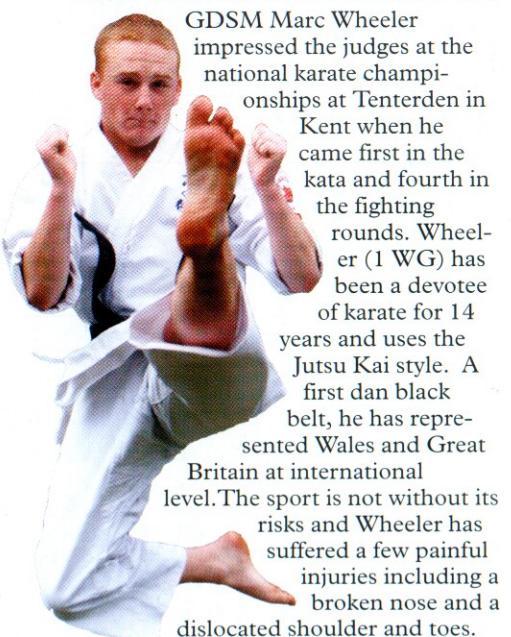


Service will be resumed

THIS year's Army tennis championships will serve up a daily diet of action beginning on July 28.

Serving personnel can enter singles and doubles and there is a plate competition for those knocked out in the first round. Veteran and junior competitions will also be held. Entries must be in by July 7. Further information from Maj Sam Erskine-Tulloch on (9)4271 2932.

Win under his black belt



GDSM Marc Wheeler impressed the judges at the national karate championships at Tenterden in Kent when he came first in the kata and fourth in the fighting rounds. Wheeler (1 WG) has been a devotee of karate for 14 years and uses the Jutsu Kai style. A first dan black belt, he has represented Wales and Great

Britain at international level. The sport is not without its risks and Wheeler has suffered a few painful injuries including a broken nose and a dislocated shoulder and toes.

FOOTBALL

Sappers undermine Cheshires

Single goal decides major units final

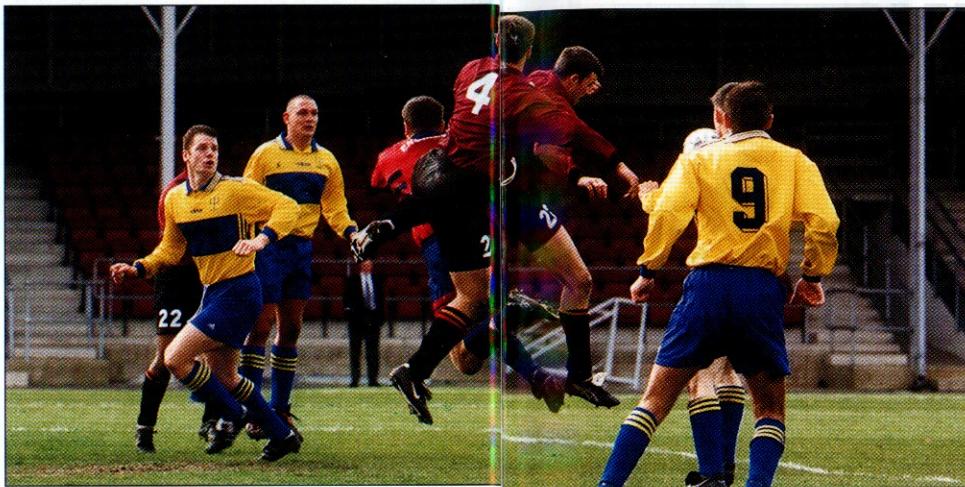
PLAYERS from 28 Engr Regt lifted the 100th Army major units Challenge Cup at the Military Stadium, Aldershot after defeating 1 Cheshire 1-0 in a closely-fought contest that produced goalmouth incidents at both ends without being a classic final, writes **Derick Bly**.

The Cheshires were appearing in the final for the second successive year and did everything but score in the second half.

A good chance fell to the Cheshires when LCpl Dave Mazzoni set up Pte Barry Evans, who fired high and wide. The engineers gradually got into the game and long throw-ins by Cpl Si Mayers into the six-yard box proved a problem for the infantry team's back four.

Cpl Jamie Scarisbrick forced two early corners for the sappers but the Cheshires' keeper, Pte Alex Rimmer, dealt capably with the flag kicks.

Sgt Tosh Williams, the Cheshires' skipper, fired high and wide from well out as both teams fought hard to achieve some pattern in their play.



Heads up: 1 Cheshire, playing in yellow, did everything but score in the 100th Army Challenge Cup

The deadlock was broken on the half hour when referee Maj Tony Rock pointed to the spot after Evans upended Spr Craig Colbert. Cpl Lee Scarisbrick sent Rimmer the wrong way with an almost perfect penalty.

The Cheshires had more of the play in the second half with Wills producing some dynamic runs down the left ending with telling crosses. After one of his runs,

Wills pulled the ball back from the by-line and both Mazzoni and Pennell were inches from touching home an equaliser.

■ Players from 1 Cheshire bounced straight back in the final match of the season when they took on RAF cup winners RAF Boulmer in the Naafi Jubilee Cup.

The competition is not won on points, but on the most goals scored. In the pre-



Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Mike Walker presents the 100th Army Challenge Cup to captain Sgt Taylor 28 Engineer Regt

vious two games the Cheshires defeated the Royal Navy champions CTC Lympstone 2-0 and Lympstone beat Boulmer 6-2.

They had a lot to do but 1 Cheshire took the trophy home by running out 4-1 winners.

■ In a tight battle at the Military Stadium the Netherlands Armed Forces gained the draw needed against the Combined Services to retain the Kentish Cup, having defeated the Belgian Armed Forces 3-2 in the only match of the three to end in victory for any of the three com-

SHORTS

Hurst takes top spot

SGT Sonia Hurst (APTC) put in a storming performance in the International Triathlon Union world age group championships in Perth, Australia when she finished in the top spot for Great Britain and tenth overall. This qualifies her for the 2001 championships in Edmonton.



■ Are you prepared to go to extremes for the National Meningitis Trust? The charity has acquired ten places in the London triathlon on October 1. Contact Zoe Hurworth on 01453 769024 or email zoeh@meningitis-trust.org.uk

Bowlers' strike force

AN Army team competed against the best bowlers in the country in the British national tenpin bowling championships at Enfield. Sgt Les Colquhoun and Cpl Mark Passfield, both serving with 11 Sig Regt in Blandford, took third place in the doubles event.

Running away with it

SGT Alan Shepherd (RAMC) and SSgt Sue Sharp (APTC) are the Army runners of the year. The awards are given to the best male and female runners over the six main fixtures during the cross-country season.

Armed Forces day

SALISBURY Racecourse's second Sunday fixture of the season on June 18 has been dubbed Armed Forces Day to showcase the role of the military in the Wiltshire area.

Champion is fired up

THE Army target pistol championships fired at Bisley saw Lt Col Richard Hoole, (R Signals) produce an excellent score in the centre-fire match, equalling his 1999 score of 536 to finish as the overall Army champion for the third year. LCpl Willy Kennedy (R Irish) finished overall runner-up.

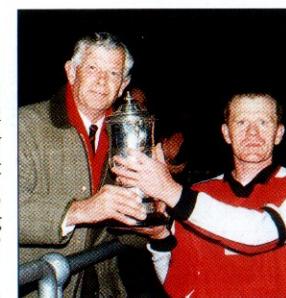
Cpl Bob Doak (R Irish), last year's Queen's medallist, again won the air pistol championship with a record score of 568, one point better than last year's score. CSgt Nigel Hodgson won the centre-fire championship with a record score of 539.

Bearers set standard

RECRUITS from the Army Apprentices College at Arborfield were chosen as flag-bearers for the Chelsea-Aston Villa FA Cup final, the last at Wembley.

Strokes of Bluck make the difference

9 (Para) Sqn RE 0, ATR Bassingbourn 2



Maj Gen Lytle presents the minor units cup to CSgt Paul

Mitchell, Faulkner, Cooke and Bluck all involved. The sequence ended with an offence on Panniers in the engineers' goal.

ATR continued to look marginally more dangerous than the sappers going forward and Paul and Fish Elliott were always willing to offer their support in attacks. The men from Bassingbourn increased their lead on 52 minutes when Bluck was given space to hammer a tremendous right-foot shot in off an upright with no chance for the keeper.

The sappers forced consecutive corners on their left and the Cpl Nad Nadollek flag kicks were cleared by Sgt Jimmy Lind and Elliott respectively.

The sappers enjoyed a period of pressure with Nadollek and Spr Parkinson forcing ATR keeper Sgt Andy Kerr into good saves.



Cool head: Captain CSgt Chris Paul (ATR Bassingbourn) steadies his line of defence

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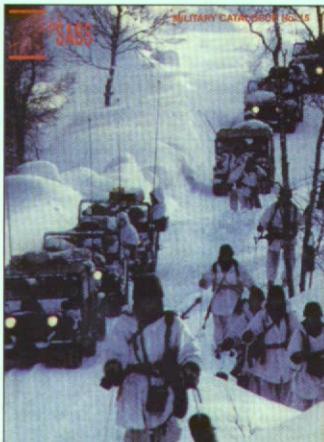
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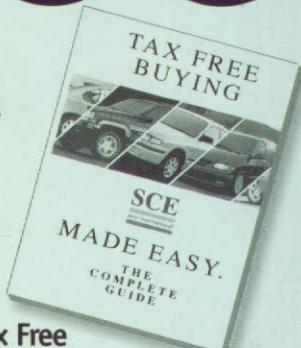
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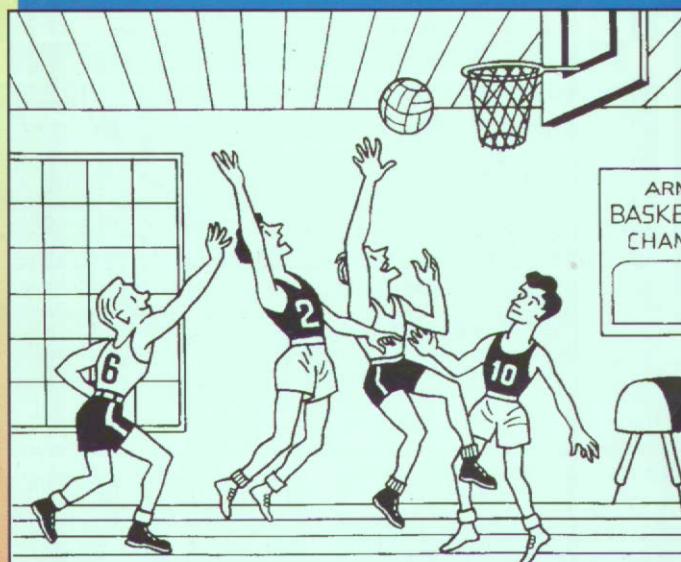
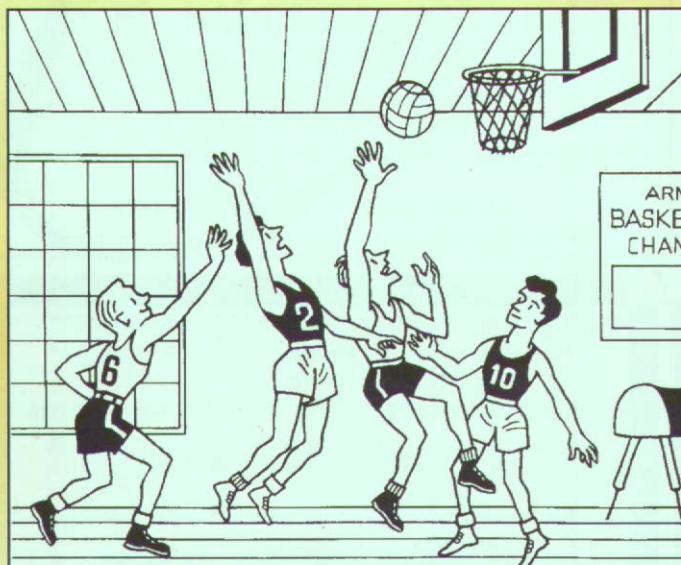
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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 703, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by June 30.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

April competition (No 701): First correct entry drawn was from Sgt K Driver, of Trenchard Lines, Upavon, who wins £100. Runners-up were Mr D Blackman, of Eastbourne, and Bobby Gouldstone, of Church Crookham, Hants, who receive a £10 gift voucher each. The ten differences were: anchor-man's ice-pick and sleeve; rock formation near nest; aircraft wing; shape of mountain; sun's rays; treetops; chimneys; road; signpost.

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WO1 (RSM) RD Cowan at RHQ 33 Sig Regt (Y),
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Merseyside L36 3RW in writing by
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Closure of Officers' Mess & WOs' and SGTs' Mess - Long Kesh

Personnel should be aware that the Officers' Mess & WOs' and SGTs' Mess within Long Kesh Camp, Maze Prison, NI will close on June 30, 2000. Units and individuals who have presented items to either mess are to collect or make arrangements for collection by August 31, 2000.

Point of contact is

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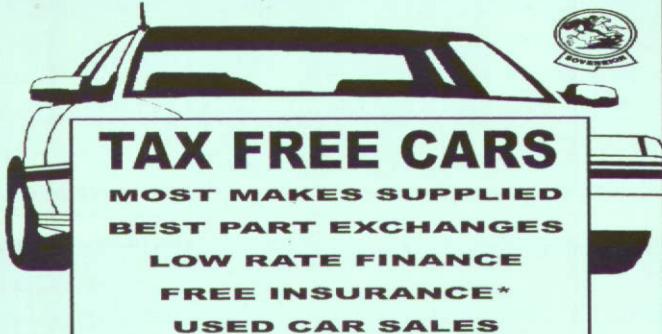
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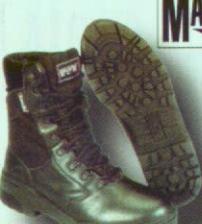


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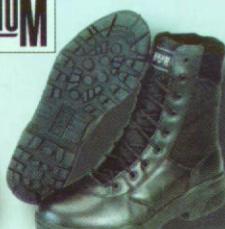


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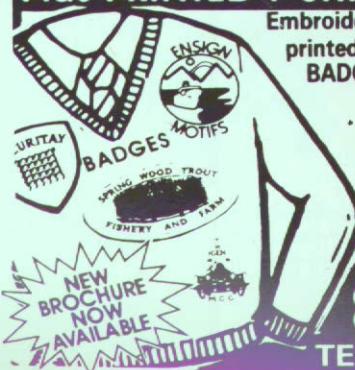
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Sue, 39, fun-loving **brunette** with brown eyes and GSOH. Enjoys swimming, eating out, going to the cinema, clubbing, pubbing, keeping fit and travelling. Would like to hear from soldiers, 34-39, at home or abroad. P686

Jenny, 26, 5'8", **slim with fair hair** and blue eyes. Has GSOH and is adventurous. Likes going to the gym, country walks, socialising and bike riding. Waiting to hear from soldiers, 28-35. Photo appreciated but not essential. P687

Cate, 34-year-old **bubbly** and outgoing secretary/PA. Loves to cook, socialise, listen to music, go to the cinema, attend aerobics and spend nights in and weekends away. Would like replies from pen pals, 30-48 P688

Linda, 53, 5'6", **slim** with grey hair. Has been associated with the Army Cadet Force for 18 years and enjoys driving, eating out and overseas travel. Would like to hear from male pen pals, 45-50, with GSOH and Forces background. P689

Anne, 5'4", **slim, graduate lecturer** with GSOH would like to correspond with serving officer, single or divorced, 35-50. A smoker who enjoys history, animals, music and the countryside and stimulating conversation. P690

Carol, divorced, 38-year-old hairdresser whose best features are her eyes and smile. Medium build but body gone south! Interests include motorcycle mechanics, travelling, reading, music and films. Would like to hear from pen pals with GSOH, 35-45. P691

Sue, tall, **slim and attractive** with fair hair and green eyes. Enjoys writing letters, travel, photography, fashion, music, olde worlde pubs, eating out and reading. Would like to correspond with any guts with GSOH, 34-40, and will reply to all letters. P692

Gill, 38, 5'3", auburn hair and blue eyes. Works as an assembly operator and likes reading, the cinema, writing and swimming. Seeking replies from pen pals, 30+. P693

Kerry, 28, 5'4", **brown hair** and blue eyes. Mother to one daughter aged three and enjoys music, travel, reading and Formula 1 racing. Would like replies from soldiers, 25-35. P694

Cherryl, dark-haired, **slim**, pretty are travel, camping, socialising and eating out and would replies from nice people, 36-44 with a sense of humour. P695

Tina (past pen pal), 33-year-old,

blue-eyed blonde who likes keeping fit by working out, swimming and partying. Rides a big motor bike and likes partying. Seeking replies from soldiers, 25-35. P696

Judith, 38, 5'4", **slim build**, blue eyes. Divorced and independent with GSOH and likes having the occasional drink, keeping fit, going to the theatre and cinema and having a laugh. Replies from single, male pen pals, 33-43. Photo appreciated. P697

Shelley, 23, **slim, brown-eyed** brunette who enjoys music, the cinema and theatre, worldwide travel and food. A fit, fun-loving, single nurse, interested in the mystical side of life and seeking replies from soldiers, 22-35. Will reply to all letters. P698

Julie, 38-year-old, **green-eyed** blonde whose interests include swimming, bowling, reading, walking and good videos. Divorced mother of two (10 and 14 years) and would love a pen pal, 38+. P699

Viv, **cuddly and bubbly** 43-year-old with brown hair, brown eyes and GSOH. Enjoys swimming, walking, dancing, writing letters and nights in/out. Would appreciate photo and all letters will be answered. P670

Gill, 39, **red hair, blue eyes** and medium build. Interests include going to the gym, the cinema, swimming, music and pubs and clubs. Would like replies from pen pals, 30-45 P701

Sarah, 18, 5'3", **auburn hair** and blue eyes. Likes clubbing, films, music, roller-blading, general socialising, humour and the unexplained. Would like to correspond with Servicemen, 18-30, worldwide. P702

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REUNIONS

GUNNER PULL 2000 23/24 June at Larkhill

The Royal Artillery Tug of War Club Reunion 2000 will take place at Larkhill on Sat 24 June, 2000. For further details contact WO2 (RQMS) J Gracie, 16 Regt RA, Royal Artillery Barracks Woolwich SE18 4BB Woolwich Mill 3851 Email Gracie.John316@aol.com

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Competition winners

The ten winners of the travel bag competition (April) are: Cpl Revell, 255 Sig Sqn, 16 Sig Regt, BFPO 40; Sgt S Hughes, B Coy Office, SEAE, Arborfield; P Reynolds, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria; Maj S Glover, ETS Branch, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot; Sgt L Moore, 251 Sig Sqn, Aldershot; Cpl W Green, Regt Trg Coy, Depot R Irish; Sig Phil Baxter, B Tp, 256 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt, Bramcote; 24964966 Stringer, SHQ, UK CS Med Sqn, Sipovo, BFPO 538; Bfr Ablett, 19/5 Bty, 19 Regt RA, Kosovo, BFPO 559; Sig T Duckett, Op Palatine, Sipovo, BFPO 538.

Answer: Artillery System

Copies of *Spit and Polish* by Sustainer (February) go to: D Purnell, Newport; WO2 A Lee, 16 CS Med Regt, Colchester; N Titmuss, 33 Fd Hosp, Gosport.

Answer: We Sustain

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

APRIL 22, 2000

Five-way tie for first prize (23 goals, £2,000 each): WO1 DK Fraser, 1 Bn REME, Osnabrück; Cpl CI Harris, The Light Dragoons, Hohne; Cpl LR Hunt, 1 Regt ACC, Gütersloh; Lt Col WD Irvine, 16 Regt RLC, Bicester; Cpl C Newbrook, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne.

20-way tie for sixth prize (22 goals, £80 each): Pte SJ Ashton, 1 RRW, Paderborn; Capt MK Cannon, HQ 160 (W) Bde, Brecon; WO1 GD Cotterill, 1 WFR; Maj NJ Fenton, QDG, Catterick; CSgt T Hart, 1 GH, Warminster; WO2 P Humphreys, Rhine Area Sp Unit, Rheindahlen; Sgt A Kenny, 2 RGJ, Paderborn; Cpl S Landsborough, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, Bielefeld; Cpl MJ Langham, 2 RTR, Fallingbostel; LCpl DC McDonald, QDG, Catterick; Cpl I Miley, Rhine Area Sp Unit, Rheindahlen; Cpl CA Pickering, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Dülmen, Sgt SJ Rhodes, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney; Sgt DE Smyth, 1 R Irish, Canterbury; Capt JD Stenner, 1 WG, Aldershot; Pte MW Storey, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; Sgt AR Taylor, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot; WO2 AM Taylor, MDHU Frimley Park; WO1 AK Vernon, ATR Lichfield; SSgt R Wolfenden, Upavon Sp Unit.

APRIL 29, 2000

Eight-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £1,450 each): Tpr GW

Chiverton KRH, Tidworth; Pte GJ Fulon, 23 Pnr Regt, Bicester; LCpl JE Isbister, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; Maj DR Orr-Ewing, CATC, Warminster; Cpl MJ Prysme, 259 Signal Sqn, Episkopi; Sgt H Robinson, HQ Dhekelia Garrison; SSgt KL Rolfe, 16 Regt RLC, Bicester; Maj SJ Sole, BDLS Ottawa.

Note: Only 8 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

MAY 6, 2000

First (515 runs, £4,300): Lt CT O'Callaghan, ATR Winchester.

Second (497 runs, £2,100): Sgt PN Sharry, 3 CS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

Third (487 runs, £1,600): Maj RA Attard, HQ Land, Wilton.

Fourth (484 runs, £1,200): Capt AJ Hotchkiss, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh.

Fifth (477 runs, £800): WO2 LR Davies, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham.

Sixth (471 runs, £600): Lt OER Gardner, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford.

Seventh (470 runs, £350): Capt MP Boyle, ATR Bassingbourn; Cpl DM Nicholson, 5 Fd Amb, Preston.

Ninth (458 runs, £200): Sgt CM Henley-Hunter, HQ TSC (G), Senneleger.

Tenth (456 runs, £100): Capt REL Pittman, HQ 2 Div, Edinburgh.

MAY 13, 2000

First (395 runs, £4,300): Pte S Lithgow, 1 KORBR, Catterick.

Second (350 runs, £2,100): SSgt N Rushby, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn.

Third (348 runs, £1,600): Cfn LS White, 5 Regt AAC, Aldergrove.

Fourth (341 runs, £1,200): Maj AW Fife, DG D&D, Upavon.

Fifth (339 runs, £700): WO2 IEA Davis, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; Capt PT gooderson, RSS LAD REME, Blandford.

Seventh (338 runs, £400): Brig MR Raworth, Def Adviser Pretoria.

Eighth (337 runs, £200): Capt EWT Beck, 5 Trg Regt RLC, Grantham; Cpl RW Menzies, 280 (UK) Sig Sqn, Krefeld; SSgt JJ Mill, HQ 16 Air Asstt Bde, Colchester.

MAY 20, 2000

First (369 runs, £4,300): WO1 J Wilson, HQ 160 (W) Bde, Brecon.

Second (356 runs, £1,862.50): Capt JRC Seale, RDG, Münster; LSgt MD Thompson, 1 IG, Münster.

Fourth (353 runs, £1,212.50): Sgt PR Spaul, SEAE, Arborfield.

Fifth (352 runs, £812.50): Lt Col HC Northam, SAAvN, Middle Wallop.

Sixth (350 runs, £612.50): SSgt M Ross, 1 RRW, Paderborn.

Seventh (348 runs, £312.50): Cpl M Crossley, 152 (U) Amb Regt (V); Sgt PS Gruncell, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; Cpl GR James, ITC Wales, Brecon.

With effect from May 6, results were based on county cricket scores, in accordance with the rules.

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DATES

JUNE
 3: Major General's Review, Horse Guards.
 7-8: Massed Bands of Household Division Beating Retreat, Horse Guards. Tickets credit card line 020 7839 5232.
 10: Colonel's Review, Horse Guards.
 11: RBL drumhead service and parade, Leighton-cum Minshull-Vernon, nr Crewe.
 14: Kneller Hall concert (SG, AGC Bands), 8pm (gates open 6pm). £4 on night. Advance sales for minimum booking of ten. Details on 020 8898 5533, ticket hotline 020 8744 8646.
 15: HQ 3(UK) Div Beating Retreat, Tidworth Polo Ground, gates open 1700, in aid of Army Benevolent Fund. Military bands, corps of drums, displays. Free to public.
 17: Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards.

17: 21st Nato Music Festival, Bökelbergstadion, Mönchengladbach in aid of refugee fund.
 17: Oxon & Bucks Millennium Tattoo, Thame (01189 723717).
 28: Kneller Hall concert (Band of Coldm Gds, Waterloo Band of King's Div). See June 14.

JULY
Weekends: Horse Guards, Whitehall open, free, 1030-1600 (020 7414 2360).

8-9: Parachute Spectacular, Southsea Common, Hants.
 10-15: Royal Military Tattoo 2000, Horse Guards, in aid of principal Service charities.
 12: Kneller Hall concert (Band of Royal Signals). See June 14.
 15: Defence, Intelligence and Security Centre open day, Chicksands, Beds. Open 0900.
 20: Harmony 2000 Young Musicians, Kneller Hall. Entry £1. See also June 14.
 26: Kneller Hall concert (Bands of RLC and REME). See June 14.

AUGUST
 9: Kneller Hall concert (Bands of RA and AAC). See June 14.
SEPTEMBER

5-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show (tickets 0115 912 9196; www.mwias.com)
 12-16: Royal Hospital, Chelsea Son et Lumière 2000 - Men in Scarlet (020 7881 5308/9).
 22-24: North Wales Millennium Youth Services Tattoo, Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay. Standard bearers please fax 01745 583794.

OCTOBER
 27: Isle of Thanet RBL Festival of Remembrance, Winter Gardens, Margate. Tickets, enquiries: Dennis Stokes, 01843 292882.
NOVEMBER
 25-26: Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena.



Kids find the airborne way to their liking

HOW about this for a success rate . . . all but two out of 34 schoolchildren from Bradford, Leeds and Halifax who completed a four-day "look at life" course run by Pegasus Company (Airborne Selection) later said they were interested in a career in the Army.

Four of the courses, run on behalf of the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick, are held each year and give the youngsters, aged 14 to 16, a physically challenging and very hands-on exposure to infantry soldiering.

Assault courses, command tasks, basic first aid, a night out on the training area, navigation, field-craft, radios, night sights and some weapon-handling are all on the agenda.

QRIH's Redoubt-able display

Eastbourne's Redoubt Fortress has been brought up to date with a new collection of military items from **The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars**. The permanent exhibition of post-1945 items features equipment, uniforms and medals from conflicts including Malaya, Aden and the Gulf War. They include Gen Sir John Hackett's medals and some of his uniforms.

• A Victoria Cross won during the Ashanti War of 1874 and other medals awarded to 19th century sapper **Col Mark Sever Bell** have been accepted by the Government in lieu of inheritance tax. They will be displayed in the Royal Engineers Museum at Gillingham, taking to 25 the number of its VCs.



Signed aircraft prints on show

A unique collection of more than 100 framed prints of aircraft from Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force squadrons, and signed by aircrew members at the turn of the century, has been assembled at RAF Shawbury by Sqn Ldr Bunny James, OC Central Flying School (Helicopter) Squadron, to raise money for Service charities. Showing some of them off are Lt Cdr Ken Doherty RN, left, Sqn Ldr James, centre, and Maj Ian Hall AAC, a staff instructor on the squadron.

The first two sets will be displayed initially in the RAF Museum at Cosford and another is to be compiled to be auctioned for Service charities.



In style: Trumpeters from the Normandy Band of the Queen's Division, pictured, added a dash of pageantry to the opening of Catterick Garrison's new Tesco supermarket by Conservative Party leader William Hague and his wife Ffion.



Hill 112 veterans' tribute to fallen

SOLDIERS who died in a ferocious tank battle in Normandy during the Second World War will be commemorated by surviving veterans when a restored Churchill Mark VII is dedicated on July 9.

The Royal Tank Regiment and Royal Armoured Corps will play a prominent role during the service on Hill 112, which was a strategic position 10km south-west of Caen during the advance by British and Canadian troops on the city in July 1944. More than 7,000 Allied casualties were sustained and countless tanks and armoured vehicles destroyed during nearly two weeks of bloody fighting.

Albert Figg (78), who – as reported in these pages in September last year – raised more than £9,000 to restore the old Churchill tank, is hoping as many fellow Operation Jupiter veterans as possible will attend the dedication. He can be contacted at Reachford House, Station Road, Teynham, nr Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 9SN (tel 01795 521071). A video of the ceremony will also be available from Albert in due course.



Two Robbies launch exhibition: **Brig Robert Burns**, left, Commandant of Chatham Garrison, and 104-year-old First World War veteran **Robert Burns** joined forces for the opening of the SSAFA Forces Help display set up in Chatham's Historic Dockyard. The exhibition, open until June 5, celebrates more than 100 years of care to serving and ex-Service men and women and their families.

Taking a Long Look at Oz

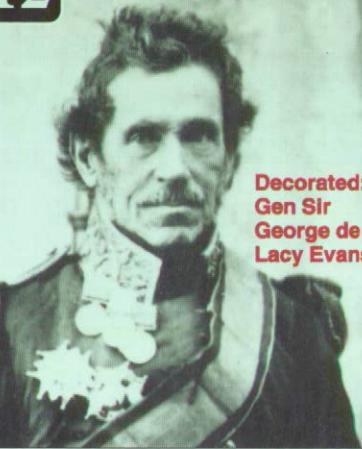
The latest in a long line of exchanges between the British Armed Forces and their Australian and New Zealand counterparts got under way last month when pipers from the Scots Guards were at RAF Brize Norton to welcome the latest batch of Anzacs to the UK. Heading off Down Under on **Exercise Long Look** were an equivalent number of British Servicemen and women.

No place for shot deserter

A Kent soldier executed for deserting colleagues at the Battle of Mons in 1914 will not have his name inscribed on a village memorial, despite the wishes of a majority of residents. Shoreham parish council rejected a proposal that **Pte Thomas Highgate**'s name be added. But **Pte John Bennett**, also 19, who fled from a gas attack near Ypres in 1916, is to be remembered on a memorial in Staffordshire.

Legends of the regiments and corps

12 The Queen's Own Hussars Museum, Warwick



Decorated: Gen Sir George de Lacy Evans

Life and times of the amazing Gen Sir George

THE many medals of a quite extraordinary soldier are on display in the museum of The Queen's Own Hussars in Warwick.

George de Lacy Evans (1787-1870) volunteered for the Army in India in 1806 aged 19. Here's a snapshot of his remarkable career:

Commissioned into the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, he fought against the Amir Khan and the Pindaris and helped capture Mauritius from France before transferring in 1812 to the 3rd King's Own Dragoons, then in the Peninsula.

He took part in several Peninsula battles, including Vittoria and Toulouse, where he was wounded and had two horses shot from under him.

CONGRESS HOUSE

He went to the United States in 1814 and fought at Blankenburg (two more horses shot away). Later he seized Congress House in Washington with 200 men and received the Naval General Service Medal for operations at New Orleans.

Back in Europe De Lacy Evans was with Wellington at Quatre Bras and in Picton's Division at Waterloo, achieving three promotions in six months. After being elected to Parliament, he returned to uniform in the Crimea as a lieutenant general and led the 2nd Division at Alma. Wounded at Sebastopol, he discharged himself from a hospital ship on hearing the guns to take part in the Battle of Inkermann.

The Queen's Own Hussars Museum in Lord Leycester Hospital, High Street, Warwick, is open every day except Mondays, from 1000-1700. For more details, ring 020 74148782.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor

Bulletin board

26 Regiment 'reborn' at Perham Down

▲ **Back in business:** The British Army welcomed 26 Engineer Regiment back into the fold six years after it was disbanded. Pictured, left, in front of the flag at a "rebirth" parade at Swinton Barracks, Perham Down are Brig Albert Whitley, Engineer-in-Chief (Army), who has looked after the flag since May 1994, flanked by Lt Col Jacques Lemay, left, the CO and WO1 Kevin Lilliacrap, the RSM.

▲ **WO1 Michael McCarron**, from the Military Corrective

Training Centre at Colchester, is to receive the prestigious British Safety Council Diploma in Safety Management.

▲ **Musical chairs:** Peter Kane, Bandmaster at The Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, is spending a term's exchange at the Virginia Military Institute in the USA, while former Royal Marine Col John Brodie, a highly skilled trumpeter, has arrived at Dover to fill his boots. The school's impressive military band, incidentally, provided a superb musical *hors-d'oeuvre* to the Army-Navy game at Twickenham last month.

▲ **Centenary Crown:** An official £5 coin, issued by the Royal Mint to mark the Queen Mother's 100th birthday, goes on sale in post offices throughout the UK on June 26. The coin will also be available in a presentation folder for £9.95. It will be on sale for six months and can be collected in limited editions in gold and silver.

▲ **Voices from Korea:** An anniversary exhibition at the Imperial War Museum to mark the start of the Korean War 50 years ago coincides with the publication of a catalogue of the museum's sound archive recordings of the reminiscences of British and Commonwealth veterans.

▲ **Toy story:** The late Lt Col Stanley Williams's collection of toy soldiers dating from 1900 sold at Sotheby's for £26,720. Top price of £1,434 was paid for a six-horse Royal Field Artillery team pulling a gun carriage.

▲ **@ fault:** The Save the Royal Tournament e-mail address printed in the April issue contained no @. It should have read savetheroyaltournament@care4free.net

▲ A £16 million contract to provide catering and support services for the next five 2,500 Army personnel taking part in the **Edinburgh Military Tattoo** has been awarded to Sodexo Defence Services. The contract ranges from provision of catering and cleaning to tailoring and cobbling services.

MUSIC/Gordon Turner

The esteemed Vivian Dunn

IN the world of 20th century military music, few names are remembered with the same esteem and affection as the late Lt Col Sir Vivian Dunn.

Born in 1908 in Jubbulpore, India – where his father, Bandmaster Paddy Dunn of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Rifles, was stationed – Vivian grew up to appreciate music of all kinds. As a teenager he studied in Germany at the Cologne Konservatorium and the Royal Academy of Music in London.

He joined the Queen's Hall Orchestra and became a first violinist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra when it was founded. In 1931, at the age of 22, he was appointed Director of Music of the Royal Marines, Portsmouth Division. This appointment, and his determination to raise the standards of Marine music to that of the professional world that he had left

did not endear him to some established bandmasters who had been rejected for the post.

His musical ability, immaculate appearance and sporting prowess (especially at cricket) brought him to the attention of the hierarchy, and in particular to that of Earl Mountbatten. Honours he received paid testament to his standing: an MVO in 1939, a CVO in 1954 and an OBE in 1960. Subsequently he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, became the first Director of Music to receive a Gold Disc and – in the New Year Honours List of 1968 – was knighted.

Fiddler on the March, by Derek Oakley (written with the full support of the Dunn family) is not only a fine biography of this outstanding musician, but also the story of the music of the Royal Marines for a large and significant part of the 20th century.



REUNIONS

Arborfield Apprentices, Intakes 50A, 50B: Reunion at Arborfield, June. Clem Clements (01604 712128), Tom Lennox (01423 865225).

Armourers' Association: Annual reunion at Victory (Services) Club, London, June 17. Details from Chris Dennis on 01905 755334.

Windsor School, Germany 1953-83: Grand reunion, Newbury, June 24. Ring Gill Walker, 01962 880377 (home), 01962 887631 (work).

R Signals clerks: Reunion in Aldershot on June 24. Contact Capt A Houghton on Bletchley Mil 8512 (or civ 01908 638512) or WO1 P Street on Aldershot Mil 2007 (01252 347007).

Royal Leicestershire Regiment: Annual reunion of Royal Tigers' Association and Leicestershire Branch of Royal Anglian Regiment Association, Leicester, June 24-25. Bishop will bless all Colours in Regt Chapel, Leicester Cathedral, and memorial plaque to Lt Col S A Rolfe-Smith. AGM, dinner and reception by ticket only from TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY.

Parachute Regt Association (North Region): Parade, open air service, Edinburgh, June 25, to mark 60th anniversary of Airborne Forces.

Leading by example: **Cpl Jim Lindsay**, right, front, of D Sqn, The Royal Dragoon Guards, with cadets from Cheltenham College Combined Cadet Force who spent a week training with the regiment in York Barracks, Münster, and on Haltern training area. The Dragoons, who have just arrived in Germany to convert to Challenger 2 tanks, also hosted cadets from Malborough.

242 Signal Squadron, Craigiehall: Princess Royal Day and open day for past members of sqn, corps, June 28 (0131 310 2267 or 2272).

2 Sqn, 7 Signal Regt (1970-75): First reunion at Aldershot, July 1-2. Contact John "Boysie" Oakes, 1 Blenheim Park, Aldershot GU11 2HS (tel 01252 347196 (am) or 01252 323340 (pm) or e-mail john-oakes@bigfoot.com

Northamptonshire Regiment: Annual reunion of Northamptonshire Regiment Association and Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northamptonshire Branch), Northampton, July 8-9. AGM, dinner and reception by ticket only from TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ.

Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment: Reunion weekend in Salisbury, July 29-30, open to former members of Glosers, Royal Berkshire Regt, Royal Wiltshire Regt, DERR (1959-94), past and present RGBW. Ring RGBW RHQ on 01722 414536 or e-mail RHQRGBW@cs.com

16 Signal Regiment (1960s): Reunion on Sept 1-4, to include HQ BAOR Sig Tp Reunion Club. Details of the "60's 16ers" and reunion from Chris Bartlett, 45 Whitehouse Road,

Dunn



To complement the book, a compact disc compilation entitled **Vivian Dunn Conducts** and taken from recordings made by the Band of HM Royal Marines and the orchestra of the Light Music Society is available. An excellent disc worthy of a place in any band or orchestral collection, it includes the *English Folk Song Suite, Pomp and Circumstance March No 2* and *The Haunted Ballroom*.

Both book and CD are available from the Eastney Collection, 60 Mayford Road, London, SW12 8SN (book £19.95, p&p UK £2.95 and £5 overseas; CD £12 UK and £15 overseas).

If you have any queries about military music, please write me c/o *Soldier*.

● **Sea soldiers with a future – Page 73**

Joining up: **Mark Blaylock**, right, one of the four national winners chosen from 17,000 entries to the Army's Operation Kenya competition, has decided to quit his job as a sheet metal worker in Carlisle to join the Royal Engineers.



His interest was aroused by an exhilarating week in Kenya alongside soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, and he has already sailed through the first recruiting test at Carlisle Armed Forces Careers Office. Next stop on his way to a military career was the Glencorse selection centre.

Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR (tel 01702 524620) or e-mail chris60's16er@tesco.net

Royal Signals, Malta-Libya, 1950s-1960s: Reunion in Loughborough on Sept 29-30. Details from Roy Andrews on 01227 264551.

Ex-Beverley Boys: Reunion for **6 (Boys) Trg Regt, R Signals, 1950-55**, on Oct 7-8. Contact Tony Hull (01202 770261), Mike Teague (01670 366637) or B R Toyne (01904 765137).

4th Regiment RA, Walsall: Reunion dinner at Walsall, Oct 14. Details: Mick Avery on 01902 570942 or Pete Lazell on 020 734 15278.

7th Field Company/Squadron RE: Reunion and dinner, Leicester, Oct 21. Sae to Mrs G Bignell, Dovecote House, Claypole, Newark NG23 5BJ.

TV researcher would like to hear from soldiers or friends and families who have kept memorable letters sent during conflicts. A series of short documentaries entitled *War Letters* aims to show the special significance that letters can have in difficult times. If you have such letters and would be willing to talk about them on TV, contact Mark Tanner, 36 Primrose Street, Lancaster LA1 3BN (tel 01524 389053).

Details sought of **Arthur Joseph Longland**

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointments

Major General: Ven J Blackburn to be Chaplain General, May 13; G G Messervy-Whiting, Head Interim Military Staff EU Brussels, to be promoted acting major general.

Lieutenant Colonels: S J Bacon, R Anglian – to HQ TSC, April 1; J A C Bazzard RA – to PPCM, June 30; P A S Cartwright RHF – to D Def RP, Aug 21; N P Challis RLC – to DLO, April 10; M G A Drage, Gren Gds – to PS12(A), May 2; E M Flint, R Signals – to JSCSC, Aug 28; R J Gilroy RLC – to DLO, April 10; L S J Gregori RLC – to RHQ AF SOUTH, April 17; K M Harvey RA – to DGD&D, July 17; C S Hyslop AAC – to HQ STC, July 31; P F A Jennings, Cheshire – to HQ MND (SW), Aug 14; I W Macarthur RLC – to DLO, March 6; S H O'Connell AGC (ETS) – to HQ Land, June 26; J D Parsons RLC – to HQ Land, April 3; D S Short AAC – to USAC&GSC, July 14; N S Southward LD – to DA Bratislava, July 21; R J Stovell AGC (SPS) – to CM(IIS), May 8; J R Suggit, Int Corps – to DJW, May 15; C J L Terrington, Int Corps – to JACIG, July 19; M W Whitchurch RE – to HQ Land, June 1; K N Whittaker RLC – to BATUS, March 27.

M K Allen RE – to ENINC(A), June 6; W J R

Barclay REME – to HQ DEME(A), March 13; M J Beard, R Anglian – to ITC Warminster, June 19; E C Cameron AGC(SPS) – to Project ACSAS, June 5; H R Cameron REME – to HQ DEME(A), March 13; R B Davis, R Signals – to DCIS(A), May 15; P A Eadie AAC – to JDCC, Aug 29; R D Gibson RE – to E-in-C(A), July 31; M P Hartigan, R Irish – to HQ SFOR, May 31; S G James RA – to HQ DRA, May 2; D K Joyce AAC – to HQ DAAv; K L Leslie REME – to DGES(Land), Nov 2; G R Le Fevre, Int Corps – to DGD&D, July 3; N C May REME – to DGES(Land), Mar 6.

D A McAvoy REME – to HQ Land, April 10; J R Morley, R Signals – to HQ DFTS, Jan 10; N J W Moss AAC – to DAAv, June 26; P V Noakes REME – to STA SP IPT, May 8; A J Pickford REME – to Lt Armd Sys, Jan 4; P A H Poole RE – to PD/ELWS, May 8; S J Richardson, R Signals – to APC, Mar 27; S A Smith AGC(SPS) – to APC, June 12; R G C Sparshatt, R Signals – to HQ R Signals, Mar 15; J C Taylor AGC(SPS) – to RP Centre, May 15; A F Thomson REME – to DHS, Mar 20; A E Topp – to D Tech, Feb 15; M W Van Grutten QDG – to RCB, July 3; C W Walch AAC – to DAAv, July 21; S P Wallis, R Signals – to Sangcom, June 5; R A Winchester RA – to DERA, July 3; S Williamson REME – to APC, June 19.

SEARCHLINE

Royal Engineers Association (Portsmouth and District) meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Ex-Serviceman's Club, Fratton Road, Portsmouth. Details: John Adams 023 92261811.

Serving and ex-serving members welcome at the monthly meetings of **RAMC Association (East Midlands)** at Melton Mowbray. Details: Ken Taylor on 0115 9476721 (day) or 0115 9892984 (home).

Old comrades of **Sgt Alan Main** who served with him in **British Somaliland 1955-56** are asked to contact Bruce Nettleton at PO Box 10, Buderim, 4556 Queensland, Australia.

Information on **Capt Eric Lacey RA** sought for his son, Michael Lacey. Capt Lacey served in France, survived Dunkirk and was sent to Malaya in 1941. He was captured and sent to the Thai section of the Burma railway. Photographs of his captivity have been donated to the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum. Contact Michael via Lt Col (Retd) T R Beaton, Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum, PO Box 61, Kanchanaburi 71000, Thailand.

Ex-sapper Edward Kelly wants to know which **Scottish infantry regiment** was replaced by **21 Engineer Regiment** at Assaye Barracks, Nienburg in late 1950. And did the barracks derive its name from the 74th of Foot, later 2nd Bn, Highland Light Infantry? Replies to 42 Odo Road, Dover, Kent CT17 0DW.

7th Field Company/Squadron RE: Reunion and dinner, Leicester, Oct 21. Sae to Mrs G Bignell, Dovecote House, Claypole, Newark NG23 5BJ.

With a view to a possible 40th anniversary reunion, Maurice J Rogers seeks news of any of the 60-plus young men who joined the Regular Army with him on **Sept 6, 1960** at the **Junior Leaders' Regiment RAC**, Bovington Camp, Dorset. Replies to him at 66 Holden Fold, Darwen, Lancs BB3 3AU (01254 774600).

Details sought of **Arthur Joseph Longland**

and son **Peter**. Arthur was posted from **RTR Depot India** to Ord Depot Chaklala, Sept 1940, and to GHQ New Delhi 1941-44 in rank of staff captain. Last known posting was HQ Drolali, 1947. News sought for his brother, ex-Desert Rat **Edwin Longland**, 86, who lost Arthur's address and most of his personal possessions at Monte Cassino and has never heard from him since. Replies to Gereldene Tommey, 11 Marion St, Hathershaw, Oldham OL8 2AW.

Mrs Katrina Pattinson seeks news of friend **Melanie Murphy**, wife of LCpl Wayne Murphy REME, last known living in Norman Road, Catterick, and with whom she lost touch on posting to Germany. Replies to 45 Elm Road, North Colerne, Chippenham, Wilts SN14 8QD (tel 01225 742452).

Bill Adler Books, 3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC20008 are looking for letters from soldiers to friends and family for a book, **World War II Letters** by Walter Cronkite (www.adlerbooks.com/wwiiletters.html) as well as personal accounts for **Love Stories: Romances of World War II** by Larry King (www.adlerbooks.com/lovestories.html).

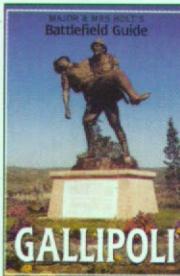
Scottish weekend has been organised in the castle of Alden Biesen, Belgium, Sept 9-10, to include pipe band championships, Highland games and dancing, Scottish and Irish music and whisky tasting. Contact Jurgen Vanherle, Parkstraat 34A, 3570 Alken, Belgium (tel 0032 11 59 68 90) or e-mail vanherle.j@skynet.be

MESS CLOSURE

39 Inf Bde WOs' and Sgts' Mess will close on July 31 when all mess members will join Lisburn Garrison Mess. Anyone who has made a presentation to the mess and would like their gift returned is asked to contact WO2 (RQMS) J B Kay on Lisburn Mil 42943 or 028 92 609943. Unclaimed presentations will be given to Lisburn Garrison Mess for display.

Aussie pilgrimage to 'their' battle

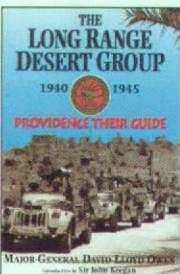
MEL Gibson's film *Gallipoli*, showing brave Aussies being sent to their deaths by inept



British officers, was, as we are gently reminded in a superb new guide, a somewhat slanted view. Many patriotic young Australians visit the site because they feel the 1915 landings were exclusively their affair, yet the French had twice as many casualties as Australia and the British suffered double the losses of all other Allies combined. Major and Mrs Holt's **Battlefield Guide to Gallipoli** is published by Pen & Sword in paperback at £14.95.

Forerunners of today's SAS

THIS month marks the 60th anniversary of the formation of one of the forerunners of today's special forces – and

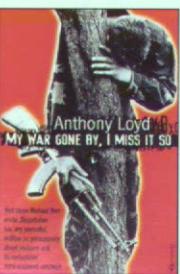


The Long Range Desert Group 1940-1945: Providence Their Guide (Pen & Sword, £19.95) has been re-published to mark the occasion, with a new introduction by Sir John Keegan. The author, Maj Gen David Lloyd

Owen, took command of this brave and effective behind-the-lines unit at the age of 26 until its disbandment in 1945. He has been chairman of the LRDG Association ever since and his book makes thrilling reading.

War reporting from the inside

AFTER five years in the Royal Green Jackets, serving in Northern Ireland and the Gulf War,



Anthony Loyd hitched across Europe to Bosnia at the height of the civil war. His stark but acclaimed piece of concerned reportage, **My War Gone By, I Miss You So** (Anchor, paperback, £6.99), has been compared by one critic to Michael Herr's *Dispatches*.

Now a special correspondent for *The Times*, Loyd has since covered the conflicts in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Kosovo (which he fled pursued by Serbian police) and Chechnya (where he was arrested by the Russians).

Making heavy weather of it

BOTH Napoleon and Hitler initiated their eventual downfall by launching campaigns against Russia. Neither chose to heed warnings about the bitter cold of that country's winter and they paid the price of "The Weather Factor".

As the son of an officer in the Austrian Kaiserschutzen battalions of the First World War, veteran war correspondent Erik Durschmied has a special insight into the effect of weather on warfare.

Indeed, one chapter focuses on the 1916 Austrian-Italian conflict in the Alps and the avalanches, landslides and ice-bridge collapses that were a constant danger for troops.

Durschmied emphasises the destructive power of the "unleashed forces of nature" when he writes: "Italians as well as Austrians counted without the mountain.

"In all, two-thirds of the casualties during this murderous mountain war were inflicted by the elements." We are

The Weather Factor by Erik Durschmied (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99).

told of temperatures falling to 46 degrees below and 14,236 frostbite casualties in one army alone – typical of statistics throughout this book.

Durschmied's search for suitable examples of the weather factor are not confined to the last century. He has even scoured pre-Christian history to find suitable subject matter.

SUPERSTITIOUS

In one chapter he draws on the writings of Roman scholars to tell the story of Varus and the destruction of his superstitious legions.

Tales from this far back could become flawed because they centre upon "eye-witness" accounts often written several years after the event, but Durschmied compensates with his thorough research.

However, the fact that this

book centres on nature's effect on the balance of military history leaves one chapter standing on its own.

"The Great Potato Famine" certainly left its mark on the course of Irish and American history but it sits uneasily in a book that might have been titled "Weather and Warfare". It's almost as if the sub-title "How nature has changed history" was an afterthought to justify this chapter's place.

That said, to give full credit to the author the book is well researched and easily accessible, allowing each chapter to be read independently, and he has produced a different slant on a genre that seems particularly popular at the moment.

Books and television series such as *Great Military Blunders* and Durschmied's previous best-seller *The Hinge Factor* show the fascination that can be generated by telling the story of a strategic defeat due to unforeseeable elements. – MW

IN BRIEF

The T-34 tank by Dr Matthew Hughes and Dr Chris Mann. Third in the well-illustrated *Weapons of War* series. (Spellmount, large-format hardback, £14.99.)

Bayonet Battle by Tim Ripley. Story of the bayonet in the 20th century, now in paperback. (Pan, £6.99.)

The Fall of France – Act with Daring by Martin Marix Evans. This glossy, well-illustrated, large-format analysis of events leading up to Dunkirk and beyond is partly based on newly-discovered maps which prove Hitler was right when (on von Rundstedt's advice) he

ordered his Panzers not to cross marshy terrain and allowed 300,000 Allied soldiers to be evacuated in Operation Dynamo. (Osprey, £19.99.)

The Korean War: The West Confronts Communism 1950-1953 by Michael Hickey. Timely paperback reissue of retired colonel's much-admired account first published last year. (John Murray, £14.99.)

Anti-Tank Weapons by Terry Gander. Illustrated technical history from the First World War to the Apache. (Crowood Press, large-format hardback, £19.95.)

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. Postal address: Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, UK (tel 01270 3393; fax 0121 711 1315).

E-mail: books@helion.co.uk
Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Caen: Anvil of Victory by Alexander McKee. One of the great D-Day books, by the man who later located the wreck of the Mary Rose, is reissued in paperback. (Souvenir Press, £12.99.)

The Straits of War: Gallipoli Remembered, introduced by Sir Martin Gilbert. Compilation of 16 Gallipoli Memorial Lectures, by, among others, the Duke of Edinburgh, Fd Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall and Gen Sir Hugh Beach. (Sutton, £20.)

The Guns of August by Barbara W Tuchman. Great historian's brilliant narrative of the opening month of 1914, reissued in paperback. (Robinson, £9.99.)

Verdun by Jules Romains. Epic 1938 novel centred on the tragic and futile 1916 battle. (Constable, paperback, £9.99.)

Awesome story of a Gurkha regiment

THIS final, substantial volume tells in awesome detail the story of the regiment from 1975 to amalgamation with The Royal Gurkha Rifles in 1994.

It also includes a foreword by the Prince of Wales and 110 pages of fact-filled appendices giving the history since 1766, revising the Roll of Honour to

Bugle and Kukri: The Story of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles by Brig P T C Pearson.

expand it by 417 names, reviewing the Honours and Awards to add 150 previously omitted recipients, and listing officers since 1890.

The author, Colonel of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, recently returned from a tour in command at Pristina in Kosovo.

This collector's item is available at £19.95, plus £3 UK p&p, from 10 GR Regimental Trust, c/o Eastmanton House, Sparsholt, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9PJ.

Sea-soldiers with a future

SOLDIERS or sailors? The fact is, the Royal Marines are part of the Royal Navy establishment, though there is often confusion among people who are not military-minded.

To muddy the waters, 32 infantry regiments of the line have in the past served as marines; and when on parade with the Army, the Royal Marines take precedence after The Black Watch.

"Marines, in the British service," Maj Gen Thompson writes, "have always regarded themselves as soldiers who go to sea, not sailors who go ashore." A typical no-nonsense statement from one whose distinguished 34-year career in the Royal Marines included command of 3 Commando Brigade in the Falklands and who has since become one of our leading military historians.

In this 700-page sweep through the corps' 336-year history, he takes us from the days of the Navy sea-soldiers of Charles II through to the latter-day infantry and special forces roles, with by far the largest chunk of the book devoted to the 20th century. In the First World War Royal Marines served at sea in the Grand Fleet, stormed ashore gallantly at Gallipoli and performed heroically in the Zeebrugge raid.

For two years they fought

The Royal Marines: From Soldiers to a Special Force by Julian Thompson (Sidgwick & Jackson, £30).

on the Western Front, though it was well into the century before it was accepted that the Royal Marines were better and more fulfillingly employed in battalions and formations alongside the Army.

Their conversion to commandos and landing-craft crews did not come until 1943 and their vital roles in

ed with first-hand accounts and photographs, is spiced with wry observations.

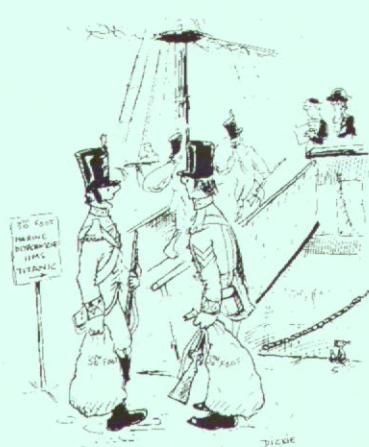
It may have been love of music and ceremonial, or just plain vanity, for example, which saved the corps in the first half of the 20th century at a time when sea-going Royal Marines bands were drafted from ship to ship as required.

"Senior naval officers became very possessive about their bands," Thompson writes, "and in later years, whenever the future existence of the Marines as a whole was threatened, more cynical Marine officers would speculate – only half in jest – that only the prospect of the admirals losing their bands would save the day."

It seems the corps now has less reason to feel insecure. The Strategic Defence Review, with its accent on joint operations, "has given as clear an indication of an assured future for the Royal Marines and amphibious operations as it is possible to give". (Sierra Leone is a case in point.)

Thompson adds that with their new-found security, there may be a need for the Royal Marines to come off the defensive.

"Perhaps the time has come to be more arrogant, to define clearly the Royal Marines' role in the wider scheme of things, and in doing so take their place at the top table." – CH



"Think of it this way... no marching, no sleeping on the ground, regular vitals..."

Malaya, Borneo, the Radfan mountains, Aden, Korea, Suez, Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf are well recorded here.

Thompson calls his style "history with attitude" and his compelling narrative, illustrat-

IN MY BOOK Alan Mallinson

An occasional series in which military authors talk about their life and work

Soldier with novel ideas

COMBINING the roles of popular novelist and military attaché must be unusual, if not unique, but it is true of Allan Mallinson, (pictured).

Publication of *The Nizam's Daughters*, his second Napoleonic novel featuring Matthew Hervey, Light Dragoons, came as he prepared to take up his post at the British Embassy in Rome.

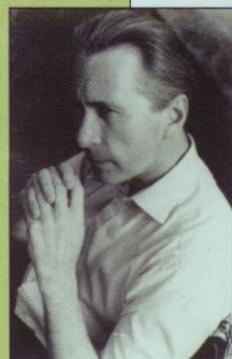
B rig Mallinson, 51 and married with two daughters, is no stranger to mixing seemingly diverse occupations. His Army career began in 1969 when he took a break from training for the Anglican priesthood to join The King's Own Royal Border Regiment on a short-service commission. He then took up a Regular commission with the 13/18th Hussars, going on to command his regiment.

When it amalgamated with the 15th/19th Hussars in 1992 he wrote a combined history. Already an authority on military horse and historical matters, he had a deepening interest in the Napoleonic period which led last year to the first Hervey book, *A Close Run Thing*, written with the advice and encouragement of the maritime novelist Patrick O'Brian.

"His Aubrey/Maturin stories enthralled me for so many years that I began to fret for anything remotely comparable for the cavalry of that period, until eventually I found the resolve to attempt, myself, to do something about it," he wrote.

Like Hervey, Brig Mallinson is an experienced rider. "The Army really gave me the opportunity to ride and encouraged me," he said. "One of my company commanders was a keen horseman and was always exhorting us to get out and follow hounds, either on foot or on a horse, because it would give us a good eye for ground – very useful for an infantryman or an armoured corps officer."

● *The Nizam's Daughters* (Bantam Press, £16.99); *A Close Run Thing* (Bantam Books, paperback, £6.99).



RILOR fails to cover our travel costs

I, and a number of my soldiers, are in receipt of Recompense in Lieu of Relocation (RILOR) due to the fact that we live in our own houses, as opposed to Residence to Place of Duty (RESPOD) for those living in a family quarter away from their duty station. This allows us greater stability for our families and an improved quality of life.

It allows our spouses to work where they want to, or can, and so have a sense of worth. More importantly, for most it means there is a second income into the household. The main sacrifice we make is that we bear the cost of travel to and from our place of duty. This cost is meant to be covered by RILOR.

While I accept the 50-mile limit for claiming, I feel that with the increases in taxes and petrol prices, the present rate of RILOR is derisory and fails to cover the cost of fuel, let alone wear-and-tear on cars.

With petrol at 78.9p a gallon (at the time of writing) and rising, a car achieving 30 miles a gallon and driving 144 miles a day, it costs me £16.82 a day in fuel alone. RILOR allows for 100 miles a day, which costs £11.69 a day in fuel alone.

TOTAL DRIVING DAYS

RILOR is paid at £6.50 a day for 365 days of the year, equating to £2,372.50 a year. However, with 365 days, minus 30 working days' leave, minus 15 working days on exercise (where LSSA is paid, and which I do not believe is unrealistic for non-deployed units), minus 104 days for weekends and minus 12 days for national holidays, we are actually paid for 204 driving days.

That total, give or take, therefore equates to an actual allowance of £11.62 per driving day. The actual fuel cost, for the RILOR limit of 50 miles, is £11.69. So RILOR doesn't cover the cost of fuel used, the wear-and-tear on engines and tyres, and nor does it contribute to servicing costs.

This is exacerbated by the RESPOND rates, which can apply, of up to £17.50 a day for a soldier living in a family quarter. No wonder he does not want to deploy to Bosnia again.

Those of us in our own homes are ambitious, dedicated and committed and do not let our travelling affect our duty. However much we want a better quality of life, we are not a burden on the MoD in terms of requiring a quarter, and accept that one day we may have to occupy one, probably not through choice.

Many of your letters and the comments to CGS's Briefing Team include some reference to pay, charges and allowances. We can't apply knee-jerk reactions to market change, but allowances should be reviewed more often, perhaps quarterly, with the results published to ensure that administrative allowances are realistic. – Maj J W Giggins RLC, 92 Ammunition Squadron RLC, 9 Supply Regiment RLC, Marlborough Barracks, Temple Herdewyke, Southam, Warks.

Leaving was my BIG mistake

AS an ex-RAPC civilian, I'm amazed at the amount of moaning coming from inside the British Army. I left in 1990 and it was the biggest mistake of my life.

It took me a couple of years for the realisation to hit me and when it did I went to my local Army Careers Office to enquire about rejoining. At first I was told I was too old – I was 28 – but was then advised that I could start again, as a raw recruit going through basic training.

The prospect of being a 30-year-old rookie didn't appeal, so I gave up hope. The moral of this, as I often tell my younger brother serving in Germany and

grumbling as loudly as everyone else, is don't make my mistake and throw in the towel just because something gives you the hump.

You're in the best army in the world, the camaraderie is second-to-none, the support and back-up is first-class (even if it doesn't always feel like it), possibilities for travel abound and facilities for soldiers and families are top-notch.

Trust me, I know. As I look out of the window of my three-bedroom council flat overlooking Tilbury docks, just down the road from a power station . . . think about it. – Steve Mothersole, Tilbury, Essex.

Do LSSA changes go far enough?

HAVE the changes to Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) gone far enough? The ten per cent (basic) and 25 per cent (middle and upper) increases to the bands are obviously welcomed and deserved, but is the qualifying period fair?

Why should less experienced soldiers, undergoing the same duty, be subjected to conflicting allowances solely because of the time served? For administration and equality I feel the next step should be to abolish this qualifying period.

Secondly, the bonuses. Although £1,000 is the figure banded around, remember the net figures will only be £780 for most and £600 for some. If a soldier deploys for a second six-month tour within a 24-month period, the LSSA(AT Plus) may still be a carrot too far once the two periods of R and R are taken into account. Many will also miss the LSSA(AT) bonus if they deploy twice within 30 months. Is this fair? If

▲ We asked HQ Land Command to comment on WO2 Brown's observations. This is what they said: *Recent enhancements to the LSSA package have been well received, with the qualifying period being dropped from three years' to 18 months' service. The allowance is intended to support and improve retention and the lowering of the time served was very hard-fought.*

The LSSA(AT) £1,000 bonuses are taxable but this should not detract from the fact that they are excellent enhancements and are being backdated to December 1997.

The recent increase in the daily rate of LSSA to ten per cent for the basic rate and 25 per cent for the middle and higher rates will also make a real difference in the pockets of those who are deployed.

The system for calculating the bonuses

Prize letter

the stories are true about Nato advisers, police and other armed forces receiving large bonuses upon completion of operational tours, why do we not opt for a bonus payment on completion of a four- or six-month operational tour? Any non-operational absences should only attract the LSSA payments, remembering that these days will still increase the LSSA counter towards the next LSSA band.

Such changes, I feel, would be fairer all round, more understandable to the soldier and would alleviate the farcical administration process which has been invented to record and process the allowance and the bonuses. Having spent the past 12 months chasing shadows following the changes to the pay system, is it not time for simplification? Roll on Pay 2001. I can't wait. – WO2 M Brown AGC(SPS), 3 Bn REME, Paderborn.

takes into account all periods of separation which attract LSSA, not just operational tours, and UNICOM is being programmed to do this automatically for all personnel.

It is impossible to make meaningful comparisons between other contingents and ourselves. Simple face value assessments often do not take account of economic factors such as the cost of living and levels of taxation in individual countries. Moreover, many armed forces have a much lower basic rate of pay and do not have an expectation for worldwide deployments.

British Servicemen and women, of course, receive the X-factor in addition to their basic pay, which is to compensate for the balance of disadvantages of Service life and is paid throughout your career, regardless of whether or not you are deployed on operations.

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1950: "Together now, heave!" A routine job, pictured, for labourers working with British units at Lethe, five miles from Benghazi, north Africa. Water from the Lethe river, believed to be the Lethe of Greek mythology, is used by 22 Mobile Laundry to wash shirts and sheets.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1975: A year ago Cyprus's Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area was a dream posting. Following last summer's Turkish invasion it has become a no-man's-land between Greek and Turk. Although the shooting has stopped, tension has altered its face.

Let single soldiers rent Army quarters

I AM a 35-year-old soldier in a steady, unmarried heterosexual relationship and I'm having problems with finding accommodation with an affordable rent.

In this area a two-bedroomed property rented through a civilian letting agency costs on average £620 a month, and there are additional costs such as Council Tax and water rates (a further £90-£100). Average cost of renting an Army quarter is £150 a month.

I would welcome feedback as to why someone in a steady unmarried relationship is denied the opportunity to rent a quarter. In every garrison there are always a number of vacant quarters that would benefit from being occupied.

An 18-year-old single female soldier, not necessarily in a relationship, who

becomes pregnant (planned or otherwise) would be offered a quarter. In some instances a quarter is given to an individual because of his or her appointment, even if they are single.

Society no longer considers it morally wrong for unmarried couples to live together, so why does the military not allow cohabitation in quarters? Surely it would benefit all concerned if quarters were occupied and rent being paid.

I'm not kicking up a stink, but would like to know why single soldiers may not rent quarters at a more affordable rate along with married personnel. It works in other countries, New Zealand being a prime example. — WO2 (RQMS) J Alger, 101 Log Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (261), Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Mail us!

PS...

Our friendly Army

I AM writing a novel set in and around an army barracks and for my research visited Robertson Barracks at Swanton Morley, Norfolk. I was amazed by how friendly, helpful and hospitable everyone was. My day there was a good learning experience and a pleasurable time. I learned a lot about the Army and I now have an interest in the Army that extends beyond my novel. — Natasha Oakley, 45 Blackwell Avenue, Sproxton, Norwich NR7 8XN.

Pride of a wife

IF our soldiers get a medal for a four-month tour of duty in Bosnia and the dogs get one too (quite rightly), why not for Suez 1951-54? A meeting with the MoD scheduled for March was cancelled. Please, Dr Lewis Moonie, I appeal to you to do something about this — it is a matter of HONOUR for the men who were involved. We are grateful to Andrew Bennett MP and many others who are fighting for us. We are not going to go away. Margaret Robinshaw (proud wife of 1st Bn Border Regt veteran), Hyde, Cheshire.

Sheet music appeal

I recently bought a bugle which my Combined Cadet Force commander would like me to play on camp. I am at a loss as I only have a few pieces I could play. I emailed the Royal Marines who kindly sent me some sheet music, but a large proportion applies to when you are at sea. Could anyone send me some music, or put me in touch with someone who could? — LCpl James Owen (Royal Grammar School Worcester CCF), Caedmon, Main Street, Pinvin, Pershore, Worcs WR10 2ER.

TAVRA's wrong title

WHILE we are delighted with your coverage of the TA Day (May), it is irritating to find on Page 13 that our former title has been wrongly published as the Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve Association (TAVRA) instead of the correct title, the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association. — Maj (Retd) R M Smith, Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association, Glasgow.

MPGS promotions

IN response to the letter "Promotion gaps in guard service" (May) defending promotions for pilot scheme Military Provost Guard Service staff, I've been in the MPGS for three years and have listened to them tell us that they have several hundred people waiting to enlist, yet most of the sites are running under-strength. I was also told on joining I might have to be a private soldier until new sites opened, then watched people join at SNCO level. Best job in the MPGS is the goalpost mover. — LCpl, name supplied, Wilton.

Non-payment of tax on ops would affect rates of pay

I am writing concerning the "Why are we taxed on ops" debate and in particular the letter from DPS(A) (March). It fails to justify previous claims that soldiers are better off paying tax while on operations.

The basis of the argument is not the fact that we are relatively well paid compared with a US equivalent, it's the fact that all other Nato armed forces in the Balkans arena receive an additional benefit over and above other benefits... they aren't required to pay income tax.

Is something else implied in all this? Are we being told the benefits we currently receive will be reduced or cut if we don't pay tax on operations? – **Sgt Del Collins, 34 MI Section, Kiwi Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wilts.**

▲ An article in Soldier in November 1999 clearly stated why DPS(A) believes soldiers are better off paying taxes while on operations, namely that the Armed Forces Pay Review Body acknowledges the continuous payment of income tax when recommending the Army's annual rates of pay.

Notwithstanding the wide-ranging legislative aspects of this issue, not paying income tax on operations would be taken into account by the AFPRB when it assesses daily rates of pay for the military. Not only might this have a knock-on effect on daily pay, but also on pensions. – **Editor**

CMTs deserve to get tech pay

I'M a combat medical technician but don't receive tech pay because it's not considered a skilled job as such. It's more than a skill to be able to extract a casualty from a vehicle upside down in a ditch, and on the same level as a radio operator. Why is there such a pay imbalance across all trades in the Army? – **Pte McCann, 5 UK Med Gp, Op Agricola III.**

EFI's response did not address the issues

THE reply to complaints about the standard of EFI (Expeditionary Force Institutes) services in the Balkans (April) was worthy of a Westminster spin doctor and didn't answer the issues.

I was in Sarajevo during 1996-97 and while the ECHOS [a Dutch Christian charity run at cost] had long had a comfortable and inviting cafeteria up and running, the EFI was still working out of the back of an ISO container. The staff of this "establishment" proudly

Delayed reactions

WE'VE had a large response to Mrs Canham's provocative letter "My tears (of laughter) over plight of singles" (April) and will attempt to summarise them in the next issue. Look out also for comment on the "Layer of ignorance" (March) letter on Combat Soldier 95 clothing.

NI regiment's policy means travel by most cost-effective means

IT is with some horror that members of Northern Ireland Combat Service Support Regiment (formerly 21 Logistic Support Regiment RLC) find themselves having to pay their own way to and from courses.

Normally the procedure has been that if you wish to take your own car, Motor Mileage Allowance (MMA) at the duty rate will be paid, as well as the ferry. If you do not have your own vehicle, a military vehicle is used.

The alternative is to take the ferry to Scotland as a foot passenger carrying all the equipment needed for perhaps a four-week course (with no military kit showing) and on the other side to collect a hire car with which to drive to the course and then return the car.

Of course, we can always fly, using one of our own warrants, although airlines do not look favourably on checking-in with 120lb of kit.

Even personnel on promotion courses must use their own warrants if they wish to take either their own vehicle, or a military vehicle, or fly to the nearest airport.

When I enquired as to why we must use our own warrants (or pay our own way if we have none left) the answer was that they had no money to spend on travel. – **Name and address supplied, NICSS Regt, Northern Ireland.**

▲ The following response was received from Lt Col A D Duncan, commanding officer, Northern Ireland Combat Service Support Regiment:

The letter written by one of my soldiers, while expressing a perceived grievance, does contain a number of inaccuracies. Members of

this regiment do not have to pay for their own transport to and from military courses. They have been, and will continue to be, provided with transportation at public expense to and from such courses.

It is this regiment's policy that soldiers or officers travelling to and from courses do so by the most cost-effective method. This means that in the majority of cases, individuals travel as foot passengers to either Heysham or Stranraer and then collect a hire car to the course (the car is refuelled using a Shell agency card). The same means of travel is used on the return journey.

This form of travel can be undertaken at approximately one third of the cost of sending a vehicle by ferry and paying Motor Mileage Allowance (MMA). On the occasions that there is more than one person travelling to the same training establishment, for example at DST Leconfield or the Depot and Training Regiment Deepcut, authority is granted for the soldiers to travel jointly in a private car and claim MMA.

A number of individuals within the regiment have chosen to use one of their leave warrants in order to allow them to claim for using their own car to a course. This has been the individual's own decision: transport at public expense was offered and will always be provided in the future.

These individuals, however, have decided that they wish to travel in their own vehicle, as they are reluctant to spend a number of weeks at Deepcut or Leconfield without their own means of transport for use at weekends and so on. I wish to stress that this is the individual's decision.

This regiment takes its responsibilities to train soldiers and qualify them for promotion extremely seriously and it will continue to ensure that personnel complete the necessary courses in the requisite time frame.

results in a high return on virtually no outlay.

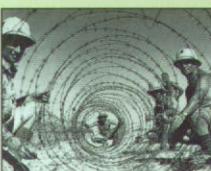
The answer is simple: some of the £16.6 million generated by EFI/Naafi should be spent on erecting facilities of a standard equivalent to those of the ECHOS, and it should be done as quickly as the Dutch manage to do it. Once cafés are built, effort should be made to provide service with a hint of quality. How about, for instance, serving real coffee?

While it may be acceptable for Naafi to make a profit in garrisons, EFI should work at cost in operational theatres. – **WO2 A Kevill, 12 MI Sect, BFPO 36.**



Freeze-frame

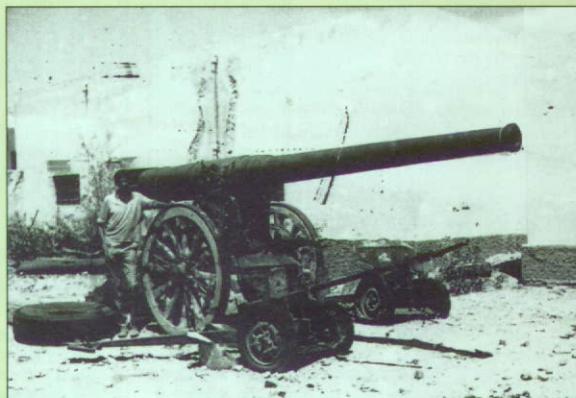
Our April freeze-frame (see below) winner is Pte Sean Whan, of 202 Fd Hosp, Birmingham, with "The Desert Rats weren't too impressed when they found their barbed-wire trap had caught only a cameraman." Nice tries included: "Trials of the first combat Slinky had trouble finding a big enough flight of stairs" (Capt Jimmy James, Adj't 2 (Trg) Regt AAC) and "Cor, he's a little 'un" (W R McCarthy, Highworth, Swindon.



"I thought the Body Zone would be more interesting than this . . ."

Write your own funny caption for this photograph, first published in *Soldier* in July 1953. The best, in the opinion of the Editor, will win a silver-plated book-clock bearing the Army logo. Usual competition rules apply and entries should reach us by June 30.

Aussies' Tobruk gun still there 18 years on



YOUR "50 years ago" spot (April) featured an Italian gun in Tobruk. I enclose a photo taken in 1968 of me posing beside the same gun and a couple of anti-tank guns. I don't recall them being outside the Garrison HQ at the time, but in a cul-de-sac a few streets away.

At the time I was attached to 10 Vehicle Company RAOC, stationed at RAF El Adem. I believe the Royal Irish Rangers were the resident infantry company.

The second photo is of a famous landmark on the road into Tobruk from El Adem. It shows formation signs of the



Eighth Army. Are they still there, I wonder. — M J Tanner, ex-Cpl REME, Reigate, Surrey.

Returning Service people can overcome refusal to give credit

IN reference to Sgt Siford's letter (April) about credit refusal, I had the same experience when I returned to the UK from Canada. By speaking to the credit company while in the shop where I was applying for credit, I discovered there was an exemption clause for Service personnel.

This was with GE Capital, who are by far the largest credit company in Britain,

including Mothercare and Currys. The telephonist was not aware of the exemption but, by asking for an explanation of the refusal I was put through to Customer Service Appeals who authorised the credit immediately.

I hope this is of use to others. — Maj Mike Burke, Royal Signals, RMCS Shrivenham.

PS . . .

Phase two NCOs

YOU published an article on the AGC(RMP) (May), in which you stated that phase two training conducted at Chichester was the only course in the Army where students leave as an NCO. In the Intelligence Corps there are three trades – Operator Intelligence and Security, Operator Special Intelligence (Analyst) and Operator Special Intelligence (Linguist) – of which, on completion of phase two training at Chicksands, soldiers are promoted to lance corporal. — WO1 (RSM) Maisie Markham, Int Corps RSM, Chicksands.

Jackie's red beret

YOU reported that Musn Alison Swindles had become the first woman to wear the famous beret of The Parachute Regiment (Page 8, April). In the Seventies I performed with the Red Devils and in one season was tasked with leading the first woman member of that team, LCpl Jackie Smith, into the arena at Newcastle. She did several seasons with the team and went on to represent Great Britain at the world accuracy parachute championships. She won, scoring ten out of ten dead centres, the first time that had been achieved by anyone, male or female.

Jackie was presented with her red beret at a special ceremony and was, I believe, the first woman to have that privilege. — Lt K Noble, Northumbria ACF.

Infantry viewpoint

YOUR Vox pop (April) on kit and SA80 included the opinions of only three Infantry soldiers out of 11 interviewed. If anyone can say kit is good, it is an infantry. — LCpl A Backhouse, 2 RRF, Kosovo.

Very long server

AFTER reading about WO1 (GSM) Peter Padley's 38 years as a warrant officer (Diary, April) I am writing to tell you I enlisted in the ATS in September 1946, entered the sergeants' mess on promotion in November 1949 (re-badged WRAC) and was made a warrant officer in March 1961. I left the service as a Regular WO1 in July 1985 having been a member of the WOs' and sergeants' mess for 35 years and eight months. My embodied service totalled 38 years and 210 days. — Miss D A Brook, Hardwick, Cambridge.

IF you want finance and have been out of the UK for a while it may pay you to use your parents' address, get a guarantor or find a sympathetic company or bank manager. We are able to offer a credit checking and scoring service, at cost, for currently serving soldiers. You can e-mail me for more information. — John Carr, Libracarr@aol.com

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Harry Minards (cpl, 1 R Norfolk)

I was called up at 18 and had ten weeks' training. Within a few weeks of arriving in Korea we were up the line. We didn't know what the war was all about. Compared with the Americans', our kit was rubbish.



Terry Saunders (cpl, 1 R Norfolk and R Fusiliers)

We went on a 17-pounder gunnery course but when we were shipped out we didn't use them because they were so heavy we couldn't get them up the hills. We were issued with very good winter clothing.



Terry Jackson Brown (pte, 1 R Norfolk)

I went on an extra 20-week course to work in the field kitchen. The catering equipment was quite good but we had to use our ingenuity, as we didn't have that much to cook. We used to scrounge food from the American MASH hospital.



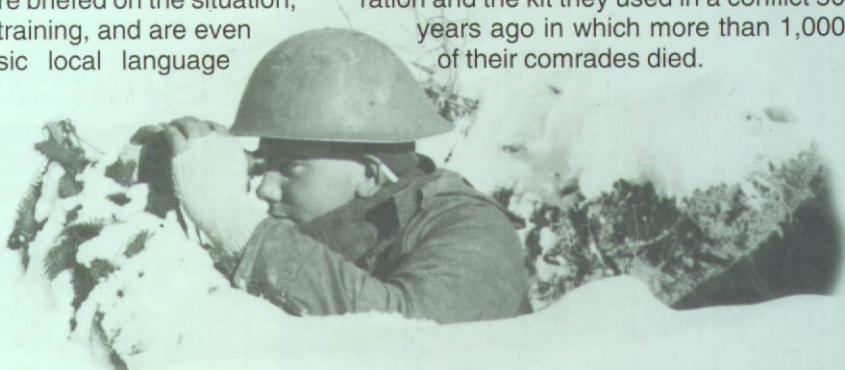
Ernie Quince (pte, A and SH)

We received no specialist training for Korea and got our information about the terrain from an American captain. The kit was virtually the same as used in the



Today, every effort is made to ensure soldiers deploying to theatre receive appropriate equipment, are briefed on the situation, receive specialist training, and are even taught some basic local language

skills. It was not always so. We talked to veterans of the Korean War about their preparation and the kit they used in a conflict 50 years ago in which more than 1,000 of their comrades died.



Second World War. The rifle was very accurate. The Americans gave us virtually all our clothing and rations.

Peter Galloway (cpl, 1 R Fusiliers)

Korea is full of hills, so naturally we trained in Norfolk. I was too young to go to the front line immediately but I know the equipment was good; it was what I took out with me.



Derek Slattery (cpl, King's Shropshire Light Infantry)

As a Regular I did border patrols in Hong Kong so was used to carrying the tripod and ammunition for a Vickers machine-gun, as well as my own gear. It was training that served me well in Korea.



John Pearson (pte, Welsh Regiment)

I was a National Serviceman and we had six weeks' Korea training at Brecon: it was ideal. We also had live-fire training in



Japan. When we left Brecon, we had three kit bags each, including extra clothing, sleeping bags, camouflage suits, socks, gloves and pullovers. When we got to Hong Kong they went into the stores of the Northumberland Fusiliers. On landing in Korea all we had was battle-order and a blanket. I never found out what happened to our gear.

Keith Nutter, (pte, 1 R Norfolk)

They trained us quickly and well and our kit was good. We went out with jungle greens and when the weather turned foul we got the new British winter kit, as good as the Yanks'. We used to feel sorry for the poor Chinese because we were better looked-after and fed.



Len Tice (pte, Northamptonshire Regiment)

I was National Service and was in Korea in 1953. We were lucky – we had the right kit, including parkas, boots

and string vests. Mines were one of the big dangers and one of the unpleasant duties was to clear up after a blast.

Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Graeme Main



Founded 1945
Incorporating the
Territorial Army Magazine



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Visit our website on
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit the Army website on
www.army.mod.uk

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