

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

October 1999 £1.60

# SOLDIER

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The squadron has two flights deployed in  
Gornji Vakuf

Picture: Mike Weston

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## SOLDIER to soldier

### Recruit film's a blankety-blank blockbuster

BBC TV's *Soldiers To Be* fly-on-the-wall documentary is likely to be remembered as much for the frequency of its expletives as for its gritty depiction of the recruit's lot.

Which is a pity, because the cameras have revealed there is much to be admired about military training and the NCOs who impart its lessons and instil its values. This is a system which, in a surprisingly short time, routinely turns immature, homesick and unfit young men and women into highly disciplined soldiers who earn international praise for their motivation, fortitude, courage and common sense in the Balkans and elsewhere.

*Soldier's* Mailbag pages have included letters from former Servicemen appalled by the swearing, particularly when it has been directed at female recruits. Chivalry, perhaps, is not dead.

### COMMON CURRENCY

Soldiers, it has to be said, swear a lot. But bad language is common currency on Britain's streets, just as it is in the programmes beamed out by our TV channels.

A year ago the Army issued to its instructors a Code of Practice which included the following paragraph: "Nothing is achieved by physical humiliation or the use of violent, filthy or abusive language, apart from the instructor losing the respect of his or her trainees."

Public (as opposed to ex-military) reaction to *Soldiers to Be* monitored by the Army has been positive, and the BBC is delighted with viewing figures that remained above six million an episode.

No harm done then, but it is a pity the robust language of a necessarily robust process was not left where it has always been... on the training area, the assault course and the exercise battlefield.



# From the sky, with all guns blazing

## 16 Air Assault Brigade – a potent mix of units

It will be several years before the new brigade is at full strength, and although commanded from Colchester, its elements will be widely distributed. We show here the units, the planned dates of their amalgamation and planned locations:

-  HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade, including a 35-strong RAF detachment, already at Colchester
-  216 Signal Squadron, already at Colchester
-  7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, move to Colchester from Aldershot in 2000/1
-  23 Engineer Regiment (a newly-created unit) to be established at Woodbridge, Suffolk. Date not yet agreed
-  Explosive Ordnance Disposal Troop, 33 Engineer Regiment, already based in Wimbish, Essex
-  1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, Aldershot-based, but part of the Brigade until August 2000
-  2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, move to Colchester from Aldershot in April 2000
-  3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, move to Colchester from Dover in August 2000
-  1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, move to Canterbury from Catterick in December 1999
-  3 Regiment, AAC, already at Wattisham
-  4 Regiment, AAC, already at Wattisham
-  9 Regiment, AAC, already at Dishforth, North Yorkshire
-  13 Air Assault Support Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, already at Colchester
-  7 Battalion, REME and 132 Aviation support Unit, RLC, already at Wattisham
-  16 Close Support Medical Regiment, already at Colchester
-  156 Provost Company, RMP, already at Colchester
-  The Pathfinder Platoon, already at Colchester

Like its hawk symbol, newly-created 16 Air Assault Brigade promises swift and deadly retribution from the sky. *Soldier* was there as the most powerful air-manoeuvrable fighting unit in Britain's history was launched

Report: Graham Bound  
Pictures: Steve Dock

IT WAS an unconventional way for hosts to arrive at their own party. But nobody attending the launch of 16 Air Assault Brigade at Wattisham Airfield near Ipswich could argue that the dramatic entrance of the new super-brigade was anything other than appropriate.

The preamble was formal, as befitted an occasion that also marked the winding up of 5 Airborne and 24 Airmobile Brigades. But the ceremonials were totally eclipsed by the spectacle which followed.

Swooping in from the sky beneath parachutes, aboard helicopters, in fixed-wing aircraft, the first combat units of Britain's approximately 8,000-strong new airborne spearhead force proudly announced their arrival. At the same time, they demonstrated the style that will become their trademark in the conflicts of the coming century.

Journalists, politicians and VIP guests, including the Defence Secretary, the Prince of Wales and Princes William and Harry, had been briefed about the increasing power 16 Air Assault Brigade will wield as its component units and assets come together over the next few years. They were told in particular of the remarkable potency of the 67 WAH-64 Apache attack helicopters, to be delivered to the Army Air Corps from March 2000.

But few thought there could be much to show for it yet.

They were wrong. The display of airborne strength, packed into a hectic and disorientating 20 minutes, shook Wattisham and the surrounding East Anglian



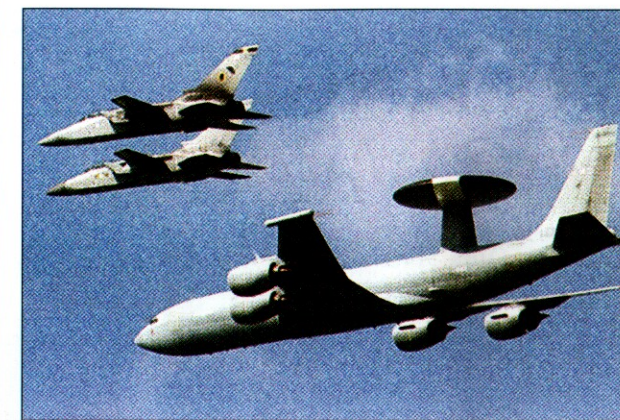
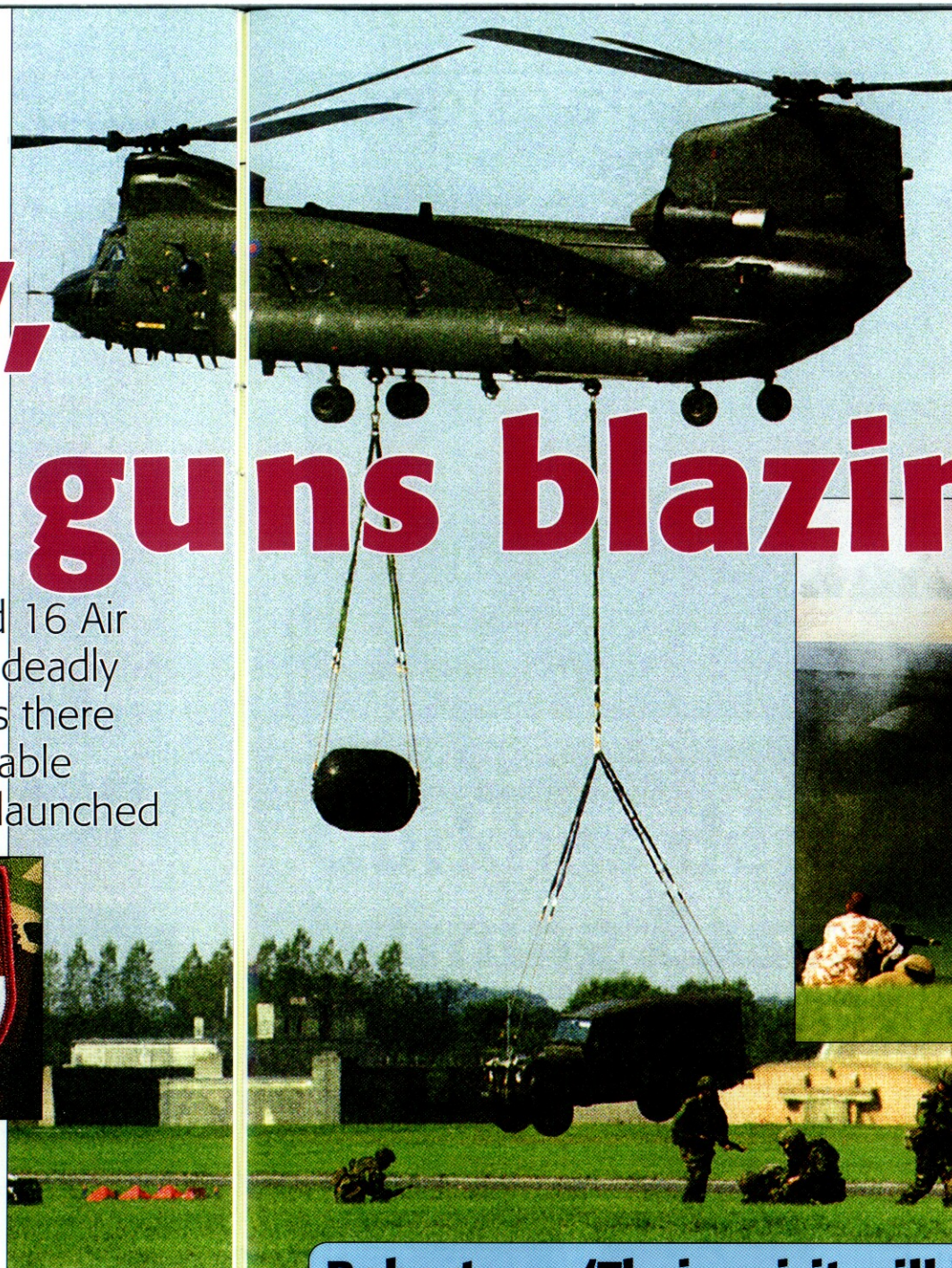
Replacement for Pegasus: The brigade's new shoulder flash has a different symbol but retains the old airborne colours

countryside. A voice over the tannoy explained that the airfield had become enemy territory standing in the way of a Nato advance and that 16 Air Assault would capture it. "The area in front of you has been designated an aviation killing area," said the voice.

**"The area in front of you has been designated an aviation killing area"**

First came the Pathfinders, mere specks in the sky emerging from a Royal Air Force C130 high overhead, and then blossoming into parachutes. In reality, these quasi-special forces would have dropped in much earlier to recce a target before bringing in the bulk of the airborne force. But you can only do so much in 20 minutes, and almost before they had unhitched their chutes and dispersed, two more Hercules had touched down on the tarmac in an Entebbe-style raid.

A Scimitar and several stripped-down Land Rovers armed with heavy machine-guns sped from the loading ramps almost before the planes had stopped, closely fol-



Top cover: Two Tornado F3s accompany an E3-D Sentry airborne early warning aircraft, top picture, watching over ground operations during the airborne force demonstration

Touch and go: In an Entebbe-style landing, above, troops poured from a C130 aircraft which took off again in minutes

Low approach: Troop-moving helicopters including this Chinook brought in Paras and their equipment, left, to secure the "captured" air base

## Robertson: 'Their spirit will live on'

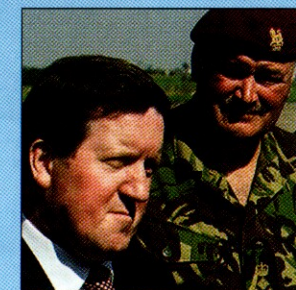
GEORGE Robertson, the Defence Secretary who leaves Whitehall this month to take up new duties at the head of Nato, witnessed the birth of the new brigade.

It will, he said, "dramatically change the way we can respond to crises around the world. We are creating what will be one of the most powerful brigade-sized formations in Europe."

Lord Robertson said that recent operations in Kosovo illustrated the kind of operation in which

the new brigade may become involved. "The rapid move on Pristina demonstrated the versatility of air manoeuvre and the ability to project military power at great speed."

He had words of consolation for those who regretted the passing of 24 Airmobile and 5 Airborne Brigades. "These two formations will leave the active list but they will be remembered for the contribution they have made to Britain's Armed Forces. I am certain their spirit will live on."



Men in control: Defence Secretary George Robertson and Brig Peter Wall

lowed by running Paras with all weapons blazing. The mock enemy, only a few hundred metres from the Princes' viewing stand, took the full force.

Deep drumming of helicopter rotors suggested that the best was yet to come. Over the tree line emerged a fleet of helicopters. They were Lynxes and Gazelles

rather than Apaches (which have become legends even before their time) but the older aircraft still demonstrated impressive firepower.

Sixteen Lynxes each simulated the firing of eight TOW missiles, and mock-up buildings on the outskirts of the field erupted into flames. The bulk of a

securing force began to arrive by Puma and Chinook helicopters. Then, underlining the fact that 16 Air Assault depends totally on the Royal Air Force for mobility, pairs of Harrier and Jaguar ground-attack aircraft sped across the airfield at minimum altitude. A little higher, a massive Sentry AWAC aircraft kept watch.

And the message emerging from all this? Simple: 16 Air Assault is ready from Day One. "We have a clear operational remit from right now," said the man in overall command, Brig Peter Wall. "We already have two standby battle-groups, and one has just returned from Kosovo."

A rather more junior soldier, Pathfinder LCpl Andy Haywood, ("the guy in the sky," as he called himself) was also upbeat. His eyes were firmly on the looming spectre of the Apache. "When they arrive," he said, "we'll be here, there and everywhere. I think we might just find the Apaches something to do."

● 43 (Wessex) Brigade and 12 Mechanised Brigade move in – Pages 8-9



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Picture: Sgt Ian Lipiot



Welcome: Relieved East Timorese citizens greet a soldier of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles as he makes his way towards the UNAMET headquarters in Dili

## Gurkhas deploy to burning East Timor

TWO hundred and sixty-nine men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, were among the vanguard of an Australian-led United Nations force which flew into Dili, devastated capital of East Timor.

The Brunei-based Gurkhas had spent the previous week in Darwin, northern Australia, preparing for the deployment.

They arrived on a Royal Australian Air Force Hercules C130 aircraft to find a city trashed by militia-men who have murdered and terrorised a population which voted overwhelmingly for independence from Indonesia.

Tens of thousands of East Timorese are believed to have been slaughtered by anti-independence militia.

The Gurkhas, who met no resistance, were among 2,000 troops deployed in the first phase of the operation to restore order to the island. The International Force East Timor (Interfet), under the command of Australian Vietnam veteran Maj Gen Peter Cosgrove, is expected to grow to 7,500.

Lt Col Mark Lillingston-Price, CO 2



Brig Richards

RGR, led his men into Dili. Supporting the Gurkhas are a detachment from 30 Signal Regiment based at Blandford and a team of movement controllers from 29 Regiment RLC at South Cerney. In command of the British contingent is Brig David Richards. HMS *Glasgow*, a Royal Navy guided missile destroyer, and three

RAF Hercules heavy-lift aircraft took part in the operation. Royal Marines are also represented in the force.

The Gurkhas, who were warmly welcomed as they approached Dili from the airport, have secured the compound of the United Nations civilian mission to East Timor (UNAMET) to prepare for the return of its staff. The building next door is occupied by the Indonesian Army.

Maj Alistair Mack, AGC(ETS), a staff officer from the Civil Affairs Group at Minley, Surrey (see Page 27) is part of an Australian-led team set up in Dili to provide an interface between the military and the civilian population.

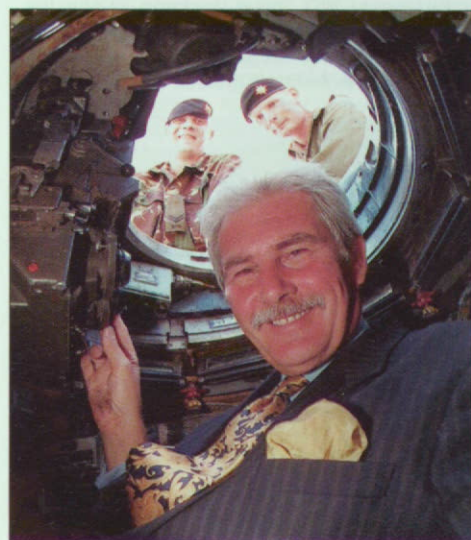
## Prince in Kosovo



Nice to meet you: The Prince of Wales shakes hands with Gdsm Pat O'Keefe, Irish Guards, during his visit to Kosovo. He insisted on meeting as many British soldiers as possible during his brief trip and called on the Royal Engineers, Royal Dragoon Guards, Royal Military Police and Gurkha units as well as the Irish Guards. The Prince said he was hugely impressed by the work of British sappers in starting up power stations and maintaining hospitals.

Picture: Cpl Mick Scraggs

## Testing, testing



Picture: Stuart Bingham

Impressed: UK drug "czar" Keith Hellawell saw the Army's successful anti-drugs campaign in action when he called on the Royal Dragoon Guards at Tidworth during an unannounced visit by a team from the compulsory drugs testing (CDT) programme. Mr Hellawell later popped inside a Challenger tank, under the watchful eye of Cpl Bob Dickinson, left, and Cpl Reg Parker.

### IN BRIEF

● A new welfare service for British Forces serving in Germany has been launched to provide personal and community support for 68,000 people, including soldiers and dependants. Current welfare agencies will not be replaced by the new **Army Welfare Service**

(AWS), which already operates in the United Kingdom.

● The first **WAH-64 Apache** helicopter to fly in the UK lashed off on its maiden flight on August 26 from Yeovil and the first Apache

fuselage was delivered to the production line of GKN Westland Helicopters, Yeovil, at the end of the month, a week ahead of schedule. The aircraft, ZJ168, the first of 67 being built for the Army Air Corps, flew a two-hour test, including rearwards and sideways flight.



STRATEGIC DEFENCE REVIEW CHANGES TAKE SHAPE AS 43 (WESSEX) BRIGADE AND 12 MECHANISED BRIGADE MOVE IN AT BULFORD AND ALDERSHOT



In business: WO Steve Jackson raises the flag of the new 12 Mechanised Brigade – the Ace of Spades – at a ceremony at Montgomery Lines, Aldershot. Picture: Chris Fletcher

## Ace of Spades flies in place of Pegasus

THE demise of 5 Airborne Brigade was marked at its Aldershot headquarters when the famous Pegasus flag was lowered for the last time and replaced by the "Ace of Spades" flag of the newly-formed 12 Mechanised Brigade, which is to be based in the garrison.

Fittingly, the final operational deployment of soldiers from 5 Airborne Brigade involved them in one of the most stirring moments of the Kosovo crisis. In a dramatic dawn climax to the thrust of Nato forces across the border from Macedonia, airborne troops were landed by helicopter near the centre of Kosovo's capital city, Pristina.

Brigade commander Brig Adrian Freer, who led his men in Kosovo, watched the flag being lowered. He is to lead the new 12 Mechanised Brigade.

First elements of the new brigade arrive in Aldershot in February in the shape of the King's Royal Hussars, followed in April by the 1st Battalion,

Welsh Guards and the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. The 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, which will complete the major components of the force, is due in the garrison in August.

● Men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles returned to their barracks at Church Crookham last month after an outstanding six-month operational tour in Kosovo. After leave, the Gurkhas are due to deploy to Kenya for a six-week exercise before preparing to move to Brunei next year. They will replace their 2nd Battalion, which is due to move to Shorncliffe. The departure of 1 RGR will signal the end of a military presence at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham.

● Soldiers from 10 Transport Regiment RLC have returned to their base in Colchester following a tour of duty in Bosnia and Croatia. They were accompanied by 120 men of the regiment's Gurkha Transport Squadron.

## Airborne medics make the move to Colchester

MEDICS of 23 Parachute Field Ambulance became the first airborne troops to make the move from Aldershot to Wattisham in Suffolk, where they join the newly-formed 16 Air Assault Brigade.

But the move was tinged with sadness, because as the medics and their support staff drove out of Aldershot they left behind the title which had become widely known and respected on operations in many strife-torn areas of the world. The unit has merged with 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance to form the Army's newest medical regiment, 16 Close Support Medical Regiment.

First formed in 1942, 23 PFA was re-structured to support out-of-area operations as a direct result of experiences

gained during the Falklands War. Its doctors, nurses, medics and support staff served in the Gulf, Rwanda, Bosnia and central Africa. The amalgamation occurred just weeks after their return from Kosovo.

Departure from Normandy Barracks was marked with a parade of 50 soldiers. The 23 PFA flag was lowered for the last time as a piper played a lament.

● The Airborne Logistic Battalion disbanded following a service at the Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot, on September 11. Led by CO Lt Col Mike Russell, its soldiers marched past the commander of the new 12 Mechanised Brigade, Brig Adrian Freer. Elements of the battalion will help to form 16 Air Assault Brigade based at Colchester.

### IN BRIEF

● The new **Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre (RTMC)** at Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, was formally opened by Defence Secretary George Robertson. The centre, designed to process 3,600 personnel a year, has mobilised more than 500 reservists for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo since it went into service in April.

● SSgt Karen Stanton, QARANC, was awarded the runner's-up certificate for the prestigious **Prince Philip Medal**, for outstanding achievement. SSgt Stanton, who is the NVQ adviser for military health care assistants at the Royal Defence Medical College in Gosport, received her certificate from the Duke of Edinburgh.



Over to you: Brig David Radcliffe, left, Commander Salisbury Plain, formally hands over the HQ building at Bulford Camp to Brig Tony Faith, Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade

## 43 Brigade takes over at Bulford

ANOTHER major change to the military structure of the United Kingdom following the Strategic Defence Review clicked into place on September 6 when Headquarters 43 (Wessex) Brigade took over responsibility for the Army's infrastructure in the South West of England.

With headquarters at Bulford Camp, the brigade has an area of responsibility stretching from the Scilly Isles to Gloucester and to Bournemouth on the South Coast. The area has been extended to include major Army assets including the Salisbury Plain Training Area and Tidworth, Bulford and Netheravon Garrison.

Main function of the brigade will be to provide administrative support for the Army in the region and particularly for the deployable units, including HQ 3 (UK) Division and 1st Mechanised Brigade. It will represent the Army in the area and provide support for the Territorial Army.

Brig Tony Faith, the Brigade Commander, said: "This is a very exciting

and challenging time for the Army and particularly for 43 (Wessex) Brigade. We will be responsible for providing an efficient infrastructure for a large part of the Army. This is what is known as the 'aircraft carrier' concept – we will provide the well-run bases and infrastructure from which the Army's operational units can train and deploy. All of us in the headquarters are looking forward to a very busy and stimulating time at Bulford."

### WYVERN BARRACKS

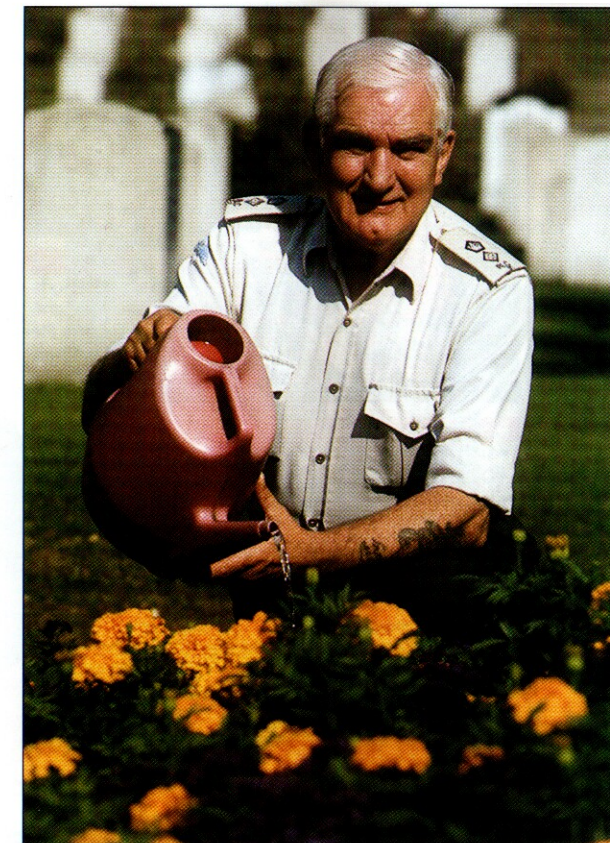
Previously based at Wyvern Barracks in Exeter, 43 (Wessex) Brigade is part of 5 Division, which has its headquarters in Shrewsbury.

Brigade responsibilities were extended in the reorganisation of Land Command following last year's Strategic Defence Review. Under the reorganisation there will be a major expansion and investment programme in the Bulford and Tidworth area, with an increase in the numbers of soldiers and their families living there.

● Sappers from Maidstone-based **36 Engineer Regiment** are planning to canoe the 700-mile length of the White Volta River to establish details of mammals, birds and fish for Ghana's Wildlife Department. The adventurous training expedition will be supported by **131 Commando Squadron RE** and Ghanaian sappers.

● **United Kingdom Support Command (Germany)** has received Investors in People accreditation, described by the GOC, Maj Gen Christopher Elliott, as a significant achievement. Accreditation has also been given to **HQ 2nd (National Communications) Signal Brigade**, Corsham, and the **Defence Diving School**, Portsmouth.

## Blooming great



It's in the can: Aldershot Garrison adjutant **Lt Col (Retd) Jack Matthews** shows how the garrison and Rushmoor Borough Council pulled off a major coup by winning the Southern England in Bloom competition. Aldershot is now vying with the city of York for the prestigious Great Britain title. Lt Col Matthews is pictured in Aldershot Military Cemetery, of which he is the superintendent. Earlier in the summer 22 Field Hospital, based at Thornhill Barracks, won the Mayor of Aldershot's special prize for its gardens. Picture: Steve Dock

## Bearing up . . .



Look at us: **Cpl Lee Tandy**, 1 RGBW, currently on an Exercise Long Look exchange in Australia, feeds a koala bear at a sanctuary in Queensland.



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# People, places, events



On air: BFN presenter Neil Carter, right, helps Maj Gen Tim Sullivan, GOC HQ 4 Division, to operate a mixing desk as garrison radio was launched in Aldershot

Picture: Steve Dock

## Now hear this (on 107 FM)!

FORCES radio took a step closer to permanent service in Britain's garrison towns when the fourth trial station opened in Aldershot.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day on 107 FM, British Forces Network (BFN) Aldershot will remain on the air until early October with a diet of music, chat and news. A regular feature is a daily link-up between families in the Aldershot area and their loved ones deployed on operations as far away as the Balkans and Turkey.

Aldershot's station is the latest phase of a trial being carried out on behalf of the Army by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) to assess the need for permanent garrison radio in Britain. SSVC presenters have already been on the air in the Bulford-Tidworth area, Colchester and Catterick. SSVC's David Crwys

Williams, who is managing the trials, said that there could be no doubting the popularity of the trials among civilians as well as the target uniformed audiences. "One of our aims is to bridge the gap between military and local communities. If local people tune in, this will bring the communities together."

Presenter Eddie Castle said that the station's overseas link-ups would be unique. "What other station can you call up and request a record for a member of your family serving in Kosovo?"

● BFN Colchester, which was on the air during August, was the most listened-to radio station in and around the garrison, with 68 per cent of local people tuning in during its four-week run. Col Julian Lacey, deputy commander, said: "The trial was extremely successful. We look forward to their return in January."

## Rising star



Picture: Cpl Alasdair Allen

Top talent: WO1 Kevin Craffey, RLC, performs his final number, *When You've Gone*, after winning the Cyprus "Search for a Star" competition at the Peninsula Club, RAF Akrotiri. The event, run by Excel Leisure, is part of a talent hunt across all British bases in the UK, Germany and Cyprus. Ultimate winner will receive a holiday worth £1,200. WO1 Craffey, who is serving in Headquarters British Forces in Cyprus, said it was "brilliant" to have won the contest. "It now leaves the door open for a change of career when I leave the Army next year," he said.

## Tough call



Get back! The tension of the moment is written on the face of a 39 Regiment RA soldier as his section comes under fire during realistic infantry training in Cyprus. The Northumberland Gunners were taking part in a Lion Sun exercise on the island. Picture: Kevin Capon

### IN BRIEF

● Four hundred Service personnel from units holding the Freedom of Hull marched through the city to mark its 700th anniversary. Representatives from 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment RLC, 1 PWO and 250 Fd Amb RAMC took part in a parade co-ordinated by WO1 Steve Barnett, RSM of 150 Tpt Regt.

● The MoD is to take part in the Heritage Open Days scheme, a nationwide initiative

under which the general public will have the chance during one weekend in September each year to visit architectural gems not normally accessible to them. The MoD is responsible for about 700 listed and scheduled buildings, including the Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow; Kneller Hall, home of the Royal Military School of Music; Henry VIII's wine cellar in MoD Main Building; and Horse Guards in Whitehall.

● Gutersloh-based 26 Regiment RA deployed two weeks early to take over from 4 Regiment RA in Kosovo. It will operate as two AS90 battery groups, 16/159 Bty in one location and 17/127 in another, with further echelon and HQ locations.

● A parade to mark the alliance between The Royal Irish Regiment and The Gibraltar Regiment has been held in Gibraltar.



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# People, places, events

## Territorial Paras still flying high

AN airborne exercise in the Czech Republic proved that there is life after the Territorial Army restructuring for soldiers who served with the now-disbanded 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

The future had looked grim for the mainly London-based volunteers when they heard they were to be absorbed into 4 Para, but an ambitious annual camp helped to sugar the pill.

During the two week exercise, the troops who now make up the country's nationwide and only TA Para unit dropped into the Czech Republic and trained with the helicopters and weapons of the Czech 43rd Parachute Battalion.

The 4th Battalion was the first major British unit to train in the Czech Republic since the country joined Nato in March.

"The Czechs were superb," said Lt Col Hugo Fletcher, CO 4 Para. "We were particularly pleased to be able to parachute with them."

Reflecting on the battalion's first post-SDR exercises, Lt Col Fletcher said: "The



Picture: Sgt Chris Longbottom

**New toy:** 2nd Lt Dave Duncan of 15 Coy (Scottish), 4 Para takes a close look at an AGS 17 grenade-launcher during the first annual camp following the merger of 10 Para with 4 Para

camp gave us a chance to forge the new battalion into a working unit."

Also exercising with the Paras was a platoon from 1/58 Regiment RLC, which trained on Czech 4x4 and 8x8 vehicles.

## Adventure of the century

TWO hundred soldiers are in Nepal to mark the millennium by scaling all 18 of the kingdom's designated "trekking" peaks.

Expedition Himalaya Dragon is aiming to put at least one team member on the summit of each peak to mark a century of Army mountaineering success, including the first ascent and later conquest of Everest, and the conquest of K2.

The project is the culmination of two years of training and is designed to inspire a new generation of British Army high-altitude climbers for the new century. Expedition members will also attempt to collate local medical information on an internet site so that doctors and health experts can assess future needs.

Maj David Baggely is leading the expe-

dition, many of whose members have recently completed tours in the Balkans. For most it will be their first attempt to experience something on this scale. The climbers include TA and all-female teams.

Gen Sir Sam Cowan, the expedition's patron, believes it is a fitting celebration of a century of Army climbing. "Nepal is the land of the great peaks and the Gurkhas," he said. "There could be no more fitting location for the Army's flagship millennium adventure training expedition."

● See picture on Page 47

### IN BRIEF



**First out:** Female students take part in the first passing out parade at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. More than 300 graduates marched out on completing the 42-week course, which combines military skills and vocational qualifications. Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, inspected the parade. In June it was announced that the number of places at the college would be increased to 1,350 by September next year.

## Purple passage



**Symbolic day:** The three commanders-in-chief went to sea together for the first time for 20 years to witness a symbolic advance in the Strategic Defence Review's concept of tri-Service inter-operability. **Gen Sir Michael Walker**, CinC Land Command, joined **Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh**, CinC Fleet, and **Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire**, CinC Strike Command, on board HMS *Illustrious* in the Channel to watch the embarkation of squadrons of Sea Harrier and Harrier aircraft. Gen Walker (right), pictured with Admiral Essenhigh on the carrier's bridge with **Wren Nikki Lang** at the ship's helm, said the embarkation was a symbolic forerunner of a number of joint initiatives including the Joint Helicopter Command and ground-based air-defence activities. Picture: LA(Phot) Terry Seward



# Controlling interest

Report: Ray Routledge

ARMS control treaties and agreements signed in recent years have been applauded throughout the world for the reductions they have achieved in weapons stockpiles.

But how can we be sure that former foes are keeping their side of the bargain? And how do they know we are keeping our word?

Treaties have to be policed to ensure that agreed stocks of munitions and arms are being adhered to. That is where the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG) comes in. The joint-Service organisation, formed in 1990 and based at RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire, works to very high standards and is well-respected in the arms-control world.

"Our role is to carry out all the UK's arms control implementation work," explained the commanding officer, Gp Capt Bob Evans, RAF Regiment, who reports directly to the Director Military Operations in the MoD. "We are primarily an Army and RAF unit."

The group's work is essentially in four parts: to escort incoming foreign inspectors of UK forces, at home and overseas; to carry out inspections and evaluations of foreign military forces on their own territory or in foreign garrisons; to prepare UK forces to receive inspections; and to conduct arms-control training.

## STAFFING

It is organised into four general-purpose inspection-escort teams known as "flights", each commanded by a lieutenant colonel or equivalent. Each is made up of personnel from all three Services and a mix of ranks, although most group staff are officers and senior NCOs.

In a typical year, JACIG deploys around 40 flights on outgoing missions. It also sends individuals to take part in inspections led by other countries.

Locations of outbound inspections, ranging from five to seven days, are determined by the Operations Directorate of the MoD and co-ordinated with Nato. By the end of this year the group will have visited countries including Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Belarus, Armenia, Albania, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan.

Staff record the details of all declared equipment on a particular site and compare it with what they actually find there. Equipment recognition is obviously a vital factor and training is vigorous, thor-

Without the largely unsung work of the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group, 60,000 items of 'offensive combat' equipment would not have been destroyed

ough and constantly updated. "A large part of the training course consists of advanced recognition because inspectors have to be able to tell at a distance the difference between an identifiable vehicle and a look-alike," explained the staff officer responsible for support, Sqn Ldr Andy Roberts.

During visits by foreign inspectors to UK military sites, JACIG ensures that any

establishment selected for an inspection – usually at short notice – is properly prepared.

"Each unit should have an arms control officer and when an inspection of the UK unit is announced, we make contact with that officer to ensure they are prepared and that their information is accurate," said Sqn Ldr Roberts.

"Inspectors have a great deal of power, although what they can and cannot see depends on the particular treaty."

To keep everyone on the ball, JACIG trains not only UK personnel but foreign inspectors as well, under a programme called Operation Artisan.

"This is the system by which we bring guests from eastern Europe and Russia to the UK for a week," Gp Capt Evans said. "We show them JACIG, brief them on the UK Armed Forces and our approach to arms control, and then take them on two practice inspections."

And it has been an outstanding success... the programme has helped forge a better understanding between countries as diverse as the UK and Kazakhstan.

## The treaties

THROUGH information exchanges, inspections and evaluations, JACIG is presently engaged in the implementation of six treaties and agreements:

**The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty**, limiting the quantity and locations of conventional weapons in Europe.

**The Vienna Document**, seeking to create confidence and establish security-building measures in 54 countries, from Iceland to the new republics of the former Soviet Union.

**The Dayton Accords**, designed to help bring peace and stability to the Balkans.

**The Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**, successful in eliminating intermediate-range nuclear missiles from mainland Europe.

**The Chemical Weapons Convention**, which aims to prevent the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons on a world-wide basis.

**The Open Skies Treaty**. Still not implemented, this hopes to provide open aerial observation flights over signatory states in Europe.

# Former 'enemies' are now friends

INSPECTION duties with the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group can be physically demanding, with time for only a couple of hours sleep a day – yet there is no shortage of volunteers for a typical two-to-three-year posting with the group.

Inspectors sometimes have to work in inhospitable conditions, particularly when visiting units with limited resources where accommodation is, at best, basic. On top of that there could be five inspections in six days.

"Often we go to bases where we are the first British Service people they have seen... and they were trained to believe we were the enemy," said Sqn Ldr Andy Roberts. "Now that is all on its head and they are told to co-operate with us. So it's quite important how we are seen."

Maj Peter Elliott-Lockhart, an operations officer, has visited countries as diverse as Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to, in his words, "preach the gospel of arms control".

He has worked in some unusual situations. "I was fortunate enough to see the Turkmenistan Navy, even though it has no access to the open ocean," he said. "But



Sight visit: Col Nikolai Neskerenko of the Russian Army (right) and Sgt Simon Oliver, 1 RHA, look at a thermal imaging sight at Tidworth



Here to help: Because of their interpretation skills, inspectors sometimes get caught up in other duties. This summer, Lt Col Stephen Harrison, RTR, right, who had gone to the Balkans on a routine five-day tour as a JACIG flight commander, found himself in Pristina for several weeks acting as the interpreter for the Russian forces at the much-publicised airport stand-off. Here he talks to Snr Lt Dimitri Zamirarov. Picture: Mike Weston

Turkmenistan does border on the Caspian Sea and the Navy has some auxiliary launches.

"Added to that, our senior escort officer had been a nuclear submariner for ten years, based in Murmansk, while our senior inspector was a Royal Navy officer who had spent years searching for these submarines. The former 'enemies' got on

very well and created a good atmosphere.

"The work is worthwhile. Since arms control and inspection began, some 60,000 items of offensive combat equipment have been eliminated. These include artillery, battle-tanks, armoured combat vehicles, combat aircraft and attack helicopters."

Capt Duncan McSparran, RRF, an

inspector dealing mainly with the Dayton Accords, said his overriding impression of the "eastern bloc" forces was their sheer scale.

"On an inspection in Turkmenistan we visited three airfields containing more than twice the number of combat aircraft there are in the RAF. They had been left to rot in the heat. One airfield had more than 180 MiGs. And this was in a backwater of the old Soviet Union."

Another inspector, Capt Peter Fensome, 3 R Irish, enjoys visiting places he otherwise would not have seen. "I have carried out evaluations on Estonian units and the Russian Army, and have worked with the Bosnian Army and the Serbs," he said. "It is interesting work, because it gives an insight into how other people operate."

"Everyone here works to a high level, including the NCOs, who can find themselves giving lectures to generals."

"Our senior NCOs are very experienced and have exactly the same status on inspections as the most senior officer present. Everyone knows their job and can be relied upon to get on with it."





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# Bosnia briefing

Lynx and Gazelle helicopters of 662 Squadron are a common sight as they oil the wheels of military business

## Workhorses of the sky

Reports: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Mike Weston

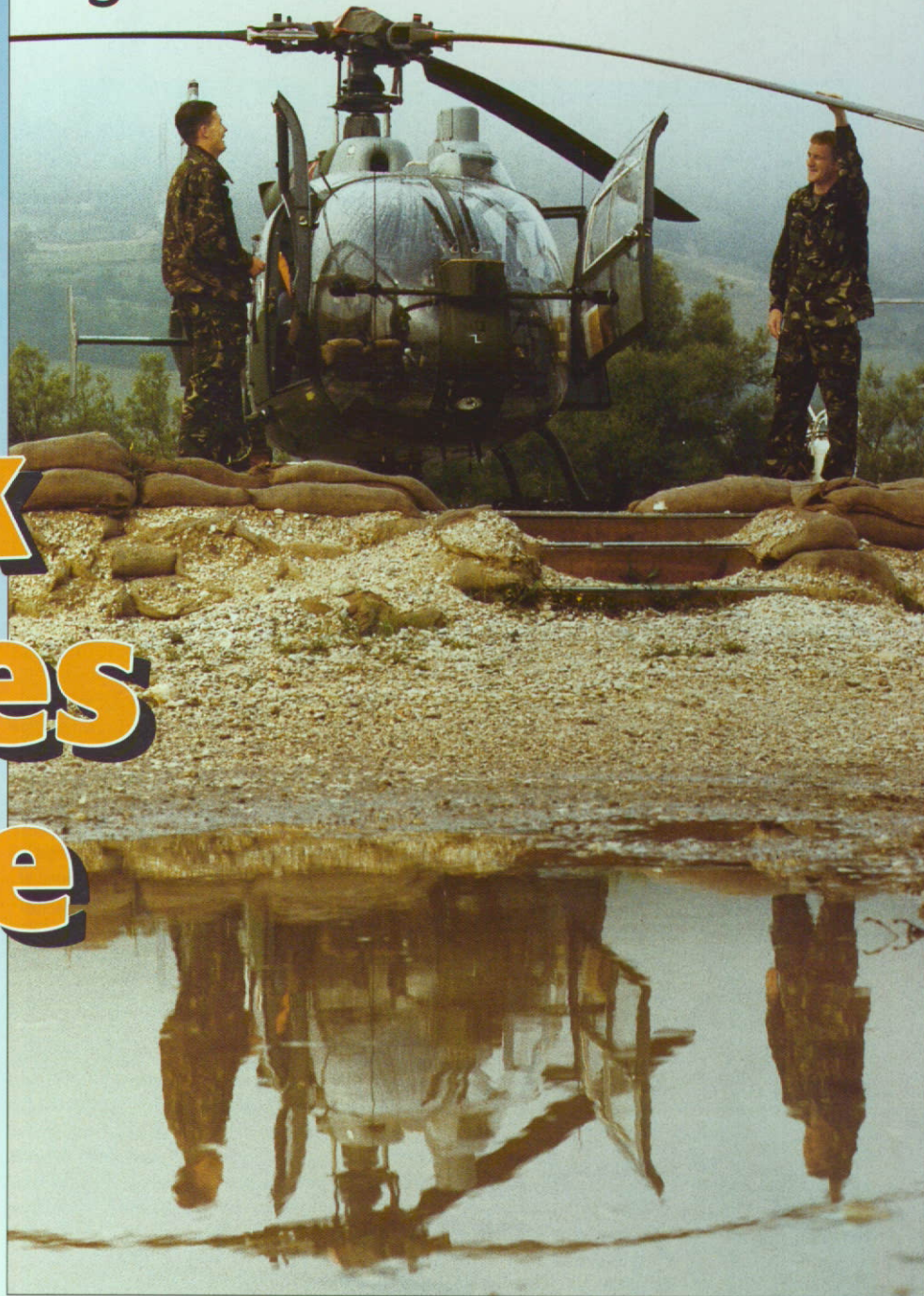
OPERATION Bolero, the international political summit held this summer in Sarajevo, provided some out-of-the-ordinary work for the Lynx and Gazelle helicopters of 662 Squadron, Army Air Corps, based in Gornji Vakuf.

In their supporting role they patrolled the surrounding countryside and ferried high-ranking officials and military personnel across country in minutes, where conventional transport would have taken hours.

But these were exceptional circumstances. For the most part the squadron works hard at more routine tasks.

As an independent sub-unit, 662 Sqn, normally based at Wattisham in Suffolk, does not enjoy the normal regimental support, so its AAC core of 75 is enhanced by 37 REME soldiers.

Its two flights based in Gornji Vakuf, including a motor transport department, signals, and an SQMS department, are supplemented by members of a G4



Reflections: ATpr David Ralph, left, and Cpl Bruce Allen make a Gazelle ready for the day

attachment in Split which has a vital role.

"They act as the people who run the port of entry, collecting stores as they come in at the airhead and seaport," explained Maj Mike Cubbin, squadron OC. "These stores include the spares needed to keep the aircraft going."

It takes between ten and 17 hours to service an aircraft for every hour it is flying and the 38 ground crew provide total support.

"They work very hard often around the clock just to keep two or three aircraft available," said Maj Cubbin. "But we have a priority for spares whereas back in the UK there is a shortage of certain components for a variety of reasons."

The squadron has six Lynx helicopters – four anti-tank Mk 7s and two light battlefield Mk 9s – and three Gazelles.

They provide a short-notice anti-

armour reserve for the division in case of a military emergency as well as the traditional role of reconnaissance.

Anti-tank and operational reconnaissance training continues in theatre and basic core skills of military flying are maintained.

"The Gazelles are fitted with a laser target designator and range-finders and we have trained on those since we've been here so we can designate targets for the jets," said Maj Cubbin.

"All our pilots are trained on air OP – control of the artillery from the air – and can direct the guns. We practise that on a regular basis with the Royal Artillery and with the mortars from the infantry."

But the squadron's primary roles are the movement of men and materiel, and command and control. They reach parts

● Turn to next page





Screened: Cpl Dave Green, 662 Sqn, REME Light Aid Detachment, works on a Gazelle helicopter instrument panel

## Work horses

● From Page 17

others can't, supplying the Royal Signals on mountain-top sites and the Royal Artillery at OPs.

The squadron works closely with other international units in its area including the Dutch Battle Group, the Belgians, and the Czechs, for whom they were recently tasked to support an operation using Gazelles.

It would like to work closely with other groups, too – and, as professionals with an interest in other aircraft, to talk particularly to the Americans about how they operate their purpose-built attack helicopter, the Apache.

## Making a difference

ONE welcome visitor to 662 Squadron AAC was the MP, broadcaster and ex-soldier, Martin Bell.

A former member of the Suffolk Regiment, Mr Bell said he believed soldiers enjoyed their work in theatres such as Bosnia because they felt they could make a difference in the community.

"He was right," said Maj Mike Cubbin. "If we can do something for the local community, it makes a big difference. It is slightly more difficult for us because we fly and don't mix with the people in our everyday activities."

"Capt Will Anderson, a King's Royal Hussars officer who is attached to us, looks after the community liaison work known as G5. The previous unit here, 669 Squadron, organised a football match with local Muslim veterans and we took up where they left off."

Capt Anderson arranged for an Army rock band to play two concerts in Mostar, followed by visits to schools and refugee centres every day for a week. They ran music workshops and were accompanied by a mines awareness instructor.

"The boys came back really pleased and felt they had made difference," said Maj Cubbin. "Going to a refugee camp brought it home to them what a dreadful life these people are still living."

# Video nasty with a positive purpose

EVERY British Army visitor to Bosnia is first shown a mine awareness video – and with good reason. The countryside is littered with a million of them.

Those who call on 6 HQ Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment at Gornji Vakuf, however, see a different screen presentation. It's a stomach-churner which really brings home the hideous nature of these lethal objects.

This is a video nasty with a difference – to teach people to respect mines for the damage they can do. Without going into detail it shows several surgical operations to repair and limit gruesome damage inflicted by the devices.

Mines awareness training is one of the principal everyday roles of the regiment, whose other support tasks include updating a road and bridge database, snow clearance, and building projects such as the construction of a new ammunition compound and an extension to Sipovo hospital.

Some minefields are signposted and barbed-wire fenced; others are not so clearly marked. They can be indicated by sticks on the roadside, stacks of stones, bits of rag tied to tree, warnings which have the habit of weathering, falling down or being covered by vegetation. Vigilance is the name of the game.

### NO-TOUCH

SFOR has a no-touch policy with mines – and it means it. Sgt Mark Burns of the mines awareness cell told of the dangers of souvenir hunting for mines.

"Two Polish soldiers decided that they wanted a souvenir to take home," he said. "So they went into a minefield and one stood on a PMA-2. He died."

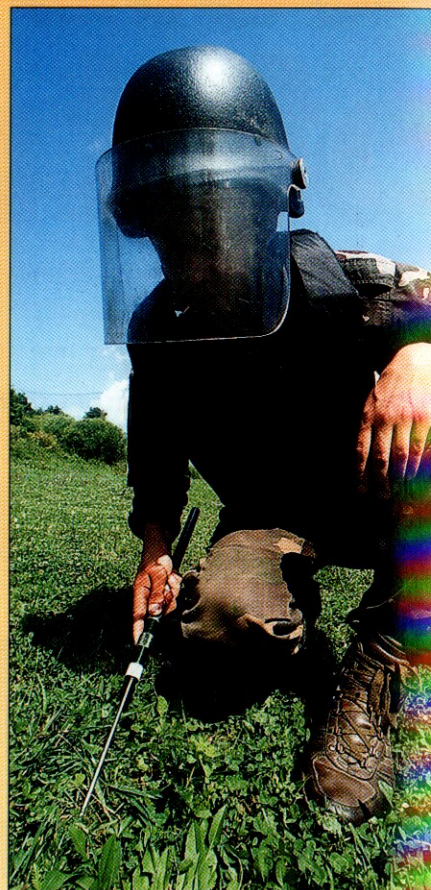
"The Polish authorities went to the minefield to take photographs of the incident area. One of the investigation team stood on a mine. It took his leg off and although they managed to get him back to the med centre, he subsequently died."

"Because one idiot wanted to take souvenirs home, two people died."

Mine clearance is undertaken not by the British Army, but by former Yugoslav republic soldiers trained to the Royal Engineers standard.

Sgt Owen Hannah, 5 Fd Sqn, 22 RE, working just outside Gornji Vakuf on a new de-mining site and supervising a

Mines are a world-wide problem. In Bosnia there are a million of them, killing or maiming 50 people a month



Patient prodger: Bosnian Army engineer Cpl Alispahic Jasmin clears a minefield

number of Muslim soldiers on mine clearance, said: "I have total faith in what they can accomplish. They destroyed 22 anti-personnel mines from our previous minefield."

Minefields earmarked for clearance are chosen by a selection process following collaboration by all the mine-awareness centres. Sgt Hannah was well aware of his

field's religious significance. "There is a pilgrimage in this area to a sacred rock and they used to come up this track," he said, indicating a rough path where clearance was taking place. "This was a main confrontation line during the war between Serbs and Croats and Muslims. After only one day on clearance here we pulled out two anti-personnel mines."

The one-and-a-half kilometre path will not be cleared until the end of next year. The work has to be done by hand because the de-mining machines cannot work within the close confines of the wooded area. Any mines discovered are destroyed on the spot to avoid them being taken away and stockpiled for future use.

### NO RECORDS

Sgt Richard Burton, 22 Engr Regt, supervising a team approaching the end of a minefield clearance, explained that teams normally have records of the mines in a particular area. But more than half the minefields in Bosnia have no records, and some which have are inaccurate.

Back in Gornji Vakuf, Sgt Burns explained the scale of the problem. "There are approximately a million mines in Bosnia. In Multi-National Division (SW) we have 5,203 minefields and within them 100,000 mines," he said. "Added to that there are 266 unexploded object areas we know of and we are finding more minefields every day. We are constantly updating our information."

He explained the effect of standing on a small-blast mine. "It will probably take your foot off and the blast will shoot up to your knee cap, will peel the skin and muscle off the bone and leave it hanging. The remaining part of the leg will have dirt, plastic, boot, and sock embedded into it."

Descriptions like this are intended to shock. For 22 Engr Regt, and all the mines awareness teams in Bosnia, prevention is better than cure.

The message to soldiers in Bosnia who want to remain in one piece is to be vigilant and don't touch. Stay on the main routes. If you see a mine, then you are too close.

And don't forget, souvenirs can kill.

Next month: The Household Cavalry Regiment, REME, Multi-national field-hospital, and Project Basha



Roadside assistance: LCpls Gemma Henderson, left, and Stuart Sivieri help a civilian truck driver after a road accident on the border between Croatia and Bosnia

## It's safety first on Route Gull

RMP is determined to stop soldiers adding to the area's high road-accident statistics

ONE of the priorities of Capt Marie Holiday, in charge of the Split detachment of the Royal Military Police, is to ensure that Route Gull is accident-free for soldiers.

Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) in the area are the biggest policing role for the men and women of the detachment, which is responsible for Route Gull, the main road running up to the border with Bosnia and beyond. One soldier's life has been claimed this year.

But why so many RTAs? The record is partly put down to the bad driving of the locals, while the state of the roads also leaves much to be desired.

The deterrent effect of speed cameras is one method used by patrols to try to reduce accidents among soldiers.

"We also stop military vehicles to ensure that the drivers have completed appropriate work tickets so that they are fully insured to drive," Capt Holiday said. "And we check they are carrying all the kit they are supposed to, including breakdown equipment and items such as body armour and weapons."

At the border crossing and other checkpoints, drivers have to leave their vehicles to check-in and show their doc-

umentation. While this may seem to be tedious bureaucracy, it has a double purpose: vehicles and soldiers can be accounted for and drivers have an enforced break from the road.

The Split detachment is involved in an ongoing major search operation called Op Plunder.

"We search every vehicle and every bit of equipment leaving the country," Capt Holiday explained. "We are looking for war souvenirs, something that goes back to the early days of Op Grapple when there were a lot of AK47s in theatre and soldiers wanted to take them home as trophies."

Search targets include customs items such as CDs, which can be bought cheaply in Bosnia. "Some people try to take them back to the UK to sell on the black market, so there is a limit of 70."

The busy role of RMP Split, particularly when major units are moving in and out of theatre, calls for a good relationship with local police.

Capt Holiday said the local civil police were pleased with the way soldiers conducted themselves. "For the number of troops here, there is very little trouble."



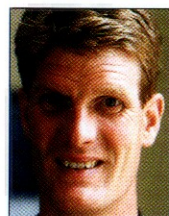
# Changing the guard

Report: Anthony Stone  
Pictures: Mike Weston

TO give an idea of how the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry regard their latest posting, Lt Col Richard Smith, the commanding officer, made a wry observation.

"We have had soldiers cutting their leave short to return early to Edinburgh," he said. "When was the last time you heard of soldiers returning from leave early?"

It is not surprising soldiers want to spend time in this historic city, which teems with culture and entertainment and is set in some of the most beautiful countryside in the British Isles.



Lt Col Smith

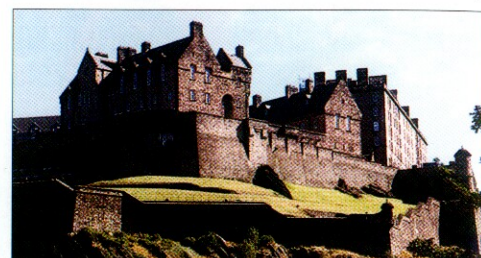
This will be the first time an entirely English regiment has guarded Edinburgh Castle. The Paras performed the role in 1979, but as they recruit from all over the United Kingdom, their

numbers included many Scots.

News of the battalion's arrival was not greeted with universal euphoria. Sections of the local media were a bit frosty, claiming that "bugles had replaced bagpipes and drums" and that tourism would suffer because "tartan-clad sentries were being shipped out to make way for khaki-wearing soldiers from England."

Brig Hughie Monro, commander 52 Lowland Brigade, said: "The Light Infantry has fitted in extremely well. When they ask me why we've got an

For the first time an entirely English regiment, the Light Infantry, will guard Edinburgh Castle



**English troops take to capital**

BUGLES replaced bagpipes and drums yesterday as soldiers of the first English reg-

**ENGLISH TAKE OVER EDINBURGH CASTLE**

Anger as English regiment takes over at Edinburgh Castle

**SENTRIES OUT PLAID BY ENGLISH GUARDS**

English battalion to guard castle

**Historic castle switch**

English battalion in Scotland I tell them this is the British Army. We do not have English or Scottish battalions. As far as I am concerned we have two very good British Army battalions in Edinburgh and they are doing a super job."

Lt Col Smith said: "One of the tasks for troops is the ceremonial guarding of the castle. This has caused some interest in the local press. We have not yet been tasked to do ceremonial duties but when we are we will be delighted and honoured to accept and fulfil this commitment."

"The castle needs to be guarded and the security assured during the winter months and this is done in normal combat uniform. That is a task that has been given to us from October."

It is quite a change from the battalion's pre-

vious posting to Cyprus. It is now based at Dreghorn Barracks on the outskirts of the city, where facilities include a first-rate gym and swimming pool. Accommodation at Dreghorn Barracks is better than the soldiers had in Cyprus, with the majority in four-man rooms.

The posting had other benefits, said Lt Col Smith. "About 60 per cent of our soldiers are from north-east Durham and Yorkshire. It is much easier for soldiers to get home than it was in Cyprus. The rest are from Shropshire, Herefordshire, Somerset and Cornwall. It is not as easy for them, but I still hope that by careful management of our programme they will have plenty of opportunity to get home."

The battalion is fully up to strength with 605 soldiers, a situation which has significant benefits. "It becomes a virtuous circle if you are fully-manned and a vicious one if you are not," said Lt Col Smith.

Retention is working thanks to an awareness of soldiers' needs and aspirations. Great emphasis is placed on training, communicating and development.

"At unit level we are working very hard



Light exercise: Members of B Coy 1 LI go through their paces near Dreghorn Barracks. Left to right, LCpl Paul Moore, Pte Calvin Dunbavin, Pte Andrew Dryden, Pte Tim Exley and Pte Mark Paddison are looking forward to training opportunities



Key players: Light Infantry buglers on ceremonial duty outside Dreghorn Barracks. Front to back, Pte Jim Buchan, Cpl Craig Hepburn, Pte Danny Bragan and Pte Jim Downey

at the coalface to implement the strategic plan from the Adjutant General in terms of human resources," said Lt Col Smith.

"We invest a lot of training in our soldiers. It is crucial that we gain a dividend by retaining them for as long as we can. Soldiers must feel confident they can make the transition to a second career in civilian life."

"I detect growing aspirations of soldiers to gain qualifications which they can transfer to civilian life. We are looking at going into partnership with an education-

al college to offer NVQs. If a soldier feels satisfied militarily as well as in his extra curricula activities then we have a better chance of retaining him."

The Edinburgh posting offers huge opportunities for adventurous training, including hill-walking, canoeing, kayaking, and mountain-biking.

One of the challenges the battalion has set itself is to climb all 284 munros. So far they have managed about 80, but are assured of plenty more high points during their posting in Scotland.

## TA rises to challenge of change

FROM his headquarters in Edinburgh Castle, Brig Hughie Monro, commanding 52 Lowland Brigade, has one of the best views in the British Army. On a clear day he can see for miles and his position also gives him the best overview of how things are working out post-SDR.

"The main challenge we have been dealing with this year has been restructuring the Territorial Army," he said.

"It has gone extremely well and we are ready for the future. There has been a very positive attitude throughout this process and we have created a perfectly manageable Territorial Army in the Lowlands of Scotland, and certainly one which is going to meet the requirements placed upon it by the Secretary of State. I have been very heartened by everyone's determination to succeed in that regard."

The Lowland Brigade is a mix of two Regular infantry battalions, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) and The Light Infantry, plus TA units, university officers' training corps, the Army Cadet Force and the Combined Cadet Force contingents.

### HEARTENED

"It is a fairly varied stratum of command and very challenging," Brig Monro said. "The two Regular battalions are extremely busy on myriad tasks but I have been very heartened by the fact that they are fully-manned."

The Lowland Brigade is winning the retention battle through a continuous commitment to training and development.

"The Argylls are going off to Kenya in the New Year on exercise, which is a great retention factor and will also ensure their collective training improves," Brig Monro said.

"The Argylls have had a busy year in Drumcree and they have been one of the outstanding infantry battalions in Northern Ireland during the past year."

"The Light Infantry has made a superb transition from Cyprus to come to Scotland and I have been very impressed by their whole attitude. They have fitted into the scene here extremely well."



Brig Hughie Monro



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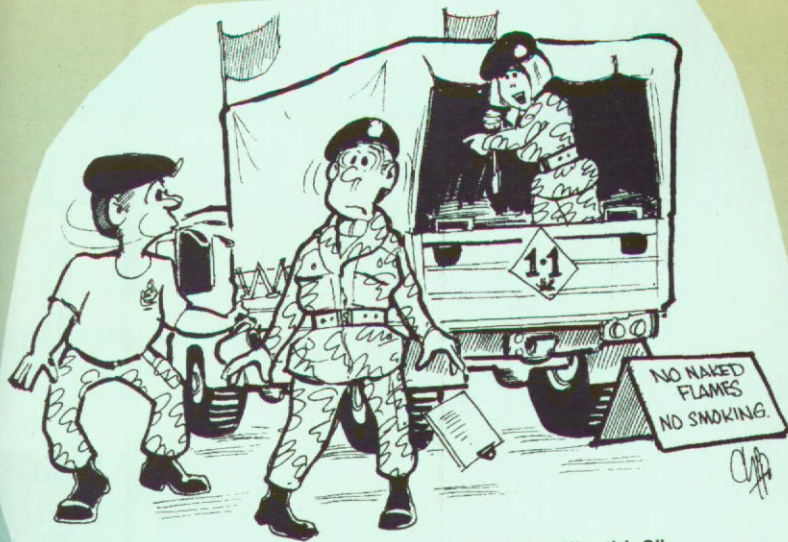


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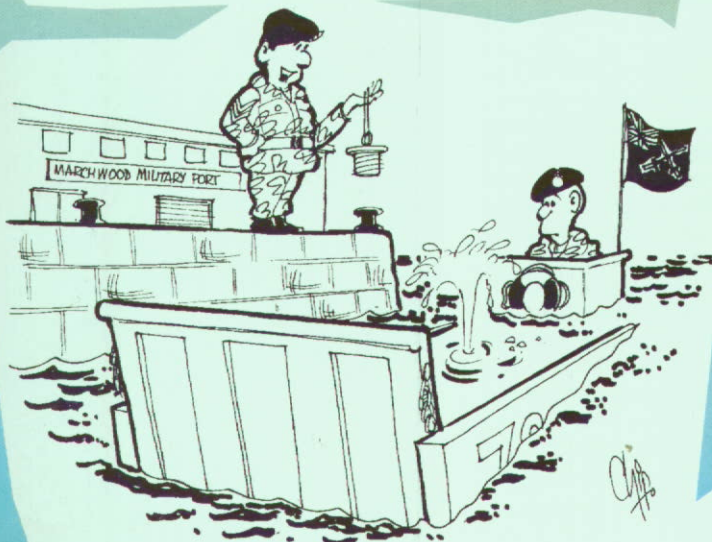
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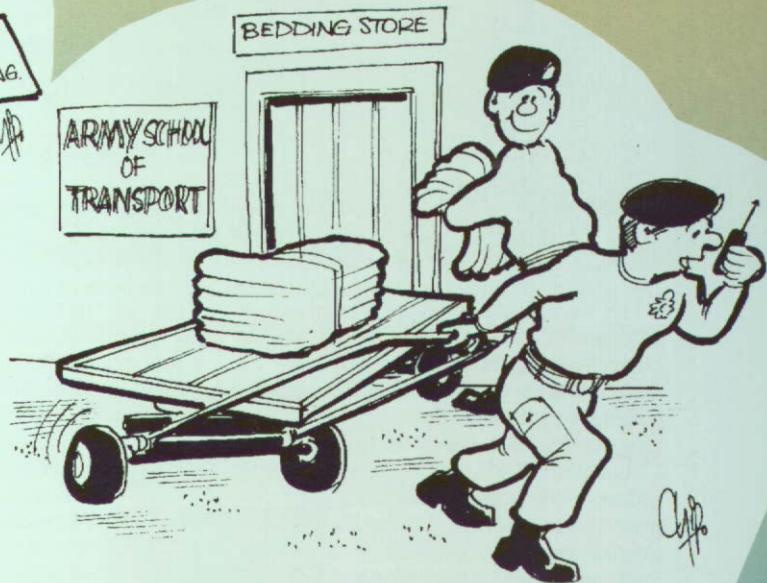
# Chuckle with Chip



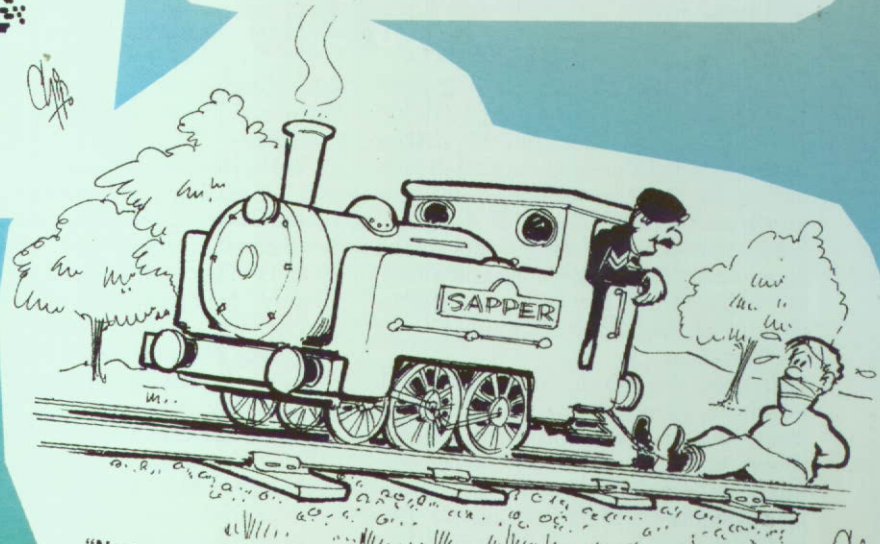
"Here lads . . . Is this supposed to be fizzing like this?"



"Forgotten something?"



"I've only been here a week, Mum . . . and I'm onto articulated vehicles already!"



"Now as we're going along, perhaps you'd like to tell me that amusing little story about Thomas the Tank Engine and the lousy driver again!"

## Movers and shakers . . .





# Ordered south

A century ago British troops sailed to South Africa to fight Boer farmers. **Stephen Dance** of the Victorian Military Society recalls the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902 and its legacy

THE Second Anglo-Boer War began on October 11, 1899 and ended with a peace treaty signed in Pretoria on May 31, 1902. There has been much heated debate about its causes but basically it came down to a power struggle between Great Britain, then a major influence in colonial Southern Africa, and two independent South African republics: the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

The Afrikaner inhabitants of these states, primarily farmers, were known as Boers. There had been an earlier Anglo-Boer War in 1880-81, which had ended in an embarrassing defeat for the British at Majuba Hill. When Boer forces invaded the neighbouring British colony of Natal in October 1899 after nearly two decades of steadily rising tension, many people in Britain spoke of an opportunity to wipe something off a slate; by which they meant avenging Majuba Hill. Many also thought it would be over by Christmas.

Initially, the British Army, virtually all of whose regiments took part in the war, had some qualified successes against the Boers, but in December 1899 there were three defeats in a row, at Stormberg, Magersfontein and finally Colenso. This period became known as Black Week and posed a very significant crisis of confidence for both the Government and the country at large.

It led to various changes, notably the appointment of Lord Roberts of Kanda-

har as successor to Redvers Buller as Commander-in-Chief in South Africa. Roberts – “Bobs, our Bobs” – had won the Victoria Cross during the Indian Mutiny and was a very popular national figure. Joining him as Chief of Staff was Lord Kitchener. This enigmatic leader was best known for inflicting a crushing defeat on the Dervish army at Omdurman in the Sudan, thus avenging the death of Gen Gordon at Khartoum.

We can only guess at Roberts's feelings on arriving in South Africa; he had learnt that his only son Freddy had been killed in a brave attempt to save the guns at Colenso.

Black Week also resulted in the formation of the Imperial Yeomanry, mounted volunteers who were urgently needed to counter the mobile Boer commandos. The IY drew on the existing county yeomanry regiments and although later drafts varied in quality, there is no doubt that they played a significant part in the war, particularly the later guerrilla phase.

The City of London also had its own corps – the City Imperial Volunteers or CIV – consisting of infantry, mounted infantry, artillery and cyclists. Throughout Great Britain and across the Empire, volunteers rushed to join locally-raised units for service in South Africa.

But the British were not the only ones to benefit from volunteers. There was considerable sympathy for the Boer cause in Europe – despite the fact that most European countries maintained colonies of their own and had eagerly taken part in



**Up and at 'em:** Canadian troops storm a kopje. More than 7,000 Canadians fought on the British side during the Boer War, earning a reputation for toughness and valour

the scramble for Africa – and a varied group of adventurers of different nationalities fought alongside the Boers.

Some, like the Frenchman Villebois Mareuil (killed at Boshof and given a full military funeral by Lord Methuen), brought valuable military experience, while others were more of a liability. It is interesting to note that Americans could be found fighting on both sides.

The newspapers and illustrated papers of the day were full of war news and there was a huge market in war souvenirs in the form of plates and jugs bearing portraits of the military leaders (Baden-Powell, the defender of besieged Mafeking, being one



**Over a barrel:** Boers use a French-made Creusol gun against the defenders of Mafeking

A special exhibition which includes the Boer War period opens at the National Army Museum in Chelsea on October 11.

“The British Army in South Africa, 1795-1914” explores British military involvement from the occupation of the Cape to the beginning of the First World War, but the most significant and controversial period was the Boer War, which accelerated the national develop-

## Exhibits on show

ment of Australia and New Zealand and sowed the seeds for the creation of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

Star exhibits include the Victoria Cross won by Cpl Ferdinand Schiess at Rorke's Drift, pages from Baden-Powell's diary of the siege of Mafeking and a wanted notice for Winston Churchill, a war correspondent at the time.

### 1899

**July 11** Transvaal Government declares that immigrants can be enfranchised only after seven years' residence.

**July 27** Joseph Chamberlain proposes a joint British-Boer inquiry into the Transvaal franchise bills. Proposal rejected by Paul Kruger.

**October 9** Ultimatum by Kruger.

**October 11** Kruger's ultimatum supported by Orange Free State Government

**October 12** Declaration of war.

**October 17** Boers lose first battle of the war at Glencoe.

**October 29-30** At Nicholson's Nek (or Farquhar's Farm as the battle is alternatively called) a Boer force under Piet Joubert defeats part of the Ladysmith garrison under Sir George White, thereby leading to the Siege of Ladysmith that began on November 2, 1899 and ended February 27, 1900 when a relief force under Redvers Buller entered the town. Apart from continual bombardment, there was an engagement on January 6

## Milestones

by Brian Jewell

when a force under Commandant Villiers, supported by several thousand Boer marksmen, attempted to break the defenders' lines at Waggon Hill and Caesar's Camp. The defenders held their ground and the Boers withdrew at nightfall.

**December 10** Attack on Stormberg. Gen Gatacre with about 3,000 men made a night march against the Boer position. He was misled by guides and came under unexpectedly heavy fire. The position was too strong and Gatacre was forced to retire.

**December 11** Lord Methuen's force repulsed by Piet Kruger at Magersfontein in the Orange Free State. The Boers numbered 9,000 and held a strong position against Methuen's division supported by the Highland Brigade. A night attack was disastrous for the Highlanders who lost 57 officers and more than 700 men, including their commanding officer, Gen Wauchope.

**December 15** A bad week for the British ends with Red-

vers Buller's force being repulsed by Louis Botha at Colenso in Natal. This was the first action in Buller's campaign for the relief of Ladysmith. Buller attempted a frontal attack on the enemy on the opposite bank of the River Tugela but was compelled to retire with loss of 71 officers and 1,055 men.

**December 24** Canadian and Australian volunteers land in South Africa.

### 1900

**January 10** Frederick Roberts takes over as C-in-C British Forces in South Africa. Lord Kitchener appointed Chief of Staff.

**February 18** Piet Cronje's Boers surrender at Paardeberg. Kitchener led four infantry brigades and four batteries against 5,000 Boers who had taken refuge in the dry bed of the River Tugela. The absence of cover made a British attack impossible but Kitchener was able to complete an encirclement. The arrival of Lord Roberts's force and sustained artillery fire resulted in the Boer's surrender, which was completed on February 27.

● To be continued

Part 2 next issue: Blockhouses and concentration camps

See Books, Pages 66-67





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# Affairs to remember

In the two years since it has been operational, the Civil Affairs Group has grown in size and influence. Now it is ready for even the biggest challenges

Report: Anthony Stone  
Pictures: Mike Weston

IMMEDIATELY after the liberation of Kosovo, a group of specialist soldiers was flown in on a vital mission.

They were given the mind-boggling job of returning the infrastructure of the troubled Balkan country to normality as quickly as possible. In the first place this meant making sure essential services such as water and electricity supplies were working properly. But their tasks soon spread until they touched many aspects of a broken jigsaw.

The Civil Affairs Group, based at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley, is uniquely equipped for the task. Mainly comprising Territorial Army soldiers, the 100-strong group can draw on a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Lt Col Andrew Wilson RE is the commanding officer. "I am in the very fortunate position of working alongside men and women of the highest calibre," he said. "They have proved their capability in both the Army and in civilian employment."

Essentially the Civil Affairs Group operates as an interface between military and civilian authority. TA soldiers are particularly well-suited to the role.

Lt Col Wilson explained: "Civil affairs is part of an emerging new discipline known as operational support. There have been many changes since the Cold War.

Before, war was seen as an absolute where you either won or lost, but that view is changing. We are now faced with an operational continuum.

"Civil affairs supports military operations; it is not something that stands alone. It is done by communication, liaison and negotiation. It is an interface."

How does it work in practice, in Kosovo for example?

"The objective is to get the military out, because the military is expensive," said Lt Col Wilson. "It is not looking for little projects to do for the feel-good factor, it is not about hugging trees.

"It's really about setting the conditions to allow the international community to get more qualified people in place to help get things back to normality."

In Kosovo, civil affairs is involved in 35 low-level projects, funded by Department for International Development.

In Pristina, Nato's Civil Military Co-operation Centre is actively and busily looking at extending school rebuilding projects and waste-disposal schemes.

Civil affairs also helps the Army to maintain operational freedom by influencing the attitudes and activities of government, the civilian population and humanitarian relief organisations.

Until very recently, the British Army

had not had a dedicated civil affairs capability even though it had played a major part in many operations.

There are sound economic reasons for maintaining a Civil Affairs Group. After the Gulf, American companies won reconstruction contracts because their civil affairs people were on the ground during the transition back to normality.

## DEMANDING

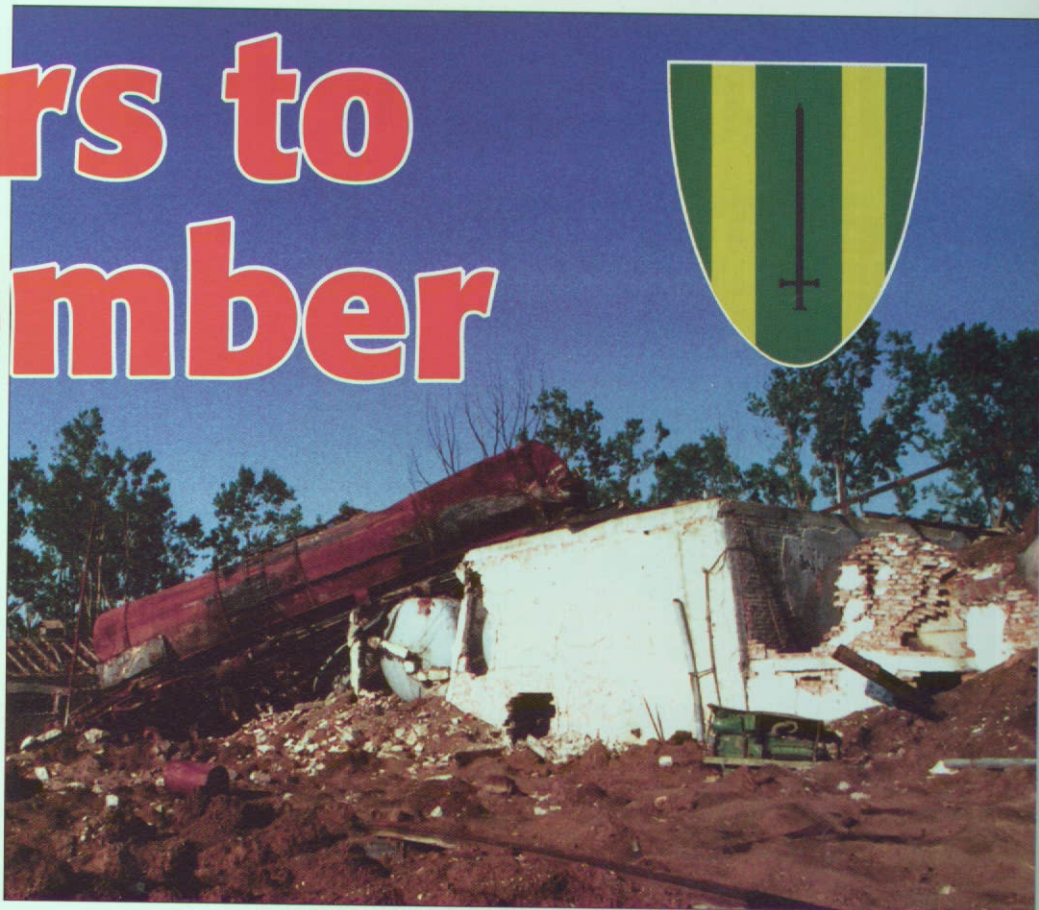
The Surrey-based Civil Affairs Group's most recent test in Kosovo has been its most demanding yet. "It has been a tremendous success but the work goes on," said Lt Col Wilson.

"In my view the priority is to have a clean hand-over to the UN mission. The job now is to maintain security and hand over to those who are best placed to do it."

The group's role is about much more than winning over hearts and minds, and part of Lt Col Wilson's job is to teach this emerging doctrine. One of the analogies he uses to make his point concerns humanitarian projects undertaken in Africa to secure clean water supplies.

"If you can persuade villages to do it for themselves and at the same time educate them in how to use the wells, in three years' time they will still be producing clean water. We help them to solve their problems for themselves.

"Basically, civil affairs is in the business of making things happen."



Fast track: The Civil Affairs Group is tasked with restoring the infrastructure of Kosovo as quickly as possible. This was the aftermath of a bombing raid on a Pristina railway siding



Lt Col Wilson



## Introducing the armoured bergen

WHAT is a soldier's second-best friend? First place goes, of course, to his personal weapon, but coming a close second is probably his faithful bergen. Stuffed with everything from sleeping bag to Walkman, the good old green

rucksack has a comforting way of turning a hole in the ground into a home. Well, sort of...

And it is not just a military essential. The rucksack is both trendy and the chosen luggage of many a traveller.

It follows, therefore, that it's not a lot of fun when your favourite backpack is stolen... or mistakenly chucked in the back of a Land Rover last seen heading off in a cloud of dust in the direction you've just come from.

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You can say goodbye to this risk if you own a handy little security gadget known as Pacsafe, a chain-mail for bags. Made of extremely tough steel wire, it's just the thing to protect your possessions.

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Safe as houses: rucksack with Pacsafe

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Write your answer, together with your name and address, on a postcard or the back of an envelope and post it to reach us by October 29, 1999. The first three correct answers selected at random will win the Pacsafes. Only one entry per person is allowed and Soldier staff and their families may not enter. The Editor's decision is final.

## Creative combat cuisine from new mix-and-match cook-sets

New military field kitchen system is safer, quieter, lighter, and quicker to pack

Reports: Graham Bound

"CAN'T cook, won't cook" may work as a TV catchphrase, but it's not going to cut much ice in the Army when new mobile cooking systems are introduced. The new kit, currently being tested in the field, promises to make Army food better and the work of chefs easier - and a lot safer.

Based on aluminium and stainless steel modules, griddle plates, ovens and boilers can be combined as required, transported easily by truck or helicopter and put to work in about half the time it takes to assemble today's field kitchens. And they can be very rapidly dismantled when operational needs dictate it is time to move on.

### PETROLEUM GAS

More importantly, though, the new cook-sets should be far safer than the old Number 4 and Number 5 trailer and "suitcase" cook-sets. Both the existing models burn liquid petroleum gas or petrol and make any field kitchen sound and feel like Vesuvius on the verge of eruption.

Properly used, the existing systems are, of course, safe, but amid the stress of operations and the roaring flames, serious accidents have occurred.

"We want to stop blowing up our chefs," said Carl Hamilton, who leads the team at the Defence Textiles and Clothing Agency (DCTA) in Colchester, where (for reasons which have nothing to do with textiles and clothing and a lot to do with the DCTA's light engineering facilities) the new equipment has been created.

### DIESEL FUEL

The system runs on much safer diesel or aviation turbine fuel, which also satisfies the Nato requirement to phase out petrol-driven equipment. Unlike the crude old system, an atomised flow of fuel is regulated thermostatically and ignited automatically by a 24-volt electric system. The fuel atomiser and injector were developed at the DCTA and are provoking interest among other friendly armies, including the United States.

The cook sets have two basic modules,



Picture: Mike Weston

You can stand the heat: Chefs Cpl Dave Chammings and Sgt Sean Davey test the new non-petrol cook-sets at the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency, Colchester

one with a griddle, the other with stainless steel containers for deep frying and boiling. Baking is possible using a separate oven which fits over the griddle. Burners are standard and interchangeable between the units.

There are other benefits, too. Research showed that the old trailer-mounted kit was unpopular with chefs because it was heavy and prone to bog down in muddy areas. And because there are fewer naked flames and an extractor and flue system which takes most of the heat out of the kitchen, chefs find the cooking area more comfortable. It is certainly quieter: the loudest noise in a field kitchen of the future is likely to be the sizzling of bacon.

With the new equipment, a kitchen can be up and running, with 20 litres of water boiled and ready for tea-making, within 40 minutes of arrival on site. It can be dismantled and packed away in 20 minutes.

Field-testing with selected Army units is being carried out this autumn and it is likely that there will be further fine-tuning of the system before it goes into service around 2003.

### Sapper boat

● ROYAL Engineers are to get a new combat support boat (CSB). A contract to build the craft, complete with custom-made trailers, has been issued to the British company RTK Marine. The new CSB will be used for the transport of stores, management of other craft and building of bridges in river and coastal areas.

The craft has an overall length of almost nine metres and is powered by two 200hp diesel water jet engines. Thirty of the boats should be delivered to the Royal Engineers over the next two years.

### Milan replacement

● BRITAIN is joining France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium in a billion-pound programme to enhance anti-armour capability. The medium-range TRIGAT weapon, a crew-portable missile system, will eventually replace Milan in all of these countries.

Companies in Britain and Sweden are also being invited to develop ideas for a new man-portable, shoulder-launched light anti-armour weapon known as NLAW. The new system should be entering service around 2006.

## Super-sub John turns out to be a range ringer

TERRITORIAL Army hotshot Cpl John Wainwright turned up at the Reserve Forces (UK) skill-at-arms meeting at Pirbright to help out in the administration office... and went home with the trophy for the best individual rifle shot among 30 teams from eight nations.

Cpl Wainwright, pictured, who serves in the TA as an instructor with Leeds University Officers' Training Corps, volunteered to make up the numbers when a mixed Nato team found itself a man short. But what John's fellow shooters from the RAMC, Royal Auxiliary Air Force and Greek Reserve Forces didn't discover until later was that their modest last-minute "super-sub" was a TA Queen's Medallist at neighbouring Bisley two years ago.

During five shoots with rifle, light-support weapon and pistol he emerged

### REGULAR ARMY BISLEY DETAILS - PAGE 43

as the best host-nation shot and qualified to represent Great Britain in the national champion match against the best shots from Belgium, Germany, the USA, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and, for the first time, Greece.

He scored 156 out of a possible 200 to win ahead of Belgian Air Force Reserve Commandant Robert Jonckheere with 148 and Ofw Matthias Bauermann from Germany with 144.

### NATIONAL GUARD

A US National Guard team from Pennsylvania won the main trophy, for shooting with the standard British service rifle, light-support weapon and pistol, with the Norwegian Reserve Officers' Federation team close behind. The sniper match, unusually, was won by a team of medics from Manchester-based 207 Field Hospital RAMC.

The non-shooting military skills section, which included tests on first aid, weapon-handling and grenade tactics, was won by a team from Germany, with 2 RAuxAF in second place and the Helicopter Support Squadron from RAF Benson in third.

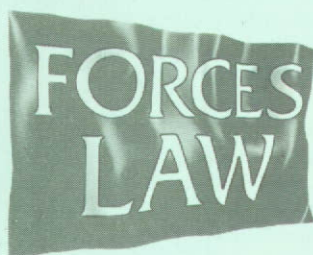




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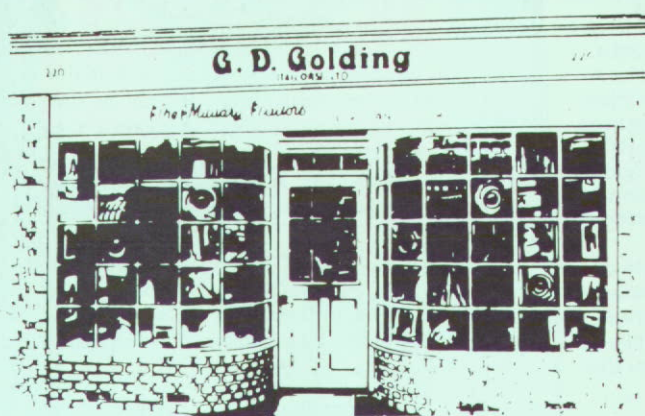
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# The media in Kosovo

## Army and the Press can work together

Report: Graham Bound

IF ANYONE suggests to Michael Evans that a war reporter can operate safely in splendid isolation from the troops whose work he is covering, this seasoned journalist is likely to tell him a grim little story from a few years ago.

British troops had just stepped into the middle of the Bosnian civil war and the man from *The Times* was covering it. One day, he was accompanying men of The Light Dragoons in the wild north of the country.

Evans's little red Lada was sandwiched between several tracked recce vehicles as they entered an obviously tense hamlet. As the troops and the civilian stepped cautiously from their vehicles, they could feel the danger. A Bosnian ran from a building waving his hands, indicating that the men should retreat immediately, but before they could do so a large calibre mortar round crashed to earth a few hundred feet away. Another round exploded a similar distance away on the other side of the group.

"Whoever was firing was getting our range, and we realised that the next round would probably be on top of us," Evans recalled. "All I can remember is being grabbed by the scruff of the neck and being thrown into a Spartan. They treated it as a bit of a joke afterwards, but those soldiers saved my life."

### SURVIVAL

Clearly, the basic business of survival in a war zone is one excellent reason for working within the Army's media liaison system, especially in the insane environment of a Balkan war. But Evans believes that there are other reasons too. The Army's media-relations machine has, he says, matured of late, and it can now genuinely help journalists to do their jobs.

At some stage in the wake of the Gulf or Bosnia, the Ministry of Defence accepted that if Army operations are to be reported fairly and accurately by the Press, uniformed Media Ops officers must treat journalists as equals, rather than a security threat, and understand that they need

Journalists and soldiers mix like oil and water. That, at least, is the popular belief. But according to Michael Evans, Defence Editor of *The Times*, things are better these days



Pen and sword: Michael Evans of *The Times* in Pristina

good-quality, up-to-date information. The way was clear for relatively smooth operations in Kosovo, with media and uniformed press officers generally working together well.

Evans entered Kosovo with the first wave of troops, and willingly signed up for the press "pool" which operated from a series of makeshift sites ranging from a petrol station to the absurdly misnamed Grand Hotel in Pristina. The pool, repre-

sented news agencies, newspapers, radio and TV, agreed to make their material available to any users and in return the Army provided daily briefings and organised "facilities": accompanied and well-protected opportunities to see the troops at work.

"Generally they gave us the impression that they were there to help, not to control us," the journalist recalled. "The pool also worked because it gave the press officers a focus. We were virtually living together, and the men in uniform realised that they had to be organised and do what was possible to help."

Tempers frayed on both sides from time to time, usually when someone began to apply unnecessary restrictions. But even when the pool was wound up a week after the taking of Pristina, many journalists continued to attend the briefings and facilities.

### CLUMSY

In contrast, Michael Evans shudders at the memory of clumsy media management during the Falklands War. It was, he says, "a heavily controlled atmosphere". Journalists in London (where he was) were deeply frustrated by the trickle of information released by MoD spokesmen.

Those with the task force had it worse. Army and Royal Navy units in the South Atlantic controlled all communications with the UK, and reports fresh from the battlefield would sometimes sit on the desks of press officers (known disparagingly as "min-ders") for days. Eventually the Army's media men realised that the Argentines were not their only enemies.

Unlike his colleagues who served in the South Atlantic in 1982, Evans's abiding memories of operations in Kosovo are not tainted by bitterness. He reflects easily on the events that made Kosovo a remarkable press event. "In particular I remember coming across recce patrols in the most amazing and hostile places, miles from any large body of troops. Very impressive."

And that was exactly what he told his readers.

Picture: Paul Beaver



Who dares . . . float on air

# Sappers rise to the occasion

Royal Engineers are still flying balloons more than 120 years after they first reached for the skies

Report: Anthony Stone  
Pictures: Steve Dock

IT is the oldest form of manned flight and still the most glamorous. When the ground crew casts off the ropes and the basket slowly rises into another world, it feels like a kind of magic.

From the passengers' viewpoint, taking off resembles the opening shots of a feature film where the cameraman slowly pulls back to reveal a magnificent panorama. As the noise from the ground becomes muffled and disappears, and the balloon is swallowed by silence, the only sound is the intermittent roar of the propane burners.

If God had wanted us to fly, He would have given us wings. But He did the next best thing. He gave us Royal Engineers. The sappers are the fathers of Army aviation with a history that stretches well back into the last century. Today the guardians of this illustrious tradition are to be found at the Royal Engineers Balloon Club.

*Soldier* was invited to experience a flight in one of the club's balloons, Sapper IV, over Hampshire.

To prepare the balloon for flight a large fan blew cold air into the canopy. This was then heated by two powerful burners. As the hot air expanded, the canopy inflated and the ground crew struggled to restrain it. Four passengers climbed

aboard and the magic started.

Forget Club Class on Concorde, this is the only way to fly. Despite having a flight deck that comprises an altimeter and little else, the simplicity of the controls did not mean the balloon was lacking in manoeuvrability. You could go up or down . . . and what more do you need?

You might think the absence of a steering wheel would make the balloon an unwieldy monster, but in the hands of an experienced pilot it has the grace of a ballerina.

Sapper IV demonstrated what it could

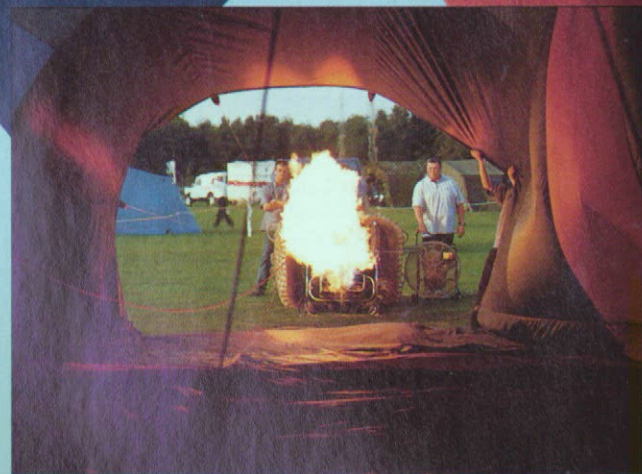
## Highpoint in reconnaissance

THE Army's observation balloon detachments first went into action during the Bechuanaland expedition of 1885 and in the eastern Sudan where camels were used to carry the equipment. But they made no valuable contribution to warfare until 1899

when three detachments of the Royal Engineers Balloon Section were deployed

to South Africa and did valuable work in reconnaissance and gun-spotting. The information obtained by the balloonists played a vital part in the British advance on Paardeberg and the capture of Cronje, the Boer leader.

One section was besieged in Ladysmith and for 30 days supplied valuable information on enemy troop movements.



Air heads: Cold air is blown into the canopy then heated with powerful propane burners to prepare the balloon for take-off

do. We descended and came in low over some trees, skimming the branches. Lower and lower we went until we brushed the flowers in the fields. We could have caught butterflies.

Then, with a mighty burst from the burners, we climbed again, effortlessly rising to 1,000ft. As we drifted along thoughts turned to how Royal Engineers became the pioneers of Army aviation.

It was a sapper who first persuaded the War Office to experiment with balloons for military reconnaissance; sappers who built the Army's first airship; a civilian employed by the Royal Engineers who flew Britain's first military aircraft; sappers who first

single action and was awarded the VC.

The man who shot down more enemy aircraft than any other pilot was also an Army officer, Maj Edward Mannock, who had served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Engineers.

Although he had only one good eye he was credited with 73 kills. He died in aerial combat in July 1918 and was awarded the VC posthumously.

balanced on his lap. When Hawker arrived over the target the observer of a manned kite balloon opened fire, causing him to miss with his first two bombs.

Hawker turned to the balloon's blind side and lobbed two grenades on to it, bringing it down in flames. He threw the remaining bomb at the hangar below and scored a direct hit. For this exploit he won the DSO.

Three months later he shot down three German aircraft in a

## Gallant soldiers of the air

OF the 19 Victoria Crosses awarded for gallantry in the air in the First World War, eight were won by British Army officer pilots.

The Army also provided the first air ace, Maj George Hawker, a young sapper who passed through the Central Flying School in 1914.

On April 18, 1915, he took off to bomb the Zeppelin hangar at Controde in Belgium, carrying three French bombs and a haversack full of hand grenades

## Bright ideas, confidence and hot air

THE Army's interest in aerial warfare can be traced to 1862 when Capt G E Grover RE urged the use of balloons for reconnaissance. But he was ahead of his time and the somewhat less imaginative War Office thought the idea too revolutionary and costly.

In 1878, however, they gave their blessing – and £150 – to a sapper scheme for experimenting with balloons at Woolwich, London.

Over the next few months, the Royal Engineers constructed a balloon which, filled with coal gas, made several successful ascents.

The following year the experimental unit became the Balloon Equipment Store and, in 1882, the School of Ballooning at Chatham, part of the School of Military Engineering.

One of the pioneers was Capt J L B Templar, of the Middlesex Militia, who (as a colonel) commanded the Army Balloon Factory and introduced military balloon training at Aldershot. He discovered a method of making balloons with goldbeater's skin (from the lower intestine of the ox) and began the building of the British Army's first airship – Nulli Secundus (Second to None).

### FIRST FLIGHT

The project was continued by Col J E Capper RE, who with Samuel Cody as co-pilot, took the airship on its first flight from Farnborough to London. They flew around St Paul's before crashing at Crystal Palace.

Mr Cody deserves his own television series. He was a cowboy from Texas, sported a beard and a stetson hat, and was often mistaken for the legendary Col "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

A kite expert, he had achieved a series of aviation firsts. In 1903 he had such confidence in his designs that he made a Calais-to-Dover crossing in 13 hours in a boat towed by a 15ft kite called Old Faithful.

The following year he was employed by the Balloon Factory, where he built and demonstrated observation kites for the Army, in one of which Lt P W L Broke-Smith RE broke the world record by rising to 3,000ft.

In 1908 in a biplane built by him under War Office contract and called the British Army Aeroplane No 1, Cody made the first sustained powered flight in England. He died at the age of 52 when a seaplane in which he was a passenger fragmented in mid-air over Farnborough Common on August 7, 1913.



First up: The extraordinary Samuel Cody takes to the air to claim the record for the first sustained powered flight in England

about 12 miles. The late summer sun was fast disappearing when the pilot spied a suitable field for landing and touched down as softly as a party balloon falls from the ceiling.

The recovery vehicle, which had followed our progress along twisting country lanes, was not far behind and there were welcome extra pairs of hands to help fold up the canopy.

It had been a magical evening. Everywhere the balloon had passed, people had stopped what they were doing to look. As we glided overhead people waved and smiled. The old pioneers were, no doubt, smiling down on us too.

experimented with aerial tactics, communication and photography; and sappers who piloted many of Britain's fighter and bomber aircraft in the First World War. And the first air ace – Maj George Hawker, who won the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the air – was a sapper.

Up where the air was clear it was easy to lose track of time. We had been flying for more than an hour and covered



# Absolutely Lumley

Interview: Graham Bound

THE MALIGN spectre of Patsy seemed uncomfortably close as I waited to meet Joanna Lumley in the foyer of a very posh Park Lane hotel. It was, after all, the kind of place Patsy would love to get thrown out of and I could almost see the appalling creature propped up in the cocktail bar.

But although *Absolutely Fabulous* was a unique show for a very celebrated actress (and, arguably, the best sit-com of the decade) surely we have not said goodbye for ever to that earlier lovely-Lumley image: the quintessentially English woman, pretty, sophisticated and subtly sexy.

This question was still worrying me as I was ushered into a secluded corner of the hotel to meet Joanna. She stood, extended a hand and smiled with real warmth. From the start it seemed right to call her by her first name.

To my immense relief the harsh, lined visage of Patsy was absent. The 52-year-old (hard to believe, but true) is slim but not skinny, and very pretty. Her face is unlined and smooth, her eyes bright, her smile easy.

Joanna offered coffee and asked if I smoked (I didn't, she did). To break the ice I mentioned *Ab Fab*. Joanna seized the opportunity to praise Patsy and her ilk. "I love Patsy because people just cried with laughter at her. Most funny people on TV are pretty vile, and villains are much nicer to play than heroes. It's wonderful to be able to laugh at people who are so awful that they deserve everything they get."

## SEEDY SOAP

Warming to the theme of mega-bitches, Joanna revealed that she is soon to play another. *Dr Willoughby*, due on our screens in November, is set behind the scenes in a TV studio where Joanna is the star of what she describes as "a seedy afternoon soap opera". On screen the doctor is a saint, but off camera she is an appalling *prima donna*, happy to stick a scalpel into anyone unwise enough to turn their back to her.

Still a little concerned that Patsy might have captured her soul, I put it to Joanna that, wonderfully funny though these characters are, they do come as a bit of a shock to those of us who remember another kind of Lumley.

"I know," came the smiling reply. "Because most of the parts I played involved lots of stockings and lipstick, which I don't mind at all. I did quite a lot

Model, actress, Army 'brat'... and charmer. Joanna Lumley is all of these things, and a firm supporter of the Gurkhas to boot

of very good people. Purdey (in the *New Avengers*) worked for the government and was straight and honourable. But if you are going to wear stockings, then I think you should be able to sprint. Purdey would shin over perimeter fences and do body rolls with guns."

Purdey was, of course, a lovely blend of beauty and action. It was surprising to learn that Joanna had no help from stunt men or women. "Oh, no, darling! I did all my own stunts. You see, I've always been a bit of a tomboy."

She went on to explain that this was due to an Army childhood spent in some exotic but, at times, pretty rough parts of the Far East. "I had always thought that I would be a soldier myself," she recalled. "I thought that a boy's life was better than a girl's, so I collected toy cars and did all the boy things. It's a bit sad now, isn't it?" She laughed easily at the memories of a childhood which seemed to be nothing but happy.

Joanna was born in Kashmir in 1946 to a mother who was the daughter of a diplomat and a Gurkha officer father who had just returned from the terrible Chindit

campaign in Burma. The family moved to Hong Kong while she was still an infant, and she cannot remember much other than the vague impressions of hustle and bustle.

Malaya, Maj Lumley's next posting, was different. Joanna lived in Kuala Lumpur until she was eight, attending Army schools that she describes now as "excellent". But Malaya was at the height of the Emergency, the civil war in which communist guerrillas were attempting to drive out the British.

## INTO THE JUNGLE

Joanna and her sister would often say goodbye to their father as he and his Gurkhas disappeared into the hills and the jungle. "He would come back months later with a beard," she recalls. "Mummy would say 'Kiss Daddy', but I wouldn't want to because he looked different."

Lapsing into the vernacular of her childhood, Joanna's eyes lit up at the memories. "It was absolutely wizard to hear gunfire. Sometimes we had to lie on the floors of the trains, and if we went up country we would go in armoured cars.



Chindit father: Joanna had not been born when her father, Maj James Lumley, on the right of this picture, fought the Japanese with the Chindits in Burma. With him at Mogaung during a pause in the fighting are Brig "Mad Mike" Calvert, pointing, and Lt Col N Shaw

We heard skirmishes in the hills, and would ask if anyone had been killed, bloodthirsty little tykes that we were. The grown-ups would look a bit ashen and say, 'No, darling, it's all right.' It was cracking stuff."

Her father had experienced far worse fighting the Japanese in Burma. He served alongside the legendary Chindit brigadier, "Mad Mike" Calvert, in a jungle struggle of almost unmitigated horror.

## GOOD FATHER

He was obviously a thoroughly good father, writing every week to the sisters when, in 1954, they went to boarding school in England. Eventually he returned to Britain because he missed them so much. But he bottled-up his Burma experiences. "Daddy would not, could not, talk about it," his daughter remembers.

The soldier's private world was finally exorcised several years ago. Joanna had been commissioned to compile a book entitled *Forces Sweethearts*, which took as its source some of the millions of fond letters that passed between couples who had been divided by the war. Some were from soldiers who never came home.

While researching at the Imperial War Museum, the staff asked if she and her father would like to see some rare film footage of the Chindit campaign. "I said to Daddy, with trepidation, 'Would you like to see it?', and he said, 'Do you know, I would.'"

The family watched the searing black-and-white images together, and it had a cathartic affect on the elderly man. "After that he talked flat-out," Joanna recalls. "Some of these things are so unutterably dreadful but you can put them into their place in history."

## STRONG EMOTIONS

*Forces Sweethearts* was a great success. Perhaps it was the knowledge that her parents had gone through the same trauma of wartime separation that gave her an affinity with those who wrote the letters, but she puts her surprisingly strong emotions down to something almost mystical. "I had a very real feeling at one point that I *knew* some of these things already. I had a sense of belonging and of understanding."

She believes that some of the long-dead correspondents helped her. "Sometimes, working at night, I could swear that



Doc-u-drama, we presume: Patsy and Purdey are in the past as Joanna returns to our TV screens this autumn as a spoof soap opera medic in the BBC series, *Dr Willoughby*

people stood around behind my chair waiting and watching. There was often a kind of prodding, saying 'Use this, do have this...'

Sadly, Joanna's father is also now dead. Her mother, a gentle lady living in West Sussex, maintains an intense love of animals shared by her daughter and developed during the years spent among the exotic fauna of the Far East.

Such memories of Malaya, her parents and Army life are important to Joanna. Keeping in touch with the Gurkhas and supporting their welfare trust helps to keep them alive.

"I feel I am a daughter of the regiment," she says, adding quickly that she is concerned that the Nepalese soldiers have not always been treated as they should be. "They don't complain and whine, but sometimes we give them a very shabby

deal in retirement. It's all very well saying oh, you can live very cheaply in Nepal, but we all know what that means. They walk for seven days to get to a hospital. This is bloody awful. They shouldn't! They've served our country."

After such serious conversation it seemed frivolous to return to acting. But I wanted to know if there would be only *Dr Willoughby*-like roles from now on.

"It was actually a relief to play some really bad girls," she replied, "but I'm cleaning up my act now and looking for some nicer people. I don't know where they'll come from, though."

I imagined that in the hotel foyer, the spectre of Patsy had admitted defeat and was slinking off, a bottle of Bolly under her arm for later.

Joanna Lumley is still charming, still lovely and still ours.

Picture: Pearson Television



# Training fit for a king

George IV was once a frequent visitor to the historic house in Surrey where future cadet leaders are now trained

Report: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Steve Dock

THIS autumn a double anniversary was marked at Frimley Park House in Surrey, the home of the Army Cadet Force Training Centre.

The house, once frequented by George IV, celebrated its 300th anniversary, and the Force marked its 40th year at the site.

The listed building, once the centre of an estate near Camberley stretching over hundreds of acres, opened for its present purpose in April, 1959 when 18 students gathered for the ACF officers' King George VI Memorial Leadership Course.

Today more than 1,400 students a year, most of whom are cadet instructors, pass through its doors.

## ARMY-RUN

Lt Col (Retd) Jeremy Alford, of the centre's staff, made it clear that the ACF is a youth training organisation run by the Army, rather than a junior version of the TA.

"In 1998 we had 39 adult courses and several for cadets and a total of 1,435 students passing through," he said. "In addition we held eight briefings and conferences attended by more than 230 visitors."

The mainly adult courses last a week and can take almost 50 students at a time. In addition master cadets' and leadership training is carried out during school holidays, with some 120 students at a time

attending the latter during the summer. They spend their stay under canvas.

Normally the centre uses its own team of instructors for the 39 courses run during the year, but the leadership training needs extra help.

"These leadership courses are designed for Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, the Air Training Corps and often include a dozen or so Canadian trainees," said Lt Col Alford. "They are divided into six platoons and we have young Regular junior officers from all three Services as platoon officers."

"This is important because we just could not do it with our own staff and it is good practice for them."

The centre is proud of its leadership course record and estimates that 20-30 per cent of Regular army sergeants are former students.

For the adult courses, some fundamental training is given as most adults who enter the ACF have no military experience. They learn – and are taught to instruct others in – basic skills such as saluting, map-reading, weapon-training, first-aid and field crafts. They even have a dining-in night to understand the cus-

oms, traditions and practice of the mess.

Although they are subject to military law, ACF officers are volunteers and are not liable to direct call-out because they are not members of TA units. The NCOs are considered to be Crown servants.

For 40 years the ACF has been proud to call 300-year-old Frimley Park House its home and as the Force celebrated the twin anniversaries, it looked forward to a continuing association – and even greater success in training leaders.



All ashore: Cadets leap into action after a "river" crossing using assault boats on the lake at Gibraltar Barracks, Minley. Nearby Frimley Park is proud of its record for training cadet leaders

Historic home: Frimley Park House, below, built in 1699 by Sir Henry Tichborne and home to the Army Cadet Force for 40 years



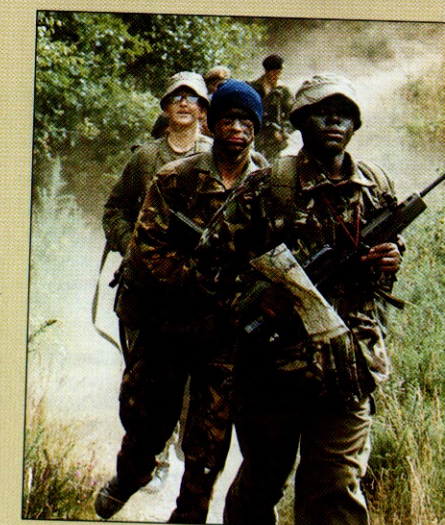
Picture: Ron Winning



Just checking: The RSM checks kit at the start of the march-and-shoot competition



On target: CSgt Warren Cooper, London Scottish ACF, gives advice to a cadet



On the trail: A Canadian cadet navigates during the march-and-shoot competition



## Injured abseiler bounces back

IT'S a well-worn cliché, but Cpl Robert Stevenson, pictured right, certainly came bouncing back after suffering life-threatening injuries when an abseil went wrong two years ago.

Cpl Stevenson, of the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, plunged 50ft head-first onto concrete at a charity event in 1997. He received multiple fractures and brain damage.

Two years to the day and countless operations later, he was back in uniform and just months after that was celebrating another remarkable achievement as, with nerves of steel, he abseiled again – with some of the money going to the two hospitals that “saved my life”.

On that fateful day in 1997 Robert had stepped in at the last minute to take part in the abseil at a Birmingham office block to raise money for Oasis, a locally-based cancer charity.

His story made national headlines as he fought for his life in Birmingham City Hospital. Doctors told him that the best he could hope for was to walk with the aid of sticks, but Robert was made of stern stuff.

Through long, agonising hours of physiotherapy and sheer determination, he reached his goal when he resumed his Army career at Lichfield in April.

Now he has abseiled again in Birmingham, from the Rackhams Department store, where he was supported by his



Picture: Stuart Bingham

regiment's display team, fellow abseilers and corporate sponsors.

“I raised money for various charities, including the one that missed out last time because of my accident,” he said. “I also wanted to thank the Army publicly for its continued support and, most importantly, to prove to everyone and to myself that I could do this and that their faith in my recovery was not misplaced.”

## Horse Gunners 'shell out' for Kosovo kids

THOUGH separated internationally, teams from 3 Regiment Royal Horse Artillery “joined” employees from military badge manufacturer Firmin and Sons of Birmingham in sponsored events with a difference aimed at helping to raise £10,000 for Kosovo children.

In Bosnia, relay teams from the regiment ran 650km, or more than 400 miles – the equivalent of the distance between all their locations in the former Yugoslavian country – in 24 hours, carrying a 155mm shell weighing 96lb.

In Birmingham, with their own target of £1,000 in mind, two teams from Firmin's covered a total of 140 miles (225km) carrying a similar weight in the form of the tools of their trade – the dies and tools used to manufacture the cap badge, collar badge, shoulder titles and tunic buttons of the regiment.

The target figure of £10,000 will build a small family home for up to 12 displaced youngsters in a project in which the regiment has liaised with the UK-based charity, Hope and Homes for Children.

A sponsored five-peak climbing challenge around the UK resulted in **Building Management (NI)** being able to build up a healthy total of £3,000 each for the Army Benevolent Fund, Northern Ireland, and the Omagh Fund.

The five peaks in order of height were Ben Nevis (Scotland), Snowdon (Wales), Carran-tuohill (Rep of Ireland), Scafell Pike (England) and Slieve Donard (N Ireland).

The ABF's Northern Ireland Special Relief Fund has dealt with 561 cases costing more than £1m over the past ten years.

Children have benefited by £65,000 over the past six years from the charity efforts of the **1st Battalion, the Royal Welch Fusiliers**.

There was more in August and September with “It's a Knockout” style events in towns throughout Wales as part of “Exercise Welch Wanderer 6”. Welsh Charities and Children in Need will be the beneficiaries.

Strong links between British Forces in Berengaria and Greek Cypriots from Polemidhia bore fruit when they came together for a televised open day which boosted Cyprus charities by £5,000.

Part of the entertainment were the **1st Kings Own Scottish Borderers** Pipes and Drums, with Highland Dancers, and the band of **The Parachute Regiment**, drawing a 2,000 crowd.

Soldiers from **7 Battalion REME** won the Ipswich Dragon Boat Racing Regatta for the third successive year, raising £1,700 towards a total of £14,000 on the day for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. The Wattisham-based crew of 20, under trainer WO1 (ASM) Dave Cook, competed against 15 civilian teams.

Two members of the **AGC(RMP)** joined 27,000 other riders in the largest-ever



**Action man:** Five-year-old Daniel Huxley, pictured being shown around by LCpl Andrew Hindle, had a wish come true when he became an action man with the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington Camp, Dorset. Daniel and older brother Daryl, from Church Crookham in Hampshire, who both suffer from congenital insensitivity to pain, enjoyed a thrilling day which included off-road manoeuvres in a training tank.

London-to-Brighton charity bike ride. WO2 (RQMS(T)) Mick Berry and SSgt Roy Cresswell were expecting to raise more than £500 for their efforts in the 58-mile ride.

Five members of the **Joint Air Transport Evaluation Unit** at Brize Norton added a welcome £300 to the funds of Springfield School, Witney, Oxfordshire, by completing the gruelling Pathfinder March eight hours faster than





They must be "barking": Three members of a Cyprus Defence Animal Support Unit, Royal Army Veterinary Corps are given a great send-off from four-legged friends Charlie, Jerome and Bess as they prepare to cycle round the Greek holiday island of Rhodes. On their five-day expedition SSgt Paul Williams, Sgt Tam Nicol, Cpl Robert Hart and three others planned to raise money to help two Cyprus-based animal charities build kennels

## Nine-day wonder

OFFICER cadets from the **City of Edinburgh Universities Officer Training Corps** who cycled 900 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats raised £5,000 in the process.

The nine-day event raised funds for the Army Benevolent Fund and to a charity building a school in Tanzania.

Meanwhile, a team of five cyclists from the **Intelligence Corps** and the **Royal Air Force** were planning the same journey, to help the Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled ex-Service men and women at Richmond, Surrey.

They called for advice at the home, where one resident, Charlie Hankins, has completed the same route twice on his hand-propelled Second World War tricycle.

required. SSgt Giles Wade, Cpl Neil Thomas, LCpl David Rush, Deborah Cannon and Sam Fryer finished the 46-mile annual march in 16 hours.

A 30kg cake baked by Sgt Don Helsdon, kitchen manager at **HQ Northern Ireland**, Lisburn, helped raise cash for the Ulster Cancer Foundation at the Lord Mayor of Belfast's annual ball. Piped into the event by

the Drum Corps of the RUC band, the confection was eventually enjoyed by patients at Belfast City Hospital.

Three **Winchester runners** collected £1,900 for the Wessex Cancer Trust after their efforts in the London Marathon. Lt Col Nigel Dransfield (AGC) and his daughter, Kelly, finished the course in less than 3hr 25min. They were joined on the finishing line by US Army exchange officer Maj Don Plante, who reached the tape in 4hr 20min.

More marathon charity cash – about £10,000 – was generated by a team from the **Royal School of Artillery** at Larkhill, the beneficiaries being local charities Naomi House and INSPIRE, which helps the spinal unit at Salisbury District Hospital.

Cpl Carl Robinson and LCpl John Ryan of 1 **Light Infantry** rounded off their two-year tour of Cyprus with a 133-mile canoe trip in aid of the British Forces Broadcasting Service charity Wireless for the Blind. They completed the course in 44hr 25min.

Military and civilian personnel from **SCOC Bicester** pulled in £1,500 for two local charities by rowing 500 miles – on dry land – in a 24-hour "rowathon" organised by SSgts Ian Tyrrell and Kaz Sultan. Representatives of **DCTA, SCOC, Bicester Garrison, 16 Regt RLC, 23 Pnr Regt RLC and 25 Freight Distr Sqn RLC** took part.

## IN The PRESS

What the papers say

● Thousands of ex-Servicemen who volunteered to be used in experiments at Porton Down chemical and biological defence establishment can take their doctors there to examine their medical records which list substances used and the guinea pigs' reactions. – *Times*

● Ministers have admitted that despite a good year for attracting new recruits, net Army numbers are falling at the alarming rate of 100 per month. – *Express*

● Today we publish the obituary of Sgt "Tex" Banwell. He was an extraordinary man, at a time when the extraordinary was almost commonplace. – *Daily Telegraph* on a Second World War hero whose eventful life included acting as Montgomery's double.

● An £859 million computer system bought to keep track of military equipment can't do the job. The "tracer" is unable to give the location of a piece of equipment at any one time. – *Mirror*

● A series of compensation cases ranging from sex discrimination to a farmer whose sheep were scared by low-flying RAF aircraft cost the MoD a record £76 million last year. – *Mail on Sunday*

● The SAS Regimental Association has been accused of trying to stifle a fledgling rival organisation for former members of the special forces. It and the recently created United Kingdom Special Forces Association have come into open conflict over plans to erect a national memorial to the SAS in its home town of Hereford. – *Times*

● The ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces could be lifted before the next election. Armed Forces Minister John Speller said a Bill scheduled to come before Parliament in 2001 could contain proposals to overturn the ban. – *Daily Telegraph*

● A British military policewoman, Cpl Rachel Webster, serving with Nato peacekeeping forces in Obilic, central Kosovo, has earned the respect of the community for winning the trust of Muslim rape victims so that statements can be taken from them as evidence of crime. – *Times*

● The SAS has a new secret weapon, the Chindit, the fastest military vehicle in the world, capable of 100mph, which can be parachuted out of aircraft and be turned into a boat. – *Sunday Times*

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



# Issues

## Topping time for Tidworth millennium leisure centre

THE new £8 million-plus leisure and community centre "topped out" in Tidworth last month brings this major boost to the quality of life in the garrison a step nearer. It is due to open to military and civilian users in June.

Spread over a 7½-acre site, the centre, one of the Army's millennium projects, will include a 25-metre swimming pool, double sports hall including a climbing wall, squash courts and fitness suites, a library and information centre, bar and café, and crèche and playgroup facilities.

It will be surrounded by picnic and exercise areas.

While the MoD is providing the lion's share of the funding, a significant contribution is being made by Kennet District Council. Naafi and Wiltshire Libraries and Heritage Services have also invested in the centre.

## Badger centre opens new conference hall

A NEW conference hall has opened at Badger House, the Christian conference and holiday centre for Servicemen and women in Shropshire.

Set in its own eight-acre estate on the outskirts of the village of Badger, the facility was founded six years ago by the Cornelius Trust. It boasts a modernised and beautifully-furnished main house dating back to 1790, a 500-year-old grade II listed thatched cottage and four other buildings, including the purpose-built conference hall opened this summer with the help of EU funding.

Service personnel and their families are eligible for heavily-subsidised tariffs, both for conferences and holidays (which can be at full- or half-board, bed and breakfast or self-catering).

Badger, to the west of Wolverhampton, is located in a rural conservation area noted for its beauty.

For more details, call on 01746 783226 or write to Badger House, Badger, Burnhill Green, Shropshire WV6 7JR.

# Spoiled times

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

Dear Cari

I haven't had much time off for holidays lately and, one way or another, my husband has been away almost constantly. His parents have been wonderful, taking the children out a lot and baby-sitting . . . but they've really spoiled them and they have become really rude and cheeky to me. I hate being the one that always has to discipline them, but I don't want them growing up to be like this. – Wife in UK.

**Cari replies:** Grandparents have the time to give children all their attention, without the full responsibility, so it's much easier for them to be indulgent. It might be worth having a word with them (perhaps by saying that you need their advice) on trying to have a common message about behaviour. You might also try to involve the children more in household activities. If they feel that you are doing everything for them they are likely to become lazy and discourteous. It

will also give you a little more time to spend talking to and playing with them.

Dear Cari

My youngest son is being really difficult about going to school. I don't know if he is really frightened of something there or just playing me up. The first week was all right but now it's almost impossible to get him into the classroom without a lot of very upsetting screaming. – Mother in UK.

**Cari replies:** Service children are pretty resilient, on the whole, and many thrive on a life on the move. Some do find it difficult, though, and may feel insecure. There may be all sorts of reasons – some to do with home and some to do with school

– why your son is behaving like this. It may not be school that is worrying him. If there is something unsettling him at home – an impending move or a parent being away – he may not want to leave you, imagining something will happen to you or his home while he is not there. Do talk to his teacher but be prepared for

him or her to say that your son is perfectly content once you have left. Even if his behaviour is pure attention-seeking it may indicate that he feels all is not well with your relationship with him.



Cari Roberts

In a recent *Counterpoint* programme on BFBS we reviewed some of the many books on the market which help parents to discuss school life with very young children. There are some excellent ones about and if you'd like a reading list do drop me a line for a factsheet.

Just to get you started, though, here are a

### Cari comments

few suggestions from that reading list:

*Starting School* by J and A Ahlberg, published by Puffin; *All About Annie* by P Dale, published by Walker Books; *Going to Playschool* by S Garland, published by Picture Puffins; and *Lucy and Tom Go to School* by S Hughes, published by Picture Puffins.

## IN BRIEF

● Residents and staff of the **Royal Star and Garter Home** at Richmond, Surrey, welcomed Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, to the home. He was accompanied on a tour of the Star and Garter's superb facilities by the chairman of the Board of Governors, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry Evans, chief executive Ian Lashbrooke and Matron Sarah Liquorish.

● Staff at **The Princess Mary's Hospital**, RAF Akrotiri had to work double time when they delivered two sets of twins in four days. The babies, born to Becky and WO Jon Blacklock, of the Joint Services Security Unit, and Alison and Ft Lt Craig Young, OC Transport Support Unit, RAF Akrotiri, are all doing well.

● **202 (Midland) Field Hospital RAMC (V)** has become the first Army medical unit in the country to achieve NVQs for combat medical



Picture: Cpl Alasdair Allen

**Pte James Christy, KOSB right, and SAC Louise Maccek, RAF, try out Tommy Tucker's café bar in the new Episcene centre and swimming pool in Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus**

technicians. Staff from the unit provided a casualty clearing station at the Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford, Gloucester, during their annual camp.





**Clean sweep:** The sandy beach that visitors see as they enter Cyprus's Eastern Sovereign Base Area may not be the prettiest on the island, but it is certainly the cleanest... thanks to families at Dhekelia Garrison who collected 20 large bags of rubbish and enough wood to build a shed. The project was co-ordinated by Maj Ted

Martin, left, OC of the Cyprus Joint Services Adventurous Training Centre at Dhekelia.

He said: "Our aim as personnel in the British Forces in Cyprus is always to illustrate a willingness towards environmental protection issues and we achieve this by doing our bit whenever we are able to."

# Demand for war pensions grows

A MARKED increase in calls about war disablement pensions from men and women about to leave the Army as well as people who have recently left has been reported by the Royal British Legion.

Now the Legion's Pensions Department has issued new advice for the thousands of individuals it believes are entitled to a war pension but who may not associate their disability with service in the Armed Forces.

Anyone with a disability incurred or made worse by service in the Armed Forces is entitled to claim a DSS war pension. There are hundreds of medical conditions for which war pensions have been awarded and there is no time limit to making a claim. A condition does not have to be physical... the line between psychological stress and certain mental conditions has been increasingly recognised and can apply to experiences in service, as they do in civilian life, says the RBL.

Following a successful claim, the War Pensions Agency of the DSS at Norcross, Blackpool will make an award, a lump

sum gratuity if the disablement is less than 20 per cent (except for noise-induced deafness) and an ongoing pension if assessed at 20 per cent or above. Additional allowances can be paid for conditions such as lack of mobility or unemployability due to war disablement.

For more advice, ring the RBL's Pensions Department on 0171 973 7235 or write to the Legion at 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

## FORCES RAILCARDS

Forces Railcards are now available to war widows and widowers (under the age of 60) and dependants from the RBL at a cost of £2.50.

Eligibility is the same as for serving personnel with the additional proviso that claimants, including dependants, are receiving a Forces Family Pension. Further details can be obtained from the Pensions Department at the telephone number or address listed above.

Forces Railcards already issued to members of the families of deceased Servicemen or women remain valid until the card expires.

## More trouble on pay front

FOLLOWING widespread errors affecting soldiers' pay slips since March, problems were identified with the August credit of pay for officers.

Local currency bank payments to Germany, Holland, Belgium, France and Cyprus were understated because incorrect Fixed Forces Rates (FFR) were used in calculations. The Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA) took action to ensure the correct amount of local currency was paid to local bank accounts. Measures were also taken to ensure all was well in Canada, where incorrect FFR rates resulted in overstated local currency payments.

A further complication was the application by AFPAA of wrong rates for the Recompense in Lieu of Relocation (RILOR) and Residence to Place of Duty (RPOD) allowances, resulting in officers being incorrectly paid. RPOD including personal contributions was correctly paid.

● Problems with the new Regular soldiers pay system were still being reported last month. Some soldiers had received too much pay, others too little when they opened their March and April pay slips, but the situation had been expected to be rectified by July at the latest. The new system was introduced to prepare for Year 2000 compliance and Pay 2000.

## Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's

Association 0181 590 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) 0181 543 6333

Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249;

Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and

Families Association 01482 833812

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858



# **YOUR CHANCE TO USE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON KNOWN TO MAN. YOUR VOTE.**

If you want to vote, your name must be on the electoral register.

As a serving Regular member of HM Forces, you only need to register once as a service voter, and your vote is assured for the rest of your service career, wherever you're posted.


Registration forms are available from the admin office of your unit or ship.

Send the completed form to the appropriate

electoral registration officer (the form tells you how). You will then be able to vote at all Parliamentary, European Parliamentary and local government elections.

Wives and husbands of Regular members of HM Forces can also register as service voters or, if they prefer, register each year as civilian voters (so long as they are living in the UK).

Don't Lose Your Right To Vote.

**NO VOTE  NO VOICE.**

ISSUED BY THE HOME OFFICE



# Central Skill-at-Arms Meeting

## Royal Irish trio rule the roost at Bisley

A YEAR ago shooters from The Royal Gurkha Rifles claimed the first three places in the prestigious Queen's Medal competition at Bisley, a result that was widely hailed as an immense achievement. A year on The Royal Irish Regiment repeated the feat at the 1999 Central Skill-at-Arms Meeting, writes **Lt Col Paddy Chambers.**

Cpl Robert Doak, serving with 3 R Irish, finally did what had long been forecast of him and won his way through a tightly-fought series of five matches over two days to take the Queen's Medal by 699 points out of a total of 770. Cpl John Burtney, also 3 R Irish, was second with 695 and Sgt Jonathan Eagleson, 5 R Irish, third with 694 points.

All three maintained their places in the overall open rifle championship, in which Regular Army shooters competed with firers from Canada, the United States, the Oman and the Netherlands. Best-placed individual from the overseas contingent, in seventh place, was from the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces (SAF).

Other individual match-winners from the Infantry were LCpl Wayne Clifton, 1 WFR, in the Whitehead; Maj Alwyn McLean, 3 R Irish, in the Association; Pte Trevor Reaney, 4 R Irish in the Whit-taker (moving target match); Sgt Eagleson in the Gurkha Welfare aggregate match; and Cpl Mark Richardson, 1 RRF, in the Tyro Trophy.

Of the 127 Regular Army firers in the Queen's Medal (the increased number was allowed by a shortfall in the number of anticipated overseas visitors), 45 were newcomers to this level of combat shooting, and 61 infantrymen – there were no women this year – appeared in the top 100.

Other results fired over the Queen's Medal competition period were the Western Command Cup for the best divisional and district team, won by 4 Division; the falling plates match for the RUR Cup, fired for the first time since 1993 and



**Champion shot:** Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, left, presents the Watkin Cup to Cpl Robert Doak, a member of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, at Bisley

open to home and international teams, won by the SAF; the Britannia Trophy for the combat obstacle-snap match, also won by the SAF; and the fire team assessment match, won by Canadian Forces.

The Regular Army competition was a great success, with more firers, a programme which ran like clockwork and a format trialled for use next year, when the millennium meeting will be held from June 27 to July 1, with the Queen's Medal competition final on June 29.

### METHUEN CUP

The historic Methuen Cup match attracted 26 international, Service, corps and regimental teams, the best entry for several years. Among them were a cadet team from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and a team from the Falkland Islands Defence Force, at Bisley for the first time.

A close-fought contest, it was won by

the Royal Irish Regiment with 1,394 out of a possible 1,500, ahead of the Gurkhas on 1,383 and the Royal Marines on 1,363. The Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces won the Overseas Challenge Cup and came second overall.

There was also a healthy entry for the Service pistol championships held on Nelson Range, Pirbright. As with the rifle matches, it turned out to be a Royal Irish benefit, LCpl Willy Kennedy of 8 R Irish winning with a score of 524 out of a possible 600. Sgt Nigel Hodgson, 1 QLR, was third with 500 points and the team match was won by 3 R Irish, ahead of their 8th and 4th Battalions, which finished second and third.

For the third year running an Irish Permanent Defence Force pistol team competed against a select British Army squad captained by Maj David Elsam, WFR. The Army won by 1,480 points to 1,258.

**Win a trip back in time**

*Soldier* is offering five families the chance to step back in time with a day out at Portsmouth's historic naval base, home to the world's three greatest historic ships, the *Mary Rose*, HMS *Victory* and HMS *Warrior*.

In conjunction with the Flagship Portsmouth Trust, we have five family tickets, worth £40 each, to give away.

To win one of the tickets, each for two adults and two children, answer the following question:

### On what date is Trafalgar Day?

Answers on a postcard with your name and address to: Flagship Competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU, by October 29.

The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date will each win a family ticket to Flagship Portsmouth. Only one entry per person may be submitted and members of the staff of *Soldier* and their families are not eligible. The Editor's decision is final. Winners will be informed and their names will be published at a later date.





## SHORTS

### Calling all internationals...

IF you are in the Regulars or the Territorial Army and play sport – any sport – at international level and are not receiving a grant from the Army Sports Lottery and free Army merchandise, you may be missing out. The Army Sport Control Board is updating the international register it uses to determine which Army sportsmen and women are eligible for financial help, so if you've not been contacted, make yourself known... now.

Ring Maj Peter Boxell at the Directorate of Public Relations (Army) on 0171 218 7908 or MoD Main Building (9621) 87908 as soon as possible. If he is not there to take your call, leave your name, contact number and brief details of your sport on his answer machine and he will get back to you.

### Gurkhas win... by a street

A FOUR-man party from the Queen's Gurkha Signals based with 30 Signal Regiment at Bramcote took part in the inaugural Sydney Trailwalker in Australia... and finished nearly 2½ hours ahead of the second-placed team. The event, based on the famous charity fundraising Hong Kong Trailwalker, was organised by Community Aid Abroad with help from the Australian Army. The Gurkhas' strategy was simple – to run the entire 100km course, which they completed in 15hr 5min to considerable media acclaim.

● Mencap is looking for runners to join its Dennis the Menace team in the 2000 Flora London Marathon. They will be guaranteed places in the race. Ring 0645 777 779 for details.

### Airborne bikers in the frame

A TEAM from 63 Airborne Close Support Squadron RLC completed most laps and retained the class two title in the Exercise Enduring Help meeting (Sport, July) on Longmoor training area. Although 150 Transport Regiment won the main event after completing 94 laps, 63 Sqn logged up 103. With three extra laps for sponsorship this was the equivalent of 45 miles more than their nearest rivals.

### Peak performance

THREE soldiers from Ripon-based 11 Field Squadron, 38 Engineer Regiment, led by SSgt Billy Hardwick, finished second overall out of 30 teams which took part in the Three Mountains Challenge over Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales. The annual event is run by the British Heart Foundation.

## CANOEING

# Slalom specialists stick their oars in

SOME of the most demanding white-water conditions to be found in England tested Army canoeists to the limit at the National Watersports Centre, Nottingham, the venue for this year's Army canoe slalom championships.

The second Army rodeo championships and a "paddle-up" fun event were also incorporated to get the most from the venue.

Lt Pete Francis (2 Para) convincingly took the prestigious K1 event, while Maj Colin Calderwood (ATR Pirbright) and Maj Paul Hepworth (3 UK Log Regt RLC) won the Canadian doubles class for the third consecutive year.

The Canadian singles event was also won by Hepworth, who has dominated this class for years. The unit team compe-

tition was hotly contested with 5 Regiment RA beating Pirbright after the ATR team had touched too many gates and incurred time penalties.

The rodeo championships attracted a significantly bigger entry than last year and was judged by Bob Campbell, a retired Royal Artillery sergeant and former rodeo world champion.

Lt Damien Moxon (ATR Pirbright) stormed ahead with his exceptional kayak control, while Francis shared second place with the old master, WO1 Andy Eaton (ASM of 47 Regt RA). Eaton was the only paddler ever to win the Army K1, C1 and C2 titles in the same year.

In the paddle-up event Francis shaved a close win over Sgt Tony Harris (5 Regt RA).



Splashdown: Capt Chris Edwards, of 34 AEC Rheindahlen, battles through white water during the first Joint Services Alpine kayak meeting held in Landeck, Austria.

British Forces (Germany) were well represented at the event, which aimed to promote tri-Service expedition kayaking on high-grade Alpine rivers. Paddlers tackled more than 20 rivers in a fortnight. Experi-

enced kayakers WO2 Kipper Knight (1 GS Regt), Sgt Bob Dumbell (RAF Laarbruch) and Sgt Taff Meaden (HQ AMF (L)) took on grade five rivers and were given top-class instruction by Capt Edwards.

Almost everybody completed the expedition and gained experience on exciting, powerful rapids, with most receiving kayaking awards as a result of the meeting.





## SQUASH



Against the best: Army U-25 and women's squash players, pictured above, took on some of the world's top professionals at the Gibraltar International Open.

Cpl Craig Webb (RE) battled against the world number 12, Tim Gardner in the quarter-finals and took the first game after a Herculean effort before eventually losing 3-1. Pte Richard Deans (RLC) and Cfn Lennie Westover (REME) both fought hard

against international players before being knocked out. The progress of Capt Ian Chance (R Anglian) was blocked by the world number 24.

In the women's event the world number 15, Stephanie Brihd, had to fight her way to the Gibraltar title by overcoming the Army number one, Lt Karen Wallace (RLC) in the semi-finals and WO2 Michelle Quaife, (AGC) in the final.

## FOOTBALL

# Tourists win matches – and hearts – in Southern Africa

A HIGHLY-successful Southern African tour, both on and off the field, by the Army football team cemented close ties and helped to boost the sport within the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), which hosted the trip.

Six players from the original tour selection dropped out at the last moment to join their units in Kosovo, but Army FA secretary Maj Terry Knight managed to call up late replacements to bring the party up to strength.

In their opening match, the Army came from behind with goals by Sgt John Greechan (2) and Pte Lee Badrock to draw 3-3 with the South African Army. Cpl David Hope (2) and Cpl Simon Bell were on target when the tourists completed a 3-2 win over a SA Police Force side preparing for the World Police Championships in Sweden, and a local side in Eesterus was beaten 8-2.

Two goals each from Hope and Bell earned the Army an excellent result against Premier League side Jomo

Cosmos before the competitive side of the tour ended on a fine note with a 2-0 victory over SANDF. Goals from Badrock and Sgt Peter Tagg ensured the win in front of a bevy of high-ranking officers.

Hundreds of children turned up to enjoy coaching clinics organised by tour manager Maj Billy Thomas and run by the Army squad in townships throughout the country and a major coaching and referees' seminar was organised for SANDF officials. All the players took old pairs of boots with them to give away to children.

● The Army began their new domestic season with a 3-0 win in their traditional opener against Rymans League Uxbridge at the Military Stadium, Aldershot. LCpl Ellis Langford, LCpl Terry Lynch and Sgt Paul Lennard scored the goals.

● A thunderous right foot shot by SSgt Paul Murgatroyd 15 minutes from time earned the Army a 1-0 victory over hard-working Ryman Leaguers Camberley Town, managed by former soldier John Robson, at the Military Stadium.

## SHORTS

### Terry's the top man, again

MAJ Terry Gyorffy, serving with HQ DEME(A), led the Army to victory in the Inter-Services decathlon championships at Portsmouth. Gyorffy, captain of the Army athletics team, followed his outstanding fifth place finish in the UK national championships in July by winning his sixth Inter-Services decathlon title. He won four of the first five events, recording a 11.2sec 100m and 12.39m in the shot, and extended his lead on the second day of competition on the way to compiling 6,221 points.

Pte Kev Ricketts (1 Para) was third overall with 5,810 points, Sgt Chris Oakes (APTC) fourth with 5,629 and Pte Gez Manville (PWRR) fifth with 5,596. Ricketts and Manville both achieve personal bests, the later most notably with a 4.10m clearance in the pole vault, to help the Army regain the title from the RAF with the highest Services' team total – 17,660 – for several years.

Ricketts was subsequently selected to compete for Wales at the Home Countries international at Aberdeen. He was the best-placed Welsh athlete, extending his personal best score to 6,127 points.

### Infantry rugby sevens

A TWO-day Infantry seven-a-side rugby tournament has been confirmed for ITC Warminster in the spring. Defending champions will be 1 DWR.

### Make-over for cycling

ARMY cycling has undergone a radical change in the past year, with new faces in almost all the key appointments. New chairman Lt Col Marian Lauder, based at Upavon, has drawn up a five-year plan for development, strategy and publicity while new secretary SSgt Gary Kristensen has pushed for the formation of an élite squad from which riders will be selected for national and domestic competition. He can be contacted on 9491 31602. This summer Cpl Duncan Urquhart (1 RTR) became the first Services rider to win the Wessex divisional championships, raced over 128km.

### Indoor rowing 'regatta'

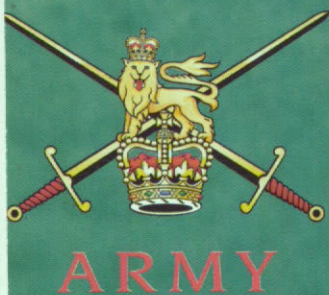
NEARLY 30 men and women are expected to compete in the inaugural Army indoor rowing championships in the Oman Hall at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on November 10. Concept 2 rowing machines will be used, with up to 12 athletes racing at the same time. Entry forms are available for unit PT staff or Maj Richard Haldenby on Camberley Mil 2142 or 01276 4121420.



# RUGBY SHIRT



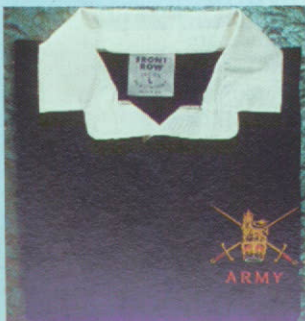
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## FREEZE FRAME



Don't look down: Sgt Dave Cowling, QLR, uses axes to grip ice walls at the Pitzal glacier in Austria. Sgt Cowling was training for Exercise Himalayan Dragon, the Army's ambitious millennium adventure training exercise in Nepal to celebrate a century of Army climbing

## SHORTS

### Tipped for the top

TRAINEE pilots Maj Werner Stroud, (AGC) and SSgt Paul Todd (MPSC) won the sport class at the Inter-Services gliding championships. "Our main aim was to get as much flying as possible," said Maj Stroud. "For two trainee pilots to win the championships was beyond our wildest dreams."

### Run raises cash

MORE than 300 runners took part in the 10 (UK) Logistic Regiment RLC Split charity fun run. Money raised will be shared between the Masdril Orphanage in Split, the Illijas Refugee Centre in Sarajevo and the Lexdon Springs School for the disabled in Colchester.

### Pulling power

ELEVEN Army teams travelled to Braemar to compete in the tug-of-war competition. The pullers from 40 Regiment RA showed they were not going to let the disappointment of being runners-up to 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC for most of the season deter them. The result was a closely-fought final with victory, going to 40 Regt RA. Winners of the plate competition were 4 R Irish.

### Vicky's gold run

Gold standard: LCpl Vicky Stenson, RLC, pictured right, won gold at the two-women British push bobsleigh championships. She teamed up with Royal Air Force driver SAC Michelle Coy to sprint to victory down the 40-metre course at Thorpe Park.



### Run raises cash

MORE than 50 windsurfers from all sections of the Services met to test their heavy-weather sailing skills at the Renesse Surf Centre in Holland for the 10th British Forces funboard championships. Surfers based all over the UK and Germany arrived with an assortment of long and short boards, confidently hoping for winds of Force 4 and upwards. They were to be disappointed as winds were only light.

# Robbo fights back from horror crash

ARMY triathlete Cpl Stacy "Robbo" Robinson is on track for a world-class comeback after a serious accident which threatened to end his sporting career.

Robinson was preparing for his ninth appearance at last year's world triathlon championships when he was hit by a vehicle. "I was cycling to the home of a training partner when a car came rushing out of a shopping centre and sent me flying," he explained. He suffered two broken ribs, a bruised kidney, an injured lower back... and his racing bike was destroyed.

"I was only seven weeks from a world title bid in Sweden and doctors told me I had to lie flat on my back and do no train-



Back: Cpl Robinson

ing whatsoever." Encouraged by his wife, Sue, a runner herself, he soon put the depression brought on by his injuries behind him and started to get himself back in shape for the gruelling triathlon combination of a 4km swim, 120km cycle ride and 30km run.

Helped by his Army training and his own determination he not only started in Sweden but managed to get within striking distance of the finishing line, although it was an effort which set him back. Now concentrating on the cycle-run duathlon, the sapper PTI with the Military Work Force at Chilwell has his sights on the world championships in North Carolina, USA later this month.



PROFILE: MATT STEWART

## World Cup dream is still alive

Stewart vows to win back his Scotland shirt after recovering from injury

CPL Matt Stewart, 2PWRR, will watch the rugby World Cup with the niggling knowledge that if he had not injured himself he would be stepping out into international glory, **writes Anthony Stone.**

"It was a bitter blow to be left out of Scotland's squad," he told *Soldier*. "I was very disappointed. It has been an ambition of mine to play in the World Cup and it does not look like I am going to do it this time round. But I am still only 26 years old, and four years is no time whatsoever. You never know, if there is an injury I am sure I am next in line."

Few would argue with him. The 18-stone prop forward has the speed and power of a Challenger tank. He used to box for his regiment at heavyweight and flattened everything in his path. But it is through rugby that he has found his true sporting vocation.

### ARMY CADET

"At 13 I joined the Army cadets," he said during a break from training at the Northampton Rugby Club. "All the way through senior school I was determined that I was going to join the Army. I was very keen and used to read every edition of *Soldier* magazine."

At school Stewart played only a handful of rugby games, but soon after joining up in 1989 his precocious talent was spotted.

"I went all the way through the rugby system – progressing through the under-21s, then the seniors and Combined Services.

"It was at that stage I joined Blackheath Rugby Club and played there for four seasons. Then I had a chat with Tim Rodber (Green Howards and England) and decided to join Northampton.

The Army helped by posting Cpl Stewart to Bassingbourn, to be nearer his new club. His rise continued when he secured his first international cap against Italy. "It was a tremendous experience," he said.

"I had a dozen caps on the bounce, then a shoulder injury halted my progress. I had to have six months off and did

not start playing again until last Christmas. By that stage Scotland were playing very well and you can't get back into a winning team. The guy that's in my position is 34 years of age and I hope I will get my place back next season."

Although Cpl Stewart has played at the highest level in some of the world's great stadiums, there is one match that holds a special significance for him.

"The Army and Royal Navy fixture is something else. They play all the top sides and at the end of the year they play each other. It has such a big build-up. The game itself is getting bigger and bigger with the crowd getting on for 30,000.

"For me to play in that game is as great an honour as anything. It is just as exciting as representing my country."

There are many more great rugby seasons ahead for Stewart and he is able to continue with his Army career. "I am a full corporal and my rugby career will probably take me through till I am 32. I would probably not be able to go back into the role that I joined for, but I am sure the Army could use me in some other way. My ambition is to coach the Army team."

In today's Army there is an incredible variety of sporting opportunities available to soldiers. But rugby will always be one

of the most popular.

"In the Army you are in a platoon of about 30 guys. You live with them day in, day out and there is a lot of camaraderie. Basically rugby is the same.

Everyone gets on."

The Army training and discipline has had other benefits for Stewart the sportsman. "The game is about controlled aggression. There are times when you have to impose your authority, there are other times when you have to think on your feet."

Cpl Stewart is a walking advertisement for the opportunities for sport in the Army. "I always advise people that first and foremost you join as a soldier. But there is a very strong tradition in the Army of sporting excellence. They always encouraged me to fulfill my potential. If you can be a sportsman in the Army it is so good because they give you the time to develop. You can combine your sport with your Army work.

### ENLISTED

"There are untold people who have enlisted because of Tim Rodber and Rob Wainwright."

The pleasantries over, it was time to ask the big question: who is going to win the World Cup?

"On current form it has got to be between New Zealand and Australia. South Africa played very well last season but they have not quite gelled this year. When push comes to shove I can't really see it going anywhere but Australia or New Zealand... unless of course it is Scotland."





## RUGBY LEAGUE

# Army side captures last-minute victory

Army 26

Great Britain and Ireland Students 22

BEATEN out of sight by the students in their last encounter, the Army showed great character to come back in this hard-fought match to win the Scottish Courage Cup, writes WO1 Steve Tranter.

Led by veteran prop Sgt Wayne Brad-dock, R Sigs, the Army snatched victory in the last minute against a despairing students' side.

Playing as a pre-match entertainment at Helens Rugby League Club in front of 6000 fans, the Army had to come from behind three times against a strong and enthusiastic student side.

### BREAKTHROUGH

Sgt David Clark, R Sigs, at loose forward worked hard throughout the game and gave LCpl Dean Ross, RE, an early breakthrough.

LCpl Sean Fanning, AMS, missed the conversion and minutes later the students took the lead.

The pattern of the game was set as the two teams fought out a close contest. There was never more than a try in it but the students managed to hold a slight advantage. The students seemed content to work the ball up the middle of the park while the Army were determined to use

the advantage of a wide pitch. Man of the match Cpl Darryl Cooper, RE, proved to be the Army's inspiration as he turned defence into attack with his elusive running.

Three student tries were well matched by three from the Army. Cpl Cooper went over twice and Tpr Baby Richards, RDG, also got touched down to take the score to 22 points apiece until the final minute.

The Army, resilient till the end, broke from a scrum 30 metres out from the students' line. Substitute Sgt Chris Brown, RE, combined brilliantly with Cpl Stevie Emm, RE, to release centre LCpl Dean Ross, RE, who made a break to the students' left corner.

Emm passed the ball to Sgt Chris Oakes, APTC, who flew down the wing to crash over the line for a superb winning try. Although the try was not converted it was enough to win.

Scottish Courage has sponsored this tournament for two years and it was satisfying to see the Army deservedly head the list of top amateur representative rugby league sides in the country. In a competition that included the RAF, Royal Navy, Fire Service, Civil Service, British Police, Prison Service and Great Britain and Ireland Students, this was no mean feat.



Back to school: A student receiving a lesson in smother-tackling from a rampant Army side

## TRIATHLON

# Iron will keeps marathon men in contention

IT TAKES a special kind of athlete to race around a 112-mile cycle course, swim for two-and-a-half miles and run for 26 miles in one day. But this was the almost incredibly daunting challenge accepted by four soldiers when they entered the European Ironman triathlon in Roth, Bavaria.

Maj Jock Murdoch, Capt Mick Boyle, Maj Damian Hoskins and WO2 Andy Baird, all members of the Army Triathlon Association, made up the first Army team to enter the event, the biggest of its type, attracting athletes from all over the world. They faced the gruelling competition with 2,096 other starters.

Because of the large numbers of athletes involved, phases of the competition were carefully structured. During the swimming event in the Main-Donau Canal, the competitors set off in waves of 250 at five-minute intervals.

### DEAFENING

Numbers of spectators were equally impressive. An estimated 120,000 lined the 53-mile cycle circuit, and the Army racers compared the throng of spectators to the crowd which lines the most popular sections of the Tour de France. Riders were almost deafened by the cheering.

Five-times Ironman veteran WO2 Baird left the marathon after suffering an injury 10km into the run, but the others completed the three-phase race with respectable overall times around 13 hours.

The Army Triathlon Association has even bigger ambitions. Members hope to assemble a 30-strong team of runners, cyclists and swimmers for the Millennium Ironman. Athletes bold enough to take on the challenge can call Maj Jock Murdoch on 01959 514902.

## New sport on a roll

A NEW sport has made its debut in the Services. Rink hockey is essentially ice hockey played on roller blades, but retaining all the thrills and spills of the original game. The Army's first club, at Arborfield Garrison, has just been accepted into the British Rink Hockey Association. The Apaches, as the 20 members of the Arborfield roller bladers call themselves, hope to play their first home game this month.



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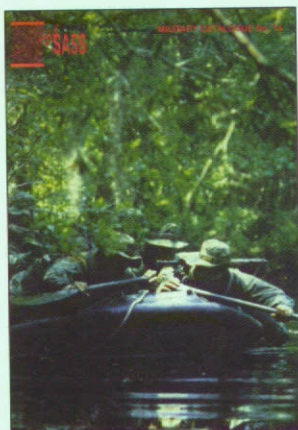
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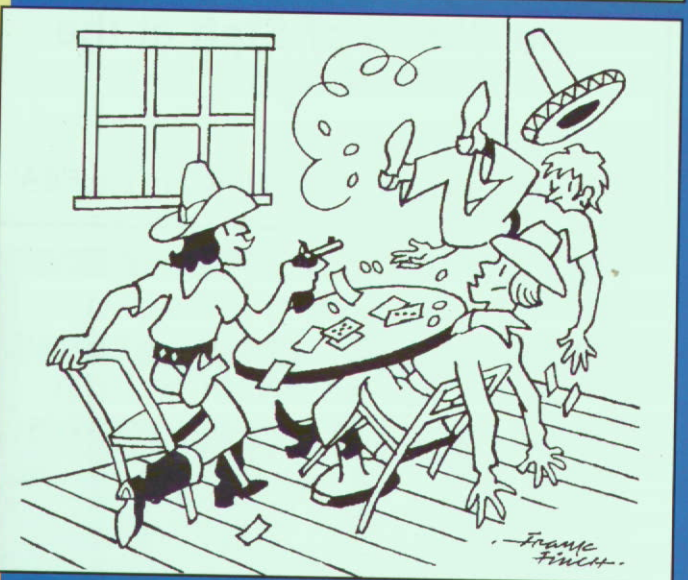
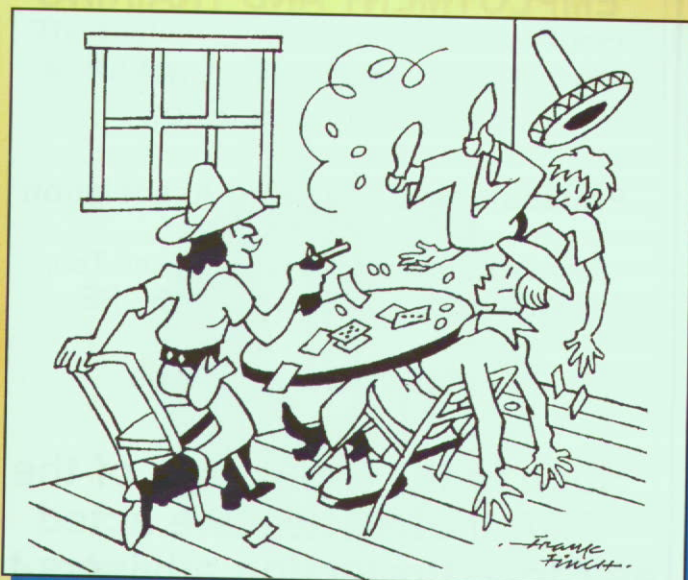
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# How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 695, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by October 29.

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 December issue.

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

August competition (No 693) result: First correct entry drawn was from Mr T Bailey, of ATR Winchester, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr W J A Robinson, of Salisbury, Wilts and SSgt D Kalinski, of Flying Wing, SAAVN, Middle Wallop, Hants, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: leaves at top centre and lower left; cat's ear; branch on right; boy's shoe, collar and sleeve; branch stump; drainpipe; soldier's hairline.

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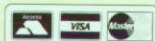
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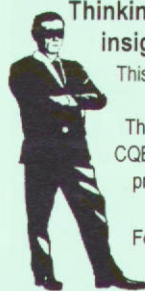
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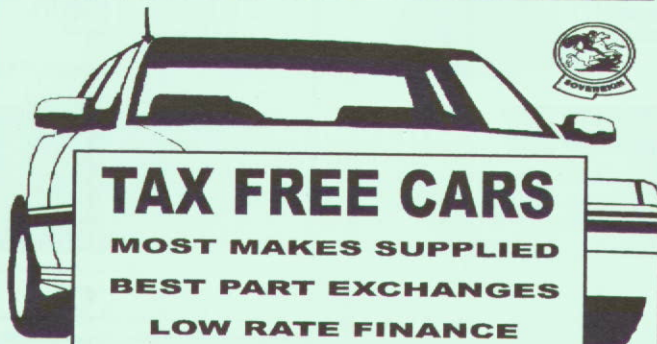
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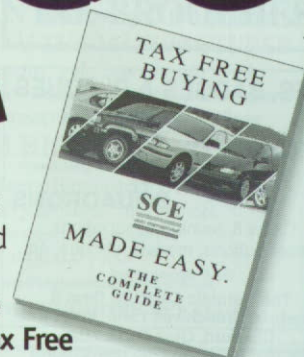
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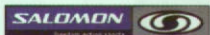
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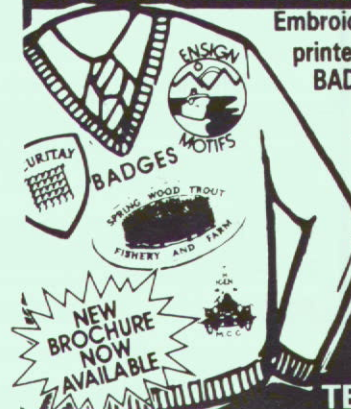
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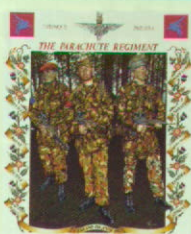


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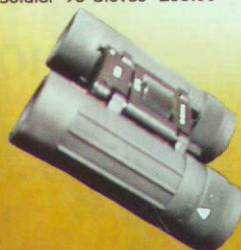
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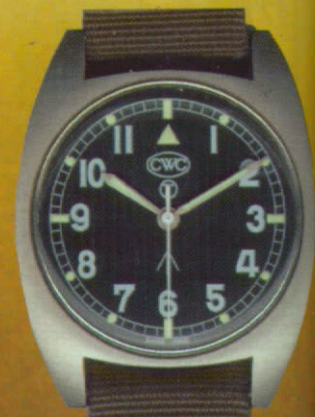
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ed. **P554**

**Melyssa and Michelle** - both 23, 5'7"  
with dark blond hair and hazel eyes.  
Shared interests include football, ten-  
pin bowling, swimming and going out  
and both are seeking male pen pals, any  
age. All replies will be answered and a  
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**Beverley, 30, 5'7",** brown hair and blue  
eyes. A fun-loving, single female  
with GSOH who likes socialising, the  
cinema, travel and retail therapy. Seek-  
ing pen pals, 30ish. **P556**

**Jan, 39,** with warped sense of humour  
seeks older soldier, 36-42 (you must get  
lonely too), for pen pal. All ranks wel-  
come and must have sense of fun and  
adventure, enjoy writing and watching  
sport. **P557**

**29-year-old,** good-humoured female  
with brown hair and grey/blue eyes is  
seeking male pen pals, 30-35. Interests  
include Formula 1, the theatre, pub  
quizzes and travelling. Will reply to all  
letters. **P558**

**Debbie, 23, 5'3",** Spurs supporter with  
brown hair and blue eyes. Hobbies  
include football, pubbing and clubbing,  
the cinema and travelling. Seeking male  
soldiers, 23-30, as pen pals. **P559**

**Rosie, 30, 5'8",** brown hair and blue  
eyes. Likes football, rugby, music and  
the cinema and is seeking pen pals, 25-  
35 with GSOH. Will reply to all letters.  
**P560**

**Rebecca, 32-year-old,** slim and  
attractive blonde. Divorced mother of  
three sons, GSOH - obviously. Enjoys  
aerobics, weight-training, adventurous  
cooking and eating out, clubbing, the  
cinema. Just started new interior design  
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**P561**

**Debra, 31, 5'3",** blonde hair and blue  
eyes. Enjoys clubbing, the cinema,  
reading, watching football matches and  
sport. Would like to hear from pen pals,  
30-38. **P562**

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45ish, to amuse an interesting lady.  
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**P563**

**Joanne, 5'4",** 31-year-old, slim blonde  
with brown eyes. Enjoys clubs and  
pubs, swimming, aerobics, sport and

camping. Would like to hear from pen  
pals, 26-35. **P564**

**Sue, tall, slim,** attractive blonde with  
green eyes. Interests include music, the  
cinema, eating out, fashion, keep fit,  
walking, reading, the countryside and  
animals. Would like to hear from any  
guys, 33-40. Will answer all letters.  
**P565**

**Lisa, 22, 5'3",** short, blonde hair and  
brown eyes. Likes clubbing, travelling,  
keep fit, various sports, TV and watch-  
ing videos. Seeking sincere pen friends,  
22-28. **P566**

**Sam, 23, 5'7",** blonde hair and blue  
eyes. Likes to go out to pubs and clubs,  
generally have fun and listen to music.  
Would like to hear from pen friends,  
25-30, and would appreciate a photo.  
**P567**

**Julia, 34, 5'5" (taller in high heels),**  
blue eyes, blonde hair, freckles. Divor-  
cée who likes ten-pin bowling, all sports  
(mainly winter), cooking and travel and  
is waiting to hearing from divorced or  
single male pen friends, 34-37. **P568**

**Susan, 47-year-old divorcée** with  
bubbly personality. Civil servant who  
owns her own car and home and enjoys  
walking, history, reading, keep fit, pets  
and the simple things in life. Replies  
please from friendly pen friends, 37-52,  
with GSOH. **P569**

**Lesley, 25, 5'7",** slim build, brown  
hair. Enjoys going to the gym, swim-  
ming, to pubs and clubs, cooking,  
music and sport. Seeking pen pals, 22-  
35. **P570**

**Lucy, 22-year-old** university educat-  
ed redhead whose hobbies include  
canoeing and scuba diving. Engaged to  
an ex-soldier and misses writing and  
receiving 'blueys'. Would like to hear  
from female pen friends, 20-30, espe-  
cially serving overseas. **P571**

**Liz, 33, 5'5".** A neo-natal nurse work-  
ing in London, new to the area and  
wanting to get to know new people, 30-  
40. Interests include sport (badminton  
and volleyball), eating out, the theatre  
and holidays abroad. **P572**

**Jane, 22, 5'2",** slim with brown hair  
and green eyes. Enjoys the gym,  
aquaerobics, running to keep fit, social-  
ising, shopping and partying with  
friends. Currently commuting to  
London for work and seeking replies  
from pen pals, 21+. **P573**

**Jayne, 34,** blonde hair and blue eyes.  
Loves animals and Formula 1. An aro-  
matherapy student and single mum  
who would like to write to male sol-  
diers. Photo appreciated. **P574**

**Donna-Marie, 34, 5'1",** brown hair  
and brown eyes, mother to four chil-  
dren. A student who enjoys reading,  
writing letters, music, socialising and  
nights out (time permitting). Seeking  
pen pals, 35-45, who likes children.  
**P575**

**Mary, slim, blue-eyed,** 25-year-old  
blonde. Mother to two daughters.  
Interests include music, nights out, hol-  
idays and keep fit. Would like to corre-  
spond with male soldiers, 24-31. Photo  
appreciated. **P576**

**Michelle, 27, 5'5".** A final year stu-  
dent teacher who is honest, hard-work-  
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include dancing, travel, competitions,  
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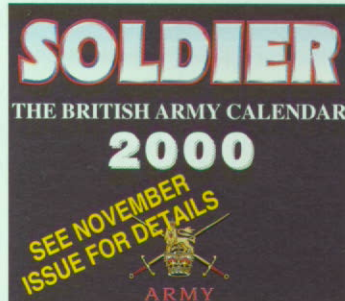
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## NOTICES

### CHARITY COMMISSION

- Charities:
1. The Soldiers' Dependents Fund:- (1064522)
  2. The Officers' Dependents Fund:- (1067306)

Reference: EN/122865/AF

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy can be seen for the next month at Building 43, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Wiltshire SN9 6BE, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

## SERVICES

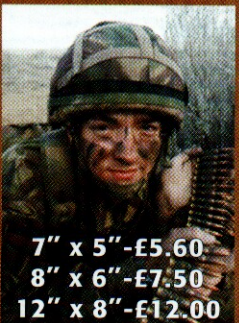
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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

### AUGUST 21, 1999

**First (573 runs, £4,000):** Capt RL Taylor, KCR, Warrington.  
**Second (570 runs, £2,000):** Cpl SJ Hay, 1 RTR, Paderborn.  
**Third (567 runs, £1,400):** WO2 AS Garbutt, 31 Cadet Trg Team, Crickhowell.  
**Fourth (555 runs, £1,000):** WO2 EB Cairns, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham.  
**Fifth (551 runs, £600):** Cpl MP Hallworth, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück.  
**Sixth (549 runs, £500):** Sgt SS Bangsund, 157 Tpt Regt RLC (V), Cardiff.  
**Seventh (545 runs, £400):** Tpr HD Poole, The Light Dragoons, Hohn.  
**Eighth (527 runs, £300):** Sgt JJ Lamb, 25 Engr Regt.  
**Ninth (526 runs, £200):** WO2 J Harvey, 36 Sect SIB RMP, Donnington.  
**Tenth (524 runs, £100):** Spr JN Longson, 35 Engr Regt, Hohn.

### AUGUST 28, 1999

**First (401 runs, £4,000):** SSgt AL Hall, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen.  
**Second (387 runs, £2,000):** Maj ADT Large, HQ 52 Lowland Bde, Edinburgh.

**Third (386 runs, £1,400):** LCpl KR Tyler, 5 Regt RA, Catterick.  
**Fourth (362 runs, £1,000):** Cpl JES Wavell, Rhine Area Sp Unit, Rheindahlen.  
**Fifth (360 runs, £600):** SSgt AS Wheeler, ATSA Malvern.  
**Sixth (359 runs, £500):** Sgt JK Given, 24 Regt RLC, Bielefeld.  
**Seventh (348 runs, £400):** Cpl JP Vernon, JHSU UKMF (L), RAF Odiham.  
**Eighth (347 runs, £300):** Pte CG Cook, 16 Regt RLC, Bicester.  
**Ninth (341 runs, £150):** Maj J Barker, HQ London District; Capt NST Theakston, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen.

### SEPTEMBER 4, 1999

**First (451 runs, £4,000):** LCpl IM Rennie, 1 BW, Fort George.  
**Second (449 runs, £2,000):** Sgt PG Morgan, 4 Regt RA, Osnabrück.  
**Third (436 runs, £1,400):** Rgr JG Mullally, 5 R Irish.  
**Fourth (432 runs, £1,000):** LCpl K Elliot, 2 R Anglian, Dhekelia.  
**Fifth (431 runs, £600):** Pte LWE Thomas, 249 Signal Sqn (AMF(L)), Bulford.  
**Sixth (429 runs, £500):** Sgt S

Lawton, 1 RRW, Paderborn.  
**Seventh (428 runs, £400):** Maj EII Tomiczek, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück.  
**Eighth (426 runs, £300):** SSgt PI King, 19 Tk Tpt Sqn RLC, Bulford.  
**Ninth (425 runs, £150):** SSgt ND Robinson, Defence School of Tpt, Leconfield; Cpl GW Thompson, BOD Donnington.

**Note:** Owing to the non-participation of Premiership clubs on September 4, the lottery was based on cricket.

### SEPTEMBER 11, 1999

**Eight-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £1,312.50 each):** SSgt NS Davies, Cyprus Works Unit, Episkopi; Sgt PS Dobson, RAC Centre Regt, Bovington; Maj WJ Hoal, 7 Regt AAC, Netheravon; LCpl MJ Hopkins, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; Pte LJ Jackson, 1 GH, Osnabrück; Sgt SC Kimmitt, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; Capt CC Matthews, HQ 3 (UK) Div, Bulford; WO2 KP Nixon, REME Wing RSA, Larkhill.

**Note:** Only eight prizes this week. Rule nine applies.

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Rock on: Maj David Kernohan, RA, right, found himself living next door to former classmate Surgn Lt Cdr Graham Johnson, RN, when he took up a new post in Gibraltar a year ago. The two, who left King Edward VI School, Stratford 16 years ago, are moving on again, David to the Joint Services Staff College at Shrivenham and Graham to become a GP in Tavistock, Devon. Picture: Cpl Steve Lancaster RAF

## Fusiliers' museum returns to its castle

WALES'S oldest infantry regiment, **The Royal Welch Fusiliers**, has a fitting repository in which to record its glorious history following the opening of a state-of-the-art new museum in magnificent Caernarfon Castle.

Made possible by a £1.1 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund on top of £500,000 raised by the regiment itself, the new museum is seen as setting a standard of quality in the regeneration programme of the castle, Wales's only world heritage site.

Formerly housed in the castle's Queen's Tower (its home from 1959 until the refurbishment began a year ago), the museum has returned and expanded. It now occupies the Chamberlain Tower as well.

Dazzling graphics, life-size figures and unique films help tell the story of the 310-year history of the regiment. Proudly displayed is the most complete Russian cannon in Britain, captured in 1854 in the Crimea by Capt Edward Bell during an action for which he won one of the first Victoria Crosses to be gazetted.

### Bomb blast honours

Royal Engineers Capt Rhyl Jones and SSgt Robert Elms, serving with the British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya, were presented with Queen's Commendations for Bravery at a reception in Nairobi. The two were among eight British soldiers honoured for their role in the rescue operations following the bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi in August 1998.

### Return of the 43rd

More than 50 old Somersets and Cornwalls of the **43rd (Wessex) Division** turned out to mark the 55th anniversary of the battle for Hill 112 near Caen. They paraded in front of the 43rd's memorial, where the son of veteran Terry Chinner sounded Last Post and Reveille. An old Churchill tank has been placed near the memorial as a tribute to the many men of 7 and 9 RTR who died in the battle (see Diary, September).

A memorial to two soldiers of A Squadron, 43rd (Wessex) Reconnaissance Regiment killed in an ambush at Fort St Andries in the Noord Brabant province of the Netherlands is to be dedicated this month, 55 years after their deaths. The memorial to Tpr Ray Hadwin of Sheffield and Reg Stopher from Ipswich is on the site of the ambush and will be unveiled on October 26.

More than 80 years after the end of the First World War, the West Yorkshire village of Ackworth has unveiled its very own war and millennium memorial. The names of the village's dead had been recorded inside the parish church. Now the names of 123 men and women who gave their lives in two world wars have been inscribed on the 14ft-tall memorial built of local stone.

## Nato aspirants call on Soldier

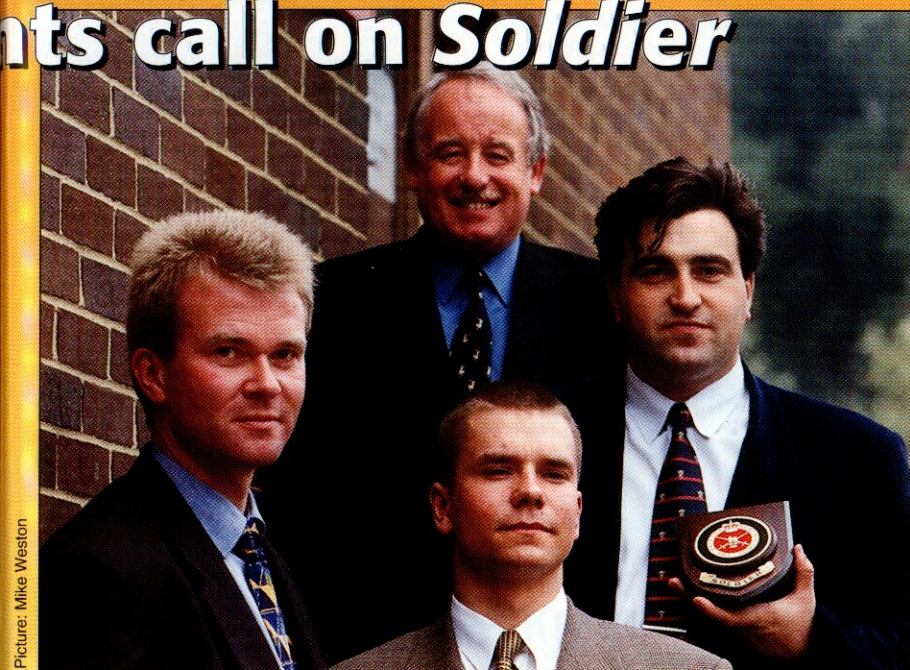
TWO military media operatives from old Warsaw pact countries visited Army and MoD units, including **Soldier**, to learn how British Forces handle public relations and publications.

Alexander Ouroumov, Chief of Information with the Bulgarian Defence Ministry, "a fan of Britain", also spent two weeks in York studying English.

Colleague Ensign Marek Miil, Director of the Estonian Defence Forces' Public Relations Service, was looking ahead to the day when Estonia may join Nato. Mr Miil said his experiences in Britain will help with his country's preparations.

"Nato will not wait us if we are not prepared to modernise," he said. "We need new equipment and new methods."

Pictured outside the **Soldier** offices are (left to right) Jens Theodor Nielsen from the MoD's Directorate for Central and Eastern Europe; Chris Horrocks, Managing Editor of **Soldier**; Marek Miil (foreground, and Alexander Ouroumov.



Picture: Mike Weston

### 1st Army stone in place

A memorial stone based on the 1st Army badge of a Crusader's sword superimposed on a red cross has been placed in the garden of peace at Belvedere, Plymouth Hoe. It was designed by Capt (Retd) Richard Trude, ex-DCLI, for members of the Plymouth and St Austell (Cornwall) branches of the 1st Army Association.

Copies of a rare pamphlet by Maj R D Marter, of the 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards, describing the capture in 1879 of Cetshwayo, King of the Zulus, are available from Bob Wyatt, 33 Sturges Road, Wokingham, Berks RG40 2HG (tel 01189 780325) at £3.50 a copy, post free.

Zulu Wars expert Ian Knight has written an introduction to Marter's account, which he describes as "the last great adventure of the Anglo-Zulu war". The king's capture in dense forest on the Black Mfolozi river followed the defeat of his once-mighty army at Ulundi, where the British Army avenged their catastrophic defeat at Isandlwana.

### Tribute to Palestine Pals

A permanent exhibition marking the British Army's post-war involvement in **Palestine** is to be formally opened at the Eden Camp Museum at Malton, North Yorkshire, on October 17... and Palestine veterans are welcome. For details, ring the man behind the project, veteran Gerry Burr on 01935 421722.

By the time the last troops had departed as their mandate expired on May 14, 1948, more than 90,000 Servicemen and women had been caught up in the impossible situation created between Jew and Arab and nearly 400 British lives had been lost.

It has been a source of grievance among the veterans that their campaign is not officially commemorated in Britain, nor is there a memorial to their dead. That will be rectified to some extent by a brass plaque to be placed in the museum chapel. The exhibition, opened to the public last month, is housed in Hut 13.

## Note-able achievement



Picture: Steve Dock

BEFORE deploying to Kosovo, the Winchester-based Adjutant General's Corps band gave a rather special performance at the AGC Centre at Worthy Down, playing a quick march arrangement converted from a marching tune written for the piano accordion 57 years ago.

The music, entitled "Armies of Liberation", was composed by Kenneth Sibley, now 82, in 1942 when he was a member of the Royal Military Police. Recently the Dunkirk and Middle East veteran sent the piece to the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall to see if it could be adapted for a military band.

WO Steve Goodwin, Bandmaster of the

AGC, took up the challenge and turned it into a lively musical mixture involving all the band's instruments.

He was delighted when Kenneth was able to attend the first public performance of "Armies of Liberation" at Worthy Down. The two men are pictured above looking at Kenneth's original score.

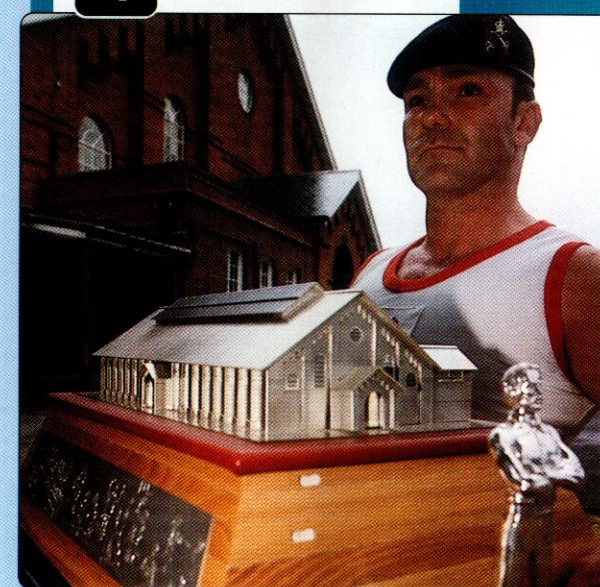
While stationed at Barnsley during the Second World War he was given permission to carry his accordion in place of a heavy pack to provide marching tunes for troops on ten- to 15-mile route marches.

Appropriately, the Adjutant General's Corps musicians were taking the tune to Kosovo with them.

## Legends of the regiments and corps

4

Army Physical Training Corps Museum, Aldershot



Silver Fox: Sgt (SI) Robbie Downie, APTC and model outside Fox Gym

Picture: Steve Dock

## Model aspect

A SILVER model of Fox Gymnasium, the oldest building at the Army School of Physical Training in Queens Avenue, Aldershot has pride of place in the Army Physical Training Corps Museum on the same site. It was presented to the museum by serving officers, WOs and SNCOs in 1989.

Built in 1894, the gym is named after Col Sir Malcolm Fox, Inspector of Gymnasia at the time.

### VAULTING HORSE

The model rests on a wooden base which represents the vaulting horses used in the Army for many decades. Gymnasts depicted on the front of the base are performing on the three-way high vaulting horse while a group of soldiers can be seen carrying a log.

A 20cm-high model of an 1860 physical training instructor (the year in which the Army Gymnasium Staff, from which the APTC evolved, was formed) stands at one end of the base, while at the other is a model in 1960 dress, similar to today's APTC soldier.

The museum, in Fox Lines, Queens Avenue, Aldershot, is open Mon-Thur 0830 to 1230 and 1400 to 1630 and Fri 0830 to 1230. It is closed during leave periods at Christmas, Easter and in the summer (check on 01252 347168).

## DATES

### OCTOBER

22: Royal British Legion's Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance, Winter Gardens, Margate. Contact D Stokes 01843 292882.

### NOVEMBER

6: Concert by Band of the Light Division in aid of Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Bicester Garrison Theatre. Tickets on 01865 553151.

27: British Model Soldier Society annual show, The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath, 1000-1630.

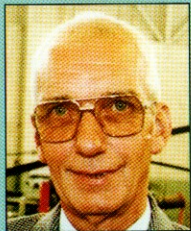
To include public events, contact the Editor.



# Bulletin board

## Richard's a safe hand at 6 Flight

**Richard Pearce**, pictured, who spent 25 years in the REME and now looks after the Gazelle helicopters of RAF Shawbury-based 6 Flight, Army Air Corps as a civilian supervisor, has received the prestigious Hutchings Flight Safety Trophy for outstanding contribution.



His long experience of military helicopters enabled him to gain the highest scores in the UK flight safety reports by making sure the helicopters flying out of RAF Shawbury are the best maintained in the British Army.

## First lady

**Sgt Lesa Wain** has become the first female soldier to serve on an operational tour with 518 Pioneer Squadron, which has just returned to Bicester from a tour of duty in the Balkans on Op Agricola. Meanwhile, **Capt Chris Starbuck**, RLC, also serving with 518 Sqn, was able to see quite a lot of his brother, **LCpl Adrian Starbuck**, a member of the Irish Guards Band, which deployed to Pristina in a medical role. With their units located close to each other, the brothers found themselves serving together for the first time. Their father served 22 years in the Army, retiring as Band Sgt Maj of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.



Brothers: Chris, left, and Adrian Starbuck

## PRIZE-WINNERS

**Monuments to Courage two-volume set (July issue):** Lt Col A R Tinson, Fleet, Hants.

**The Boer Wars video (July issue):** WO2 Murray, HQ 8 R Irish, BFPO 803; LCpl N Spencer, HQ Sqn, QRL, Imphal Barracks, BFPO 36; David Graham, 255 Northlake Drive 7, Waterloo N2V 122, Ontario, Canada.

**Crusade in Europe video (July issue):** LBdr Reid, 22 Bty, 4 Regt RA, Op Agricola, BFPO 555; LCpl S D Ramsay, Sqn HQ, Household Cavalry Mounted Regt, Hyde Park Barracks, Knightsbridge; Maj H B Coull, City of London & NE Sector ACF, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, Chelsea.

**Royal Tournament rally competition:** Dave Carrington, 12 Whipton Road, Exeter, Devon.

## REUNIONS

**ATS Dinner Club:** Annual luncheon takes place on Oct 2 at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London. Ex-ATS girls who would like to become members of the club should write to Mrs Doreen Brookes, 99 Meadow Road, Coventry CW6 4GW.

**12 Battalion, Devonshire Regiment (6 Airborne Landing Bde):** 53rd annual reunion dinner at the Devon Hotel by-pass (Mafford roundabout), Exeter on Oct 9. Families welcome. Contact Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel 01392 874596).

**1 Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry (Jan 1955 to Dec 1959):** Fifth annual Germany, UK, Malta and Cyprus reunion, Ladymead School, Cheddon Road, Taunton, Somerset on Oct 9. Tickets from Dave Williams, 20 Knowle End, Woolavington, Bridgwater TA7 8JH (tel 01278 683022).

**Hebrides WO's and Sgts' Mess:** Silver anniversary supper on Oct 23. Ex-members of RARH WO's and Sgts' Mess welcome. Accommodation available. Details from PMC, WO2 (SMIG) Paul Codd, DERA Hebrides Ranges, Isle of Benbecula, Scotland HS7 5LA (tel 01870 604418).

## Queen joins RMA reunion

**THE QUEEN**, who as Princess Elizabeth had inspected their passing out parade in 1949, joined members of Intake 3 at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for their 50th anniversary reunion.

Among those present were Gen Sir James Glover, who won the Sword of Honour in 1949 and is now chairman of Merlin Communications, and Lt Gen Sir Maurice Johnston, who won the King's Medal and is now Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire.

More than 170 members of the intake attended a thanksgiving service in the chapel, a reception and luncheon. From all corners of the globe, their numbers included a monk, a sculptor, a BOAC 707 pilot, others who served with the Australian Army in Vietnam and in the Rhodesian, Ghanaian and Canadian Armies.

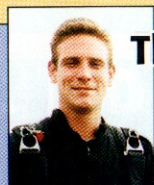
**723 (CS) Squad RM (1959-60):** All ranks reunion at RMA Club, Eastney, March 18, 2000. Contact Dave Prichard on 01222 790233.

**4 Coy, 3 Bn, Coldm Gds (1950-55):** Eighth reunion dinner will be held in Birmingham on April 15, 2000. Details from Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull, HU4 7QE. (tel 01482 503649).

**Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons):** Regimental gathering at Gareloch training camp, Apr 15-16, 2000. Members are asked to contact their branch officers as soon as possible. Further details from chairman of Strathclyde Branch, 28 Howgate Avenue, Glasgow G15 8QN (tel/fax 0141 944 5223).

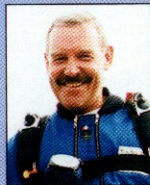
**International Association of Airborne Veterans:** Reunion planned to take place in Marseilles, France, April 26-May 2, 2000. Details from IAAV, Suite 340, 2506 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614 (tel (773) 327 3120).

**Slim School, Cameron Highlands, Malaya:** Former pupils and teachers who attended this British Army boarding school are being sought for a reunion planned in Oct next year. E-mail [Gloriagomm@aol.com](mailto:Gloriagomm@aol.com) or tel 01453 545771.



## That's my boy

**Catching Dad:** Army medic **LCpl Richard Kalinski**, left, joined his father, **SSgt Dick Kalinski**, below, a Lynx helicopter pilot of 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, on an advanced freefall course at the Joint Services Parachute Centre (Lipp Springs), Sennelager, Dick, who is based at Dishforth in North Yorkshire, has 4,400 jumps to his credit and was an instructor on the course, while Richard, serving with 33 Field Hospital at Gosport, Hants, has 53.



Picture: Cpl J Bishop

## Win a video of the final Royal Tournament

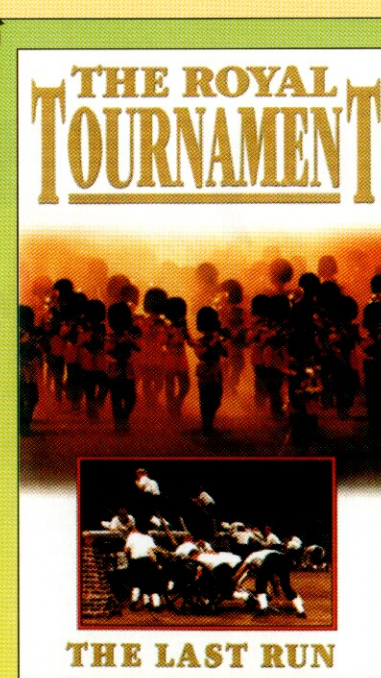
IF YOU missed this year's spectacular final Royal Tournament, don't despair. Military video specialists DD Video have produced a historic and entertaining commemorative record of the show using BBC footage... and we have three copies to give away.

The world's greatest military tattoo ran for 120 years and, appropriately, the commemorative video runs for 120 minutes. It is two hours of thrills showing, among other famous performances, the Household Cavalry's musical ride, the Royal Navy's field gun competition and the massed pipes and drums.

To win a copy of *The Royal Tournament: The Last Run*, answer this question:

**Which monarch reigned at the time of the first Royal Tournament?**

Answers on a postcard or the back of an envelope, marked Royal Tournament Competition, should be sent to *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU13 9RZ, to reach us by October 29. First three randomly-selected correct answers win. Only one entry per person is allowed, and entries are not permitted from employees of *Soldier* or their families. The Managing Editor's decision is final.



## SEARCHLINE

Former members of Washington-based **512 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (STRE)**, 1966-72 involved in BC-4 project (forerunner of Doppler and GPS) are asked to contact John H Till, 425 Christopher Avenue, Apt 23, Gaithersburg, MD 20879, USA (tel (001) 301 997 8831 or e-mail [johnh11@clark.net](mailto:johnh11@clark.net)). He is looking for photos, slides, stories to produce a photo-CD detailing the history of the worldwide satellite triangulation BC-4 programme.

**Guards Association of New South Wales** would welcome contact from members of the brigade intending to emigrate to Australia and those on holiday there. Contact John F Fallows, Guards Assoc of NSW, 1/25 Dalley Street, Bondi Junction, Sydney 2022, NSW, Australia (tel 02 9389 8991).

Horace (Jack) Covington, a despatch rider with A Plt, 76 Coy, RASC 52(L), Mountain Div and based in the Sittard area of Holland in winter 1944, wishes to contact other RASC personnel put into the line at Hatterath near

Heinsberg in Germany to relieve the infantry. Replies to Conifers, 28 Old Pond Close, Birchwood, Lincoln, Lincs LN6 0LD.

Alex J Hurley seeks news of his sister, **Jacqueline Ivy Hurley**, with whom he lost touch about 20 years ago. Last known serving in the Forces and married to **LSgt John Griffiths**, 2 Coldm Gds. Replies to Alex J Hurley, V51152, HMP Kingston, 122a Milton Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 6AS.

A new charity, the **Second World War Experience Centre**, seeks letters, diaries, documents from the period 1939-1945 and hopes to record the recollections of Servicemen and women of the time. It is being created by noted historian Dr Peter Liddle in Leeds. The charity can be contacted on 0113 245 0475 or at [www.war-experience.org](http://www.war-experience.org)

Urgent contact with **William Austin**, who served in the British Army and was in Burma from Jan-Mar 1948, sought by Michael Kar, PO Box 8, Bassendean, Western Australia (tel 618 9379 3362 or fax 618 9377 2838).

Anyone who served in **anti-aircraft** or **coastal defence batteries** in the Orkneys during the Second World War is asked to contact Ms Patricia Robertson, who is researching a book. Replies to 7 Koiden Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 3N7 or by e-mail [proberson@yukon.net](mailto:proberson@yukon.net)

Former soldier D Graham, No 8, Catherine Hunt Way, Colchester, Essex, seeks funny anecdotes and experiences of military life for possible publication.

## North East REME unit 'recruits' its own pipers

**NORTH EAST**-based 102 Battalion REME(V) has the Strategic Defence Review to thank for gaining its very own pipe band. When 72 (TEE) Engineer Regiment RE(V) was disbanded as a result of SDR, the move of the musicians to 102 Bn was a natural and logical one. Both units are affiliated through the Tyne Electrical Engineers - known as the "Tyne" for short.

The band dates back to 1902 and today consists of 22 musicians, nine of whom are serving TA soldiers. Most of the remainder are ex-members of the TA.

With their future in doubt following the announcement of 72 Engr Regt's demise, they applied to transfer to 102 Bn, a move that was warmly welcomed by all concerned.

**TA CENTRE** As most were from Newcastle, they have been based with 186 Workshop Company at the TA Centre in Walker.

The Tyne were formed in 1884 and four years later became the Tyne Division Royal Engineers (V) Submarine Miners, tasked with defending the mouth of the Tyne with shore-controlled sea mines.

In 1947, shortly after its formation, REME became part of the Tyne. When 72 Engr Regt disbanded, one squadron was retained, keeping the RE Tyne alive. For the first time in the history of the Tyne, REME is now the largest member of the family.



In tune: LCpl Gary Dodd in full dress. The band wears Ferguson tartan

## Library on the move

ABOUT 100,000 volumes of considerable historical interest are to be transferred from the MoD library in New Scotland Yard to the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre at Chicksands in Bedfordshire, where a new facility accessible to researchers and the general public is to be created.

Many of the works of military literature are extremely rare and unavailable elsewhere in the United Kingdom. A small core library is to be retained in Whitehall.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier:** A A J R Cumming - To be Comd CATC, Sept 1.

**Colonels:** J H Crosland - To be Colonel SHAPE Staff (BAE), Aug 23; D A Gaw - To be DO 14 Regt DDA, Aug 23; N P Knudsen - To be Director HQ LISA Andover, Aug 23; A R M Smith - To be Deputy Garrison Comd, HQ Guttersloh Garrison, Aug 23; A W E Birster - To be Colonel Plans Dept of AG, Aug 23; J C W Brooks - To be COS HQ UNFICYP, Aug 23; M H G Croft - To be Comd Combat Engineer

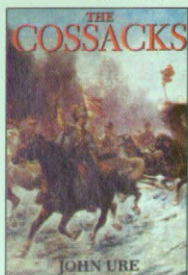
School, Aug 31; I P G Stevens - To be Chief Nato Training Group International Military Staff Brussels, Aug 19; G A Young - To be CPS DCINCENT HQ AFCENT (Staff), Aug 16; F Watson - To be Dental Officer 3 Region Defence Dental Agency, Sept 6; T R Foster - To be CO 208 (Liverpool) Fd Hosp (V), Sept 6; B M Gorski - To be Project Manager Information Systems Infrastructure, Sept 6; N P Lloyd - To be Director Distribution Division DSDA, Sept 6; P Parfitt - To be Comd INFOSEC Comd SHAPE, Sept 6.

**Lieutenant Colonels:** I C Alexander, RLC - To BMM Kuwait, Aug 18 (amended date); A C T Blackmore, QRR - To D Army Plans, Sept 6; M J Boswell, REME - To JSCSC, Aug 12; C R Chambers, RLC - To D MAT SP (A), Aug 2; R J Jenkinson, RE - To HQ ATRA, Aug 16; D A L Lawson, AGC (PRO) - To DCDS (P&P), Sept 13; S A Leigh, R Signals - To Bowman Military Team, Jul 5; J Lyman, RTR - To APC, Nov 22; K Mollison, RLC - To RMCS, Aug 31; N G T Polley, KRH - To ACDS (OR) Land, Sept 27; J C C Schute, RGJ - To PJHQ (UK),



## Chequered history from Ivan to Boris

COSSACKS – dashing cavaliers or the horsemen from hell? Both extremes are true, but as former

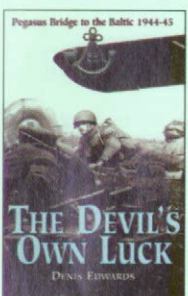


diplomat Sir John Ure makes plain in the first book on these "vagabonds" since their post-Communist revival in Chechnya and Bosnia, they have never been boring. Tracking their chequered history from Ivan the Terrible to Boris Yeltsin, **The**

**Cossacks** (Constable, £20) takes the reader on a breathtaking journey which takes in Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, a power struggle with the British Raj, and their manipulation by Hitler and persecution by Stalin.

## Eddie's diary is published at last

RESEARCHERS at the Imperial War Museum have been grateful for some time that ex-Para Denis

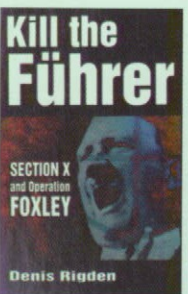


(Eddie) Edwards disregarded orders and kept a diary of his experiences with 6th Airborne Division from Pegasus Bridge to the Baltic, 1944-45. Now his "humble infantryman's" accounts are available to a wider readership in **The Devil's Own Luck** (Leo

Cooper, £19.95). In producing the work he was advised by his former company commanders the late Maj John Howard DSO and Col John Tillett, as well as other surviving members of the original *coup-de-main* force.

## The X-files on how to blow up Hitler

OPERATION Foxley was the collective title given to projects dreamed up by a shadowy and



ruthless department of the Special Operations Executive called Section X. With the backing of the British War Cabinet it plotted to kill Hitler by various means such as blowing him up, derailing his train or poisoning him. Eventually it was decided the

increasingly deranged Nazi leader was more help to the Allied cause alive than dead. **Kill the Führer** by Denis Rigden (Sutton, £19.99) is exciting stuff, drawing on hitherto top-secret documents and other exclusive sources.

# They called it the Bore War

AS a teenager Graham Chambers was given a diary in which his grandfather had recorded his Boer War experiences while serving with the Durham Light Infantry.

In succinct notes made over three years, Pte Thomas Chambers tells the story of a war that for the private soldier and NCO was, in the main, hard, boring and uncomfortable.

As Sir Alexander Graham, a former Gordon Highlander, informs us in his foreword, this tedium was relieved only by periods of intense and dangerous activity, and on rare occasions by relative luxury such as on Boxing Day, 1900, when Pte Chambers and Cpl Howe shared two bottles of champagne and a good meal on their day off-duty.

When ordered to South Africa in September 1899 to take part in its first Boer War action, the Battle



Diary: Pte Chambers

of Colenso, on December 15, the 68th of Foot, or 1st Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, had not seen active service for 35 years.

In a particularly detailed personal account of the Battle of Vaal Krantz (February 5, 1900) Thomas records that two officers and ten men were killed and more than 100 wounded.

Inevitably, the book includes observations such as "raining hard all day" and "we got fresh meat and potatoes which

**A Soldier's Diary** by Graham Chambers (Pentland Press, paperback, £8.50).

was quite a treat after living on bully beef and preserved vegetables for so long", but other entries give an interesting account of what soldiering was like in South Africa.

At one point he writes: "I had the misfortune to walk into Ladysmith with my boots soled with biscuit tins held together with t h o n g s strapped round the ankles made and cut from the skins of dead oxen we lost on the road and I must confess I was footsore, together with the knees and seat of my pants minus, it was time we succeeded or

we should have all been naked."

Thomas was certainly no stranger to discomfort. Action while living on poor rations took its toll and in 1900 he had 13 teeth extracted in one day – "very painful".

Ten days later he had his 26th birthday and confided to his diary: "I have not known 12 months happiness in the whole of that time."

Even before Pte Chambers's South African service his had been a tough life, with more

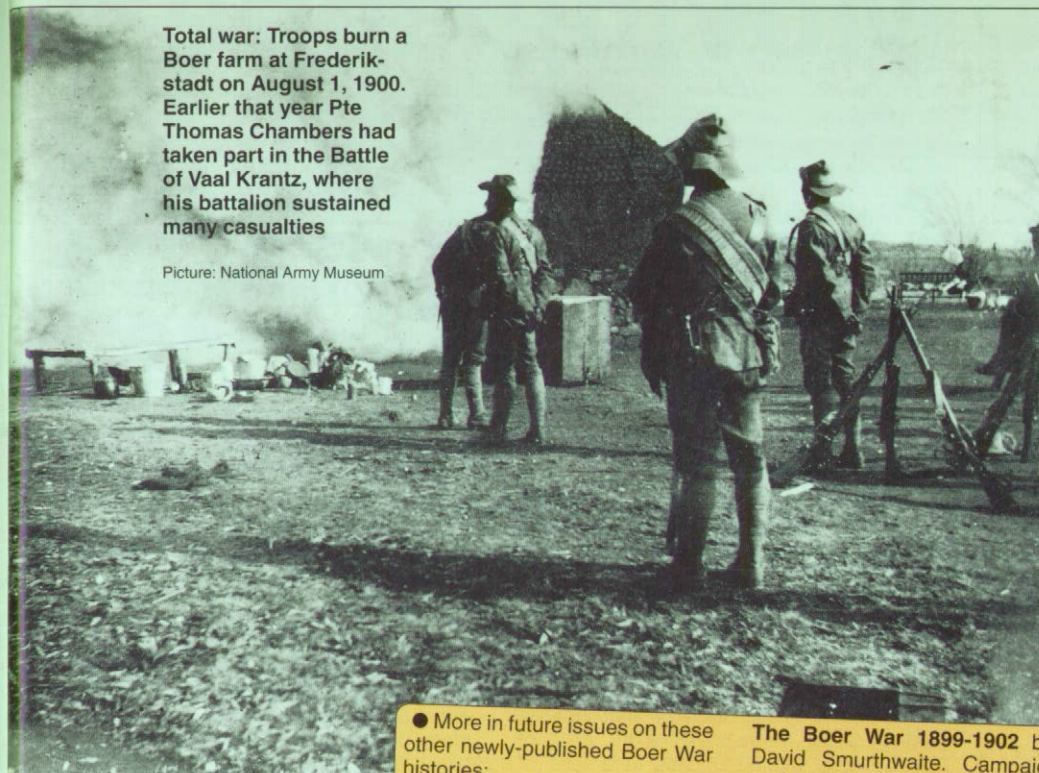
than a fair share of pain. He had joined the Army in 1894 after working for a builder, for a pork butcher, as a miner, as an ostler, and in a brewery where he fell into a vat of boiling water.

Thomas obviously had a low opinion of the Boers and records that "... your Dutch women do not wear corsets, which makes them look like a bag of oats tied round the middle".

## BLOCKHOUSES

He was constantly bored throughout 1901 and the early months of 1902 were spent building and serving in blockhouses until, to his relief, peace was achieved in May of that year and demobilisation of his battalion began on July 1. By now a corporal, he embarked on the transport *Englishman* on September 12, arriving at Southampton on October 9.

In his final entry he record-



Total war: Troops burn a Boer farm at Frederikstad on August 1, 1900. Earlier that year Pte Thomas Chambers had taken part in the Battle of Vaal Krantz, where his battalion sustained many casualties

Picture: National Army Museum

● More in future issues on these other newly-published Boer War histories:

**The National Army Museum Book of the Boer War** by Fd Marshal Lord Carver. Based primarily on soldiers' diaries and the letters of Kitchener and Roberts. Complemented by previously unpublished photographs from the museum's collection and maps devised by the author. (Sidgwick & Jackson, £25.) An interview with the author will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Soldier*.

**The Boer War 1899-1902** by David Smurthwaite. Campaign and culture are encapsulated in a well-illustrated text accompanied by eye-witness accounts. Another National Army Museum link – the author is its assistant director. (Hamlyn, large-format, £20.)

**The Boer War** by Tabitha Jackson. This accessible work of popular history, exposing barbarism on both sides and including much new material, accompanies a "radical reappraisal" of the war in a TV series this autumn. (Channel 4 Books, £16.99.)

## IN BRIEF

**Chronology of World War Two** by Edward Davidson and Dale Manning. Invaluable, reader-friendly one-volume diary of events as they unfolded. (Cassell Military, £20.)

**The Scots Guards and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (Parts 1 and 2)** are three additions to David H Hunter's collectable series, *Famous Regiments on Cigarette and Trade Cards*. Each 56-page paperback has more than 200 illustrations. (£7.95 each plus 60p p&p, from David J Hunter, 11 Sunnindale Drive, Tollerton, Nottingham NG12 4ES.)

**Warrior Saints** by Amaandeeep Singh Madra and Parmjit Singh. Three centuries of the Sikh prowess in war, celebrated in a glossy large-format hardback collector's item containing more than 100 images, many rare. (I B Tauris, in association with the Sikh Foundation, £29.95.)

**Freedom of the Skies** by Peter R March. Although the Army Air Corps is only marginally represented, this luxuriously-illustrated coffee-table history of 50 years of Nato air power will interest all aficionados of military aviation. (Cassell, £30.)

New titles in the *Battleground Europe* illustrated paperback guide series – **Edmund Blunden** by Helen McPhail and Philip Guest, following the poet's Great War career; **Villers-Ploich**, **Hindenburg Line**, by K W Mitchison; and **Omaha Beach – V Corps' Battle for the Normandy Beachhead** by Tim Kilvert-Jones. (Leo Cooper, £9.95 each.)

**The Sign of the Double 'T'** by Barrie Barnes. Deeply-researched, meticulously produced and illustrated 230-page story of the 50th Northumbrian Division from July 1943 to December 1944, with many first-hand accounts. Available in paperback from the

author, 3 Mansfield Court, Newland Park, Kingston upon Hull, E Yorks, HU5 2DF, price £11.99 (£10 inc to veterans).

**A History of the English-Speaking Peoples** by Winston S Churchill. One-volume, 628-page abridgement of the great man's masterwork by former BBC defence correspondent Christopher Lee. No bookshelf should be without one. (Cassell paperback, £16.99.)

**One Day in a Very Long War** by John Ellis. "Snapshot" of Wednesday, October 25, 1944 across the spectrum of Allied and Axis forces. New in paperback. (Pimlico, £9.99.)

**Gallipoli: The Medical War** by Michael Tyquin. Detailed account of the Australian Army Medical Services in the Dardanelles campaign, 1915. (NSW University Press, available from Gazelle, Lancaster, 01524 68765.)

**A Rumor of War** by Philip Caputo. Back in print, Vietnam classic by former US marine who became a prize-winning journalist. (Pimlico, paperback, £10.)

**Prisoner of the Turnip Heads** by George Wright-Nooth with Mark Adkin. Former police officer Wright-Nooth's story, based on secret diaries of his four years in Stanley military internment camp after the fall of Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941. (Cassell Military Paperbacks, £5.99.)

**Weapons and Fighting Tactics of the Waffen-SS** by Dr Stephen Hart (a senior lecturer in war studies at RMA Sandhurst) and Dr Russell Hart. Fully illustrated guide. (Spellmount, £18.95.)

**Assassin! The Bloody History of Political Murder** by Paul Elliott. Victims or targets whose cases are covered here include De Gaulle, Hitler, Kennedy, and royalty. (Blandford, £16.99.)

## Was this the war's most deadly secret?

IN 1945, following the Japanese decree that no prisoners must survive the war, a plan to save 2,434 Australian and British PoWs in a camp in North Borneo failed, with only six Australian escapees surviving. In **Sandakan: A Conspiracy of Silence** (Sally Milner Publishing, paperback, £11.95) Lynette Ramsay Silver tells a painstakingly-researched story of incompetence and cover-up. The book is a towering achievement and even the appendices, including names, ages and places of death and burial, relics recovered and war criminals, will leave you gasping.

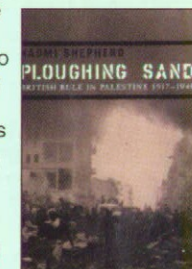
**Sandakan**  
A Conspiracy of Silence

Lynette Ramsay Silver

## British discipline 'not for Israelis'

NAOMI Shepherd reminds us in **Ploughing Sand: British Rule in Palestine 1917-1948** (John Murray, £20) that the Israeli Defence

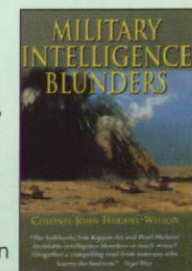
Forces owed much to the precedent set by the British soldiers who trained the Jews during the Mandate, though there was opposition to our style of discipline, parade grounds and battle drill. "For the Palestinian Arabs," she adds, "the legacy of British rule was far more ambivalent." The book's title refers to a contemporary observation that all Britain's efforts to achieve reconciliation had been futile. Happily, better times have now arrived...



## No substitute for spies on the ground

AS the Bible says, knowledge and wisdom are two different things. The challenge of modern military intelligence, writes

Col John Hughes-Wilson in **Military Intelligence Blunders** (Robinson, paperback, £7.99), is to sift, interpret and use it effectively. The former Int Corps officer, who was "intimately involved" in the Falklands and Gulf Wars, covers D-Day to 1991, touching also on Kosovo. His conclusion: despite sophisticated electronic intelligence systems, we still need good, old-fashioned spies to tell us what is *really* going on in the enemy camp.





## Allowance is a bit tight

COULD you please tell me when the tights allowance was last reviewed? As a female soldier whose main uniform is barrack dress, I have to wear a skirt and tights. When one pair costs about £2.50, I would like to know who thinks that an allowance of less than £5 will last a year. Could someone please look into this and come up with an up-to-date allowance for the millennium. – Cpl Hill, Shorncliffe.

● *It is recognised that the rate of hosiery allowance may be inadequate, we hear. A review of the way in which the rate is set is scheduled for next year. – Editor*

## Help me save the Royal Tournament

I AM writing to members of the Royal Family and MPs to ask the Government to change its mind about scrapping the Royal Tournament, an event as important as Trooping the Colour, the Proms and the FA Cup Final. Your readers can help by writing to local newspapers. If anyone else wants to stand up and be counted, please would they let me know. – Antony J Langham, Flat 4, 113 Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2SF (tel 01722 504539).

I AM writing to say how good the Royal Tournament was and how disgusted I am that this was the last one. – Kathleen Potts (Miss), Guiseley, Leeds.

## Damaging sit-ups

AT last the Army has recognised that fitness is more than just the ability to run and introduced a new test which also looks at upper body strength. I have always been told by PTIs that the method of doing sit-ups in the test – upright to 90 degrees with arms crossed over the chest – puts undue strain on the lower back.

Instructors have suggested that 30 degrees is sufficient to complete a sit-up. Should the test not also use this method? A piece of elastic fixed between two posts at the correct height could be used as an aid. To a layman like myself this would appear more scientific and less damaging than the current method. – WO1 R J Taylor, RTR, Armour Centre, Bovington, Wareham.

## Language barrier

I HAVE served in various places where there were Gurkha detachments and have found them splendid to work with. Although I am a keen amateur linguist, I cannot find a generally available language course that will teach me the basics of Gurkhali. As a Junior NCO I come into contact with Gurkhas and would like the opportunity to learn their language. Can anyone help? – Cpl J C Baxter-Pye, AGC(SPS), HQ BFFI.

# Moving appeal

AS A single soldier with 16 years' service and various postings around the world, I have accumulated a large amount of kit. I was recently posted to a new unit and once more found myself not being entitled to have all my kit moved under the Army's removals system.

By kit I am referring not just to small items which can fit inside an MFO box, but to all the other items that soldiers (married and single) accumulate – computer table, bed, furniture, TV-video cabinet, and so on.

A married sergeant (with no children) being posted from quarter to quarter is entitled to free transport of all furniture, plus a substantial disturbance allowance (currently £812), while I – and every other single soldier moving from one accommodation block to another – have to dig into my own finances to get my belongings moved if they don't fit into an MFO box.

And why have we singles no entitlement to the disturbance allowance? I urge anyone unfamiliar with it to look at Annex A to DSPSI 215/5, dated Feb 1, 1994. Items covered by the allowance include loss of subscriptions (sports clubs, magazines), extra cost of postage and telephone calls, and loss of deposits on family holidays. The implication is

that single soldiers never go on holiday, subscribe to a magazine or write to their bank or insurance company. The inclusion of meter reading as an expenditure to be met from the allowance is a nonsense to justify the allowance as a whole.

I do not believe that a single soldier should be entitled to the same financial allowances as a married soldier, but at least let the removal of belongings to a new post be free of charge. Come on Army, let's approach the millennium with a bit of fairness and stop this discrimination. – SSgt Heather McNair, 256 Signal Squadron, 30 Signal Regiment, Bramcote.

● *We have been advised that single soldiers may use contract removals or self-drive vehicles and reclaim the expense under the Self-Help Scheme (full details in Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges (RAAC), paragraph 07.024). A disturbance allowance for all soldiers, single and married, remains, we were told, an "aspiration". As reported in the September issue, the Directorate of Personal Services (Army) has commissioned a study into the concerns of single soldiers compared to married contemporaries within the Army. – Editor.*

## EMS is in place to get your messages across

MAJ Hartley wrote to you (April) to ask about "Armysmail". It was launched in October 1997 as a Public Finance Initiative project by DOR (Land CIS) with the aim of federating the Army's disparate and largely isolated information systems, such as CASH and UNICOM. Since then the project has been renamed the Electronic Messaging Service (EMS) and joined the Defence Communications Services Agency.

Designed to be driven by business rather than technology, EMS provides a range of messaging and directory services which can be used to achieve widespread integration and interchange of information across the MoD. EMS is essentially a demand-based service and anyone with a business need may subscribe. In simple terms, you only pay for what you use. And by joining EMS you are connecting to a community of more than 50,000 users across the MoD worldwide.

Key benefit of EMS is that connecting systems need only ever make one external e-mail link, as opposed to developing a number of bilateral connections. This approach provides considerable cost-savings for subscribers.

EMS should appear invisible to users because the only aspect that they will see is many more entries in their directories,

which may be one reason why Maj Hartley of the Defence IT Management Centre was not aware of Armysmail.

With so many different systems in use, the challenge is to manage the mass of information generated and, in particular, the interconnection of these systems. EMS provides the mechanisms to do this.

A range of new services and initiatives being developed includes a secret informal messaging service, an improved Army electronic directory and an EMS-wide intranet. – Maj J B W Stratton, AGC(SPS), Defence IT Management Training Centre, Shrivenham.

● *For further information on EMS, contact Maj Richard Tolhurst, LI, on Corsham Mil (94382) 4841, or 01225 814841. – Editor*

## Don't ask . . . call us up!

I HAVE been in the TA for 5½ years and the Government wants us to volunteer for service in Bosnia and Kosovo. Some of us can't go because our employers will not release us. I've been told on several occasions by my bosses that they cannot afford to let me go. If the Army is so short, why don't they just issue a national call-up? It's what we train for. – Pte J Pickering, 161 Amb (V) RLC, Cumbria.



## THEN AND THEN



### 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1949 **FROM** the letters page: "I am due for release and would like to learn to drive a car before I go outside. I have asked if driving courses exist but have been told there are none. Is this right?" – Pte McGeachin, Lichfield.

● *Soldier* is informed that petrol (paid for in dollars) cannot be spared for driving instruction.

### 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1974 **A** large Union Jack, left, symbol of neutrality in the bitter Greek and Turkish confrontation, flies above this roadblock on the Larnaca-Dhekelia road inside one of the two British sovereign base areas in Cyprus. Manning it in the heat of a summer's day is a soldier of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

PS...

## Gutter language

IF the BBC's *Soldiers To Be* series is supposed to aid recruitment, would it not be more successful if senior NCOs refrained from using gutter language in the training of female recruits? I left school at 14 to become a bricklayer's apprentice, then enlisted at 17½, so have led anything but a sheltered life. – C J Wareing, ex-RE, Redditch, Worcs.

● Similar sentiments were expressed in a joint letter from J R Bowen (ex-RA), J R Lee (ex-RA and RASC), Stevenage, and another from Jack Foster MM (ex-DCLI), Plymouth.

## Wrong weapon

THE sniper rifle pictured ("Upholding law in disorder", Aug) being booked in by the SIB and RAF (SI) in Pristina and identified as a "Dragonoff" – correct spelling Dragunov – is in fact a Zastava M76 sniper rifle chambered for 7.92 x 57mm Mauser ammunition. Correct identification of weapons is of the utmost importance. – Cpl S Cox and Cpl N Ridley, RMP, 2 Weapons Intelligence Section, BFPO 825.

## We should be told

AS it prepares to move into the next century it is time the British Army answered these long-standing questions:

● Why do soldiers eat their packed meals as soon as they are issued, regardless of the time? ● Why do best boots only ever chip just before the parade? ● Where do all the guardroom black pens go? – Sgt S I Shires, MDHU, Edith Cavell Hospital, Peterborough.

## Lost treasures

LT GEN Sir Mike Jackson gives the mistaken impression (Page 9, Sept) that the Pegasus flash ceased to be worn after the end of the Second World War. It was worn by 6th Airborne Division in Palestine in 1946-48, then by 16th Indep Para Brigade... and was still being worn when I left the Army in 1958. In one fell swoop we have lost the Pegasus flash and the Royal Tournament. Sadly, who cares? – Name and address supplied.

## Wrong bridge

THE bridge visible in the main picture in your very good feature (Sept) on the Joint Services Mountain Training Wing at Plas Llanfair, Anglesey is not the Menai Bridge, but the Britannia road-rail bridge, designed by Robert Stephenson. The Menai is a suspension bridge about a mile away. – T G Topps, Holyhead, Anglesey.

## Help, please...

AT the Didcot Railway Centre in Oxfordshire we have the dismantled "down" platform building from Heyford station. It would be nice to have it up and running for the new millennium so I am appealing to any TAVR Royal Engineers unit for assistance. – M Lindgren (Great Western Society and Oxfordshire RGJ Bn ACF), 31 Norries Drive, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8JT.

# Absent Army was missed in Zagreb

THE second World Military Games opened amid great excitement in Zagreb, Croatia on August 7 with teams drawn from the forces of 84 countries on parade in the new Maximir Stadium. Conspicuous by its absence was the British Army, the only Nato army not to participate.

This was a great pity as the Croatian people would have given it as ecstatic a welcome as they did the US, Germany, France and other nations that have done so much to bring peace and stability to the region. With forces already in the

country and neighbouring Bosnia, together with a transport infrastructure in place, could funds not have been found to send a British military team?

It was sad the nation which risked perhaps the most with its troops on the ground in Kosovo should be denied some of the kudos that would have enhanced a reputation already acknowledged as the best in the world. – Daniel Kington, Secretary, Croatian Forces International Volunteers Association, Chessington, Surrey.

## Suez medal campaign still going strong

SUEZ veterans have been ringing and writing to ask if the Emergency Medal campaign 1951-54 is still running. May I use your columns to say it is... vigorously.

Letters on the injustice of it all have appeared in the *Manchester Evening News* and the *Yellow Advertiser*, Hornchurch and Upminster, which is running its own campaign headed by John Cryer MP. Favourable noises have been made by the

MoD, and Andrew Bennett MP has confirmed his intention to carry on the fight. Interested parties should continue to badger MPs and write to papers saying we want action NOW, before we all die off. – Chas Golder, Bolton, Lancs.

● Similar exhortations been received from Lt Col (Retd) W A Lyons, Salisbury; D K Honey, Oxford; and Len Oliver, Colchester.

## Mail us!

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.



# Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

## Friendly advice

BRITISH forces in Kosovo and Bosnia have one thing in common... they have to get on with the local population. We asked soldiers based in Bosnia what advice they would give to their opposite numbers in Kosovo.

**Pte Dawn Painter, 4 Fd Ambulance**  
Just remain calm with the local population and treat them as you want to be treated yourself. If you get aggressive with them, they will get aggressive with you. Most people have been OK, and friendly.



**LCpl Michelle Witham, 4 Fd Ambulance**  
Learn a bit of the language and they will be a lot more responsive. And try to understand

their situation and get out and about to see the way they live. That way you can then understand why they are the way they are.

**Pte Simon Dodd, 4 Fd Ambulance**  
Be patient with the locals, who have been through a lot. They are worried and they need help.



**2nd Lt Charles Smith, KRH**

The people out here can be very friendly. In the main they are just genuine, ordinary people, but their experiences in recent years have coloured their judgement and there is still a lot of hatred – not directed towards SFOR, but towards each other. It is impor-



Shake on it: Getting on with the locals makes life a lot easier when you're in a foreign land

tant for us to understand how they feel in our dealings with them. They appreciate that we are not involved, that we are in the middle and that we are there to help them. Ultimately we are here to provide the secure environment for them to be able to rebuild their lives. Give them as much support and help as possible. What applies here could definitely apply to Kosovo.

**Cpl Darren Squire, 15 Fd Wksp, 5 Bn REME**

The civilians we have dealings with are those who work in the camp with us. Just be polite. The people here are friendly and I assume the people in Kosovo will be the same.



**Tpr Andy Sweet, KRH**

Most of the people are friendly. When the Kosovo invasion took place, we thought we would get a bit of a backlash, but people have been OK. We have

not had any trouble. You have to work at it together.

**Pte Kelly Garner, 15 Fd Wksp, 5 Bn REME**

Treat everyone the same, as decent people. I have tried to learn some of the

language. Show an interest in them and they will show an interest back. If you approach them then you may get a positive response. Don't wait for them all the time.



**Cpl Jean Ball, 15 Fd Wksp, 5 Bn REME**

We have two Serbs working with us in the MT and I think it is important to find out about them – what

happened to them in the war. Certainly try and learn a bit of the language. We don't have an interpreter here, so learning the language certainly helps.

**LCpl Stuart Sivieri, RMP**

A lot of the locals are wary about making contact with you first. So it is better if you make the opening move. Talk to them. They are very nice people and will talk back.



**2nd Lt Chris Jones, 15 Fd Wksp, 5 BN REME**

The main thing is keeping your word because there is nothing they respect more than someone who does what they say. They are going to do.



Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Mike Weston

## COMING SOON

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