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August 2001 £2

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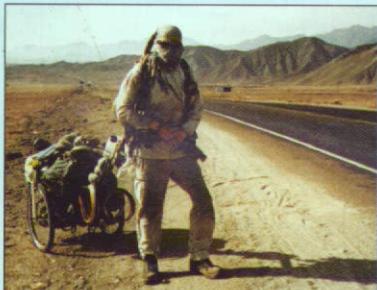
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In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



Para-abnormal: Karl Bushby, once of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, is a man on a mission – to blaze the longest unbroken trail in human history. He is walking around the earth.

- Karl's story is in Page 17

British officer leads team responding to suicide crisis hitting Russia's Armed Forces

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The man who passed Maureen – Page 39



Save 30% on Services' day tickets at Horse of the Year Show – Page 64

... we understand the problem and we are on the case – Maj Gen Peter Currie responds to your criticism of Pay 2000 transitional arrangements
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What you think about the length of tours in Kosovo

Beating the drum in Scotland

Scottish infantry battalions are not alone in suffering a recruitment crisis. But the manpower shortage has hit them hardest. How Scotland is tackling the problem has lessons for the rest of the Army

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

SCOTLAND, like the rest of the United Kingdom, is short of soldiers. Persuading young men and women to serve Queen and Country has never been harder.

Once considered a prime career move for graduates and school-leavers, competition from the private sector offering good wages and long-term career prospects has meant the Army can no longer take for granted a large influx of quality recruits. With the economy buoyant and unemployment low the competition for personnel is intense.

Overall the Army is 8,000 soldiers short. It needs 15,000 recruits a year just to stand still because of the number of soldiers leaving. Within Scotland's six infantry battalions there is a shortfall of more than 400 men. The reasons for this vary from unit to unit as they do throughout the Army. But some general trends and concerns stand out.

Money

In Scotland there are plenty of well-paid jobs in finance, the oil industry, fishing and new technology. Persuading an 18-year-old taking home £300 a week to join the Army and take a pay-cut for the privilege is never going to be easy.

Headhunters

In a pilot scheme that will run for a year, a commercial recruiting firm, Search Consultancy, has been brought in to try to find a solution to speed the recruiting process. The trial, based in Glasgow,



Targeting recruits: The Highlanders' team, from left, LCpl Ronnie Thom, LCpl Paul Tweedley, Cpl John Gillies and LCpl Jim Davidson

Highland laddies: The Highlanders' numbers have been bolstered by a company of Gurkhas

is the first partnership between the Army and a recruitment agency. Search has set up a subsidiary division called Advance to deal solely with Army career enquiries. It will manage the initial assessment and processing of candidates, but the Army will still be responsible for the final decision at its Recruitment Selection Centres.

Millennium Kids Syndrome

Too much time spent with Lara Croft

while chomping deep fat-fried Mars bars is bound to affect fitness levels. Regimental recruiting teams report that recruits are failing because they are not fit enough.

Capt Harry Roy, of the RHF recruiting team, said 27 potential fusiliers had failed at Recruit Selection Centres in the past six weeks alone. "If they had got through they'd be in training by now – that's a platoon of men."

Parents

Mothers are part of the recruitment process. Recruitment teams nurture parents as well as the potential soldier. Mum and Dad are absolutely vital in getting a well-rounded, motivated, trained soldier to units.

Too many forms

Infantrymen want a dynamic life of action, travel and excitement. They are turned off if their first taste of the Army involves filling-in a stack-load of forms. Capt Roy said: "When I first came to this recruiting job there were 18 forms to fill in to get into the Army. The process was taking up to three months. The Army has drasti-



Inroads into high roads and low roads

EVERY regiment has sought specific solutions to recruitment problems. *Soldier* looks at three cases.

Royal Highland Fusiliers: After seven years in Fallingbostel, Germany, 1 RHF moved to the beautiful but remote outpost of Fort George in Scotland. The regiment, which has re-roled for mountain warfare, needs to sell itself to young men on the streets and explain what the unit is about.

Last year 1,200 people expressed an interest, but of those only 100 started at recruit selection centres. And out of that only 15 might eventually make it to the battalion.

The young men who see it

through have something in common. Lt Col David Kirk, CO, said: "By far the greatest number come from recommendations of family and friends, people who are self-starters."

Although 1 RHF is about 60 men short, like all figures it is important to set them in context. Retention is robust. "It is pointless being very good at recruiting people if you can't retain them," said Lt Col Kirk.

King's Own Scottish Borderers: Capt Colin Ramsay, adjutant of 1 KOSB, has an enviable recruitment and retention record. The regiment is only four soldiers short – by far the biggest success story in the Scottish Division.



Retention vital:
Lt Col David Kirk

Capt Ramsay puts the success down to the 22 high-grade soldiers in three contact teams with local knowledge who prepare and nurture potential recruits.

Teams also make use of specially adapted software that holds detailed street-by-street information of potential recruits.

Capt Charlie Cann, OC recruiting, said a mobile rapid response team can zoom in to strike while the iron is hot. "If someone rings me and is interested I will send a car and have him in a recruitment office within the hour," he said.

The Highlanders: "Geographically, we have problems of time and space," said Col Alex Alderson, commanding The Highlanders. The regiment's recruitment area is huge, but the population sparse. It covers a

sixth of the land mass of the UK but with only 0.6 per cent of the population – 1.2m.

The Highlanders are the Army's newest combat infantry battalion, formed in 1994, after a further amalgamation. It has taken a few years to get the message across as to who they are, what they do and where they do it.

Last year the regiment was 165 men short – the worst-manned battalion in the infantry. But it also saw 120 soldiers joining the regiment – the best figures ever. The regiment needs about 60 new recruits each year just to tick over.

A team of 34 hand-picked soldiers are involved directly and indirectly in recruiting. Successful initiatives include Look at Life days where potential soldiers experience a taste of Army life.

iments are particularly good at retention. This would indicate that soldiers are content with their careers – but it is getting them through the gates in the first place that remains the problem.

The aim of HQ Infantry is to be less than 1,000 under strength by November 1. This will reflect an overall increase in manpower of more than 1,000 since January 1999. At the current rate of progress the Infantry should achieve full manning before 2005.

cally cut form-filling and the recruitment process has been speeded up. We hope that Search will be able to improve the process further."

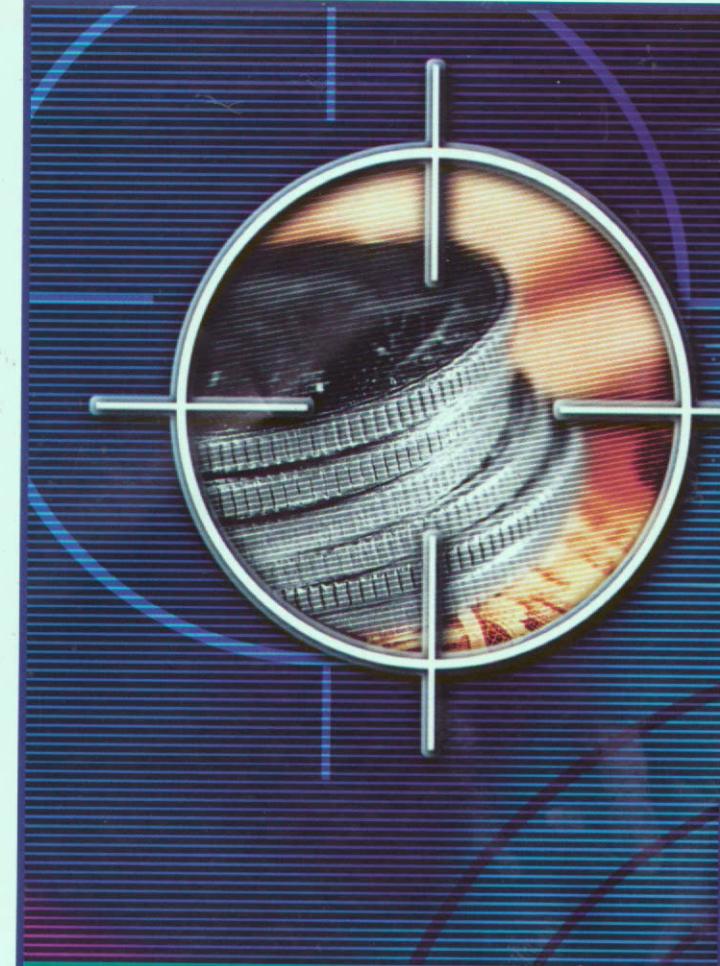
Time-lag

One of the big bugbears with the present system is that it takes far too long to process applications. Lt Col David Kirk, CO of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, uses the analogy of a man buying a car to make his point. "People

want a quick return. If you want to buy a car and the salesman says 'sorry old boy, you'll have to wait four months', you'll go round the corner to somewhere where they can deliver the next day."

Recruitment AND retention

Two sides of the same coin. Scottish reg-



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Morning after feeling:
Left, LCpl Sammy Gault, of 1 KORBR outside the SBA police station in Episkopi after the riot



In charge: Lt Rob Singleton, above, of 1 KORBR, a platoon commander in Arnhem Coy, which was heavily involved in containing the rioters

KORBR in thick of it

Soldiers called out as rioters strike in Cyprus

TROOPS from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment found themselves in the front line when a protest outside the Western Sovereign Base Area in Cyprus turned violent.

In what was described as a "night of madness", island-based KORBR soldiers, the Cyprus Joint Police Unit and the Defence Fire Service were called in when serious rioting broke out.

TV coverage of the incident showed up to 800 rioters attacking fellow Greek Cypriots, who make up the majority of the SBA police and fire services.

Troops restored order after demonstrators swept past SBA police, setting alight their Episkopi station and many of their vehicles and gaining access to the compound.

Nine vehicles were torched and 17 others looted and damaged. A police officer lying unconscious on the ground had his wedding ring ripped off his finger by an attacker.

The escalation followed the arrest of Cypriot MP Dr Marios Matsakis, who had been protesting against the start of work on foundations for replacement aerials at the Salt Lake site outside RAF Akrotiri.

Following the troops' intervention, the protesters moved their efforts to the

Salt Lake antennae site, setting cars alight as they did so. Sixty KORBR personnel were deployed in full riot gear to restore order on the site, where they were attacked with stones and wooden posts.

Minor injuries were sustained as the troops attempted to push back the rioters, who eventually retreated in the face of a water cannon. Following a 2½-hour stand-off, the rioters abandoned their attempt to invade the site and began to set fire to the area.

Construction on the network of antennae has been suspended pending an environmental impact assessment.

Capt Nick Mackenzie, 1 KORBR, said: "After a call about the troubles, four of our soldiers went to the station and found the policemen being showered with rocks and vehicles on fire. It soon became clear that many more soldiers were needed and over the course of the night we sent out three companies."

The Cyprus Joint Police Unit, made up of 53 RMPs and 33 RAF Police, supported the SBA Police at the two riot areas and is heavily involved in investigations into the troubles.

All those injured during the riot have been discharged from hospital.

Two killed as battle tank turns over

TWO men were killed when their Challenger 2 overturned in the middle of the danger area at Ladywell Barn on Salisbury Plain last month.

Tank commander Lt Paul Syred, 25, unmarried and from Sedbergh, Cumbria, and loader Cpl Michael Paterson, 28, from Saltcoats, Strathclyde, were both members of A Squadron, 1st Royal Tank Regiment based at Warminster.

A keen mountaineer, oarsman and modern pentathlete, Lt Syred was described by a spokesman for 1 RTR as a popular officer of conspicuous ability.

He joined the squadron after taking his troop leader's course which followed a year at RMA Sandhurst.

Cpl Paterson had been in the Army for ten years. The spokesman said: "He lived for the Army and his regiment and was deeply committed to his wife Joanna. He was a very friendly, personable and mature man who commanded the utmost respect from both officers and soldiers."

Two other soldiers received minor injuries in the accident, which happened near Imber fighting village during Exercise Druid's Dance. No other tank was involved. A Squadron, which is attached to the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards demonstration battle-group based at Warminster, was preparing troops about to deploy to Canada.

A military accident team, Wiltshire Constabulary and the Health and Safety Executive are investigating the incident.



Lt Paul Syred



Cpl Michael Paterson

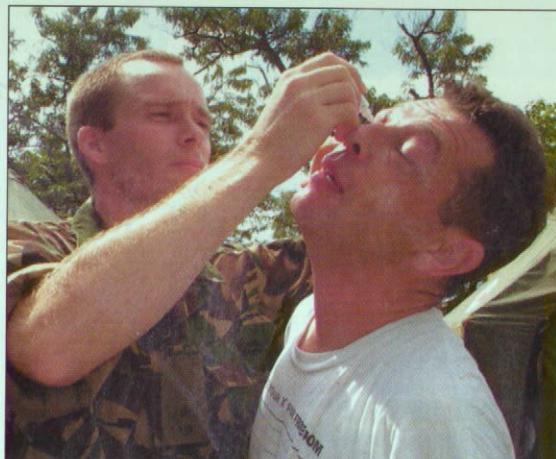
Bowman signed up

THE £1.8 billion Bowman contract awarded to Computing Devices Canada (CDC) Systems UK by the MoD will ensure the Army has new radios in service by early 2004. The company, part of the USA's General Dynamics, will be based in Wales.

A secure digital voice and data communication system which has been described as "armoured internet", Bowman will replace the 25-year-old Clansman battlefield signals system currently used by the Army. It will support all digitization applications for the next 30 years.

Bowman, which will include the deployment of about 50,000 radios, will impact on virtually all Service personnel.

Andy's in the wars



Stitched up: Members of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, deployed in Sierra Leone were amazed when former Radio 1 DJ and man-about-Africa **Andy Kershaw**, right, strolled into their medical centre at Benguema training camp.

Andy, who was visiting the camp for a briefing on the British Army's training programme, had fallen the night before and cut his head. Battalion doctor **Maj Del Singer**, left, cleaned up the wound and popped in a couple of stitches.

Andy was in the West African country to make a BBC Radio 4 programme in conjunction with Oxfam. The 2nd Battalion took over from 1 LI in June and will be in Sierra Leone for three months.

● 1 LI in Sierra Leone – Pages 38-39

First-class claim



Six of the best: We're usually a bit wary of claiming someone is the first or fastest (or any other "st" of its kind), but we can make an exception in the case of **SSgt Georgina Smith**, centre. The Training Delivery Wing at SEME, Bordon confirms that she is the first female artificer in the REME. Georgina and her colleagues (clockwise from top: **Sgt Eric Bristow** RM, **SSgt Pete Reynolds**, **SSgt Chris Rayner**, **SSgt Jim Eckersley** and **SSgt Ian Hinson**) were also the first to complete the Higher National Diploma course through the Army artificer system. Picture: Steve Dock

Dukes equal to all Kosovo tour threw their way

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment returned to Yorkshire last month after four months of peacekeeping in Kosovo.

Alma and Corunna Companies were based in Pristina, the busiest "patch" in the country, while the other half of the battalion – Burma and Somme Companies – were used as the brigade reserve, deploying to trouble-spots as the need arose.

They had to deal with bomb blasts, fatalities among civilians and fellow soldiers and deterring the activities of terrorists.

Cpl Adrian Rudd and two other soldiers of Alma Coy were first on the scene when a 15lb improvised claymore on a command wire was exploded under a car in Pristina, killing a Serb passenger. The driver and a female passenger were seriously injured. The 1 DWR trio evacuated the survivors and gave first aid. Maj Phil Lewis and Maj Peter Monteith, who were next on the scene, set up a cordon and moved people to safety.

A German mercenary alleged to have been responsible for the atrocity was detained within a week.

Corunna Coy had to deal with warring communities living side-by-side on



On the scene: Cpl Adrian Rudd, 1 DWR, helps a victim of the car bomb in Pristina

the north side of the city. Burma Coy, meanwhile, deployed to areas used by terrorists from Macedonia to carry weapons and supplies. They were also directly involved in the hand-back of Ground Safety Zone Brava, a 5km no-man's-land on Kosovo eastern border, to Serbia at the end of May.

With hundreds of terrorists dug in and threatening to oppose Serbian



On guard: A soldier from Somme Company, 1 DWR, mans a machine-gun post in the Gora mountains. The unit's mission was to prevent terrorist movement from Albania, through Kosovo into Macedonia. Strung out in small detachments over 150sq km, the company caught nearly half of the 115 suspects detained for the UN during the period.

tanks and artillery, the situation threatened to explode. DWR soldiers fortified their positions to the west, slowing up the passage of supplies and capturing and disarming terrorists moving back into Kosovo.

Pairs of snipers were used by Burma Coy well forward of their positions to observe terrorist movements. In the event a deal was brokered at the last moment and the safety zone handed over to the Serbs.

Somme Coy fired their mortars for the first time on operations since Korea in the 1950s. During three separate fire missions they dispatched 256 illumination bombs, about as many as the regiment would normally expend in five years, in about 25 minutes.

Lt Col Nick Borwell, CO 1 DWR, said: "There is no doubt we have directly contributed to the stability of the region." The regiment is preparing to celebrate its tercentenary next year.

● The 600-strong, Warrior-equipped 1st Battalion, The Black Watch arrived in Kosovo last month to take over operations in the Pristina region. The battalion is commanded by Lt Col Mike Riddell-Webster.

● Kosovo reports – Pages 27-29

Lancers reap late harvest of weapons

SOLDIERS serving with C Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers talked, cajoled, and charmed more than 40 weapons, 9,500 small arms rounds and 180 pieces of ordnance out of people in the Jankovici area of Bosnia during an Operation Harvest sweep.

The soldiers, in the Balkans with SFOR to provide a safe and secure environment, targeted the area with leaflets and radio broadcasts before making a house-to-house collection that turned up an amazing array of weapons.

Old rifles, hand grenades and, bizarrely in the case of one elderly couple, a heavy machine-gun, were handed over. Tpr Jonpaul Bussey said: "It's good to take weapons out of the area as it makes it a safer environment for the children."

OC Maj Dickie Trant described it as a "hugely successful" operation which had reinforced the squadron's mission with tangible results.

● QRL – see also Page 25

Highland Colours



New era: The **Prince of Wales**, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Highlanders, inspects soldiers of the 1st Battalion during their first Colours parade since their regiment was formed in 1994. The Colours were presented last month by the **Duke of Edinburgh**, the Colonel-in-Chief of The Highlanders, and Prince Charles, at the regiment's Redford Barracks base in Edinburgh.

The Duke and Prince were accompanied by **Brig Hughie Munro**, the new Colonel of the Regiment, who was also the first commanding officer of the Highlanders.

Picture: Mark Owens

Kate's on target



Target audience: GMTV presenter **Kate Garraway**, left, has a close look at barrel-mounted laser equipment used on their Challenger 2 main battle tanks by A Squadron, The King's Royal Hussars. Kate, escorted above by **Tpr Andrew Gillon**, was a guest of the squadron on Salisbury Plain. She is currently involved with GMTV's "Get Up and Give" programme. The laser equipment is used to record "kills" accurately during exercises.

Picture: Cpl Mark Ballantyne

No syndrome found in 1,000 Gulf veterans

A PAPER published in the RAMC *Journal* on the clinical findings of the second 1,000 people to be seen under the MoD's Gulf Veterans' Medical Assessment Programme (GVMAP) found that 796 (80 per cent) were well at the time. The authors found no evidence of a unique Gulf War syndrome.

Of the 20 per cent who were unwell,

the most common Gulf-related illnesses found were psychiatric, with post-traumatic stress disorder the most common diagnosis.

Veterans' Minister Dr Lewis Moonie welcomed the paper, which covered veterans attending the medical assessment programme between February 25, 1997 and February 19, 1998.

IN BRIEF

- The Queen Mother was greeted by the sound of pipes each morning of her three-day visit to the Cinque Ports last month. **LCpl Manbahadur Rai**, a piper with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles based at Shorncliffe, provided breakfast music at the entrance to Walmer Castle, during the Queen Mother's stay there.
- Staff at **JHQ Rheindahlen** have sent a cheque for more than £6,000 to Comic Relief after raising the money through a team indoor rowing competition.
- In the latest round of graduations, 900 Russian officers re-trained under an MoD resettlement scheme have returned to civvy

street. More than 12,000 officers have passed through the training centres since the project began nearly six years ago.

● Hundreds of youngsters aged 15 and 16 from schools across the West Country travelled to Colerne, Wiltshire for four days of activities with **Army mobile display**

teams. The event was organised by the Army Careers Office in Bristol. Displays included helicopters and Warrior vehicles.

● Colchester-based **3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment** have played host to 110 soldiers of the United States' 101st Airborne Division stationed in Kentucky.

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Messing about in boats: British and Dutch sappers joined forces in Dorset during 29 (Corps Support) Engineer Brigade's first joint exercise. Involving about 450 engineers, Exercise Majestic Rage was based on Wyke Regis training camp near Weymouth. The Brigade HQ, HQ and Signals Troop and the Royal Monmouthshire RE (Militia) were joined by 100 soldiers from 101 (Netherlands) Engineer Battalion. The two-week camp, which had to be re-written because of

foot-and-mouth restrictions, was aimed at developing interoperability between units and exercising the brigade in its primary role in a war-fighting context.

For the second phase of Majestic Rage, planners replaced a field training exercise by tasking unit command teams to come up with engineering solutions in a warfighting scenario based on a deployment of Nato's Allied Command Europe (ACE) Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC).

Picture: Steve Dock

It's a long way home from Kosovo, by bike

SIX engineers chose the hard way to return to the United Kingdom last month at the end of an operational tour in Kosovo.

Led by WO2 Dave Forrest, the saddle-sore sappers from 38 Engineer Regiment cycled back to Claro Barracks, their base in Ripon, Yorkshire, after clocking up nearly 1,800 miles across six countries. They hope to raise more than £8,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

WO2 Forrest signed up Sgt Colin Freeman, Sgt Jonah Jones, Cpl Jase Tether, LCpl Paul Redpath and Spr Martin Lewin to accompany him on the long ride back. A five-man support team from the regiment

backed up the cyclists. Three of the seven cycled all the way, with the other four having to take occasional time off to recover from injury.

LCpl Redpath pressed on despite losing skin from his shoulder, forearm and hip in a collision with two other riders on a fast downhill section.

After 21 days on the road, the men were given a heroes' welcome in Ripon, where they were met by the mayor and 38 Engr Regt colleagues lining the streets.

Because of fighting in the area, the seven completed 130 miles in a single day while crossing Macedonia.

Online learning

CATTERICK-based 3 Army Education Centre has gone online with a mass of information on compulsory military education, personal development, individual education and resettlement. Soldiers can find out more about their Education for Promotion courses at www.3aec.co.uk

Badlands

FIVE hundred men of 2 RRF rescued 45 civilians from hostile territory during a two-week infantry exercise in Norfolk last month.

Namely

THE British Army's Kenya-based training team – (BATT (KEN)) – has changed its name. It is to be known as the **British Peace Support Team**.

Book-marked

WINNER of inventor Trevor Baylis's book *Clock This (My Army, June)* was WO2 John Mill, SFM, AG Centre, Worthy Down. He receives a signed copy. Answer: **Backstroke**.

Germans win sniper gathering

A GERMAN Army team from the Infantry School at Hammelburg, Bavaria, won the first international sniper symposium held by the British Army at Sennybridge last month.

Best-placed of the nine British infantry battalions taking part was a team from the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, who finished third behind the second-placed 45 Commando RM.

Twelve nations were involved, either as competitors or observers.

Maj Mark Richards, OC sniper training, said: "The symposium was not just about sniping skills. It was also a fantastic opportunity for the competitors to exchange ideas and learn from each other."

Manufacturers of sniper-related equipment showcased their technology at the symposium, which it is hoped will become a regular occurrence.

Other units to take part were 1 and 2 RGR, 1 R Irish, 1 KORBR, 2 RRF, 1 R Anglian, 1 PWO, 1 D and D, 1 WG, 40 Cdo RM and the RAF Sniper School.



Star turn: Aspiring helicopter pilot **Jay Kay**, right, of rock band Jamiroquai, tries the controls of an Apache attack helicopter at the Goodwood Festival of Speed. Apache pilot **Maj Howard Floyd**, left, and **Maj Colin Dunscombe**, manager of the Army Air Corps' Blue Eagles helicopter display team, pass on a few tips.

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Gays launch support group

A SUPPORT group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Servicemen and women has been launched following the lifting of the Services' ban on homosexuals. The **Armed Forces Lesbian and Gay Association (AFLAGA)** will represent gay views and promote equal treatment. It can be contacted through its confidential advice line – 0870 740 7755 (open Wednesday evenings and Sundays, answerphone at other times) – or by e-mail to info@afлага.org.uk



Under Big Ben

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

Sappers analyse Kenya ordnance

ROYAL Engineers are continuing to analyse ammunition found this year during routine clearance operations on a training area used by the British Army in Kenya, Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram told MPs.

Of 32 ammunition types recovered last year, only two were unique to the British Army, he said.

Gower MP Martin Caton had asked ten written questions about British Army clearance operations at the Archer's Post and Dol Dol training areas.

Mr Ingram said that under military protocol the host nation is responsible for clearing ranges. However, in the past two years the British Army had also carried out clearance work in support of the Kenyan authorities.

He added that the British did not carry out live-firing at Dol Dol, so therefore did not conduct clearance there. In this year's Archer's Point operation, 271 live ammunition types were found which were being examined to discover their source.

Welfare: A claim by Salisbury MP Robert Key that there had been "another three per cent cut" in Army welfare services this year was denied by the Government.

Retention: Outflow from the Regular forces decreased by 6.3 per cent in 2000-01 compared with the previous year.

And I quote . . .

"There are those who will say that retention is the key to recruiting, but I suggest it is the other way round. Unless men and women are recruited in number, there will not be enough to do the dirty jobs that the Armed Forces are being asked to do. Disillusion will spread further . . . and more people will leak out of the bottom of the cycle faster than they are being added to the top." — Newark MP Patrick Mercer, former Regular soldier and BBC Defence correspondent, in his maiden speech.

He added that while there were no plans to make big acquisitions, land next to existing training areas was occasionally bought to make more effective use of the sites already owned.

Absentees: Sixteen per cent of Bermuda Regiment conscripts failed to respond to their call-up in 2000, the lowest percentage for the past five years. Current strength of the TA-style unit is 566.

The statistics were among those which emerged as a result of 25 written questions asked by Thurrock MP Andrew Mackinlay on regimental and constitutional issues concerning Bermuda and other overseas territories. (See SOLDIER to soldier, Page 71.)

High-flying Irish hit bull at Bisley

TWO soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment took first and second places in the prestigious Queen's Medal competition at the National Rifle Association headquarters at Bisley, Surrey.

Cpl Robert Doak took the coveted Queen's Medal and the title of Regular Army marksman of the year for the second time. He won it in 1999 and was third last year. His colleague, Cpl Paul Cullen, finished runner-up.

Doak scored 876 points, three more than Cullen, out of a possible 970. Third on 870 was last year's champion shot, Sgt Lalitbahadur Gurung of 1 RGR, who had also won the Queen's Medal in 1992.

The Regular Army phase of the Central Skill-at-Arms Meeting involved 125 British and 54 overseas competitors. In the team matches, the Regular Army



Winner: Cpl Robert Doak

achieved a clean sweep of the inter-Services and international matches, winning the Whitehead Cup for pistol teams and the Duke of Connaught Cup, United Services Trophy and Duke of Hamilton's Cup (Army v Royal Navy) for rifle teams.

In the United Services competition, the Regular Army scored 1,820 out of a possible 2,000, beating the Navy (1,773), the Royal Air Force (1,673) and the Territorial Army (1,665).

There was a shock for the Royal Irish in the match for the highly-coveted Methuen Cup. After four wins in the past five years the regiment could finish only third, with the Royal Gurkha Rifles first and a resurgent Royal Signals team in second place.

The Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces won the international class ahead of the Australian Army and the Canadian Forces.

Happy birthday to us: 74-year-old Chelsea In-Pensioner John E Griffiths and Pte "Screw" Driver, at 17 the youngest soldier on parade, celebrate the 100th anniversary of 60 Transport Squadron RLC, part of 4 General Support Regiment RLC, at Abingdon, near Oxford. By way of teaching an old dog new tricks, Pte Driver, a squadron driver, hands over the keys of his DROPS vehicle.

Defence estate: Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie said the MoD is conducting a major review of its 4,000 or more core sites. He added that while there were no plans to make big acquisitions, land next to existing training areas was occasionally bought to make more effective use of the sites already owned.

IN BRIEF

● Appeals in *Soldier and Sixth Sense* by Kosovo-based Sgt Brendan McMahon, RMP, right, for reflective strips and toys led to a huge response from the public, the Highland Council and Omnidglow, a company which manufactures reflective materi-



als. The strips were used in Operation Safechild, a campaign led by Sgt McMahon to teach schoolchildren in Pristina about road safety. "I want to thank everyone who helped," he said. Cub scouts in the Falkland Islands designed posters for the campaign.



Thirsty work: Fuel specialists, above, rush to service a helicopter at RAF Akrotiri during a month-long exercise in Cyprus.

Personnel from the Royal Engineers, Command Logistic Regiment and the Royal Air Force spent four weeks practising expeditionary fuels support at the RAF base. Fifty fuel specialists were

tested in tactical bulk refuelling operations for fixed wing and rotary aircraft.

Exercise Thirsty Flamingo also provided a chance for the team to rehearse the deployment of a half-mile long undersea pipeline off the Akrotiri peninsula, allowing fuel to be transferred to the air station from an ocean tanker berthed offshore.

Service firefighters cover Mersey beat

MORE than 530 Service personnel, including 123 soldiers, stood by to provide Merseyside with emergency cover after the region's fire officers withdrew their labour.

Army drivers and crew drawn from many units, including 47 Regiment RA based in Hampshire, joined professional firefighters from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force to man 25 Green Goddess machines pressed into service at nine Territorial Army centres around Liverpool.

Lt Col Chris Blong, commanding officer of 3 CS Regiment RLC based at Abingdon, led the military effort.

Tri-Service crews were put through



Thumbs up: Dvr David Coulson, RLC, based at Catterick, in the cab of a Green Goddess

Picture: Roy Bevan

fire drills at Altcar Training Camp, near Southport, by the Defence Fire Service, whose members were seconded to the emergency crews to offer advice on call-outs.

In the first three days of the strike, Service crews received more than 1,000 calls, many of them hoaxes. Call-outs averaged 100 a day.

The most serious incident as this issue went to press was a major fire in a scrapyard at Southport. Nearby houses were evacuated as four Green Goddesses, crewed mainly by RAF personnel, fought the blaze throughout the night, eventually bringing it under control late the following morning.

Army web in do-it-yourself offer to units

A SCHEME which allows units to create their own pages on the Army's award-winning internet website has proved to be an outstanding success.

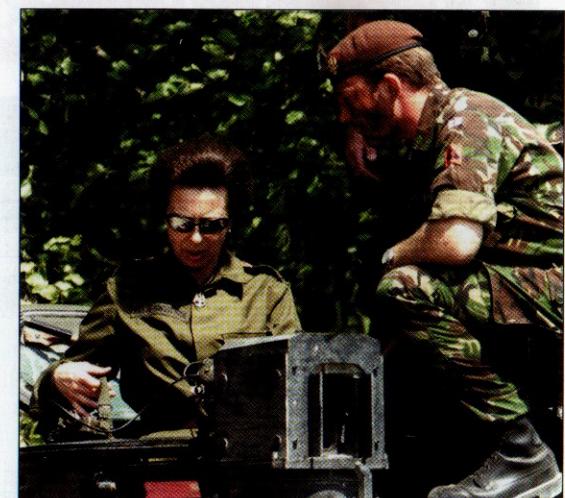
In the wake of initial training packages in the UK and Germany, more than 300 individuals are now publishing their own unit web pages directly onto the Army's site.

For those who missed the training, an online content-management package is now available. Following step-by-step training (from any internet terminal in the world), anyone who is IT-literate can learn to produce – or update – their own internet pages.

The technology can be used by anyone wishing to publish information about Army sport, clubs or special-interest groups.

To find out more about the content management system or when the next training periods are scheduled, contact Army webmaster SSgt Paul Griffiths on (mil) 9621 85960 or (civ) 020 7218 5960 or log on to the Army website at www.army.mod.uk and click on the quick-link banner.

Hussar Princess



Turret time: The Princess Royal is shown over a Challenger 2 tank by Lt Tom Banks of The King's Royal Hussars during her visit to the regiment on Salisbury Plain. Princess Anne, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Hussars, drove a main battle tank and fired an SA80 fitted with a laser. The Tidworth-based regiment was on the Plain to prepare for a major exercise in Canada.

Picture: Steve Dock

● A state-of-the-art targetry system was launched at Sennelager Training Centre, Germany, last month by C-in-C Land Command, Gen Sir Mike Jackson. The £9 million system, which features computer-controlled "pop-up" targets, was built by Theissen Training Systems of Düsseldorf and Hima Sella of Stockport.

● Sgt Philip Hopkins, Irish Guards, completed a non-stop 22-mile swim in a pool in Stanmore, Middlesex to raise funds for ASPIRE, the spinal injuries charity. His 1,416 lengths of the pool equated to a swim across the English Channel. Supporting him was "King of the Channel" Kevin Murphy, who has completed three double and 26 single crossings.

● A £66-million order for a friend-or-foe identification system for the Starstreak high-velocity missile has been awarded to Thales Air Defence Ltd (formerly Shorts Missile Systems) of Belfast. Starstreak is a very short-range air defence system used by the Army in support of manoeuvre forces and designed to attack armoured helicopters and low-flying aircraft.



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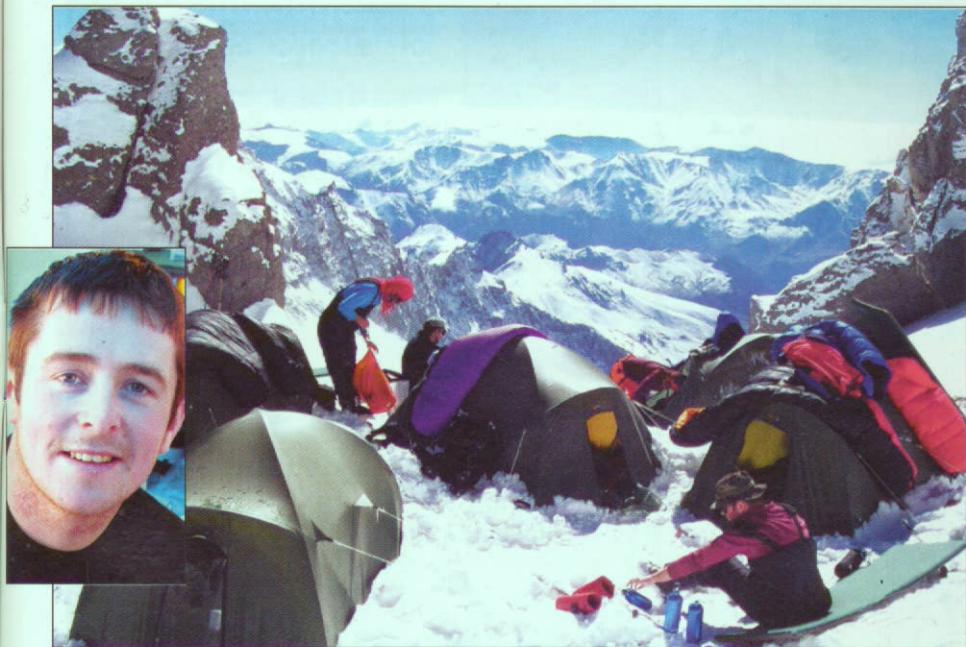
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High life: Fus Robbie Stewart, inset, and Fus Rob Andreucci from the mountain-roled 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers took part in a ten-man Joint Services expedition to Argentina under the leadership of Lt Col Paddy Hughes, R Signals.

Also involved in the assault on Mount Aconcagua (6,950m) was climbing instruc-

tor WO1 Ewen Martin, APTC, and top Argentine mountaineer Maj Hugo Martina. Maj Chris Robinson RA was responsible for equipment.

The main picture shows the expedition's camp two at 5,900m. Bad weather prevented all but one British member of the party and three Argentines reaching the summit.

Software glitch hits Apache schedule

OPERATIONAL readiness of Apache, the Army Air Corps' new attack helicopter, has been delayed by problems with simulator training software.

Defence Under-Secretary Dr Lewis Mooney confirmed in a House of Commons written answer that the readiness date for the Army's first operational WAH-64 squadron will be August 2004, a slip of seven months.

Problems with software integration have delayed the availability of the Full Mission Simulator for the WAH-64, which has had a knock-on effect on operational readiness.

Meanwhile, as this issue went to press, the Army's first two Apache helicopters were deploying tactically for the first time across southern Britain in an exercise involving 1,800 troops and 400 vehicles from 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Thirty helicopters, including RAF support Chinooks and Pumas and 15 C-130 Hercules heavy-lift aircraft, were flying over training areas from Wiltshire to Norfolk.

Exercise Eagle Strike gave 16 Air Asslt Bde a chance to put elements of its airborne task force through their paces on expeditionary-type operations in a Joint Rapid Reaction Force context.

The Household Cavalry, 7 Para RHA, 9 Sqn RE, 51 Air Asslt Sqn RE, 216 Sig Sqn, 2 Para, 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt RLC, 16 CS Med Regt, 7 Air Asslt REME, 156 Pro Coy RMP, 4 Para (V) and 17 French Engr Regt were taking part.

● Eagle Strike was the first UK exercise to have its own internet website to keep families, friends and local communities in the picture.

● ENTRIES for the annual Plain English awards close on September 14. Aimed at civil servants and members of the Armed Forces, the competition is open to unclassified articles produced for journals or use on

the intranet or internet. The material should be intended for a mainly civil service or military readership. Entries to OMD17, 2nd Floor OPA(B3), St Giles Court, 1-13 St Giles High Street, London WC2H 8LC.

● A troop from 33 Field Squadron, 25 Engineer Regiment in Antrim spanned the Glenarm River with the Army's only Second World War Bailey bridge still in use to create additional access to Glenarm Castle for its annual two-day festival.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● "Black generals, lesbian admirals and cockney-speaking officers of the same rank – all will happen, of that I've no doubt. It will take time for these sort of people to rise through the ranks. But it is happening". – Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, in an interview with *The Mirror*.

● Plans to raise a Sikh regiment within the British Army have pitched the Prince of Wales into conflict with the MoD. The ministry believes such a force would be divisive and immensely difficult to organise while the Prince has lobbied for a separate Sikh regiment. – *Independent*

● Thousands of workers involved in the foot-and-mouth cull are to be screened after it emerged that three soldiers have contracted Q fever, a rare livestock disease with flu-like symptoms. – *Daily Mail*

● US Army scientists are working on a uniform that would change colour to camouflage the soldier wearing it, protect him from bullets and report any injuries to nearby medical staff. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Army scientists in America have found a way of using the food that soldiers eat to protect them from accidentally being shot at by their own side. Special meals contain compounds that are expelled from the skin or breath, making the troops appear brightly coloured when viewed from satellites or aircraft above a battlefield. – *Sunday Times*

● A 22ft yellow and red paper streamer, dropped by skydivers from the Royal Artillery's Black Knights display team, landed in the garden of No 10, where Tony Blair was briefing ministers. – *Evening Standard*

● Army chiefs have been given an ultimatum to justify their use of 2,000 acres of Dartmoor National Park for training élite troops amid protests that the military's continued presence in the national park is "ridiculous". – *Independent*

● Women will not, after all, be allowed into front-line infantry and armoured units, according to Whitehall sources. – *Daily Mail*

● Dozens of civil servants will regularly stage mock national disasters as part of the Government's new approach to crisis management. The officials will be part of a 115-strong civil contingencies secretariat. – *The Times*

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To the ends of the earth

Former Para Karl Bushby is aiming to blaze the longest unbroken trail in human history . . .

Report: Anthony Stone

KARL Bushby knows a thing or two about tabbing. After 11 years with the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, you'd have thought the former corporal would have had his fill.

But soon after leaving the Army three years ago, Karl was off again. His dream was to walk to the ends of the earth, across four continents, 25 countries, a frozen sea, six deserts, seven mountain ranges and more than 36,000 miles. No one has been barmy enough to try it before.

He will need all his military training and experience to pull off this superhuman test of endurance and strength. By the time he finishes, in about eight years' time, he will have completed the longest unbroken path in human history.

When *Soldier* tracked Karl down to a hostel in Nicaragua he was looking forward to the next stage of the marathon. "I am in good shape," he said, having already completed about 7,500 miles.

His epic journey began near the southern tip of Chile and progressed through South America. His route will take him through Central and North America, crossing from Alaska into Siberia, using the frozen Arctic waters of the Chukchi Sea as a land bridge.

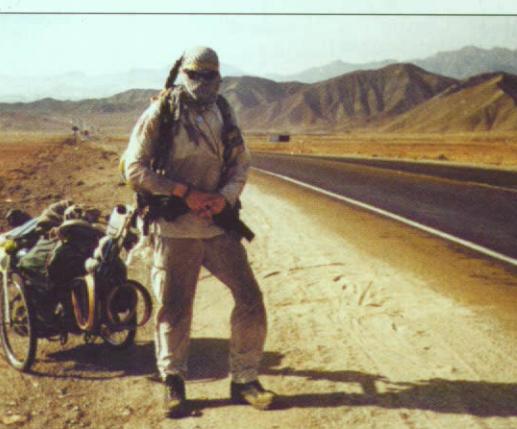
The journey then heads south-west down the eastern coast of Russia, before turning west across Asia and Europe. He hopes to walk home through the Channel Tunnel.

One of the most challenging legs of the trip so far was crossing the Darien Gap. This is literally the gap between Panama and Colombia where the Pan-American Highway stops. There are no roads through the 125 miles of thick

**7,500 miles walked
– only 29,000 to go**

jungles, tortuous rivers, mountains and swamps. The area is infested with guerrillas and bandits. It is one of the wildest, most inhospitable and most dangerous places on earth. Even Judith Chalmers hasn't been there yet.

When the tracks petered out, Karl took the plunge into the river. Sealing his equipment in bags, he fitted empty plastic bottles into the pouches of his combat vest and set off with the flow. Pulling debris around himself, he was able to hide quite well. In the evening he would erect his hammock in the mangrove swamps on the



Dust bowl: The Atacama desert in Chile, the driest place on earth



Short-cut: Karl climbs out of a village in Ecuador, above

Starry, starry night: Time for a brew in southern Peru, left

river's edge. Life was made hell by the mosquitoes which covered the net to the extent he couldn't see through it. By sheer perseverance a good number even managed to get in – there was little sleep.

Karl saw boats on the river, including army patrols, but being so low amongst the debris he was not seen.

Coming out of the river on the second evening he found himself attacked by a colony of red ants which stung like bees. He had to leap back into the water in an effort to wash them off. On the third evening he came face-to-face with a crocodile.

For Karl the adventure continues. Spare a thought for him next time you're tabbing across Brecon.

Follow Karl's adventures on www.earthtrekuk.net

■ The record for the longest unbroken expedition on foot belongs to the United Kingdom's George Mageean, who walked 19,019 miles.

■ The longest walk by a female was an awesome 19,586 miles (31,521 Kms), by Ffyona Campbell, also of the UK. She trekked around the world in five phases, covering four continents and 20 countries.

In step for the marching season

Report: Simon Mander
Pictures: Army Information Service, Northern Ireland

FROM an Army point of view, the annual Drumcree march was a success. About 1,600 troops were flown to the Province ahead of the Orange Order parade in Portadown to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary during the marching season.

The vast majority of troops were from units that are rear-based in the United Kingdom but remain under the command of the GOC Northern Ireland.

The exceptions were the 400 men of the UK Standby Battalion, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who took up position on Drumcree bridge.

Normally there are around 13,600 troops from all three Services based in Northern Ireland, but during the marching season this figure rises to about 15,200.

Since 1995 Drumcree has been a byword for confrontation between sections of Northern Ireland's two communities. The dispute remains unchanged: the Portadown Orangemen believe they have a time-honoured right to march from their annual church service at Drumcree parish church, down the Garvagh Road and back into the centre of Portadown, a staunchly Protestant town.

They have been following the same route since 1807, and, they argue, their right to "walk the Queen's Highway" is a matter of civil and religious liberty.

In what is now a much-practised manoeuvre, sappers from 25 Engineer Regiment based at Massereene in Antrim moved to install large steel and concrete crowd-control obstacles across Drumcree bridge and erected wire defences either side to block the marchers route.

Meanwhile other units took up position, including:

The 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment was stationed on the bridge but faced only minor disorder with some petrol bombs, acid bombs and fireworks

Planning, preparation and a major military operation ensured this year's march at Drumcree passed off relatively peacefully



All quiet: A soldier of the Royal Welch Fusiliers looks on as the Drumcree Orangemen march past on their way to the church

thrown, and an attempt to pull down the wire.

Three companies, around 250 men, assisted Royal Engineers with laying wire defences and installing crowd-control obstacles. On the way to Drumcree a crowd of youths threw stones and paint bombs at passing units in the area of the Garvagh Road.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers was deployed in Belfast, Portadown and Londonderry, providing support to the RUC.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) made its debut at Drumcree and was deployed during other public order disturbances in Belfast.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, one of two Northern Ireland resident battalions deployed at Drumcree, carried out joint patrols with the

RUC and also provided infantry support during one of the Orange Order's 12th July parades.

The 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the second resident battalion, was held on standby for Drumcree but

provided military backup on July 12. **The 1st Battalion, The Scots Guards** was deployed for Drumcree but posted to two locations in Belfast to support the city's resident battalion, the **1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders**.



Watching brief: Crowds gather outside Drumcree church, above, as soldiers watch

Cutting edge: Sixty sappers from 25 Engr Regt installed crowd-control obstacles, left, in the Drumcree and Portadown areas

As in previous years, the residence of the **3rd (County Down and County Armagh) Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment** at Mahon Barracks became host to the extra troops drafted in. Although the full- and part-time soldiers continued routine counter-terrorism

Way ahead: Soldiers from 1 RHF set up a vehicle checkpoint in the Drumcree area

duties in support of the RUC, the battalion also formed the backbone of the Drumcree operation under the direction of 3 Infantry Brigade.

The men and women of 3 R Irish provided catering support, cooking meals and making up packed lunches.

The quartermaster's department was equally busy, accounting for and organising the issue and recovery of tentage, lighting units, generators, tables, chairs, beds to support the extra battalions, engineers, aviators and RUC.

Around Drumcree itself the only real test faced by the Army came four days after Drumcree Sunday when 1 Para and a company of 1 RGBW were deployed to contain a mob of rioters in the Corcrain area of Portadown.

The vast majority of parades passed off peacefully but civil disorder did flare in both North and East Belfast – particularly in the Ardoyne – where companies from three Scottish battalions, 1 RHF, 1 SG and 1 A and SH were deployed to provide much needed relief for the RUC.

The Army sustained no casualties in the Drumcree area, but five soldiers were slightly hurt during disturbances in Belfast and Lurgan and were treated at the scene.

● More on Northern Ireland – Page 21

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Training forged in fire

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment hope for the best but train for the worst

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

ONCE again the mob hurled insults, missiles and petrol bombs at B Company, the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, and once again the soldiers, in full riot gear, parried the assault and stood firm.

Although the crowd was ugly and unruly, they went about creating mayhem with a certain polished discipline. Which was not surprising because the mob was also made up from the battalion.

Just out of missile range, officer commanding B Coy, Maj Ben Richards, watched the disturbance develop.

"This is a bit like being on the subs' bench waiting to go on," he said, explaining the battalion's role during the marching season. The battalion was the GOC's reserve, and as such, it was ready to deploy wherever it was needed. So far their presence at the sharp end had not been required.

As the rain of missiles subsided, one particularly energetic headbanger, egged on by his mates and the adrenalin rush, ran at the line of Army shields, kicking and punching like a man demented.

The lines moved apart to let him through; within seconds he was brought down and bundled round the back of the Saxon.

The exercise taking place at RAF Aldergrove, Belfast, was about as realistic as it was possible to get without the medics working overtime.

"They get petrol-bombed so they know what it's like," said Maj Richards. "We can't throw acid bombs, pipe bombs or



Open to abuse: B Coy confront a "mob" during realistic public-order training at RAF Aldergrove, Belfast

fireworks, and bits of pavement – but the training works."

It was the day before the 311th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, the Northern Ireland peace talks had been adjourned, and the Province anxiously awaited the climax to the marching season.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, who are three-quarters of the way through a two-year operational posting, work rotational shifts which alternate between guard duties, patrols, deployments as the quick reaction force and rest periods.

Back at their barracks in Omagh, Pte David Penney, who joined the regiment in May, was about to go out on foot patrol with 2 Platoon.

"He is on a very steep learning curve," said Sgt Martyn Chatterley, a veteran of three tours, "but he is doing all right."

Over at Aldergrove, where the rest of the battalion was based, the heavens opened with the rain that had been threatening all day. Troops filed inside for a drumhead service conducted by the Rev Andy McCafferty.

These services date back to the days when the regiment's colours were laid across drums as a makeshift altar and men prayed to prepare themselves for whatever lay ahead in battle.

Lt Col Fred Chedham, the commanding officer, spent a few moments telling his men that he was proud of them and spoke of the qualities that make a good soldier; fairness, respect and impartiality.

It was a short, powerful speech, one that his men will reflect on in the challenging days and months ahead.

■ Next month: WFR's new draft breezes in



Injury time: As part of the training a soldier is dragged away and treated by Army medics

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A Force for Change



High command: US Sqn Ldr Mike Ryan looks out over the Demilitarised Zone



Capt Giovanni Fioritto, left, an Italian engineer officer, and Maj Richard Allen R Irish during a patrol in the DMZ

Back of beyond

You don't have to be mad to work here but it helps ...

Report: Andy Simms

Pictures: Mike Weston

WITH high temperatures all year round, cloudless skies, and golden sands that stretch for as far as the eye can see, a posting with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) reads like a passage from a holiday brochure.

However, those looking for a sunshine tour are more likely to find themselves on a holiday from hell.

Established in 1991, the mission's aim is to observe the activities within the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), which extends 10km into Iraq and 5km into Kuwait.

Manned by 195 UN observers from 32 nations, life on one of the Patrol Observation Bases (POB), situated on the 212km-long DMZ, can be both physically and mentally draining.

At the height of summer it is not uncommon for temperatures to top 55 degrees, making sunbathing an impossibility and the merest task a physical chore.

Maj Richard Allen (R Irish), one of 11 British officers currently serving with UNIKOM in Kuwait, conceded: "When

you first get here you look outside and see the sun and think it's wonderful, but in reality it is a very harsh environment.

"Everywhere you go you have to carry water with you," he said. "Dehydration is the biggest threat we face; you sweat all the time but because of the wind and the sun you do not actually realise it.

"All our vehicles and rooms have air conditioning and we simply would not be

'In summer, temperatures can top 55 degrees, making the merest task a physical chore'

able to survive without it."

Aside from the unforgiving sun, the Kuwaiti desert throws up a host of other discomforts – not least the sand.

"Drifting sand can strip the paint off vehicles and in the winter the roads can turn into a quagmire, making driving a nightmare," added Maj Allen.

The extreme climate is also home to a vast array of unusual wildlife, including desert rats, several species of scorpions and venomous sand vipers. But it is a

more common pest which torments the UN observers.

"Wherever you go you are plagued by flies," explained Sqn Ldr Mike Ryan, a member of the mission's American contingent. "But I suppose we are lucky that there are no mosquitoes here."

Despite the adversity, UNIKOM remains the most successful United Nations mission, with no incursions into the

DMZ by armed forces and no shortage of volunteer observers. Commander of the British contingent, Col Tony Snook, said: "This is a very easy and relatively straightforward mission – we are simply here to observe the DMZ."

"Funnily enough, the fact that there is not a lot to do creates its own problems and these are exacerbated by isolation, living in close quarters to other people, and the heat."

"However, the mission gives people the chance to experience a real desert environment and around half choose to extend the length of their tour," he said.

"It is better to come here with a personal project, whether it be to learn a language, get fit or continue an Open University course."

Isn't that the name of the beer?

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Sgt Brian Gamble

WITH tropical storms centred over the Caribbean, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire found conditions during Exercise Red Stripe more akin to a monsoon than the holiday paradise they had been expecting.

Torrential, endless rain, mudslides and flash floods were the order of the day for the Yorkshire-based 1 PWO troops, who were in the West Indies to exercise with the Jamaican Defence Force (JDF) and to train a multi-national NCOs' cadre made up of candidates from the host island, St Kitts, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda and Antigua.

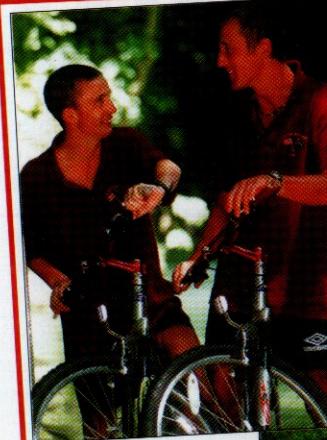
Maj Richard Lockwood, officer commanding, said: "We were based in the rugged north of the island at Monague training camp, where we instructed on specialist infantry skills such as patrolling. It was hot and very wet at times but we kept on smiling."

Although all the tourists see is a tropical paradise, its jungle offers a terrific environment for military training, without many of the dangers of a more remote location. High ridges, fast-flowing streams and primary and secondary jungle provide plenty of testing locations.

At one point during the exercise the jungle school had to be evacuated in the early hours of the morning as flash flooding and mudslides threatened. "Our jungle warfare instructors were in their element but many of us younger soldiers found it hard," said Pte Mark Jones.

The troops were based at a burned-out hotel made habitable with plywood and corrugated iron. From there soldiers not involved in an NCOs' course were rotated

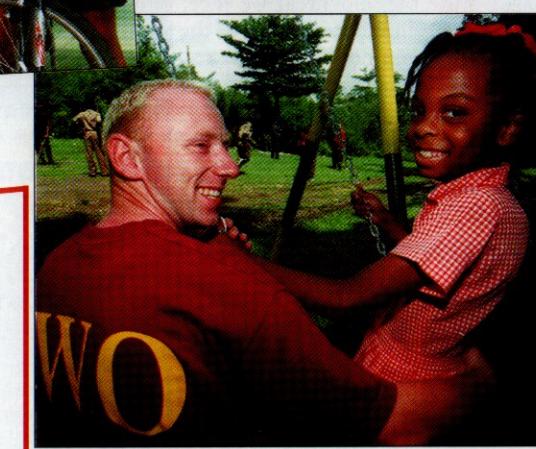
It may be... but there was a serious side to 1 PWO's four-week exercise in Jamaica. Oh, and by the way, it does rain – hard – in the Caribbean



Bikers: Pte Martin Lawthorpe, left, and Pte Simon Leach



Class of 01: Instructor Sgt Steve Bingley with soldiers from Caribbean countries



Swinging times: Pte Paul Oldridge helps out at the School of Hope in Jamaica. He and others renovated the school for children with learning difficulties

through a four-day programme of jungle training, live-firing and adventurous training. They also found time to renovate the School of Hope for children with learning difficulties.

The visitors lost to the locals at cricket

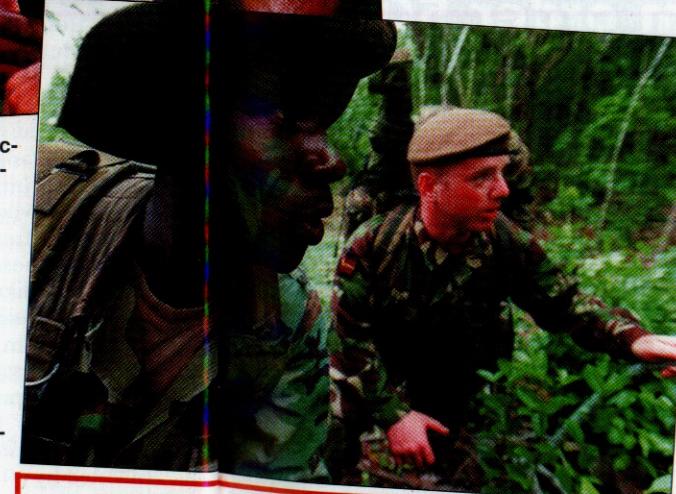
but beat them at football. Dragon Bay Hotel, famous as the location for the beach bar in Tom Cruise's film "Cocktail", was an idyllic setting for adventurous training – and for watching thong-clad beauties dip a toe in the sparkling Caribbean. Cycling, sailing, deep-sea fishing and scuba diving were all on offer to the soldiers.

Accounts of the men diving with sea



Jamaican welcome: The Yorkshire-based soldiers warmed to the friendly local hospitality

Jungle know-how: Sgt Karl Rhodes, below right, instructs a Caribbean soldier



turtles, landing swordfish and watching sharks were common as the rain finally relented and made way for more typical Caribbean sunshine.

The final word goes to Pte Oliver Clark: "We were told all sorts of things about the exercise name," he said, "but it was no surprise to me that it coincides with that of Jamaica's most popular export... the local Red Stripe beer."

Testing times for armoured crews

Queen's Royal Lancers practise their punch on Bosnia's Miclic ranges



Heavy metal crew: Lt Ben Cousins and LCpl Eddy Edwards in their Challenger

Report: Lt Col Robin Hodges
Pictures: Cpl Paul Rowland

ANNUAL crew test time for C Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers, the armoured squadron in the UK Battle-Group in Bosnia, was an opportunity to show off new tactics.

Crews have seen how Warrior uses ground, fire and movement to survive, and have adopted those tactics with Challenger. Instead of observing and fighting from hull-down positions, crews observe from turret-down and move to fire.

C Squadron was live-firing in Bosnia for the third time in as many months.

"In the garrison we usually fire only once a year," said Sgt Sam Fox, pictured right. "We get much more range time in Bosnia."

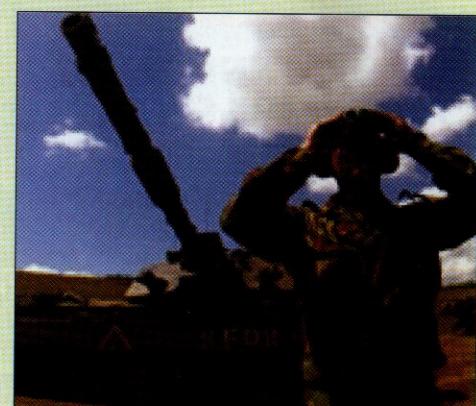
Miclic is an all-arms manoeuvre range and allows free movement against a backdrop of hills. There are no "lanes" and targets are dispersed tactically – so the crew tests were modified to take maximum benefit from the training area.

Maj Dickie Trant, commanding the squadron, based the crew tests on those for armoured recce, with both observation and live-fire practices.

Tpr Oli Caven, straight out of training, arrived as a reserve crewman and on

his first day was detailed as a driver. "It is a few weeks since I drove at the Armour Centre and my first job was to drive a Challenger at night. I was a bit nervous but it was fantastic. The crew tests went really well."

The crews lived in bashas alongside



Blue skies: Cpl Gaz Moulds watches 2 Troop

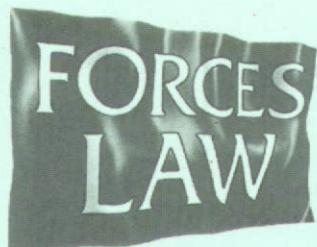
their tanks, which were formed into a defensive leaguer in a natural bowl, with each troop deploying in turn.

Local farmers and foresters, who have just begun to return to the area abandoned in the face of Croat forces in 1995, were suitably impressed and said that they felt safe returning to live alongside such a powerful SFOR presence.

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Tenants: From left, Afrim Berisha (KPS), Capt James Gasson-Hargreaves, Lt Peter Corcoran, Russell Stewart (UNMIK) and Samuel Sloan (RUC)

Crowded house

But there's room for all as Royal Lancers help to police Podujevo

Report: Andy Simms

Picture: Graeme Main

WHEN whispers of a terrorist bomb reach the front desk of Podujevo police station in Kosovo they are naturally taken seriously.

Minutes after first hearing the warning Kosovo Police Service (KPS) officers, United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) policemen and soldiers serving with C Squadron, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) begin evacuating the city's inhabitants from their homes.

The nationalities of those busily guiding worried men, women and children away from any potential danger could not be more varied.

UNMIK officers from as far afield as India, Pakistan, Northern Ireland and several African nations mingle with the ethnic Albanian KPS officers and British soldiers.

This rainbow of nationalities may sound like a recipe for confusion and misunderstanding, but as joint tenants of Podujevo's police station, the three organisations are accustomed to working

alongside each other and complete the evacuation with the minimum of fuss.

Lt Peter Corcoran (9/12th L) told *Soldier*: "We use the police station as our company headquarters and share it with around 25 UNMIK officers and 97 KPS officers. As organisations we fulfil different yet similar tasks. We complement each other without standing on each other's toes."

While law and order matters are left largely to UNMIK and the KPS, the Lancers are kept busy dealing with the

‘The British attitude of ‘let’s get it done’ goes along with the way I like to do things’

confiscation of weapons and reports of unexploded ordnance. However, daily patrols of the city are commonly conducted by a consortium of all three Services.

"If we go around bars checking for ID we tend to push the KPS members forward," said Lt Corcoran. "Two years ago it was always the KFOR soldiers that would get stuck in but we have proved we

can do that and can now afford to take more of a back seat.

"Not only do the population see the KPS doing their job but they also see it happening with KFOR's trust."

The station's main operations are overseen by UNMIK, with the majority of senior posts held by United States police officers.

Lt Corcoran added: "The Americans have an outstanding professional manner, they are very keen to get the job done, set high standards and make sure that they are achieved by the international officers and the KPS."

And according to Russell Stewart, who hails from Jackson, Wyoming, and is now Chief of Operations at Podujevo police station, the respect is mutual.

"My job is law and order and to bring that about I use KFOR as my muscle. I try not to deny them anything and they have never denied me anything – the level of co-operation is amazing," he said.

"I like the British attitude of 'lets get it done' – it goes along with the way I like to do things."

That's the way Swede do it . . .

Scandinavian soldiers help to bring peace to Kosovo

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

AS part of the British-led Multi-National Brigade Centre (MNB(C)) in Kosovo, the Swedish Battalion (Swebat) is playing an integral role in returning peace to the troubled Balkan state.

Indeed, in Gracanica Swebat have been charged with policing one of Kosovo's potential boiling points.

"Gracanica's population is 99.9 per cent Serbian," explained Capt Robert Almstrom, troop commander of A troop, Swebat. "And our job is to diffuse any direct threat to Serbs living in Gracanica and any problem to Albanians passing through the town."

The task has become increasingly high-profile since Albanian extremists blew up the Nis Express – a coach carrying Serbians across Gracanica to Medvede in Serbia – killing 11 people.

"The Nis Express has become one of our primary concerns and we engage at least one section to ensure its safe passage through Gracanica," said Capt Almstrom.

"On the surface there is no longer any real hostility in Gracanica and we seldom have a problem. The biggest occur when crowds begin to amass near the passing Albanian traffic. Stone-throwing is commonplace."

More than 1,000 Albanian vehicles travel through Gracanica each day and every vehicle is checked and searched by the Swedish soldiers.

At 8pm every night the vehicle check points are closed, preventing any further traffic entering or leaving the town and



Keeping the peace: Sgt Mattias Linzie leads a foot patrol in the Serb town of Gracanica

Car wars: 2nd Lt Fredrik Malmberg, left, checks the ID of drivers entering the town

said Sgt Mattias Linzie (Swebat). "But for obvious reasons they like us being here."

Another main focus of the battalion's

imprisoning the town's occupants.

"It must be very frustrating for the Serbs not to be able to move about freely,"

... at work

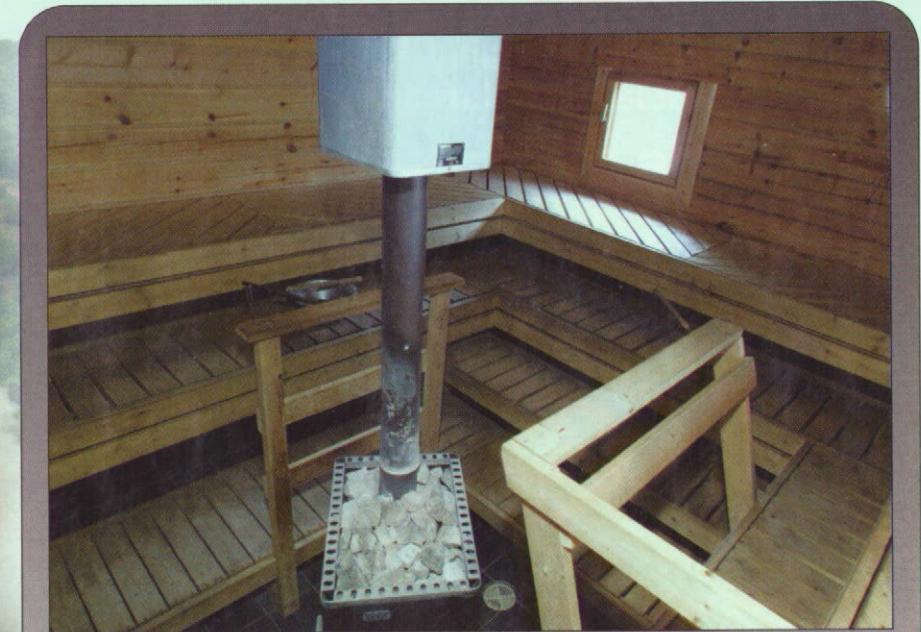
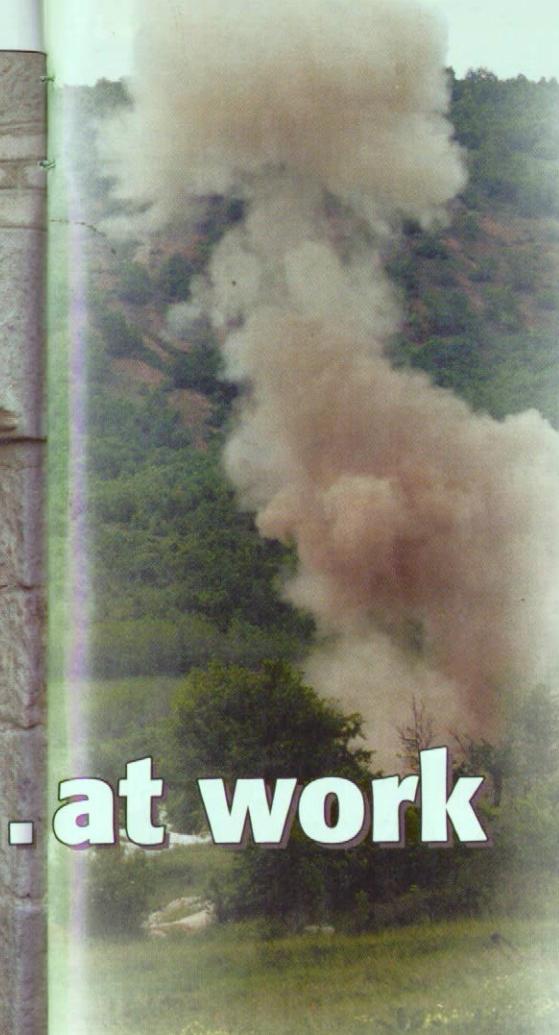
Noisy neighbours: Swebat's EOD team carry out a controlled explosion at Cluster Town

area of operation is the site of a former Serbian ammo dump, which was hit by an American cluster bomb during the war.

Dubbed "Cluster Town", the area around the old store is now a minefield of unexploded ordnance.

Lt Henrik Johnsson (EOD, Swebat) told *Soldier*: "To clear this area completely will take months or even years. We do not know exactly what kind or the quantity of explosives buried under the rubble and earth."

"And because we do not have the information of what height the bomb was dropped at we do not even know how widespread the ordnance will be," he said. "I would estimate we are looking at 500 square metres."



Rest and relaxation: The interior of one of Finbat's authentic saunas at Lipljan

... and at play

Home comforts come sauna rather than later for the Finns

THE rules are very simple . . . all clothes and rank are to be left at the door.

True to their national stereotypes; Scandinavians love saunas and do not let an operational tour of Kosovo get in the way of them indulging in their favourite pastime.

"One of the first things built on a Finnish camp is a sauna," explained Lt Tuomas Kainulainen (Finbat). "They help everyone to relax after a hard day and make great debriefing rooms."

With 90 per cent of the Finnish force made up of reservists, there is no shortage of professional carpenters and plumbers prepared to lend their expertise to the construction process.

Indeed, at the Finnish battalion's headquarters, an old paper factory in the town of Lipljan, there are 15 saunas – one for each company of soldiers.

But the home comforts extend beyond the purpose-built steam rooms. Entering the camp's mess is like stepping into a traditional log cabin in Lapland. Complete with a big screen television and a stage for bands to perform, it is open to all ranks.

The familiar surroundings are made all the more comfortable for the 821 Finnish



Drive-in: Parking spaces are at a premium in the mess at Finbat's Camp Karhu

soldiers currently deployed in Kosovo by the availability of free drinks, videos and DVDs. However, unlike British soldiers, all telephone calls home come at a price.

The Finns' passion for saunas is shared by their Scandinavian neighbours. Swebat's headquarters, Camp Victoria in the village of Ajvalia, near Gracanica, also has many of the tell-tale wooden huts.

Welfare provided to the 950 Swedish troops, all of whom are volunteers or conscripts, includes access to the internet, a free DVD/video library, reduced rate telephone calls and half-price snus (a chewing tobacco).

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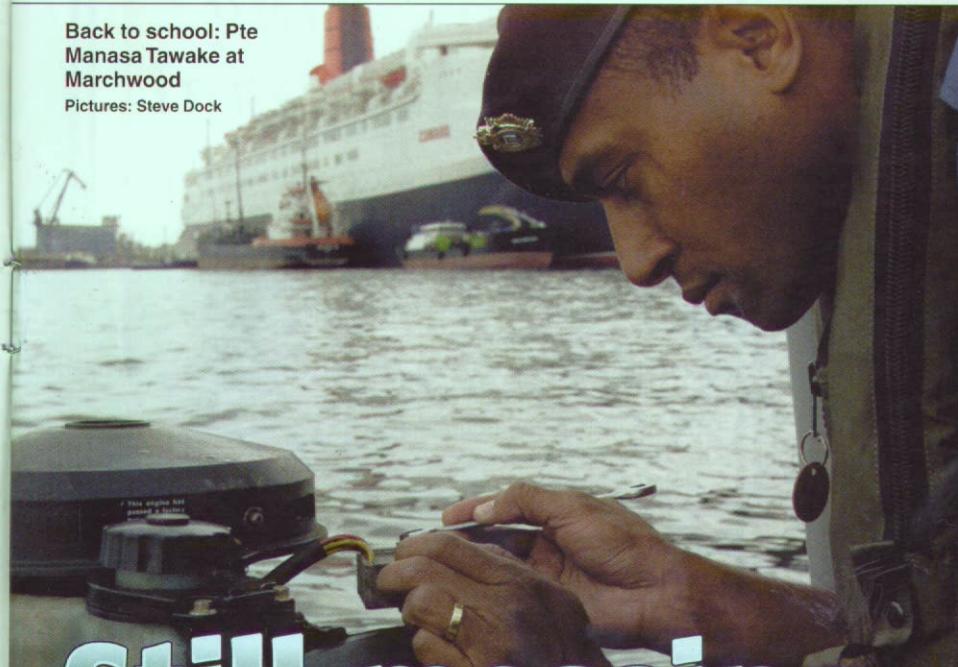
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Back to school: Pte Manasa Tawake at Marchwood
Pictures: Steve Dock



Still messing about in boats

Why would you swap the Pacific for Southampton Water? For a fulfilling military career, of course

PTE Manasa Tawake once worked as a marine engineer on a government-owned boat plying its trade around his homeland of Fiji and the coral islands of the Pacific, writes Ray Routledge.

Like many of his countrymen, he found a new way of life with the British Army – although he is still messing about in boats. He swapped the Pacific for Southampton Water to be a marine engineering student at the Port, Maritime and Rail Wing of the School of Logistics at Marchwood.

What does he have to look forward to?

Cpl Mark Thomas, who passed out as top student on his 18-month course, can tell him. Like Pte Tawake, Cpl Thomas grew up near water, on the Isles of Scilly, where the sea is a way of life.

“It’s a tough course, not just in mechanics, but also in electrical and refrigeration engineering and other disciplines,” he said. “There’s a lot of classroom work but you are never far from getting your hands dirty.” Cpl Thomas now has several qualifications recognised in civvy street.

WO1 Stuart Jenkinson, who instructs at the school, said it was responsible for delivering four trade elements: marine engineering, seamanship and navigation,

port skills (for operators using equipment such as cranes) – and railway know-how.

There are two routes of entry into the school. The usual way for young soldiers is through the Army Technical Foundation College at Arborfield. After recruit training, soldiers spend 14 weeks there before doing basic trade training at Chatham’s

Royal School of Mechanical Engineering. They can do that up to the age of 18½.

Older soldiers take a route aimed at those who already have engineering skills. As Pte Tawake held a Fijian Naval Board certificate of marine engineering, there was no point in him going back to basics.

Military marine engineers often find themselves attached to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary so they can gain experience and maintain “big boat” skills.

Twenty of the 63 established marine engineers in the Royal Logistic Corps serve abroad in locations such as Cyprus, Kiel and the Falklands, and 40 per cent of them are ranked sergeant or above.

What did the man from Fiji think of it?

“My past experience is useful although I find the maths challenging,” said Pte Tawake. “I’m enjoying the course and hope I can put my skills to good use.”



Cpl Mark Thomas

WO1 Stuart Jenkinson



Another in our occasional series

MORE questions and answers from CGS's Territorial Army Briefing Team.

BENEFITS What benefits would a spouse get if their TA soldier husband/wife were killed or severely disabled on operations?

ANSWER In general terms the benefit paid would be the same as that paid to a Regular's spouse. In case of death they would be eligible for:

- An annual widow's/widower's pension;
- A widow's/widower's lump sum;
- A pension for each of up to four “eligible” children of the deceased, payable until the age of 17 or until they have finished full-time education, if that is over 17.

Pension awards are related to the substantive rank of the soldier at the time of death. They may also be adjusted to take account of any other pension schemes, life insurance policies and criminal injuries compensation claims.

Similar payments would be made if the soldier were discharged because of **disability**, which must be assessed as 20 per cent or above to be eligible. The payments would be adjusted to take account of the severity of the disablement and, as above, any other sources of benefit.

Many **life insurance** policies exclude war and operations. Examine your policies to make sure you aren't subject to an exclusion clause. The Army encourages soldiers to use the RPAX insurance scheme, which is tailor-made for Service personnel. If you go on ops you will be given the opportunity to sign up to it at RTMC Chilwell before deploying.

VRSM The Briefing Team has been asked many questions about the newly-instituted Volunteer Reserve Service Medal.

Why is the qualifying period for the new medal only ten years rather than 12 as it was before?

ANSWER The shortening of the qualifying period was intended to acknowledge the increased call-out liability of the volunteer following the Reserve Forces' Act 1996. In no way, therefore, does it diminish its value.

Why don't periods on operations count double, just as war service did?

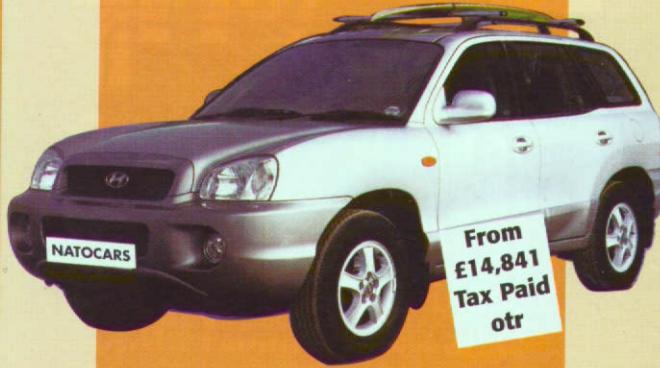
ANSWER As the VRSM is a new award, it has new regulations. There are often separate awards for operational service, which acknowledge the soldier's contribution in addition to counting as service towards the VRSM.

Why is time spent on FTRS docked off the qualifying period?

ANSWER This is a misconception: FTRS service does count as single qualifying service towards the VRSM, up to a maximum of five years' service.

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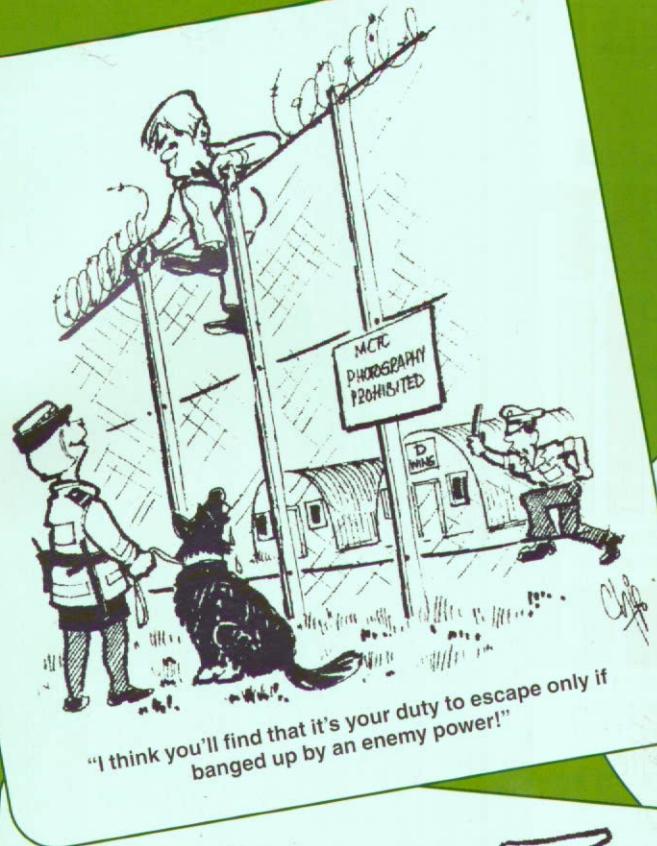
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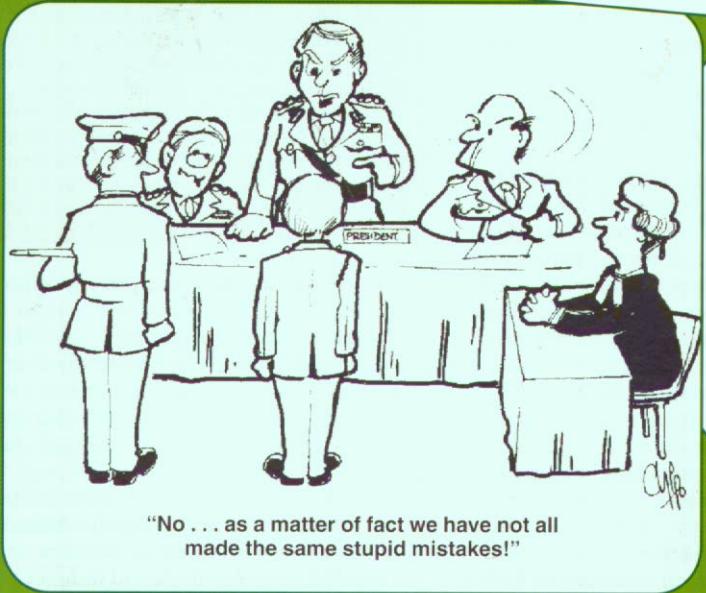
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Chuckle with Chip



Inside story

(With apologies to the
Military Corrective
Training Centre, Colchester)



You sound much taller on the radio

BFBS is part of everyday life for soldiers based overseas. We talked to one of its most familiar voices – one which has received a GOC's commendation

Interview: Ray Routledge
Picture: Steve Dock

IT takes a certain amount of cheek to walk up to the door of a radio station and ask for a job.

But that's exactly what a Royal Air Force airman did nearly 20 years ago. Today his is one of the most familiar voices broadcasting in Germany and the Balkans.

The "gizza job" line was how Glen Mansell began his career... and now he has a GOC's commendation to show for it. The star of BFBS Radio's afternoon *Drivetime* and Sunday *Calling the Balkans* shows recalled how it all started.

"As an airman I did a bit of work in a disco," he said. "The old RAF bases had networks on site and my base in Gibraltar was the home of a station called Radio East. I got in by simply knocking on the door."

When BFBS asked him to present a breakfast show from Cologne it was time to make a career choice

Glen, however, soon got bored. He needed a bigger stage, so approached BFBS on hearing they wanted someone to front a programme on soul music, a subject about which he knew nothing. He bluffed his way in and managed to cobble together enough words and music for an hour-long pilot programme.

"They quickly discovered that I didn't know anything about soul so I told them I just wanted to get my foot in the door. 'OK, it's there,' they said. 'What do you really want to do?'"

Laid-back: Glen at the mike. He has provided a lifeline between soldiers on operations and their families



His broadcasting career was launched. Glen was posted to Cyprus where he combined BFBS duties with his air force career. When the station asked him to present a breakfast show from Cologne it was time for him to make a career choice. He didn't hesitate to leave the RAF and went to Germany to become a BFBS staffer. He hasn't looked back.

Fourteen years on, Glen's distinctive voice and laid-back style have won him a large audience.

He's based at studios in Herford, the BFBS network centre for Germany, plying his trade behind a rack of equipment complicated enough to see service on the flight deck of a jumbo jet. Glen makes "flying" it look easy.

Listeners will be surprised to learn he works without a script on *Drivetime*, although *Calling the Balkans* is slightly different. Music for the latter is audience-driven and the 100 to 150 requests he receives each week range from Bing Crosby to Atomic Kitten.

Glen's music output is nearer to Radio

Award that shocked a jock

GLEN'S commendation came as a complete surprise but gave him immense satisfaction.

An extract from the commendation by Maj Gen Christopher Elliott, GOC UKSC (Germany), reads: "For five years his show *Calling the Balkans* has been an essential lifeline between soldiers on operations and their families.

"He dedicates considerable time and energy to his audience by regularly visiting the Balkans, talking with soldiers, sharing their experiences and reminding them they are valued and loved by families left behind.

1 than Radio 2, reflecting the age of his audience.

"When I'm on air from the studio with *Calling the Balkans* I am constantly reading blueys and e-mails. I edit them on-the-fly. They sometimes try to catch me out by putting in saucy things," he grinned.

He takes *Calling the Balkans* on the road, going live from garrisons around Germany as well as from the Balkans. On the road he insists soldiers and families go

"In Germany, he spends numerous evenings and weekends hosting live links and recording family messages.

"In maintaining the vital link between soldiers and families around the world, Glen Mansell has made a significant contribution to the morale of the Service community."

Recalling the day he heard about the award, Glen said: "I was told about it while I was on air and I couldn't say anything about it at the time. It had a far greater impact than anything else I could receive. This was the customers saying thank you."

"on air" with their dedications, although it's a ploy that sometimes backfires.

He recalled one recent incident. "We were in Kosovo and one soldier lost it. I'd like to say hello to my wife Sarah and, (pause) I'm f..... missing you (sob). All you can do is move on quickly. This was live radio."

His show has proved so popular that military operations in the Balkans virtually grind to a halt every Sunday lunchtime. Glen has seen the biggest and toughest

looking soldiers reduced to tears. "I remember doing a programme with the REME in Split and we had dedications from kids to their dads. It was amazing how often those dads would suddenly need to inspect their shoes or look at the floor. It was lump-in-the-throat-time."

He draws a big audience when he's out and about with his live request shows.

Glen is quick to acknowledge that people's mental image of him occasionally overestimates the real thing. "My body doesn't match my voice," he smiled. "When you hear a voice on the radio you get a mental picture of who it is. I visit wives' clubs, pick up the microphone and start to speak and you can see the disappointment on their faces."

"People tell me I sound much taller on the radio."

Although Glen follows in the footsteps of BFBS broadcasters who went on to become household names, such as David Jacobs, Cliff Michelmore and Sarah Kennedy, he is happy where he is and has no intention of quitting the radio station he loves to head for more glamorous pastures.

"I feel that I am still part of the Services – just without a uniform."

End of an era

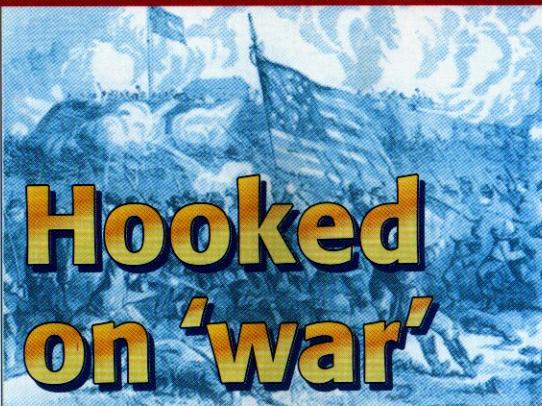
SOLDIERS of an earlier generation will recall one of the most popular radio shows of the 1950s and 60s, *Two-Way Family Favourites*, a request programme usually broadcast between London and Cologne every Sunday lunchtime.

The regular presenters were Cliff Michelmore and his wife, the late Jean Metcalf. Glen did the very last show in 1994.

"They brought back the Light Programme [now Radio 2] for one day for a BBC anniversary special and featured *Two-Way Family Favourites*. I was approached to do the German end and Sandi Jones the UK side.

"We did the hour-long show straight-laced, as if it was the old days. We had to scrabble around to find requests. Communication today between the UK and Germany is so easy, there isn't a market for the show and you'd think the same would apply to the Balkans.

"So why does *Calling the Balkans* work? It just does."



Another in our occasional series on what soldiers get up to after leaving the Army

YOU might think that after 24 years of Army service, the last thing anyone would want to do is put on another military uniform, writes Ray Routledge.

Yet that's what former Army catering lecturer Rod Dann does in his spare time. However, the uniform he sports would be unrecognisable to a keen observer of the British Army. Made of coarse blue wool, it identifies him as a soldier in the 18th Missouri Volunteers and a member of an American Civil War re-enactment group.

Rod's military service as a chef and lecturer ended as a warrant officer in 1983 and for the next 12 years he taught cookery and restaurant skills at Newbury College and later the University of Slough. He is now an admin officer at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon, Hampshire.

A self-confessed history nut, Rod was tipped off about the 18th Missouri (which goes to "war" under the auspices of the Southern Skirmish Association) by a friend. He was hooked, instantly.

"It's more than a hobby to me, it has taken over my life," he told *Soldier*. His kit, a faithful copy right down to the buttons, is not cheap. With the Italian-made reproduction smooth-bore rifle he carries, Rod has invested about £600 in his new passion.

The society's 800 volunteers muster for between 12 and 15 public re-enactment and living history events a year, mostly in the summer, all over the country.

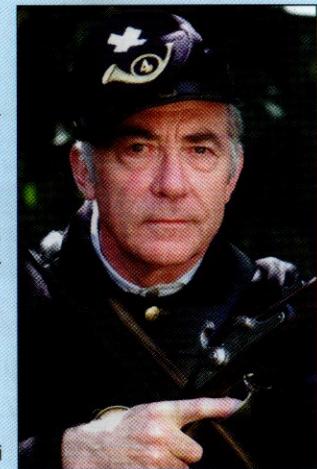
Highlight of Rod's Civil War career so far has been taking part in a major re-enactment of the Battle of Shiloh close to the actual battlefield in the USA. An amazing 15,000 volunteers turned out.

Rod, a lieutenant in the Union army, said the society is always on the lookout for men and women volunteers of any age.

Does his wife take part? "No... she thinks I'm mad."

To find out more about the volunteers, ring Rod on 01420 474782.

● Tell us about your unusual second career or occupation. Drop us a line or e-mail routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



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PART-
TIME



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We would also like to hear from mature people willing to work part-time, some evenings or at special events.

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THE PRINCE OF WALES NEEDS YOU

The Army seconds selected NCOs and young officers to act as team leaders for the nationwide Prince's Trust Volunteers personal development courses

The course enables young people to develop their confidence, motivation and skills through team work in the community. It brings together young people of different abilities and backgrounds.

The role of the team leader is to enable the team to define and reach their goals. It offers a tremendous opportunity to test and develop your leadership skills in a relatively unstructured environment with little supervision.



The four-month secondment has to be agreed by your commanding officer. You need to be an above average, commonsense individual with the ability to get on with young people.

You can reap enormous job satisfaction from helping

disadvantaged young people realise their potential. Placements may be arranged near your unit or in your home area.

** If you volunteer for secondment you will go through a careful selection process and be fully briefed and trained before leading your team.*

** If you are due to leave the Army and want to work with young people a secondment to the Trust is an excellent first step.*

If you wish to volunteer or would like to talk to the commitment over contact the Services Liaison Officer in the Trust Headquarters on **0207 543 1328**

Lethal contenders

Milan replacements weigh in for bout to decide lightweight tank-buster division

Report: John Elliott

TWO missile systems are going head-to-head to provide the British Army with a ready-made replacement for its ageing Milan anti-tank guided weapon.

After 20 years in which it won its spurs on battlefields from the Falklands to the Gulf, Milan is beginning to show its age, and the decision to replace it with an "off-the-shelf" manpackable medium-range anti-tank guided weapon (ATGW) has already been taken. Its successor will enter service in 2005.

Following the UK's withdrawal from the long-overdue MR Trigat programme, two systems – Javelin from the Raytheon-Lockheed Martin joint venture and Gill/Spike from Stevenage-based MBDA – are being assessed as options to equip light elements of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (16 Air Assault and 3 Commando Brigades), light-role infantry units and mechanised infantry.

In the red corner, **Javelin**, used by the US Army and US Marine Corps, is a lightweight system consisting of a command launch unit (CLU) that clips to a tandem warhead missile. The CLU has an integrated daylight and longwave infrared thermal image sight by which the gunner acquires his target out to a range of 2,500m.

He locks on, fires and "forgets", moving on immediately to his next target. The missile smashes into its quarry from a lofted trajectory.

Javelin's advantage is that the missile is passive and rises above normal battlefield obscuration before hitting the tank in its more vulnerable upper parts.

In the blue corner, **Gill**/

In the blue corner: The launch of a Spike missile, below, with its command launch unit, inset



Spike consists of a common CLU mounted on the missile, which rests on a tripod rather than being fired from the shoulder like Javelin.

It offers two variants of missile: the tandem warhead Gill, which has a range of 2,500m, and the virtually identical Spike, which increases the range of the system to more than 4,000m by means of a fibre-optic cable that spools from the rear of the missile.

Spike can also be fired out to 2,500m in "fire-and-forget" mode, but requires the gunner to keep it locked on target out to 4,000m. Unlike the wire-guided Milan, the fibre-optic Spike allows the gunner to view the target through the missile seeker.

As well as providing the means to maintain "lock-on", Spike permits the gunner

to visually identify a target before impact.

Year-long trials in the UK and Canada, involving the Infantry Trials and Development Unit from Warminster and soldiers from 16 Air Assault Bde and 3 Cdo Bde, will thoroughly examine the credentials of both systems before a decision is made late next year.

The contract would include a range of indoor and outdoor simulators for use at battalion level in addition to those needed for larger-scale simulated exercises.

A study into the ATGW requirement for armoured infantry could lead to a new longer-range (4 to 8km) missile that can be fired from inside the vehicle.

In the red corner: A Javelin missile, above left, locks on to a target. Its flight will take it on a lofted trajectory before it dives steeply into the more vulnerable upper levels of a tank. Above right: the Javelin command launch unit



British respond to red alert on suicides

RUSSIA'S Armed Forces are to accept advice from a small British Army team in an effort to reduce appalling rates of suicide among that country's Servicemen and women, writes Ray Routledge.

Later this year Maj Philip Schofield, RGJ, is to lead a small group to Russia following a cry for help from the Russian Military Christian Union to the British Officers' Christian Association. The hope is that British experience can help tackle the growing number of suicides among conscripts in the Russian army and navy.

Maj Schofield, who speaks Russian and has spent six years in eastern Europe, is based at the Adjutant General's headquarters at Upavon, Wilts, where he

Russians ask Army team to help tackle crisis

assesses the impact of European legislation on the operational effectiveness of the British Army. He will advise the Russians on counter-measures against bullying and harassment, two fundamental causes of suicide in the country.

The trip follows a visit to the UK earlier this year by former Russian Army officer Mrs Ludmilla Blitchenko, who spent several days at Upavon and at Faslane in Scotland, where she met families of Royal Navy submariners who were supporting the dependants of sailors lost on the submarine *Kursk*. She also gained an insight

into how the British Army deals with bullying, accidents and suicides.

"In the Soviet Union, military service was considered a prestigious occupation," said Maj Schofield. "There was no problem filling the ranks with conscripts."

But with the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, the military became a poor option. Morale plummeted and many career officers had to take part-time jobs because their pay was months late. For conscripts it was far worse.

"For the past several years, suicides have been on the increase and there have

been instances of repeated beatings, torture and even murder," said Maj Schofield. "The number of Russian Service personnel involved is unclear."

• Replying to a question in Parliament in June last year, Defence Under Secretary Dr Lewis Moonie said there had been 285 recorded suicides in the British Armed Forces since 1989.

Of these, 183 were Army personnel, with nine cases in 1998, five in 1999 and one in 2000. For most age groups the rate was no higher than in the civilian population. The Services have measures in place, both within and independent of the chain of command, to help vulnerable individuals to seek help.



Russian suicide alert: Maj Philip Schofield

Picture: Steve Dock

The man who passed Maureen

Another in our occasional series about the day jobs of TA soldiers

WHEN you took your driving test what did you think of the examiner? Probably either a nice bloke or a soulless, heartless ghoul, writes Ray Routledge.

Well Graham Anderson is a driving examiner in the nice bloke category.

And if his face looks familiar, that's because he featured in the BBC fly-on-the-wall documentary, *The Driving School*. It was Graham, famously, who passed Maureen Rees, the Cardiff cleaning lady, on her 11th test in her husband's nine-year-old Lada.

So delighted was Maureen, she threw her arms around Graham in a much relieved embrace.

While Maureen went away to enjoy minor celebrity status in Cardiff (and other occasional sorties on the box), Graham got on with his everyday job.

An ex-Regular (he was in the Royal Signals for four years), he's been in the Territorial Army for 12 years and is currently with 21 Signal Regiment based in Bath. On top of his civilian job as a driving examiner, Graham is also a defence driving instructor and examiner for the Army.

"I work for the Driving Standards Agency and through the Army's Driving Licence and Testing Authority," he explained.

Graham had no prior warning of his 15 minutes of fame. He arrived for work as usual for one of the 40 or so tests he endures every week, to learn he was to have the dubious distinction of being Maureen's umpteenth examiner.

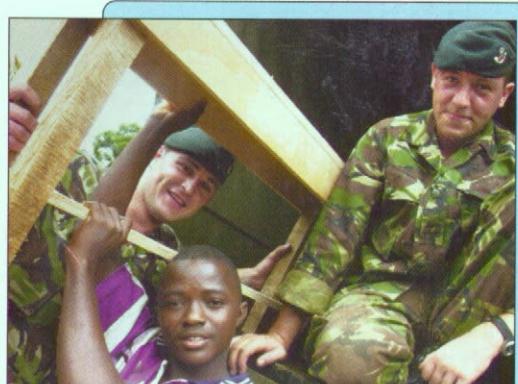
Driving tests can be as traumatic for the examiner as for the driver, he reckons. "I've had some nervous and incompetent test applicants. We are allowed to terminate a test for public or personal safety and for the safety of the vehicle."

"That goes for the military too, although it has never happened to me."

And how's this for a thought-provoking line: "Statistically more men pass than women... you can read into that what you want."

• Are you in the TA and have a day job with an interesting twist? If so we'd like to hear from you. Write to Ray Routledge *Soldier* or e-mail: routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk

LIGHT INFANTRY IN SIERRA LEONE



All MoD cons, thanks to LI pioneer team

CHAIRS, tables, benches and bookcases made by assault pioneers with the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry in Sierra Leone were handed over (see picture above) to the Educaid School near the British Joint Task Force HQ in Freetown.

Sappers in the RE detachment at Benguema training camp helped them build the hand-made furniture.

Lt Col Richard Smith, CO 1 LI, said the battalion had been delighted to help the school get back on its feet. A British-registered charity, the school has about 60 pupils desperate to resume educations shattered by the country's vicious civil war.

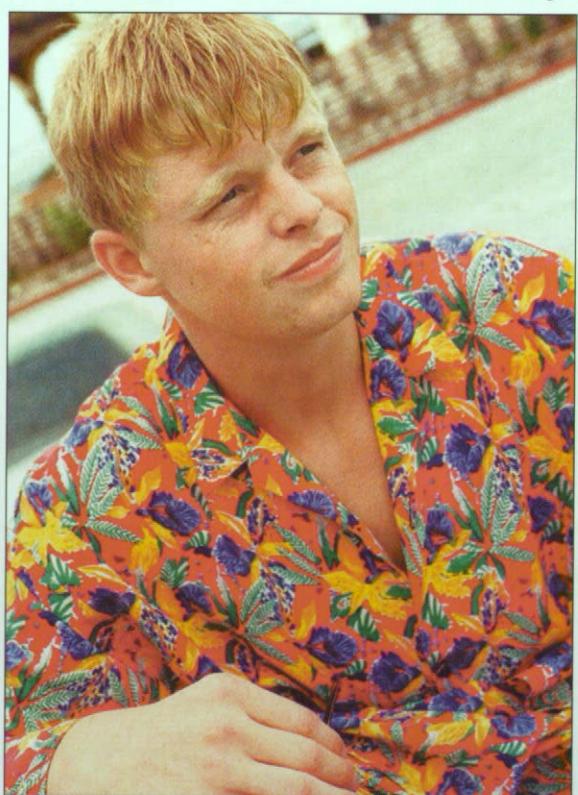
The Light Infantrymen picked up a few words of the local Creole dialect from pupils. They learned, for example, that "how-de-body?" means "how are you?". And the answer from any Sierra Leonean, as the soldiers found out, was always "fine", spoken with a big grin.

Suits you, sir

How Sweet Pete put the zing into LI wardrobe

Report:
Liam Webber

Pictures:
Mark Ballantyne



SOLDIERS from The Light Infantry are at the cutting edge of fashion... in Sierra Leone. Many of those deployed in the West African state on training duties have invested in brightly-coloured, locally-made cotton suits to slip into after work.

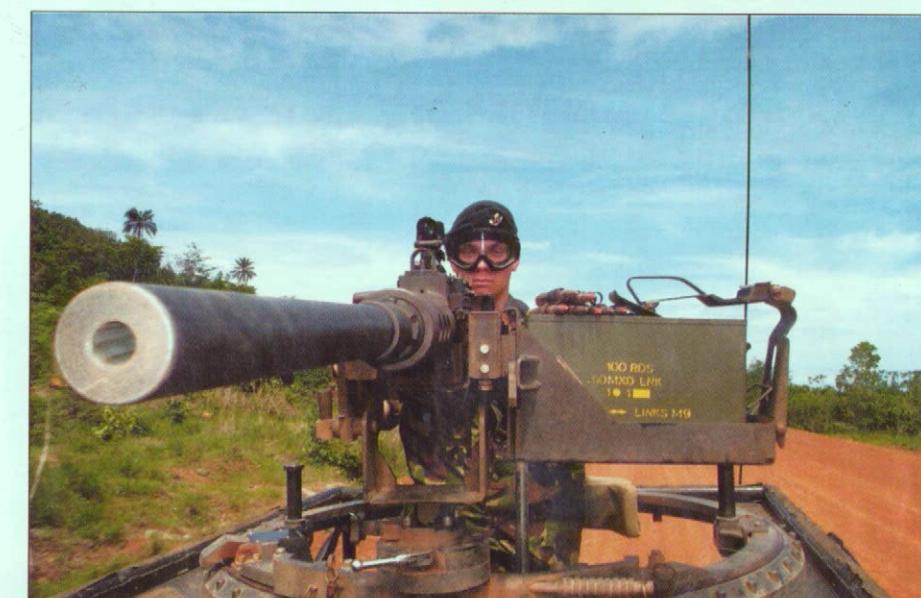
"We've got to wear long sleeves in the evenings to stop the mosquitoes biting us," explained Cpl Dave Hack. "That means either rolling down the sleeves of your uniform or putting your hand in your pocket and buying something to do the job."

Fortunately for fashion victims among soldiers training the Sierra Leone Army at Benguema, help was at hand. Sweet Pete, a souvenir-seller, identified a niche market for his *haute couture* designs and came up with some natty little numbers at a give-away 40,000 leones (worth about £15 in anyone's money).

Sweet Pete, however, is open to a bit of haggling. "I got mine for 30,000 leones," said a more-than-satisfied Cpl John Horne.

Although the suits are *de rigueur* for the fashion conscious in Sierra Leone, it remains to be seen how many would be worn when the lads returned to Edinburgh.

Looking good: Pte Dean Murrell, 1 LI, in Sweet Pete's finest



Vigilant: Pte Darren Mitchell, above, of Ops Coy, 2 LI, mans a .50-calibre machine-gun during a Land Rover security patrol in Sierra Leone. The battalion took over from 1 LI

Give us a hand, Dad



CAPT Alan Barnes, right, and son, Lee, a private in the Royal Logistic Corps, join forces to load the vehicle fleet of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry onto RFA Sir Tristram at Freetown in Sierra Leone for passage back to the UK.

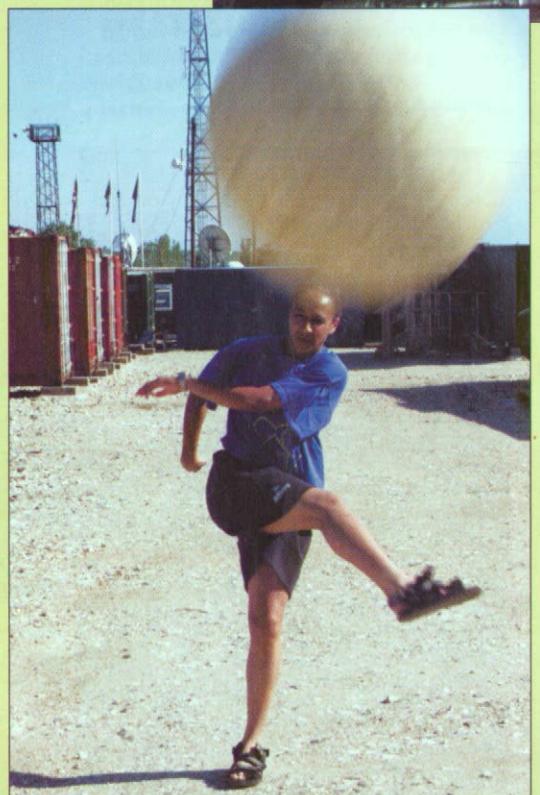
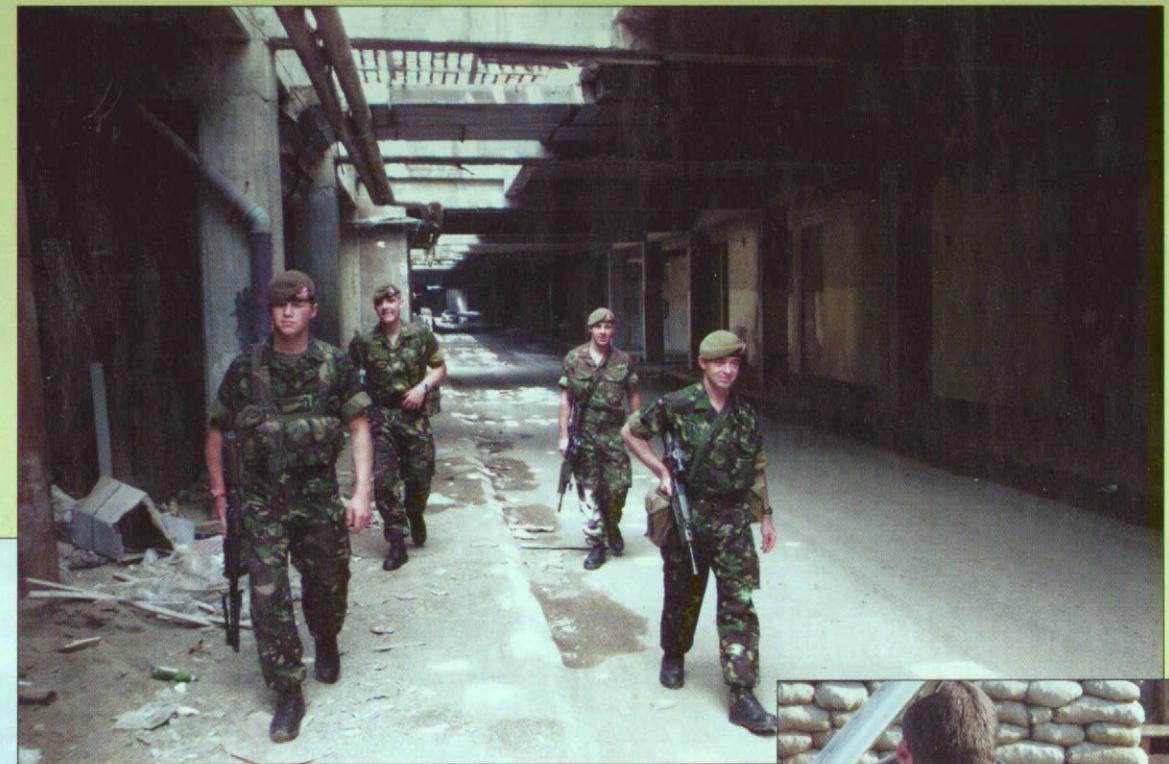
Alan is 1 LI's motor transport officer and Lee is a port operator serving with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC.

The battalion returned to Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh after a tour with the Army's Short-Term Training Team in the West African state. It was relieved by 2 LI.

Man with the old gun: WO2 (BSM) Dean Shenton (3 RHA), right, casts an eye over the thousands of firearms held at Slim Lines' Special Weapons Storage Site (SWSS). The guns, collected as part of KFOR's weapons amnesty, Operation Harvest, range from AK47s to a Second World War M43 German machine-gun



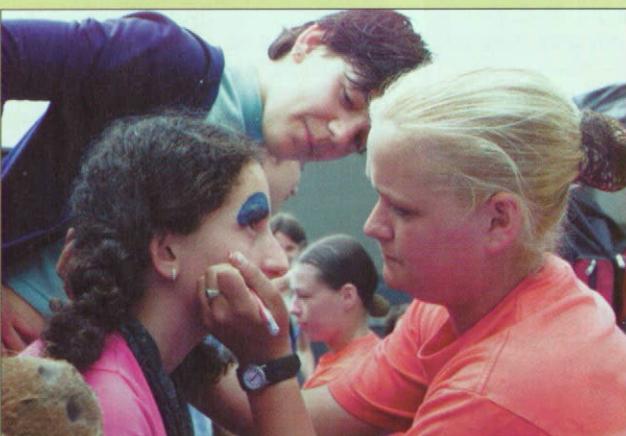
Start spreading the news: Bdr Richard Rogerson (3 RHA), above, is given a warm welcome as he chats to locals in the village of Donja Lupca, north of Podujevo, during a weapons amnesty patrol



Kosovo on camera

Pre-season training: One of the Army and Combined Services' most prolific strikers finds a quiet moment to practise her ball skills at Slim Lines, near Pristina. Former England under-16 international, LBdr Hazel Savage (3 RHA), left, finished last season as the Army's leading goalscorer – a haul that included six against the RAF in the Inter-Services championships

Gatekeeper: Tpr Trev Garley (9/12th L), right, patrols the boundary between Kosovo and Serbia at gate two, one of the main routes used by the Serb Army to enter Kosovo during the war



Child's play: Gnr Stephanie Owen, above, puts her artistic talents to the test during D Battery, 3 Royal Horse Artillery's open day at the Luzane school.

The event was attended by around 500 local children and marked the official opening of a new playground. The project was funded entirely by the gunner battery which raised more than £2,000 for the school through various charity events



Walk on the wild side: Above, left to right, Pte Danny Pritchett, Pte Jamie Burberry, Pte Michael Fossett and Cpl Gaz Walkinshaw (1 DWR) patrol an underpass in Pristina

Bridging the gap: A Challenger 2, left, manned by the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, practises manoeuvres at Waterloo Lines



Nose around: LCpl Paul Goosey (RAVC) and Henry, a sniffer-dog, above, check vehicles travelling through gate three (situated on the provincial boundary on the main route from Belgrade into Kosovo) for concealed weapons



Taking the plunge: Soldiers from D Battery, 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, take an AS90, left, on patrol through villages in the Podujevo bowl and catch the eye of the locals

Get with the programme



Reach for the stars: Volunteers and Pte Joanne Craig, top left, and LCpl Mark Wallis, front second left, in the revamped park

Soldiers seconded to the Prince's Trust are helping young people reach their potential

Report: Anthony Stone

Picture: Graeme Main

A FIVE-minute walk from Woking's bustling town centre, in the heart of Surrey's gin-and-Jag belt, is a small park. Once it was an oasis of calm, a haven for young mums with pushchairs, a place where pensioners could pass the time of day amid flowers and birdsong.

But all that changed when the children stopped playing there and the winos and druggies moved in. Quickly, the space became overgrown and litter-strewn, and was used mainly for al fresco booze-ups.

Now, through the efforts of Army team leaders and the Prince's Trust, the park has been given a make-over. In the process of binning the rubbish, painting the walls and hacking back the undergrowth, the volunteers have uncovered hidden qualities in themselves.

The Prince's Trust Volunteers programme is typical of the kind of community initiative that helps disadvantaged young people develop skills that will help them succeed in finding work, respect and fulfilment.

For the soldiers who take part in the four-month secondments, the schemes

offer scope to develop their leadership and communication skills. But over and above that, they are involved with projects that make a real difference to the lives of the young.

Servicemen and women selected as leaders are faced with a series of challenges. They have to find project volunteers through leafleting, posters, referrals and word-of-mouth.

Teams are made up of 15 people aged between 16 and 25, of different abilities, circumstances and backgrounds, both employed and jobless.

LCpl Mark Wallis, of 27 Tpt Regt RLC, team leader for the Woking project, said: "You get dramas throughout the 12 weeks, a few grey hairs and a bit stressed out. But on the final night of presentations when they get on stage in front of about 100 people, it's amazing."

Pte Joanne Craig, also of 27 Tpt Regt RLC, appreciates the hill the youngsters have to climb. "I was in a hostel before I joined the Army and there was nothing like this for me."

"If there had been I would have got on my feet sooner. I think this gives them a brilliant chance and a lot of soldiers would want to get involved."

• **Contact the Services**
Liaison Officer on 020
7543 1234 or check out
www.princes-trust.org.uk

Manage your money



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

Did it do it for you?

HOW did your budget work out (see July column)? Some of you didn't get around to it. Well, you're not alone. A recent MORI poll found most people would rather diet or wait in a doctor's surgery than budget their finances. Only a visit to the dentist and cleaning the oven were more unpleasant.

Some of you know you're spending more than you earn. And you're concerned about how to get control. Go on, do the budget. Call the HelpLine and talk to someone.

Maximise income or reduce spending

Making the most of what you earn or spending less are the two basic options available to you. Check your tax code to make sure you're not paying too much. Are you entitled to allowances and benefits? Can you (or your partner) get more work (overtime or another job)? Reducing spending means looking at your outgoings now. This can be a little challenging, but is worth the effort.

What you want and what you need

Look at wants and needs – sort out what you need and delay buying what you want until you've enough saved up.

When you shop, use a list (and don't buy anything that's not on it, however nice it looks or smells). Do some "plastic surgery": cut up the credit cards and use cash. Those of us who use cards spend at least 25 per cent more than if we used cash.

We can often negotiate a discount on major purchases if we offer cash (or debit card). Look for special offers on things you buy regularly. Often, short use-by-date items are reduced quite a lot. Use store brands rather than designer labels. Research on major items and you'll be surprised how much you can save.

Credit Action has a booklet of Money Saving Ideas – call the HelpLine for a copy.

Does it balance yet?

Go back and update your budget. Hopefully it balances now. If not, and you need someone to talk to, call the HelpLine – it's free.

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Undisputed Kings of the ring

Major Units boxing champions ready to defend their title

WALKING through the gates of Bourlon Barracks in Catterick is a bit like venturing through the doors of a boxing gymnasium, writes Andy Simms.

It is home to the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, and one of the first questions uttered to a new recruit as he arrives on camp is: "Do you box?"

The Kings' fondness of the noble art is understandable. Over the years they have dominated the sport at Army level, winning 18 Major Unit titles and produced a world champion in former Kingsman Shea Neary.

Their most recent champagne-moment came in March when they were crowned Major Unit champions after a hard-fought final against the 1st Battalion, The Irish Guards at Aldershot's Maida Gymnasium.

The 5-4 scoreline marked their first victory in the tournament for eight years and a dream climax to Sgt Jeff Buckley's and LCpl John Tedford's first season in charge of the team.

The coaching pairing are no strangers to each other or the ring, having previously spent two seasons together on the battalion's boxing team.

"The decision to become a coach was an easy one," explained Sgt Buckley. "Boxing is in your blood and when you can no longer box yourself it's a great way of staying involved with the sport."

But contrary to their immediate impact on the fortunes of the team, the duo are adamant that life in the corner is no bed of roses.

"It is hard being a coach," conceded LCpl Tedford, a former member of the Army boxing team. "As a boxer you just have to worry about yourself. As a coach you have to box nine bouts."

Buckley added: "The hardest part of last season was picking the team. Selecting your best team when you have such a wealth of talent is no mean feat."

But selection problems of a different kind could challenge the coaches next season, as the Kings become the victims of their own success.

Superb individual performances during the Major Unit championships mean that a number of the team are now being considered for a place in the Army boxing squad, a prospect that threatens

Telling blow: Light middleweight Kgn Dan Harding, left, secured the Major Units title for 1 Kings with his unanimous points victory over Gdsm William Grant (1 IG)



to decimate the battalion's current winning line-up.

LCpl Tedford told *Soldier*: "Losing some of the squad to the Army boxing team just adds to the challenge of next year."

"With five reserves on the team last season we had real strength and depth so we've still got plenty of talent left."

"And luckily enough the regiment recruits from Liverpool and Manchester where there are large boxing communities," he said. "We will always have a lot of young lads coming through who have either boxed before or are willing to give it a go."

With the 2001/2002 season just around the corner, preparations for a title defence are already under way but no one in the Kings' camp is under any illusions that winning a second successive championship will be easy.

"Army boxing over the past few years

has changed dramatically," said Tedford. "It used to be all about aggression and pressure fighting but it has now developed into a more technical sport. It is becoming harder and harder to be the best."

He went on: "Everybody has always wanted to beat us because of our history and now that we are actually champions I expect it to be a lot worse. But being champions does not mean that we will be resting on our laurels. We will be training harder than ever for next season purely and simply because we want to retain that title."

And motivating the team to do exactly that will not be a problem.

"We are probably one of the only regiments in the Army where football comes second," explained Buckley. "Our boxers do not need much motivation. Being selected for the team and having the chance to represent the battalion is motivation enough."

Being champions does not mean that we will be resting on our laurels. We'll be training harder than ever

ONES TO WATCH . . .

Name: Kgn Paul Ogbanufe

Age: 21

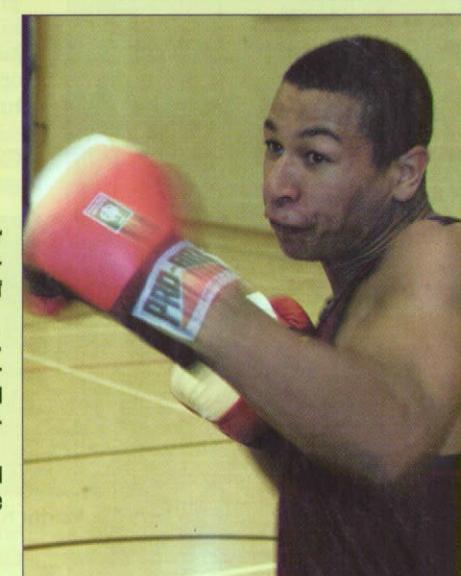
Weight: Light welterweight

Record: Won 7, Lost 1, Drawn 0

Comments: Despite losing in the Major Unit finals, Ogbanufe is currently knocking on the door of the Army boxing team.

A product of Kirkdale ABC, he harbours ambitions of winning further Army honours and an ABA title before turning professional.

With fast feet, hands and boxing brain he has all the credentials to succeed.



Name: LCpl Stu Mann

Age: 22

Weight: Lightweight

Record: Won 7, Lost 0, Drawn 0

Comments: Kings' very own natural-born thriller. Every bit a showman, Mann has both the ability and self-belief to follow in the footsteps of the regiment's most famous boxing son, Shea Neary. Remember his name . . . Soldier predicts it will one day be part of the professional fight scene.

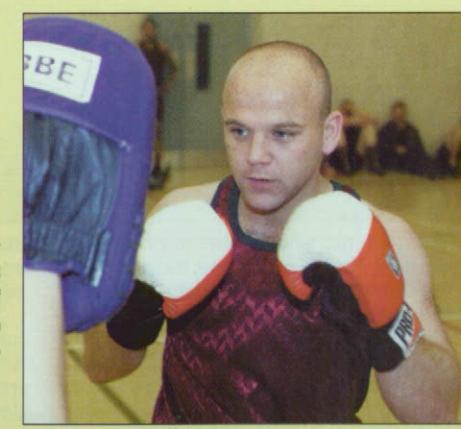
Name: LCpl Sven Baker

Age: 24

Weight: Lightweight

Record: Awaiting Kings' debut

Comments: The fact that Baker did not feature in last year's Major Units is testament to the strength of the Kings' squad. Expect him to feature heavily in the battalion's bid to defend its title.



SHORTS

Skiers' Italian job

FOUR members of the 52nd Lowland Regiment successfully negotiated the Italian high-level route – widely recognised as one of the most physically and technically demanding ski mountaineering challenges in the world.

The team, comprising Lt Col Iain Pickard (RHF), Sgt Keith Irving and Sgt Stuart McWilliam (both KOSB (V)), and OCdt Malcolm Junor (RS (V)), all completed the traverse, which included an ascent of 4,000m over five peaks and a descent of the notorious Grenz Glacier above Zermatt.

Whistle-blower rewarded

REFEREES and warrant officers have more in common than you might think.

It helps explain why WO2 (QMSD) Andy Halliday (APTC) has been accepted as a Class One referee by the Scottish Football Association, making him one of the top 150 officials in the country.

"A lot of it comes down to managing," he said. "The Army gives you the ideal opportunity because you are managing guys day-to-day, which helps to manage situations on the field of play."

The promotion means Andy, right, will be in charge in Highland league matches and be able to run the line in Scottish Division matches. He will also have the chance of refereeing or assisting in the Scottish Premier League under-18 and under-21 games. All of which brings Andy's ultimate dream a step closer. "When you get to that standard you are within touching distance of making referee at the top grade."

International debut

HOT shot Spr Natalie Reddicks (217 Field Squadron (V)) became the first TA soldier to represent the Army in international football when she took part in the Military International Women's Soccer competition in Holland. Other teams competing included Canada, Germany and Holland. The British team finished third overall.

Take your best shot . . .

THE Inter-Services and inter-corps clay target shooting championships will be held at the Shugborough shooting ground near Stafford on September 4. Contact Maj Christian Schofield, secretary of the Army Clay Target Shooting Association (ACTSA), on 94381 2373 for more details.



SHORTS

Recruitment drive

THE Territorial Army Association Football team are looking to strengthen their squad ahead of the new season.

Anyone who is eligible to represent the TA at football and wishes to be part of the 2001/2002 squad should write giving details to the Secretary, TA Sports Board Association Football, c/o G3 Trg, HQ Land Command, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0AG.

Big Jack's reeled in

FOOTBALLING legend and keen angler Jack Charlton was guest of honour at the Army fly-fishing championships at Rutland Water.

The competition was fiercely contested but the performance of the day belonged to CSgt John Hardy (3 Para), who won both the Army individual and

open titles with catches of 46lb 10.5oz and 20lb respectively.

WO2 Ronnie Christie (Hldrs), pictured left, won the cap-badge competition with a 22lb 12.5oz catch.

After a competitive day of fishing, the Army Angling Federation (Game) (AAF) presented Big Jack with a cheque worth more than £3,000 for the

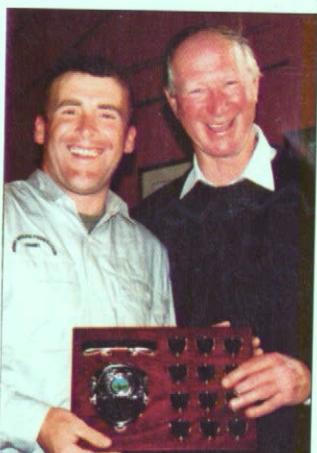
Jack Charlton Disabled Anglers Trust.

The money was raised by the AAF during the millennium four-nation challenge, which took place on four consecutive days at Lough Erne in Northern Ireland, Loch Lomond in Scotland, Llyn Brenig in Wales and Rutland Water in England.

St Dunstan's on target

A TEAM of visually impaired archers from St Dunstan's, a charity which cares for blinded or visually impaired former Servicemen, faced off against the best the forces had to offer at a special event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The shoot is a bi-annual event contested by archers from the Army, Royal Air Force and civil service.

Sighted spotters assisted the St Dunstan's archers by telling them where their arrows had landed, but hitting the target was up to the archer. "Archery is a growing sport within the charity," said David Habgood, spokesman for St Dunstan's. "It is great that they have the chance to come and play against the Services like this."



Jack Charlton Disabled Anglers Trust.

Army hit Stragglers for six

Young guns find form for championships

Army U25 XI 144-4 Stragglers of Asia 143

THE Army's under-25 cricket team warmed up for the Inter-Services championships with a six-wicket victory over the Stragglers of Asia at Aldershot.

And in debutants Gnr Phil Carlin (7 Para RHA), LCpl Martin Niven (Royal Hospital Haslar) and OCdt Nick Southern (RMCS) the Army appear to have discovered their cricketing stars of the future.

All three were pivotal in the collapse of the visitors' innings, Carlin (one for 20) claiming the all-important first wicket, and Niven and Southern returning figures of three for 24 and two for 16 respectively.

The Stragglers were unable to cope with the high-pressure Army attack and eventually succumbed in the 41st over with a total of 143 runs.

In reply, the Army opened the batting with REME duo Cfn Stew Haugh (16)



Cpl Martin Niven

**Oxford 253 and 286-6
CS 327-9 and 145-6**

SPORTING seven Army players, the Combined Services cricket team ground out a draw against an uncompromising Oxford University side in a two-day game at The Parks.

Things started badly for the Services, whose bowlers struggled to dislodge the university's opening batsmen. It was not until the 32nd over, and a stand of 75, that the breakthrough finally came. When it did it was an all-Army affair: caught Sgt

and Cpl Adie Clayton (72), who looked capable of reaching the total unaided until Haugh was caught and bowled by Stragglers' Phil Payne.

Having taken two catches as wicket-keeper, Sig Stew Houghton (264 Sig Sqn) opened his shoulder and scored a brisk 24 runs before being bowled.

It was left to the heroes-of-the-hour, Carlin (15 not out) and Niven (five not out), to rattle off the remaining runs. The Army's superior run rate became evident when they reached their total of 144 in 31 overs – ten fewer than the Stragglers.

Steve Hole (REME), bowled Cpl Ian Redfern (SG). The wicket gave the visitors renewed momentum and, despite a rearguard action by the student batsmen, which added just 63 runs from 26 overs in the last two-and-a-half hours of the innings, Oxford were bowled out for 253.

After taking the first and last wickets of the Oxford innings, Hole failed to find the same touch with the bat. Facing the spin of Tom Hicks, he lasted just five balls before being dismissed for a duck.

The Royal Navy's Lt Paul Snelling (MoD Abbey Wood) followed shortly after, leaving the Services in real trouble on 12 for two.

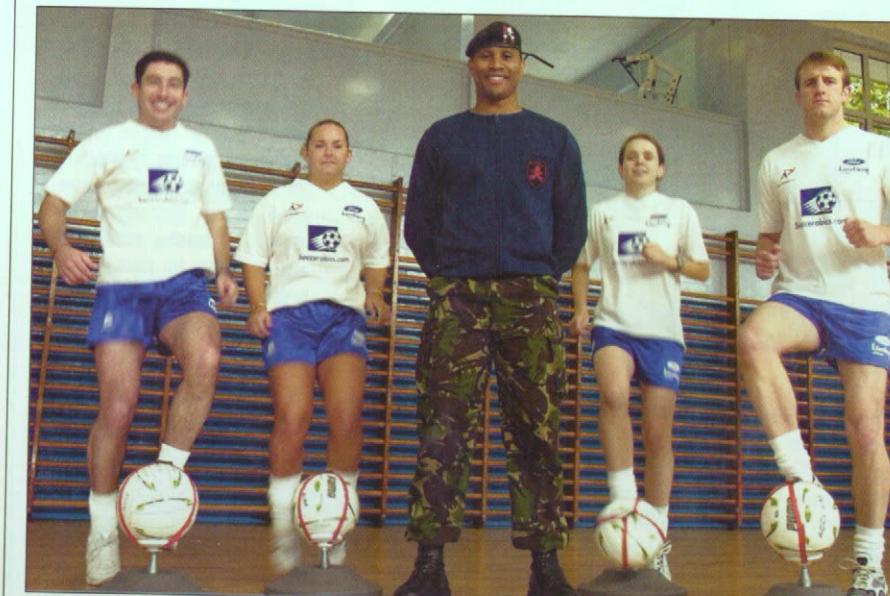
But Oxford's celebrations were cut short by night watchman Lt Tim Osman (RA) and Sgt Nick Palmer (AAC), who posted 117 and 64 respectively, allowing the Services to declare on 327 for nine with a 74-run lead.

The best batting conditions of the match welcomed Oxford back to the crease for their second innings, and they took full advantage before declaring on 286 for six.

Needing 212 for victory – at five runs an over – and facing Hicks, a regular in the Dorset Minor Counties representative side, the Combined Services could do little but bat out the remaining overs for a draw.

Picture: Graeme Main

Great escape: Sgt Nick Palmer (AAC) helps to rebuild the Combined Services' innings



Kick yourself into shape: Soccerobics, an exciting new fitness craze that looks set to take the sporting world by storm, is being piloted in Northern Ireland by its inventor, WO2 Eric Simpson (APTC).

Based at Depot Royal Irish in Ballymena, Simpson has devised a circuit training class which features key disciplines from the football field. One of the more unusual

stations on the circuit is the "kwik kik speedball", which is essentially a punch bag for the feet.

The UEFA-licensed football coach, pictured above centre, said: "It is a simple yet highly effective soccer-specific circuit training class that not only matches the demands of the game, but can form part of an overall fitness programme."

Unlucky for some

THE Army showed little in the way of hospitality when they played host to the fifth Inter-Services martial arts championships at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot – winning 13 of the trophies on offer.

In karate, the Army were fast to assert their dominance on the mats and remained unbeaten throughout the competition.

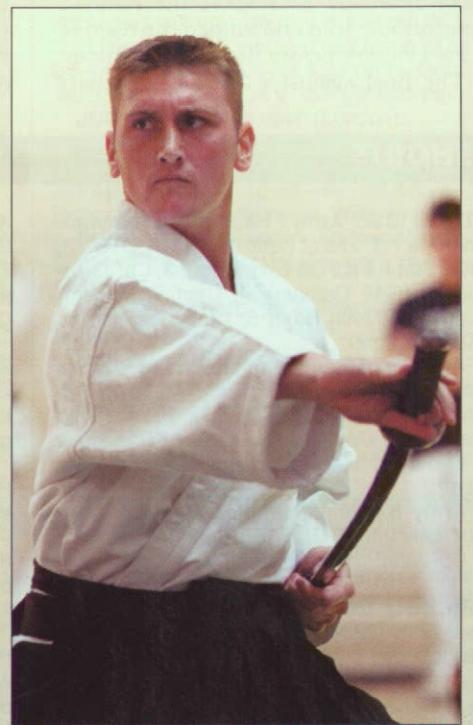
For the first time in the history of the competition there were separate events for the female competitors and, fresh from winning a title at the Army championships, Cpl Leanne Gabbitas (RLC) claimed both the individual kumite and kata titles.

In taekwondo, the honours were more evenly split between the three Services but the Army still managed to win the overall junior title and produce an individual Inter-Services champion in Sgt Lorraine Stace (RLC).

◆ **Taekwondo results:** Junior: Men's team patterns – 1, RAF; 2, Army. Men's team sparring – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN. Individual sparring – 1, Army; 2, RN; 3, RAF. **Senior:** Men's team patterns – 1, RAF; 2, Army. Men's team sparring – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN. Individual sparring – 1, RN; 2, RAF; 3, RN. Women's individual sparring – 1, RAF; 2, RN. Women's individual patterns – 1, RAF; 2, RN. Women's individual kata – 1, RAF; 2, RN. Women's individual kumite – 1, Army (Sgt Lorraine Stace (RLC)); 2, RAF.

Karate results: Junior: Men's team kata – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN. Men's team kumite – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN. Individual kumite – 1, Army (Spr Tony Martin (RE)); 2, RAF; 3, RN. **Senior:** Men's team kata – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN. Men's team kumite – 1, Army; 2, RN; 3, RAF. Individual kumite – 1, Army (Pte Graham Thomas (RRW)); 2, RN; 3, RAF. Women's individual kata – 1, Army (Cpl Leanne Gabbitas (RLC)); 2, RAF. Women's individual kumite – 1, Army (Cpl Gabbitas); 2, Army (Sig Stephanie Boggart (R Signals)).

Weapons kata: 1, Army (Cpl Tony Cashmore (RE)); 2, Army (Cpl Zippy Murdoch (RLC)).



Sharp performance: Cpl Zippy Murdoch (RLC)

Army in Safari sevens heaven

THE British Army rugby sevens squad strengthened their reputation as one of the best amateur teams in the UK by winning the 2001 Safari Sevens in Nairobi, writes Roger Thompson.

Making their debut in the competition, the Eurest-sponsored team beat an international field to win the high-profile tournament, which has become the premier focus for non-Springbok African nations, and a few European teams such as England Students, London Irish and the International Samurai.

More than 30 assorted international players from England, Wales and Ireland variously teamed up for the opposition.

And the Army's challenge was stretched further with Nairobi lying at 6,000 feet – the equivalent of the combined height of Snowdon and Ben Nevis – and a stadium temperature of 35 degrees.

The early rounds provided some opportunity for acclimatisation but in the quarter-finals the Army met the Kenyan national team, who had already drawn the eye – large, feisty, athletic and finely tuned.

Having recently beaten France 12-8 in the International Rugby Board World Sevens series in Argentina, they were not a team to be underestimated.

Fortunately, strong performances from Pte Epeli Qolikibua and Pte Bul Bulumakau (both RS) and Gdsm Alfred Vakacavau (SG) gave the Army a comfortable lead and guided the team to a 33-5 victory before the oxygen ran out.

The final against a Bristol University

select team, which included two England players, four members of the England sevens squad and a Scotland sevens cap, was tough and saw the Army surrender a 17-0 lead for 26 points apiece.

But after a much-needed reveille, forward Gnr Andy Dawling (7 Para RHA) ground tiring international reputations into the Kenyan dust while Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (RS) tantalised left, teased right and ran joyfully up the middle to feed Qolikibua for a long arcing run under the posts.

The Army finished on a high note, Bulumakau and Naisaramaki running in three glorious tries to generous applause from the chanting 8,000 crowd and turning the scoreboard to 45-26 in the Army's favour. Two players deserve particular recognition for their unselfish and valuable support, Pte Saula Roka (RGBW) and Pte Matthew Raikosa (RS) – both emerging talents.

Team captain Capt Howard Graham (AGC) lifted the handsome Tusker Trophy and Naisaramaki was presented with the player-of-the-tournament trophy and rewarded with a kiss from Miss Kenya. Somewhat surprisingly she refused to swap shirts in front of the television cameras.

England want to play the British Army but the English clubs are keeping their heads below the parapet. The foray to the Welsh Sevens this month will provide a valuable benchmark as to where the team actually stands. Don't be surprised if there's a degree of gloom in the valleys.



Stampede: Supported by Gnr Andy Dawling (7 Para RHA), Pte Saula Roka (RGBW) charges through the opposition in Nairobi Picture: Roger Thompson

SHORTS

ATHLETICS: Army Heptathlon championships – 1, 2nd Lt Katie Taylor (CUOTC); 2, WO2 Steph Paul (32 Engr Regt); 3, Cpl Tanya Jacobs (RAF Odham); 4, Capt Vicki Hemmings (12 Mech Bde); 5, Capt Ross Hayes (ATR Pirbright).

Army decathlon championships – 1, Sgt Neil Rutherford (3 (CS) Regt, RLC); 2, Sgt Chris Oakes (CTSAC); 3, Pte Gerald Manville (2 PWRR); 4, LCpl Andy Chaddock (1 Cheshire); 5, Capt Jonathan Scott (35 Engr Regt).

Army 10,000m championships – 1, SSgt Rod Leach (APTC); 2, Sgt John Porter (RA); 3, Cpl John Aspel (1 Para).

CRICKET: MCC Young Cricketers (268-3) beat Army (223-4) by 45 runs; RMAS (179-7) lost to Army U25 XI (180-8) by two wickets; Army (194-5) lost to Stock Exchange (199-5) by five wickets; Club Cricket Conference (203-7) beat Combined Services (199-9) by three wickets; Earl of Arundel's XI (225) beat Combined Services (139) by 86 runs; Sussex 2nd

XI (134) lost to Army (135-1) by nine wickets; Cambridge University (109 and 123) lost to Combined Services (401-5 dec) by an innings and 169 runs; British Police (257-6) beat Army (257-8) by two wickets.

KARATE: Results from the 2001 Super Games (New Zealand), women's black belt: Kumite – LCpl Leanne Gabbitts (RLC) won gold; Kata – LCpl Gabbitts won gold.

Men's junior grade: Kata – Lt Col Dave Hopwood (AGC (ETS)) won silver, WO2 Trevor Wallis (RLC) won bronze; Kumite (lightweight) – WO2 Wallis won gold, Spr Jamie De Paul (RE) won silver, Sgt Andy Howarth (RA) won bronze; Kumite (heavyweight) – Sgt Paul Webster (R Signals) won gold.

Men's black belt: Kata – Cpl Craig Hadley (REME) won gold, Cpl Tony Cashmore (RE) won silver, Cpl Mark Hayden (R Signals) won bronze; Kata (veterans) – Maj Rob Howells (AGC (ETS)) won silver; Kumite (veterans) – Maj Howells won silver, Lt Col Hopwood won bronze; Kumite (lightweight) – Pte Graham

Thomas won gold; Kumite (middleweight) – Cpl Hadley won gold, Cpl Cashmore won silver; Kumite (heavyweight) – Sgt Dave Ginger (AGC (SPS)) won silver.

Men's open weight – Sgt Webster won gold, Cpl Hayden won silver.

Team kata – British Army A team (Sgt Ginger, Cpl Cashmore and Cpl Hadley) won gold; British Army B team (WO2 Wallis, Sgt Howarth and Spr De Paul) won silver.

RUGBY UNION: Army Foundation College Harrogate (AFCH) tour to Cape Town, South Africa – Charleston Hill Secondary School 62, AFCH 10; Trafalgar High School 7, AFCH 17; Lanag Township 10, AFCH 10.

SAILING: Royal Signals competition, novice championships – 1, SSgt Ted Whichelo; 2, Sig James Bain; 3, Sig Richard Clayton.

Dinghy championships – 1, WO1 Taff Owens and Pte Willy Williams; 2, Cpl Windy Gales and Sig Katy Allen; 3, Sig Russ Mowatt and Maj Les Plumb.

SHOOTING: Inter-Services pistol championships – 1, Army (1,354); 2, RN (1,334); 3, RAF (1,316); 4, TA (1,282).

Individual and team service pistol championships – LCpl Willy Kennedy (R Irish) won gold; Lt Col Richard Hoole (R Signals) won silver; CSgt Nigel Hodgson (QLR) won bronze.

Army team champions – 3 R Irish A.

SWIMMING: Inter-unit championships, Major Units – 1, RMAS; 2, SEAE; 3, 21 Sig Regt. Minor Units – 1, ATR Bassingbourn; 2, 280 (UK) Sig Sqn; 3, HQ 4 Div; 4, 6 RMP.

Women's championships – 1, RMAS; 2, 21 Sig Regt; 3, 5 Regt RA.

Single event relay competition, 4 x 100 freestyle (men's open) – 1, SEAE; 2, RMAS.

4 x 50 breaststroke (men) – 1, 16 Sig Regt; 2, SEAE; 3, RMAS.

4 x 50 freestyle relay (women) – 1, 5 Regt RA; 2, 4 GS Regt RLC; 3, RMAS.

4 x 50 butterfly (men) – 1, RMAS; 2, 16 Sig Regt.

4 x 50 freestyle (men's Minor Units) – 1, MDHU; 2, 22 Fd Hosp.

4 x 50 backstroke (men) – 1, RMAS; SEAE (dis-

qualified). **4 x 50 Medley (women)** – 1, RMAS; 2, 5 Regt RA; 3, 4 GS Regt. **6 x 50 freestyle (men)** – 1, RMAS; 2, 16 Sig Regt; 3, 5 Regt RA. **4 x 50 breaststroke (men's Minor Units)** – 1, MDHU; 2, 22 Fd Hosp (disqualified). **4 x 50 medley (men)** – 1, 3 RSME; 2, RMAS; 3, SEAE.

4 x 50 breaststroke (men) – 1, 5 Regt RA; 2, 4 GS Regt; 3, 22 Fd Hosp.

TUG OF WAR: Jack Smith Memorial match: 620 kilos – 1 RHA beat 17 Port & Maritime Regt.

580 kilos – 40 Regt RA beat 17 Port & Maritime Regt.

520 kilos (women) – 25 Training Support Regt beat 11 Signal Regt.

620 kilos (women) – 17 Port & Maritime Regt beat 1 RHA.

WATER POLO: Army championships – 15 Sig Regt 2, SEAE 11; 16 Sig Regt 4, AFC Harrogate 5; 15 Sig Regt 12, AFC Harrogate 5.

Final – SEAE 26, 16 Sig Regt 2.

SHORTS

Chieftains rule the rink

THE Mighty Chieftains established themselves as the leading ice hockey team at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) by winning a clean sweep of trophies.

Made up of soldiers from 105 (BATUS) Sqn RLC and Vehicle Tp, the team won both the British Forces Broadcasting Services ice hockey tournament and the 2000/2001 BATUS inter-league title.

The Chieftains were helped on the way to their second successive league title by Cpl George Best and WO1 Tom Hankey, who forged a lethal partnership upfront, netting 25 goals for the eventual champions.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to August . . .

CRICKET: 1-4 – Inter-Services championships (US Portsmouth); 12 – Sir Paul Getty's XI v Combined Services (Wormsley); 20 – MCC v Combined Services (Scarborough).

CYCLING: 11 – National TT series; 13 – BCF regional finals (Lancashire); 17-21 – Five-day stage road race (Surrey); 25 – National TT series (Worcester).

GLIDING: 11-19 – Standard class nationals; 20 – Inter-Services championships (RAF Bicester).

GOLF: 1 – Army Golf Association (AGA) strokeplay championships (Little Aston GC); 2 – Little Aston GC v AGA (Little Aston GC); 21 – Army ladies v Lloyds TSB (Army GC, Aldershot); 22 – CSGA v R&A (St Andrews).

JUDO: 5 – London open (London).

LAWN TENNIS: 22 – British Police v Army (Imber Court).

PARACHUTING: 18-24 – Armed forces championships (Netheravon, Wiltshire).

POLO: 11-12 – Captains and subalterns (Tidworth); 17-19 – Major General's Trophy (TBC).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 29 – Army v Police (Aldershot).

SAILING: 4-10 – Cowes Week (Cowes); 11-18 – Fastnet and delivery to Gosport (Cowes); 24-25 – RORC St Peter Port (Cowes).

SEA FISHING: 1 – Inter-group challenge match (Inverness).

TARGET SHOOTING: 4-5 – Army v Wales (Bisley); 11-18 – NSRA SB rifle national championships (Bisley); 16 – Army v Scotland (Bisley); 17-19 – NSRA target pistol national championships (Bisley).

TRIATHLON: 4 – BTA national club relay championships (Nottingham); 12 – Inter-Services championships (Salford); 25 – Scottish national championships (Gullane).

VOLLEYBALL: 11-12 – Telford tournament; 25-27 – Poole tournament.

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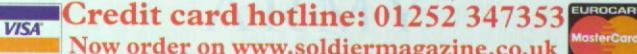
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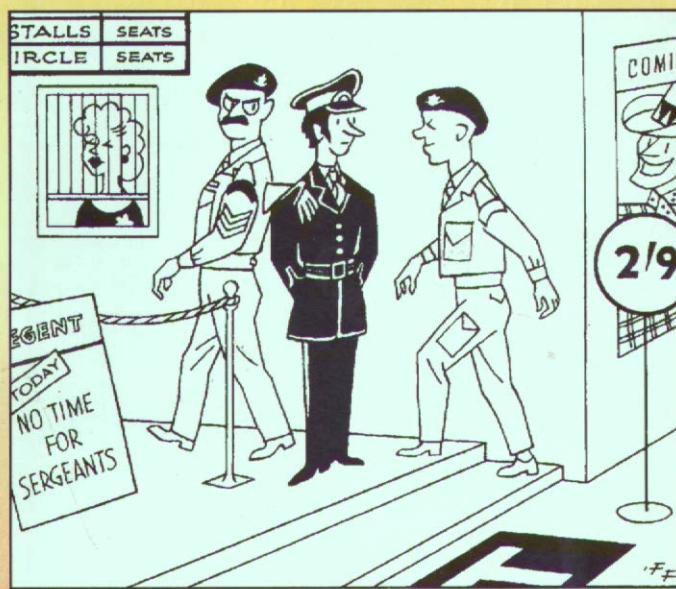
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June issue (No 715): First correct entry drawn was from SSgt C Magin, SLB(G) RMP, BFPO 40, who wins £100. Runners-up Miss S C T Padgett, HQ REME TA, Louisburg Barracks, Bordon, and Miss Vivienne Bly, Medical Branch, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: rubber ring markings; swimming trunks; yacht mast and bow; dinghy pennant; sunshade; hat; book cover; radio; ripples in water.



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Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in July 1954. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by August 31.

FUNNIEST caption, in our opinion, for the June image (inset right) was "Hello, RSM... I've located another young lieutenant trying to escape your morning drill parade, Sir" from Sgt D Hamilton KOSB, 11 PI Sgt, C Coy, 1Bn ITC Catterick.



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Louise, 31-year-old, 5'7", slim, lively redhead with hazel eyes. Enjoys classical literature and music, eating out with good company, photography, drawing, swimming, walking and using weights. Son and daughter ages four and two. Seeking intelligent, cheerful and non-judgmental pen pals, 31-50. P926

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Joanne, 29-year-old, 5'2" brown eyes and short dark hair. Enjoys pubbing, clubbing, eating out, cinema and watching videos. Single mum of two lovely children and would like someone to write to, to occupy her spare time. Seeking pen pals, 18-35. P928

Julie, 40-year-old nurse, slim, brunette with green eyes. Enjoys gym, pubs, cinema and having a laugh. Seeking pen pals 38+ with a good sense of humour. P929

PEN PAL REPLIES:

To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to address below:

Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

* The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies.

* Replies should consist only of letter and photograph if requested.

* Replies received more than three months after the cover date, large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

Website: www.soldiermagazine.co.uk
Email: hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Kirsty, 30-year-old, 5'6", blonde (so the bottle says). Single with no children, just two cats. Enjoys horse riding, socialising, having fun, reading and walking on the beach. Seeking genuine pen pals with same GSOH and interests, 30-40. P930

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NOTICES

CHY - 1161C
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REFERENCE: 216021

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

TA Centre, "Springfield Lyons"
Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 5TA

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.

Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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LOST RING. Ring found in London (belonging to Aldershot-based soldier). If you think it's yours or know whose it is call 01252 347352. 08/01

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SPORTS

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2 June 2001
1st (692 runs, £4,900): Cpl VL Bell, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, Colchester
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5th (372 runs, £1,100): Lt K Moore, 7 Armd Bde Signal Sqn, Hohne
6th (368 runs, £800): Sgt CS McSherry, Cdo Log Regt RM, Chivenor
7th (367 runs, £600): WO2 N Evans, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester
8th (366 runs, £400): Cpl SA Close, 31 Cadet Trg Team, Brecon
9th (365 runs, £200): Capt AJ Clarke, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill
10th (363 runs, £100): Capt GC Lumb, 1 IG, Münster

23 June 2001
1st (622 runs, £4,900): Sgt GW McBain, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh
2nd (620 runs, £2,500): SSgt RW Thoresen, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippenham
3rd (609 runs, £1,900): Pte RI Wynd, 1 KORBR, Episkopi
4th (600 runs, £1,500): Sgt JAD Emerson, Army School of Catering, Aldershot
5th (588 runs, £1,100): Maj SJL Glover, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot
6th (577 runs, £800): Cpl B Fouracre, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon
7th (575 runs, £600): Cpl KR Swinbourne, 24 Regt RLC, Bielefeld
8th (567 runs, £400): Pte JM Harris, 8 R IRISH, Armagh
9th (558 runs, £200): Capt CEO Allerton, HCR, Windsor
10th= (556 runs, £50): Cpl AD Dawes, 3 Fd Wksp REME, Tidworth
10th= (556 runs, £50): Sig CR Richardson, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford

PRIZE MONEY UP AGAIN!</



REUNIONS

30 Battery (Rogers's Coy) RA: Ex-members invited to reunion weekend, Sept 15-16, in Woolwich. Accommodation available. Contact WO2 (BSM) Tony Howdon 020 8781 3831 or SSgt Michael Mudd 020 8781 3887.

18 (Quebec 1759) Battery RA: Reunion and Quebec Day celebrations for ex and serving members, 15/16 Sept, Larkhill. Details SSgt Cowan 01980 845757 (work), 01980 596559 (home) or garysonja@ntlworld.com

Royal Regiment of Fusiliers: Warwickshire gathering, Sept 22-23. Details from RRF regimental area secretaries in London, Northumberland, Warwickshire and Lancashire, or Capt J R Davis at RHQ 020 7488 5606.

Royal Hampshire Regiment (4, 1/4, 2/4, 4 (post-Second World War) and 4/5 Bns): Reunion lunch, Sept 29, Newburgh House, Winchester. Contact Maj Ian Taylor, 4 Cedar Wood Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 7LN (023 80694771).

Band of Parachute Regiment: 2001 reunion at Colchester, Oct 6. Phone 01206 782402, visit website www.paraband.org.uk or e-mail reunion@paraband.org.uk

B Battery RHA/1 RHA Sahagun Day 2001: Nov 30 - Dec 1. Ex-members encouraged to attend. Details from WO2 (BSM) M Toy, B Bty RHA/1 RHA, Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, Hants, SP9 7AB (01989 602802).

1 Bn, Royal Irish Rangers 1968-92: Advance notice of first reunion, May 31, 2002, Depot R Irish. Ex-members welcome. Details: WO2 (RQMS) O'Brien on 9491 32229 or LCpl C (Wilfie) Brown, Small Arms Wing, Depot R Irish, St Patrick's Barracks, BFPO 808.

30 Signal Regiment (South Atlantic 82): Reunion, June 15, 2002, Blandford Camp for anyone with 30 Sig Regt in 1982. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Mick Nevill or Alf Thomas, RAO, 11 Sig Regt, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH (01258 482202 or 485651 or e-mail them at nipper@mnevill.freeserve.co.uk or garnet_thomas@hotmail.com

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: T D Gregg to be Brig Land Training Studies, Jun 4; J C L King to be Defence and Mil Attaché British Embassy Seoul, June 4; J P Riley to be A Comdt (Land) JSCSC, Jun 4; A D A Duncan to be Dir of Infantry, Jun 26;

Colonels: N T Campbell to be Dep Comdr 39 Inf Bde & Sig Sqn, Jun 15; C M B Coats to be Comdr BMATT CEE (Vyskov), Jun 4; P A Fox to be Dir DDEC (Tactical Command Battle Management), Jun 11; D G Hayes to be Dir Defence Crisis Management Cell (Dir Joint Warfare), Jun 4; C M James to be Dep Dir Clinical Services DDA, Jun 4; J R Lemon to be Defence Advisor Abuja, Jun 4.

D W Lewthwaite to be Ass Dir NBC, Jun 11; M M Lillingston-Price to be Chief Crisis Planning J5/J9 RHQ South, Jun 18; D G Lyon to be Comdt HQ RSA & Larkhill Garrison, Jun 18; W H Moore to be ACOS(Ops) Op Silkman, Jun 21; C J Nicholls to be Col (W) SAO CDA Farnborough, Jun 11; T P Finnegan to be DACOS Med HQ Land, Jun 25; I R Liles to be ACOS(Ops) HQ BFC, Jun 30; A R M Wilson

SEARCHLINE

Camp Rinnleiret, Norway 1976: Following officers hosted by Norwegian Army unit Nordenfeldske Dragonregiment. **Maj J Graham**, (13 Bn RA), **Maj P Earl** (C Sqn LG), **Maj R Jackson** (Trg Staff) and **Mike Stepto** (Camp Administrator). Contact Marion Simonini at **Soldier** (01252 347360) or e-mail to msimon@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Former **London Regiment (Post Office Rifles)** personnel sought for oral history sound archive project by British Library and Stamps and Collectables (part of the Post Office, now Consignia). Replies to Julian Stray, Heritage Assistant, Group Centre, Secretary's Office, Heritage Services, Consignia, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, or tel 0207 239 2570, or julian.stray@consignia.com

Information on **John Joseph Davies RAOC** (att 49 West Riding Div) 1941-46, NW Europe 1944-46, possibly a driver, sought by John Davies (jnr), 120 College Road, Southwater, Horsham, W Sussex RH13 7DE (01403 731390) or e-mail jdavies@schaffner.com

Simon (S T Rex) Ellis seeks **Cpl Mick (Tabs) Taberner REME**, married to Becky, Münster 1998/99. Also **Cpls Rob and Karen Millar**, both RLC chefs, Münster 1988/89. Tel 0191 3744593 or e-mail s.c.ellis@durham.ac.uk

UNIFORM APPEAL

SURREY ACF Corps of Drums, who parade in mixed dress due to a lack of uniform, are appealing to any band, corps or organisation for donations of surplus scarlets. If you are able to help, contact Maj Alan Mulder, Corps of Drums Detachment, Surrey ACF, Queens House, Hallam Road, Farncombe, GU7 3HW, telephone 07798 870087 or e-mail him at alan.e.a.mulder@lineone.net

The cadet drummers are about to cross the Channel to demonstrate their prowess in Boulogne. A recent concert performance following a re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo at Farnham, Surrey, earned them a standing ovation. The drums are in demand for football matches, parades and charity functions.

to be Comdr Construction Engineer School, Jun 28; J F Rowan to be Comdr AMS TA, Jun 1.

Lieutenant Colonels: J D Ball RLC to DLO, Oct 22; A P Barnard RA to HQ Land, Aug 2; S C Bate RA to HQ Land, Nov 12; T A Beckett QRH to UNAMSIL, Sep 20; D N Broadfoot, Hldrs, to SP Pol, May 21; P R Burns AGC(SPS) to Nato Def Coll, Aug 22; N G Burrell, R Irish, to HQ SFOR, Oct 15; M N Clayton WFR to SP Pol, May 31; J A Collett RA to HQ Land, Sep 3; G J Complin, R Signals, to PJHQ(UK), Jun 18; S R Cooper RLC to Exch Offr Australia, Dec 10; J E M Crowe SG to RCB, Nov 19; W P Crowley, R Signals, to BLO USA, Oct 15; E E Cunningham AGC(SPS) to BMATT SL, Oct 8; D J Cusack LD to HQ Land, Jul 30.

G H J Deacon QDG to DJW, Sep 7; H W R Egan RRW to HQ Inf, Dec 10; M Griffiths, R Signals, to HQ DCSA, Jul 30; R G R Hall RE to HQ 1(UK) Armd Div, Aug 20; M J Hallas, Int Corps, to JSCSC, Nov 5; D G Halstead, R Signals, to JDCC, Sep 3; D A Hill PWO to CFC Toronto, Jul 15; P M Holme, R Anglian, to HQ

Rachel Yvonne Clarke - JHQ. Helena and children would love to re-establish contact. Please e-mail helenaclarke@totalise.co.uk

Paul Castle seeks **Malcolm (Badger) Walters, REME**, Fallingbostel and **Darren (Penfold) Page**, Marchwood. Phone 01270 257879 or mob 07812 451534.

Ex-pupils website for **Havel School, Berlin** at www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/exthehavelschoolberlin

Surprise party planned for May 2002 for **Mick Orzel** (Thorney Island 1985, 26 Fd Regt RA, Gütersloh, 1986-92). Old mates asked to contact Hazel Orzel at webbsarmy@aol.com

Outward Bound 60th anniversary: Have you ever been involved with Outward Bound in any capacity? If so, send your name, address, telephone number and e-mail details to Kate Jones, Outward Bound Trust, Watermillock, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0JL or e-mail her at katejones@outwardbound-uk.org

AWTC Guildford (June 22-Aug 27 1992): Trainees and staff of **Intake 571** interested in possible ten-year reunion are asked to contact Gnr Cullwick, QM(M) Dept, 5 Regt RA, Marne Barracks, Catterick DL10 7NP.

Prince Rupert School Wilhemshaven 1947-72: Association and reunions, former pupils and staff ask to contact Pat Underhill at EUUnder4510@aol.com for information pack.

Wolfenbüttel Primary School: Ex-pupils and staff to contact David Gatenby (1975-78) for possible reunion. Replies to Edwards Street, Eston, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS6 9EZ or david.gatenby@btinternet.com

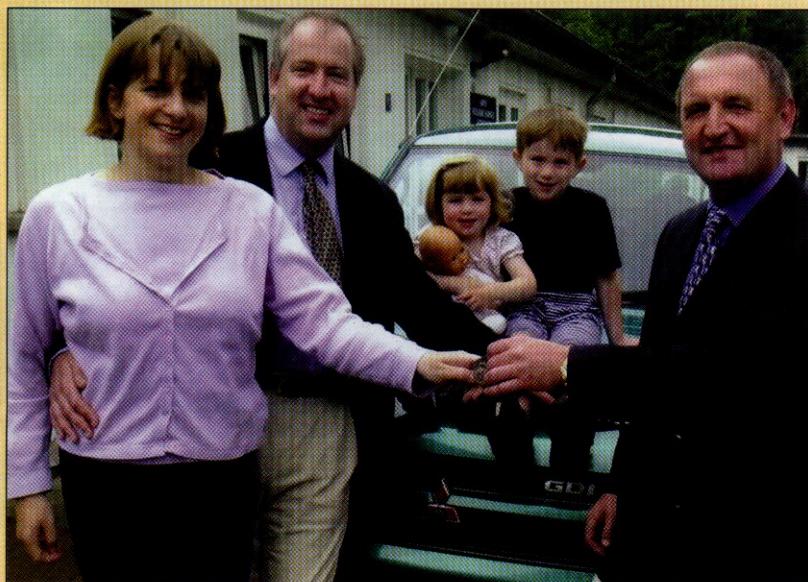
Annalise Kerr seeking old classmates from John Buchan School, Sennelager and Kings School, Gütersloh 1988-1991. Reply to e-mail annalisekerr@hotmail.com

Vanessa Kent (now Parr) wants to hear from old friend **Denise Perry (Cyprus 1985)**. Reply to vasparr@aol.com

TSC(G), Feb 25, 2002; G A C Hughes RGR to HQ AMF(L), Jul 24; R A Jefferies QLR to EU Mil Staff, Jun 18; D A Kelly RLC to BLO Germany, Dec 1; G B Kershaw RLC to HQ UKSC(G), Sep 17; G A Kilburn DWR to IMS Brussels, Sep 13; C P H Knaggs IG to DASD, Jul 16; G J Martin PWRR to DPM All, Jul 2; B T Ogilvy-Wedderburn BW to HQ Inf, Jan 14 2002; G R Orpen-Smellie, Para, to HQ Inf, Jul 23; J D F Quinn QARANC to APC, Jul 3.

P S Reehal RLC to DLO, Aug 6; I A Riddin RGR to DASD, Jul 11; B D Robertson RRF to HQ LISA, Aug 1; A J Rock, R Signals, to HQ SOINC(A), Mar 26; J R C Saville REME to HQ Land, May 8; T A Sharp AAC to Nato Def Coll, Aug 15; A R D Sharpe, Cheshire, to JDCC Aug 27; A C Stevenson AGC(SPS) to DPS(A), Oct 1; M R C Thurlow PWO to DCIS(A), Jun 10; I P Tunnicliffe, Int Corps, to HQ Land, May 8; A M Wallace, R Signals, to HQSOINC(A), Feb 1; A C Whitmore RHF to PM All(S), Jul 2; C J Whittaker, R Signals, to AD Info, Jun 18; A P Williams RGBW to JSCSC, Nov 5; I R Woodbridge 9/12 L to SHAPE, Jul 23.

JHQ no-show is still the ticket



Key moment: Mrs Emma Hayes, left, receives the keys to a Mitsubishi Pinin, first prize in JHQ International Show 2001's prize draw, from Maurice Smith of Mitsubishi. Husband Steve, an educational psychologist working with Service Children's Education, and their children, enjoy the moment.

Organisers, who went ahead with the draw even though the show was cancelled because of the UK's foot-and-mouth crisis, were delighted to

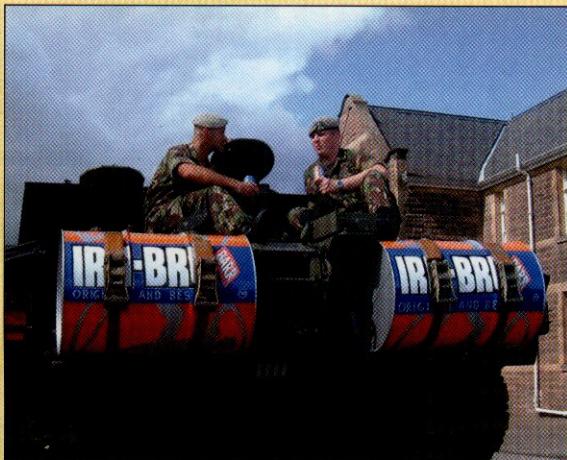
raise DM20,000 (about £6,360) for the International Peace Village, a charity at Oberhausen dedicated to helping child victims of war and poverty.

Second prize of a four-poster bed from Star House Furnishings went to Mrs Wildhurst-Smith; Cpl B Griffiths (110 Pro Coy RMP, Sennelager) won a P&O-donated ferry crossing; while LCpl Baggaley (RASU, Rheindahlen) received the fourth prize of a weekend in Berlin, courtesy of BEST Travel.

Something's bru-ing on the back of their Challenger

Taste of Scotland: SSgt Colin Henderson, left, and LCpl Andy Veitch, both of The Scots Dragoon Guards, nailed their colours to the mast by painting two 50-gallon reserve drums on their Challenger 2 tank to look like Irn-Bru cans.

The soft drinks company is supporting the regiment's recruiting campaign and sending 1,000 cans to the Scots DG in Kosovo.



Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's

Association 020 8590 1124

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Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841617

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association (0900-1700) 01482 833812; 24-hour helpline 01482 808730

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011

RBL's Legionline 0845 7725 725

RBL Industries 01622 717202/718484

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

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA

Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272

War Pensions Agency 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

WRVS 01235 442940

Wild Mustang



Healing hands: Expedition medic Cpl Sherkaji Gurung checks the health of a local woman during a three-week trip to the Kingdom of Mustang in north-west Nepal. Six soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, led by Maj Rick Beven, RGR, and accompanied by Lt Col Peter Hollins, CO 3 Para, set out to confirm rumours that some ex-British Army Gurkhas lived in the mountainous, desert kingdom north of the Himalayas.

As the arid and barren region is barely self-sufficient, the soldiers used eight mules to haul their food with them. Each evening the team camped near a village and Cpl Sherkaji set up a clinic for local people.

A highlight of the trip was an invitation to the palace in Lo Manthang to meet the Raja of Mustang, Jigme Palbar Bista, to whom the expedition's last bottle of Scotch was presented.

Maj Beven's team discovered that only one villager from Mustang has ever joined the British Brigade of Gurkhas. Cpl Haribahadur Gurung, from Chhuksang, enlisted in 1975 and served for 15 years in the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. Although he now works for the Sultan of Brunei, the expedition tracked down and met his wife in Pokhara, the regional capital.

The four Gurkha members of the team stayed on to visit their families at the end of the expedition.



DATES

AUGUST

- 3-25: Edinburgh Tattoo.
- 8: Summer concert, Kneller Hall (tickets: 020 8898 5533 ext 8682).
- 25-27: Overlord Historic Military Vehicle Show, Horndean, Hants.
- 24-27: International Festival of the Sea, Portsmouth.

SEPTEMBER

- 8-9: Duxford 2001 Air Show.
- 9: Winchester and District Militaria Society annual exhibition and fair, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500.

OCTOBER

- 2: Horse of the Year Show Inter-Services tournament. **See discount offer below.**

- 14: Duxford Autumn Air Show.
- 26: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance, Margate.

NOVEMBER

- 2: Suez lecture by Maj M W Walsh, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).
- 10: Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.
- 11: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

Wembley whopper

• **SOLDIER** readers can take advantage of a whopping 30 per cent saving on adult and concession tickets for the new and spectacular Inter-Services tournament on October 2 during the **Horse of the Year Show** at Wembley Arena.

That means £17.50 instead of £25 for an adult reserved seat and £12.25 (usually £17.50) for unreserved seats. And the booking fee is reduced by 95p to £1. Ring 020 8900 9282 (weekdays 0930-1730) and quote **reference code SM**.



Go on, my son: It was a rare but welcome reunion for the Rogers family when they met up at ATR Winchester, where proud father, **WO1 (ASM) Roy Rogers**, second left, congratulates son **Marc** at his passing out parade. Four members of the family are in the Army at different bases around the world.

The Rogers military machine is, from left to right, **Spr Gareth, RE**, who has just returned from South Georgia; dad **WO1 (ASM) Roy, REME**, back from Cyprus; **Pte Marc, LI**; and **Rfn Steve, RGJ**, back from Kosovo.

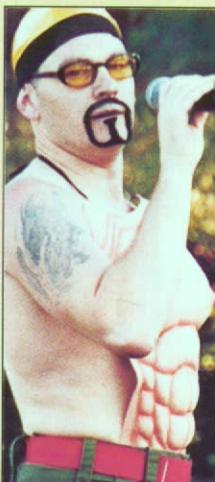
And the winner is:
WO1 (ASM) Pete Jones, left, hit on the idea of a mega raffle to raise money for **Combat Stress** and also earn a place in the **London Marathon**.

Pete, formerly of 12 Regt RA in Sennelager, and now with 28 Engr Regt Wksp REME in Gun-dolph Park, Hameln, toured Naafi shops to raise DM13,000.

Lt Col Andrew Mills, right, drew the winning tickets.



Moore the merrier, it seems



EXERCISE Moore Stress, a team-building exercise run at Sir John Moore Barracks by **ATR Winchester** for the Southampton and Fareham Chamber of Commerce, has been a resounding success – raising nearly £5,000 for the NSPCC.

Teams took part in tests designed to establish their physical, mental communication and team skills and were encouraged by a convincing **Ali G**, also known as **Cpl Dave Baker, RGJ**, left.

The exercise helps the regiment forge links with the local community and open its facilities to a wider audience.

Scottish RBL backs Suez vets

MORE backing for the campaign by Suez veterans for official recognition has come from the Royal British Legion's Scotland conference. Delegates called on the Government to award them the General Service Medal 1918-1962, with a clasp "to recognise the operational, hazardous and dangerous service in Egypt and the Canal Zone between 1951 and 1954".

About 330 fatalities, at least 60 as a result of terrorist action, were sustained by British troops, many of them National Servicemen.

Lowlanders beat retreat

THE 52nd Lowland Regiment conducted their annual beating retreat in the grounds of Houston House, where more than 150 guests, including six Lord Lieutenants and seven Provosts, watched the event. The ceremony featured the Band of the 52nd Lowland Brigade (Territorial Army) and the combined Pipes and Drums of The 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The 52nd Lowland Regiment.

An outing for war and peace

WAR and Conflict in 20th Century Ireland, a travelling exhibition, has gone on display at the Ulster Museum, Belfast after an extensive tour of Northern Ireland and the Republic. Jane Leonard, the curator, said: "The human cost of the conflict is the main theme of the exhibition, which focuses on everyday experiences and memories of the two world wars; the decade of revolution, partition and civil war, 1912-23; and the Troubles since 1969."

Off to Siberia with you ...

THE culmination of a ground-breaking joint exercise between the Royal Logistic Corps and the Russian Army in Scotland, which we reported in April, is now taking place in Siberia, 100km north-east of Yakusk.

The aim of Exercise Siberian Challenge is to climb unconquered peaks as well as undertake mapping and glacial studies in this relatively unexplored part of the world.

The expedition involves 27 RLC personnel and 40 Russians. To find out how they are getting on you can log on to the expedition website at www.wildrussia.spb.ru/sibchallenge.html

In honour of bravery

A FORMER Para is campaigning for men and women who have won the Victoria Cross or George Cross to be honoured by having plaques bearing their names unveiled in their home towns.

Michael Lyons, campaign organiser, said: "The idea is to show people that we of the Armed Forces and ex-Service personnel are prepared to do our duty with honour and respect in full remembrance, with the hope that by example our country will unite with us."

He can be reached at 46 Chertsey Crescent, New Addington, Croydon, Surrey CR0 0DA.

Tony's Gloster welcome

FIVE young men from the West Country were handed the regimental back badge of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment after taking their oaths of allegiance during enlistment at the Gloucester Museum.

The new recruits were welcomed by **Tony Eagles**, centre, who served as a drummer with the **Glosters** from 1945 to 1954. He

was captured by the Chinese at the Battle of the Imjin during the Korean War and was held as a PoW until August 1953.

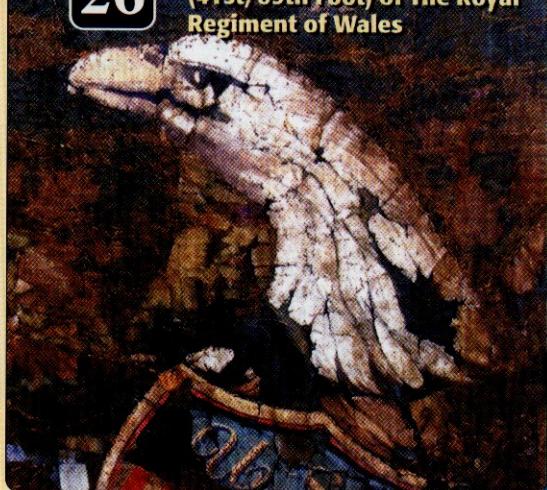
The new soldiers, from left, **Lee Thompson, Michael Jones, Ryan Bell, Marcus Edwards** and **Steven Lewis**, are now training at ATR Lichfield. On the right is **Maj Nigel Walker, RGBW**.



Legends of the regiments and corps

26

The Welch Regiment Museum (41st/69th Foot) of The Royal Regiment of Wales



Bald eagle: The captured colours

Brave tales of Indians

JUST about the last thing you expect to find inside the Welch Regiment Museum in Cardiff Castle are the captured colours of an American infantry unit.

But the real surprise is how they were taken in the first place and the part played by the great native American Indian chief Tecumseh.

In 1812 Tecumseh, reputedly the only American Indian ever to become a brigadier general in the British Army, helped the 41st Foot to a crucial victory at Fort Detroit.

Tecumseh, known as Crouching Panther, played a pivotal role in the American war of 1812-14. If that has whetted your appetite you can find out a lot more by visiting the museum itself.

WALES'S INFANTRY

The museum commemorates the services of the indigenous infantry of South Wales, namely The Welch Regiment (1719-1969) and also the services of The Royal Regiment of Wales from its formation in 1969.

In addition, the museum records the history of the services of the Glamorgan Militia and the auxiliary land forces of South Wales (1757-1969), which includes yeomanry, cavalry, infantry and rifle volunteers.

The museum, located in Cardiff Castle, is open from March to Oct 1000-1800 and Nov to Feb 1000-1630. An admission fee of £2.60 (adults) and £2 (for senior citizens and children) is levied for entry into the Castle grounds. There is no charge for admission to the museum.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor

Sharp reminder from medics

YOU can follow the experiences of 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance in Kenya on Exercise Sharp Point 1999 through a three-part documentary series starting on the Discovery Health Channel on August 17.

It was shot on location by a former Army military policeman (see story below). A video version will also be available.



Army Medics, produced by Amity Film and Video Productions Ltd, follows 19 Airmobile Field Ambulance through torrential rain, oppressive heat and primitive conditions as they minister to the tribespeople in remote areas of Kenya.

The medics treated 11,247 people over a period of four weeks. Some of their patients walked for hundreds of miles to attend one of the dozens of health clinics set up deep

in the bush. For the vast majority it was the first medical attention they had ever received.

The footage includes interviews and fly-on-the-wall coverage.

The 72-minute video of Army Medics, which normally sells for £14.99 + p&p, will be available on special offer only through Soldier at £12 + p&p, and for every video sold through the magazine, Amity will donate £1 to the Army Benevolent Fund.

To order your copy, ring 08701 202164 for credit card or debit card payments, or send cheques or postal orders (payable to Amity) to PO Box 621, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1YY, indicating the number of copies you require and your address for delivery. To make sure of getting your discount quote SM1.

Add £1.50 p&p (£2.50 overseas) for single video orders or £2.50 (£3.50 overseas) for orders of two or more videos. Allow 10-14 days for delivery.

● Visit the RAMC page at www.discoveryhealth.co.uk

Focusing on bright future

WHEN Paul Martin left the Army as a corporal after nine years with the RMP, he had no clear idea what he wanted to do next. So he got a job as a dispatch rider doing pick-ups for TV news crews in and around Reading.

Paul, pictured, had harboured an ambition to be a photographer but was put off because supply far outstrips demand and snappers get paid peanuts.

Watching TV crews covering news stories re-ignited Paul's ambition so he bought himself a camera. For five months he knocked on doors and got nowhere. But dogged persistence and a refusal to give up paid off. Paul got his big break when he was asked to help cover an election for his local BBC television station.

Four years later he is a successful freelance, earning up to a £1,000 a day and working for BBC, Sky and CNN. He covers news



and sport, locally, nationally and internationally and his assignments have taken him from Croatia to Beirut.

He drives a Land Rover Defender adapted to carry his hi-tech equipment. The cost of the kit is a serious minus, which obviously puts people off taking the plunge into the turbulent waters of TV news.

Paul's "have camera, will travel" attitude means he is always up for it. "If someone calls me up at 0400 and asks me to cover something, I'll do it.

"The best thing is I go to work smiling. I could never work for an employer again. If I don't want to work, I don't have to. And I don't hate Monday mornings because that is the one day I take off."

You can see Paul's camerawork on a forthcoming Discovery programme about Army medics helping tribesmen in northern Kenya on Exercise Sharp Point (full story above).

Wedding vows: A former officer in Skinner's Horse, the famous Indian Army cavalry regiment, has married . . . at the age of 91.

Lt Col Charles Gray wed Helene Wilson, 82, at a ceremony at the Royal Memorial Chapel at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The service was conducted by Padre Stephen Robbins, pictured, centre, with the happy couple.

Lt Col Gray was commissioned into the regiment in 1930. It had been formed in 1803 by James Skinner and later became the 1st Duke of York's Own Bengal Lancers (Skinner's Horse). Its soldiers wore distinctive yellow coats and served at the siege and capture of Bhurtpore, in Afghanistan, during the



Mutiny and on the North West Frontier during the First World War.

After leaving the Army Lt Col Gray went on to become the director of the National Stud.

Picture: Steve Dock

Dream on . . .



THE BIGGER PICTURE . . .

HITACHI'S portable LCD projector is A4-sized and weighs in at just 2.35kg.

It can project images up to 7.62m in size but even in smaller rooms it can project a 1.5m picture from a distance of just 1.5m.

Other features include low acoustic noise; a built-in internal speaker; illuminated buttons; contrast of 450-1; and a remote control.

① Around £2,200.



Switched on . . .



IN THE MIX . . .

DESIGNED for aspiring DJs, the Homemix DJ Kit includes two CD decks, headphones and speakers.

Although the basic principles of mixing and scratching are involved, you don't physically touch the CD as you would vinyl records, making it easier for wannabe Fat Boy Slims to hone their skills.

① £199.95, from gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).



FIX AND FLY . . .

MADE from polyhedral, the PowerZ radio-controlled aircraft has a unique wing design that ensures a stable flight pattern.

Easy to assemble, the PowerZ is fitted with a pusher prop and safety switch, which protects both the prop and you from damage. The aircraft is powered by an incredibly light (220g) battery-pack, which is stored in the cockpit and can be recharged again and again.

① £99.95, from gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).

BIG BROTHER . . .

WITHOUT the hassle of running wires, this radio-controlled camera can be placed almost anywhere.

And with four channels, the Spy Cam can receive colour images from as many locations simultaneously. Battery operated, the camera's images can be viewed on most televisions.

① £399.95, from gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).

Game on . . .

STARTOPIA, PC

IF maintaining peace on earth has become something of a drag, then perhaps it is time that you turned your attentions a little further afield . . . to a galaxy far, far away.

Eidos Interactive's real-time space strategy game *Startopia* plunges gamers into a once thriving galactic network of starships, space stations and planets that have been left ravaged by an apocalyptic war.

As master of this universe, players must reunite the surviving alien races under one banner, maintain a series of giant space stations scattered across the galaxy, and generate a tidy profit in the process.

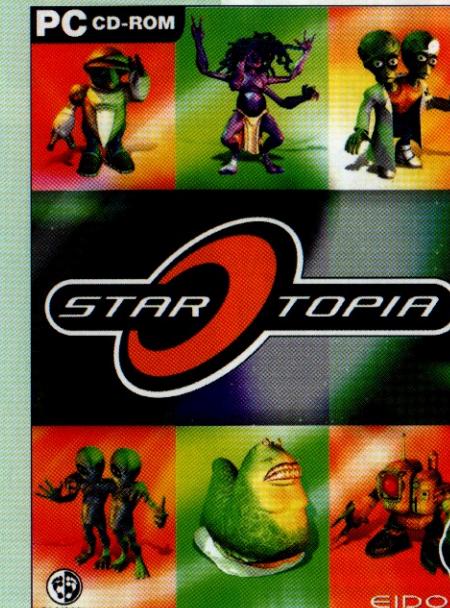
However, in space things are seldom as easy as they sound. The game's nine alien races can be a quarrelsome bunch and there are plenty of other enterprising individuals out there with the same goals as you.

Each alien race has a unique look and function, and each inhabitant is an individual character with its own moods, desires and personal history. Keeping everyone happy in this fully-functioning alien society – which boasts its share of racial animosity – is no mean feat.

How you rule is entirely up to you. You can choose to pander to the demands of the haughty, aristocratic Polvakian Gem Slugs or try to enlist as many of the loving yet potentially lethal Dahanese Sirens as possible.

And faced with the ever-present threat of hostile neighbours, gamers are charged with the command of their own security forces, which can be used to prompt an inter-galactic war or as peacekeepers.

Highly-trained spies, saboteurs and assassins can also be used to hinder the progress of your opponents.



OUT NOW

VERDICT: It's 2001 and Eidos Interactive is set to rocket up the gaming charts with its very own space odyssey, *Startopia*. Sophisticated strategy, addictive gameplay, detailed graphics and lashings of humour combine to make *Startopia* a star buy. 8/10

Cosmic competition

SOLDIER has joined forces with Eidos Interactive to offer readers an out-of-this-world giveaway.

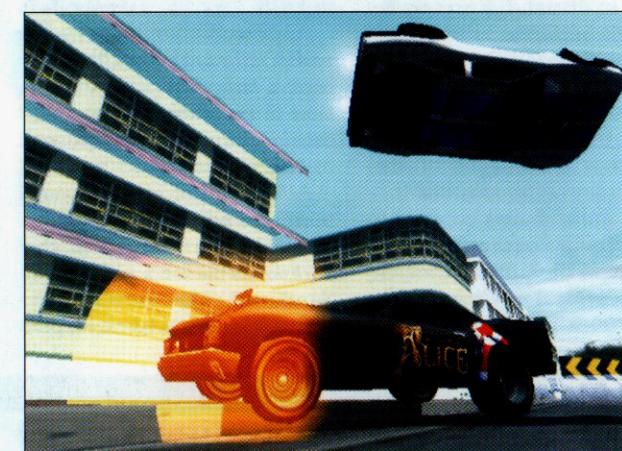
For your chance to win one of five copies of *Startopia*, along with a *Startopia* mouse-mat, simply answer the following question:

Who is the star of Eidos Interactive's acclaimed *Tomb Raider* series?

- a) Cara Loft
- b) Lara Croft
- c) Tara Croft

Send your answers on a postcard to Eidos

Interactive competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by September 1. Usual rules apply.



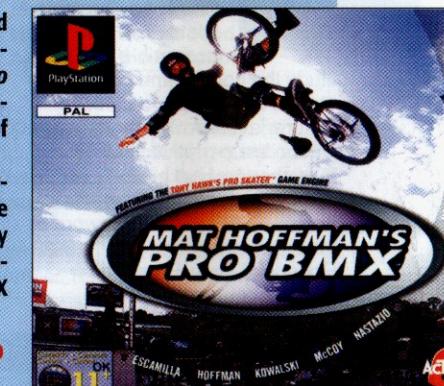
MAT HOFFMAN'S PRO BMX, PSX

OUT NOW

BASED on the signature moves and stunts of ten-times BMX world champion Mat Hoffman, *Mat Hoffman's Pro BMX* allows players to perform hundreds of tricks and stunts on an array of authentic vert, street and dirt courses.

Using a similar engine to the hugely-successful *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater*, the game features multiple modes of play including single-player career, head-to-head two-player games, and a BMX course editor.

VERDICT: A wheely good game.



6/10

RUMBLE RACING, PS2

OUT NOW

ELECTRONIC Arts' *Rumble Racing* gives gamers the chance to push custom race-cars to the limit . . . and beyond.

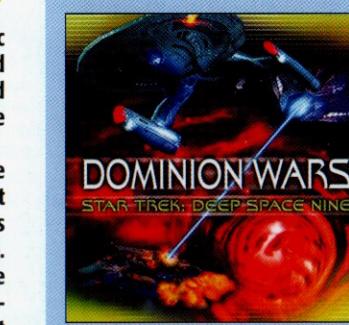
In terms of speed, *Rumble Racing* comes second to none. The game tears along at 60 frames per second, regardless of how many cars are on the screen, creating a sensation of speed that leaves even the likes of *Wipeout* and *Ridge Racer* in its dust.

However, there is far more to this arcade racer than driving at

break-neck speeds. Anarchic racing enables players to find hidden shortcuts, jumps and risk/reward paths that can make all the difference in a tight race.

And the game's 15 arenas are littered with power-ups that ensure that races are not always decided on driving skill alone. Boasting four different game modes – single race, championship, showdown and stunt challenge – *Rumble Racing* is a clear winner.

VERDICT: First on the grid.



VERDICT: In-depth gameplay ensures *Dominion Wars* will appeal to more than just Trekkies.

8/10

STAR TREK: DOMINION WARS, PC

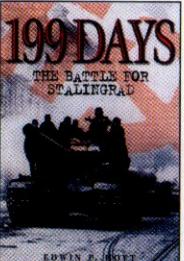
OUT NOW

PAN Interactive's *Dominion Wars* is an explosive real-time strategy game based on the television series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

The game immerses players into the Dominion Wars, which pit Federation, Klingon, Cardassian and Jem'Hadar forces against each other in a battle for control of the Alpha Quadrant. Set over 20 challenging missions, gamers can take tactical, strategic and navigational command of any of the four battling races. And with unprecedented access to all facets of space combat, players decide who will ultimately live or die.

Perceptive account of Stalingrad battle

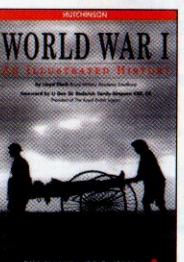
A COUPLE of years ago an Afghan war veteran returned unscathed to his native Stalingrad after five years and was visiting Mamayev Kurgan, hilltop site of a bloody Second World War battle, when he stepped on a 1942 vintage German anti-infantry mine – and was killed. The poignant and symbolic story is told by



Russian diplomat Vladimir Belyakov in his introduction to **199 Days: The Battle for Stalingrad** by Edwin P Hoyt (Robson Books, paperback, £9.99) which he praises as an honest and perceptive evocation of a grim period in his country's history.

Triumph and tragedy in the front line

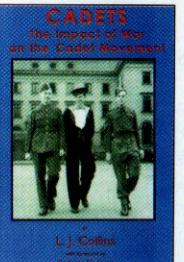
MORE than 100 rare pictures of British, Russian and German troops are among the 250 official and private photos, specially



commissioned maps and feature boxes, original posters, newspaper pages, documents and other graphics which all help to make **World War I: An Illustrated History** an accessible way to study the conflict and good value at £25. Lloyd Clark, a senior lecturer at RMA Sandhurst, has written the narrative. It is published by Hutchinson in association with the Royal British Legion and there is a foreword by the RBL's president, Lt Gen Sir Roderick Cordy-Simpson.

Charting the rise of cadets' young guns

CADET forces have played an important role in the military and social fabric of the United Kingdom. Now, for the first time, a comprehensive study examines how these organisations have responded in times of national crisis. Dr Larry J Collins's **Cadets, The Impact of War on the Cadet Movement** (Jade, £14.95) demonstrates how the movement is more than just another uniformed youth organisation. The history of the movement is inextricably bound up with conflict.



the Panzers were involved. First published in Britain in 1955. (Tempus, £25.)

History in the making

Picture: Mike Weston

Dr David Chandler, noted military historian and leading authority on Napoleon, believes Old Boney was assassinated by the French

Interview: Anthony Stone

MILITARY historian David Chandler, a familiar face to generations of cadets at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, has chronicled hundreds of wars.

But for the past seven years this prodigiously productive writer has been fighting his own rearguard action against the effects of a stroke.

It happened soon after he retired as Head of War Studies after more than 33 years at Sandhurst. "I was speaking on the phone to a colleague in Germany when I realised I couldn't understand a word he was saying," he recalled at his north Hampshire home.

Dr Chandler's mobility was unaffected, but the stroke left him with dysphasia – a difficulty with speaking, understanding, reading and writing. His encyclopedic knowledge of military history remains intact.

"Frustration is in the background, but I have a sense of

humour and I do not burst too often," he said. When he does, his wife Gill is there, patiently helping him articulate his thoughts while not stifling his independence.

It is impossible to spend any time with David Chandler and not pick up on his enthusiasm. Sitting in his den, surrounded by model soldiers, flags, armour, helmets, pictures and militaria, he talks animatedly about the latest theories on Napoleon's death, aged 52, on May 5, 1821.

Considered the foremost living authority on Bonaparte, the historian's opinions are much in demand. Recently he gave his backing to the theory that the deposed emperor was assassinated by his countrymen and he believes history books should be re-written to include a final chapter on the conspiracy behind his death.

For more than a century it had been accepted that Napoleon died from stomach cancer. But Dr Chandler is now "99.9 per cent certain"



that he was poisoned by his compatriots on St Helena, the South Atlantic island to which he was exiled following defeat in 1815.

After reading military history at Oxford, David Chandler took a short-service commission in the Royal Army Education Corps and was posted to Nigeria.

At the end of his four years there, his father, a clergyman, saw an advertisement in the *Yorkshire Post* for a position at Sandhurst. The rest is history.

In a distinguished career, Dr

Den of antiquities: Dr David Chandler pictured in his study at home

Chandler has published 26 books, including an atlas and a dictionary as well as the more traditional studies.

His authoritative *The Campaigns of Napoleon* has never been out of print since it was first published in 1967 and has even been translated into Russian.

His honours include a Doctorate of Letters from Oxford for his books and lecturing, while a letter from Charles de Gaulle thanking him for his

interest in Napoleon is among his proudest possessions.

Surprisingly perhaps, Dr Chandler confesses candidly that he prefers Marlborough to Napoleon, but acknowledges that switching from one to the other keeps both subjects from becoming stale.

A lifetime of reflection on the man responsible for the deaths of perhaps five million people has led Dr Chandler to the conclusion that Boney was a "great, bad man".

Canine courage takes the biscuit

LIKE many of England's first fighting dogs, Airedale Jack came from the Battersea Dogs Home in London. His remarkable story is just one of the stirring tales to be found in Blythe Hamer's **Dogs at War: True Stories of Canine Courage Under Fire** (Carlton, £12.99).

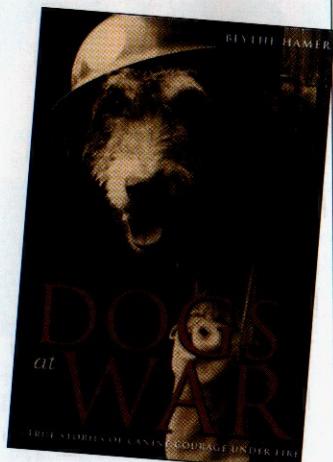
At the British War Dog School Jack was taught to be a messenger and a sentry and, in 1918, he was sent to France, where the Sherwood Foresters took him to an advance post at the front.

As the battle raged the Germans succeeded in cutting off every line of communications with HQ, four miles away.

Unless reinforcements were secured the battalion would be wiped out. It was impossible for any man to get through the barrage of gunfire. There was only one chance – Airedale Jack.

Lt Hunter slipped a message into the pouch attached to the dog's collar. "Goodbye Jack... Go back, boy," said Hunter.

Jack slipped quietly away toward headquarters, staying close to the ground and taking advantage of what little



cover there was, as he had been trained to do.

But the bombardment was too heavy and he started to get hit. Sharpnel smashed his jaw and a missile ripped open his black-and-tan coat from shoulder to thigh. The battalion watched him stagger on.

Then his forepaw was hit, but still he struggled on, dragging himself on the ground. He persevered until he got to HQ, where he fell dead. He had saved the battalion.

SOLDIER has a copy of **Dogs at War** to give away. To have a chance of winning, answer the following question:

Which army used "kamikaze" dogs to destroy invading Germans' tanks during the Second World War?

The winner will be drawn at random from correct post-cards received by September 1. Usual rules apply.

IN BRIEF

Auchinleck: the Lonely Soldier by Philip Warner. Biography of one of Britain's finest, if controversial, Second World War generals, originally published in 1981, the year he died. (Cassell, paperback, £14.99.)

The Armed Forces of the United Kingdom 2001-2002 by Charles Heyman. Update your military knowledge with this informative and indispensable pocket guide. (Leo Cooper, paperback, £5.95.)

Panzer Battles by Maj Gen F W von Mellenthin. Authoritative first-hand accounts of all the Second World War campaigns in which

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

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the Panzers were involved. First published in Britain in 1955. (Tempus, £25.)

The Illustrated Directory of 20th Century Guns by David Miller. Former British Army officer takes you through more than 420 firearms and variants used in every conflict since 1900, with 500 photographs in 480 pages. (Salamander, paperback, £7.99.)

Into the Storm: A Study in Command by Tom Clancy with Gen Fred Franks Jr (Ret). The bestselling author gives chapter and verse on what is described as "the greatest American military triumph since World War II" – the Gulf War. (Pan, paperback, £7.99.)

A Military Atlas of the First

World War by Arthur Banks, commentary by Alan Palmer. The 1914-18 conflict shown through maps, diagrams and illustrations, published in paperback for the first time. (Leo Cooper, £14.95.)

Bloody Aachen by Charles Whiting. The third in the popular author's Siegfried Line series describes the US First Army's six-week siege of the German city. The victory was pyrrhic, however, because the costly Battle of the Bulge started within two months just 20 miles away. (Spellmount, £16.99.)

On Big Flowery Hill: A soldier's journal of a secret mission into occupied China, 1942 by John Hay. The author, now a highly

successful businessman, joined the French Foreign Legion when he was 19 and kept a diary, first published in 1978 and now being made into a film. (Pan, paperback, £6.99.)

Barbarossa: Hitler's Invasion of Russia 1941 by David M. Glantz. Exploiting Soviet archive material, the author reveals how the Red Army thwarted Hitler's dramatic, seemingly inexorable invasion. (Tempus, paperback, £16.99.)

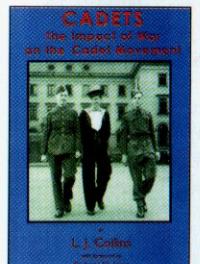
Legionnaire by Simon Murray. The author, now a highly

photographs of a commando operation. One man's authentic and eloquent story of war. (Two Rivers Press, paperback, £15.)

The Eastern Front in Photographs 1941-1945: From Barbarossa to Stalingrad and Berlin, by Prof John and Ljubica Erickson. The drama of total war is captured with poignancy in 350 images covering every phase of the campaigns to the fall of Berlin. (Carlton, £25.)

The Falklands War 1982 by Martin Middlebrook. First published in 1985 as *Operation Corporate*, a revised edition has been included in the collectable Penguin Classic Military History paperback series at £5.99. Others in the series include **Wellington as Military Commander** by Michael Glover (£4.99), **Decision in Normandy: The Unwritten Story of Montgomery and the Allied Campaign** by Carlo D'Este (£5.99) and **Henry V as Warlord** by Desmond Seward (£4.99).

Khaki is More Than Just a Colour by Harold F Perkins. Engagingly written memoir of a Cheshire Regiment soldier who saw active service in Palestine in 1936 and later in the Western Desert and Sicily. (Pentland Press, paperback, £11.50.)



the Panzers were involved. First published in Britain in 1955. (Tempus, £25.)



A four-man HALO patrol exit a C-130 Hercules transporter at 25,000ft. The HALO (High Altitude, Low-Opening) technique allows the covert infiltration of troopers and mission specialists equipped with automatic weapons, Bergen packs and task-specific equipment

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SOLDIER
to soldier

**Stirring up
a storm
in the sun**

LIKE many other publications, *Soldier* is read in high places. But it's not every month that a feature appearing in these pages results in a couple of dozen questions being asked in Parliament.

When a team from this magazine was invited to visit the Bermuda Regiment to cover two exercises, our genial hosts laid on a typically warm welcome – and not all of it of the sun, sea and sand variety. We saw the unit at work, day and night, and they took pains to ensure we got the full story, warts and all.



So as well as learning of the much-admired ceremonial, internal security and civil emergency roles of the TA-style unit, we reported on its continuing but controversial reliance on conscription and saw punishment being meted out to defaulters.

On July 11, Thurrock MP Andrew Mackinlay asked 25 written questions in the House of Commons, some relating to overseas territories in general but most referring specifically to Bermuda and its regiment, with mentions of conscription and disciplinary measures.

After speaking to the MP, the *Bermuda Sun* reported: "Mr Mackinlay was moved to ask questions after reading a recent article in *Soldier*."



Although it voted against independence from Britain six years ago and has a Governor who represents the Queen, Bermuda has its own Parliament and Premier.

The future of the locally-funded regiment and indeed Bermuda's constitution itself are currently big stories in the mid-Atlantic tourist and business haven.

So much so that the presence of the *Soldier* team attracted interest from all three newspapers there – one of which, the *Mid-Ocean News*, reproduced our June issue coverage, word for word.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Let's value the welfare officer



**Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal**

AFTER my outburst of frustration on the non-delivery of the *Families Journal* last month, a fax arrived from a unit welfare officer to assure me that not only does he make sure the AFJ is hand-delivered to every quarter on his patch, he also puts it in such places as the HIVE and community centre.

What's more, copies are given to all new arrivals and he makes sure the latest issue is included in his station information pack. All part of his job, he says.

The families in his station are lucky to have a welfare officer who enjoys what he does and believes in doing it well. And there are a lot more like him than there used to be.

But there are still too many units where the job goes to the next man in line, whether he wants to do it or not, or to someone already wearing a couple of hats who has little time to spare.

A UWO told the panel at the Army Families Federation conference last year that his job – "a vital link" – had no set role, no guidelines, no procedures, not even a job description.

He felt that a more clearly defined role filled by dedicated personnel would help families more effectively. The Army agreed with his "broad view" and there is

now a job description in place. Selection is a continuing issue which comes up regularly during the AFF presentation on the one-week training course for unit welfare officers – should they be the CO's choice (whether ex-RSM or not) or someone from outside the unit, trained and experienced in welfare provision?

As a letter to the August AFJ's Postbag says, the job of a UWO is "too important to be a chore".

The man or woman in that role should actively want to do it, even though there are some who, having taken it on reluctantly, find they enjoy it. It is not an easy job – but it can bring real rewards.

Welfare is a major factor in Army life and retention, and a unit welfare officer often represents the face of the Army to spouses and families. It is a post which should be overtly valued by the chain of command and an appointment which should be seen as career enhancing. A unit welfare officer can make a huge difference to the overall morale in the unit community.

It is vital to find the right man – or woman – for the job.

ALL our soldiers deserve Queen's Jubilee Medal

TAKING off my AFF hat and speaking purely for myself, I find it rather sad that we seem to have got it wrong with another Jubilee Medal.

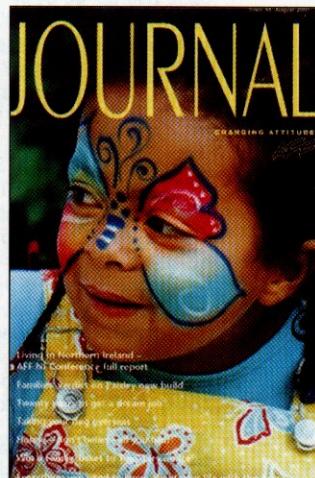
Despite clearly intending to award as many people as possible this time, the decision to stipulate five years' service has eliminated a lot of soldiers on active duty. Aren't they the very people who should be included? At that stage in your Army career, you are highly likely to be on the front line, soldiering.

After all, this is not a campaign medal – it is a celebration of service. It seems to me it ought to be all or nothing

on such occasions. If you are fully trained and serving your country on the day the Queen has served it for 50 years, you should get a gong to show for it, whether you have been in the Army for one year or 30.

I don't believe cost comes into it – the numbers saved by cutting out those below five years' service are paltry compared to the potential divisiveness and bad feeling.

Having read the stories in some parts of the press about the bloody reality of what soldiers had to do during the foot-and-mouth crisis, a medal is the very least they deserve.



THE August edition, pictured above, of the *Families Journal* should arrive at units by mid-month. If you have problems getting hold of regular copies of the AFJ, find out about our new subscription service.

For a mere £4 a year to cover postage, you can receive a copy direct to your home. Phone us on 01980 615517 for more details.

Maj Gen Peter Currie, Deputy AG, responds to your Pay 2000 letters – Page 77

System favours X over Z

HERE's an example I've put together to prove Pay 2000 has been introduced unfairly. I passed a version of this letter up my chain of command and they confirmed I'm correct but there's not a lot they can do to change it.

LCpl X has been in the rank for one year; LCpl Z for four years. LCpl X's anniversary of rank is April 2, so on that date he will move up a pay band from £48.58 to £50.94.

LCpl Z's anniversary is March 3, so X will earn £2.63 more a day for 11 months than Z, who has three years more experience in the rank.

As the years go on LCpl X will always be one pay band higher than LCpl Z.

If LCpl Z gets promoted to corporal a year from now, he will move from £50.94 to £52.34 and on his anniversary a year later £54.78. LCpl X would have been on £53.27 and on his anniversary move up to £55.66, so LCpl X will be earning more than Cpl Z.

A year later LCpl X is on £58.39. Cpl Z on £55.74, but when LCpl X gets promoted he will go straight in at £59. With no experience as a corporal he is earning £3.34 more a day than Cpl Z, who has two years' experience in the rank.

I understand that Cpl X will be held at standstill for six years unless he gets promoted beforehand, but it will take Cpl Z three years to earn the same as Cpl X and four years to overtake him. – **LCpl Taylor, 1 RTR, Suffolk.**

I'm disgusted that my years in rank count for nothing

PAY 2000 is a vast improvement on the old system, with the award of annual increments being a much fairer way. Why should a newly-promoted individual automatically receive the same pay as someone experienced in rank?

My observation is aimed at those who, although no worse off because of the new system (as was promised), are no better off due to length of service. The new

Experience by-pass

I'M a REME aircraft technician and have served 11 years and eight months, during which time I've seen others getting five- and eight-year retention bonuses while I missed out on both.

The principle of Pay 2000 was to reward experience and long service, but in reality juniors in the same rank are in a position to overtake. As a sergeant of five years and six months and previously on nine years-plus, my daily pay was £69.17. Under Pay 2000 I will move to £69.52 and eventually £72.09. My IDD is Dec 17, 2001.

A sergeant in the same trade who has held the rank for three years and completed nine years-plus moves to the same scale. His/her IDD is

Lowest paid WO in unit – after 26 years

LIKE all WO2s, I was converted to Pay 2000 on increment level five. I've been a WO2 since 1995 and suffered the indignity of not having my length of service recognised. The powers-that-be stated length of service and experience would be rewarded. Not so.

Length-of-service increments were subsumed by Pay 2000, not added. We were told: "No one will lose out." Well, they stuck by that because everyone got an increase, even if it was only a couple of pence. So everyone's happy? Wrong.

I have been well looked after by the Army, which has allowed me to serve on in continuance and I'm now in my 26th year. But where is my reward for service? I'm still on level five (the lowest), the same as all newly-promoted WOs. I can't get promoted on

continuance, but I feel I should be rewarded for service to the Crown. I'm sure RAF personnel will fall into the same bracket as many serve until 55.

Remember this is a tri-Service package, so the indignity of being paid as a rookie is the same for many. It would be easier if they brought back the length-of-service increment or equated people at a higher level. At least we would feel appreciated.

I'm more aggrieved to find I'm the lowest-paid WO in the unit. If responsibility is a reflection of who you are in charge of, all SNCOs should have a case for higher band. I believe as we all have broadly the same experience, knowledge and responsibility we should all be on the same higher band. – **WO2 (SQMS) M D Philpott AGC (SPS), 23 Pioneer Regt RLC, Bicester.**

Why the gloom? No one took a cut

MOST people assumed they were going to get a pay rise... not a different mechanism for getting paid.

No one lost out because no one took a cut. For those with more years in a rank who are getting paid the same as their peers – what did they expect? As for those who say their trade

is in the wrong pay range, look no further than those in your arm/corps who had responsibility for Job Evaluation (JE).

Or look in the mirror and appreciate what you actually do (or don't) do.

Army and RAF sergeant clerks working with a naval petty officer equivalent in a tri-

Service office will earn less than the petty officer for doing the same job. Why? Because the RN took on JE and ensured their writers got the higher pay range. – **Cpl S Moss, AGC (SPS), Northwood.**

▲ To give more of you a say, many of these letters have been shortened. Please be brief. – **Editor**

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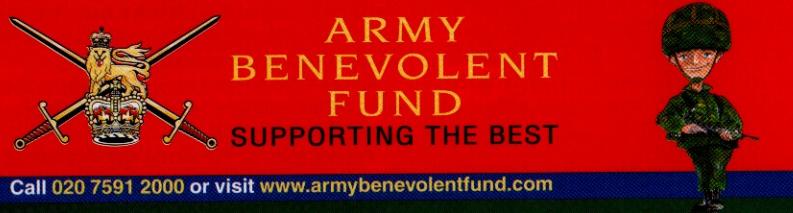
PISCATOR

New toys for old



In this case, charity begins at home

The Army Benevolent Fund provides financial support for serving and retired soldiers and families in need. We help them get back on their feet. Why not fund-raise for the ABF, your own national charity? Just ring 020 7591 2000.



Call 020 7591 2000 or visit www.armybenevolentfund.com

Acting ranker joined unit on more money

I AM fully aware most people have had an increase. Having looked at my own so-called increase I was crestfallen to find that an acting corporal recently promoted and posted to the same very small unit as me is on more money.

That is until I catch him up in August this year when I hit level three. I have been a substantive corporal longer than he has been in the Army. He was posted to a job for which he had no qualifications so I and others had to train him to get him to standard prior to the courses for the job.

The new pay system is not fair. It does not take into account the length of time an individual has been in the Army and it

is poor for morale. How can a corporal be paid more for having less experience than a number of others in the same rank in the same unit, who have put time into training recruits, trained soldiers and cadets?

Does a chef hold more responsibility than an individual of the same rank who is supervising live firing on an open field firing range?

Qualifications in and out of trade need to be addressed as well as time in rank... and that's just for starters. Retention may be a problem but the general opinion is that this is not helping to solve it. – **Cpl T Rabey (instructor), MTW(G) RLC, Bielefeld.**

OFFICER or other rank; serving or civvy... Soldier welcomes your letters. Please keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the our 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.



I was sure my pay slip was wrong

AS a sergeant of six years I was convinced my pay statement for May was incorrect. I'd been paid as a level-one sergeant with no adjustment for having served 20 years.

After checking the scales in *Soldier* (March) and the Pay 2000 booklet, I concluded that I should be paid at level five, going to level six on June 26, my promotion date.

To my amazement I found that my pay was correct and that all sergeants started at level one and move to level two on their last promotion date. I have lost five years' seniority and am being paid less than an acting sergeant promoted in April 1999.

My admin officer was unable to answer my queries and told me there were flaws in the new system. I cannot believe five years of being a sergeant has been wiped off my pay. The time I have spent in the Army no longer seems to matter.

If this is the case, and I believe it to be correct, then the information in *Soldier* and the Pay 2000 booklet are misleading. The examples given could not be paid at the levels printed – and if they are, could someone explain to me why I and many in my battalion should be any different.

I thought Pay 2000 was a better way of paying people. If I were to be paid at the level that matches my seniority I would be receiving £75.84 a day, not £68.54 – with a family to support, that is a big difference. At the moment a level-seven corporal gets more than a sergeant of six years. – **Sgt Smith, 1 Cheshire, Cyprus.**

No incentive

I'VE served six years in the Royal Engineers, mostly in EOD. I am a qualified combat engineer and bomb disposal engineer as well as a qualified plant fitter.

So how is it I'm paid the same as a chef? Fine, their job can be demanding, but how can the Army begin to compare their role to that of a bomb disposal engineer or tradesman, both of which fall into the lower scale? Being a combat engineer, I have been included in the higher scale, yet, even though I have six years' experience in this field I am paid the same as someone qualified for only three years.

Others in the corps will feel there is no longer an incentive to be a professional. – **Sgt D Read, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) Wimbish.**



Army full of big-breasted women and tattooed, bald men

I AM one of at least five soldiers at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) having laser treatment to remove tattoos, in my case (as in most) from the lower arm. We have all enquired about having it done through the Army but been given a flat no – unless we can prove we are depressed or the tattoo affects our work.

So we are getting them removed in our own time, with our own money (in my case £210 a session). I have five to get rid of. Another soldier is getting rid of one tattoo over the course

Prize letter

of five £30 sessions. Why are we doing it? Well, one reason is the way we are made to feel because of our tattoos, the other is to promote the image of the Army as clean-cut. There are probably more soldiers doing the same.

How come if a woman wants larger or smaller breasts at £3,000 to £4,000 an operation it gets done, but if you want tattoo removed, that's tough.

What answers would a soldier get if he wanted a hair transplant, smaller nose or

penis enlargement? "No, sorry, we only do breasts"?

This is one rule for one and one for another. The way things are going the Army will be a circus full of big-breasted women and tattooed, bald men.

Let's have some money made available for this sort of treatment, because being told that laser treatment ranging from £150 to £2,500 is too expensive while the Army pays for £3,000 boob jobs is enough to make anyone depressed. – **Sgt D M Owens, ITC, Catterick.**

There's more to a soldier than wearing uniform or decorations

IN Vox pop (June) you asked a number of ranks about the quantity of medals being issued today and some commented on the Golden Jubilee Medal.

I found views such as "getting like the Americans" and "dishing out medals for everything" distasteful, especially considering who commissioned the medal. Let's not forget that we swear allegiance to the Queen, just as we wear her crown on our cap badges and uniforms, and represent her authority through our ranks and appointments. If our Colonel-in-Chief presents us with a medal to mark her 50 years on the throne, we should wear it with pride.

With regard to the Americans, I would suggest the man makes the medals, not the

other way round. Being a soldier is not about wearing a uniform or decorations, it's about the professional inside that uniform and how they conduct their lives.

As for the devaluation of the currency, most medals being issued now are Nato or UN awards for peacekeeping in the Balkans. They are boring in appearance and are issued to all nationalities serving in those theatres. The Golden Jubilee Medal will bear a new effigy of the Queen and will be issued only to our own forces.

It could also be the last to bear the Queen's image. Today's young soldiers – tomorrow's warrant officers – will almost certainly be recipients of medals bearing the King's effigy.

My only point of contention is the allocation. All personnel who meet the criteria should receive one and cost should not be a consideration. It is cheaper to buy more than less, or, if nothing else, have the medal made available for purchase using regimental funds within the specified criteria. – **WO2 (SSM) T R Washbrook, RLC, Cirencester.**

VOX pop ("Meddling about", June) made me so angry I had to write. Why not visit a teeth arm and ask the same questions?
I agree there should be a bereavement medal and that some of the less glamorous conflicts should be recognised – and that we should not become more like the Americans. But medals are important for retention, pride, willingness to go on operations, retention for younger soldiers and friendly rivalry between units. – **Cpl S J Park, 2 RTR, Kosovo.**

● MY neighbour served with the King's Royal Rifle Corps in the Suez campaign. Before that he served King and Country and

then Queen and Country, he tells me. He says that it's now just Country as he was never issued a GSM with a clasp or a United

Nations medal. Another friend who was with the Royal Navy during the same Suez crisis was awarded a general service

medal with a "Near East" clasp. How do you give one and not the other? – **R J Orme, ex-guardsman, Surrey.**

Many in trouble-spots will miss out on Jubilee Medal

I'M astounded by the decision to restrict the Queen's Jubilee Medal to soldiers who have completed five years' service.

To put it into perspective, we have in our battalion soldiers just come back from a 2½-year tour of Northern Ireland who will not qualify for the commemorative medal.

Paras who fought in Sierra Leone and countless other soldiers in trouble-spots around the world will not get it.

Yet officers in the Army Cadet Forces who have been on five annual camps will. How can this be justified?

Would it not be better to give it to all serving soldiers, less those in training, remembering the medal is a celebration dating back to Queen Victoria. – **Sgt D H Riley, 1 R Anglian.**

Reduce time to three years

A THREE-YEAR qualifying period, at most, for the Queen's Jubilee Medal would open the door to more junior soldiers and boost morale at the younger end of the Armed Forces. On a personal note, my own service has been split over ten years (I volunteered for this two-year posting to Cyprus), so I bet I won't get one. – **Tpr G Roberts, Arroyo Coy, 1 KORBR, Cyprus.**

Service voters 'undervalued' by politicians

I ENJOYED Sue Bonney's Talkback article ("It's all a big paper chase") in the June edition. The last paragraph was the most interesting in that it identified that the "Armed Forces are undervalued".

Yet at least one recent poll reported that the public holds its Armed Forces in higher

regard than many other professions, including politicians.

This is probably a result of the high profile of our work on flood relief operations, the foot-and-mouth cull and support to civil powers in emergencies.

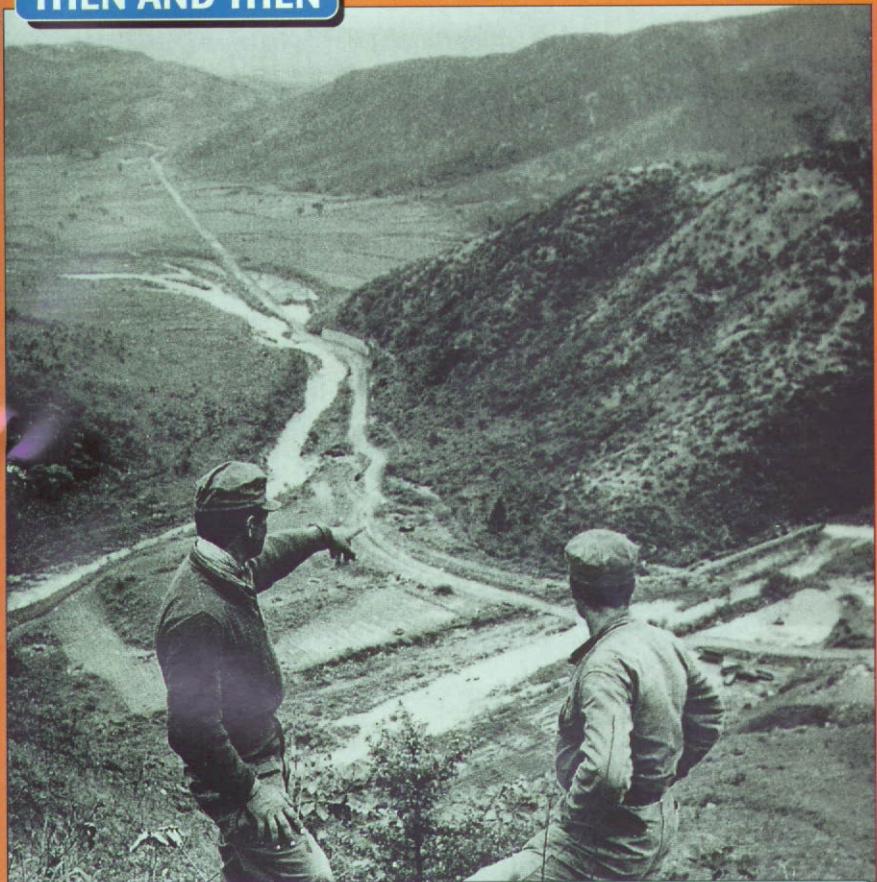
I would suggest the only people who undervalue the

Armed Forces are politicians. No political party has ever bothered to canvass for my vote. I have received not one leaflet or letter from the candidates in my registered constituency, for national or local elections.

I suspect other Service personnel are similarly ignored

and that little attempt has been made to elicit their opinions by those who claim they wish to serve them in Parliament or on local councils. It's ironic because the Services are often the first to give up their lives to defend democracy. – **WO2 H Carter, CAST(N), Catterick.**

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1976: Britain's bid in contest for new family of Nato small arms – the Royal Small Arms Factory has produced two weapons designed to replace the SLR, Sterling sub-machine gun, Bren gun and general purpose machine-gun for the infantry. The new individual weapon and light support weapon both fire the tiny 4.85mm round.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1951: Two Greek soldiers standing on top of the famous Imjin Hill in Korea (above) look at the view the Glosters faced. The ground is covered in spent cartridge cases where the battalion made its last stand as waves of Chinese troops attacked. With the UN in a position of strength, reports of truce negotiations are circulating among troops.

Important issues sidelined by my fetching sideburns

I'M a single soldier, I've been in the Army for nearly eight years and I've got a few gripes which I would like to mention.

I've heard more than my fair share of squadron and company sergeant majors and other grown-up people whingeing about sideburns, the shape of berets, the state of boots and so on. Whether they like it or not, this is the year 2001 and this is a different army. We get the job done.

We have a Euro Army looming over our heads, we are up to our necks in human rights issues and we are being smothered by health-and-safety regulations.

Surely there are more important things for senior ranks to worry about than my rather fashionable "sides". Incidentally, if they check out Army training videos from the 1970s they will see that many

soldiers had mega-sideburns in those days. – LCpl (name supplied), 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Seat of the problem

I AGREE with Sgt Dowie's comments ("No 2 dress concern", July) but feel that he is underestimating the importance of that great British Army tradition – marching up and down the square.

As for Combat Soldier 95 giving out after a week of hard use, I don't seem to have that problem working in a medical centre. The only part of my uniform that wears away is the seat of my trousers. – LCpl Willis, Medical Centre, 47 Regiment RA, Thorney Island, Hants.

PS...

Conflict of duty

YOUR story "Cyprus medics in yacht drama" (June) raised a question mark about 84 Squadron's allegiance. My RAF colleagues reliably inform me that it belongs to the RAF and always has. They say it is, in fact, celebrating its 84th birthday this year.

The only Army Air Corps asset in Cyprus is 16 Flight based at Dhekelia Garrison. – Sgt R J Howes, Joint Services Port Unit, RAF Akrotiri.

▲ Well spotted. And our apologies to 84 Squadron for colouring them khaki. – Editor

Heartwarming tale

THE article "Ta for the toys" in *Soldier* (May) really struck home. Those soldiers took time out of their busy schedules to help provide happiness to the less fortunate. As a soldier myself, I try to do all I can, but time is at a premium. Seeing articles like this one reaffirms my hope that there are still generous people out there. So to LCpl Astor and her colleagues, my heartfelt thanks for making this world a better place to live in. – Pte Wayne Beuchler, 3 PPCLI, Canada.

Still going strong

GOOD to know that the old-established warrant officer rank of conductor is still in being (Update, July). It was, in fact, instituted in 1879, not 1979, when WOs were introduced into the British Army. They were known as Conductors of Supplies (Commissariat and Transport Department) and Conductors of Stores (Ordnance Stores Department). – Maj (Retd) Herbert V Sawyer, W Sussex.

Friends on parade

ABOUT two years ago I started dating a wonderful man who is serving in the Army. Although at times it can be a bit lonely and scary, I have learned to adapt to not doing the things most couples do together every day. I look forward to his leave and his calls and letters.

Although I have many good friends, none really understand what it is like for me as the girlfriend of a soldier. It started me thinking how many other girlfriends and fiancées feel isolated because no one understands how difficult things can be for them.

I set about opening an internet club so soldiers' girlfriends and fiancées could "meet" others who know what they were going through. It's free of charge... all you have to do is log on, join, and start emailing other members, making new friends in the same boat. Simply e-mail onparade@smartgroup.com or go to www.smartgroups.tv/groups/onparade2 – the club is called Girlfriends on Parade.

I gain nothing from it except a sense of achievement in helping others. – Gillian Lawrence, Somerset.

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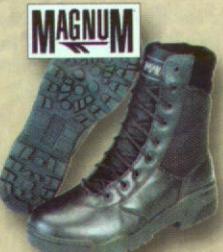
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Marchwood looks like place to work – but keep it military

YOUR article regarding the junior ranks' dining facilities at Marchwood (June) was interesting. It seems like a much-needed facelift for catering within the Army.

I know we have to keep military chefs for operational commitments, but why do we employ the number of civilian chefs we do? I've got nothing against civilian chefs – I've worked alongside some very good ones – but there are also many poor ones.

I was recently on career courses at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot and at Deepcut. Catering standards at these facilities were poor compared with what they would be if there were military caterers in place.

▲ Headquarters Director RLC, Camberley, provided the following response:

The writer's observations concerning the standards achieved by military and civilian chefs are worthy of response. In many ways he answered his own question. We do indeed maintain a certain number of military chefs for deployable roles in particular and the standards they achieve are the best in the world.

However, as with many parts of the Army, we are always under pressure to look carefully at where we should best use the limited

Anyone in the Army Catering Corps would take pride in returning to St Omer, but to see what the main junior ranks' mess has turned into is beyond belief. Why, at the home of the ACC, have civilian chefs replaced military chefs? Surely it would be an advantage to have recruits working under military JNCO and SNCO chefs, because that's the way it used to be for me and for many of my colleagues.

It gives valuable experience to a recruit for when he goes to a "real" unit. As for Deepcut, I thought the place was a joke in terms of catering standards . . . civilian chefs with face piercings, sticking their fin-

number of soldiers that we have, and where civilians may be employed in their place. I am sure he would agree that we already demand so much of military chefs with operational deployments and support to exercises that we should avoid thinning them out any more by utilising them in non-military-essential areas wherever it can be avoided.

Non-deployable units and bases are obvious areas where we can employ civilian chefs, which allows RLC military chefs to be used in essential, deployable roles.

gers in food and tasting it on the hotplate. I saw raw and cooked meat on the same prep tables and could go on.

Like I said, there are many good civilian chefs, usually ex-military, but there are also many bad ones, probably due to lack of training. I'm not saying that there are no bad military chefs, but I'd say they are few and far between.

I think most soldiers would prefer a return to when it was 90 per cent military chefs rather than 70 per cent civilians.

Marchwood looks like the place to work, just keep it military. – **Cpl P A Trask, 29 Regt RLC, Cirencester.**

The vast majority of the civilian chefs employed by the Army maintain high standards, and we employ military personnel to monitor these levels.

If there is cause for complaint, in the time-honoured fashion it must be raised at the time. If this isn't done those monitoring the contract may not be aware of the problem, perceived or real. Feedback – positive or negative – is valued and, it is hoped that with his obvious knowledge of the chef's role, he raised his concerns at the time.

'We understand the problem and we're on the case'

The following reply to your Pay 2000 letters (Pages 72-73) has been received from the Deputy Adjutant General, Maj Gen Peter Currie

A LOT of letters have been received this month about Pay 2000 and we are grateful for your thoughts.

I think it would be fair to summarise them (and obviously not all have been printed) by saying that while most people think the basic principles of Pay 2000 are fair and sensible – especially the idea of getting increments each year to reflect growing experience – there is disappointment with some aspects of the new scheme.

Some of this disappointment is to do with the rates of pay themselves at some ranks, and the small jump in pay on promotion. But the letters we have seen reflect above all a degree of anger that the transitional arrangements have created situations where people with greater seniority can find themselves earning less than their juniors in the same trade.

There is a real problem here and can I just say that the message has been heard loud and clear. We are on the case and will follow up specific instances we have received as well as the more general issue they have exposed. I cannot give you a complete

PAY 2000

answer now, but will do so in a future edition of *Soldier* – so wait out.

In the meantime let me just explain why the decision was taken that experience (time in a rank) could not immediately be taken into account on transition – and please don't forget that there was no recognition of experience in a rank under the old system.

Before doing so, let me also explain that the start point in this whole exercise was (and had to be) that Pay 2000 was not about

increasing pay but about putting a fairer and more flexible system in place for the future.

The actual rates of pay are those recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body and agreed by the Government. So you will understand that changing from the old to the new system had to be kept within reasonable cost limits: it wasn't a licence to print more money, although it is true to say that a lot of people are getting an increase as a result of the change, which is good news.

The real reason why experience was not taken immediately into account on transition was because to have done so would have become very much more expensive as those

with seniority jumped up to the top of their new ranges; or else, to balance that gain by the more experienced

people in each rank, the more junior people would have had to move across to the bottom of the new pay ranges, and so would have effectively taken a cut in pay. Clearly the second of these options was not possible, because it was the principle of Pay 2000 that nobody should take a reduction in pay on transition.

And nobody has. The decision was therefore taken to go across and join the new ranges at, or just above the current level of earnings in each case. That itself did not disadvantage anybody.

But what we are now seeing – which is what these letters are understandably complaining about – is that the result of this decision is that some more junior people are not just continuing to earn the same as their more experienced colleagues (which has always been the case anyway, although this will disappear once Pay 2000 has settled down), but are actually earning more than them as a result of the date on which they transfer across to the new system.

As I said, thank you for your letters, we understand the problem and we are on the case. One way or the other we shall report back in a future edition of *Soldier*.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Pte Alan Dickinson, 3 RHA

I believe that the length of tours is about right at six months. It's long enough to experience a theatre and not too long for it to become a drag.



months we would end up doing more repeat visits. I would rather do one long operational tour than two shorter ones.

Pte Danny Powell, 2 RTR

This is my first tour and it has been the quickest six months of my Army life. Being on a long tour is a good way of saving money.



Sgt Martin Watson, REME

I would prefer to have four-month tours, even if it meant that I would have to go away on operational tours more frequently.

Cfn Matt Trevarthen, REME

Six-month tours are just about right – if it was reduced to four



Pte Trevor Brennan, 1 DWR

To tell the truth I do not mind being away from home for six months. The best thing about a six-month tour is the money and the fact that I get to do a job I enjoy. R&R gets you away from it all for a bit but I have to admit that returning to theatre does knock your morale.



LCpl Si Vick, REME

Talking as a single, I think tours are the right length. You have a good time, experience new things and at the same time improve your own career prospects.



LCpl Paul Sutcliffe, 1 DWR

Six months is a long time to be away from your wife and kids. My son is only 21 months and when I went home on R&R he did not know me. It is hard getting home and seeing that your own son is scared of you.



Pte Adam Newington, 3 RHA

Tours are a great way to save money. I am

normally based in Germany, so being here makes very little difference to me – I only get home to the UK when I am on leave anyway.



Pte Ewan Gordon, 1 BW

The current length of tours is bang on ... perfect. Six months gives you a chance to get stuck in, time to get to know the terrain, time to get to know the people and time to get to know the job.



Cpl Mark Taylor, 39 Engr Regt

Tours should be shortened to maybe four months for the benefit of soldiers with families. I have no problem with doing six months but it must be hard for some of the guys with children back home.



Cpl Darren Hinchliffe, 1 DWR

A six-month tour is too long and tends to drag on. A four-month tour broken up with a two-week holiday would be much better – the troops in theatre would be a lot fresher.



Interviews: Andy Simms Pictures: Graeme Main



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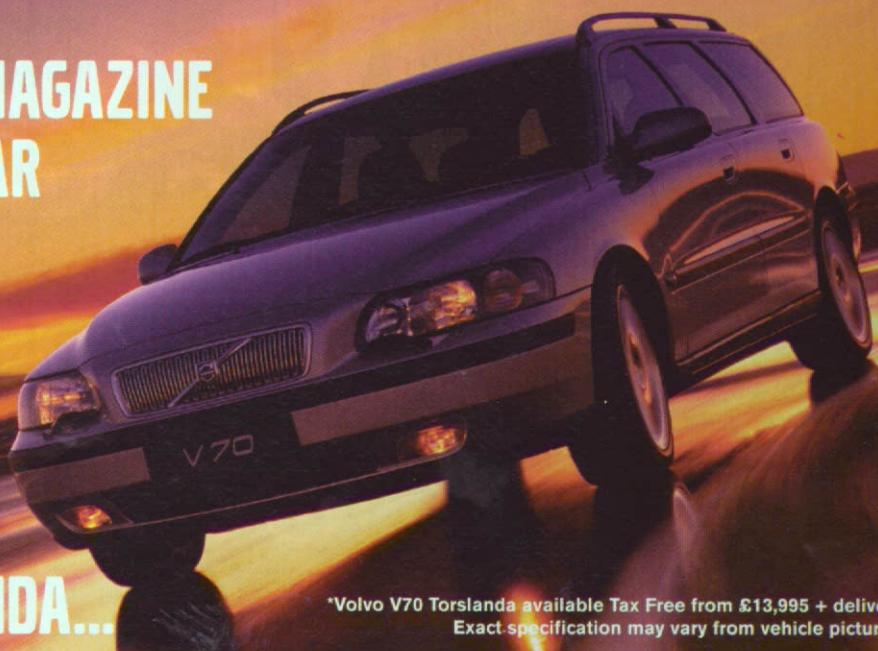
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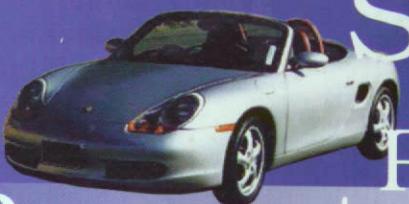
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