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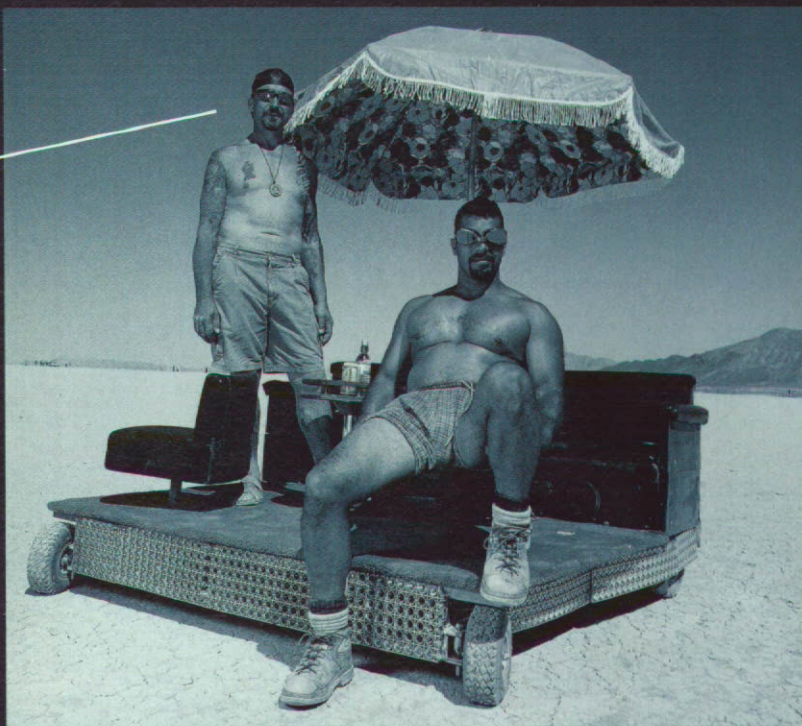
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"Unusual technique, Sir ... but they've reduced the risk by 50 per cent"

● Kenya EOD – Pages 4-5

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



'If what happens in north Belfast almost every night kicked off in any other city in the UK it would be front page news and there would be almost as many television crews on the streets as rioters'

– Page 25

Cover picture

Smiling Monarch: The Queen pictured during a visit to mark her Golden Jubilee year

– Pages 17-19

Picture: Graeme Main



Army officer Capt Graeme Scott, above, the UK's top sled-dog racer, has his sights set on the world title. Story and pictures on Pages 46-47

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Clearing the way to Eritrea

British soldiers prepare Kenyan engineers for the demands of humanitarian de-mining

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

IT has been 18 months since a shot was last fired in anger in Eritrea, but evidence of the East African country's two-and-a-half-year border war with Ethiopia still litters the arid landscape.

Just three yards from a major trench system, and untouched since the United Nations brokered an end to the conflict, lies the corpse of an Eritrean second lieutenant. Denied a military burial and left to decompose under the unforgiving African sun, the officer's body is a macabre reminder of the continued threat from mines, which remain responsible for more than 30 civilian casualties a month.

A lethal legacy of the recent conflict, and the 30-year struggle for independence that raged before it, it is estimated there are 600 minefields and 100,000 mines in Eritrea.

And although the British Army does not participate in humanitarian de-mining operations, soldiers from the Battlefield Engineering Wing at the Combat Engineer School in Minley and the Defence School of Explosives Ordnance Disposal at Chatham are hoping that their expertise will reduce the threat to innocent lives and help some of Eritrea's 300,000 misplaced refugees return to their homes.

A 16-strong British team travelled to Archer's Post in northern Kenya for Operation Hodari Sapper – a four-week programme aimed at training and equipping a Kenyan engineer troop in accordance with UN regulations – for de-mining operations in Eritrea.

The need for the training team, the first of its kind, was identified by the commandant of the British Peace Support Team (BPST) in Kenya, Col Rob Andrew.

"A large part of my job involves coordinating and supervising the provision of

Left to decompose under the unforgiving African sun, the officer's body is a macabre reminder of the continued threat from mines?

UK military assistance to regional armies," Col Andrew explained. "Operation Hodari Sapper was born out of getting a foot in the door of the Kenyan Army commander's office less than a year ago.

"He told me that his engineers had a capability gap when it came to humanitarian de-mining, not just in terms of training but also equipment, and asked whether we would be able to arrange training assistance to address this.

"The previous group of Kenyans to be deployed to Eritrea as part of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) were trained in conventional minefield breaching but were attempting

to do humanitarian de-mining. Consequently they were not in step with current United Nations standards."

The task of ensuring that the next batch of Kenyan engineers that go to Eritrea are up to scratch and properly equipped fell to Capt Alex Eade of the Mine Information and Training Centre and his team of instructors from the Royal School of Mechanical Engineering.

"Humanitarian de-mining was a completely new subject for the Kenyan military," Capt Eade told *Soldier*. "Conventional de-mining is minefield breaching, which is done to achieve a military objective, whereas humanitarian de-mining involves clearing the ground of all mines and unexploded ordnance so that it can be returned to the people.

"We had asked for all of the students put on the course to be the equivalent of our class one engineers, to be fluent in English and reasonably competent, but that was not the case," he said. "A lot of them had real trouble speaking and understanding English when we first started teaching them.

"We had to go right back to basics and teach them what a mine looks like and how it works before moving on to the actual de-mining process."

However, with the British engineers working 12-hour days, six days a week, Capt Eade noticed a dramatic change

in the knowledge of his 68 students.

"The Kenyans were all very receptive and keen to learn, and even held their own revision sessions in Swahili each evening," he said. "Unfortunately, their entire education system seems to be based on learning lists of things.

"If you asked them what was on page 55 of the 1954 copy of pamphlet six they would be able to tell you straight away, but it is when they attempt to apply that knowledge on the ground that they run into some difficulty."

To combat this the training team made full use of the vast expanses of land that surround the Kenyan Army's Combat Engineering School in Isolo, setting up mock minefields and devising various casualty scenarios. With temperatures topping 40 degrees during the day, the desert-like terrain proved an ideal classroom for the Kenyans who will encounter almost identical conditions in Eritrea.

Using the protective helmets, body armour and mine-detectors donated by the British (part of a £100,000 package), the Kenyans were drilled in every aspect of mine clearance.

Capt Eade added: "It is likely that most of the de-mining in Eritrea will be done using prodders, which is a very controlled, slow, boring and methodical operation."

Fortunately, the art of taking things slowly was one area of de-mining in which the Kenyans needed no extra coaching.

The teachers



LCpl Tom Jepson
(63 Support Squadron, 3 RSME)

I was responsible for teaching the Kenyan signallers all the communications that they will need in Eritrea. This course has been very hard for them because they all speak Swahili and have had to learn the phonetic alphabet and use the same radio reports as the British and United Nations.

For the first few days they were very poor but they have all made a massive advance since then. In the Kenyan Army the signallers tend to be the most educated soldiers and to have had some form of higher education, so their retention of information is first-class.



Sgt Dai Powell (MITC)

We have seen a massive change in their de-miners capabilities but it has been a big job. After the first week we realised that we would have to go back to basics with the Kenyans and teach them de-mining from scratch, and in that respect the whole experience has helped me to hone my own teaching skills.

Some of the soldiers are very, very good and grasp things quite quickly but there are others who have given us a few headaches.



Cpl Richie Cullip (63 Support Squadron, 3 RSME)

From a teaching point of view it has been frustrating at times. The language difference is obviously a problem and has meant that the whole training process has been a lot slower than we would have hoped.



Capt Moses Wasomi

The training has gone very well. During the first two weeks there was some difficulty with communication because we are not used to the English language. The British soldiers spoke very fast initially and some of us found it hard to understand them, but everybody has progressed a lot. We are fast learners.



Sgt Ernest Andanje

The training has been very complicated but as time has gone by we have continued to improve our de-mining drills and techniques. I feel that we have learnt a lot and will be able to put these skills to good use in the future.

The students



Cpl Simon Oguta

The training has been very good and everything we have learned has been new to us. We are very grateful for the help we have received from the British Army. At first we had a communication problem because we are used to speaking to each other in Swahili but a lot of us can now speak good English.



Spr Lamech Nyangige

I am very happy to have been trained by the British Army – they have been very kind. A lot of the information that we have been taught was new to me and I am looking forward to using my skills to help the United Nations in Eritrea.





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No role for women in close combat

RESTRICTIONS on women serving in close combat ground roles are to remain in place following a wide-ranging study by the MoD. This confirmation of the current policy bars women from serving in the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps, the Infantry, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force Regiment.

In a message to commanding officers,

the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, said he and the Chiefs of Staff had looked at scientific literature, physical selection standards, opinion polls of Service personnel and families, and the impact in the field of mixed-gender teams on cohesion and military performance.

Their decision was based on the overriding need to maintain combat effective-

ness. "In conditions short of war-fighting, mixed-gender teams work. What nobody knows is how such teams would behave under the extreme conditions of close combat," said Admiral Boyce.

In the absence of evidence from other armies, including Israel, he said he "could not justify the grave risk that this might entail just for the sake of experiment".



Flying aid: A Chinook delivers wheat and blankets to a village in south-east Afghanistan. Troops were in the area as part of Operation Snipe

Picture: POA (Phot) Tony Leather, RN

Bug hits medics at Afghan base

SERVICEMEN affected by an enteric-like illness at Bagram in Afghanistan continue to improve. As *Soldier* went to press no individuals were assessed as being very seriously ill although 13 personnel were being treated at Bagram, in the UK and in Germany.

Ten other soldiers had been discharged and returned to duty. Tests conducted in the UK confirmed that the illness was almost certainly a winter vomiting virus. Symptoms included fever and diarrhoea.

As a precaution, 34 Field Hospital RAMC, from Strensall, York, was closed to all but similar cases after its staff contracted the disease.

Specialists were flown out to reinforce the medical team while the German hospital in Kabul and the US hospital at Bagram provided cover for UK troops.

Away from the capital, 45 Commando Group units were involved in Operation Snipe, a search-and-clear mission in remote mountains believed to be used as a base by al-Qaida and Taliban forces.

About 1,000 personnel, including sol-

diers from 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery, 29 Commando Regiment RA, and 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE, were deployed on the operation, supported by RAF Chinook helicopters of 27 Squadron.

The area, in the south-east of the country had not previously been searched by coalition forces. Aim of the mission was to destroy terrorist infrastructure and make the area safe for humanitarian operations.

A major cave network containing a huge arms cache was unearthed and investigated. Hundreds of mortars, anti-tank guns, rocket-propelled grenades, mines, rockets and artillery rounds, as well as thousands of small-arms and light anti-aircraft ammunition, were destroyed by demolition charges which set off a massive explosion, blowing up the entire complex.

Troops from 45 Cdo Gp joined US and Australian forces on Operation Condor after an Australian patrol engaged al-Qaida and Taliban forces.

Mobs attack soldiers in Belfast riots

FOUR soldiers and ten police officers were treated for shock after being attacked with blast bombs during disturbances in north Belfast which left two Army Land Rovers burned out.

The vehicles, carrying soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, had deployed in support of troops from the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and police who were dealing with rioters.

The soldiers had just got out of their vehicles to deal with the crowd of nationalist youths when a device was thrown from the loyalist side of the sectarian confrontation line.

An Army spokesman said: "It was a narrow escape for troops doing their best to protect all sections of the community from wanton violence."

The attack was one of a series of increasingly violent incidents directed at security forces.

FEROCIOUS

Recent weeks have seen soldiers and police subjected to ferocious assaults with petrol, acid and pipe bombs. Shots have also been fired at security forces.

In other developments, stone-throwing youths used a mechanical digger as a moveable barricade from which to launch attacks in east Belfast.

Five policemen were injured when ammonia bombs were thrown during the same incident, which involved several hundred rioters.

Army explosive ordnance disposal teams have been experiencing one of their busiest periods for years. As well as dealing with scores of live devices, they have been called out to hoax bomb alerts on railway lines which have disrupted services.

● Anything but quiet – Page 25

Boys back in town



Homeward bound: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots parade with their regimental Colours from Holyrood Palace to Edinburgh Castle, announcing their return to their home city after an absence of more than 20 years. The regiment, which recruits from Edinburgh and the surrounding areas, was last stationed in the city in 1981. Since then it has been posted in Germany, England, Inverness and Northern Ireland. The battalion has now moved into Dregghorn Barracks.

Picture: Mark Owens

Band-box smart



Fresh look: LCpl Yogendrakumar Chongbang, of the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, shows off his Bosnia medal, the band's new uniform and its new kukris-and-lyre cap badge. Picture: Chris Fletcher



On target: Black Watch sniper LCpl Mark Porter

WHILE Challenger 2 main battle tanks and Warrior fighting vehicles conduct their noisy war across the prairies of Alberta this summer, a small group of soldiers will slip quietly and unobtrusively onto their battlefield armed only with bolt-action rifles.

They are the snipers – or close precision attack section – of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, deploying to Canada this month. Small arms expert WO2 Adrian Stewart began training the BW sniper team while deployed in Kosovo a

Black Watch snipers set sights on Canada

year ago. They recently returned from Poland, where they used laser simulators to engage targets – usually enemy commanders – at long range.

"It again underlined the fact that, even on the modern battlefield, a single rifle can be just as effective as a smart bomb," said WO2 Stewart.

Italian reaction corps takes shape rapidly

A BRITISH general and a small UK advance party are in post as the headquarters of a new Italian rapid reaction corps takes shape near Milan.

Maj Gen Seymour Monro is deputy commander of the HQ Rapid Reaction Corps Italy, based in facilities under construction at Ugo Mara Barracks, Solbiate Olona, 35km north of Milan.

Until a military "village" is completed in 2004, most British families attached to the headquarters will be housed at Varese, a large town near Lake Maggiore, 30km to the south. Remaining British Army and Royal Air Force posts are to be filled by August.

Italy, which has identified a significant

number of combat and support forces for the corps, is providing more than half the HQ staff, with the UK contributing 24 and Hungary 14.

The USA, Canada, Poland, Germany, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Turkey are also expected to be involved.

Largely modelled on HQ ARRC, the rapid reaction force headquarters is undergoing an interim operational capability review this month and is expected to receive its final operational capability certificate in December. It is being put forward by the host nation as one of six high-readiness land force HQs recommended by a Nato review.

IN BRIEF

● LCpl Jitbhane Pun, right, from 1 RGR, has earned the 100th NEBS Management team leader award – a nationally-recognised Level 2 qualification – since the scheme was introduced last year. The success of the pilot course at the Brecon-based Infantry Training



Centre Wales has ensured the qualification will form a key element of the Infantry's efforts to achieve civilian accreditation for its soldiers to recognise the knowledge and skills they accumulate through their careers.

Pay As You Dine trials in autumn

Project to start with Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment

LONG-awaited trials of the Pay As You Dine (PAYD) scheme are to begin at Armed Forces locations in the autumn. Army units at Hyde Park Barracks, Warminster, Marchwood military port, Wattisham, Brawdy and Fort George will be among the first to be involved.

Evaluation will last for at least 12 months to test the concept of integrated non-operational catering, retail and leisure services for the military. The delivery of improvements to quality of life, particularly for junior ranks, is regarded as a key element of the project.

First units to be involved in the tri-Service initiative will be the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, RN Air Station Cuddestone and RAF Henlow.

Following the launch of the first three trial units, the experiment is to be expanded at two to three month intervals to include 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, 14 Signal Regiment, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green

Jackets, 3 and 4 Regiments AAC and 7 Battalion REME. A third phase will draw in the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers as well as 40 Commando Royal Marines and RAF Leuchars. They have been chosen to represent a range of roles, sizes, working patterns, locations and catering contractors.

There would be no change under PAYD to the three-mess culture, which is regarded as supporting operational effectiveness.

No one will be turned away from a hotplate, even if they run out of money and special dietary and religious eating needs will be met.

Soldiers entitled to duty meals will still receive them free of charge under the new system, which will be introduced from 2004-05 if the trials are a success.

● Tell the PAYD team what you think at dpaydso1comms@dlo.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone (civ) 01264 348051, (mil) 94391 8051.

PAYD objectives:
● Introduce a new system of charging, in non-operational messes, where individuals will pay only for the food they choose to consume.
● Deliver a catering, retail and leisure service acceptable to Service personnel and perceived by all as an improvement on the current regime.
● Deliver service that incorporates commercial best practice and optimises quality and cost-effectiveness.

Skill Force looking to swell its ranks

SKILL Force, the MoD-sponsored initiative to develop under-achieving youngsters in school, is looking for recently retired and about-to-retire officers and senior NCOs to join its ranks. The scheme has produced impressive results, with a 71 per cent reduction in school exclusions among participants – and there has been a recruiting spin-off, with 39 per cent of year-11 pupils showing an interest in a military career compared to four per cent nationally.

For details, contact Jenny Hughes on 020 7321 2688 or rfealondoninner@ctp.org.uk

Gloves essential for new noise simulator

EXERCISE-directing staff handling a new variant of the SBN L28A1 battle noise simulator – still to be formally introduced into service – are required to wear combat issue gloves on both hands to protect them against flaring and

"premature functioning". Although the handle has been lengthened on the A2 variant (see *Soldier* report May, Page 18) the igniter composition is exactly the same on both models and may or may not flare after ignition.

based Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.

● Soldiers from 16 Close Support Medical Regiment at Colchester collected £1,800 to buy a former NHS ambulance for the people of Afghanistan.

Note-able family



Picture: Mark Owens

Double act: Gary, left, and Tracy Newlands are the first brother and sister to serve together in the Corps of Army Music. Both play the cornet and serve in the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division.

Men's health in spotlight

SOLDIERS are taking part in a week-long campaign this month to raise awareness of men's health issues.

Organised by the Men's Health Forum, a UK-based charity, the key messages are that men are more likely than women to die from cancer, heart disease, HIV infection, accidents and suicide. They are also more likely to have an accident, drink more than is good for them, smoke, be overweight and use illegal drugs.

Of 110 male tri-Service deaths due to injury in 2000, 37 were caused by off-duty road traffic accidents, eight as a result of on-duty crashes, and 32 were self-inflicted. In the same year, training and exercise injuries accounted for a third of male medical discharges.

In Germany, soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were given the chance to talk to medical professionals at an interactive "health fair".

The campaign is aimed specifically at a military audience, for whom physical fitness has a direct impact on combat effectiveness. Soldiers were told regular exercise reduced the chance of sports injuries and that training should be modified after injury or illness. They were also told the benefits of a balanced, nutritious diet.

www.menshealthforum.org.uk



Health warning: Use a condom is the message behind this HIV poster



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Light Infantry makes itself comfortable in Dhekelia

SOLDIERS of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, accompanied by 149 families and 140 children, have moved in at Dhekelia to replace the outgoing 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.

Commanded by Lt Col Peter Davies, 2 LI was previously based at Bulford, from where it has completed tours in the Balkans and Sierra Leone in the past two years.

An early event for the battalion was its annual bugle competition, with 13 musicians competing for top honours. Overall winner was Pte Sean Taylor, who becomes the CO's bugler.

Of 60 soldiers who started a junior NCOs' cadre, only three failed to last the course.

An early visitor to the battalion was the Colonel of the Light Infantry, Maj Gen



Settling to the task: 2nd Lt Pete Nichols, left and LCpl Martin Wear, A Company, 2 LI, discuss a patrol route along the buffer zone

Robin Brims, who spent three days touring the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area for which 2 LI is now responsible.

Cosy quarters in the Buffer Zone

Territorial Army sappers improve troops' accommodation

MORE than 70 Territorial Army sappers from the UK descended on Cyprus to work on projects designed to make life more comfortable for British soldiers on United Nations duty in Nicosia.

The military engineers, drawn from nearly 20 units, were involved in Operation Tosca, during which volunteers spent a fortnight on the island upgrading soldiers' accommodation in the demilitarised zone between the Greek Cypriot south and the Turkish north.

Housing for troops patrolling the Green Line and manning 30 observation posts (OPs) is basic, with several men having to share rooms. WO1 Keith James, Military Works Force (V), said: "Operation Tosca is a month of high-intensity engineering work that has a major impact on the health,

safety and welfare of those in this sector."

Biggest project was the refurbishment of a six-bedroom house. The sappers virtually rebuilt it from a shell, installed a sewage system and electricity and put in plumbing.



WO1 Keith James

In another part of the buffer zone, they converted into separate bedrooms four large living spaces previously shared by soldiers. First to benefit from the upgrades will be gunners from 32 Regiment RA, who are currently patrolling the line.

Other work included the installation of masts to protect from lightning strikes the OPs which rise above the buffer zone; the repairing of winter damage to tracks used by patrolling soldiers; and the laying of 4,000m of cable to power halogen lights along patrol routes in Nicosia.

Larkhill gears itself up for thunder of guns during Army 2002

Military show open to public

A SPECTACULAR five-day showcase for the Army is to take place at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain from July 3 to 7.

Members of the public will be able to book tickets (priced at £7) for the Army 2002 weekend – July 6-7 – by ringing 0871 220 9703 or going to the show website at www.army2002.com.

Described by the organisers as an adventure not to be missed, the event will range from ceremonial to combat firepower. The defence industry will exhibit on the first two days.

Main attractions over the weekend will be demonstrations of Royal Artillery and Royal Armoured Corps firepower, with visitors able to feel the thump of barrages laid down by heavy guns, and the ground-shaking thunder of a troop of Challenger 2 main battle tanks firing on the move.

APACHE ATTACKS

Aircraft will roar overhead to support ground troops engaging an enemy. Visitors can expect to see at close hand main battle tanks, Apache attack helicopters, Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, parachutists and Chinook and Hercules aircraft.

An adventure centre will offer the more daring a chance to complete a confidence-building course, take part in paintball battles, and scale climbing walls. Main arena attractions will include massed bands, motor-cycle displays, military dogs, re-enactment societies and The King's Troop, RHA.

On the Friday, the event will be open to schoolchildren and cadet forces.

Mgr Vasey

A REPORT on the death of Mgr Kevin Vasey, the Army's Principal Roman Catholic chaplain (Update, April) incorrectly named him as Keith. The error is regretted.

Germany signallers transfer

JHQ Rheindahlen-based 252 Signal Squadron has been transferred to the Defence Communications Services Agency. Squadron commander Maj Garth Pickersgill said: "Up to ten of our tradesmen will be held at a high readiness state to deploy with HQ ARRC to assist in the meshing of static infrastructure communications systems with the field-deployable systems of 1 Signals Brigade."

Keeping the peace

TWENTY-seven officers and senior NCOs from 143 (West Midlands) Brigade took part in a two-week international peacekeeping exercise – Co-Operative Lantern – in Holland. They were joined by about 500 soldiers from 15 countries.

Cadets' big moment

FOUR Army cadets from Birmingham whose multi-media presentation won them a trip to Pakistan met Prime Minister Tony Blair at Downing Street. LCpl Abusufyan Abdullah and Cdt Abjurrahaman Raja, Shoaib Hussain and Alex Glover-Hill are all members of the Combined Cadet Force at the city's Lordwood School.



Under Big Ben

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

Lords caution on change to special forces

TWO former Chiefs of the Defence Staff have expressed reservations about suggestions that more special forces should be created.

In a debate on the Armed Forces on May 15, Lord Guthrie told the House of Lords: "Special forces need to be special and very demanding standards need to be maintained. If larger special forces were to mean reduced standards, we would be seriously eroding our capability."

"Special forces are not so much about numbers as about capability. We probably have the best and most respected special forces in the world. We should keep them that way."

Lord Inge said he believed it would be a mistake to reduce the high standard of "probably the best special forces in the world" by increasing their numbers.

"Also, special forces are best employed at the strategic level, which is where the best operational results can be achieved. I hope that the MoD will not make the mistake of using them at the tactical level."

And I quote...

"I would particularly pay tribute to the young men and women of our Armed Forces who give such professional service to this country, often in most demanding and dangerous circumstances. They have my respect and admiration."
— The Queen, responding to a Loyal Address in the House of Commons to mark the 50th anniversary of her accession.

Cost-effective: The estimated cost of basic training for one recruit during the year ended March 31 was £11,000.

Bowman: Operational field trials of the Bowman communications system are due to begin in November next year at battalion level. A final field trial, at brigade level, is planned for August-September 2004.

Wide-ranging: A total of 3,873 overseas personnel from 104 countries – ranging from Albania to Zimbabwe – were involved in military training in the UK last year.

In credit: The number of Army personnel claiming working families tax credit is 1,718. In the Royal Navy it is 73 and the Royal Air Force 345.

Island intake: Last year 364 Fijians joined the Army, bringing to 906 the number of islanders to enlist since 1998.

Pregnant pause: On May 1, 354 members of the Army, 93 of the Royal Navy and 223 of the Royal Air Force were pregnant.

Curtain drawn on big guns in Kosovo

WITH the return to Gütersloh of 26th Regiment RA, the days of AS90 in Kosovo have ended. The gunners, back in Germany after a ten-month pan-Balkans tour of Kosovo and Bosnia, were the last to deploy with their big guns to the region, easing the pressure on all AS90 regiments and allowing them to take part in missions outside the Balkans for the first time in years.

High points during the deployment – 26 Regt's fourth in the region – included 155mm illuminating missions near the boundary with Serbia, manning observation posts on the Macedonian border and uncovering one of the largest caches of weapons found in Bosnia. First to deploy, in July last year, was 16 Battery (Sandham's Company). It reinforced The Black Watch in Pristina and was followed to the Balkans by 127 (Dragon) Battery.

The remainder of 26 Regt deployed to Pristina and Podujevo in October.

Cavalry make big arms find

A SWEEP by C Squadron, The Blues and Royals (The Household Cavalry Regiment) around Dubica in Bosnia turned up an impressive arsenal of illegal weapons, including eight heavy pieces.

It was almost a case of first time lucky for the unit, whose only previous involvement on an Operation Harvest search for hidden arms had been conducted with local police.

In a mission run by C Squadron and supported by a platoon from the Prince of Wales Company of the Welsh Guards battle-group, the Blues and Royals uncovered 68 small arms in addition to the heavy mortar tubes, more than 100 mortar bombs, 79 grenades and 12,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Maj Adam Lawrence, OC of the unit, said: "C Squadron was in the same area in 1999 as part of the HCR battle-group, so it is the second or third time for most of the soldiers in this area." His troops began a six-month tour at the end of March when they relieved the regiment's A Squadron.

During the second morning of the 36-hour operation, LCoH Andy Short's



Heavy stuff: Some of the weapons found by the HCR

patrol found a rifle in a storage barrel and an M27 behind a shed. Another team soon reported other finds. A farmer who handed in two 83mm tubes and 50 boxes of mortar bombs told Sgt Rhys Gwillan WG that the munitions had taken up space in his barn and that he was very pleased to get rid of them in case the building caught fire.

IN BRIEF

● A new squadron of Queen's Gurkha Signals paraded last month at Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, home of 30 Signal Regiment. Formed last year as part of 2 Signal Regiment, 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron is now officially a QGS sub-unit.

● Support Battalion, HQ ARRC, led by

Maj Steve Townell, won half the trophies at the RLC combined corps skill-at-arms meeting at Ash-Pirbright ranges.

● Col Sgt Maj Gordon Clark, right, inspects the first new-look guard, formed by the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, to be mounted at Edinburgh Castle to mark the



Bound for the Balkans: Thirty-six Warrior fighting vehicles and support vehicles belonging to the Tidworth-based 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment set out from a siding at Ludgershall, Wilts on the first stage of their journey to Pristina in Kosovo, where the battalion will be based for six months. The vehicles were taken by rail to Marchwood military port near Southampton for a voyage by sea to northern Greece. On the final leg of their trip to Kosovo, the Warriors were transported by road. Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble

Ground-breaking TA signals unit back from Banja Luka

WHAT was believed to be the first fully-formed Territorial Army squadron to be mobilised to an operational theatre since the Suez Crisis of 1956 has returned from the Balkans.

The contingent of TA soldiers, who made up 97 Signal Squadron, were drawn from units across the UK. For six months they provided communications support to HQ British Forces keeping the peace at Banja Luka in Bosnia.

During periods of free time squadron members took part in a community project to install computers and refurbish a school in the town. Employers of

some of the soldiers – who came from the West Midlands, Bristol, Sheffield, London, Nottingham, Milton Keynes, Dundee and Edinburgh – donated computers and other equipment to help the project succeed.

Brig Nigel Jackson, Commander of 2 (National Communications) Signal Brigade, who was responsible for the creation of 97 Squadron, said the deployment demonstrated that, given the right circumstances, training and support of civilian employers, individuals in the TA could match their Regular counterparts on a one-to-one basis.

Medics called up to support operations

FIVE anaesthetists and two surgeons serving in the Territorial Army are being called up this month under the Government's compulsory mobilisation legislation. They will be deployed in July to Bosnia, Kosovo and the Afghanistan theatre to support military operations. It was stressed that the call-up had nothing to do with the mystery illness affecting 34 Field Hospital personnel at Bagram airfield. Earlier this year TA intelligence specialists were compulsorily called up to help in the fight against terrorism.

Water-Warrior



Making a splash: A Warrior crew from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers take their infantry fighting vehicle for a run on Ayr Beach during a military exercise in Scotland. Picture: Mark Owens

● NAAFI has split itself in two to meet the Army's changing requirements at home and abroad. Northern Ireland, overseas military bases and the Expeditionary Force Institutes are to be managed by Naafi International, while domestic facilities – used significantly less – are to be refashioned under Naafi GB.



Queen's birthday. Since the end of the Second World War, the castle esplanade has been guarded during summer months by two sentries. In future, military ceremonial duties will consist of 16 soldiers parading only on days when a member of the Royal Family is in the city and on special salute days.

Will decision not to guard castle spread to London? – Page 73

● Colchester Garrison Radio has teamed up with the BBC World Service to broadcast a half-hour programme to Nepal every evening.

● Army chef Cpl Jason Derriman, from 7 Air Assault Battalion REME, Wattisham, spent a week in the kitchens of Raymond Blanc's famous Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons restaurant.

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War widowers' pensions rules eased

WAR widowers can now enjoy the same pension entitlements as war widows. Under changes introduced on April 8 widowers will no longer be subjected to means-testing.

The changes remove restrictions on war widowers' pensions and means they now have the same entitlement as war widows to basic and supplementary pensions and allowances. Anyone turned down under the old rules may make a fresh claim under the new. Those already receiving an award

under the War Pensions Scheme will have their claims reviewed automatically to ensure they receive the full entitlement.

The old rules reflected social conditions after the Second World War, when husbands were regarded as the primary breadwinners and subjected to means-testing.

For more information contact the Veterans Agency free helpline on 0800 169 22 77 (UK), +44 1253 866043 (overseas) or e-mail help@veteransagency.mod.uk

Barrel of laughs: BBC presenter Michael Aspel, left, meets Capt Alan Ponde, a troop leader with The King's Royal Hussars, on Salisbury Plain while filming the KRH's silver for the "The Antiques Roadshow". Michael was last in Tidworth in 1951 when he was a National Service rifleman.

Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble



Team plays its part in new South Africa

BRITISH military advisors eased the final intake of former freedom fighters into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and brought the curtain down on eight years of sensitive work.

A team from the Pretoria-based British Military Advisory and Training Team (South Africa) – BMATT(SA) – deployed to Kimberley to oversee the intake of 68 men and women from the military wings of the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress.

The intake mustered at Kimberley was the last of 21. It will become part of the SANDF, which is being developed to operate within and outside South Africa's borders. Currently it has soldiers in Burundi

and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With BMATT(SA) members observing at every stage, the former irregulars were given identity and medical checks at the headquarters of the 3rd Battalion, South African Infantry, told of the career options available to them and boarded for rank, appointment and training needs.

More than 150 British Army officers have been involved in the process over the past eight years, during which time they have shouldered the difficult task of weaving together the fighting components of eight different forces.

Their mission was so successful that the team was awarded a Wilkinson Sword of Peace for its achievements.

Stephen Menary, the Army cadet injured by a torch bomb, meets the Queen during a tree-planting ceremony in London. He was also presented to the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force.

● WO2 Ray Moore of the Military Works Force, Nottingham, presented Stephen's appeal fund with a cheque for £2,200. He raised the money by completing the Great North Run.



THE BBC is looking for Service people with transferable skills for a documentary about moving to a new career in a different sphere. To register an interest, you need to click on the BBC logo in the Service section of www.modreunited.com by mid-July.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● The SAS plans to sweep away its culture of secrecy by employing a spin-doctor to publicise its battles. The highly-paid public relations expert will give newspapers and television official versions of SAS operations. – *News of the World*

● Politicians love the Army but the feeling is not reciprocated. Politicians pay tribute to the Armed Forces and the Armed Forces reciprocate with a short, muttered reply no newspaper could print. It's a love-hate relationship and why would it be otherwise? – Simon Carr's sketch in *The Independent*

● Soccer-mad squaddie David Borrie of the Royal Dragoon Guards based in Germany drives 1,300 miles home every weekend to play in his local Sunday league in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. – *Sun*

● A futuristic electronic cannon that can fire one million rounds of heavy artillery a minute is among the contenders to replace Crusader, the \$11 billion howitzer project that the US Defense Secretary has deemed obsolete. – *Times*

● An unprecedented number of young people of ethnic minority origin are applying to join the Army after a long campaign to overcome concerns about racial harassment and discrimination. – *Times*

● The Dartmoor Ten Tors Challenge [see Page 29] faces growing criticism from environmentalists who fear the presence of so many walkers on one weekend threatens the survival of some of Dartmoor's internationally rare bird species. – *Independent*

● Teenage girls increasingly want a career in the Armed Forces while the appeal of the military has declined dramatically for boys over the past half a century, according to a new survey. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Rats may soon take part in search-and-rescue missions or hunt for landmines after a remarkable demonstration by American scientists of a "Robo Rat" which carries a special backpack containing a radio receiver and brain stimulator. – *Daily Telegraph*

● The Pentagon has developed a new weapon in the war on terrorism – the honey bee. Scientists have trained swarms of the insects to find minute traces of explosives and guide humans to the site. – *Times*

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Soldiers of the Queen

British Army marks half a century of close allegiance to the Sovereign

'TODAY, after 51 years, the Armed Forces of the Crown again owe their allegiance to a Queen. As Soldier goes to press it is not known what Army titles and honours will be assumed by Queen Elizabeth II.'

WITH these words the March 1952 edition of *Soldier* recorded the arrival on the throne of "a Queen born and bred in Service traditions, a Queen who once wore battle-dress and denims".

At that time some regiments already enjoyed close links with the new Monarch. As Princess Elizabeth, she was Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, Colonel-in-Chief of the 16th/5th Lancers and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Honorary Brigadier of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The late King, George VI, was Colonel-in-Chief and Captain General of more than 30 regiments and corps.

As Princess Elizabeth, the new Queen had had her name in the *Army List* since 1942 when, not long before her 16th birthday, the King appointed her Colonel of the Grenadier Guards.

On her birthday she took her first salute from a parade of detachments of the regiment. Her first solo public engagement



was an inspection of the 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards in 1943.

In that edition half a century ago, *Soldier* reported: "Like his father and grand-

New Colours were presented to the Scots Guards by their Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen, at Windsor Castle last month, above. Queen's and Regimental Colours were received by the 1st Battalion and the 2nd Battalion, the latter's to be held by F Company, Scots Guards.

Currently based in London, 1 SG will Troop its Colour on June 15. It is due to exercise in Kenya later this year before leaving the UK for a posting to Germany in 2003 as Warrior-equipped armoured infantry.

Picture: Mark Owens

March 1952: How *Soldier* recorded the start of the Queen's reign, left

father, the King made the design of badges, medals and new uniform his personal concern. He set his face against

● Turn to next page

The Queen

● From Page 17

anything which was foreign to the dignity and traditions of the Services. He stood by the spirit of the King's Regulations.

"Now those King's Regulations are the Queen's Regulations. The King's Company of the Grenadier Guards, whose Colour traditionally goes to the Queen with the Sovereign, becomes the Queen's Company. Only the name changes.

"The King died knowing that the traditions were safe; that the Heiress to the Throne would proudly accept her responsibilities to the Armed Forces, and that they would as proudly accept their responsibilities to her."

Over the past 50 years, both parties have been steadfast in their commitment to each other. The proof of the great affection in which the British Army holds its Queen is evident in the coverage of countless occasions on which she has honoured its officers and soldiers, men and women, with her presence.

A few of those events are recalled in the pictures reproduced on these pages.



Combat order: The Queen talks to Gurkha soldiers, above, during a 1978 visit to their former base in Church Crookham, near Aldershot



Ceremony: The Queen inspects men of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards while presenting the regiment with new Colours in 1999, right



Laughter: A moment of humour during a royal visit to the Women's Royal Army Corps centre at Guildford in 1979, right



New start: The Queen, accompanied by Gen Sir John Wilsey, on the formation of HQ Land Command at Wilton on June 28, 1995, above

The Queen's titles include:

Colonel-in-Chief – Life Guards, Blues and Royals, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Queen's Royal Lancers, Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Engineers, Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards, Welsh Guards, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Queen's Lancashire Regiment, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Royal Green Jackets, Adjutant General's Corps and Royal Mercian and

Lancastrian Yeomanry.

Affiliated Colonel-in-Chief – Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Captain General – Royal Artillery, Honourable Artillery Company and Combined Cadet Force.

Patron – Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

The Queen holds similar military titles in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malawi and Malta.



Historic occasion: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrate the bicentenary of The Royal Yeomanry at Windsor in April 1994, above

Jubilee diary

June

3: Military units all around the world will be marking the day with beacons, bonfires and jubilee celebrations.

4: RAF fly-past over Buckingham Palace.

23: Charity concert by military bands and picnic in aid of Army Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion and SSAFA-Forces

Help at Loseley Park, Guildford, attended by Earl and Countess of Wessex.

27: Queen visits Armed Forces in Portsmouth (no public access).

29-30: Merseyside Service charities military show, Walton Hall Park, Liverpool.

July

5: Parade for the Queen's bodyguards and In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Buckingham Palace gardens.

6-7: Outdoor family spectacular at Army Training Regiment Lichfield, Staffordshire.

13: Family fun day featuring TA at Red Hill Primary School, Chislehurst, Kent.

17: 3rd (UK) Division Beating Retreat, Tidworth Polo Ground. Gates open 1700.

October

11: Concert by the Band of the Welsh Guards, Lyric Theatre, Carmarthen.

● See also Dates on Page 65



Mounted: For many years the Queen rode at the Trooping of the Colour on Horse Guards Parade, here with the Irish Guards, above

Family moment: With The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Catterick in 1979, right



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Guns fire at cave hideouts

Royal Artillery lends support in hunt for al-Qaida terrorists

GUNNERS from 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery, have been in action providing fire support to 45 Commando Group during efforts to flush out al-Qaida and Taliban forces.

The regiment's guns provided fire support for assaults on a number of cave and bunker complexes during Operations Parmigan and Snipe. More than 120 rounds were fired from 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery's 105mm light guns.

Rugged terrain, altitudes starting at 3,000m and fearsome daytime temperatures have been among the hurdles faced by the gunners.

"The fitness of the observation post parties has been tested to the limit as the terrain proved exceptionally challenging," said Capt Chip Bryant of 148 (Meiktila) Commando Forward Observation Battery.

"In addition the climate constantly fluctuated between snow, rain, electrical storms and freezing temperatures to seething heat. On top of that, each man was weighed down with full small-arms ammunition scales, grenades, enhanced body-armour, helmet and surveillance equipment."

The time between arrival in theatre and deployment on the first offensive operation, Op Parmigan, was no more than 48 hours for some.

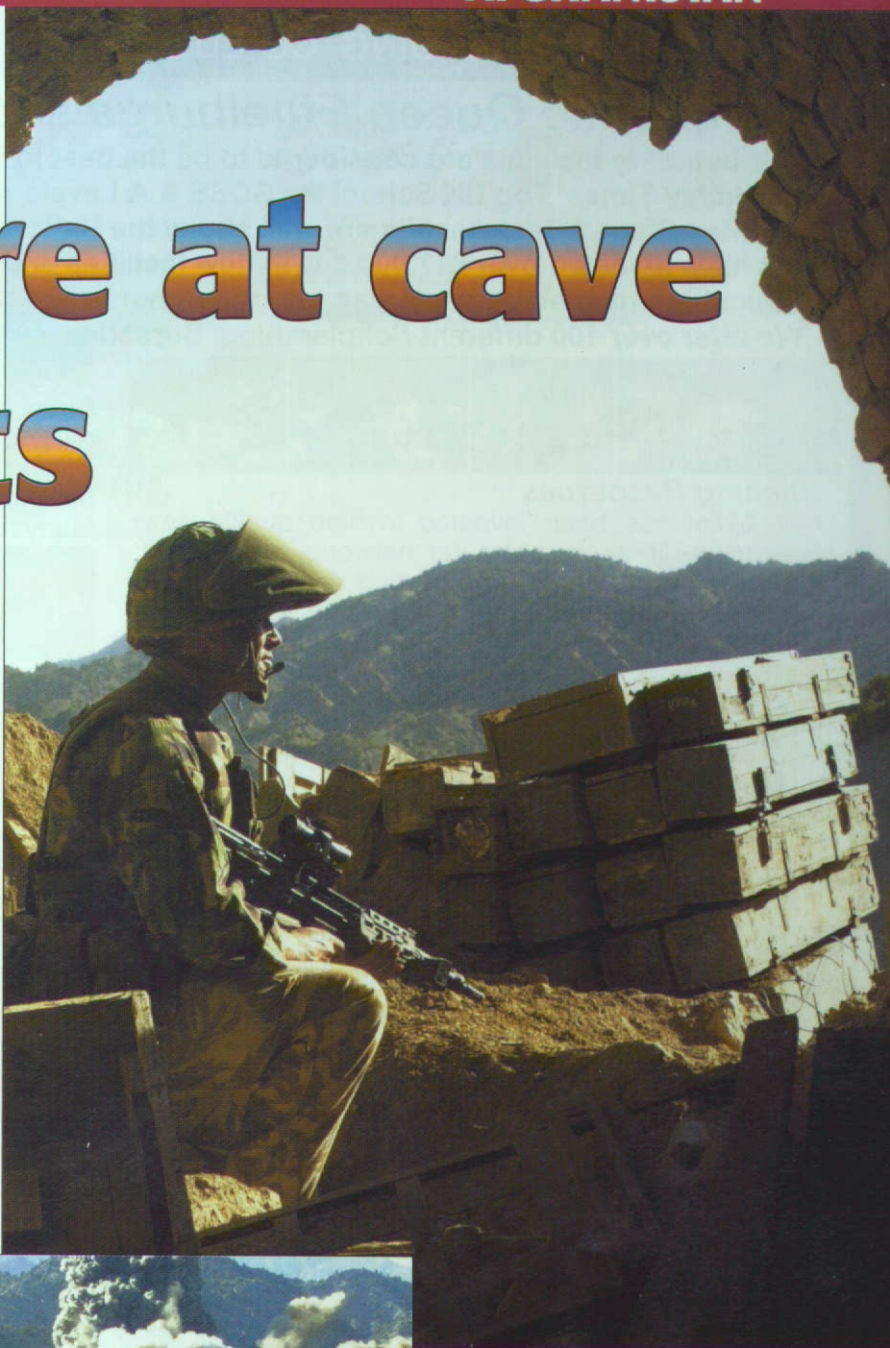
Gunners from 148 Battery were inserted with the Brigade Reconnaissance Force and three days later a troop of guns flew in by CH-47 to support the infiltration of 45 Commando Royal Marines with the Tactical Group of 7 Battery.

Capt Bryant said although coalition forces had previously cleared the area there was a real threat of al-Qaida and Taliban forces remaining dug-in in the numerous caves and bunker complexes.

These had previously been at the centre

All quiet:
A sapper keeps guard at a cave entrance, right, surrounded by boxes of munitions

Up in smoke:
The cave complex and a significant ammunition cache is destroyed, below



of heavy fighting on a feature called the Whale during Op Anaconda. There were, over the course of five days, many finds of significance, including communications equipment, documentation, weapons and ammunition.

Immediately Op Parmigan was over, the brigade began planning for Snipe.

This 16-day operation over some of the harshest terrain in Afghanistan involved

sweeping through a remote valley from which the enemy had fled. Working in territory new to the coalition forces, troops discovered a cave complex containing a huge amount of arms and ammunition. It was destroyed where it was found before all units on the ground returned to Bagram.

Back at the airfield the gunners have integrated their Mamba artillery locating radars into the force protecting the airfield, providing data on any indirect fire attack.

This, coupled with a troop of guns ready to engage on immediate notice in counter-battery fire missions, has provided a considerable increase to the security of the coalition forces.

One Mamba has also been deployed to Kabul in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and there are plans to locate other systems further afield.

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More untold stories of '82

(by Chip Wood, who was there)



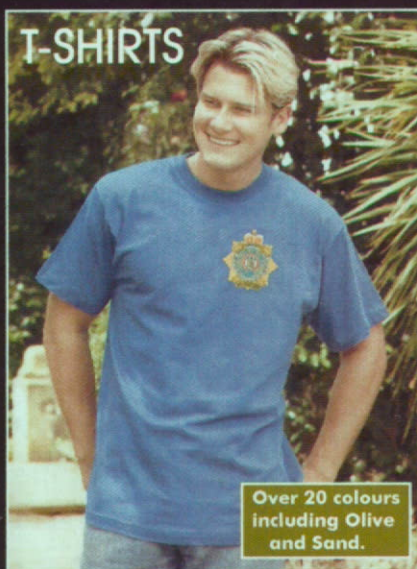
"And did sir pack his own natty matching luggage?"



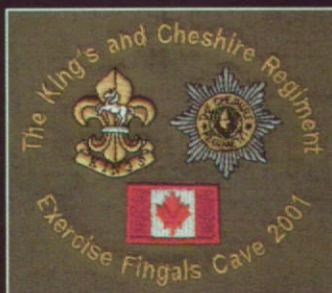
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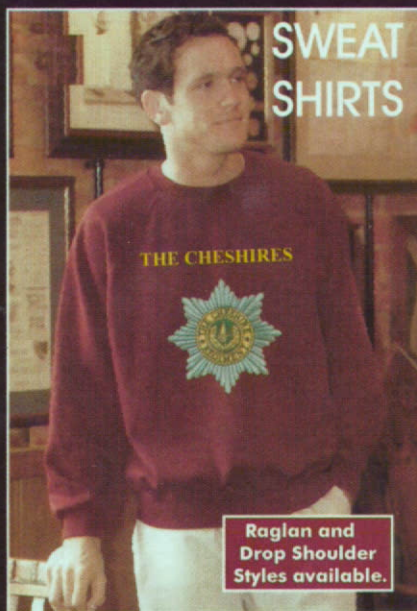
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Anything but quiet

Soldiers are busier than ever in Belfast, a city in the grip of the worst sectarian violence for years

Report: Anthony Stone
Main picture: Steve Dock

IF what happens in north Belfast almost every night kicked off in any other city in the United Kingdom it would be front page news and there would be almost as many television crews on the streets as rioters.

But little of the unrest is reported outside the province – a situation the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, Lt Gen Alistair Irwin, finds frustrating.

"Because people are not aware of what is going on they think that nothing is going on," he said. "Actually nothing could be farther from the truth. It is not considered by editors back home to be very interesting. We have, after all, been at this for 34 years without a break. It has to be really exceptionally interesting to enter people's consciousness."

Lt Gen Irwin's first experience of Northern Ireland was in August 1970 when he was a subaltern in The Black Watch. One of his first jobs was as an acting platoon commander on public order duty during the Apprentice Boys' March in Londonderry. He has returned over the years to command a company, a battalion and a brigade.

"We are very busy doing what we are paid to do, which is to support the police in the defeat of terrorism and the maintenance of public order.

"It is perfectly true that the volume of terrorist activity is down from what it was in the very bad old days and the consequences, for one reason or another, have been much less than in the past. But nevertheless, the threat remains and we have



Flammable situation: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards come under sustained petrol bomb attack during the climax to public order training at Magilligan Camp

to operate against the threat so the police can go about their business."

As *Soldier* went to press there had already been more than a dozen attacks this year by terrorists against the police and the Army.

But of pressing concern is the upsurge in inter-sectarian violence, particularly in north Belfast. Increasingly mobs are prepared to throw blast bombs at police and soldiers, firearms are discharged and petrol bombs are a frequent menace.

"Young men, and in the Royal Irish Home Service, young women, grow up very quickly when they have had to deal with a night of rioting," said Lt Gen Irwin. "They go out a little bit frayed but come back walking tall."

Skills learnt in Northern Ireland have proved invaluable in other theatres where British soldiers have been deployed.

"There is no doubt about it, this place has always been good for low-level com-

mand development and it continues to be so. But that is no reason to keep it going. Some of our political enemies accuse us of keeping our military presence here simply to give ourselves a training ground. I can assure them, and everyone else, we are not here just for the hell of it."

As the Province gears up for the marching season, Army commanders will try to reduce tensions by lowering the Army's psychological and physical profile.

Practically this means avoiding the "in-your-face" approach by, among other things, keeping disruption caused by helicopters and checkpoints to a minimum.

"This requires ever-increasing commonsense and thoughtfulness on the part of commanders," Gen Irwin said.

"They have always had to display those things but we are in a delicate area now where potentially every action is something that could upset the political apple cart. We are asking a lot of our people and they are delivering."



Lt Gen Alistair Irwin

Surviving is the easy part

For more than 80 years the Defence NBC Centre at Winterbourne Gunner has taken the lead in chemical, biological and nuclear defence training

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

PERCEIVED wisdom has it that if there's a sure way to ruin a good exercise, it is to finish up with an NBC scenario. Once the respirators and suits go on, and soldiers resemble gaint insects on steroids, the fun factor disappears faster than a vapour trail in a gale force seven.

By and large, soldiers do not find NBC a sexy subject. But following September 11 there has been heightened interest in the risks posed by chemical, nuclear and biological weapons and the Defence NBC Centre at Winterbourne Gunner has never been busier.

Wg Cdr Andy Ormerod, commandant of the tri-Service centre, is aware of the image problem. "Historically, NBC as a subject lacks dignity and élan. It cramps all the things we hold true – leadership, teamwork, effectiveness – and that has carried across to the way the subject has been portrayed.

"Very often NBC training has been phased into an exercise almost in isolation. The images are still of the First World War and actually the whole subject has moved on in quantum leaps since then."

Biological warfare is probably as old as organised warfare itself. The Assyrians are recorded as having poisoned water supplies with fungal disease in the 7th century BC and Hannibal came up with the bright idea of firing projectiles filled with poisonous snakes onto his enemies' ships. Snakes and fungi aren't on the curriculum at Winterbourne Gunner, but the tri-Service and civilian staff at the centre offer dynamic courses offering instruction in all aspects of NBC defence training.

Staff prefer the term radiological rather than nuclear, which covers the threat



Wing Cdr Andy Ormerod:
Removing ignorance vital

from so-called "dirty bombs". These are devices which may have a limited explosive effect but nevertheless pose a considerably contamination risk.

Teaching is carried out in a new, purpose-built training centre with numerous lecture halls and syndicate rooms equipped with computer, slide, audio and video projection facilities; a separate computer instruction room is used to play out

NBC scenarios. A training range complex includes respirator testing facilities, collective protection and decontamination areas.

"Although our main role is to train the trainer and assist with external exercises," said Wg Cdr Ormerod, "removing ignorance and making sure people are informed and engaged in the subject is the core business of the centre."

'The Defence NBC Centre's mission statement – Putting NBC into Defence – has never had more meaning'

Originally, when the military camp was built in 1917, the unit was owned by, and provided training almost exclusively for, the Army. More recently, the needs of jointery and the increasing possibility of UK Forces having to operate in areas of NBC risk have reinforced the need for a modern and truly joint NBC training facility.

The need for a robust capability to survive and operate in NBC conditions has never been greater and the centre provides the specialised training which underpins this.

Soldiers need to better understand the risks. Cpl John Maestri, 1 BW, a student on the NBC instructors' course, said soldiers should pay more attention to NBC drills.

"People seem to think when you go on exercise that you either have your respirator on or off. In reality, it's much more complicated than that, with many stages in between."

Sgt Owen Davies, 1 RGJ, an instructor at the centre, couldn't agree more. "Everyone needs to know how to deal



Blowing in the wind: Bdr Darren Vince 26 Regt RA is monitored for chemical and biological agents by Cpl Matt Mansfield RLC during training at DNBC Centre Winterbourne Gunner

with nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological attack. On the three-week course we teach soldiers so they can go back to their units to teach all aspects of NBC defence.

"A lot of units do not cover NBC in the way they should do, probably because it is a hard subject; it's in the 'too difficult' category and nobody wants to deal with it."

Staff also prepare joint NBC defence operational doctrine and sponsor tri-Service NBC defence pamphlets. They advise the Services in planning, conducting and assessing individual and collective NBC defence training, including preparation for operational deployment. Training teams visit exercises and training establishments in the UK and abroad, gathering feedback which allows the centre to assess the effectiveness of the training.

Wg Cdr Ormerod said: "The people who come through our doors generally have no, or limited, knowledge of the subject. We have to take them from a zero start point to a position where they can go out to instruct or be effective in a staff officer appointment. The emphasis is on not viewing the subject in isolation."

But the centre teaches much more than how to survive, as Maj Brian Clesham, RGR, the centre's chief-of-staff pointed out. The training equips soldiers with the knowledge of how best to carry on operating in an NBC environment.

"People who come here benefit considerably, especially officers who may regard NBC in a different way. Some have said it gets in the way of a jolly good exercise. All of a sudden you are in there with gas masks and respirators and your synergy is gone. It is more difficult to operate and management becomes more important than before."

Aside from Service and MoD-approved customers, such as the emergency services, the centre has developed good working relationships with police forces, particularly the Metropolitan Police.

Following the events of September 11, both the military and public awareness of the risk from weapons of mass destruction has increased dramatically. The surest ways to survive the threat, manage the risks and maintain operational tempo depend upon preparation and knowledge.

The Defence NBC Centre's mission statement – Putting NBC into Defence – has never had more meaning.



Flashback: How soldiers protected themselves from gas in 1917

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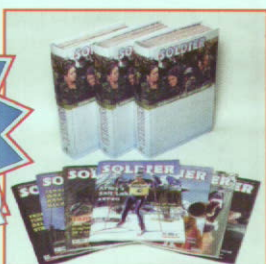
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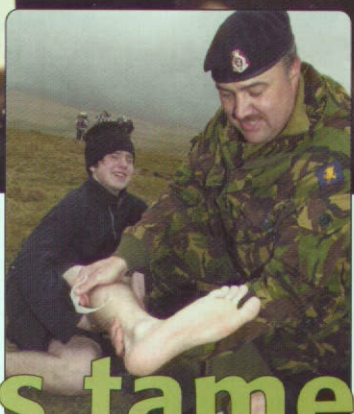
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Not far to go: Weary participants near the finish of the 2002 Ten Tors challenge across Dartmoor, above

That's better: SSgt Peter Evens, right, RAMC, 243 Field Hospital, checks the state of Greg Hind's feet



Youngsters tame not so wild west

**Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Sgt Brian Gamble**

OF the 2,346 teenagers who set off across the beautiful but rugged Devon moors on the Army-organised 2002 Ten Tors expedition, 1,942 made it to the finishing line.

Although last year's event was a victim of the foot-and-mouth epidemic, it was business as usual last month when units from 43 (Wessex) Brigade ran the show as they have done since 1986. The Army has supported the annual expedition for schools, youth organisations and Service cadets for the past 42 years.

Unlike some previous years which have been hit by blizzards, this year's event was blessed with near-perfect weather.

There are three distances for walkers – 35, 45 and 55 miles – with the main event setting out from Okehampton Camp. The start of the expedition was signalled by two light

guns from 29 Commando Regiment RA, the unit currently supporting the Royal Marines in Afghanistan. Lt Gen John Kiszely, Commander Regional Forces, was on the start line at 0700 to send the youngsters on their way with some encouraging words.

To qualify for an award, teams of six must return to camp by 1900 on the following day. The 35-mile route is for marchers aged 14 to 15, the 45-mile for 16 and 17s and the 55-mile for 17s to 19s. To enter for the longest course, 17-year-olds must already have completed a 45-mile route.

Nineteen tors – hills with granite outcrops – were manned by military teams reinforced by medics and signallers. With safety a top priority for the organisers, their job was to check teams through and report on their progress.

No flagging: End of the road as marchers approach the finishing line



Judge's military briefing

The latest in our series about the day work of TA soldiers

WHEN it comes to disciplinary matters, how many soldiers think that their CO believes himself to be some kind of county court judge? **asks Ray Routledge.**

Well, meet one who is. Col Charles Ackroyd is in the Territorial Army and currently working with the Director General Doctrine and Development at Upavon on plans shaping how the Army will look in 20 years.

In civvy street he is a district judge, delivering verdicts on the people of Portsmouth.

A former Royal Marines Reserve, he switched to the Army six years ago, moving from second-in-command at RMR Bristol to 2ic of Southampton University Officers' Training Corps, just a few hundred yards from his home on the South Coast. He had just returned from three months in Sarajevo as Chief Public Information Officer when *Soldier* visited the Combined Court Centre in Portsmouth.

Judge Charles Ackroyd

Picture: Steve Dock

"I was a solicitor in Southampton for more than 20 years before becoming a judge dealing with civil cases," he said.

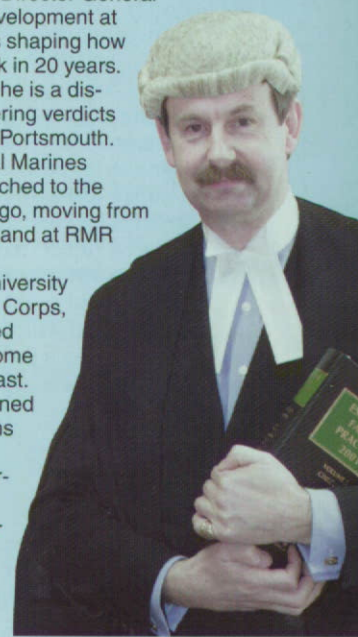
His work has covered divorce, financial matters, bankruptcy and personal injury claims. The latter, he says, have risen dramatically in recent years.

"In one case someone was claiming to be suffering from stress as a result of being under pressure to pay a debt and was counter-claiming for that stress from the lender," he recalled.

"Being a lawyer for so many years, one gets used to being objective, a useful skill when making tough decisions, for example, on which parent has the custody of children in divorce cases."

He likens some of his work in the law to soldiering. "At the end of the day as an officer I have to get the best out of people and it's the same as a judge. Management skills which are good in one job are good for the other."

• Are you in the TA and in a job that could be of interest to our readers? Write to us or e-mail rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Home-grown hero

Every war throws up acts of valour by modest folk who risk everything to defend their homeland. Terry Peck is such a man

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston and Terry Peck

TERRY Peck was an ordinary bloke leading an ordinary life. But 20 years ago he did some extraordinary things against all the odds.

A fifth-generation Falkland Islander (his family settled there in 1847), Terry grew up in Stanley, became a plumbing and heating engineer and worked in the freezer plant at Ajax Bay.

Wanting more from life, he joined the island police force and, over a period of 20 years, rose to become its chief before a perforated ulcer led to his medical retirement in 1980.

Terry returned to the heating business, became involved in local politics and, in 1981, was elected a councillor. His police days, however, were not quite over. On April 2, 1982, the day the Argentinians invaded, he was called back to the force as second-in-command.

Terry, an amiable man with a twinkle in his eye and a permanent chuckle in his voice, recalled: "I recruited a lot of guys as specials to support the four regular officers. I was responsible for keeping Argentinian nationals, some of whom were military, in the lock-up."

"They had been coming in under cover, employed by fuel companies during the last three weeks of March. It was obvious what was going on but nobody did anything about it."

Terry also recruited three sailors from the Royal Navy's Antarctic survey vessel, HMS *Endurance*, who were staying on a farm. "They were armed and I persuaded them to get rid of their weapons because the Argentinians would have treated them as paramilitary and that could have had terrible consequences."

The invaders took the police prisoner and soon discovered the ratings, who were detained with Royal Marines captured on the island.

Terry remained free to help in the community. It was then that this ordinary man began to do some extraordinary things. Using a camera hidden inside a length of pipe, he covertly photographed Argentinian positions. Two teachers allowed to leave the islands smuggled the

films out in jars of Vaseline. Subsequently delivered to the MoD, it was the first intelligence concerning enemy missile sites to reach British forces.

On April 20 a colleague tipped Terry off that the invaders, by now increasingly suspicious of his activities, were about to arrest him. Commandeering a motor cycle and a pistol, he made his way into the mountains to Long Island Farm, where the Marines had been based.

With the Argentinians hot on his trail, he spent several weeks in the mountains, picking up food from local farms.

"I guessed that the Marines would have buried their weapons and Neil Watson [from Long Island Farm] and I unearthed them a few hundred yards from an Argentinian position."

Terry dished them out to local people and considered attacking the enemy at night, but they decided against it in case their actions sparked off reprisals.

This embryonic resistance force set up a communications system between farms, monitoring Argentinian observation posts in the mountains and passing information to Terry to relay to the soon-to-arrive British forces.

On May 21 he heard announcer Isabel Short talking in a coded way on the local radio station about "little green men". Realising the British had landed, Terry made his way to Port San Carlos. Having evaded enemy patrols to complete the hazardous trip, he spent three days being debriefed by military intelligence officers desperate for reliable local information.

"The 2ic of 3 Para, Roger Patton, asked me to guide a company patrol. I couldn't think of anything finer."

So Terry began his march back to Stanley. He guided two fighting patrols and came under fire before moving to Mount Longdon to watch for Argentinian movements. Terry led A Company onto Longdon and later brought wounded down.



Proud: Terry Peck at the Stanley war memorial



Spy: One of the covert pictures of Argentinian emplacements, left. It was smuggled to the UK

about it; you mustn't keep it bottled up," he said.

Today he and his wife run the YMCA they set up in Stanley ten years ago. It was established to provide residential accommodation for youngsters, mostly from outlying farms, who, because their parents cannot afford to keep them, move to the capital to look for work.

On occasions of remembrance, Terry proudly represents The Parachute Regiment. He wears at such events the maroon beret presented to him on Mount Longdon. "Every year I lay a wreath on behalf of the Paras and the South Atlantic Medal Association," he said. He also visits Argentinian cemeteries on the island and has become friendly with a veteran of Wireless Ridge.

Terry is due to retire later this year. "But look what happened last time I did that," he joked.

Telex link to the world

How the invaders pulled plug on Brian's daily chats with the man from the *Mail*

BRIAN Summers was a part-time sergeant major in the Falkland Islands Defence Force in April 1982 and a full-time supervisor with Cable and Wireless.

"Telex was the main means of communications and after the invasion we were supposed to impose self-censorship," he told *Soldier*.

That didn't stop one message reaching Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Bizarrely, the C & W operators were called up every day by the *Daily Mail*. "We would chat to them – by telex – but had to be cautious about what was said," he recalled.

On one occasion a message arrived from the Red Cross. "It got corrupted and the Argentinians were convinced it was a coded message."

"We also had daily contact with the Antarctic ice stations, which was morale-boosting, until the station on Bass Island received instructions from the UK not to talk to us. We were gutted about that."

Everything changed on April 27 when,

with a dozen other potential trouble-makers, Brian was sent to Fox Bay East and placed under house arrest. He spent the rest of the war there.

"We had plenty of food and a hidden bottle of rum and lived in the foundations so as to be safe from shrapnel," he said.

That caution was justified when a shell went through the building and into the pantry, burying itself in a wall near the freezer. Brian pulled it out with a pair of pliers. "If we'd left it there we would have had to have sealed the area off... and that is where our food was."

On another occasion the prisoners' fuel store was destroyed during a Harrier attack.

The group attempted to keep up with the progress of the war by listening to the BBC on hidden radios. Liberation eventually came on June 15 with the arrival of sailors from HMS *Avenger*. "We hitched a lift back to town on a Sea King helicopter and I immediately went back to work with Cable and Wireless."



Brian Summers

Memories



The team: Maj Alf Thomas is the mustachioed Yeoman of Signals, front centre

Frenetic days on Ascension Island

THE photograph shows soldiers from 30 Signal Regiment who manned the Commcen on Ascension Island throughout the Falklands conflict. This fine body of men deployed from Blandford on April 5, 1982 to the tiny island 4,000 miles away in the South Atlantic.

Our task was to set up telegraph communications with the UK (and later Port Stanley) using a mixture of HF radio and satellite links. At the height of the conflict around 1,000 messages a

day passed through the hands of these nimble-fingered operators.

My most vivid recollection was the sight of many ships stopping off on their way south and witnessing first hand the frenetic activity taking place at the island's airbase – for a time the busiest in the world. Perhaps the most poignant memory was the short period we played host to traumatised survivors from HMS *Sheffield*, on their way home. – Maj Alf Thomas, IA5 DEI and IS, DCSA Blandford, Dorset.

ALTHOUGH the story of how British forces recaptured the Falklands has been exhaustively detailed, the part played by the islanders has largely been ignored.

A new book about the conflict, *Falkland Islanders at War*, documents what happened when the Argentinians invaded and the methods the local population used to undermine the invaders' authority.

The BBC World Service used to sign off its Falklands broadcast during those turbulent times with the exhortation to keep "heads down, hearts high." Despite their grim circumstances, the slogan accurately mirrored the islanders' steadfast attitude.

The book's author, Graham Bound, was born in Stanley into one of the islands' oldest families. He sheltered at the Upland Goose

Gratitude of islanders still raw below surface

hotel throughout the occupation, taking notes and photographs and keeping his head down.

In 1979 he founded *Penguin News*, the islands' only newspaper and, after moving to London, became assistant editor of *Soldier* magazine. He now edits *Focus*, the MoD in-house journal.

This book has had a 20-year gestation period, but it was one he was always determined to write.

"The tendency is to give all the kudos and credit, with some justification, to the people who went 8,000 miles to liberate the islands," said Graham. "But it is all too easy to forget

what the local people went through." Three islanders were killed during shelling in Stanley – friendly fire incidents caused by the Argentinians living on top of the islanders. Locals were in the thick of it throughout, and others suffered injuries of varying severity during bombardments, air raids and battles.

The main resistance was from people who found themselves behind British lines. One or two met up with the Paras and acted as guides and even took up weapons (see extract below). Others like Trudi Morrison helped supply troops with convoys of Land Rover and tractors, coming under mortar and air attack.

"That's not classic French Resistance-type stuff, but it is pretty meaningful," said Graham.

Non-compliance in Stanley took many forms – ranging from a lone radio operator who carried on transmitting with a tiny battery-powered transceiver to those who drew scurrilous posters which appeared around town.

"The guys who really had a tough time were the ones who kept the utilities going, like the water and power supplies," said Graham. "What do you do in a situation like that when the town is occupied and your own people are still in it?"

The Islanders established a system of not

doing anything that would directly help the Argentinians and of hindering them if at all possible. The senior administrator at the power station devised a devious scheme by which the workers managed to cut off power to the invaders almost every night.

They told Col Manuel Dorrego, the Argentinian engineer in charge of the Public Works Department, that if he wanted the power to stop falling then Argentinian troops would have to stop using it.

The colonel issued an order which allowed the islanders to cut the leads off Argentinian electric kettles. "It was remarkable, an incredibly cheeky thing to do. They even had an armed Argentinian with them to give them authority to cut the leads off everything," Graham said.

Two decades on, memories of the conflict in the UK may have faded, but in the South Atlantic the islanders still feel raw gratitude towards their liberators.

"It is a very emotional thing," said Graham. "People really did go down to the Falklands and die and that makes you focus on what it was all about."

"The days of Mrs Thatcher being hailed as a hero are pretty much over, but the idea of the people who died being heroes is very much alive."

Undoubtedly, having a robust military presence on the islands sends out a clear message and is a source of security for the islanders, but memories are still vivid.

"If you dig a little under the surface you would be surprised at how raw things still are."

Heads down, hearts high

How Falkland Islanders helped Paras carry out vital reconnaissance before the battle on Mount Longdon

TRUDI Morrison specialised in using her Land Rover to support the patrols. She and other local drivers would form up with a convoy of six just as darkness was descending. The driving was carried out in the dark and with no lights. To show a light would have drawn artillery fire and the drivers played safe by removing bulbs.

Maj Roger Patton (2ic, the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment) insisted that Trudy change her bright clothes for camouflaged Army fatigues. Otherwise, he told her, a sniper peering through a light-enhancing night sight – and the Argentinians had far more of these than the British – might see her as someone different and assume she was a commander – a perfect target.

Once at the drop-off point the drivers would wait for hours before the patrols returned.

"We always used to make sure we'd park underneath the peat banks, because every night around 11 o'clock the Argies would lob a few mortars in our direction. You would hear them whistling over," she said.

It took guts to support these missions,



Pictures: Graham Bound

Demoralised and downcast: The scene in Stanley on June 14 as Argentinian troops retreat along the route they had swaggered down on April 2

but the patrols themselves were remarkably daring. As Maj Pat Butler (OC "D" Patrol Company) explained, they had to be. "The whole purpose was to get a feel for the contact we would encounter. There were patrols actually counting people in their sleeping bags in their trenches. That is what we could achieve by stealth."

"At this stage there was a conflict of opinion about what we were facing. The view right the way back to London was that there was only a company on Long-

don. We had been counting at least three times this number, so we were always of the opinion that we were going to attack a battalion – at least 700 men."

The demands of real operational work were new to most of the Patrol Company, but they had, at least, trained for the role. Local guides Terry Peck and Vernon Steen had no such luxury. One or other of them was on the mountain most nights before the battle itself. Nineteen years on, Terry Peck looked back on his nights on Mount Longdon with a sense of awe:

"It was unreal. We would get as close as we possibly could get without spitting in



Arms dump: Author Graham Bound inspects some of the thousands of discarded weapons

their eye. We're talking tens of metres. Sometimes I got a bit nervy, particularly on moonlight nights."

Sgt John Pettinger was, perhaps, the most daring patrol leader of all. With Pte Dickie Absalon, a 19-year-old sniper of uncanny accuracy, he virtually mingled with the enemy.

One night Pettinger and Absalon located a gully that took them straight to the Argentinian defences. Unfortunately the enemy also used it.

Sgt Pettinger said: "There was human crap everywhere, so we proceeded up the gully very carefully. Then we saw the silhouette of a guy walking down towards us. We had practised what to do in such circumstances: as we couldn't afford to open fire, we would have to stab him in the throat and out through the windpipe. That way he wouldn't scream."



Graham Bound

"A dig in the ribs was enough to say we need to do something about this, and we put our rifles down. Fortunately for him, he stopped about six feet away from us. He dropped his pants and had a crap right in front of us. It was the luckiest crap that guy ever had."

Sgt Pettinger was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his daring patrols.

Pte Absalon was killed by a mortar blast the day after Longdon was captured.

Sgt Pettinger reckons that during the battle the young sniper killed more Argentinians than any other soldier, often picking off men almost a kilometre away.

Condensed from *Falkland Islanders at War* by Graham Bound (Pen & Sword, £19.95). Telephone 01226 734555 for *Soldier's* special price of £17.95 plus £1.50 p&p.

Memories

Sgt Fred Squires, 2 Para Sniper platoon commander

CPL Jacqui Nock, serving with 2 CS Regiment RLC in Germany, sent us the following accounts told to her by her father, CSgt Fred Squires, who left the Army in 1991 after 22 years with the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Fifteen years after the war she completed a four-month tour in the Falklands and visited many of the places he had been during the war. She tells us her father, who witnessed the attack in which his commanding officer, Lt Col H Jones, was killed, no longer talks about what happened 20 years ago.



CSgt Fred Squires

NOT long after we landed I was sitting in my foxhole in a valley on Sussex Mountain. An air raid red alert had been given by the Navy, which meant an enemy aircraft attack was on its way. A couple of minutes later two of our Harriers flew over my position to the opposite side of the valley, slowed to a stop in mid-air, and began hovering just above the ground.

All I could see of them was a heat haze. Soon afterwards four enemy Skyhawks, in pairs, screamed down the main valley towards the fleet anchored in the bay. As they drew level with the re-entrant, the Harriers popped up and proceeded to blow the ... out of the rear pair of Skyhawks, then gave chase to the other two across the bay and out of sight.

DURING a lull in the fighting CSgt Squires and a couple of the boys were bored so went fishing in Bluff Cove. Little did they know that the RFA *Sir Galahad*, was just about to come under attack at Fitzroy. There was nothing they could do except watch.

Boom time down South

Today's islanders are enjoying a vibrant, expanding economy

SINCE the dark days of 1982, the Falklands have been transformed... and it's all down to fishing, writes Ray Routledge.

A fisheries zone established in 1986 generates more than £20 million a year through the sale of fishing licences.

Here are 20 things you may not know about the Falklands:

1. **Apart from defence expenditure, the Falkland Islands are self-sufficient.**

2. A 2001 three-year plan aims to safeguard the environment and reverse the population decline in the countryside.

3. **The population in a 2001 census was 2,379 (excluding Service personnel). In 1982 it was 1,800... and falling.**

4. If plans for an abattoir to EU standards go ahead there could be a huge opening for organic meat exports. At present meat for the garrison is shipped from Europe.

5. **About 80 per cent of the population is under 55. There is no unemployment.**

6. A deep-water port and plans to develop the fishing industry onshore will attract more money into the economy.

7. **Electricity is now the main domestic cooking fuel. In 1982 it was peat.**

8. About £4 million generated annually by fishing licences is spent on research and protection of fish stocks and species.

9. **The islands are self-governing.**

10. There is free health provision; a 28-bed hospital opened in 1987 and includes an acute care wing, a two-bed maternity unit and two-bed intensive care unit.

11. **About 40,000 tourists will visit the islands this year.**

12. One in two households has a computer with internet access.

13. **Improved relations with Argentina include joint promotion of fishery conservation, prevention of poaching, and admission of Argentinians.**

14. A regular flight to Santiago in Chile stops over in Argentina twice a month.

15. **Oil exploration is going on off the coast but it is too early to say whether it exists in commercial quantities.**

16. Since the end of the war 1,400 mines have been cleared from 120 Argentinian minefields. About 16,000 remain. The UK and Argentina are working on the feasibility and cost of clearing the rest.

17. **The unpolluted waters around the islands encourage sea birds, sea lions and seals to the shores.**

18. Salad crops grown in Stanley supply the local population and the military base.

19. **A set of stamps has been issued to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.**

20. It is hoped 59 reindeer shipped in from South Georgia can become the basis of an organic venison industry.

● The main Falklands War commemoration event is on June 14, when wreaths will be laid at the Liberation Monument in Stanley and the Freedom of the islands will be granted to British Forces.

Balm of time heals the wounds of war

Denzil Connick nearly died on Mount Longdon. Twenty years on, his experiences are helping other Falklands veterans to find inner peace

Interview: Anthony Stone
Picture: Mike Weston

IT'S midday and the telephone hasn't stopped ringing at the South Atlantic Medal Association's offices on an industrial estate in Blackwood, Gwent.

From behind his desk, Denzil Connick picks up the receiver, scribbles a few notes and lights up another in an endless stream of cigarettes.

This anniversary year has been a particularly busy one for Denzil and SAMA 82, the veterans' charity he helped set up.

When Argentinian forces invaded the Falkland Islands on April 2, 1982, Denzil was a 25-year-old lance corporal with 3 Para, based at Tidworth. He sailed south on the *Canberra* and tabbed from one end of the East island to the other before fighting a bloody night battle on the slopes of Mount Longdon. Twenty-three men were killed in action and more than twice that number wounded.

Between breaks in telephone calls, and with another cigarette burning between his fingers, Denzil remembers the night of June 11. "During the actual battle itself I was involved with coordinating the fire for our GPMG and our Milan missiles – we could not take in our Wombats (a British 120mm recoilless anti-tank weapon).

"Milans were used quite effectively to take out Argentinian bunkers and we fired long bursts with the GPMG, which was pretty good at keeping the enemy occupied. It gave our rifle companies vital moments to gather themselves and keep the momentum going.

"The battle lasted something like 12 hours and it was pretty grisly, to say the least – hand-to-hand fighting with bayonets. It was back to basics using all the traditional infantry skills.

"People have this conception that we were fighting children. Yes, they might have gone onto those islands as boys, much the same as our youngest went

ashore. The youngest person to die in 3 Para was just over 17. The guy had hardly started his life and he was killed in action."

Denzil grinds the stub into the ashtray. The phone rings, but he lets the answer-phone kick in.

"They did put up a good fight – they would not have taken out 23 of some of the best-trained troops in the world if they hadn't some fire in their bellies. They were defending a natural fortress. As the attackers, we had a hell of a job on our hands.

"At the end of it there were a lot of



Burying the ghosts: Denzil with a painting depicting his return to Mount Longdon

deaths and a lot of people were wounded. That was when they began to shell us. They had our position pre-recorded as a target in the event of losing it and they shelled us for two days. It was towards the end of that period when I was hit by artillery along with two other guys from 3 Para. They were killed by the shell-fire. I was severely wounded.

"I lost the whole of my left leg and my remaining leg was very badly mutilated. Even today it gives me a lot of trouble. I get about on crutches, which is the best I can do."

A lesser man might have allowed life to take the upper hand at this point. But

Denzil sees the glass as half-full, not half-empty, and his life today is rich and undimmed. He is married with two teenage boys, the younger of whom is thinking of joining The Parachute Regiment. The other is off to university.

His view of the war has not changed over the past decades. "Britain had a principle to uphold and a people to defend," he said.

"I lost some really good friends in that war. There is no pacifying the mothers and the widows and the close relatives; we must respect their feelings. But the overall outcome, I think, was pretty good." Denzil's view is that the Argentinians might have lost the war, but the upside for her people was that the military junta was deposed.

About ten times a year, the telephone's remorseless ring brings grim tidings – news that another Falklands veteran has taken his own life. There are no accurate figures, but Denzil estimates more Servicemen have committed suicide than the 255 who died in the conflict itself.

The problem, he believes, is post traumatic stress disorder, the social cost of which can not only be calculated in suicides, but in all the lives broken by alcoholism, divorce, drug-abuse, unemployment and prison.

Several anniversary events are planned this year but the main focus takes place in November when 200 veterans will return to the islands. "This is a true pilgrimage, not a bit of a jolly for a few old lads to get together for a drink," Denzil said. "It has a proper purpose behind it.

"Re-visiting the sources of your worst nightmares, re-confronting them in a different set of circumstances, has been shown to have a very marked therapeutic effect. It is a chance to bury ghosts and bring a sense of closure and confidence for the future."



Time to reflect: "Britain had a principle to uphold and a people to defend"

When people ask why SAMA is marking the 20th, rather than, say, the 25th anniversary, when more official help would be available, Denzil replies: "So many people need the pilgrimage right now. Five years will be too long to wait."

And with that, the telephone starts to ring again and Denzil reaches for another cigarette.

● Send contributions to SAMA82, PO BOX 82, Blackwood, Gwent NP12 OYE.



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Free to march: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment parade in front of Sheffield Town Hall as one of five units to be honoured by the city. Picture: Adrian Murray

Mass freedom in South Yorkshire

FIVE contingents of Regular and Territorial Army soldiers marched through the streets of Sheffield with bayonets fixed to mark the award to their units of the city's freedom.

"The city wanted to acknowledge its strong military links and the role that our soldiers play in operations around the world," said Lord Mayor David Baker.

Troops from 212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital RAMC (V); 38 Signal Regi-

ment (V); Chestnut Troop of 1 Royal Horse Artillery; 106 (West Riding) Field Support Squadron (Air Support) (V); and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) paraded past the town hall before their representative colonels were presented with the freedom scrolls by the Lord Mayor. He was thanked by Brig the Duke of Wellington.

The parade was commanded by Col Charles Batty, CO of 212 Field Hospital.

Terry's all silver

Drummer Terry Brown, right, of the Scots Guards, shows off the silver bugle awarded to him for being the best bugler in the Household Division. He gets to keep the coveted trophy for a year and will play it on all royal duties, including at Buckingham Palace in front of thousands of tourists.

He will also play on Horse Guards Parade on June 15 when the regiment troops its new Colour in the presence of the Queen.

When he joined the Army four years ago Terry couldn't play a note. Now he performs on the side drums and bugle in the battalion drums platoon.

Picture: Sgt Shaun Lewis



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.

Money: there's a lot of it about

MONEY has never been so cheap. The Bank of England has just announced the base rate will stay at four per cent, the lowest it's been for 38 years.

Lending rates are linked to base rate, some directly (like overdrafts at, say, two per cent above base rate). Others are not so obviously linked (although they are). Saving rates – that's the lender's margin or profit – are lower than borrowing rates.

Over the past few months, we've looked at different ways of borrowing and I hope that you have begun to think a little more about how you borrow money. It may seem like I'm down on it – I'm not. I want everyone to be informed about money and to make good decisions.

Use the tool properly

Money is a tool. It makes trading easier. We sell our time to our employer, pay taxes and use what's left to live. It's easier than bartering. The simple equation is if I spend more than I earn then I have to dig into my savings or borrow to pay. If I dig into my savings I reduce the interest I earn. If I borrow then I pay interest.

The trouble is, if I spend more than I earn I drift into debt when my savings have gone. Borrowing isn't wrong and it's not always avoidable (mortgage, for example), but I like to make choices about how I spend what I earn.

Think before you buy

I have been trying to encourage you to think before you borrow (or buy on credit) or even buy. You've probably concluded that I'm a boring old git and that I should get a life and mind my own business. Well, I'm not old, but what I'm saying may not be what you want to hear.

Planning can be a good experience. Shop around for significant purchases, look at different models and compare prices. Negotiate for a better deal.

We appreciate it more if we buy from savings. I guess my challenge to you is to give it a try. Even doing a budget can be rewarding – comparing what you earn with what you spend.

Use our HelpLine

The average debt in this country is around £30,000, often owed to seven or eight creditors. Not all the many people we talk to on our HelpLine are in debt, but many are. Some want to talk in general – about budgeting, saving, strategies for families and for children. About 12 per cent of the UK population is struggling with money issues. About 70 per cent of relationship issues concern money. If you know someone in trouble, tell them about our HelpLine. Call the number below and get some of our cards to pass on. Ask for a poster for the mess, community centre, HIVE, doctor's surgery or church.

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Marking time

Star photographer picks up Army's coveted accolade

A **TIMELY** change in the rules of the annual Army Photographic Competition allowed Mark Owens, the Media Operations photographer at Edinburgh-based 2 Division, to enter the 2001 event... to stunning effect, **writes John Elliott.**

In previous years his diary has been too cluttered with exercises and the annual military tattoo for him to meet the autumn deadline set by the competition organisers. But with the cut-off point moved to the end of the year, Mark had sufficient time to compile a portfolio which won him the Army Professional Photographer of the Year title.

He promptly dedicated the award to his father, a keen amateur cameraman who had encouraged his son to take up the profession. Mark was a star photographer before he joined the MoD in 1992 – his first job was snapping celestial bodies for the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh.

He and the other winners received their awards from the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Michael Walker, at a ceremony in London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

Maj Nick Henderson, currently serving with the 1st

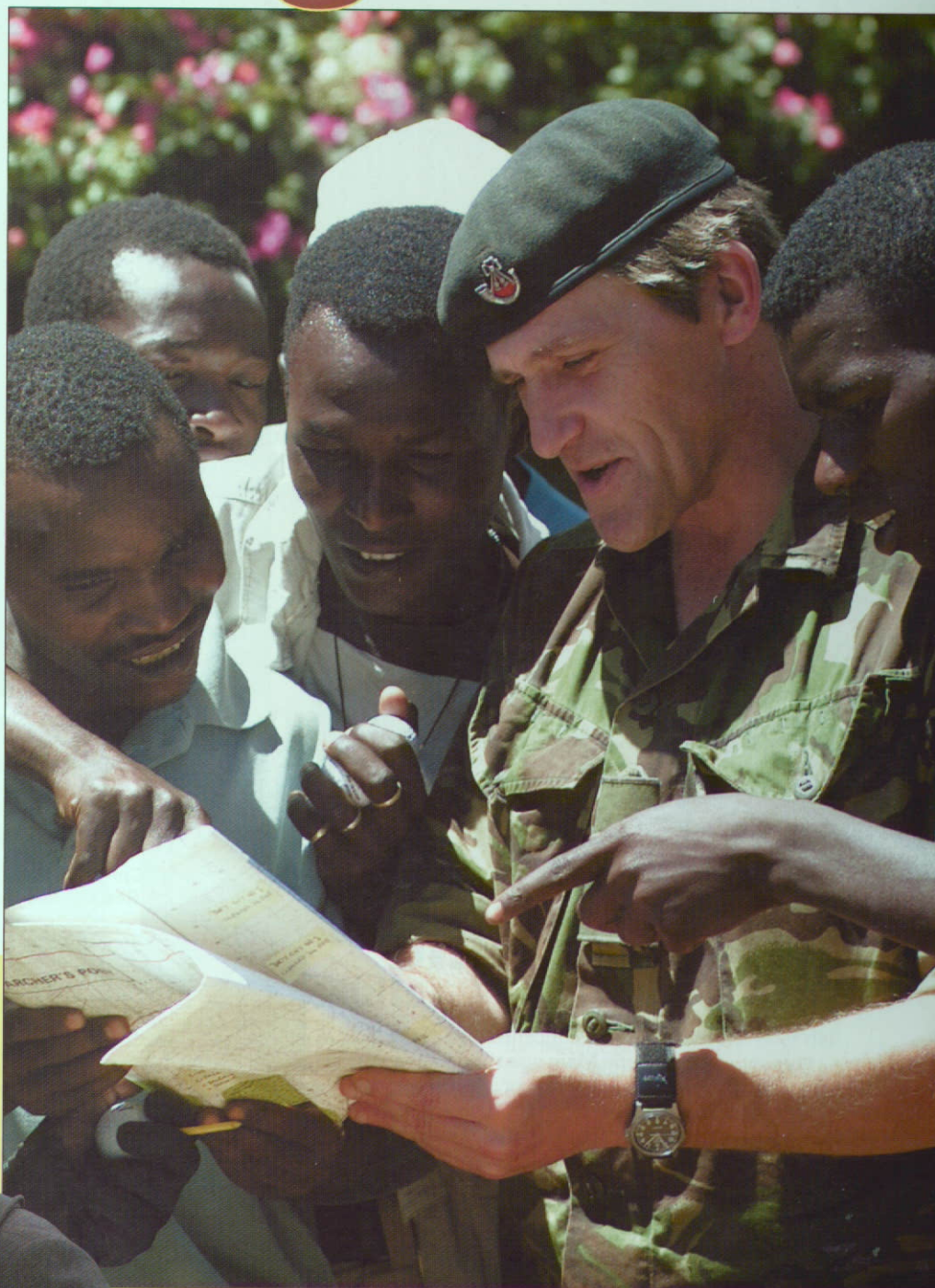


Chart-topper: Kenyan children at Nanyuki camp, above, share their map-reading skills with Maj Guy Chambers, 2iC of 1 LI. A photograph from Mark Owens's winning portfolio

Battalion, Coldstream Guards in Londonderry, won *Soldier's* monthly photographic award in November for his atmospheric shot of a young boy watching a helicopter take-off in Kenya. We were delighted when Nick's photo was selected as the best overall single image of the 450 or so submitted for the Army competition. He said he took the picture with the camera resting on his

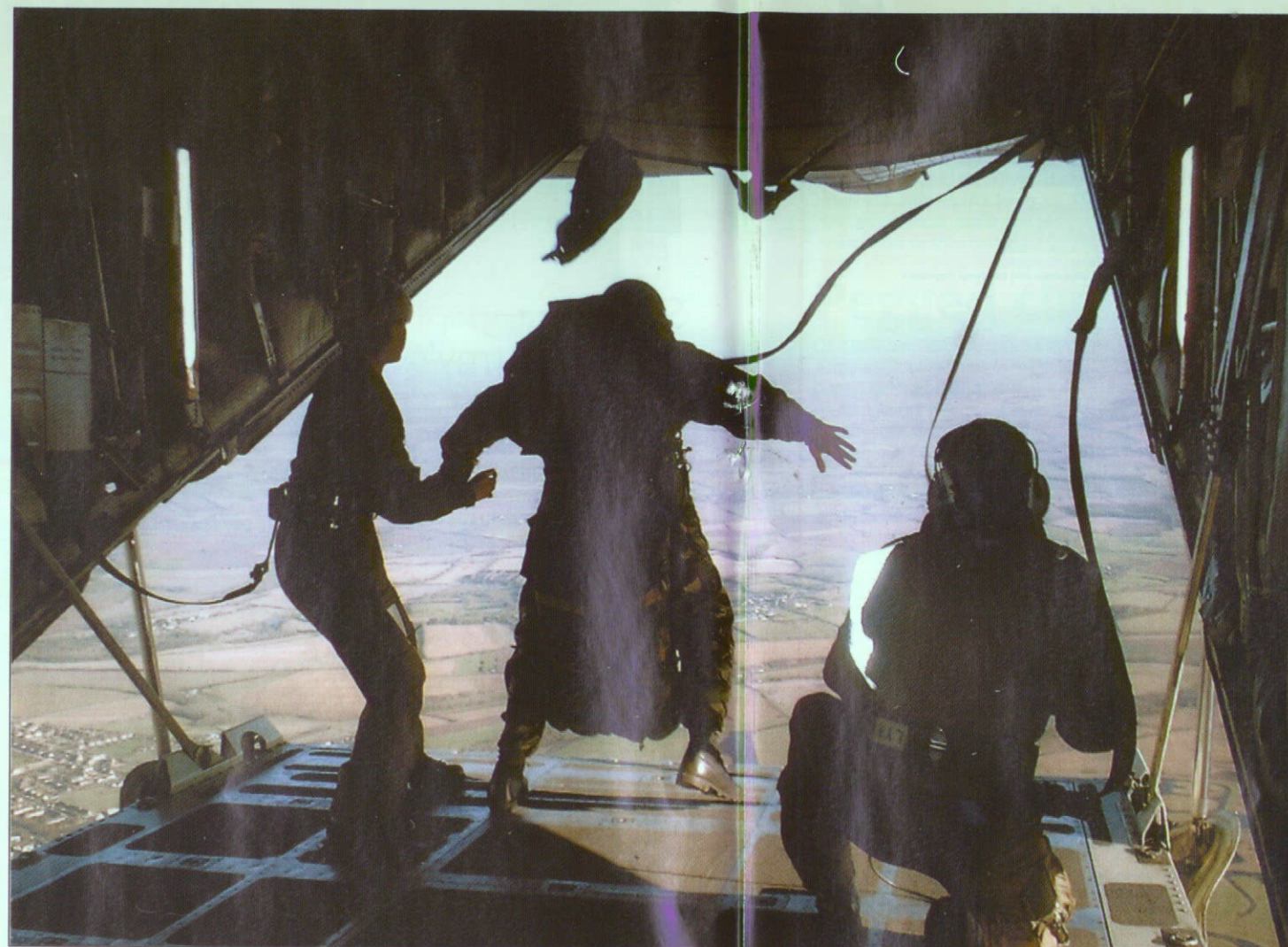
● **Turn to next page**

Trophy: Mark Owens shows off his trophy





Mean and moody: One of the two images which won WO2 Dave Brown the top prize in the Today's Army category, above. The other had to reflect social aspects of Army life



High life: LCpl Stephen Stovell's winning entry, above, in the Army Experience category depicting an exercise, expedition, sport or training activity

Dazzling effect: Cpl Mark Ballantyne impressed the judges with this clever, digitally-created image, left

Lip service: Cpl Mark Scobie's mouth-activated picture of the Red Devils training in Florida, below

● What our top photographers had to say –

Vox pop, Page 78

Marking time

● From Page 39

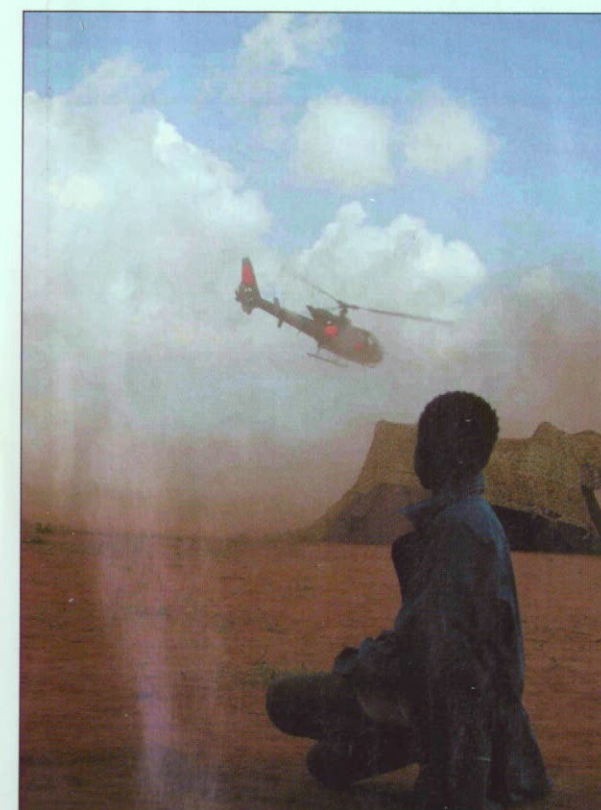
lap so as not to disturb the concentration of the lad.

Our very own Graeme Main was runner-up in the category with his amusing image of a heavily-armed soldier of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment joining football-mad youngsters in a kick-about on a dusty Pristina playground (see Page 63).

Cpl Mark Scobie put his mouth where the money was while taking a picture of the Red Devils going through one of their aerial routines during training in Florida... and it won him the runner's-up spot in the Army Experience category. To release the shutter on his helmet-mounted camera, Mark, formerly of 1 Para and now an instructor at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe in Germany, had to line up his shot, right, then blow into a tube to trigger the mechanism.

Mark, who has 1,500 jumps under his belt with the Red Devils, is donating his £300 prize to the team so they can buy new camera equipment.

View all the images at www.army.mod.uk



Caught in the act: This lad, enthralled by a helicopter taking off in Kenya, wasn't aware that Maj Nick Henderson was taking his picture, above. It was judged best image of the year



Atmospheric: This shot taken at the base of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina helped Maj Mark Smyth to win the title of Amateur Photographer of the Year

Team effort: Preparations for a parade gave Lisburn-based Army Information Service Northern Ireland yet another winning photographic opportunity, below



All the results

Army Professional Photographer of the Year, sponsored by Fuji: Mark Owens, HQ 2 Div (£500 digital camera, £250 cheque); runner-up, SSgt Giles Penfound, HQ SHAPE (£500 camera).

Amateur Photographer of the Year (Dixons): Maj Mark Smyth, HQ 1 (UK) Div (£500 camera, £250 cheque); runner-up, Maj John Gale, 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC (£500 camera).

Team effort (SSVC): HQ Northern Ireland (£1,000 to winning unit).

Digital image (Olympus): Cpl Mark Ballantyne, HQ Land (£500 equipment); runner-up, Sgt Brian Gamble, HQ 43 (Wessex) Brigade (£300 equipment); highly-commended, Bdr Darren Gray RA (£200 equipment).

Army Experience (Publicis) for best

single photograph of an exercise, expedition, sport or training activity: LCpl Stephen Stovell, 3 Para (£500); runner-up, Cpl Mark Scobie, Red Devils (£300); highly-commended, SSgt Frank Gainey, R Signals (£200).

Today's Army (Canon) for two images representing military and social aspects: WO2 Dave Brown, DISC (£500 camera); runner-up WO2 Pete Bristo, HQ Land (£300 camera); highly-commended, Graeme Main, *Soldier* (£200 camera).

Image of the year (Agfa): Maj Nick Henderson, 1 Coldm Gds (£1,000); runner-up, Graeme Main, *Soldier*, £50 and a book donated by the **National Army Museum**.

Soldier award for best single image short-listed by the magazine: Maj Nick Henderson, 1 Coldm Gds (£200 photographic gift voucher and £50) plus a £500 camera donated by Nikon.



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| 51018 | Green Howard's | 51058 | The Blues And Royals |
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| 51020 | The Kings Own Royal Border Regt | 51060 | The Royal Regt of Artillery |
| 51021 | The Kings Own Scottish Borderers | 51061 | The RAF Regt |
| 51022 | The Kings Regt | 51062 | The Royal Air Force March |
| 51023 | The Light Infantry | 51063 | The Royal Air Force Police |
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Top Ten Tones

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| 3. | The Kings Own Royal Border Regt | 51020 |
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| 5. | The Coldstream Guards | 51053 |
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backchat

IF you have an amusing or bizarre story touching on Army life, please share it with us. As long as it's not too scurrilous, we'll consider it for inclusion in this occasional column

Pegged claim

CLAIMS and allowances for 800 or so Army personnel in isolated posts overseas are looked after by the Global Regimental Administration Office at the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. One claim to reach its desks was submitted by an officer in South America who put in a receipt for a wooden leg. Apparently the officer's driver had hit a one-legged man.

Fortunately, the only injury was to the artificial limb and a claim was submitted for the damage. Legend has it that Glasgow paid only 50 per cent of the bill because the leg had woodworm.

THE old ones are the best ones. When Lord Northcliffe was running his pre-1914 newspaper campaign to rouse Britain to the German menace, the *Daily Mail* asked novelist Edgar Wallace (an ex-RAMC private) to create a recruiting advertisement. His finished piece, depicting happy, well-fed soldiers relaxing in deep armchairs, sightseeing in foreign lands and exercising gently under benevolent sergeants, was rejected by the Secretary of War as unrepresentative.

Wallace, on being told the news, was reported to have commented: "Well, tell them to make their f..... army like our f..... advertisement, and then they'll get recruits." He didn't get his way.

PARAS do it in style. An enterprising chef with 2 Para at Mare Harbour in the Falklands asked the lads what they would like to see more of on the menu and called for suggestions to be added to the list.

Top was lasagne, followed by hash browns, chocolate fudge cheesecake, and more pasta. One wag added: "Brandy and cigars after the evening meal and a bottle of port."

COMEDIAN Billy Connolly remembers exactly where he was when President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. He was on exercise in Cyprus with the Scottish TA Paras.

As his wife Pamela Stephenson recounts in her best-selling biography *Billy* (HarperCollins, £17.99), the unit was placed on emergency alert at RAF Akrotiri "in case a world war broke out".

Connolly had joined the TA to travel and, with hindsight, there can't have been a more unlikely Para. When his unit exchanged fire in Cyprus with EOKA terrorists he agonised about it later, saying: "I hope I didn't hit anyone." He left the TA as a private after three years – a departure not entirely unconnected with the fact that he had taken to wearing a CND badge on his uniform.



Travelling theatre

Containerised: Open it up and the Modularised Transportable Surgical Facility is ready to use

Medics test go-anywhere operating room

FOLLOWING successful trials of a mobile operating theatre capable of taking a sterile surgical environment onto the battlefield, Army Medical Services are to take delivery of four units later this summer.

The Modularised Transportable Surgical Facility (MTSF) would form the core of a field hospital, replacing tent-based equipment. It could also deploy as a stand-alone intensive care unit capable of handling up to 14 patients a day in state-of-the-art, sterile conditions.

Built around the standard ISO container, the British-made MTSF can be deployed anywhere in the world on trucks, in Hercules aircraft or by sea. It is suitable for military and humanitarian operations and can be up-and-running two hours after hitting the ground.

Constructed by Marshalls Specialist Vehicles of Cambridge, the package delivers a self-contained operating theatre (complete with surgical table, air-conditioning and NBC capability); expandable resuscitation and intensive care unit; and utility/service modules.

Subject to a few minor modifications, the Army is set to invest in four units, each



Instant theatre: A surgeon at work inside the MTSF

made up of four containers. The United Nations has expressed interest in 12-box units suitable for large-scale humanitarian missions, while several foreign governments and three National Health Service trusts in the UK have also indicated that they intend to buy MTSFs.

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Army's leading ladies

Navy rock the boat but five-star display against the RAF ensures victory

FIVE second-half goals against the Royal Air Force at Uxbridge preserved the Army women's football team's 100 per cent record in the Inter-Services championships.

With the Royal Navy beating the RAF 4-2 in the opening fixture, and having been held to a 3-3 draw by the Navy at Aldershot's Military Stadium, the Army kicked off the final match of the tournament knowing that victory by three clear goals would see them crowned as champions for the fourth successive season.

During the first 45 minutes it looked as though the RAF, with a determined defensive display, would make the Army pay dearly for letting a 3-1 lead slip against a vastly-improved Navy side, but the second-half proved a truly one-sided affair.

Any nerves that had been hampering the Army's performance evaporated when LBdr Claire West (5 Regt RA) scored shortly after the restart.

With the deadlock finally broken the reds pushed forward and wiped out the three-goal deficit with strikes from LCpl Juliette Brown (1 GS Regt RLC), Pte



Picture: Graeme Main

Close encounter: LBdr Claire West (5 Regt RA), right, races for the ball as LCpl Chrissy Wright (160 Pro Coy RMP) looks on during the Army's 3-3 draw against the Royal Navy

Jacqui McKay (9 Supply Regt RLC), LCpl Debbie Wooliscroft (HQ Land Command) and LCpl Chrissy Wright (160 Pro Coy RMP). As well as securing the championship title, the 5-0 victory

ensured that Army remains the only team name on the silverware.

◆ Bdr L Hodgson (2) and LBdr C West (RA) shared the Army's three-goal haul against the Navy.

IN OFF THE POST ...

Surfer hits troubled water

NOW that the Army has recognised surfing as an approved sport, mainly thanks to the efforts of Sgt Jase Fern (14 Signal Regiment), and with the first Army surfing championships swiftly approaching, a minor glitch seems to have arisen.

Unlike football, rugby and other common sports, surfing relies heavily on conditions that are difficult to predict. This makes the planning of practice sessions virtually impossible, particularly for those serving with landlocked units.

With minimum manning being met with regards to work commitments, why within the past seven years have I constantly been faced with rejection when asking for time off to surf, while my colleagues spend many an afternoon playing football, rugby and the like?

If the Army wishes to maintain its



Founding father: Sgt Jase Fern in action

"sport for all" image surely it should give equal opportunities to all sports. - Army surfer (name and address supplied).

FOOTBALL TABLES

MASSEY TROPHY

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|-----------|----|---|---|----|-----|-----|
| RE | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 22 |
| RLC | 10 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 21 |
| RA | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 18 |
| Infantry | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 18 |
| REME | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 25 | 17 |
| APTC | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | -2 | 17 |
| Int Corps | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | -3 | 13 |
| R Signals | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 11 |
| AGC | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | -9 | 11 |
| AAC | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | -9 | 8 |
| AMS | 11 | 1 | 0 | 10 | -32 | 3 |
| RAC | 11 | 1 | 0 | 10 | -35 | 3 |

PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPER LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|
| AGC | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 16 |
| RLC | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 16 |
| R Sigs | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 16 |
| AMS | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | -15 | 6 |
| REME | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | -19 | 6 |
| RA | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | -8 | 4 |
| Int Corps | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | -24 | 1 |

* Final league standings

One man and his dogs

Sapper's best friends ready to prove their championship pedigree to the world

TAKING the dogs for a walk is not a concept that Capt Graeme Scott (Royal Engineers) is familiar with, writes Andy Simms.

Indeed, when the ground liaison officer with 617 Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth takes his Scandinavian hounds out to stretch their legs, walking is usually the last thing on his mind – 35mph sprints tend to be the norm.

But then Huckle, Jenny, Blue, Flik, Finch and Zappa are not your average four-legged friends. The six dogs, all crossbred Alaskan huskies and short-haired pointers, have become his trusted team-mates and recently pulled the 32-year-old to his third national title at the United Kingdom sled-dog championships in Dalby Forest, Yorkshire.

For the uninitiated, sled-dog racing takes the form of a time trial and involves

teams of two, three, four or six dogs pulling a three-wheeled rig, piloted by a driver, around a track.

It is a sport that Scott first became interested in seven years ago. "I bought my first husky as a pet and running companion," he explained. "I was heavily into triathlon at the time and was running 55 miles a week. Mavic, who I named after a bicycle component manufacturer, used to join me in the hills.

"I then saw a programme on television about a sled-dog race in Scotland and the breeder of our first dog lent me a second so that I could begin racing in the two-dog class.

"I've always loved animals and was intrigued by the idea of a human athlete teaming up with canine athletes."

However, if the chance to compete alongside man's best friend proved the catalyst, it was the thrill of racing that convinced Scott to pursue the sport seriously.

"The feeling of speed you get from racing is fantastic," he said. "The rig we use for racing weighs only 15kg so you can really feel the power of the dogs.

"My lightweight rig reached a top speed of 37mph at the last national championships and things can get quite hairy when you are going round tight corners."

Ever since his first fateful ride,

Scott has invested heavily in his bid to become top dog, dedicating a lot of time, money and effort to the cause.

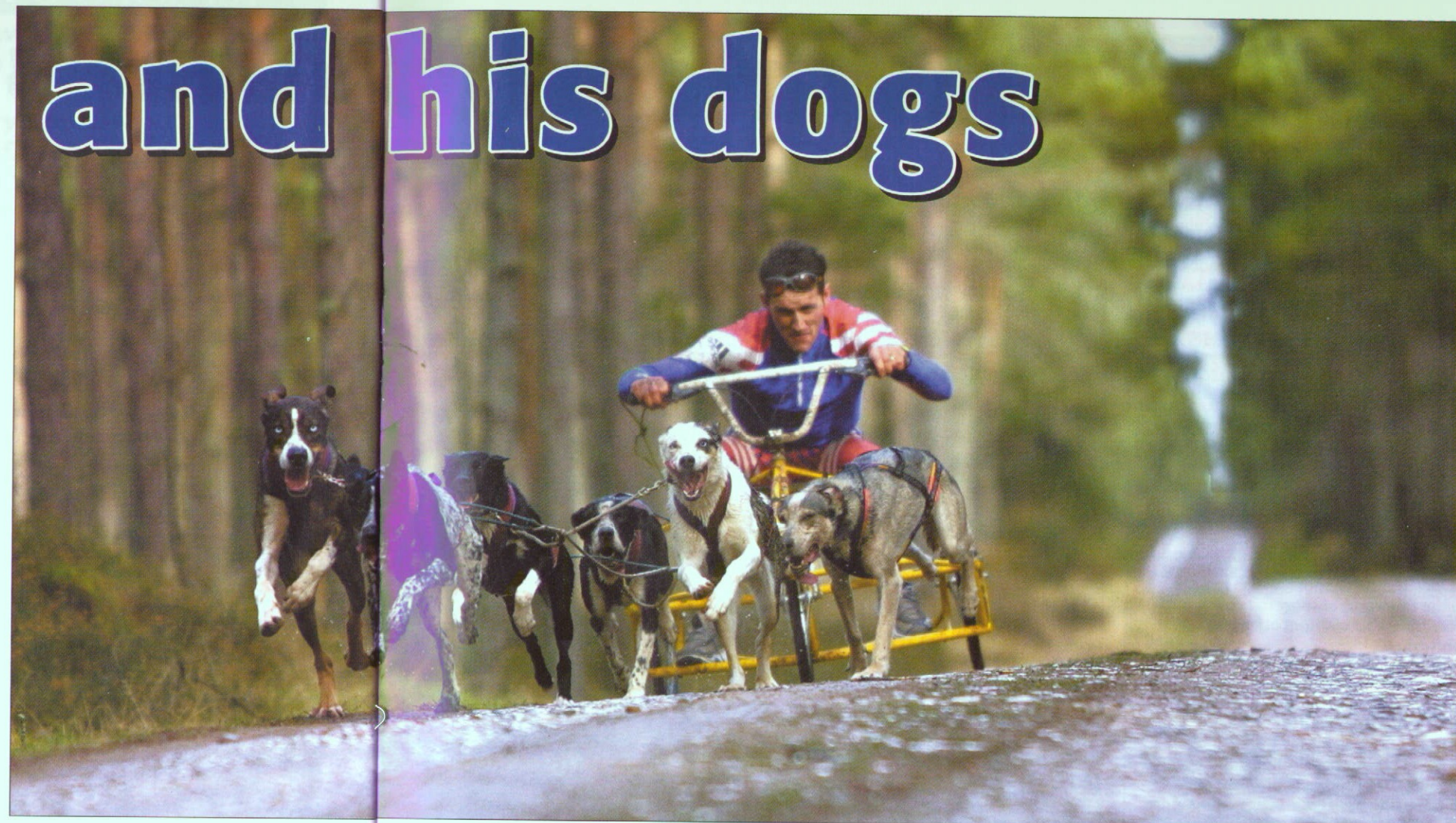
"To become a good sled-dog driver you have to possess a physical robustness and have a desire for hard work. It's not easy," he said. "Agility and fitness play a big part when racing and that means a lot of training. I wouldn't have been able

to compete without the help of my wife Carolyn. She has kept me on the straight and narrow and kicked me out of bed to go training in the rain.

"You also have to be patient and fair with the dogs and have a good understanding of how they tick. I've done courses in canine psychology to help me understand their moods and temperament."

Three British titles are testament to his hard work,

Pictures: Mike Scott (John Paul Photography)



Walkies: Capt Graeme Scott (Royal Engineers), Huckle, Jenny, Blue, Flik, Finch and Zappa in training for the world sled-dog championships

but Scott is quick to acknowledge that just like a champion motor-racing driver, his "engine" deserves its share of the credit.

"The team of dogs I have now are athletes in every sense of the word," he said. "They know that when we go out training or racing there is a job to be done and they never mess around – they just get on with running and like nothing better.

"They have a natural desire to run and you do not find that in every dog. When you see these guys run flat out for ten miles you get a real feeling of respect for what they can do.

"Phonetically, left and right sounds the same to a dog," he added. "They don't understand the meaning of the words, just the sounds. I control them using 'haw' for left and 'gee' for right, 'woah' to slow down and a sharp whistle to speed up. Once you have a leader who can respond to those calls it makes life a lot easier. Good leaders are hard to come by but in my team I am lucky enough to have

five dogs who are all capable of this, which is really quite unique.

"Huckle and Jenny are my first choice leaders," Scott said. "Huckle is a five-year-old male and the grandson of the current world champion in Alaska and Jenny, his three-year-old co-leader, is as fast as a greyhound.

"Next come two females, Blue and Flik, who settle the team and create rhythm. And bringing up the rear are two

extremely powerful males, Finch and Zappa, who are just plain crazy. Collectively, they offer a great combination of speed and power."

Despite his winning formula and having

dominated the domestic scene in recent years, Scott has had few opportunities to test his team's skill against international opposition – but all that is set to change next year. As reigning British champion Scott has automatically qualified for the world championships, which are due to be held at Todtmoos, Germany in February.

"The world championships will be the

first time the competition has been held in Europe since the introduction of the Pets Passport Scheme," he said.

"So this will be Britain's first chance to pitch a domestic team against the best in the world and then travel freely back home afterwards.

"It is every sportsman's dream to represent their country and I am fortunate that my dream is set to come true. It will be a massive race. Last year there were 84,000 spectators, so the experience should be second-to-none and one to really savour," he added. "Obviously the world championships is now my main focus and I will do my best to balance my military career with this hugely demanding sport.

"The dogs are a long-term commitment; they are not like skis which you re-wax and put away until next season, they need looking after all year round.

"Fortunately, I am based in northern Scotland where we have the best training facilities in the world and also have the best chance of snowfall. This could prove vital as the race in Germany will be on sleds," he said. "All things said and done I think we have a really good chance of success in the world championships."

When you see these guys run flat out for ten miles you get a real feeling of respect for what they can do



SHORTS

Will you take the bait?

THE Army Angling Federation are looking for keen fishermen to compete in this year's Army shore championships. The competition, which will be held in Dover on October 11-16, is open to all military personnel.

Anyone interested in an application form or further information should contact Sgt Jim Cargill on Mil 94774 8513.

Army's sevens sisters

WELBECK Army College was crowned champion of the Epsom College Girls' rugby sevens tournament after beating rivals Caterham School by a slender two-point margin in the final.

Sir Redgrave needs you

FIVE-times Olympic gold medallist Sir Steve Redgrave is urging soldiers to get involved with Sport Relief, the new fundraising campaign from Comic Relief and BBC Sport, which aims to unite the world of sport to raise money for vulnerable children at home and abroad.

Spearheaded by Britain's most successful Olympian, the campaign will culminate in a night of sport, celebrities, fundraising and entertainment on BBC One on Saturday, July 13.

To play your part in Sport Relief call 09068 101010 for a copy of the fundraising pack (calls will cost no more than £1.50, which covers printing, postage and packing).

Skeleton in closet

THE British Army (Germany) Sport Board has been awarded a diplomacy certificate by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in recognition of the considerable service it has given to the sport of skeleton.

The citation, signed by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, reads: "The IOC pays tribute to the British Army Germany Sport Board for a remarkable contribution as a volunteer to the development of Olympic endeavour and the promotion of friendship and solidarity among people."

Ipswich a-tractor crowd

AROUND 1,000 British soldiers watched Ipswich Town FC beat top Russian side Alania Vladikavkaz FC 2-1 in a charity football match at the Garrison Stadium at Dhekelia, Cyprus.

Nigerian international Finidi George and Spanish under-21 striker Pablo Counago found the back of the net for the Tractor Boys in a game which raised more than £700 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Army ride out naval storm

Satala-inspired reds reclaim Inter-Services crown at Twickenham

Army 18
Royal Navy 13

ON a scorching hot day, no one expected the Willis-sponsored Army-Royal Navy match to be an overly pretty affair and while the Navy remained focused on "fighting ops" it was unlikely to be any sort of a spectacle, writes **Roger Thompson**.

That said, it was for the connoisseurs of forward play, a battle of titanic proportion. For those who enjoy flare in pyrotechnic form this was an absorbing struggle until the final whistle.

There were also moments of good spectator rugby from the Army, especially when the outstanding player on the park, Pte Apolesi Satala (1 RS), broke tackles and created a bit of space.

Indeed, the ever-present flanker produced scoring chances on three separate occasions before being dragged to the ground.

From the kick-off the exchanges within two fairly even packs of forwards were contained at the over-robust level, especially after Cpl Andy Perry (RM) detonated his own brand of mayhem. He was not alone.

Double-handed frontal assaults on heads locked in to the scrum seldom settle the issue between packs living on a knife edge and Perry was lucky not to be asking directions to an early bath.

That incident alone created a lack of trust and both packs thereafter seemed hell-bent on getting their retaliation in first. It did the cause of Services rugby little credit.

As the *Daily Telegraph* later reported, the Army generally played with "more ambition" involving all attacking options. On occasions both of the centre pairing of Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones (7 Para RHA) and Cpl Darrell Cooper (RE) showed inventiveness and spirit to penetrate the naval defence, but the dark blues recovered sufficiently once more to slow the game down.

Infuriatingly, the Navy had showed the 40,000 crowd that when they stopped the fighting they could play rugby.

Sgt Bob Armstrong (RM) led a series of powerful forward drives, while winger David Jones scored a well-worked overlap



Marching forward: Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones bursts through the Navy's defence during the Army's 18-13 win at Twickenham
Pictures: Graeme Main

try on the far right. One such drive in the closing minutes pushed the Army back to a line-out on their own line, and led to the soldiers' champagne moment of the match.

Bdr Lee Soper (7 Para RHA), who had jumped like a salmon all afternoon, rose imperiously above the mêlée to steal a Navy ball from which the Army steadied and counter-attacked to safety and the final whistle.

While the battles were raging up front, Capt Dan Coen (RE) coolly punished six

Champions... again: Bdr Lee Soper (7 Para RHA), right, celebrates avenging last year's shock 31-20 defeat by lifting the Inter-Services Championship Bowl

naval offences to secure 18 points for the Army and the Willis man-of-the-match award for the second time in three years.

The five-point victory meant that it was Army skipper Cpl Mal Roberts (RLC) who got to lead his troops up to the Royal Box to lift both the Willis Trophy and the Inter-Services Championship Bowl.

♦ **Other results from Twickenham** – England Students U21 23 Combined Services 17; Army Veterans 35 Royal Navy Veterans 3.

SHORTS

Your sporting guide to June...

ANGLING: 28-29 – Combined Services v SAMF (Stranraer).

ATHLETICS: 5 – Army sprint championships (Bassingbourn); 9 – National triathlon championships (Shropshire); 12 – Army individual championships (Aldershot); 16 – Triathlon race meeting (Windsor); 21 – National Three Peaks Challenge (Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis); 26 – BF(G) finals (Sennelager).

CANOEING: 10-16 – Army slalom championships (Llandysul); 22-23 – Tri-Service surf training weekend (St Mawgan).

EQUITATION: 1-15 – Mounted officers course (Melton Mowbray); 10-14 – CSEA instructors course (Warminster Saddle Club); 18-21 – Royal Tournament mounted events (Melton Mowbray); 22 – Defence Academy jubilee show (Shrivenham); 24-28 – Beginners course (Warminster); 29-30 – RN/RM championships (HMS Dryad).

EXTREME SPORTS: 15 – Cheviot 2000 team fell race (Cheviot Hills, Northumberland National Park).

CLIMBING: 19 – Inter-Services championships (TBC).

CRICKET: 1 – RMAS v Army U25s (Sandhurst); 6 – Kent 2nd XI v Army (Maidstone); 9 – Earl of Arundel's XI v Combined Services (Arundel); 10 – Oxford University Authentics v Army U25s (Marston Sports Ground, Oxford); 12-14 – Oxford University v Combined Services (The Parks, Oxford); 17 – Army U25s v Stragglers of Asia (Aldershot); 18 – Army v Sussex 2nd XI (Aldershot); 19-21 – Combined Services v Cambridge University (Aldershot); 25 – Army v British Police (Aldershot); 26 – Army v Fire Service (Aldershot); 27 – Herefordshire v Army U25s (Eastnor CC); 28 – Army U25s v Buckinghamshire U19s (TBC).

FOOTBALL: 29 – RLC (UK) v RLC (BA(G)) (Deepcut).

MARTIAL ARTS: 29 – Inter-Services championships (HMS Nelson, Portsmouth).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 24 – Great Britain U21 v Army (TBC).

RUGBY UNION: 3-7 – RAF international tens (Akrotiri).

SWIMMING: 24 – Inter-Services long distance championships (Lake Bala, North Wales); 25 – Army individual championships (Aldershot); 26 – Army inter-unit team championships; Inter-unit relay competition (Aldershot).

WATER POLO: 24 – Army championships (Aldershot).

CONTACT US

SOLDIER'S sports desk welcomes your stories, results and opinions.

Write to: Andy Simms, Sports Editor, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU or e-mail him at asimms@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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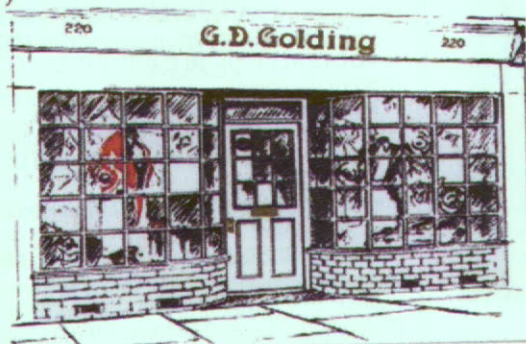
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Signals malfunction

Defensive blunder helps sappers lift title

**42 Engineer Regiment (Geo) 1
Joint Communications Unit (NI) 0**
Army Minor Units cup final

A BREAKDOWN in communication between a goalkeeper and his defenders produced the only goal of the Army Minor Units cup final at Aldershot's Military Stadium.

And ironically it was the team from the Joint Communications Unit (Northern Ireland) who were found guilty of ignoring the adage that "it's good to talk".

Time and time again during the first-half the signallers' goalkeeper, LCpl Matt Ashley, was left exposed by a defence which looked far from solid. Cpl Paul Douglas (42 Engr Regt (Geo)), in particular, revelled in the vast areas of free space offered to him and his pace proved a constant thorn in the side of the Comms defence.

However, it was at corners that their defensive frailties were most noticeable and it was from a set piece that they conceded the game's lone goal.

An in-swinging corner from the boot of Spr Danny Bemrose on 37 minutes highlighted the poor understanding in the signallers' goal area, with both Ashley and his defence seemingly unsure as to who should claim the ball.

Ashley's late, and unconvincing effort, to retrieve the situation ended with the ball spilling from his arms and into the path of Spr Arron Ashcroft, whose predatory touch forced the ball across a crowded goal line.



Picture: Graeme Main

Final hurdle: Cpl Paul Douglas (42 Engr Regt (Geo)) jumps a tackle en route to goal

Chasing the game, the Joint Communications Unit (NI) side enjoyed much more of the play in the second-half but were unable to break through their opponents' resolute defence, which was well marshalled by the experienced WO1 Stuart Fairnington.

◆ 2 R Irish lifted the Infantry Challenge Cup after beating 1 IG 6-5 on penalties at Tidworth.

MATCH FACTS

| 42 Engr Regt | TOTAL SHOTS | JC (NI) |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| 6 | | 8 |
| SHOTS ON TARGET | | |
| 5 | | 3 |
| CORNERS | | |
| 8 | | 8 |
| FOULS | | |
| 7 | | 13 |

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

ATHLETICS: Inter-Services marathon championships – 1, RN; 2, Army; 3, RAF.

Army modern tetrathlon championships, men's – 1, LCpl Andrew Mackenzie (HCMR); 2, OCdt Charles Unwin (RMAS); 3, OCdt James Jennings (RMAS). **Women's** – 1, OCdt Catherine Yarroll (RMAS); 2, OCdt Julia Macrory (RMAS); 3, OCdt Charlotte Donkin (RMAS). **Men's team champions** – RMAS (OCdt James Crompton, OCdt Jennings, OCdt Unwin). **Women's team champions** – RMAS (OCdt Jane Ellis, OCdt Yarroll, OCdt Donkin).

FOOTBALL: Massey Trophy – Int Corps 2 AGC 2; REME 7 AAC 1; APTC 3 AGC 2.

Price Waterhouse Cooper league – AMS 2 RA 0; REME 3 Int Corps 2; AMS 0

RLC 8; R Signals 5 Int Corps 0; RLC 5 REME 1; REME 2 AMS 1; Int Corps 1 AMS 4; RLC 2 AGC 6.

GOLF: RTMC competition (Greetham Valley) – 1, Sgt Jap Owen; 2, CSgt Gaz Meekins; 3, Sgt Dave King.

RUGBY UNION: Army women 20 RAF women 0; Army veterans 32 RAF veterans 10.

1 DWR tour of New Zealand – Army Training Group (Waiuru) 30 Dukes 16; Linton Army Commanders 48 Dukes 11; Central RFC 73 Dukes 0; Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment 55 Dukes 15.

SHOOTING: Inter-Services small-bore rifle (short range) match – 1, RAF

(4,612pts); 2, TA (4,611pts); 3, Army (4,595pts); 4, RN (2,227pts).

Inter Command/Division small-bore target rifle finals – 1, Northern Ireland; 2, 4 Division; 3, 5 Division; 4, London District; 5, 1-(UK) Armoured Division.

Land Command Inter-Unit small-bore target rifle finals – 1, Cambridge University OTC; 2, 3 R Irish; 3, 31 Signal Regt; 4, 4 GS Regt; 5, Northumbrian University OTC; 6, 21 Engr Regt; 7, West Midland Regt.

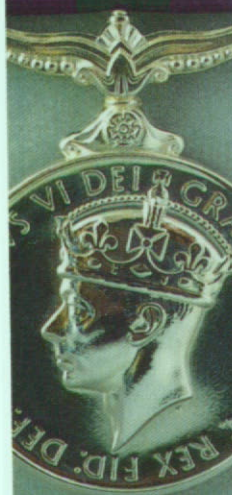
SKIING: Winners of the RAC championships – The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry.

Exercise Rucksack, champion skiing unit – 1 GS Regt RLC. **Army nordic champions** – 1 GH. **Inter-Services unit champions** – 45 Cdo RM. **Army women's champions** – 1 GS Regt RLC.

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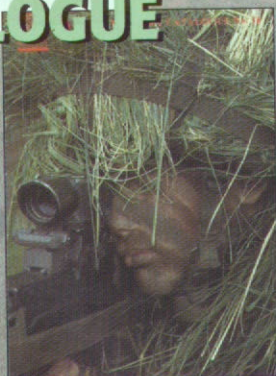
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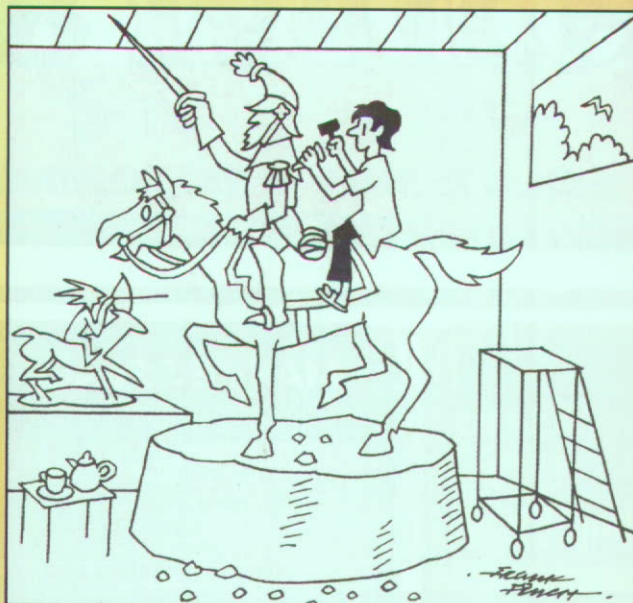
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No 727



How observant are you?

WIN £100!

Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 727, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by June 28.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

April issue (No 725): First correct entry drawn at random was from In-Pensioner W Fox BEM, Royal Hospital Chelsea, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr D Hankins, of Horsington, Somerset and Mr G L Massey, of Solihull, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: sausages; woman's cuff; car bonnet and registration plate; Z and man's tie on poster; Belisha beacon stripes; flowers; soldier's pocket and crease in sleeve.



Freeze frame

So this is what it means to serve in the front line with the teeth arms

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in November 1952. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply. Entries – on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope – should reach us by June 28.



THE prize for our April competition, left, goes to R G Pike, AFPA, Worthy Down for his bizarre suggestion: "And when I push this button it puts the cleaned eyeball back in its socket".

Several captions on the same theme included "Quick . . . put another 50p in the meter. This peep-show is good" from Sgt Brendan McMahon, JSPU, Op



Silkman; "These 'What the Sergeant Major saw' machines could catch on" from M J Burgess of Bentley, S Yorks; and "Don't turn the handle so fast, I'm missing the best bits" from Clive Moore of Christchurch, Dorset. We also liked "Keep a

straight face when she takes her head away . . . I've blackened the eyepiece" from LMA D Dempsey, MDHU Frimley Park Hospital; and "This one's a picture of the hotel we stayed in on holiday" from Alan Howlett, Weston-Super-Mare.

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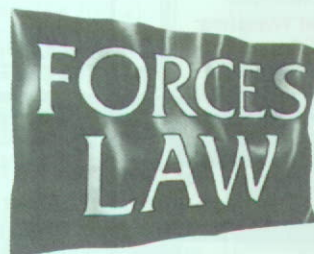
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* The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies.
* Replies should consist only of letter and photograph if requested.
* Replies received more than three months after the cover date, large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

Tracey (34), 5'4" with brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs, music, cinema, reading, watching any football on TV and her mobile phone. Seeking pen pals, 25-35 and will reply to all letters. P095

Tina, 5ft tall, slim with shoulder-length brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys travelling and socialising. Seeking pen pals of any age. P096

Deanna (32), 6ft with long blonde hair and brown eyes. Enjoys going out, staying in, travelling, eating out, cinema and having fun. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P097

Lisa (25), 5'4". Enjoys clubs, pubs, cinema, eating out and going out with her friends. Seeking single male pen pals, 26-40. P098

Wendy (30), 5'7" with blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys going to the gym, pets, cinema and reading. A medical secretary, own home and car and a busy social life. Seeking pen pals 25-40. P099

Loraine (35), 5'2" with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys football, rugby and animals. No children but owns her own home. Seeking 6ft romantic pen pals in their 30s only. P100

Richard (29), graduate, company director. Enjoys parties, fitness training, studying, radio, the internet and reading *Soldier*. Seeking male and females pen pals, 21+. P101

Lauren (29), 5'4" with long brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys almost everything, except clubs. Loves pubs, live music and motorbikes (only super bikes). Seeking male or female pen pals, 28-37. P102

Joanne (34), 5'4", slim build with blonde hair and brown eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs, restaurants, swimming, camping and shopping. Seeking pen pals 26-38. P103

Michelle (19), 5'4" with blonde hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys horse-riding, socialising and having a good time. Seeking pen pals with GSOH and a kind heart, 19-23. P104

Young looking fit 51, divorced female 5'2" with GSOH, shy outside, sexy inside. Seeks male pen pals, 40-50, photo welcome. Will answer all replies. P105

Nichola (28), 5'5" brunette. Works in London as a legal secretary. Enjoys reading, socialising, gym and the cinema. Seeking male pen pals 28-35. P106

Jan (40+), 5'1" with fair/blonde hair. Single, enjoys reading, walking, gardening, socialising and films. Seeking pen pals 40+. P107

Judith 5'6", slim blonde with blue eyes. A Christian who enjoys country walking, reading, music, church activities, cycling and singing. Seeking pen pals 40-60 P108

Annamarie (29), 6'2", large build with long red hair and blue eyes. Enjoys music, frank discussion, cinema, eating out and meeting people. Seeking pen pals 25+ P109

Sallie (37), 5'3" with strawberry blonde hair and brown eyes. Enjoys clubs, reading and listening to music (Bon Jovi). Seeking friendly pen pals 25-40. P110

Meg (51) 5'6", slim with brown hair. Enjoys gym, socialising, football, old-fashioned pubs, reading and writing. Receptionist, cheerful and compassionate. Seeking sincere pen pals (male) who are a long way from home. Will reply to all letters, any age up to 65. P111

Yvonne (43), 5'3" with blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys walking, swimming, dancing, keeping fit and the cinema. Slim with GSOH, sincere, seeking male pen pals 30+. P112

Bonita (26), 5'2" slim blonde with blue eyes. Student nurse who enjoys gym, dancing, horse-riding, clubs and music. Previous job as a dancer at holiday resorts. Seeking pen pals 24-32. P113

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

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06 April 2002

1st Place (23 goals, £5,600): Pte D Carter, Army Foundation Coll Harrogate.

3-way tie for 2nd place (22 goals, £2133.33 each): Spr PJ Cook, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn; J/S RAB Pengelly, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Capt M Revell, HQ PAT Gp and ASPT, Aldershot.

22-way tie for 5th place (21 goals, £172.73 each): Sgt J Ashford, AFCCO Mansfield; Lt Col L Bale, MOD COMDT, London; Sgt JG Bethell, HQ BF Cyprus; Sgt JS Boylan, 1 CS Med Regt, Munster; LCpl PWF Casey, BATU Suffield; WO1 SV Chancellor, 101 Pro Coy RMP, Rheindahlen; WO2 AH Colderey, 14 Regt RA, Larkhill; Maj RG Corbey, RSC Pirbright; Cpl MA Cordy, Rhine Area Sp Unit, Rheindahlen; Lt Col JG Davies, DEMA (A) ESS Team, Arborfield; WO2 SA Dicks, RMSM; Cpl MW Duffy, 7 Para RHA, Aldershot; Pte RH Evans, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Maj RJ Hare, RHQ AFNorth, AFCCENT; Cpl J McAllister, 1 BW, Fallingbowl; Cpl K McLeman, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Sgt IY Pattison, Normandy Band, Catterick; Lt FK Peebles, 10/78 AEC, Tidworth; Sgt SJ Pengelly, Royal Sch of Signals, Blandford; Capt KM Smith, 25 Trg Sp Regt RLC, Deepcut; Maj N Sutherland, 42 Engr Regt (GEO), Hermitage; SSgt Tikaprasad Rai, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, Colchester.

13 April 2002

1st Place (16 goals, £1436.36 each): Sgt A Amers, Rhine Area Sp

Unit, Rheindahlen; LCoH PD Conroy, HCMR; Sgt A Coppin, 26 Engr Regt, Bulford; WO2 M Davidson, 16 CS Med Regt, Colchester; Cpl DA Davies, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; SSgt TJ Donovan, 5 Bn REME, Catterick; Capt TA Harper, 2 LI, Bulford; WO2 AC Jackson, AGC Depot, Worthy Down; Sjt DJ Lapham, 2 LI, Bulford; Cpl SC McBride, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; SSgt M Zaar, 243 Signal Sqn, Wilton.

20 April 2002

4 way-tie for 1st place (20 goals, £3,000 each): Capt SL Bradley-Walker, ATR Pirbright; Sgt CN Greaney, QDG, Catterick; Spr DA Jackson, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; Cpl AN Knight, RMAS, Sandhurst.

28 way-tie for 5th place (19 goals, £135.71 each): SSgt RJ Berry, The King's Troop RHA; Name withheld; Maj GA Clare, Royal Def Med Coll, Gosport; Maj MF Dickinson, 32 AEC, Lisburn; Pte JJJ Dobney, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; J/S SJ Fulton, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Sgt R Furnace, DPA HQ, Abbey Wood; Cpl S Golder, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; SSgt PJ Harnett, Def Animal Centre, Merton Mowbray; Maj P Heyburn, Rangers, Portadown; Sgt D Hill, 22 Engr Regt, Andover; Maj JF Hunter, HQ DETS (A), Upavon; Sig TRI Ingledew, 2 Signal Regt, York; Brig JCL King, Def Attache Seoul, BFPO 747; SSgt A Mallin, 9/12 L, Hohne; WO2 P Marland, HQ TSC (G), Senelager; WO2 RPA McBride, 1 RHA, Tidworth; Sgt CB Murphy, 2

CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Capt PM Packer, 150 Pro Coy RMP, Catterick; Maj R Patrickson, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; Sgt MK Shillito, RDG, Munster; Maj SA Smith, HQ RM, Portsmouth; Spr ML Starkey, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Maj ML Sullivan, CRR (NE), York; Maj CA Sulocki, 1 RGJ, Preston; SSgt TJ Sutton, Rhine Area Sp Unit, Rheindahlen; Lt Col CJ Wensley, RMCS, Shrivenham; Maj RE Williams, HQ Mil Works Force, Chilwell.

Note: Results from 27 April onwards, are based on County Cricket scores, in accordance with the rules.

27 April 2002

1st (617 runs, £5,600): Capt BJ Gee, 10 Fd Wksp REME, Bordon. 2nd (609 runs, £2,800): LCpl C Suleman, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon. 3rd (602 runs, £2,000): WO2 (Name withheld), C Sqn MOD, Chicksands.

4th (594 runs, £1,600): Pte TJ MacGregor, NI CSS Regt, Belfast. 5th (586 runs, £1,200): Capt ACR Burlingham, 32 Regt RA. 6th (579 runs, £900): SSgt IA Smith, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh. 7th (578 runs, £700): Cfn T Denley, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln. 8th (563 runs, £400): WO1 K Crawford, Def School of Tpt, Leconfield. 8th (563 runs, £400): LCpl R Walton, 5 Regt AAC, Aldergrove. 10th (561 runs, £200): Sgt DJS Rollo, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot.

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

£££

NOTICES

ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT GLENCORSE

is due to disband later this year. The Officers' Mess will close on 2 August 2002. Any past mess member that has made a presentation to the mess over the years and wishes to reclaim it should contact:

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Glencorse, Glencorse Barracks, Penicuik
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MoD to help El Alamein veterans mark anniversary

EIGHTH Army veterans are being invited to two high-profile events organised by the MoD to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein.

A service is to be held at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at El Alamein on October 19, with the Duke of Kent, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon and Lt Gen Sir Tim Granville-Chapman, the Adjutant General, attending alongside veterans from the commonwealth.

Members of the Royal Family and the Army Board will be at a service of thanksgiving to be held in Westminster Abbey on October 23.

Veterans who would like further information are asked to contact the project office on 0207 3409 310

Proper recognition for hero John... after 57 years

● Fifty-seven years ago Cpl John Broderick received his Military Medal through the post because George VI was too ill to make the presentation.

So it was fitting in the Queen's Golden Jubilee year that John, right, now 87 and living in Bootle, should get some public recognition for his act of heroism. He was presented with his MM by the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Alan Waterworth, at a reception to mark the granting of the Freedom of the Borough of Sefton to 238 (Sefton) Squadron RLC.

In 1945 John, then serving with the Royal



Army Service Corps, swam across the Po in Italy waving smoke canisters to conceal an Allied landing. He was in the water for several hundred yards while under German sniper fire.

Picture: Roy Bevan

● Lt Col Mike Chambers, of The Royal Anglian Regiment, was driven home in a Second World War Bren gun carrier after his last day in charge of the Stanford training area near Thetford. Under his stewardship - Mike has been in command since 1997 - the training area has won the Silver Otter Trophy for the best conservation project on MoD land, the reinstatement of large areas of Breckland marshland.

REUNIONS

North Irish Horse centenary: Reunions planned for May 11-12, Victory Services Club, London; May 25-26, Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry; and Sept 7-8, Shane's Castle, Antrim. Details: PSAO, 69 (NIH) Yeo Sig Sqn (V), TA Centre, Limvady, BFPO 802 (tel 028 77721577) or PSAO, B (NIH) Sqn QOY(V), Dunmore Park, BFPO 806 (tel 028 90420545).

Armourer's Association: Armourers, artificers weapon and gun-fitters, REME, RAOC and RM, serving and retired, reunion to be held at Victory Services Club, London on June 22. Details from C Dennis on 01905 755334 or wiliow18@supanet.com

Herts and Beds Yeomanry: Annual reunion for 86, 105, 135, 148 and 191 Field Regiments, also 52 Hvy Regt, 79 HAA Regt and post war successors at TA Centre Marsh Rd, Luton, June 22. Contact Ron Currell, 28 St Margaret's Road, Old Fletton, Peterborough, Cambs PE2 9EA (07799 417083).

653 Squadron AAC: 60th anniversary and open day reunion for members, families on June 22. Contact Capt Rob Phayre on 01449 728341.

Royal Leicestershire Regiment: Reunion of Royal Tigers Association and Leicestershire Branch of Royal Anglian Regiment Association in Leicester on June 22 and Royal Tigers Wood, June 23. By ticket only. Details from TA Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY.

2 Sqn, 39 Sig Regt (V): Reunion for ex-members and regulars in Dundee on June 29. Contact L McGann on dundeex2sqn@aol.com or 07712 431278.

Medical Support Unit, Hereford: Second reunion dinner, July 5. Contact Sgt Dek Lower on 0207 4148820 or deklower@aol.com

Cheshire Regiment Association, 7th Berlin Northern Ireland: Reunion for past members and wives to be held in Ellesmere Port, July 6.

Tickets and information from Alan Gregson 01244 301478 or ag.gregson@talk21.com

Northants Regimental Association and R Anglian Regiment Association (Northants Branch): Reunion in Northampton on July 6-7. Ticket only. Details from TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ.

Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW: Regimental association reunions to be held on July 27-28 at Reading. Call 01722 414536.

Ex-RAOC RD and MTI Association: Dinner Aug 30 at ATR Pirbright. Contact Ray Lee on 07990 982013 or rlee@synstar.com

Fusilier Gathering 2002: Hosted by 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at St George's Barracks, Luffenham on Sept 14-15. Regional contacts: Northumberland 01665 510211; Warwickshire 01926 491653; London 0207 4885610; Lancashire 0161 7642208. Ex-3 RRF should call 0207 8204042.

London Borough of Battersea, Clapham Junction Army Cadets 1942: Reunion on Sept 21 to celebrate 60 years since formation. Details from Maj B Joannou, Army Cadet Centre, 27 St John's Hill, London SW11 1TT or 020 72283602.

Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders' Battalion 1950s-70s: Eighth annual reunion for those at Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth, Oswestry or Shorncliffe, Oct 12, at Royal Rifle Volunteers Training Centre, Milton Keynes. Send SAE for details to H Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentrych, Cardiff CF15 9QQ or 02920 891274.

Cambrai Staff Band (RTR): Reunion Oct 25-26 in Ipswich. Contact burnies@ntlworld.com

12 (Minden) Battery inaugural reunion: Planned for Feb 22, 2003 in London. For details send SAE to Rick Williams, 4 Verne Way, Rodwell, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0RY or e-mail rickwilliams@eurobell.co.uk

SEARCHLINE

Lone piper, Etaples, would like to borrow, hire or buy authentic Second World War Scottish regiment kit. Contact Alan Harrison on 01227 361064 or alan@harrison36.fsnet.co.uk

Jan Jegerings seeks news of Lt Palmer, RASC (44 Tank Regt) Neunen, Holland, Sept 1944. Contact jegerings.jc@wolmail.nl

Roy Rodger wishes to trace ex-WO Brian Copeland RE, who ran the BFPO at Tapijkaserne at AFCENT in the 1960s. E-mails to roy.rodger@btinternet.com

Paul and Julie Windows, REME attached to 13/18 Hussars, Wolfenbutel early 1990s, sought by Suzanne Wick. Please e-mail mo@emmanuel.karoo.co.uk

Calling Berlin tankies, US tank personnel, Turner Barracks, Berlin would like contact with any UK veterans or groups. Contact George O'Brien at sylvesterobrien@webtv.net

Ex-signwriter and cricketer Cpl Derek Baker, C Coy REME, Blandford, 1956 would like to hear from old mates, including Cfn Baker, Prince and Brothers. E-mail d.f.baker@tesco.net

Ex-members of 109 (Ind) Z Anti-Aircraft Regiment, 127 HAA Regt, 433 Bty circa 1940-45. Information sought by N Burgess at lazybut@lively62.freemove.co.uk

Slim School, Cameron Highland, Malaya reunion for staff and pupils in October. Details from Gloria Gomm (Ryall), Slim Society, Beach Cottage, Southend, Wotton-under-Edge GL12 7PD or gloriagomm@aol.com

Book Missing Parachutists by Maj E A Barkworth (Int officer 1944-45), sought by Neil MacIvor. E-mail neil.on.the.net@telus.net

News sought of Ernest Edward Bilsby, from Peterborough, born about 1887, married Florence, with five children. Served in First World War. E-mail alice-anne@tinyworld.co.uk

● If you enjoy military re-enactments, pencil September 7-8 into your diary. The world's largest gathering of re-enactment and living history groups will assemble at the Kent County Showground over that weekend. Organisers reckon about 20,000 participants will depict a variety of conflicts from Roman times through to the Gulf War.

For more details go to www.military-odyssey.com

● The Band of The Honourable Artillery Company will be sharing top billing with Guildford Symphony Orchestra at Surrey's Golden Jubilee tribute concert and picnic at Loseley Park, Guildford on the evening of June 23. The event, in the presence of the Earl and Countess of Wessex, will benefit the Army Benevolent Fund, the Royal British Legion and SSAFA-Forces Help.

Tickets (at £12.50 each or £10 for groups of ten or more) are available from Performing Arts Management on 01625 560 000 or fax 01625 572 839.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Cossacks (Apr) Winners: 1919 Gdsm Lorimer, Op Palatine; P Sibbling, Catterick; E W A Henderson, Waltham Abbey; J Macdonald, Inverness; M Sidebotham, DLO Andover (Answer: March 2001).

VC (Apr) Winners: Lt Col G R Pearce RLC, BFPO 40; D Spark, Leeds; T Taylor, Walsall (Answer: Herbert).

Commando (Apr) Winners: J Lavery, Ayr; R Myers, Wirral; LCpl Rendall, Bristol (Answer: 1989).

Championship Manager Quiz (Apr) Top prize: G Lowe, Deepcut. Runners-up: W Stewart, Hadfield; J Ramsay, Newport; I Patterson, Gt Yarmouth; R J Clarke, Coventry; S Joyce, Lancaster; LCpl Dodd, Tidworth; N Sidat, Tidworth; C Higgs, Aldershot; J Jack, Dalbeattie (Answer: Italy).

Truth Machine (Apr): R Hogan, Romford (Answer: PHAT Daddy MAC).

Useful numbers

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

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

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

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

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink

Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

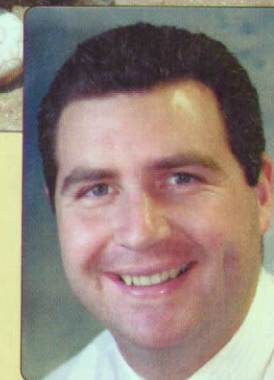
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 01372 841600;



Winning a few tackles... along with hearts and minds: Soldier staff cameraman Graeme Main, right, picked up two prizes in the prestigious Army Photographic Competition (see Pages 39-41). His shot of a soldier joining in a game of football with boys on a Pristina playground was the runner-up in the image of the year category.

It was taken during a magazine assignment to Kosovo last year when Graeme spotted Pte Danny Pritchett of the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, on the ball during a city patrol. Pte Michael Fossett is on the sidelines.



ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORS

NEW York-based reporter Damian Fowler is researching a book on Cyril "Rick" Rescorla, a hero of the World Trade Center atrocity on September 11. Details of Rick's early life are required, from his boyhood in Hayle, Cornwall to the three years he spent in the British Army.

The author believes Rick was in Cyprus on National Service some time between 1957 and 1961. Later he served briefly in the Metro-

politan Police before completing an 18-month stint in the Northern Rhodesian Police Force. Rick graduated from officer candidate school in the United States in 1965 and fought in the battle of Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam in November 1965.

Contact Damian Fowler at 26 West 89th Street, Apt 10, New York, NY 10024 or e-mail dfowler@hearst.com

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

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783;

www.ssafa.org.uk

SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory

Service 01722 436400

Veterans' Agency encompassing former

Veteran's Advice Unit and War Pensions

Agency 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044

1253 866043 (from overseas);

www.veteransagency.mod.uk

Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA

Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272;

from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272

WRVS General enquiries 02920 739906;

www.wrvs.org.uk



DATES

JUNE

4: Queen's Golden Jubilee military tattoo at Stowe School, Buckinghamshire. Organised by ABF and SSAFA-Forces Help.
 7-8: Inaugural Manchester Military Tattoo (box office 0161 930 8000).
 8: Trooping the Colour, Colonel's Review.
 8: Falklands 20th anniversary liberation memorial service, Cenotaph, Market Drayton.
 12: Kneller Hall concert, 2000 (RLC and REME Bands). Tickets £5 from 020 8744 8633 or available on the night.
 15: Queen's Birthday Parade.
 20: Evening lecture: Capture of Stanley – 2 Para's final action, by Brig David Chaundler, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot. Tickets from 01252 349619.
 23: Colchester Garrison Country Day (information on 01206 782020 or (mil) 94651 2020).
 26: Kneller Hall concert, 2000 (RE, WG and Light Division Bands). Ticket only. See June 12.
 29: Boscombe Down family fun day, 1100 to 2100.

JULY

1-4: Overlord Military Vehicle Show, Horndean, nr Portsmouth (www.solentmvt.co.uk)
 6-7: Army 2002, Larkhill. Firepower and ceremonial (ticket hotline 0871 220 9703).
 7: RMA Sandhurst open day, 1000-1600.
 10: Kneller Hall concert, 2000 (IG, Lucknow and Clive Bands of Prince of Wales's Division). See June 12 for ticket details.
 17-21: War and Peace Show. World's largest military vehicle gathering at Hop Farm Country Park, Beltring, Kent.
 24: Kneller Hall concert, 2000 (Para, AAC and D and D Bands). See June 12 for ticket details.

AUGUST

2-24: Edinburgh Military Tattoo, www.edintattoo.co.uk
 7: Kneller Hall concert, 2000 (RA, R Irish and Brigade of Gurkhas Bands). See June 12.

* A photographic record depicting the sacrifice of **Sikh troops** during the two world wars will be open at Wellington Arch in London from May 2 to November 3.

* A live performance of John Osborne's re-discovered screenplay *The Charge of the Light Brigade* is to be put on at the Honourable Artillery Company HQ in Armoury House, London on June 16. Tickets, which include a champagne reception, cost £125 and are available from 020 7494 2677 or wendy@seriouslybright.com

Artistic tribute to dock raiders

WHEN artist David Rowlands was approached by veterans of the famous Second World War raid on St Nazaire, he visited the French port to walk every inch of the ground over which Army commandos and Royal Navy personnel fought in 1942.

His sketches came together in the form of an oil painting, right, which depicts HMS *Campbeltown* three minutes after she had rammed the gate of the dry dock.

Assault parties under heavy fire run across the caisson below as protection parties leave the ship by steel and bamboo ladders. Behind them are demolition teams laden with bergens full of explosives. St Nazaire Society survivors of the raid gathered for their 60th and final reunion on the quay at Falmouth from where they set sail for Operation Chariot. The *Campbeltown* and 17 small



craft successfully destroyed the dock installations, which were strongly defended by the Germans.

The veterans remembered their fallen comrades and laid wreaths on the quayside.

Low point for nation at war



AN exhibition celebrating the work of Sir David Low, creator of the Colonel Blimp cartoon, can be seen at Westminster Hall until October 31.

More than 100 Low originals, which provide a unique commentary on British politics during the last century, can be seen, among them his historic "Very well, alone" drawing from June 1940, above, which depicts a British soldier waving his fist at the oncoming Luftwaffe during the week France fell.

The exhibition is organised by the Political Cartoon Society and BBC History Magazine and includes works by today's leading cartoonists.

REMEMBER

Penny, right? The four-year-old filly rescued from a field near Blackpool and rehabilitated by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, proudly took her place with C sub-section during a ceremonial gun salute to mark the death of the Queen Mother. Penny – whose official Army name is Hallmark – has been transformed from the wild, sick and frightened beast featured in *Soldier* (March). Her next public appearance is likely to be during the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations.



Cheshires' commanding officer keeps it in family

LT Col Philip Astle, left, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, is the fourth generation of his family to serve with the regiment. In fact, the Astle

family's link with the 1st Battalion is unbroken over those four generations.

After a two-year posting to Dhekelia in Cyprus, the Cheshires have moved into Kiwi Barracks at Bul-

ford. They are due to deploy this month to Northern Ireland before training with Saxon for an armoured infantry role as part of 1 Mechanized Brigade.

Seeing double in Chelsea

ARMY art buffs can view the soldier's story down the ages in a whole new light by dropping into their favourite museum in Chelsea. And they now get even "more for their money" at the National Army Museum – even though there is no charge to get in.

After a restoration programme which has brought many of the exhibits up as good as new, the art gallery has been re-organised to almost double the number of paintings on display.

A re-design of the room means visitors can trace the history of the Army visually and chronologically from the 16th century up to the Kosovo peacekeeping operation in 2000.

Jenny Spencer-Smith, head of Fine and Decorative Art at the museum, said: "The gallery is a showcase for the jewels of the museum's collection and has been planned to create an overall sense of the soldier's experiences through the centuries."

It includes 80 oil paintings, four marble busts and a rare set of campaign furniture designed to collapse ingeniously for transport. But don't try taking them home...

Class of '52 marches away

FIFTY years after they should have enjoyed the occasion, 113 survivors of Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Intake 8 (1950-52) marched off the parade ground and up the steps into the Old College to the strains of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Half a century ago they were denied their passing-out parade, which was cancelled following the death of George VI.

Those on parade included Gen Sir Charles Huxtable, a former C-in-C UK Land Forces; Gen Cyril Ranatunga, Chief of Sri Lanka's Defence Staff in 1985-88; Maj Michael Tippet, who was awarded the Sword of Honour in 1952; and Maj Jeffery Lewins, who received the Queen's Medal.

35 The Fusiliers Museum



Liberated: The bust of Adolf Hitler

Off to the Tower with you

ADDRESSES don't come any more exclusive than that enjoyed by the museum of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. It's in the Tower of London.

How did it get there? Suffice it to say that by means of a long and convoluted evolution, the Tower Guard – formed in June 1648 – had by 1903 been transformed into the 4th Volunteer Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers.

The museum covers the role of the regiment in conflicts ranging from the Napoleonic to the Gulf by way of the Peninsula campaigns, the Crimea, the Boer and two world wars, Korea, Northern Ireland and the Balkans.

KHARTOUM BUGLE

It is stacked with artifacts which tell the human story of the Fusiliers: the dreaded "boot" used to rehabilitate deserters, the duck mascot of the 9th Battalion in Italy in 1944, and a trumpet used by the 2nd Battalion during the defence of Khartoum.

There's also a bust of Hitler, pictured above, which was "liberated" from the cellars of a former German Army barracks at Iserlohn soon after the end of the Second World War.

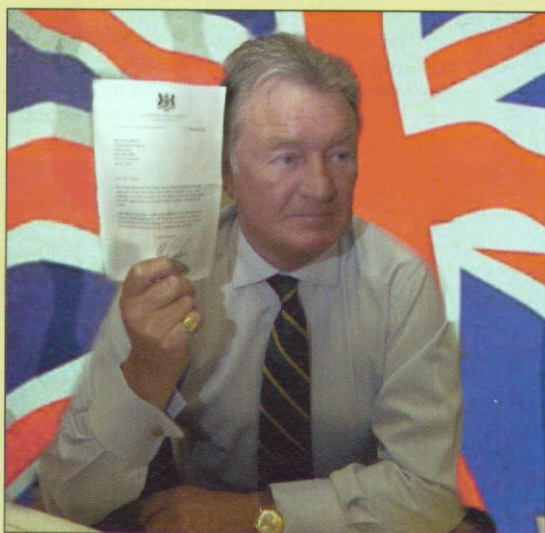
Nearest tube station to The Fusiliers Museum in the Tower of London is Tower Hill. Admission is 50p (after you've paid to get into the Tower). More information on 0207 488 5611 or via the regimental website at www.thefusiliers.org

www.armymuseums.org.uk



Bright young things: Talented artists from four schools in south Dorset have brightened up a new dining room used by soldiers in training at Wyke Regis Camp near Weymouth. Pupils, pictured above with camp commandant Maj Peter Reed, painted four large murals

Peter flags up a victory



Confirmation: Peter with his letter from Downing Street

FORMER King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry soldier **Peter Makin** asked his local council why the Union Flag wasn't flown all year round from the town hall.

"Because we aren't allowed to, by order of the Queen," was the baffling reply. "Buckingham Palace says we can't fly the flag more than 21 days a year."

"Rubbish," said Peter (or words to that effect) and dashed off a letter to the Prime Minister.

Downing Street duly confirmed that the council was obliged (not limited, as it believed) – by royal command – to fly the flag on 21 special occasions.

Which is why, from now on, the town hall in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, will be flying the Union Flag all the year round.

Picture: Diane Allen, Dewsbury Reporter

Dinner date with Editor Eric



Managing Editor **Chris Horrocks**, "which I consider a fine magazine."

He is too modest – *The Tricorn* is a unique record of life and times at the Royal Hospital.

WE were proud to share a table with fellow editor and former Royal Engineer **WO1 (RSM) Eric Skentelbery**, left, during an historic dinner in the Royal Hospital Chelsea's Great Hall.

The occasion, hosted by the Army Benevolent Fund, was for holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross (see *Soldier*, May).

Chelsea In-Pensioner Eric edits *The Tricorn*, a magazine written by and for the In-Pensioners and staff. "I regret it is not up to the standard of *Soldier*," he told

Fit for a Queen

WILKINSON Sword has produced a real show-stopper to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year.

Valued at £50,000, the sword – which will be presented to Her Majesty – features a hilt incorporating natural rock crystal and solid gold, encrusted with pavé-set diamonds and rubies and a cabochon of lapis lazuli.

The 24-in blade is etched with a floral filigree depicting the national flowers of the British Isles – roses, thistles, daffodils and shamrocks. Its stunning white leather scabbard is surmounted with a solid gold horse carving and gold channels.

Retail reconnaissance

Switched on . . .



SAFE AND SECURE

THIS wireless surveillance system includes an auto-focus lightweight camera and black-and-white monitor capable of operating within a 300ft range.

① £175, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).

TRAVEL COMPANION

SIEMENS VDO Automotive has become the first company in the UK to incorporate the recently-introduced Traffic Message Channel service (TMC) with its satellite navigation systems.

TMC provides up-to-the-minute information on current traffic conditions, which is relayed to an in-car navigation system, pictured below, using RDS – a digital data stream carried by Classic FM.

The system is capable of differentiating between types of delays, for example slow-moving traffic, accidents, fog or roadworks.

① £149.99, from www.vdodayton.com



NIGHT-TIME VIEWING

AT 16 ounces the Night Owl Cyclops Compact (NOCC3) night vision monocular boasts a powerful integrated infra-red illuminator in one of the lightest body styles available.

With easy-to-operate power and IR controls, the NOCC3 is equipped with a 42mm objective lens operating at 1:2 aperture with x3 image magnification for quality nocturnal viewing.

① £169.99, from CRS Solutions Limited (0238 0632440).

Game on . . .

SIMPSONS ROAD RAGE, PS2 & XBOX OUT NOW

THE *Simpsons Road Rage* blends renowned Simpsons wit and edge-of-your-seat racing action into a reckless and riotously-funny arcade-style driving game.

Mr Burns has purchased the Springfield Transit Corporation and has been jacking up the fares. Refusing to shell out the high rates, the Springfield citizens are forced to brave angry commuters and jam-packed routes, and turn their cars into cabs as they attempt to make enough money to buy back the buses.

Players get to test the dubious driving skills of the show's main characters as they go about collecting and dropping off their fares around Springfield's five neighbourhoods.

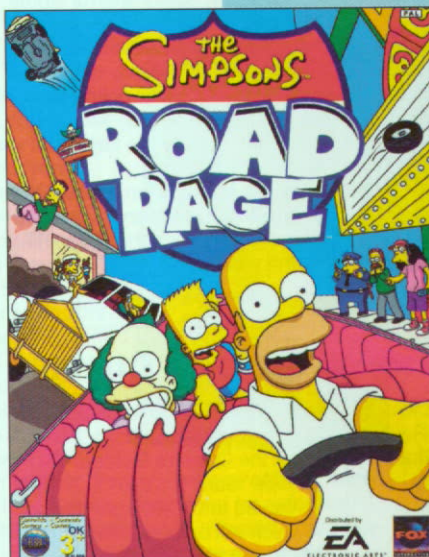
Controlling the action is easy, with jumps, power-slides and speed-starts all operated by a simple arcade-style three-button interface.

However, for those still unsure of the highway code there is a Sunday-driving mode, which allows gamers to pick up passengers and cruise the varied terrain at a leisurely pace.

As with most games of this genre, gameplay can become a little repetitive, but the split-screen multi-player option ensures that you will be playing *Road Rage* for months rather than weeks.

VERDICT: Great with a mate.

7/10



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

ELECTRONIC Arts are offering *Soldier* readers the opportunity to take a spin round Springfield.

For your chance to win one of five copies of *Simpsons Road Rage* for the Xbox, simply tell us the name of Bart Simpson's baby sister.

Send your answers on a postcard to *Simpsons Road Rage* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU by July 1. Usual rules apply.

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

SPORTS Interactive has signed former Liverpool and Republic of Ireland hero Ray Houghton as a consultant for Championship Manager 4. The latest edition to the hugely-popular football management simulation series is due to be released on PC later this year. An Xbox version is also planned.

CODEMASTERS has announced that it will publish a customised version of *Operation Flashpoint* for the Xbox this winter.

SHE'S back. Fresh from making her big-screen debut, cyber-babe Lara Croft is set to make a return to computer gaming before the end of the year.

Eidos Interactive and Core Design have announced that *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Angel of Darkness* will be created using a brand-new game engine and will be available on PlayStation 2 and PC.



COMBAT MISSION, PC

ONE of the internet's best-kept secrets was revealed to PC games-players earlier this year when CDV Software Entertainment released *Combat Mission* – a compilation of the best-selling turn-based strategy title, which had previously only been available via mail-order.

Depicting the fighting on the Western Front between the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the end of the Second World War, the 3D simulator allows players to re-enact key moments of the conflict, including the race across France and the liberation of Paris.

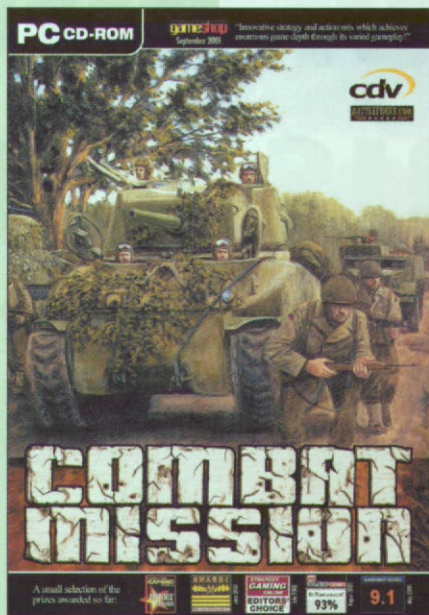
Controlling either Allied or German forces (who speak in their native tongues and are dressed in their respective uniforms), gamers can hone their tactical warfare skills using more than 125 kinds of vehicle and 130 types of infantry soldiers.

The game's random battle generator and scenario editor ensures that the gameplay never becomes stale and will remain a challenge for even the most advanced strategists.

On its original release in June 2000 the game received rave reviews for its multi-player options and, two years on, this is still *Combat Mission's* biggest strength. As well as playing against an opponent on the same PC, gamers can also take on their friends using the internet or e-mail.

◆ CDV's special two-disc set includes all of

OUT NOW



the game's updates and enhancements. Additionally, this version provides *Combat Mission* commanders with a fully-bound manual, a luxury the mail-order version does without.

VERDICT: Although now dated in appearance, *Combat Mission* remains one of the top strategy titles on the market. **7/10**

WIN...WIN...WIN

SOLDIER has joined forces with CDV Software Entertainment to offer you the opportunity to put your tactical warfare skills to the test.

For your chance to win one of five copies of *Combat Mission*, simply answer the following question:



On which conflict is *Combat Mission* based?

- a) Gulf War
- b) Falklands
- c) Second World War

Send your answers on a postcard to *Combat Mission* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by July 1. Usual rules apply.

AMPED, XBOX

FORGET tight tunnel racing or slalom events, *Amped* is the first snowboarding game to focus solely on freestyle riding.

Players can pull more than 1,000 tricks on wide-open mountains (based on real resorts), which are littered with jumps and rails. You can hit the cliffs, jib the rainbow tree trail or take hidden paths through the trees for a different ride every time.

The game's amazing graphics are complemented by a first-class soundtrack featuring 150 tunes from core indie labels.



VERDICT: *Amped*... better than *SSX*. **9/10**

JET SET RADIO FUTURE, XBOX



VERDICT: Outstanding. **9/10**

FEATURING unique comic-style graphics, new tricks, and hot tunes, *Jet Set Radio Future* is perhaps the most original title currently available on any games console.

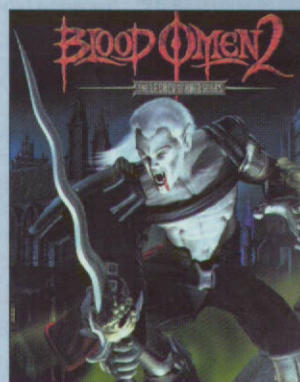
Taking control of a variety of hip characters, gamers are invited to strap on a pair of rocket-powered skates in this extreme skating adventure and immerse themselves in living, breathing cities. Equipped with just a spray-can, players must compete against rival gangs and avoid capture by the police.

OUT NOW

BLOOD OMEN 2, PS2

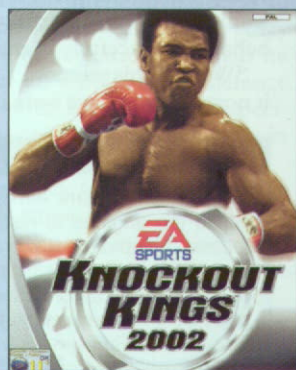
FOLLOWING on from the chart hit *Blood Omen: Legacy of Kain*, this sequel puts players in control of Kain, a vampire tyrant, who must defeat the Sarafan order – an army of vampire hunters.

With a focus on combat and stealth, the mission-based action boasts an advanced artificial intelligence system that determines how the game's characters react to Kain. If the gamer mindlessly attacks people they will quickly attract unwanted attention, but by moving through the shadows it is possible to evade mass confrontations.



VERDICT: Very macabre... but remember it's good to be bad. **7/10**

KNOCKOUT KINGS 2002, PS2



VERDICT: Still king of the ring. **9/10**

THIS latest offering from Electronic Arts' *Knockout Kings* series features a new game engine, which increases the game's responsiveness and fluidity.

And thanks to the latest motion-captured technology the featured boxers – who range from the all-time great, Muhammad Ali, to current lions of the sport such as Oscar De La Hoya, now move with the speed and the agility of their real-life counterparts.

The gameplay as a whole has not been altered dramatically, but then why change a winning formula?

Tank commander's view of invasion

STUART Hills was a 20-year-old second lieutenant in the Nottinghamshire Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry when he embarked his Sherman DD tank on to a landing craft in Southampton on June 4, 1944. When he landed on Gold beach from a rubber dinghy – a day late, his tank having sunk – he was faced by two tanks “brewed up” on the beach, their crews dead inside. How Hills and his crew fought their way into France and across the Rhine is told in vivid detail in **By Tank Into Normandy** (Cassell, £19.99).

Into the light from heart of darkness

IN May 2000 Maj Phil Ashby RM was on a United Nations peacekeeping mission to Sierra Leone when it all went pear-shaped. Along with three other UN monitors, he found himself unarmed and cornered in a compound surrounded by murderous rebels. The ragtag militia taunted them by throwing bloody uniforms and limbs of fellow UN workers over the walls. Faced with certain death and torture if they surrendered to, or were captured by, the rebels, they escaped. His account is enough to put you off the jungle for life. **Unscathed** (Macmillan, £16.99).

American Civil War seen with eyes of *The Times*

THIS fascinating book explores the time journalist William Howard Russell was sent to New York in 1861 to cover the American Civil War. At this stage in his career the *Times* journalist had already built a formidable reputation through his hard-hitting accounts of the Crimean War. In **Reports from America** (Sutton, £20), historian Llana D Miller tells the story of Russell's year in the new world, based on his diaries and articles. Russell, rightly accredited as being the father of modern war reporting, gives his impressions of President Lincoln, American customs and the slavery culture.

Nott on his life

Services experience informed decisions of Defence Secretary

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Memoirs of an Errant Politician by John Nott (Politico's, £20)

Review: Anthony Stone

AS the dust of history settles on Sir John Nott's political career, in the public mind at least, he will forever be remembered for storming out of a live television interview after Robin Day asked him: “But why should the public, on this issue, as regards the future of the Royal Navy, believe you – a transient, here today and, if I may say so, gone tomorrow politician – rather than a senior officer of many years ...”

Exit John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence. It's a classic television moment, repeated almost as frequently as the clip of the Blue Peter elephant. That infamous exchange took place 20 years ago, shortly after victory in the Falklands, and the reasons why he stropped off, along with many other colourful episodes, are illuminated in his very readable memoirs.

Sir John has enjoyed a rich and rewarding career, at different times embracing the life of a soldier, banker, politician, businessman and farmer.

“I have to tell you straight away that I am not in the least a militaristic figure,” he told *Soldier*, speaking at his London home, close to the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

“I think in many ways I was quite an inadequate officer, but having said that I greatly enjoyed my Army service.”

He recalls fondly his time in Germany in 1951. “I think it was rather expected that young officers at mess nights or on holiday, would behave disgracefully and I think we did behave disgracefully in many ways.

“We had this passion, I cannot understand it now, but when we were in Berlin and slight-

ly inebriated we used to go round in our Beetle Volkswagen collecting German signs. If we could find a funny sign that would cause entertainment we used to put it into the boot and take it back.”

Nott received his National Service commission with the Royal Army Service Corps, transferred to The Royal Scots, took a regular commission and was accepted by the 2nd Gurkha Rifles.

He spent three years with the Gurkhas, about a year of which was in the jungle in Malaya on operations.

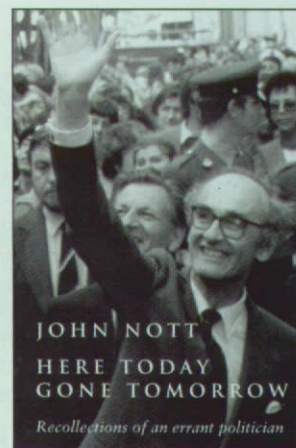
Nott left the Army as a full lieutenant, conceding: “I don't think I was particularly well-suited to being a regular soldier, but I think I was quite a good young officer, conscientious and enthusiastic. Many of my relations and forbears had been in the Services and most of them had done quite well.”

His experiences obviously coloured the decisions he took as Defence Secretary during the Falklands. In 1982 the Thatcher war cabinet contained men with direct experience of war-fighting, several of whom were decorated.

“You can't join the Royal Marines, Royal Navy or the Army without accepting the fact that you might be called upon to go to war. Partly because of that I think there is a strong streak of quasi-pacifism among soldiers.

“They are the people who suffer most in a war. People who have been in the Services have a specially cautious approach to sending their fellow people to war. I am not saying that people who have not been in the Services are more cavalier about it, but I think it is different.”

A pity Sir John did not write his reflections 20 years ago when the proximity to the events he depicts would have given the book more of a cutting edge.



IN BRIEF

Uprising! By Mark Almond. Revolutions have been called the engines of history and the author uses a thematic approach to draw together the common threads which link events, attempting in the process to answer why some are successful and others fail. The book covers classic revolutions such as the American, French and Russian, but focuses on modern coups and uprisings, examining the origins of unrest and the aftermath of revolt. (Mitchell Beazley, £19.99.)

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Web-site: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

War studies on the hoof

Long on adrenalin, short on analysis

Guns and Poses: Travels With an Occasional War Correspondent by Paul Moorcraft (Millstream Press, £16.99)

Review: Roger Goodwin

IT'S difficult to know quite what to make of Dr Paul Moorcraft, part-time academic, self-confessed "occasional" war correspondent, professional Welsh expatriate, and full-time international gadfly.

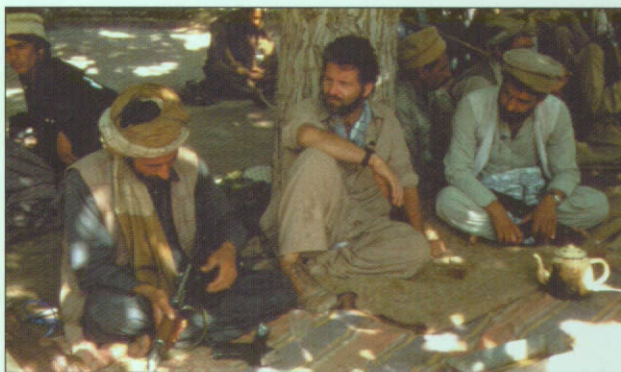
His book charts a quarter-century odyssey through the world's trouble spots by a footloose adventurer. Moorcraft has actually lived the dream of many an adolescent. Yet ultimately the reader retains the suspicion of a life curiously unfulfilled. One wonders whether the author himself, in his heart of hearts, believes that his contribution has, as yet, fully justified the undoubted potential of his talents.

There is a corner of South Wales which has been blessed by the gods with some magical mixture of ethnology and environment, so that it produces a regular stream of individuals whose passion for debate, argument and the English language so often enrich the worlds of, in particular, politics (Aneurin Bevan, Lord Roy Jenkins) and journalism (John Humphrys, Huw Edwards).

Cardiff-born Paul Moorcraft, while not of similar stature, certainly comes from that same tradition, which no doubt also explains why the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst can claim unintended credit for first launching him on his journey.

The opinionated young Welsh graduate and his liberal attitudes would have fitted gratefully into the enclosed and stuffy world of Sandhurst academia, where he was employed as a lecturer in the War Studies Department during the 1970s. By his own admission the kindest word used about him was "rebel", and that no doubt explains his early departure for Rhodesia.

There he encountered the intoxicating world of journalism and his peripatetic course was set. In the years to follow he lec-



One lump or two: Dr Moorcraft takes tea with Afghan tribesmen

tured at universities in Rhodesia, South Africa, New Zealand and Britain but was always drawn back, like the proverbial moth to the flame, to the dangerous excitements of war reporting. The addiction took him to most of Africa's wars and wider afield, to Lebanon, Israel, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and the Balkans, often on what seems to have been the most ephemeral of projects.

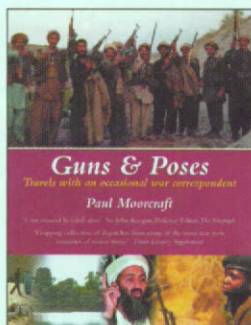
Seldom do his expeditions appear to have enjoyed normal expectations of eventual broadcast or publication, and the reader is left with the inevitable impression that it was the adrenalin fix, the need to experience the buzz one more time, which was the real, if unadmitted, objective.

So, is there anything here for a military readership? A little, perhaps.

However, seek no deep and meaningful insights here into the problems of the world. Moorcraft offers open access to his personal attitudes as they apply to the various scenarios in which he finds himself. But for a politics and defence studies graduate with his wealth of experience, his book is curiously disappointing in analysis.

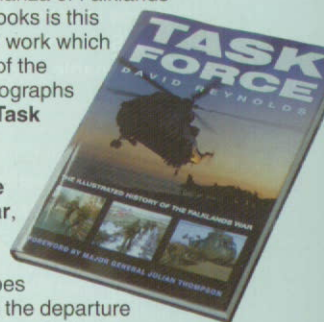
As one would expect, **Guns and Poses** is well written, with an easy style and fluidity. The professional journalist in him, however, should have recognised the need for a more ruthless sub-editor – the chapter on the ultimately pointless expedition into Afghanistan borders on the interminable.

And his best friend really should have warned him off that excruciating title.



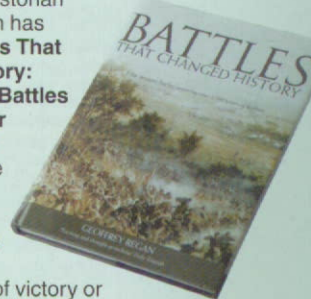
Dramatic images brought together

FORMER Royal Marine David Reynolds's contribution to the publishing bonanza of Falklands anniversary books is this well-produced work which carries many of the enduring photographs of the war. In **Task Force: The Illustrated History of the Falklands War**, (Sutton, £19.99) the author describes the build-up to the departure of the Task Force, the training on board the ships and the fierce battles which followed. Maj Gen Julian Thompson provides the introduction.



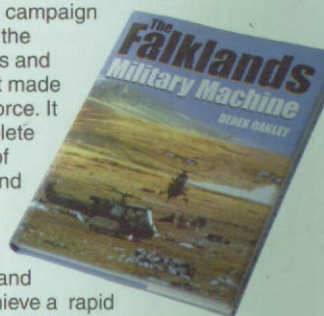
Crucial battles that changed history

FROM Salamis, where the Greeks put an end to Persian attempts to overwhelm their country, through to the Gulf War, historian Geoffrey Regan has selected **Battles That Changed History: Fifty Decisive Battles Spanning Over 2,500 Years of Warfare** (Andre Deutsch, £14.99). Their importance lies not only in the completeness of victory or defeat, but in their longer-term impacts on the future of the world. With maps and illustrations, the author examines the consequences of each battle and vividly recreates the actual fighting, analysing the tactics and profiling key commanders and weaponry.



Enormous logistic task far from plain sailing

The Falklands Military Machine by Capt Derek Oakley (Spellmount, £20) offers comprehensive analysis, not only of the campaign itself, but also the planning, ships and personnel that made up the Task Force. It took the complete co-operation of Servicemen and civilians in dockyards, stores, depots, ports and airports to achieve a rapid deployment – the first major elements of the Task Force sailed within five days. More than 110 ships, including the pride of the British merchant fleet, *Queen Elizabeth II* and *Canberra*, together with 28,000 men, sailed south.



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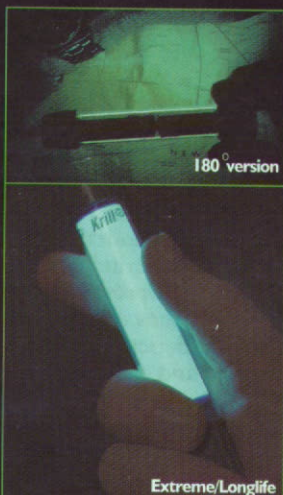
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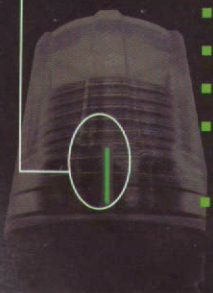
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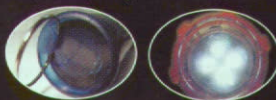
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PALight

The legend lives on

We probably can't afford one, but hey, we can all dream...

ITALY produces brilliant cars not just because it has superb designers – it also has a tradition of small, highly skilled manufacturers capable of realising their creations in low numbers, writes Syd Taylor.

Maserati is one of those companies – turning sheet steel and moulded plastic into astonishing sculpture.

The 3200 Coupé is an example. It's one of the latest cars from a famous stable started by the Maserati Brothers in 1926 when the first car to carry the trident of Bologna on its radiator – the Tipo 26 – took ninth place in the Targa Florio.

After this came cars like the 8CM Maserati – one of the best racing cars of the Thirties.

Fame, of course, hangs by a perilously thin thread. Maserati was a victim of fame propelled to the pinnacle of greatness in the Fifties by the 250F Grand Prix car and then dashed onto the rocks as the great name blundered from crisis to crisis until, under Citroën in the Seventies, the receivers were called in to Modena.

But Maserati didn't die and eventually stability returned under the Fiat umbrella as part of the Ferrari division. Now alongside those great models from the past – Ghibli, Bora, Sebring and Mistral – stands the 3200 GT.

For me, the Maserati name will forever be associated with the best drivers and the best driving techniques of the golden era of Moss, Fangio and Behra and marvellous high-speed drifts.

My love of the marque comes from tracing in my father's wake as a little boy, through many a paddock – eyes fixed irresistibly on those sleek red Maseratis. One day, I thought, I might drive one. That day has now come.

Here sits the Maserati 3200 GT – its finish lustrous, its purity of line peerless – a shape that successfully echoes the glorious past, sculpted around powerful machinery. A masterpiece of design by Giorgetto Guigiaro, it's a beautiful and elegant car from any angle, but in particular, that front three-quarter view is stunning.

The external beauty of this Maserati is reprised by a splendidly executed interior with proper accommodation for four people to sit in comfort. Not only that; the boot is of a practical size for a GT car and



Maserati 3200 GT

Engine 3217cc 90-degree V8 dohc, 370 bhp. Magnetic Marelli fuel injection. Twin mixed-flow turbochargers.

Transmission Four-speed automatic or six-speed manual. Traction control linked to ABS and engine management.

Chassis Steel body. Tubular frame at front for engine and

suspension assembly. Tubular frame at rear for differential and suspension.

Suspension Double wishbones front and rear.

Brakes Brembo system, four-channel ABS. Front: 330mm discs, perforated and ventilated, forced cooling channels, four-piston calipers with F1-style ceram-

Tech Spec

ic bushes. Rear: 310mm discs, perforated and ventilated.

Performance Top speed about 170 mph auto, 175 mph manual.

Fuel consumption Combined 15.6 mpg auto, 17.0 mpg manual.

Price £62,950 auto; £60,950 manual.

you can even choose the matching luggage set on offer at extra cost.

You face a bank of instruments – a mix of analogue and digital – and mounted centrally is that oval clock, just as you find in older Maseratis. There's climate control, of course, and every other adjunct to sybaritic excess that the modern supercar buyer demands: safety is taken care of in the usual way with an airbag each for driver and front passenger.

It's a high-quality environment created with utmost care and there's a top-line Becker sound system to soothe you on your travels.

But in that cockpit there can be no doubt of the pedigree. This is the car that has rediscovered the true spirit of Maserati. The engine stirs to life with a richly resonant burble that turns into a hard Wagnerian bellow of undiluted class as revs rise. Flexibly punchy from low revs, there's no tailing-off of power as you climb further round the tachometer – just more noise and eagerness enabling you to reach 170 mph if you were on a test track.

One of the keys to the spectacular performance and easy driveability is the Formula One type "drive-by-wire" integrated ignition/injection management. This engine talks to you and generates intangible enthusiasm, always pulling with a strong muscular force.

This Maserati is very much a "one-piece" machine. At one time Italian cars of this ilk could never be regarded as durable, but this one is solid – the equal of anything from Jaguar or Aston Martin.

Needless to say, with all that power and rear-wheel drive, you appreciate the sophisticated traction-control system linked to the engine's "drive-by-wire" units and to the automatic transmission control.

Purists might opt for the manual version, but the quick-acting and responsive four-speed auto transmission system – with "sport" mode at the touch of a button – is one of the best.

In an age when restrictive legislation, stifling pollution and intolerable congestion have made the motoring so tiresomely dull, Maserati is back with a vengeance.

It's not the kind of car that would necessarily appeal to someone who has come by sudden riches via the lottery or other arbitrary means: not unless such an individual is possessed of the aesthetic sensibility to acknowledge understated grace and elegance. These are combined with peerless engineering and that final dash of brio that puts vivaciousness and sunlight into the all too repressive and bureaucratic world of modern motoring.

This is a car with a very special pedigree and it doesn't disappoint in any respect. If ever a car lived up to its own legend, the Maserati 3200 GT is such a car.

'Maserati is back with a vengeance'

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SOLDIER to soldier

Trouble at home

SOLDIERS don't have to go to Afghanistan "to win their spurs", according to the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland.

One look at the latest operational honours and awards – personnel based in the Province fill half the list – suggests he has a point.

The fact is that with the attention of the media focused sharply on the Royal Marines' search for al-Qaida, soldiers involved in operations closer to home could be forgiven for thinking that they have been forgotten.

Troops supporting the police in north Belfast are being confronted virtually every night by the worst sectarian violence seen in the area for years... and with the marching season yet to come.



Lt Gen Alistair Irwin told *Soldier* that because people – including many in the Army – don't see the city's regular bouts of sectarian mayhem played out on television, a widespread assumption has grown that nothing much is going on in the Province.

He believes that if the violence erupting on Belfast's streets was happening in any other city on the United Kingdom mainland, it would be much more widely reported. He is right.



THERE are many – not all of them men – who will be relieved that the Government has decided not to allow women a role in close combat.

Setting aside the whys and wherefores of their physical suitability for the job, there is a strong argument that the nation's acceptance of women soldiers in combat would be severely tested by the first casualty.

It is bad enough when our men are maimed in conflict (think of Simon Weston and Denzil Connick); how much worse if it were a woman?

However robustly the decision is challenged by equal opportunities campaigners, most people in Britain will regard it as sensible.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Invicta Park hit by a time warp

THE year continues to fly by at frightening speed. As Him Indoors is depressingly fond of saying each year, "the nights will soon be drawing in". Meanwhile, I'm still somewhere in April.

By comparison, the poor residents of the "dilapidated hovels" in Invicta Park in Maidstone must think they are stuck in a time warp, waiting since 1993 for new houses to be built and their lives to improve. As reported in *Soldier* (May), a decision is still to be made on whether they will get their new houses, or whether they will be housed instead at Chatham, ten miles or so away from their unit.

A year after an apparent green light had been given to demolish the sub-standard 1960s quarters, the Defence Housing Executive announced it had withdrawn funding. This has been challenged by the Army and yet another study is under way.

Meanwhile, as a correspondent to the June issue of the AFF's *Families Journal* says, many 36 Engineer Regiment families are scattered throughout the Medway area. You can read all about it in AFF housing specialist Kirsty Dudin's report in the *AFF*, now at a unit near you.

THE letter about IVF treatment (Talkback, Page 74) highlights a situation affecting a small number of Army families for some years. It is very difficult for Army couples to be in the right place at the right time for long enough to be able to access IVF treatment... a desperate situation for those affected.

In the UK, they face the same lottery as civilians in that their local NHS trust may or may not provide IVF treatment. If they are lucky and it does, they have the addi-



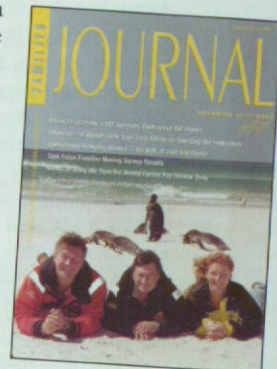
Sue Bonney is Editor of the AFF *Families Journal*

tional Army lottery of a posting out of the area at just the wrong time. I hope this will be addressed by changes recently introduced by the Department of Health in the way waiting list times and performance targets are calculated, which mean NHS trusts are required to take account of time spent on a waiting list in another trust's area. All the couple has to do, of course, is get posted to a trust area which also provides the treatment.

Guidelines being developed by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) on IVF treatment across the NHS may make it more widely available, but are unlikely to appear in the near future.

For Service couples overseas, especially in the more far-flung areas, the only hope of treatment is usually by private means, which is expensive. There's not much the Army can do, except consider an early posting to the UK on compassionate grounds, if the couple can find an area in which the local NHS trust will provide treatment. This won't help if, as *Soldier's* correspondent says, Army couples are given low priority in the NHS.

I hope their doctor was misinformed about this. Army families are not allowed "special case" treatment in any area of Government policy, so why should civilians be given priority for IVF?



The June issue of the AFF *Families Journal* is out now and should reach a unit near you by mid-June at the latest

Imperial opportunity to raise concerns

AFF's biennial worldwide conference on July 4 at Imperial College, London is coming up fast on the rails.

Our speakers include Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon and the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Michael Walker, and our afternoon Question Time panel features Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram; the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel), Air Marshal Malcolm Pledger; the Adjutant General, Lt Gen Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman; and the Director of Personal

Services (Army), Brig Nick Cottam. We also have a special housing forum, with AFF's Kirsty Dudin; Colonel PS4(A), Col David Eccles; and the Chief Executive of the DHE, John Wilson.

The day will provide a chance to discuss the issues and concerns of Army families, what can be done to address them – and what can't – and the reasons why things sometimes have to be the way they are. If you haven't got a ticket, contact AFF Central Office on 01980 615525.



"Sit-ups for abdominals? Waste of time, mate."

It's time to sit up and take notice

REGARDING the basic personal fitness assessment (BPFA), I agree with the basic standards but disagree with the way the Army has decreed we go about it.

The run is a fair way to gauge a person's running ability, and press-ups are a good way of assessing upper-body strength, but why do we have to do sit-ups, which do absolutely nothing for the abdominal muscles and are basically hip-flexing?

What happened to good old-fashioned, tried-and-tested half-sits, dorsal raises and crunchies? Why did we adopt this totally wrong way of assessing stomach muscle strength when the exercise does nothing for us?

I enjoy PT but wish more practical tests were adopted in line with the weight-carrying exercises on the advanced combat fitness test. What do other readers think?
 – Name and address supplied.

Defeated by NHS fertility waiting list

I HAVE served my country for 15 years, including several operational tours. I have never complained about the frequent moves or the separation from my very supportive and uncomplaining wife, but I would like an answer to an issue affecting us.

Prize letter

We have tried for a family but discovered, after a battery of tests, that we have an unexplained fertility problem. We have registered with new doctors every time we have been posted and, on each occasion, been considered for the NHS's *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF) programme.

But because of the mobile nature of my job we have never made it to the top of the waiting lists for the treatment we need.

On our most recent move we went

through the usual tests, only to discover during the doctor's interview that, because we are in the Army, we are given low priority for the treatment. Nothing anyone could do would move us up the list, and apparently it's all due to funding. Surely this is discrimination against couples in the Armed Forces? I have paid my taxes for 15 years yet it appears that I fund treatment for other people which I am unable to obtain for myself.

What is the Army doing to help? A married soldier with children is more likely to commit to a future with the Army. It would be a shame if I were forced to leave a job that I love to receive fair treatment.
 – Name and address supplied.

▲ PS4(A) responds:

Because of the difficulty of maintaining places on NHS waiting lists, access to NHS elective care and waiting times is a principal concern of Service families. Those relocating regularly often find themselves at the bottom of the waiting list of the NHS trust in their new area.

Under current Department of Health guidance, trusts are asked to "consider what, if any, account they are able to take of time already waited at the old provider". The problem is that, irrespective of NHS guidance, decisions relating to the position on a waiting list are ones of clinical judgement and these are for the consultant and the NHS trust area to make.

IVF treatment is not routinely available on the NHS throughout the UK although it is more available in some areas than others. The Army has been hoping for some time to

see an NHS policy statement on the funding of infertility services and it is intended that a policy for Service personnel and their families should be formulated on the basis of this NHS policy.

No overarching NHS policy has yet been developed and although the National Institute for Clinical Excellence are currently developing guidelines for infertility services which could do more to provide the latest treatment and should iron out the current post-code lottery, these are not likely to appear for some time. Accordingly, Service policy is that where families are resident in an NHS area in which these services are funded, they are free to make use of them. If they are not available locally on the NHS, there is no mechanism whereby the Army can provide funding for private treatment.

Discussions are going on between the MoD and NHS to find a solution.

Have your say, briefly

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them as short as possible. The more space you take up to get your point across, the less room there is for the views of others... and we want to use as many as we possibly can.

E-mails should include your name, unit and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication). Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend correspondence for length, clarity or style.

My years in Army gave me so much I needed to get a degree

WHILE working at a higher education fair in Derby I was given a copy of *Soldier* by the officer on an Army recruitment stand. It became apparent to me that though universities are a great place to recruit officers, the Army is a good place to recruit university students.

Having joined the junior leaders at the age of 16, I thought my schooling was behind me and I was there to be a soldier. However, the skills I picked up in the forces showed me there is far more to life than I expected. I left in 1997 after a tour in Bosnia with the idea of joining the police. That didn't work out so I set about getting a degree.

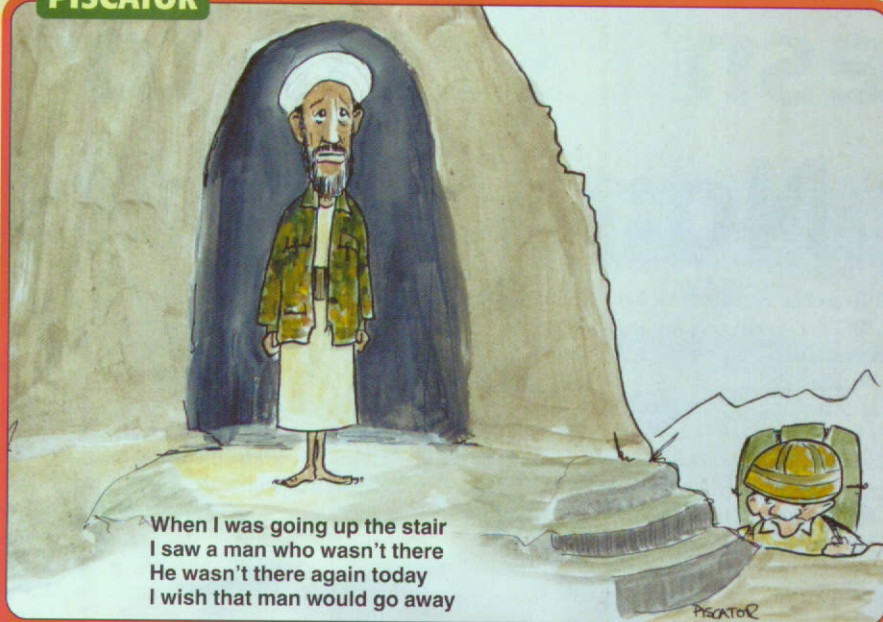
The determination, discipline and common sense I learnt in the Army were the very things I needed to get a degree. After three enjoyable

years I graduated last year from Oxford Brookes University and now work for the university recruiting new students.

My transition would have been quicker if I had known which courses to take in the year leading up to my discharge. I am keen to advise soldiers who are leaving and who think they could benefit from a degree (and most could).

Although my job is to recruit for Oxford Brookes University I am able to advise soldiers who may wish to study elsewhere and can put them in touch with the relevant people. – Rob Aldridge, Student Recruitment (UK), Oxford Brookes University, Oxford OX3 0BP; or tel 01865 484893; or e-mails to raldridge@brookes.ac.uk

PISCATOR



Competition time: In which country was the Battle of Waterloo fought?

A) France; B) Germany; C) Belgium; D) England

Answers on a postcard to Competition Desk, Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5HR. The first card picked out of the hat will win a framed copy of the Piscator picture. Ten runners-up will receive a Tommy Atkins pin badge. The deadline for entries to reach us is July 8, 2002.



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Will decision not to guard castle spread to London?

THE funeral of the Queen Mother gave all three Services the opportunity to demonstrate to the world that we are still "The Best" and the envy of many nations.

It was the sort of performance that enhances the reputation of our Armed Forces worldwide.

Alas, in the shadow of the funeral it has been decided that the Regular Army is no longer able to meet the centuries-old obligation to mount daily ceremonial guards at Edinburgh Castle, the King-

dom of Scotland's ancient fortress and primary tourist attraction. Most soldiers, given the rare opportunity to appear in public in uniform, take a great deal from the experience. Sadly these days the opportunities are few.

To cancel these daily ceremonial sentries is a retrograde step and could be the thin edge of the wedge. Will it spread to London? What will go next? The Queen's Guard in Windsor? – **Maj H F O'Hara, AGC (SPS), NRPS, Edinburgh.**

I WOULD like to comment on your headline "Heavy

cavalry receives final Challenger 2" on Page 18 (May). As a long-serving soldier in the Royal Tank Regiment, I, and all soldiers in the RTR, find it somewhat insulting to be called "cavalry". In our history we have never served on horses. The Royal Armoured Corps is split into three different areas: Household Cavalry, line

Horses for courses

cavalry and tankies. I am biased towards tankies and our ability

to take on any role thrown at us, the latest and most important being the change of role for 1 RTR to nuclear, chemical and biological warfare. It was completed with professionalism, as could be expected by anyone wearing black coveralls. – WO2 R J Fisher, RQMS (T), BATUS.

▲ No insult was intended. – Editor

Here's the bad news ...

Unit's Sierra Leone service still hasn't been marked with a medal

I AND fellow members of 256 Signal Squadron who deployed at short notice to Sierra Leone in response to the West African country's crisis in May 2000 were in theatre longer than the Paras and as long as the Royal Marines.

We were subsequently told we would receive a medal to reflect our involvement in Operation Palliser, but nearly two years have passed and still there is no sign of a medal. The signal squadron deployed twice more to Sierra Leone – for Operation Basilica and for Operation Silkman.

Are we eventually going to get a medal? We would be grateful if you could pass this on to someone who can give us a straight answer? – **Name and unit supplied.**

And the good news ...

▲ PS12(A) responds:

Concerning the perceived delay among Servicemen and women over the issue of the first ever Operational Service Medal (OSM) for Sierra Leone, investigations have revealed that it has taken just over 17 months to staff the criteria of eligibility for the issue of the medal through the respective single Service staff branches to the MoD.

During this time careful staff work had to be undertaken by the MoD to ensure that the award of the first OSM for Sierra Leone achieved the right balance between the correct recognition of "risk and rigours" – that is, actual service within the country of Sierra Leone, as well as maximum inclusivity for the award of the medal to include service in the joint operational area supporting the mission in Sierra Leone.

In short, our Servicemen and women must continue to value British medals and the largely strict criteria associated with their awards in the future as they have done in the past.

Delays aside, readers of *Soldier* will be pleased to know that the Queen approved the criteria for the award of the OSM for Sierra Leone late last year and that the MoD is currently working on the final staffing action required for its issue.

In anticipation of strong demand, the Army Medal Office has enough minted medals in stock to ensure immediate issue once the Joint Defence Council Instruction on the OSM for Sierra Leone has been promulgated.



MoD doesn't seem to value us Non-Regulars

I HOLD an admin post as a member of the Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) in a Territorial Army regiment. Recent erosion of my terms and conditions of service causes me to question whether our devotion to duty and goodwill are valued.

Changes include arbitrary amendments to TA regulations without representation or even warning to the chain of command. In addition we have suffered:

- A substantially diminished pay award in the 2001 Pay Review of 2.8 per cent as opposed to the full award of 3.7 per cent (the rationale for this was that NRPS had been paid an element of X-factor since

1990 as the result of an error by MoD);

- TA rates of pay for annual camp and other courses have been removed;

- Removal of Excess Fares Allowance and introduction of Recompense in Lieu of Relocation (RILOR), when RILOR was part of the new and balanced package designed for the Regular Army;

- Implementation of Pay 2000 for the TA planned for November this year, but as yet no information or consultative criteria to apply Pay 2000 to NRPS.

- Derisory length-of-service increments of 10p for every three years served to a maximum of three increments. An organ-

isation that professes to Invest in People should be ashamed.

To qualify for the Volunteer Reserves Service Medal (VRSM), each year of NRPS service will count only for two-thirds' qualifying service.

I maintain a strong sense of duty and willingness to make the system work, and if push comes to shove the NRPS is one part of the TA that will be there when needed. I seriously question whether the contribution made by members of the NRPS is understood or valued by the MoD. – **SSgt D B Nicholson, ACG (SPS) NRPS, Tyne and Wear.**

▲ Main points from a detailed response to SSgt Nicholson given by SO2 G1 TA:

In 1980 NRPS pay was revised to equate to the Regular Army basic military salary with the X-factor removed. As the X-factor was increased, the equation to convert Regular Army rates to NRPS rates of pay was not adjusted and the NRPS inadvertently received an element of the X-factor for several years. When this error was discovered, MoD adjusted the pay awards for 2001/02 and 2002/03.

HQ Land published a study into NRPS

working conditions in 2001 and submitted a proposal to MoD to justify restoration of the X-factor at an appropriate level to NRPS pay. This has been revised and will be circulated to the chain of command before resubmission.

The removal of the right to receive TA rates of pay while at camp or on certain other activities was removed on the direction of MoD. Entitlement to recompense for home-to-duty travel followed changes imposed on Regular personnel living in private accommodation.

We understand that NRPS will be entitled

to incremental pay as illustrated in the MoD-directed letter for TA Pay 2002, which will remove the present anomaly of 10p increments at the three-, six- and nine-year points of NRPS service.

Regarding the VRSM qualifying period, NRPS are in full-time service and the qualifying time is more favourable than that for volunteers who carry out more than five years' full-time service. Oversight of NRPS terms and conditions of service is maintained by the TA desk officer in HQ Land G1 and every MoD decision is subject to comment.

This retention bonus for pilots puts spotlight on REME's aircraft specialists

THE letter "Wife angered by timing of retention bonus for military pilots" (April) may seem like sour grapes, but it reflects the feelings of REME aircraft technicians.

The bonuses, a sensible initiative, were introduced to keep highly-trained specialists in the Army Air Corps. The Army has just procured the Apache – its most significant battlefield advance since the tank.

HQ DEME(A) replies:

In common with other REME technicians, aircraft technicians in the rank of LCpl to Sgt have been, and remain, among the highest-paid Servicemen when comparisons are made based on rank and experience.

Before Pay 2000, JNCO technicians were generally paid at Band 3 rates of pay (the highest of three ranges for JNCOs) while SNCO technicians were on Band 6 rates (highest for Sgts, second highest for SSgts). What has changed since Pay 2000 is that the apparent differential has been eroded. For example, a Cpl technician is no longer paid in

Following Pay 2000, Army technicians feel devalued. The issue of financial retention incentives (FRI) for Army pilots raises issues within the REME aviation world. Problems with the retention of REME aircraft and avionics technicians must be creating a bit of a headache in the upper echelons of the AAC.

There are not enough technicians to service and maintain the current fleet of

the highest of three bands; he is paid in the higher of two ranges and has been "caught up" by a number of other trades. However, he retains his technician status, together with the accelerated promotion that it brings.

Five years after leaving training, he can be earning a sergeant's pay in the high range – a pay benefit that few other Army trades offer. The trade was subject to review by the JSJET last year, which confirmed the allocation to ranges made at the introduction of Pay 2000.

There has been concern expressed by a number of technicians regarding the transitional arrangements but this was amply cov-

Lynx and Gazelle helicopters, much less to service an aircraft estimated to require 25 to 35 man hours of REME work to one flying hour airframe.

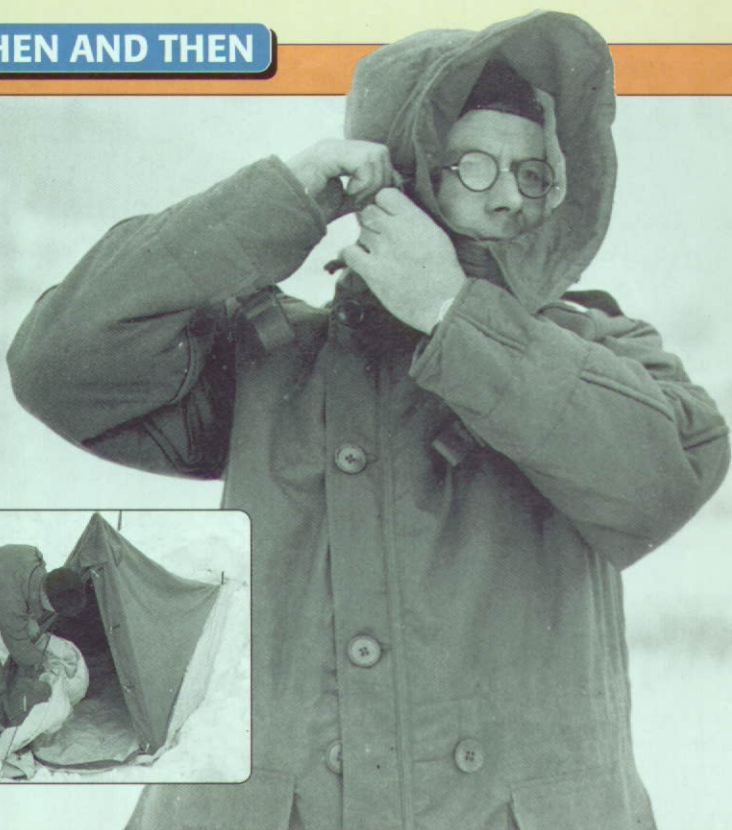
Where are we going to find the technicians to service the Apache? How do we keep those technicians to train new technicians? Are there moves afoot to offer FRIs to aircraft/avionics technicians? – **Name and address supplied.**

ered by Gen Currie's article in *Soldier* (Feb).

It is true that there is an insufficient number of aircraft technicians to meet the Director of Army Aviation's current aspirations for flying hours. This has arisen more as a result of a change in the numbers of established posts rather than poor retention.

Aircraft technician recruitment is buoyant and has been for some time and REME Training Group is running a record number of aircraft technician courses in the coming year. REME technician trades – in common with other REME trades – remain highly valued by the corps and the Army.

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1977: Company Sgt Maj Rambahadur Limbu, of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, the only serving holder of the Victoria Cross in the British Armed Services, has been commissioned as a lieutenant (Queen's Gurkha Officer) in a ceremony conducted by Lt Gen Sir John Archer, Commander British Forces Hong Kong.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, June 1952: Capt Alec Baines RAC, above, is the lone man of the mountains. He makes one-man expeditions into the snow to test clothing, equipment and rations required by the Army for mountain warfare. He may be away for as long as three weeks at a time. On his return he writes reports for HQ British Army of the Rhine, to which he belongs.

Kids are no excuse for reduced liability

I HAVE been in the Army ten years and had children for the past six. During this time I have encountered problems ranging from having to leave my children without either parent to threats of "if you can't get adequate childcare we will apply for your discharge".

I would gladly take a pay drop and even stay in my rank if it was guaranteed that either my husband or I could remain with our children. Don't get me wrong, if a war situation broke out tomorrow I would gladly serve my country, but for normal day-to-day Army life a change needs to happen. – **Name and address supplied.**

DM(A) responds:

Army policy states that childcare is a parental responsibility and serving parents are expected to make full childcare provision during working hours. The Army makes great demands on its personnel and extra commitment and disruption are acknowledged by the X-factor payment.

Although an attractive suggestion, a reduction in pay or commitment is not practical, since every uniformed post shares the same liability. Every effort is made to provide sympathetic management but in many units the pressure on individuals is so great that it would be unfair to advantage one group over

another. The Army is absolutely committed to retaining trained soldiers (its most valuable asset) and is investigating ways to assist soldier-parents. This includes the feasibility of posts carrying reduced liability or different terms of service, with a concomitant reduction in pay. This might include a period in the reserves, with continual training but reduced liability, before returning to regular service.

However, soldiers who are unable to meet their duty obligations for whatever reason may be administratively discharged. This may seem hard but soldiers are, after all, paid by the nation to protect the nation, and have a liability to deploy world-wide, 24 hours a day.

PS...

Aircrew vital, too

AIRCREW co-pilots in receipt of flying pay should also be paid the financial retention bonus paid to pilots (see Mail, April and May). It is their job to relieve the pilot and fly aircraft safely home if the pilot is unable to do so.

There are only a handful of aircrewmen left in the Army Air Corps and surely they deserve recognition for the vital role they play. – Army wife (name and address supplied).

My unique claim

IN May 2000 you featured Capt Andy McArthur and suggested that he was probably one of the last recipients of both the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal (EM) and the Territorial Army Decoration (TD).

As I received my TD some time after him (Feb 2002), it might be possible that I am nearer to being one of the last to hold both medals.

Incidentally, at present and for the approaching Golden Jubilee celebrations, I am serving with the same unit I served with during the Silver Jubilee. Am I unique? – T A G McEwen TD, RLC(V).

League of gallantry

THE article "League open to gallant members" (Update extra, March) is based on old information. The Canadian bravery awards are as follows: Victoria Cross (Canadian issue motto reads "Pro Valore"), Cross of Valour (replaces George Cross), Star of Courage (replaces Military Medal and Military Cross), Medal of Bravery (replaces George Medal).

Yours is an excellent magazine and I wish our forces had something even half as good. – Capt (Retd) Robert MacDonald, late Seaforth Highlanders, Vancouver, Canada.

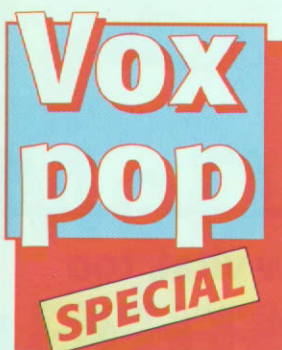
Medal for everyone

I AM pleased that, finally with the Golden Jubilee Medal, the spirit of a commemorative medal is being applied in the UK. One can argue about the minimum time criteria, but at least an effort has been made to be inclusive.

It could be worse. Canada is going about this one the same way it went about the Silver Jubilee Medal. They are striking 48,000, the vast majority of which will go to civilians recommended for community service who will never take it out of the drawer.

Less than ten per cent of the Armed Forces will get one.

The UK policy may not be perfect but it beats the Canadian one hands-down. Commemorative medals should be given to all serving soldiers – or none. Incidentally, I'm a Canadian serving in New Zealand. – Maj D O Buck, Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment.



Shooting stars

We asked some of the personalities at the Army Photographic Competition awards ceremony to pass on their thoughts about the trade

Mark Owens, Media Ops, HQ 2 Div (Professional Photographer of the Year)

The standard of Army photographers is excellent, as it is for the civilian photographers. We work very closely – and very well – together. We civvies can help the military guys with what they do... and vice versa.



from South Georgia and the Falklands to Austria for a sporting event, Bosnia, Macedonia and Kosovo, and, in Africa, Sierra Leone and Kenya.

WO2 Dave Brown, DISC Chicksands (winner, Today's Army)

Photography for information-gathering is essential. If you are able to put a photo on someone's desk to show them something when they have never been to that country or seen that particular piece of equipment it makes it so much easier than trying to describe the situation. The old adage that a picture paints a thousand words is true.



starting out is be prepared to make mistakes and take the advice of the experts and professionals.

There are lots of Army photographers around and lots of people in media operations with great experience. You are almost certain to find a camera club near you.

Maj Nick Henderson, Coldm Gds (best overall image)

The situation I photographed showed the social and technological extremes in the environment the British Army operates in. It came out as a very good photograph, which is why I entered it, having never gone in for a competition before.



Terry Champion, Picture Editor, HQ Land

The competition is again of a very high standard and keeps going up. The standard is much better than last year. It would be nice to see more of these images throughout the year, so keep them coming. Make sure your pictures are captioned properly and we'll do our best to market them.



Cpl Mark Ballantyne, HQ Land (winner, best digital award)

I was lucky to get a first posting in the photographic trade to HQ Land, which is fairly unusual. I've been to places throughout the world as well as all over the UK. I've been to most, if not all, the operational theatres that the Army is in at the moment, ranging



Maj Mark Smyth, REME, HQ 1 Armd Div (Amateur Photographer of the Year)

The important thing is not how expensive your camera and lenses are, it is simply to get out and take photographs. Carry a camera with you all the time so that when you see something you can fire off a few shots. If you have an



expensive camera you might be tempted not to take it with you.

Maj John Gale, RLC, 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC (runner-up, Amateur Photographer of the Year)

The advice I'd give to anyone who is just



SSgt Giles Penfound, HQ Shape (runner-up, Professional Photographer of the Year)

I don't think it matters whether you choose an SLR or digital camera. The only thing that really matters is the picture. If all you can afford is a snap camera, go out

and take the pictures on that.

Interviews: John Elliott Pictures: Graeme Main



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