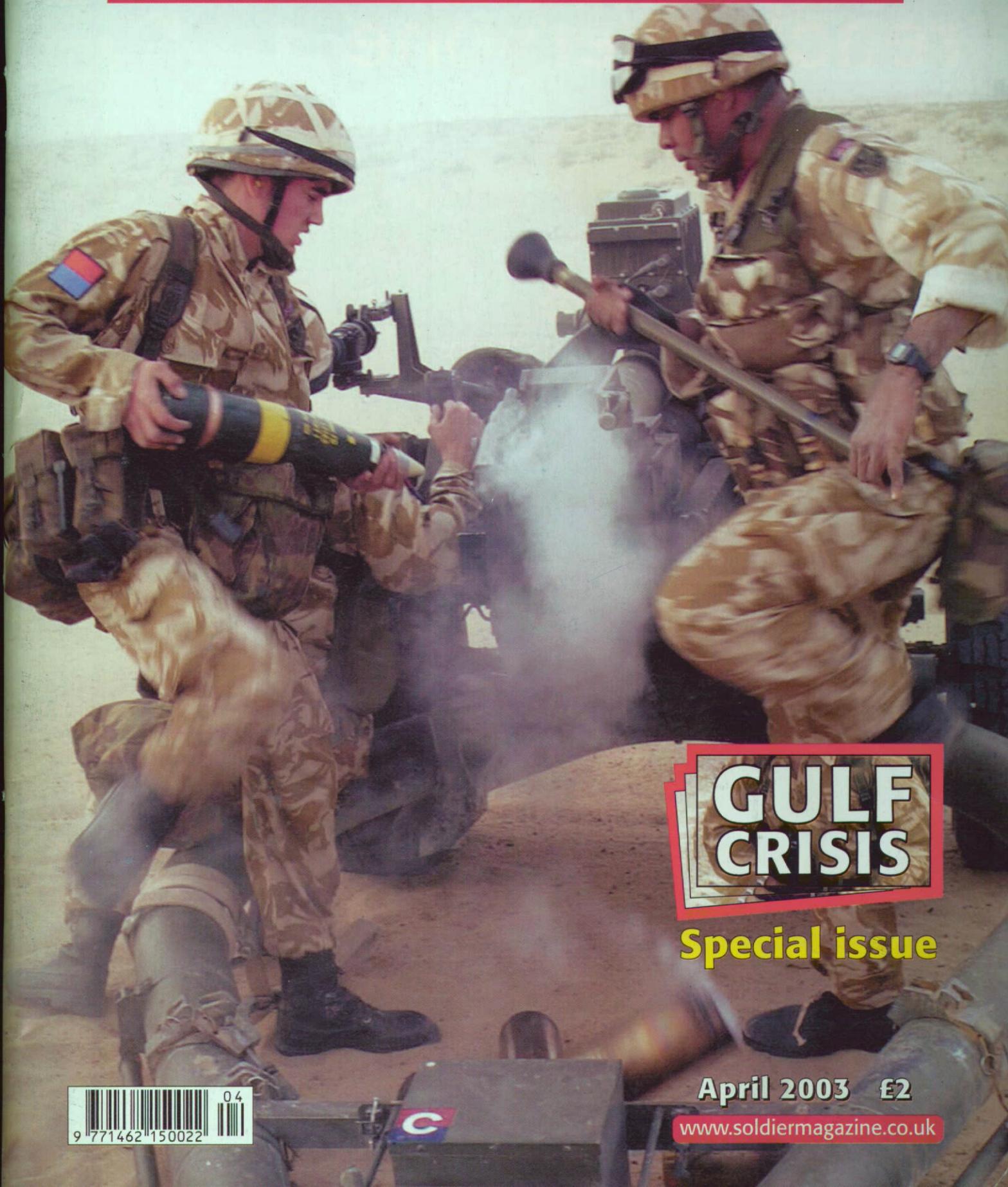


# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



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**Special issue**

**April 2003 £2**

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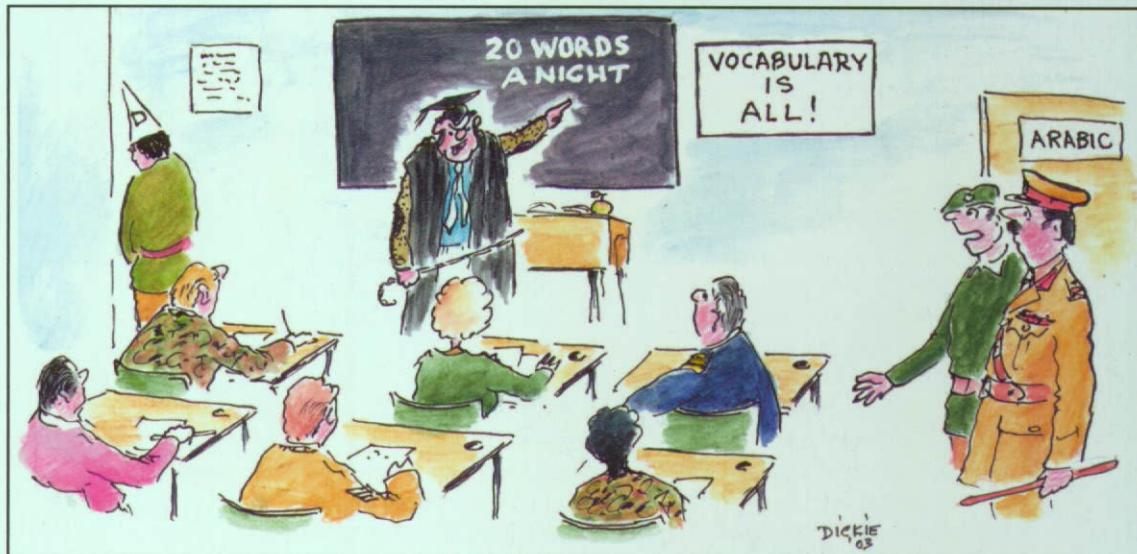
## Cover picture

Sound and fury: Soldiers of G Parachute Battery (Mercer's Troop), 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, fire their 105mm light gun during training in northern Kuwait. The battery supports 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Picture: WO2 Giles Penfround

## SOLDIER to soldier

'AS this column is written our troops are moving into Iraq. By the time it is published the course of the war will in all probability have been decided.' – Page 79



"Old-fashioned perhaps, eccentric I grant you, Sir, but he achieves a lot in six weeks" – see Pages 50-51

## In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

**Gulf deployment: Op Telic stories and pictures appear on Pages 4, 7, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 29**

Also in this issue:

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Staffords switch into pan-Balkan mode

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Four-page section on rates, allowances, charges

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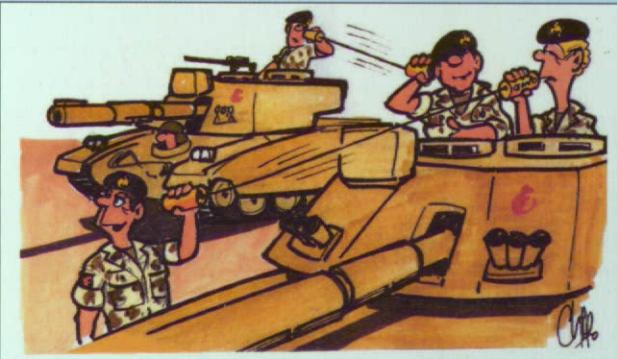
Billy Elliot actor in the trenches for new role

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Military goes back to school to break barriers

### 86 Vox pop

Soldiers compare kit with Scandinavian troops



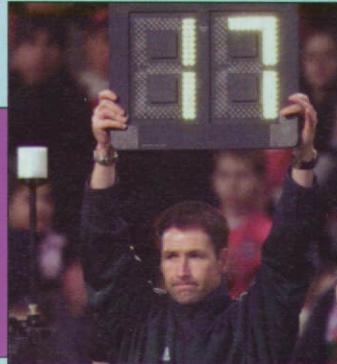
'And tell the Yanks we've solved the communication problem.'

– Chip's view, Page 33

### 'The referee's assistant's a soldier...'

Royal Anglian warrant officer Darren Adie has been accredited as a FIFA match official.

– Sport, Page 56



'To be told you will not be deploying on Op Telic is one thing but to have to undertake a task normally done by junior staff is demoralising.'

– Medic asks why TA troops are being sent to the Gulf while he has to stay at home – Page 80

TalkbackTalkbackTalkback

'MY wife and I are working together on an operational tour in Kosovo. Why can't we share a room?'

– Soldier-husband's plaintive plea – Page 83

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Manage your  
money – Page 31

# Desert force



**Scoop:** This superb photograph, reproduced in most national newspapers in Britain, was taken by Cpl Paul Jarvis RLC, a member of an Army mobile news team.

A former sergeant in the Royal Engineers, Cpl Jarvis, 31, joined the MNT in December straight from the Joint School of Photography at RAF Cosford. Kuwait is his first operational deployment with the news team.

His picture shows more than 4,000 men and women from 7 Armoured Brigade and 16 Air Assault Brigade being addressed in the Kuwaiti desert by Lt Gen James Conway, commander of 1 Marine Expeditionary Force. They had assembled at Camp Coyote in northern Kuwait with their

Challenger 2 tanks and Warrior infantry fighting vehicles to hear him say that when he heard "the British were coming, it was a very positive thing. It is great to have you aboard".

Pipers from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch played as Gen Conway arrived to take his place on top of a Challenger main battle tank bedecked with the Union flag and the Stars and Stripes. Among the berets visible are those of The Parachute Regiment, the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, the Army Air Corps, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Royal Artillery, the Royal Signals and the Royal Engineers.

Many soldiers appear to be looking through binoculars at the F-18 Hornet and AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters overhead.

• Gulf crisis coverage continues on Page 17



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Picture: WO2 Giles Penfound

Eve of battle: Lt Col Tim Collins, commanding officer of 1 R Irish, addresses his soldiers on the evening before the first missile was fired

# Targeting rules protect civilians

A PRIORITY for commanders in the Gulf is to limit civilian casualties. Every target will be scrutinised to make sure it accords with the objective of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction and falls within the guidelines of the international Law of Armed Combat (LOAC).

Commanders are trained in LOAC and at every command level in the targeting process there is a legal adviser to ensure minimum force is used.

Under the rules, targeting civilians or civilian objects is prohibited, although if a civilian object is used for military purposes or is of dual use it may become a legitimate target.

Restrictions include the need to protect cultural, historical and religious sites, as well as medical facilities and objects indispensable to the Iraqis, such as food-stuffs, agricultural areas and drinking water.

AS this issue went to press coalition troops were on the move in southern Iraq following missile strikes against specific targets in Baghdad. Scud missile attacks on northern Kuwait were reported.

It was confirmed that eight members of 3 Commando Brigade had died when a US CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed.

● A message from the Queen to troops in the Gulf expressed her pride in them and her confidence that they would face the challenges before them.

“Especially for those of you now waiting to go into action, may your mission be swift and decisive, your courage steady and true, and your conduct in the highest traditions of your service, both in waging war and bringing peace.

“My thoughts are with you all, and with your families and friends who wait at home for news and pray for your safe return.”

● Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Chief of the Defence Staff, said in a message to the Armed Forces: “I have issued the directive to start operations in Iraq. The actions on which we are about to embark are just and lawful, and will be conducted in accordance with international law.”

## Respect Iraq and Iraqis, troops told

THE imperative to respect Iraq's people was spelt out to his troops on the eve of battle by Lt Col Tim Collins, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, at Fort Blair Mayne in northern Kuwait.

“We go to liberate, not to conquer,” he said. “We will not fly our flags in their country. We are entering Iraq to free a people. The only flag which will be flown in that ancient land is their own. Show respect for them.”

Iraq was steeped in history, he said. “It is the site of the Garden of Eden, of the Great Flood and the birthplace of Abraham. Tread lightly there. You will see things that no man could pay to see and you will have to go a long way to find a more decent, generous and upright people than the Iraqis. You will be embarrassed by their hospitality, even though they have nothing.”

Lt Col Collins exhorted his men: “As for ourselves, let's bring everyone home and leave Iraq a better place for us having been there. Our business now is north.”

## Taking their leave



Wiltshire-bound: Soldiers of 19th Regiment RA parade on Colchester High Street to say goodbye to the local community before moving to Horne Barracks at Larkhill. The Highland Gunners, who have been based at Kirkee Barracks in the town since 1993, are to be joined in Wiltshire by two further AS90 batteries redeploying from Germany. Commanding officer Lt Col Bill Kingdon, who joined Cllr Nigel Chapman, Mayor of Colchester, to take the salute, said the regiment had enjoyed "a good ten years" in the town and was sorry to be leaving.

Picture: Andy Cargill

## Chilwell chimes



Picture: Chris Barker

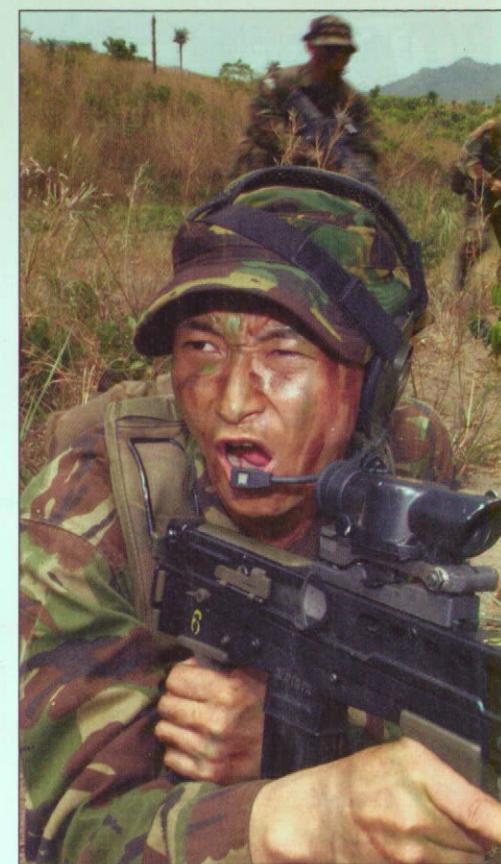
They got him to the church on time: Territorial Army soldier Cpl Robert Issott hugs his new bride, Claire, after their wedding at Wakefield Registry Office. The long-planned ceremony was in doubt when postman Robert, a member of 104 Battalion REME, was called-up for possible service in the Gulf, but the good folk at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell gave him a weekend off to fulfil his date with destiny.



Bush masters: Rfn Devendra Ale and colleagues on patrol outside Bengema Camp



Ranging in: Rfn Surya Rai, right, and Rfn Gyan Limbu practise GPMG handling drills



Committed: Rfn Prakash Thebe gets stuck in

# Freetown force proves point

Gurkha battalion helps demonstrate UK's commitment to reinforcing UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone

From Jonathan Turner in Freetown  
Pictures: Cpl Dave Liddle RLC

TROOPS from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles swapped the cold of their base in Folkestone for the heat of the African bush to test how quickly a British force could reach Sierra Leone.

Supported by a joint task force headquarters based on 19 Mechanized Brigade and the Royal Navy's Type-23 frigate HMS *Iron Duke*, a company of Gurkhas from the Spearhead Lead Element deployed to Freetown. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Black Rover* accompanied the force.

With an HQ element and supporting

logistic and medical personnel, the company group was about 300-strong.

Several of the Gurkhas had been in Freetown during Operation Silkman, helping to train elements of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF).

The UK has a commitment to the United Nations to provide an "over-the-horizon reserve" for its force in Sierra Leone. If necessary the British Government can deploy up to a brigade to assist the UN effort in a country attempting to shake off decades of civil war.

Maj Ian Poole, spokesman for 19 Mech Bde, said that with all eyes on the Gulf, it was a good time to test the con-

cept. "We are simply proving how fast we can get a force here, despite commitments elsewhere. The first troops were in Freetown just 72 hours after we were told to deploy," he said.

"We've shown we can get here quickly and sustain our force in-theatre for as long as necessary."

Despite several minor incidents on the border with Liberia, and the first arrests ordered by the international special court for war crimes, the security situation in Sierra Leone remains stable.

"The reaction we have had from local people has been very positive," said Maj Poole. "Many of the Gurkhas here now have been to Sierra Leone before and it is

fair to say they were very happy to be back."

The task force worked closely with the British-led International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT), which is responsible for teaching and advising the RSLAF.

As well as carrying out training, the Gurkhas familiarised themselves with Freetown and the surrounding area. The force also laid on an impressive demonstration of firepower for 150 local dignitaries, UN officials and the RSLAF's élite Force Reconnaissance Unit.

Weaponry on display included Milan anti-tank missiles, mortars and general-purpose machine-guns and an attack by the *Iron Duke*'s Lynx helicopter. But after

a decade of civil war in the region, special precautions had to be taken to avoid panicking local people with the noise of heavy gunfire.

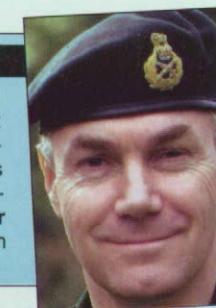
"The display lasted for about 90 minutes and there were two days of rehearsals beforehand," said Maj Poole, "so we broadcast warnings on the radio so people would know it was nothing sinister."

Soldiers from 30 Signal Regiment attached to the force HQ repaired a generator at the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Freetown and constructed a shelter for a prize-giving ceremony at the end of March, the first since 1996.

The task force was expected to return to the UK at the end of March.

### IN BRIEF

- Maj Gen Nick Cottam, right, whose last appointment was Director Personal Services (Army) at Upavon, has taken over as GOC 5th Division from Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, who has retired from the Army.



- Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, right, the last resident battalion in Londonderry, said farewell to their Ebrington Barracks base with a march-past in aid of local charities. The Coldstream are to move out of the barracks this

month, leaving behind HQ 8th Infantry Brigade and a guard force, which will depart when new accommodation at Ballykelly is completed later this year. The 29-acre Ebrington site is to be handed over to the Northern Ireland Executive and returned to the local community.



- Lex Defence, which provides a fleet of more than 12,500 vehicles to the Army Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, presented a cheque for £1,372 to the Services' charity SSAFA-Forces Help during a ceremony at Edinburgh Castle. The money was raised at the Lex Defence White Fleet Christmas party.

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Picture: Mark Owens



Wizard stuff: Section commander Cpl Scott Smith, 1 Hldrs, at Otterburn in front of two Merlin HC Mark 3 helicopters, with which the battalion exercised before its deployment to Bosnia

## Highlanders off to the Balkans

AFTER two years carrying out ceremonial duties in Edinburgh, the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders has deployed to Bosnia under new commanding officer Lt Col Tim Lai, R Irish.

The battalion, which replaces the Royal Scots at the Metal Factory base in Banja Luka, faces the prospect of rising tensions during potentially volatile summer elections in the Balkan state.

Firefighting duties under Operation Fresco stretched the Highlanders as they prepared for the tour.

Lt Col Lai, whose last appointment was with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (Unamsil), said it was the first time the Highlanders had deployed to the Balkans as a full battalion.

Last year B Company, 1 Hldrs, which was reinforcing the Queen's Royal Hussars battle-group at Podujevo in Kosovo, spent

three weeks patrolling the tense, ethnically-divided town of Mitrovica in the French-controlled sector of Kosovo.

Arriving in theatre at the same time as the Highlanders will be a squadron of the Royal Air Force's new Merlin HC Mk 3 helicopters, with which the unit exercised during pre-deployment training. The Merlins, from 28 Squadron RAF, will provide a transport capability in Bosnia.

The HC3 offers a wide range of support equipment, including a rescue hoist and a roller floor to assist loading cargo via the rear ramp. The Merlin is the first British military helicopter to be fitted with an air-to-air refuelling probe.

A damping system effectively reduces noise and vibration levels inside the cabin, reducing crew and passenger fatigue and raising comfort levels.

• **Staffords in Kosovo – Pages 34-37**

### Barracks opened

**MONS** Barracks at Aldershot has been formally opened by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, who had lunch with the junior ranks of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, the first occupants. It occupies the site of the former Mons Officer Cadet School.

### Pader's spring clean

SIXTEEN divers from 35 Engineer Regiment cleared rubbish from the bed of the River Pader at the request of civil authorities at Paderborn. They retrieved dozens of bags of discarded bottles and cans, in addition to abandoned wallets, bank cards, a bicycle and a motorbike.

### Drummers in the City

A YOUNG drummers' day was hosted at Finsbury Barracks in the City of London by the Honourable Artillery Company, assisted by the Army School of Drumming. About 50 youngsters from several cadet force bands were coached by Cpl Warren Alexander-Pye under the direction of Dum Maj Simon Ball, both of the HAC.

### Colours laid up

THE old Colours of the Scots Guards have been laid up in Canongate Kirk on Edinburgh's Royal Mile. The regiment received new Colours from the Queen last year. The Scots Guards' links with the kirk date back to 1890 when the regiment was stationed in the city.

## Gurkha terms of service are vindicated by judicial ruling

A JUDICIAL review which vindicated the MoD's position on pay and pensions for Gurkhas by confirming that current arrangements are not discriminatory has been welcomed by the Department.

The ruling by Mr Justice Sullivan followed serious allegations brought against the MoD by the Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Organisation (GAESO) pressure group in connection with the employment of Gurkha soldiers in the British Army.

These ranged from detailed complaints to a more general accusation about an alleged culture of institutional discrimination in the Army in which Gurkhas as a group were systematically given lesser conditions and benefits than other members of the British Army.

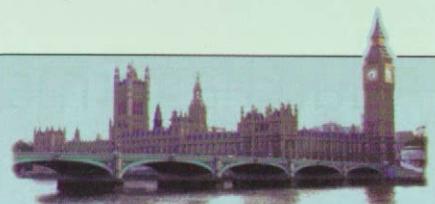
The outcome lifts a number of uncertainties that have confronted the Brigade of Gurkhas for some time. Rulings by the judge on married accompanied service are to be studied by the MoD.

## Crisis force launched

FIRST steps towards the creation of a 500-man Civil Contingency Reaction Force for the South-East were taken at Ashford TA Centre in Kent last month, during a launch involving MoD and civil emergency planners.

It will be one of 14 nationwide equipped to deal with biological, chemical or nuclear attack as well as civil emergencies. Drawn from specially-trained reserve forces, the CCRF will number 7,000 at full strength.

Regional HQ of the South-East force will be at Howe Barracks, Canterbury.



## Under Big Ben

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

## Welfare will replace LOA for Gulf units

TROOPS deployed in the Gulf will usually not receive local overseas allowance (LOA) as the operational welfare package (OWP) will be available to most of those on operations. LOA, a tax-free cost-of-living addition, is paid only when personnel incur greater day-to-day expenditure overseas than they would in the UK.

For those temporarily away from their permanent LOA-earning duty station, the full rate will continue for the first 17 days of the deployment while married accompanied personnel will continue to receive the whole amount unless their spouse also leaves the permanent duty station.

Single or married unaccompanied personnel lose 20 per cent of full LOA after 17 days.

### And I quote . . .

It cannot be repeated often enough that all the conflicts in which British forces and the United Nations have been involved over the past 12 years happen to have been ones in which the victims of aggression were people of the Islamic faith and the people who were saved from that aggression were people of the Islamic faith: – Foreign Secretary Jack Straw

duce the tactical communications system between 2004 and 2007 are on schedule.

**Sapper tanks:** The Trojan and Titan engineer tank systems ordered by the MoD are forecast to enter service in October 2005. They will be assigned to Royal Engineer close support regiments. Trojan replaces the Chieftain armoured vehicle (ChAVRE), Titan the Chieftain armoured vehicle launch bridge (ChAVBL).

**Shortfall:** The whole Army strength on January 1 stood at 102,800, a shortfall of 4,180.

**Called up:** A new call-out order, dated March 1, was made so reservists can continue to be called up to support operations in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are no plans to call reservists up compulsorily under this order.

**Over-60s:** Forty Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) aged over 60 were employed in the Territorial Army as at January 1.

## Barry flies into record books

LYNX pilot WO2 Barry Jones, right, of 9 Regiment AAC, has broken the world distance record for an autogiro. He flew his tiny aircraft, Global Eagle, the 585 miles from RAF Culdrose in Cornwall to Wick in Scotland, smashing the record by more than 40 miles. The flight lasted just over eight hours.

WO2 Jones's attempt to fly around the world in 80 days in Global Eagle (see *Soldier*, Feb) has been put on hold until June because of the Iraq situation.

See more details on [www.globaleagle.co.uk](http://www.globaleagle.co.uk)



# A new deal for partners

### Unmarrieds to be eligible for pension benefits

UNMARRIED partners in "substantial relationships" with soldiers killed as a result of conflict-related service are to receive pension benefits.

Eligibility will depend on a case-by-case assessment of each relationship against a set of criteria to include factors such as duration, children, financial dependence and shared mortgages.

The measures, brought into effect on March 20 – the first day of hostilities in the Gulf – are designed to meet the concerns of Service personnel whose long-term, unmarried partners have until now been ineligible for the benefits.

Eligible partners will be awarded payments equivalent to attributable bene-

fits payable to spouses under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. The payments will be ex-gratia and eligibility will be assessed on a case-by-case basis against a set of criteria. In the longer term, the issue is being addressed by reviews of Armed Forces pension and compensation arrangements.

To establish that there is a substantial relationship, eligibility to such benefits will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Evidence will be considered against a range of stipulations, including factors such as children, financial dependence or inter-dependence, shared commitments such as a mortgage, prime beneficiary of a will, shared accommodation, the length of the relationship and no legal spouse (on either side).

Decisions on eligibility will be based on a broad assessment of the substance of the relationship and, with the exception of single status, not all the criteria would need to be met.

Welfare officers will be instructed on the extension to unmarried partners to ensure partners who may be eligible are notified of available benefits quickly.

General queries should be directed to personnel branches. As this policy is new, it will take time for detailed advice to be available, although further guidance will be issued to personnel branches in due course.

## Fresco units stood down

NEARLY 19,000 Service personnel were stood down from Operation Fresco a day before a planned 24-hour strike set for March 20 was called off after fire union leaders recommended their members accept a new deal.

But the offer was turned down and further industrial action has not been ruled out.

**IN BRIEF**

- Capt James Acton, 28, second-in-command of 232 Signal Squadron, 7 Signal Regiment, based at Elmpft in Germany, drowned while on a canoeing adventure holiday in New Zealand. He was an accomplished white water canoeist.
- The Duke of York, right, presented



April 2003 **SOLDIER**



Sunny Cyprus? Soldiers serving with the snow-clearance team of 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE, including Sgt Warren Iveson, left, were hard-pressed to keep roads open when drifts up to five metres deep and temperatures as low as minus 20C swept Troodos Camp

Pictures: Cpl Pete Mobs

## Haslar hospital's 250 celebrations on hold

EVENTS planned to mark the 250th anniversary of the Royal Hospital Haslar have been postponed because of the Iraq crisis. Many of the hospital's military staff have deployed to the Gulf.

Until the middle of the 20th century, Haslar remained a military hospital. Now it is also a civilian establishment, staffed by military and National Health Service personnel.

In 1998 it was announced that Haslar will be closed when a rebuild of Queen Alexandra Hospital at Cosham, Portsmouth is completed in 2007-08.

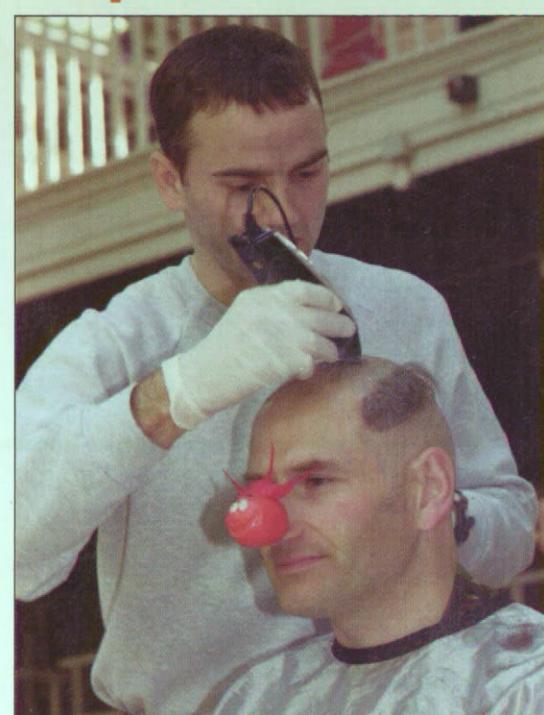
The Royal Naval Hospital Haslar (it became the Royal Hospital Haslar in 1995) accepted its first patients in 1753

and by the time the main part of the hospital was completed in 1762, it had beds for 1,800 patients.

Leaflets outlining the new terms are to be issued through the chain of command.

TERMS of service for nurses joining Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps after April 1 will be brought in line with their counterparts in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Common terms of service developed by the Defence Medical Service (DMS) aim to remove long-standing differences between the Services. Army nurses will remain in the Pay 2000 structure and within the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. The changes will not affect those already serving.

## Toupee or not to?



Hair today: WO1 (RSM) Martin Gerrard of the Army Physical Training School at Aldershot subjects himself to an extreme short-back-and-sides on behalf of Comic Relief. Sgt Mark Livesey did the shaving at £25 a head, resulting in more than £200 being raised for charity.

Picture: Graeme Main

## Torn off a strip . . .



You old smoothie: LCpl Tim "Jackass" McGuckin grimes with pain as Sig Clair Gordon waxes his legs, while organiser Cpl Jenny Ingram, right, sees the funny side of it. The event, staged by 101 Logistic Brigade HQ and Signal Regiment staff based at Aldershot raised £730 for Red Nose Day.

Picture: Graeme Main

● Middlesex and North West London Army Cadet Force has won the Greater London Cadet Public Relations Award for the second year running. Fd Marshal Sir John Chapple presented the trophy to 2nd Lt Michael Nolan, left, during a ceremony at the Greater London cadet HQ in Fulham.



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## Last leeks

Bowing out: Regimental goat Gertrude, held by handler LBdr Melanie Wilmott, performs for the camera as soldiers of 22nd Regiment RA receive their leeks to mark St David's Day. It will be the last time the Welsh Gunners take part in the annual ceremony because the regiment is due to disband later this year.

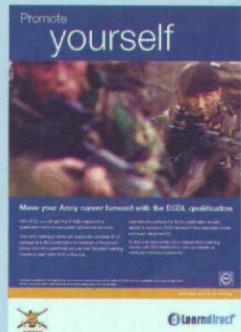
Picture: Chris Barker

## E-learning all the rage

THREE hundred soldiers and family members have gone online to pass European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) qualifications in the past six months at one of the many Army Learning Centres established in military garrisons.

More than 700 on-line courses are available through the Government-funded *Learndirect* e-learning programme at learning centres and access points all over the UK, Northern Ireland and Germany.

They range from numeracy to literacy, ITC use to business and management, and a Higher National Certificate course in business computing. Most are offered



free of charge. Personnel who are not stationed close to a learning centre can still take advantage of courses via the Virtual Learning Centre and the internet. Courses can be downloaded anywhere.

For more information call 0870 9090432 or contact your nearest Army Education Centre.

First winner of the regular draws for those who complete an ECDL course was SSgt Leon Lyall, AGC (SPS), who did his at the Tidworth centre. He received a hand-held computer from Brig Mark Filler, Director Education and Training Services (Army).

## FANY says farewell to Chelsea

FIRST Aid Nursing Yeomanry members Katie Garrod, left, and Annabel Barnes form up for the last time at The Duke of York's HQ in London. The FANY moved last month to new headquarters at the TA centre at Horseferry Road, Victoria.

The Duke of York's HQ in Chelsea has been home to the unit for more than 30 years. Founded in 1907, the FANY – the only all-female yeomanry unit in the country – is a volunteer corps with a civil and military role, specialising in communications for the City of London Police as well as the Army.

Picture: Steve Dock



## Paper talk

### What the Press has been saying

● Prince William, who won the Sword of Honour while a cadet at Eton, says he will join the Welsh Guards, of which his father is Colonel. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● The Privy Council – the final court of appeal – has upheld the right of the Ministry of Defence to impose gagging orders on former members of the Special Forces. – *Guardian*

● Britain offered nearly half its territory in Cyprus to the divided island's Greeks and Turks in an attempt to persuade them to sign a reunification deal. The offer would carve 45 square miles off Britain's two sovereign bases in Cyprus. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Fertility clinics across the UK reported a rush of soldiers asking to have sperm frozen ahead of possible war with Iraq. – *News of the World*

● War hero Joe Steer has been called up to fight in Iraq at the age of 80. The order came 61 years after he last saw action, at the battle of El Alamein. He said he was flattered to be called up but was a bit past his prime. The MoD blamed an administrative bungle. – *Sun*

● The last Caribbean soldier to have served in the British Army on the Western Front during the First World War has died at the age of 105. George Blackman was one of 15,000 men who volunteered for the British West Indies Regiment in 1914. – *Guardian*

● To appease animal rights campaigners, defence officials are seeking an alternative to the Foot Guards' traditional bearskin headgear, which dates back to the Battle of Waterloo. But the search for a synthetic bearskin has so far met with no success. – *Daily Telegraph*

● Doctors treating a Second World War veteran found a bullet that had been lodged in his neck for 63 years. Robert Kincaid, 84, who was a corporal with the 7th Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, learned about the bullet while in hospital after falling and hitting his head. – *Times*

● A boy of 12 handed his teacher a live eight-inch mortar bomb and asked what it was after finding it on a common near Rodborough School, Milford, Surrey. Army bomb disposal experts removed it for detonation. – *Sunday Telegraph*

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Last ditch: Three soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, LCpl Alan Johnson, front, LCpl Dean Brusby, centre, and Cpl Lee Jones, rehearse trench-clearing drills in northern Kuwait. Picture: Angus Beaton

## Our team in the Gulf

REPORTING the war for *Soldier* are writer Andy Simms, top, and photographer Mike Weston.

As this edition went to press they were preparing to move north from an Army field press information centre close to the Iraqi border.

The stories on the following pages were written by Andy and many are illustrated by Mike's photographs. Additional pictures were provided by military photographers, including Cpl Paul Jarvis RLC and Sgt Teresa Pickin RLC, attached to other formations. The 29 Commando Regiment RA photographs on Page 19 were taken by a member of 8 (Alma) Battery.



# What shortages?

## Troops deny they are suffering from a lack of food, water and welfare facilities

MEDIA reports slamming the British Army for denying their own troops the basic necessities of life while deployed in the Gulf have been met with derision by the soldiers themselves.

Contrary to endless column inches in the national and international press detailing shortages of fresh food, water and toilet rolls, members of the 6,500-strong 7 Armoured Brigade based in and around Camp Coyote, approximately 40km south of the Iraqi border, are content with life in the Kuwaiti desert and dismiss any talk of their supposed "plight" for home comforts.

Housed in tented accommodation with access to portable toilets and, on a number of British camps, shower facilities, the soldiers have an abundance of drinking water, fresh rations for breakfast and dinner, and an American MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) for lunch each day.

In addition, mobile generators provide camps with constant electricity and wel-



Maj Joe Carnegie

fare telephones, and the tried-and-tested bluey and e-bluey services ensure that troops can periodically contact friends and family back home.

"People need to remember that we only got the call to deploy just over two months ago and since then we have had to move tens of thousands of troops, hundreds of armoured personnel vehicles and even more soft-skinned vehicles into theatre," explained brigade spokesman Maj Joe Carnegie, 1 RAnglian.

"Op Telic represents the largest deployment of British troops for more than a decade and, bearing in mind the time-frame, it was inevitable that there would be some shortages.

"However, the British soldiers have just accepted that and done their best to get on with things until supplies arrive, which they are continuing to do so.

"The guys with the rough end of the stick are those in the battle-groups, who are living off their vehicles outside the main camps. But that is what they are used to and is something they do on exercises and operations all around the world," he said. "As a result, I think it is fair to say that soldiers are actually quite annoyed with all the



Maj Sean McEvly

negative stories doing the rounds back in the UK.

"Nobody is denying that conditions here are harsh – troops have had to endure a lot of sandstorms and it is getting hotter by the day, but despite that morale is very high because most soldiers came here expecting the bare minimum and in reality they are getting a lot more."

This was welcomed by Maj Sean McEvly RGJ, who helped to mastermind and implement the welfare package currently on offer to soldiers in-theatre.

"Before deployment we gave out short-wave radios to soldiers so that they could listen to the BBC World Service, BFBS radio and an American forces' network while in the desert, and since arriving in theatre we have introduced a number of other welfare benefits.

"Just like any other operational tour each individual is being provided with a 20-minute phone card each week, we now have newspapers coming through, albeit several days late, and we are now beginning to provide camps with televisions and DVD players.

"Given the time this operation has been going, I think there is parity between what we have now to what we had at this particular stage of respective operations in Bosnia and Kosovo."

## Here's what we think of the situation

### LCpl Martin Britton, 42 Fd Spt Sqn, 28 Engr Regt

I went to Oman in 2001 and am having no problems adapting to life in the desert – I knew exactly what to expect. The weather's hot and the food is fine – what more could a soldier ask for?



### Pte Peter Easton, 1 LI

Life in the desert is nothing like some of the accounts being painted by the media back at home. Personally speaking I have no complaints whatsoever about the living conditions and welfare package here in Kuwait. We get 20 minutes of phone calls a week and the e-bluey system seems to be working well – things that are regarded as luxuries for most soldiers.



### Spr Paul Walker, 35 Engr Regt att 65 Fd Spt Sqn, 28 Engr Regt

Adapting to life in the desert has been fairly easy, with the heat being the only real problem. We get sufficient water and food and I personally believe that the media have taken stories about supposed shortages a little bit too far. At the end of the day we are soldiers and do not expect to live a life of luxury on operations.



### LCpl Alex Fry, 209 Wksp Coy, 104 Bn REME (V)

I've got no complaints about the conditions out here; we are provided with good meals three times a day and have tents to sleep in – so there are no real problems. As for any other hardships... we're in the desert and you just have to put up with the heat and sand.





Sound and fury: Gun crews of 8 (Alma) Commando Battery RA, part of 29 Cdo Regt RA, above and right, engage on a fireplan in the Kuwaiti desert

# Green beret gunners first in field

AMONG the first British Army units to deploy to Kuwait were the gunners of 29 Commando Regiment, RA, part of 3 Commando Brigade.

Based in Plymouth, the regiment also has 148 (Meikteila) Commando Battery in Poole and 7 (Sphinx) Commando Battery in Arbroath. It is equipped with 18 105mm light guns, with six guns to a battery. Every member of the regiment, which provides artillery support to the brigade, will have won a green beret at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines in Lympstone.

First to deploy to the desert was 8

(Alma) Cdo Bty, who sailed to the Middle East, where they were joined by the rest of the regiment, who were flown out.

For this mission, 7 (Sphinx) Cdo Bty is supporting 42 Commando RM, with 8 (Alma) Bty attached to 40 Cdo and 148 (Meikteila) Cdo Bty linking naval gunfire support to the brigade. This is supported by 23 (Gibraltar) Cdo Bty, which provides command and control with an AGC field detachment, a REME workshop and an RLC section.

For Op Telic, each gun battery has been deployed with eight guns manned by members of 79 (Kirkee) Cdo Bty.



## Order of battle

ARMY units deployed on Operation Telic and omitted from the list published in *Soldier* (March) include those attached to 3 Commando Brigade. They are:

- 29 Commando Regiment RA
- 50 Independent Cdo Sqn RE
- Elements of the AGC, REME and RLC

● 120 Army personnel serving with the Combat Service Support elements of the Commando Logistic Regiment RM

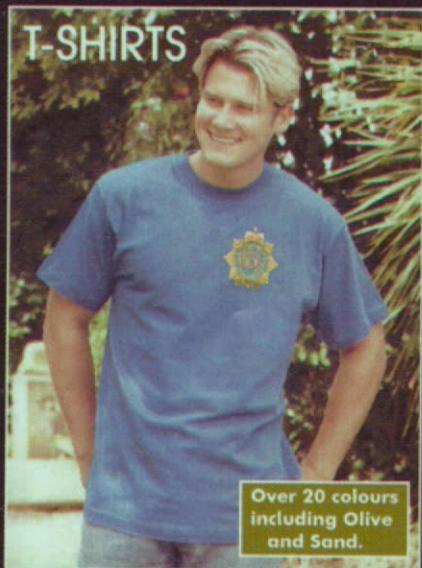
Also omitted were:

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)  
101 Military Working Dog Support Unit, in support of 102 Logistic Brigade.

(If your unit was not in the official list supplied to us for the March issue, let us know and we will include it.)

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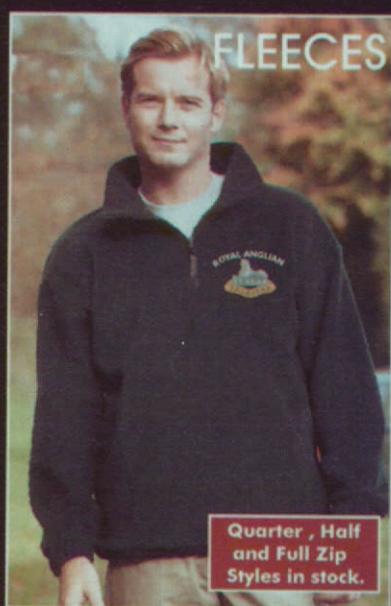


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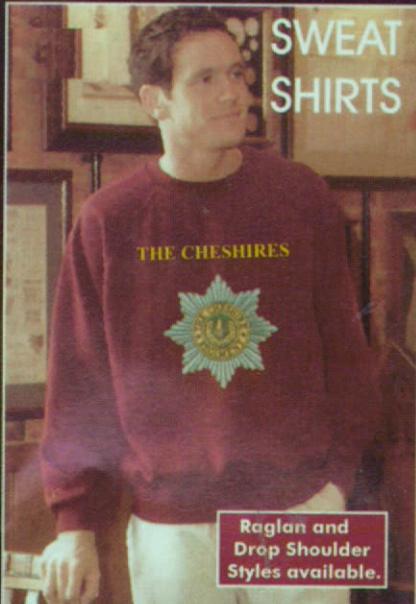
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# Sappers in at deep end

SAPPERS from 36 Engineer Regiment declared themselves ready for any task 1(UK) Armoured Division threw at them after a period of intensive acclimatisation and training in the desert.

Some members of the regiment were already used to warmer climes. Thirteen combat engineers serving with 1 Troop were two months into a six-month United Nations tour attached to 47th Regiment RA in Cyprus when they got the call to cancel adventurous training and leave to join their regimental colleagues in Kuwait.

Maidstone-based 69 Gurkha Field Squadron, The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, arrived in the desert during a period of rain, strong winds and sandstorms, then worked round the clock for 48 hours within the Hammersmith Force Tactical Assembly Area to construct on a graded sand area large-scale Bedouin-type tented accommodation for 620 personnel. As a trib-



**Level heads:** Gurkha sappers construct a hard-standing at their unique "Camp With No Name" in northern Kuwait

ute to their hard work, the Gurkhas have the only camp in theatre with no name. It is called Camp Nam Chhaina (Nepali for "no name").

The Gurkhas also built the first firing range in theatre, which was soon opened by troops from 16 Air Assault Brigade.

As the Joint Force Enabling Squadron, the Gurkhas have had a hand in all the camps that have sprung up in-theatre.

A priority mission for the sappers was to construct 25- and 200-bed field hospitals in Hammersmith TAA.

They also put in place blast protection in the port area, using a civilian crane to lift the huge Alaska barriers into place.

Smaller tasks included building an access road for the divisional support fuel tankers, grading a wide area for the REME Workshops and over-bridging the Kuwaiti oil pipelines in the north.

Other tasks ranged from building security areas to burying dead livestock.

Training for the Royal Engineers included reacquainting themselves with the assembly of the eight-bay medium girder bridge, desert survival and navigation, convoy and harbour drills, mine-awareness training and exercising for operational missions.

## Sandy Times makes desert comeback

FAMILIES and friends who want to send messages to loved ones in the Gulf can do so through the pages of *The Sandy Times*, which has been resurrected for the duration.

The weekly A4 newsletter, edited by former *Soldier* journalist Graham Bound, now with MoD's *Focus* newspaper, is being printed locally in Qatar. In all, 15,000 copies of the full-colour, glossy publication are being distributed to troops theatre-wide. A digital version is being sent to warships in the area.

Based on the publication of the same name established during the 1990-91 crisis, the first 12-page edition of the "new" paper was given the number 26. The last edition – No 25 – was printed on March 17, 1991.

To get a brief message printed in the "Home calling" section of the newsletter, e-mail [thesandytimes@hotmail.com](mailto:thesandytimes@hotmail.com)



have been sent to the Middle East.

The package includes a comprehensive range of feature films, popular TV shows and sports programmes. A BFBS radio studio has also been set up in Kuwait and is broadcasting news, dedications, messages, requests, music and special programmes for troops based in the Gulf.

BFBS's Gulf request hotline can be

accessed via [www.bfbs.com](http://www.bfbs.com) or phone 01494 878877. Requests can be heard in the UK on Virgin Radio, which has teamed up with BFBS, as has the Steve Wright Sunday Love Songs show on BBC Radio 2.



GARRISON Radio has launched a two-way service that will allow soldiers serving in the Gulf and their families to send messages to each other.

The station will also deliver e-mails to families in the four main garrison areas who do not have e-mail access.

A dedicated Gulf message board can be found on Garrison Radio's website at [www.garrisonradio.com](http://www.garrisonradio.com); alternatively soldiers and families can e-mail messages to [gulfrequests@garrisonradio.com](mailto:gulfrequests@garrisonradio.com), send text messages on 07769 572230 or call the Gulf message line on 01748 872444 or (mil) 94731 2444.

● Garrison Radio is putting out a nightly Nepali-language show for Gurkha soldiers and families stationed in the Aldershot area. It is aimed mainly at all ranks of 28 Transport Squadron, The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, now in the Gulf.



Firepower: Challenger 2 uses DU ammunition to knock-out armour

## DU: What to do if you come across it

BRITAIN'S Armed Forces use depleted uranium (DU) ammunition because it is the most effective material available. Almost twice as dense as lead, it is highly valued for its ability to punch through armoured vehicles.

The types of DU ammunition used by British forces are 120mm anti-tank rounds fired by Challenger 2 tanks and 20mm rounds used by the Royal Navy's Phalanx missile defence system.

When a DU weapon strikes a solid object, it goes straight through it and then erupts as a cloud of burning vapour. The vapour settles as dust, which is radioactive and poisonous if inhaled or ingested.

The medical services have this advice on how to avoid unnecessary exposure to contaminated dust:

"If you do not need to enter vehicles or buildings destroyed or damaged by DU rounds, stay well away and do not pick up shrapnel or souvenirs. If you have to enter a contamination area you should cover all exposed skin, especially any open cuts or wounds. You should wear your issued NBC gloves and the special issue face mask.

"On completion of your task, or as soon as possible afterwards, you should change and wash your outer clothing. You should wash your hands before you eat, drink or smoke. This will prevent any contaminated dust entering your body.

"If you think you have been exposed to DU contact, ask your medical officer for advice immediately."

The risk from DU is small, but these simple procedures should be carried out to avoid unnecessary exposure.

# Media offered ringside seat

Pioneering press information centre offers first port of call for journalists in the field

TELEVISION crews and journalists have been granted unprecedented access to British Army units operating in the Gulf thanks to the formation of a Field Press Information Centre (FPIC).

The pioneering facility, which was trialled during Exercise Saif Sareea 18 months ago, is collocated with 1 (UK) Armoured Division's Support Group close to the Iraqi border in Kuwait to provide media organisations with a "ringside seat" to observe operational activity.

Run by a team of staff from the Territorial Army's Media Operations Group, the FPIC provides a first port of call for officially-registered war correspondents and roving reporters from across the globe, and offers them daily operational briefings and interviews.

The facility's director, Lt Col Sean Tully RLC, told *Soldier*: "This is the first time that the British Army has ever had a PIC actually in the field in-theatre. It is an innovation that

will bring journalists not to the heart of the battle, but as near to it as possible. The MoD has subscribed to a means whereby 140 journalists have been embedded with front-line units – and these correspondents are expected to meld with the troops and live, work, sleep and eat with them.

"The FPIC will provide a central hub for these correspondents to broadcast and transmit information back to the UK, and because it has communications back to the National Coalition Centre in Qatar, the PIC in Kuwait, the MoD in London and the soldiers in the desert, it will be the ideal place for reporters to obtain an overview of any military operations," he said.

"We have got the capability to talk to all of these people and will therefore be able to supply journalists with the answers to their questions."

As well as accommodating reporters from the BBC, Sky News, ITN, *Soldier* and others, the FPIC is also home to a crew from the European Broadcast



**It will bring journalists not to the heart of the battle, but as near to it as possible**



All together now: Troops erect the FPIC tents in readiness for visits from the world's press



On camera: Maj Gen Robin Brims, commanding HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division, faces the media at the Field Press Information Centre

## Ban on mobiles will prevent Iraq 'tracking' units and save on bills

A DECISION by military commanders to outlaw the use of personal mobile telephones in the Gulf will ensure British soldiers do not return home from the desert to find an astronomical bills awaiting them.

The plan was for the centre itself to move forward with the Division Support Group (DSG) but the FPIC is also served by a fleet of 40 vehicles, including three Enhanced Protection Vehicle (EPV) Land Rovers, which can be used to ferry journalists to and from units in the field.

"The main aim of the FPIC is to be accessible to the media in general," explained Lt Col Tully.

"If the *Oxford Gazette* pitch up and want to talk to Pte Johnny Snodgrass from Abingdon then we will find him, get them out to him or, operations permitting, get him to them."

"We are not here to stifle bad news and the only time information will be censored will be if we consider that it will impede the operation."

"It is hoped that facilities like this will feature in future operations and that it will help foster a spirit of trust between the Army and the media."

"Soldiers are not being prevented from keeping in touch with their loved ones back at home as they still have access to the welfare phones in theatre," said Maj Joe Carnegie, 1 R Anglian.

Mobile phones are easily traced and if there was a large number being used in a particular area then it could provide hostile forces with a clear indication of the location of our troops.

"The use of phones could also compromise the Army's tried-and-tested procedures in the unfortunate event of British casualties," he added. "The last thing we want is for individuals to pass news of casualties back home before the next-of-kin have been informed by the correct authorities."



# Minimi machine-gun, maximum effect . . .



Familiarisation: Pte Alan Ferrier tries the new Minimi machine-gun on the desert range

## URGENT MESSAGE

### Payguard holders

MORE than 900 Payguard Plus insurance policy holders, many of whom may already be in the Gulf, are being urged to contact AFFAS urgently to ensure they still have the cover they want.

Brokers Forces Group Ltd have told the MoD that cover for "war risks" are excluded under the standard terms of Payguard Plus, but may be obtained, subject to the underwriter being given notice of deployment to an operational theatre.

Because it may be difficult for individuals in the Gulf to contact AFFAS, units are being asked to consolidate responses on their behalf. Contact details for AFFAS are 17 Manor Row, Bradford BD1 4PB or tel (+44) 0800 243 592; fax (+44) 01274 720 905.

• Aston Scott Special Risks Ltd has launched a policy called Protect and Serve aimed at Regulars, reserves and MoD personnel and families. It includes cover for war risks on personal possessions, including cover while personnel are under fire or taken prisoner. Details from Jim Westcott or Mrs Chris Pronger on 01732 871000.

### Post-a-note to a Gulf soldier

MEMBERS of the public can post goodwill e-mail messages to Servicemen and women in the Gulf on a bulletin board set up by the British Forces Post Office.

The system makes use of BFPO's e-bluey service, which prints the messages out in-theatre and delivers them via the local BFPO office.

To access the e-bluey bulletin board, go to [www.bfpo.org.uk](http://www.bfpo.org.uk) and click on the e-bluey link. Messages are free and

can be sent to any of the three Services.

In February, BFPO sent 60,383 blueys by airmail to the Gulf, and between February 1 and March 6, a total of 65,373 e-blueys were downloaded in the Gulf.

While the forces' postal service cannot accept large parcels for delivery to Op Telic personnel, it can send packets up to 2kg. By mid-March more than 108,337kg had been sent to the Middle East in 13,755 bags.

### Bishops give support to Colchester

THE Church of England Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev John Perry, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Brentwood, the Rt Rev Thomas McMahon, visited Colchester Garrison to give spiritual, pastoral and moral support to Servicemen and women and their families stationed there.

The Essex town is normally home to

nearly 4,000 personnel, about 2,500 of whom are now in Kuwait.

The bishops met garrison commander Col Tony Barton, members of the welfare services and the garrison chaplain, the Rev Nick Cook.

They heard of some of the difficulties and stresses facing Army personnel and their families.

Troops test support fire weapon in the desert . . . and like what they find

DESPITE being issued to infantry units only on their arrival in Kuwait, the new 5.56mm Minimi machine-gun has quickly won the respect of British soldiers in the Gulf.

Capable of firing 820 rounds a minute and billed as a possible replacement for the long-serving 7.62mm General Purpose Machine-Gun (GPMG), the Belgian-made weapon completed its British Army debut in far from ideal conditions – the extreme heat and dust of the Kuwaiti desert – but still garnered a big thumbs-up from those firing it for the first time.

"All of the soldiers practised their drills on how to strip and assemble the new weapon using mock-ups back at barracks, but did not get their hands on the real thing until they arrived in theatre," explained Advanced Skills Arms Instructor CSgt Mark Swift, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards.



CSgt Mark Swift



Impressed: Pte Wayne Fitzgerald, left, and Marcus Williams inspect the 5.56mm Minimi

"During familiarisation shoots on the ranges there has not been a single stoppage and the lads are all very impressed with the weapon's performance and accuracy."

Like the GPMG, the Minimi will be used in a supporting fire role and can be pinnacle-mounted on vehicles, but its folding stock and shorter barrel will make it a lot easier for armoured infantry to dismount from their vehicles.

Pte Marcus Williams, 1 LI, told *Soldier*

dier: "Personally I think it is a great weapon and have not had any stoppages or problems. Having seen it operate in the desert, where it's hot and dusty, I have full confidence in carrying it into combat because, having now fired it, I know it works and works well."

His ringing endorsement was shared by Pte Wayne Fitzgerald: "The Minimi is a lot lighter than the GPMG, a bit heavier than the LSW and has a tremendous rate of fire – it is a fantastic bit of kit."

## LETTER

### Soldier website window to Gulf

MY name is Helen and I have lived in Australia for the past three years since marrying my Australian husband. I have a daughter called Katrina, a medic, who is serving on Op Telic.

As I live so far away it is very difficult for me to get accurate info on the troops in the Gulf and, as you can imagine, also very worrying for me. I am also an ex-Servicewoman and I suddenly remembered *Soldier* magazine from years ago. Out of curiosity I checked the web to see if you had a website.

Suddenly I have more information than I could have hoped for at the click of a button. I just want to say thank you for making things a bit easier for this particular mother at this very worrying time.

Keep up the good work. – Helen Malone (née Wemyss), Australia.

• [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk)



LCpl Ryan McManus of B Coy 1 Bn Black Watch completes preparations for operations in Iraq  
Picture: Cpl Paul Jarvis RLC

# Nasty desert thingsies

Iraqi forces are not the only danger to soldiers deployed in the Gulf region

HOME to flesh-eating spiders, packs of wild rabid dogs, venom-filled snakes and scorpions that can inflict temporary paralysis with a single strike of the tail, the Kuwaiti desert's indigenous population could be mistaken for the cast list of a Hammer-horror movie.

And the undoubted villain of the piece in the eyes of most British soldiers is the camel spider, which became part of Army folklore two years ago when troops encountered large numbers of the eight-legged carnivores during Exercise Saif Sareea in Oman.

The palm-sized arachnid injects its prey with anaesthetic before feasting unnoticed on its numbed, often sleeping, dinner host. The camel spider is responsible for many cautious glances around

tented accommodation before the lights go out at night.

"There are a lot of stories going round about a guy getting up in the morning to find no skin on his arm, and another waking up to discover that a spider had eaten the muscle out of his leg," explained WO2 Adrian "Hippo" Humphries, 1

Close Support Medical Regiment, a member of the Army's Environmental Health team in Kuwait.

"Fortunately they are just stories and an exaggeration of a very minor threat. Camel spiders, like most of the other nasties in the desert, will usually only bite you if you go out of your way to upset them."

"The worst case I have ever seen of a camel spider bite is when somebody lost a bit of flesh the size of a five-pence piece from their face while they slept, but it is amazing how word quickly gets round and one bite victim miraculously becomes 50 over night."

WO2 Humphries insists that soldiers should be wary of a far more familiar pest - the common fly. A lapse in the standards of hygiene and poor field skills, combined with the arid climate of the Gulf, could result in a proliferation of flies in camps,



WO2 Adrian Humphries



Chemistry set: Maj James Fletcher, above, will assess threats to health in the Gulf



Hygiene: Soldiers wash their hands, right, before having their meal at the junior ranks cookhouse at Camp Rhino, Kuwait

which in turn could bring the British Army's most important asset - soldiers - grinding to a halt.

"Flies can go from being eggs to egg-laying adults in a week so it is easy to see how a camp could quickly become infested if rubbish, waste water and the like are not disposed of properly," he said. "Flies are directly linked with the spread of gastric illnesses such as diarrhoea and vomiting, and once this begins it can be difficult to snuff out."

"Thankfully this message was taken on board early by soldiers arriving in the field, and because we had environmental

teams already on the ground, we were able to help enshrine the right ethos in units. Troops in the Gulf have quickly got into the habit of looking after themselves in the right way."

As well as helping to preserve the health of soldiers in Kuwait, the Army's environmental officers, who have been in theatre since January, have also been kept busy

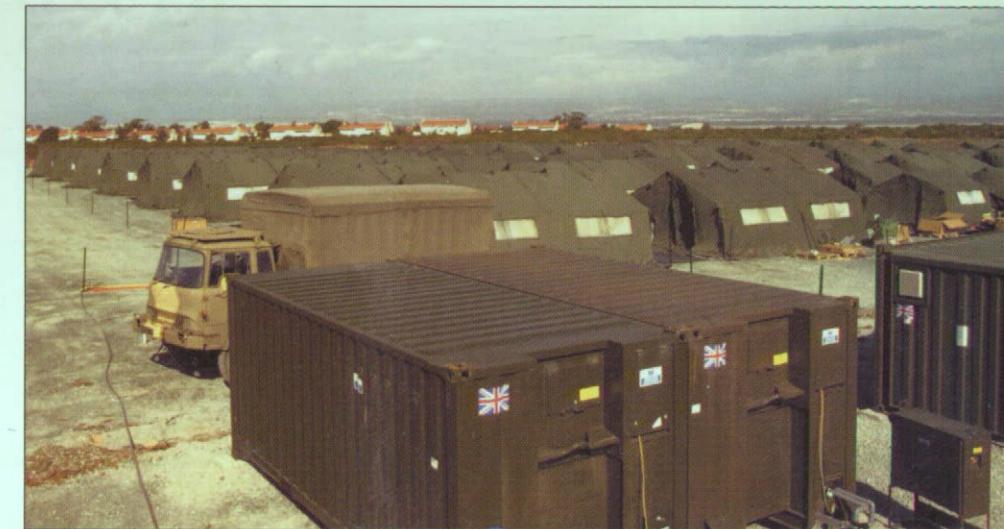
## Watch out for:

- Scorpions, which lurk in the sand and can inflict a nasty sting.
- Horned vipers, which hide under the sand in the heat of the day and which have an extremely venomous bite.
- Camel spiders, which are unique to the desert.
- Sandflies, which suck blood and can cause Leishmaniasis disease.

assessing potential risks north of the border.

Maj James Fletcher, HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division's SO2 Medical Intelligence and Environmental Health officer, told *Soldier*. "The onward threats in Iraq we have been particularly concerned with are in the field of environmental industrial hazards.

"The southern oilfields, gas and oil separation plants and petrochemical industries present a number of chemical threats," he said. "If they take a hit we could end up with oil heads on fire and a lot of smoke in the air, which is why soldiers have already been provided with two dust masks each."



## Canvas city springs up in Cyprus

Sappers and pioneers were among Cyprus-based personnel who worked around the clock to construct a self-contained tented camp at RAF Akrotiri. It will be used as a temporary staging post for troops making their way to the Gulf.

Named Chard Lines after the Royal Engineer who won the Victoria Cross at

Rorke's Drift, it can accommodate up to 500 people, complete with living, washing and dining facilities.

Among units involved in its construction were 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE and Pioneer Platoon, Support Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

Picture: Cpl Will Craig

## Useful contacts

Op Telic welfare information:  
[www.army.mod.uk/optelicwelfare](http://www.army.mod.uk/optelicwelfare)  
 (also accessible via the welfare link on [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk))

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569 or [afab@hqland.army.mod.uk](mailto:afab@hqland.army.mod.uk)

Army Families Federation (Central Office) 01980 615525 or [us@aff.org.uk](mailto:us@aff.org.uk) and [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

AFF British Forces Germany (local) 05221 995 3755 or [armyfamiliesfederation@hotmail.com](mailto:armyfamiliesfederation@hotmail.com)

AFF Cyprus (local) 25 962 110 or [armyfamiliesfed@cylink.com.cy](mailto:armyfamiliesfed@cylink.com.cy)

AFF Northern Ireland (local) 028 922 6875 or [affni@hotmail.com](mailto:affni@hotmail.com)

Army website: [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

Army Welfare Service confidential support line for all personnel and families: 01722 436569 or [www.army.mod.uk/aws](http://www.army.mod.uk/aws)

SSAFA-Forces Help confidential helpline 0207 403 8783 or e-mail [csl@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:csl@ssafa.org.uk)

SSAFA-Forces Help: [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

E-bluey service: [www.bfpo.org.uk](http://www.bfpo.org.uk)

Territorial Army and Reservists website to help those deployed:

[www.army.mod.uk/ta](http://www.army.mod.uk/ta) or MoD hotline on 0870 607 4455 (Mon-Fri 0900-1800).

Regular reservists helpdesk on 0141 224 2660/3746/3765. TA members should contact their unit first.

HIVE BFG (local) 02161 472 2029 or [hive.library@bfgnet.de](mailto:hive.library@bfgnet.de)

HIVE GB 01722 436498/499 or [hivegb@hqland.army.mod.uk](mailto:hivegb@hqland.army.mod.uk)

HIVE NI (local) 02892 266379 or [resource\\_ni@hotmail.com](mailto:resource_ni@hotmail.com)

HIVE BFG's address is HQ UKSC(G), BFPO 140, not as stated in the March issue.)

Garrison Radio  
 Requests and messages for the Gulf can be e-mailed to [requests@garrisonradio.com](mailto:requests@garrisonradio.com)  
 Contact Garrison Radio at [hq@garrisonradio.com](mailto:hq@garrisonradio.com) or tel 01748 830050 or (mil) 94731 2424

Insurance/finance helplines:  
 Forces Safeguard 0800243 592 or 0800 316 1317 or e-mail [mark.elliott@forcesgroup.com](mailto:mark.elliott@forcesgroup.com)

Details on [www.affinitas.com](http://www.affinitas.com)  
 Naafi Financial Helplines:  
[www.naafi-financial.com](http://www.naafi-financial.com) UK and Germany 00800 21 22 23 24; international 0044 1959 56 88 29

● The comprehensive list of contacts which appear in the Update extra pages of this edition also appear on the [www.soldiermagazine.co.uk](http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk) website (via the Update extra and Useful numbers link)

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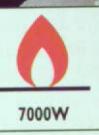
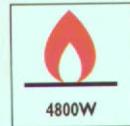
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OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

**Destination Kuwait: The first Challenger 2 from Germany to arrive in the desert rolls off a ship... the culmination of a major logistical operation**

Picture: WO2 Giles Penfound



# Loggies stretched by scale of desert move

THE scale and pace of the deployment of men, machines and materiel to Kuwait from Germany stretched the British Army's logisticians to the limit.

Headquarters 1 (UK) Armoured Division, 7 Armoured Brigade and 102 Logistic Brigade were moved – lock, stock and barrel – to the Middle East in a few weeks.

Nineteen ships packed with armour, vehicles and equipment sailed from Emden. Key to the move by sea and air were soldiers of 24 Regiment RLC, part of 104 Logistic Brigade; 170 Pioneer Squadron; ARRC Support Battalion; and planners based at HQ UKSC(G), JHQ Rheindahlen.

To cope with the massive influx into Emden, an area of the port was controlled by a task group headed by 170 Pioneer Squadron, ARRC Support Battalion. It deployed 100 personnel to sustain 24-hour-a-day operations, taking on tasks ranging from painting more than 500 vehicles in desert camouflage to up-armouring the Warrior fleet.

Coordination of 24-hour loading was done by the movements staff from 24 Regt RLC.

The variety of ships presented problems of squeezing entire battle-groups into some-

## EMDEN

**Col Jonathan Watson, chief of staff at HQ UKSC(G), said: "It was the British Army at its typical best: adapting, improvising and overcoming despite the fact that everything appeared to be happening outside the normal planning assumptions. The philosophy behind the whole deployment was 'if it's not going to work, it won't be because of me'. When you adopt that approach, achieving the objective is the inevitable outcome."**

times unusual vessels. "Hot planning was the order of the day when either military priorities changed or ships and aircraft were delayed," said Capt Mark John, in charge of the Movement Control Centre in Bielefeld.

He said 69 Movement Control Squadron RLC had been stretched to the four corners of British Forces Germany to cover movement control tasks at railheads, airports and the port of Emden.

Specialists from 623 Vehicle Troop, 6 Supply Regiment RLC, loaded 1,029 armoured and 2,926 wheeled vehicles as well as 215 pieces of engineer and specialist kit.

Twenty-three trains shifted the force to Emden in the largest move in Germany since the last Gulf conflict. The size of the operation stretched the resources of not just the British Army but also Germany's national rail company.

As the last vessel sailed out of Emden the effort changed to the deployment of personnel to meet ships berthing in Kuwait. A mixture of RAF and civilian charter aircraft flew from Hannover in a deployment coordinated by the RAF airport unit at Hannover and an airport task group from 24 Regt RLC.

Up to 900 soldiers were flown out a day.

## MARCHWOOD

LOGGIES at Marchwood Military Port near Southampton put in almost 20,000 man-hours in a 40-day period during the height of the Operation Telic movement of vehicles, stores and ammunition to the Gulf.

Reinforcing personnel of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, which deployed in strength to Kuwait a few days after the Marchwood operation began, were Territorial Army soldiers from 165 Port Regiment RLC (V). The terriers, in fact, undertook the lion's share of the work at the military port.

The RLC soldiers loaded 4,350 vehicles, ranging from armoured personnel carriers and reconnaissance to Land Rovers, plus 2,400 trailers and 1,700 containers, on to 40 vessels. In all, 32 ships were dispatched from Marchwood and another eight from Southampton.

The total of 55,000 tonnes of freight and 3,000 tonnes of ammunition included 4,800 items of cargo from bridges to helicopters.

In addition the Marchwood loggies handled more than 3,000 deliveries by truck and six train-loads of freight.

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soldier

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## Joy of toys

**Lt Tracey Prowse, AGC (SPS), comforts a child in the Indira Ghandi children's hospital in Kabul while helping to hand out clothes and toys to patients under a civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) programme.**

Deployed under Operation Fingal, she was serving with HQ Britain in the Afghan capital.

Schools and kindergartens in the city have been transformed by large-scale projects carried out by military personnel



based at Camp Souter. Many of the schools have been substantially refurbished, while the installation of a transformer has improved the lives of an estimated 10,000 inhabitants.

# Cat laws will create flap for families in Germany

## Doggie 'doors' could be next on agenda

BRITISH soldiers and their families based in Germany will be hit by a one-off bill of up to £100 if a local animal rights group gets its way.

And the measure could spread across the Channel to the UK.

The little-known Deutsche Katze Tierhilfe Vollziehende Behörde (German Cats Welfare Enforcement Authority), an extreme pressure group, has convinced German state authorities that every house must have a cat-flap installed. If legislation is enacted it would affect every Service quarter in the country.

Installation of the cat-flaps is expected to cost about €150 (£100).

Herr Sherz der Lachen, a spokesperson for DKTVB, said that well-documented instances in which cats had been locked inside premises had highlighted the need for compulsory access.

"The pussy cat is an intelligent creature and the flaps will enable them to get out

should they inadvertently be shut inside."

So strong is local feeling that the German *länder* (state authorities) are proposing that every property in Germany should be subject to compulsory new regulations to be introduced at the beginning of this month. Occupants will be given a year to make the necessary alterations, after which fines could be levied or resident felines confiscated and re-housed.

Animal rights groups in the UK have been taking a keen interest in the German exercise and are already applying pressure to introduce similar legislation into Britain.

This, however, may not be the end of the matter. It is understood that canine welfare organisations are insisting the laws should be extended to dogs in situations where the exit gives access to a safe environment, such as an enclosed garden or yard.

But whereas the relatively small range of cat sizes enables flap manufacturers to produce a standard product, it remains to be seen whether they can cater for dogs ranging from tiny chihuahuas to great danes the size of small ponies.



## Manage your money

Credit Action Director Keith Tondeur will be pleased to answer, in confidence, specific questions addressed to the Editor.

### Unread small print nearly cost Sharon a lot of money

SHARON, the wife of Corporal T, was quite good at handling money so her husband was more than happy to let her get on with it. She made the major spending decisions even though they would often discuss what exactly their young family needed.

About a year ago it became clear to them that their old settee was on its last legs and urgently needed replacing. Years of the children bouncing on it and spilling food had taken its toll. One weekend they went into town and found a sofa they wanted.

#### SPECIAL TERMS

The only problem was that it was quite a bit more than they had intended to pay. Given the real possibility that they couldn't afford it and would walk away, the salesman produced an offer which they felt they couldn't refuse. He said they could buy the item on "special terms".

"Just what are these special terms?" Sharon asked. "Well, you don't have to pay anything for six months and then you just make regular payments over 12 months and you won't be charged any interest," he replied.

Sharon thought this was such a good deal they signed on the spot. Soon the settee was delivered and they were very happy with it. Sharon knew that they would have to start paying for it in six months' time but expected that the finance company would notify her when the first payment was due.

#### HORRIFIED

Unfortunately she had not read her contract, which would have told her it was down to her to make a note of when the first payment was due and to make sure it was paid on time. She was horrified to receive a letter saying they had missed the first payment date and now had to pay additional interest of almost £1,000.

With her husband away on exercise she began to despair but found the Credit Action booklet and rang the number given in it for help. Fortunately the Credit Action people were able to put pressure on the finance company to accept the original terms of the contract.

Sharon started to make the monthly payments promptly by standing order and the crisis was over.

If you have any form of debt or money problem please contact the Credit Action CCCS helpline on 0800 1381111 for free confidential advice.

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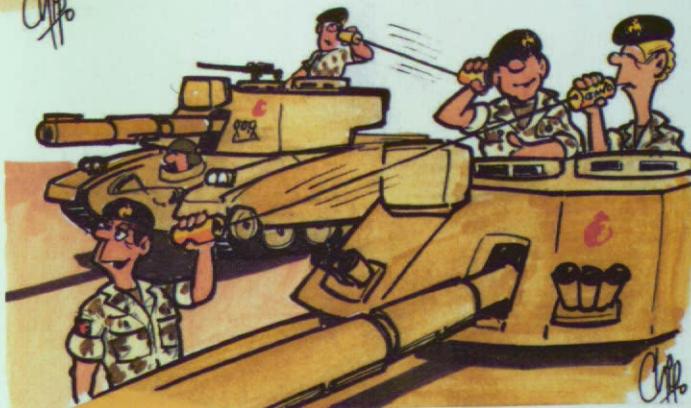
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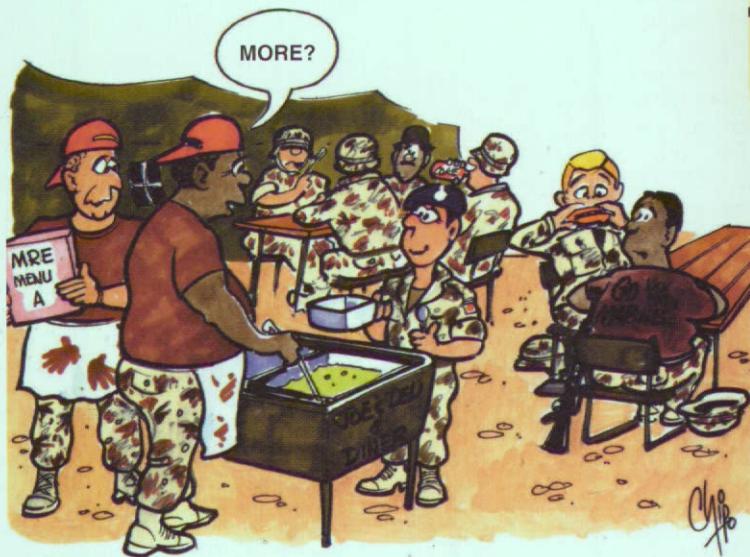


"The Brits seem to be short of everything  
... except maybe hair-care products."

## Chuckle with Chip



"And tell the Yanks we've solved  
the communication problem."



## Back in the Gulf

Cartoonist Chip Wood, who served in the 1990-91 Gulf War, puts his own spin on current events



"Do I assume from these that you didn't get around  
to amending the standard deployment kit list?"



"I couldn't resist giving them the  
stuff, Sarge . . . they're so cute."

# ORF you go

Staffords switch from ground-holding role to pan-Balkan duties as UK troop levels reduce

Reports: Ray Routledge  
Pictures: Steve Dock

KOSOVANS no longer have the reassuring sight of British soldiers on peacekeeping patrols.

After nearly four years in the province, the British Army's round-the-clock presence is a thing of the past. The last unit to have a ground-holding role in Kosovo is the 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment.

Following the hand-over last year of the northern district of Podujevo to a Czech battle-group, the UK brigade command in Pristina is being transferred to Finland. Swedish soldiers have taken over patrol duties vacated by the Staffords.

While the move heralds a raft of changes in Kosovo, and a major reduction in British soldiers on the ground, it is not the end of the UK's involvement in the area. New challenges await the Staffords, and those who follow them, as they become, briefly, the Operational Readiness Force (ORF) for the whole of



Troubleshooter:  
Capt David Jones

the Balkans before forming a strategic reserve.

The changes follow a Nato review published last June. Although there will be a significant reduction in the numbers of British soldiers in Kosovo no major changes to the structure of the Kosovo Stabilization Force (Kfor) were planned, said Maj Graham Dunlop, R Irish, spokesman for the Multi-National Brigade Centre (MNB(C)) in Pristina.

It will still comprise four brigades and the multi-national partners will remain the same – Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Czech Republic and Britain.

While there will no longer be a UK-led brigade HQ and no UK ground-holding troops, British duties will switch to Nato's ORF. The Staffords, the first to take up the reins, will be followed in early summer by the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

"We handed Pristina to Swedish and Norwegian battalions in January and became the ORF in February," said Capt David Jones, 1 Staffords. Based in Kosovo, his battalion now becomes the pan-Balkan troubleshooter, capable of moving swiftly to flashpoints in both Kosovo and Bosnia.

"The ORF is highly flexible, highly mobile and able to respond anywhere in the Balkans at short notice," said Capt Jones. It can have advance recce troops in position in 12 hours, a company in situ in four days and the remainder of the force in place within seven.

ORF units could be used as reinforcements or to help, for example, with riot control or during local elections.

"We would only be called upon when all the reserves in the particular theatre had been used already," said Capt Jones.

To keep sharp, the Staffords have been conducting low-level training, including live firing and map-reading.



Your patch now: Pte Gary Evans, of A Coy, 1 Staffords, right, is pictured on patrol with Pte/Medic Jorgan Ojeda, left, and Sgt Andreas Engberg from SL Coy SWEBAT



**SOLDIERS** from 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment took part in the pre-dawn arrests of three former Kosovo Liberation Army rebels.

The three are indicted for war crimes committed against Serb and ethnic Albanian civilians between May and July 1998.

They are believed to be former guards

Exercise Rapid Guardian gave them a chance to rehearse the ORF role, relocating the 530-strong unit from Pristina to a forward operating base at Klina in Italian-held ground in MNB(South West). The exercise, based on an operational tasking and using current intelligence, involved the Staffords in patrolling and talking to local people.

Before Christmas they practised their pan-Balkan role by deploying a company and a battalion HQ to Tuzla in Bosnia, the



or commanders who served with the Kosovo Liberation Army at the Llapushnik prison camp in Glogovac.

A fourth suspect, who gave the authorities the slip in Kosovo, later surrendered to police in Austria.

It was the first time that former members of the KLA had been held on charges filed by the UN war crimes tribunal.

heart of the American-controlled sector.

The UK's ORF role is for the short-term only because the commitment is due to pass to the Americans at the end of June, at which time 1 DWR is to move to a strategic reserve role.

British-owned barracks and offices at Slim Lines and Murphy Lines in Pristina are being leased by the Finns and Swedes. The former will install their own communications networks before UK assets are stripped out. Finnish soldiers have

Kiddy patrol: A familiar sight in Kosovo as local children join in an Anglo-Swedish patrol

already begun constructing their main creature comfort – saunas.

The change will happen on April 15.

British troop levels in Kosovo are reducing from last autumn's 1,394 to about 450, said Capt Scott Gilbert, 1 R Irish, a former Australian Army officer serving with MNB HQ. Much of this has been achieved by cutting out the duplication of admin support which existed in the two theatres, Kosovo and Bosnia.

Reductions include signallers downsizing from 120 soldiers to 24, and the RMP from 28 to ten.

There is still a long way to go in Kosovo before normality returns, and until that happens a framework is in place to protect everyone. The final state of Kosovo

has not been determined: it is still technically part of Serbia and inter-ethnic conflict, smuggling and crime remain serious problems.

The Scandinavian soldiers replacing the British are professional, have a similar sense of humour and bring a cool "can-do" attitude to the job. The Norwegians, for example, have a mix of professional and conscript soldiers and many volunteer for the 12-month tour of Kosovo. Some are on a third tour.

While the British Army prides itself on experience of peace support operations conducted in Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone and other areas, the Swedes can draw on equally valid experience in regions such as the Congo and Lebanon.

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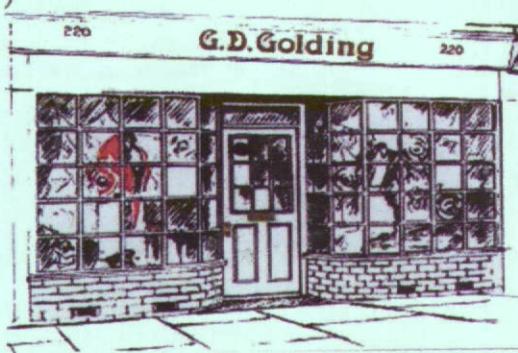
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# Kosovo cops

Kfor's international police force has its work cut out to curb local drivers

THE security manager at the Hotel Illuria in downtown Pristina looked worried. Kfor policemen had summoned him to the front desk.

But he relaxed when he discovered it was a courtesy call to find out if he'd had any problems with Kfor soldiers. He hadn't and with a smile invited the patrol to visit whenever they chose.

The patrol – call sign 13 Charlie and made up of Cpl Matt Powell, 160 Provost Company RMP, Cpl Kjell Hornung, Norwegian Military Police, and interpreter Gaz Mandisufi – moved on.

They spotted a soldier browsing at a CD stall in the city centre. A word in his ear and he went on his way.

"He was a Greek on loan to the UN," explained Cpl Powell. "He has a force exemption card so is allowed to come downtown, but with certain provisos. He was alone and with an unloaded weapon

and that could be dangerous. He has only been here for a week so he doesn't know what the score is.

"We put him right. No fuss, no trouble."

The score for Kfor isn't clear-cut, but it is generally accepted that there is a no walking-out policy. MPs patrol Pristina and call at bars and restaurants popular with Kfor soldiers and civilians in the past. If they find Kfor vehicles or personnel who don't have a legitimate reason for being there, they are reported to the chain of command.

A year ago, military policing consisted of national contingents. Now those elements have come together to form a Multi-National Police Force (MNP) of 86 officers, 28 of them British. Norway is the lead nation, with Sweden, Finland, Latvia and the Czech Republic also contributing personnel.

Capt Dave Austin, from 150 Provost Company, part of Aldershot-based 3 RMP, said the unit's main role was to police Kfor, supporting the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) and UN Police (UNMIK) when necessary.

"Generally we don't deal with the local population, which is policed by UNMIK or the KPS," he said. "We don't have

Got you covered: Multi-national policing, from left, Cpl Matt Powell RMP, SSgt Thomas Jarlo (Sweden), SSgt Maris Locmelis (Latvia) and Cpl Kjell Hornung (Norway)

powers of arrest but we can detain people from any nationality and hand them over to the appropriate military police or, in the case of a civilian, to the KPS."

Although the force does not have its own gaol, they can use the American stockade at Camp Bondsteel.

"The biggest problem we have is road traffic accidents and the main cause of those is the standard of local driving and, in winter, road conditions," said Capt Austin. Drivers in Bosnia and Kosovo are reckoned to be among Europe's worst.

"A lot of accidents involve local people driving into Kfor vehicles, not the other way around," he said. To make sure Kfor soldiers play their part, the MPs regularly set speed traps, which is where 13 Charlie ended its patrol, assisting Swedish and Latvian officers with a speed check on Route Hawk, the main road south from Pristina to Macedonia.

They chose an accident blackspot on a busy junction with a 40mph restriction. After a few minutes they pulled over a minibus carrying Norwegian soldiers. It was followed by jeeps containing Ukrainian, Norwegian and French gendarmerie.

None were booked . . . this time.



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# All for one

International truckers: Pte Marc Johnson from F Troop, 13 Sqn, 8 Tpt Coy is joined by northern European colleagues in the Multi-National Transport Company at Murphy Lines, Pristina

## Military bulk transport in Kosovo is based on cooperation

CATCHING a military bus in Kosovo? In the past you might have enjoyed a few words of banter with the driver before setting off.

Now the man behind the wheel could be from Finland – and the water bowser which has just turned up is driven by a Norwegian.

Transport in Kosovo has gone multi-national. However, British drivers still play a significant role. "We fuel the whole brigade," said Sgt Anthony Brewster, 13 Transport Squadron, 8 Transport Regiment based in Catterick and serving with the Multi-National Transport Company in Pristina.

They deliver more than two million litres of diesel a month and cover about 8,000km in the process.

Although several nations contribute to the company, each sticks to its own vehicles to satisfy insurance requirements.

Each nation specialises in one element of transport – hence the Finns do people while the British do fuel.

"We have Norwegians, Finns, Swedes, Czechs and British in the company. They all have their own vehicles and their own way of doing things."

Soldiers of other nationalities can ride in the cab and act as a driver's mate, providing they have been trained in dealing with hazardous materials.

While British trucks compare well with continental counterparts (their tyres are reckoned to be better), UK soldiers have identified areas for improvement. Many revolve around creature comforts.

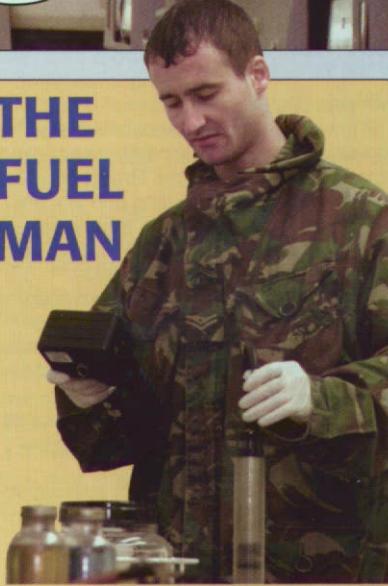
"They have CD players, GPS, electric windows and air conditioning," said Pte Lewis Bass. "They might seem unimportant, but when a driver is on the road for several hours a day, they make life a little easier."

The Finns are the lead element of the MNTC operation although the common language among the drivers and in the operations room, manned 24 hours a day, is English.



We deliver: Sgt Anthony Brewster

### THE FUEL MAN



TUCKED away in a corner of the transport company compound is a small laboratory. It is the lair of Cpl Mark Carlisle, UK Combat Service Support, who tests fuel, from naval aviation to petroliums and diesels.

Cpl Carlisle said: "The fuel is bought locally and at times it isn't very good. This facility ensures it meets our standards, especially aviation fuel which has to be spot-on."

He checks elements such as freezing points and contamination. If impurities are found, the fuel can sometimes be blended to make it usable.

## Man who can't stop

The latest in our series finds a major who just won't retire

SOME people just don't know when to hang up their boots, writes Ray Routledge.

Take Maj Vincent Ward. Although he retired from the Army in 1978 at the age of 51 he has never considered putting his feet up and is still working today at the age of 75.

Vincent's military career began as a private soldier in The Durham Light Infantry, although he soon transferred to the Royal Army Dental Corps, in which he was to spend the rest of his 31 years in the Army.

"In those days if you could do joined-up writing they moved you to a specialist corps," he joked.

"I became a dental clerk assistant, which meant about 20 per cent of my work was assisting the dentist at chair-side."

On leaving the Army he joined National Medical Enterprises, one of the largest health-care organisations in the USA, and worked extensively in the United Arab

Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

But, worn-out by six years of virtually non-stop commuting, he headed home and joined the Inland Revenue. The life of a taxman didn't appeal for long and Vincent moved on quickly, becoming regimental secretary of the RADC in 1984, a post he held until his 66th birthday in 1993.

Even then he wouldn't entertain thoughts of permanent retirement so he stayed on part-time as an RADC trustee, archivist and assistant editor of the Aldershot Garrison Herald.

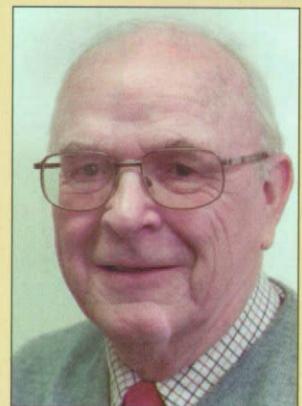
After such an active life, what advice can he give to a job-seeker about to leave the Army?

"Do what you can within your own capacity and confidence... and take advice from your local education and resettlement centre."

He says working with 77 Army Education Centre in Aldershot while editing the *Herald* has opened his eyes to "the vast organisation" dedicated to furthering your career in and out of the Service.

And his recipe for keeping some serious leisure activity: look in the yachting press for advertisements seeking crews to make delivery voyages, then make use of the experience to gain sailing qualifications.

If you have left the Army and have a story to tell you think would be an inspiration to others, please contact Ray Routledge at [routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk)



Still active: Maj Vincent Ward

# Of tanks and cornflakes

The owner of this familiar face on TV, film and in the theatre served with the Royal Tank Regiment and was put off gin for ever

Interview: Ray Routledge

Picture: Graeme Main

"I THINK the Army for me was character-building," announced actor and writer George Baker from the comfort of an armchair in his Wiltshire home.

Now synonymous with Chief Inspector Reg Wexford, the character he portrayed in TV's long-running *Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, he has played hundreds of roles over the years.

Born in Bulgaria, the son of Capt Francis Baker, British honorary vice-consul in Varna and formerly of the West Riding Regiment and Intelligence Corps, George wanted to act from an early age. So a call-up for National Service was the last thing he needed at the start of his career.

Nevertheless, he reckons it did him some good.

"I had a funny childhood and the Army gave me stability," he said. "Although I say it myself I wasn't a bad soldier. I had some wonderful experiences and learned a great deal."

Selected for officer training, he joined the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, then stationed in Hong Kong. "I knew I couldn't afford to join a cavalry regiment because they required a private income and I didn't have one. But you could live on your pay in the Royal Tank Regiment."

The only National Service officer serving with 3 RTR, George had always been a keen rider and soon found himself saddled with the job of equitation officer.

He tells the story of two brother officers who didn't listen to his advice, to their painful cost. "It was decided to start a saddle club at our base at Sekong and so we bought six Australian horses. We went to Kowloon to get them and were told they were saddle-broken.

"Back in Sekong the next day, and after being thrown several times, it was obvious to me the horses had never been ridden. It was like a rodeo."

"Two of the more senior officers decid-

ed they would go for a ride, although I warned them the horses were skittish. But they gave me a snivelling look and told me they knew exactly what they were doing. It wasn't long before they both walked home."

His time in the Far East ended in a whimper: he contracted sprue, a tropical disease with chronic enteritis symptoms. "It was a bit like dysentery's older brother," was how George described it.

After weeks in hospital he was sent home and told he was a "P7" (he had a disability) but not bad enough for a "P8" (qualified for a pension). He saw out the remainder of his National Service on the Castle Martin ranges in Pembrokeshire, although the Army was not quite finished with him.

"I was in the reserves for four years with the 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry and did my training camps and things," he recalled. While he was on a camp at Bovington the film *The Ship That Died of Shame*, in which he starred alongside Richard Attenborough, had its première in London. Returning to Dorset from the event, George had rather a lot to drink at a party in the sergeants' mess.

"Next day my head was rattling and a Sgt Birmingham insisted I get into the tank turret. This gun was going off and I have never drunk gin from that day to this."

George reckons his Army bearing was a great help in several war films in which he appeared. "I was in *The Dam Busters* and *A Hill in Korea* with Stanley Baker. Michael Caine spoke his first line, which I wrote for him, in that."

Television and film work kept him busy. He appeared in the first *Armchair Theatre* production, a major television event in 1956, and in an amazing 96 one-off TV dramas in the series *Play for Today*, *The Wednesday Play* and *Play of the Month*.

George took the part of Tiberius in *I Claudius*, one of the greatest TV dramas series ever made. "It is now on DVD and

Born: Varna, Bulgaria April 1, 1931  
Films: *A Hill in Korea*, *A Woman of Substance*, *Goodbye Mr Chips*, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, *The Dam Busters*, *The Ship That Died of Shame*, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, among others.

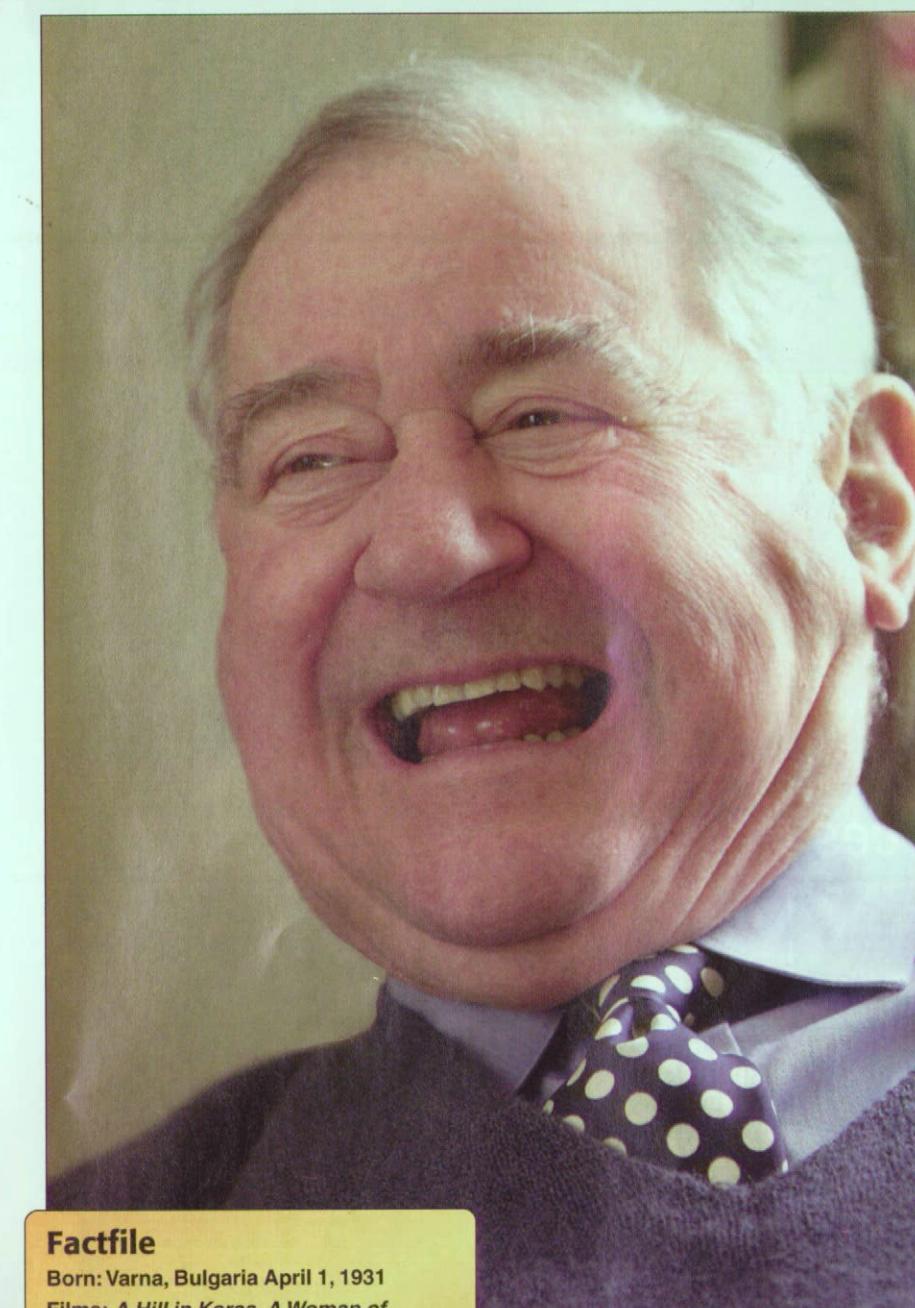
TV starring roles: *I Claudius*, *Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, *Bowler*, *No Job for a Lady*.

it looks fantastic, just like it was done yesterday."

He confesses that he did once get into trouble as a result of *I Claudius*.

"Tiberius became more syphilitic as he

SOLDIER April 2003



### Factfile

Born: Varna, Bulgaria April 1, 1931

Films: *A Hill in Korea*, *A Woman of Substance*, *Goodbye Mr Chips*, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, *The Dam Busters*, *The Ship That Died of Shame*, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, among others.

Not-so-reluctant soldier: George Baker says his Army bearing was a great help in films

got older. I had to look 84 and it took 11 hours starting at 4.30am to get the make-up on."

Apparently the make-up people hadn't quite perfected the scabs required on his head, until chance intervened. "We were eating cornflakes and I put one on my head. It worked."

From then on Tiberius's ghastly blemishes were created by sticking cornflakes

### Win a book signed by Wexford star

For a chance to win a signed copy of George Baker's autobiography, *All the Way to Wexford*, answer the following question: Which character did George Baker play in *I Claudius*?

- a. Caligula
- b. Tiberius
- c. Sejanus

Send your answer on a postcard to George Baker competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by April 30. Usual rules apply.

on George's face and plastering them over with make-up.

"Several months later I was asked by Kellogg's to go to Manchester to present an award. I thought my scabs would be a funny story to tell but they didn't see it that way."

George began his association with Wexford in 1987, starring in 26 episodes of the *Ruth Rendell Mysteries* until the run ended in 2000.

In more than 50 years in the business he has worked with some of the greatest actors and directors.

"One of the most memorable was Dame Peggy Ashcroft. She was an extraordinary actress and had a quality. Peggy was vibrant, passionate and became the person she was playing. You went along with it."

Of the directors, one of the most influential was one he never worked with. "I did a screen test for *Moby Dick*. I walked onto the set and John Huston just sat there and told me to do what I wanted to do."

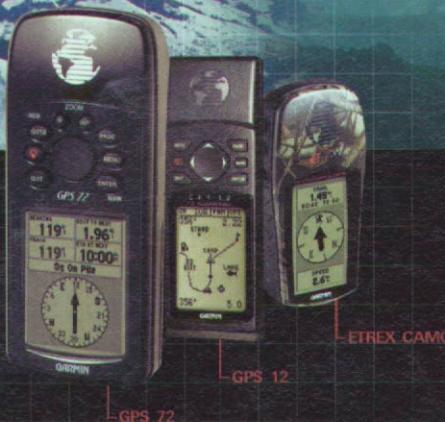
"After a while he got up and said why don't I do it another way, and he showed me. So I did. I didn't get the part but he gave me a copy of the test and I showed it to Michael Balcon."

"That is how I got *The Ship That Died of Shame*. I didn't act as well as that again for about ten years. That was the power of a director who really knew what he was doing."

"It's the same with any good leader really. If you give someone the confidence then away they go. And it was exactly the same thing in the Army."



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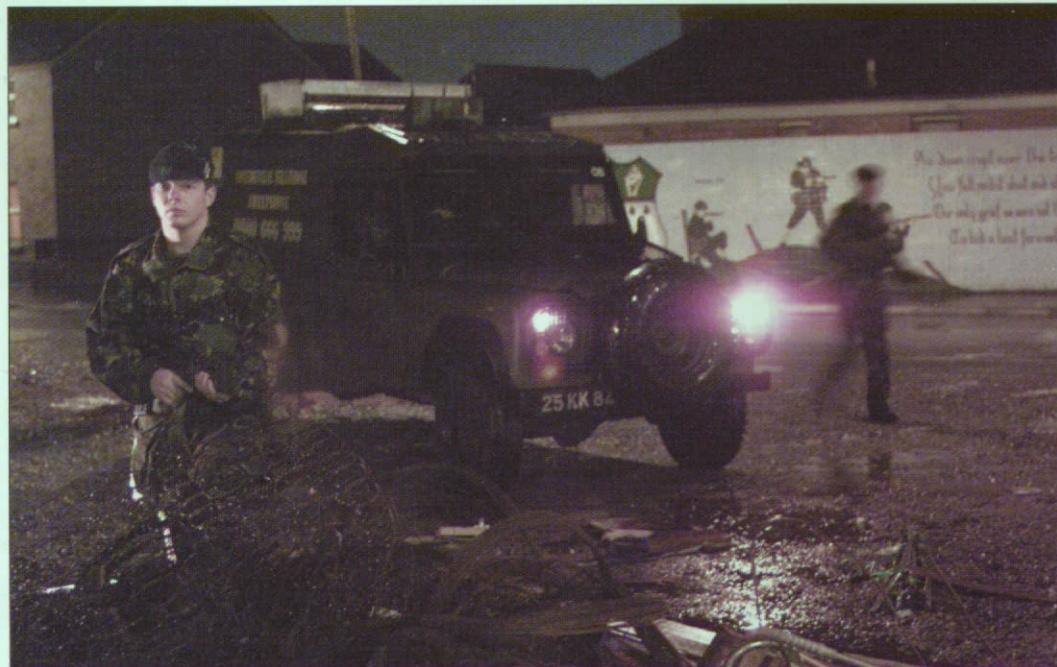
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## Four-page briefing

At-a-glance guide to key points of 2003 award

- AFPRB recommendations accepted in full, with no staging.
- Overall basic pay increased by 3.2 per cent for majority of Regular Army and Reserves.
- Greater increases for some – 3.7 per cent for privates and lance corporals in some pay ranges – and adjustments to some pay ranges.
- Single rate of pay of £11,122 for all new entrants.
- Previously excluded groups – veterinary officers, chaplains, Regular and Reserve officers commissioned from ranks – to be taken into Pay 2000 and to get a pay increase of 3.2 per cent.
- No change to X-factor of 13 per cent.
- Reduction in initial qualifying period for Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) from 18 to 12 months; increase of 5 per cent in daily rate; and Accumulated Turbulence (AT) and Accumulated Turbulence Plus (AT+) bonuses increased from £1,000 to £1,250.
- Turn to Page 46



Usual suspects: As in past years, among those worst affected by longer-than-normal working hours were troops deployed on operations in Northern Ireland. Pictured in East Belfast are 2 R Irish soldiers

# Open all hours

## Working-time creeps up after encouraging dip

AN hours-of-work survey carried out by the MoD during 2001-2002 showed a "worrying change" to the recent downward trend within the Armed Forces, according to the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB).

As reported in the last issue of *Soldier* (Update, Pages 8-9), the results were not unexpected given the turbulent international situation during that period and the many calls on the Services.

Undermanning in some specialist branches had compounded the impact on working hours.

The previous year had reflected an encouraging downward trend, indicating that the Services had made efforts to keep to the spirit of the regulations, said the AFPRB.

It reviews the position of junior ranks against the National Minimum Wage (NMW) using the results of the hours-of-work survey, which is regarded as an important part of the pay body's terms of reference to deliver broad pay compara-

bility. On average, junior ranks worked 53.8 hours a week which, using NMW rates, would equate to a weekly salary of £225.96 for those aged 21 and over and £193.68 for under-21s.

This, noted the AFPRB, was still below the minimum weekly salary for privates (£241.22), although a significant rise in average working hours in 2001-02 brought the lowest-paid junior ranks much closer to the National Minimum Wage rate.

For this reason the AFPRB increased salaries for privates and lance corporals in some pay ranges by 3.7 per cent.

The surveys of working patterns sent to units are seen as a vital tool in maintaining awareness of how many hours soldiers actually work.

qualifying period for Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) from 18 to 12 months; increase of 5 per cent in daily rate; and Accumulated Turbulence (AT) and Accumulated Turbulence Plus (AT+) bonuses increased from £1,000 to £1,250.

● Turn to Page 46

## Single minded

AN update on MoD thinking on the differential treatment of married and single personnel and those in long-term relationships was provided to the AFPRB.

One of the aims of the Armed Forces Overarching Personnel Strategy was to review and possibly reduce differences and anomalies.

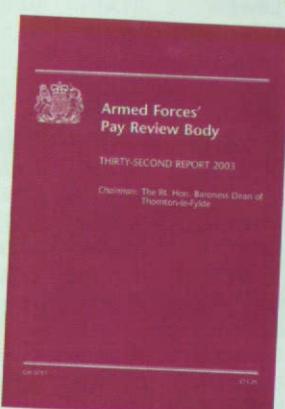
The first of two strands of MoD work in this area involved assembling information on the circumstances of personnel to improve understanding of criteria that might be used to define a partnership and to consider the financial implications of any change to entitlements.

The second was MoD's involvement in a wider, Cabinet Office-led study looking at the feasibility of giving legal status to defined partnerships.

MoD also told the AFPRB that current pension arrangements did not recognise unmarried partners, but that this was being examined in the ongoing review of the Armed Forces' Pension Scheme.

As a matter of policy the MoD was also seeking to reduce the differences in treatment of single and married personnel when introducing

replacement allowances. Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) was an example of this policy in action, as were improvements to the Get-You-Home package for single homeowners.



Turn the page for more AFPRB report details... your new daily rates of pay... allowances and charges

## PAY RATES FOR OFFICERS

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Rank	OF6	2002	2003	Increase
Brig +4	Level 5	210.63	217.37	6.74
Brig +3	Level 4	208.47	215.14	6.67
Brig +2	Level 3	206.32	212.92	6.60
Brig +1	Level 2	204.17	210.70	6.43
Brig OA	Level 1	202.02	208.48	6.46
<b>OF5</b>				
Col +8	Level 9	186.15	192.11	5.96
Col +7	Level 8	183.93	189.82	5.89
Col +6	Level 7	181.71	187.52	5.81
Col +5	Level 6	179.50	185.24	5.74
Col +4	Level 5	177.29	182.96	5.67
Col +3	Level 4	175.07	180.67	5.60
Col +2	Level 3	172.86	178.39	5.53
Col +1	Level 2	170.64	176.10	5.46
Col OA	Level 1	168.42	173.81	5.39
<b>OF4</b>				
Lt Col +8	Level 9	160.77	165.91	5.14
Lt Col +7	Level 8	158.84	163.92	5.08
Lt Col +6	Level 7	156.93	161.95	5.02
Lt Col +5	Level 6	155.01	159.97	4.96
Lt Col +4	Level 5	153.10	158.00	4.90
Lt Col +3	Level 4	151.18	156.02	4.84
Lt Col +2	Level 3	149.28	154.06	4.78
Lt Col +1	Level 2	147.36	152.08	4.72
Lt Col OA	Level 1	145.44	150.09	4.65
<b>OF3</b>				
Maj +8	Level 9	124.10	128.07	3.97
Maj +7	Level 8	121.54	125.43	3.89
Maj +6	Level 7	118.98	122.79	3.81
Maj +5	Level 6	116.42	120.15	3.73
Maj +4	Level 5	113.86	117.50	3.64
Maj +3	Level 4	111.30	114.86	3.56
Maj +2	Level 3	108.73	112.21	3.48
Maj +1	Level 2	106.18	109.58	3.40
Maj OA	Level 1	103.62	106.94	3.32
<b>OF2</b>				
Capt +8	Level 9	97.83	100.96	3.13
Capt +7	Level 8	96.72	99.82	3.10
Capt +6	Level 7	95.60	98.66	3.06
Capt +5	Level 6	93.38	96.37	2.99
Capt +4	Level 5	91.15	94.07	2.92
Capt +3	Level 4	88.93	91.78	2.85
Capt +2	Level 3	86.70	89.47	2.77
Capt +1	Level 2	84.47	87.17	2.70
Capt OA	Level 1	82.26	84.89	2.63
<b>OF1</b>				
Lt +4	Level 10	70.95	73.22	2.27
Lt +3	Level 9	69.26	71.48	2.22
Lt +2	Level 8	67.58	69.74	2.16
Lt +1	Level 7	65.89	68.00	2.11
Lt OA	Level 6	64.20	66.25	2.05
2Lt	Level 5	53.41	55.12	1.71
N/A to Army	Level 4	47.32	48.83	1.51
SSLC +1	Level 3	40.30	41.59	1.29
SSLC OA	Level 2	36.92	38.10	1.18
Off Cdt	Level 1	33.78	34.86	1.08
<b>UCE</b>				
U Cad +3	Level 4	38.84	40.08	1.24
U Cad +2	Level 3	35.57	36.71	1.14
U Cad +1	Level 2	31.68	32.69	1.01
U Cad OA	Level 1	27.60	28.48	0.88
<b>Welbexian Off Cad</b>				
Year 3		38.84	40.08	1.24
Year 2		35.57	36.71	1.14
Year 1		27.60	28.48	0.88

## Impact on family life considered

SPOUSES and partners of Service personnel are included in the Armed Forces Pay Review Body's visits to Service establishments around the world.

So that its members can gain an insight to the impact of Service life on families and the consequences of retention, the AFPRB also seeks the views of the Army

Families Federation, while the heads of the three Service families' organisations are involved in informal discussions.

"As in previous years," says the 2003 report, "accommodation and separation were major themes of our discussions, together with the ability of families to access public services such as

health and education on an equal footing with civilians."

AFPRB members found that access to, and continuity of, employment was a recurring theme wherever they went, particularly among spouses and partners who had chosen accompanied service.

These problems were more pro-

nounced for those in overseas postings.

It was partly in response to concerns expressed about the impact of Service life on personnel and their families that the AFPRB brought forward its review of the X-factor (which is to remain at 13 per cent) and of Longer Separated Service Allowance.

## Home from home

DATA from continuous attitude studies indicated that two-thirds of Royal Navy, one-third of Army and half of Royal Air Force personnel own, but do not necessarily occupy, their home.

According to the AFPRB report, personnel recognise the benefits of buying into the housing market early in their career, both as an investment and to provide greater family stability.

Work is going on to examine the scope for harmonising Long Service Advance of Pay between the three Services as part of a wider study into assisted house purchase schemes, for example the buy-to-let project being piloted by the Army.

## PAY RATES FOR SHORT-SERVICE (LATE ENTRY) COMMISSION OFFICERS

£ daily

Rank	2002	2003	Increase
Level 15	109.96	113.48	3.52
Level 14	N/A	112.73	N/A
Level 13	108.49	111.96	3.47
Level 12	107.02	110.44	3.42
Level 11	105.56	108.94	3.38
Level 10	104.09	107.42	3.33
Level 9	102.62	105.90	3.28
Level 8	101.15	104.39	3.24
Level 7 (Note 1)	99.32	102.50	3.18
Level 6	N/A	101.33	N/A
Level 5	97.05	100.16	3.11
Level 4 (Note 2)	94.78	97.81	3.03
Level 3	N/A	96.65	N/A
Level 2	92.51	95.47	2.96
Level 1 (Notes 3)	90.24	93.13	2.89

Note 1: Minimum entry point for LEs with over 15 years' service.

Note 2: Minimum entry point for LEs with between 12 and 15 years' service.

Note 3: Minimum entry point for LEs with under 12 years' service.

## Territorial Army

TA rates of pay are the same as those for the regular Army less the appropriate X-factor abatement. You can work out your rate as follows:

13% X-factor – FTRS (full commitment) –  
same as regular rates

5% X-factor – TA, FTRS (limited commitment) –  
multiply the regular rate by 105, then divide by 113

0% X-factor – FTRS (home commitment), NRPS –  
multiply the regular rate by 100, then divide by 113

## PAY RATES FOR OTHER RANKS

£ daily

HIGHER RANGE				LOWER RANGE					
Rank	Range 5	2002	2003	Increase	Rank	Range 5	2002	2003	Increase
Warrant Officer 1	Level 7	101.43	104.68	3.25	Warrant Officer 1	Level 7	95.72	98.78	3.06
	Level 6	99.90	103.10	3.20		Level 6	93.10	96.08	2.98
	Level 5	98.16	101.30	3.14		Level 5	90.55	93.45	2.90
	Level 4	96.43	99.52	3.09		Level 4	88.82	91.66	2.84
	Level 3	94.70	97.73	3.03		Level 3	87.09	89.88	2.79
	Level 2	93.10	96.08	2.98		Level 2	85.37	88.10	2.73
	Level 1	91.30	94.22	2.92		Level 1	83.74	86.42	2.68
Range 4				Range 4					
Sergeant	Level 9	93.84	96.84	3.00	Sergeant	Level 9	85.98	88.73	2.75
	Level 8	92.53	95.49	2.96		Level 8	84.07	86.76	2.69
	Level 7	91.22	94.14	2.92		Level 7	82.12	85.66	3.54
	Level 6	89.92	92.80	2.88		Level 6	80.17	84.37	4.20
	Staff Sergeant	87.98	90.80	2.82		Staff Sergeant	78.22	80.72	2.50
	Level 5	86.02	88.77	2.75		Level 4	77.16	79.63	2.47
	Level 3</								

## key points

● From Page 43

● Increases, by up to 9 per cent, to rates of all Reserve bounties.

● Special measures to retain "professional aviators".

● All forms of specialist pay – including parachute pay, flying pay and diving pay – and all forms of non-specialist pay to increase by 3.2 per cent.

● Financial retention incentives for Royal Signals operators, technicians and selected supervisors on completion of their Class 3, Class 1 and supervisory courses. These will be £2,500, £5,000 and £10,000 respectively for a specified return-of-service period, corresponding to the training requirement for the relevant course.

● Previously-announced golden hellos of £50,000 to attract qualified doctors and dentists and significantly enhanced pay scales for serving consultants, doctors, dentists and senior medical officers.

● Service families accommodation (SFA) rent rises ranging from £1.19 a day (7 per cent) for larger, best-quality quarters to 2p a day (0.5 per cent) for smallest and worst.

● Garage rents up by 1p to 58p a day.

● Single living accommodation (SLA) charges up by from 13p a day (2.7 per cent) for Grade 1 (the best), lower increases for Grades 2 and 3 and no increase for Grade 4 (the worst).

● Water and sewerage charges for all SFA set at annual rates of between £223 and £252 (a rise of 4p a day) for SFA and £77 for SLA (no increase).

● No change to food charges, which remain at £2.47 a day for married unaccompanied personnel and £3.38 a day for single personnel.

## Pay-As-You-Dine trials welcomed

THE AFPRB welcomed the start of trials last autumn of Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) at three locations and noted that its members had detected growing support for the system among all ranks.

Junior ranks, who generally support PAYD, believe quality and choice would be improved. There were more mixed views among senior NCOs and officers, some of whom fear that individuals may forgo meals when their money runs out or adopt an unhealthy diet with a resulting impact on efficiency.

Major concerns had been raised about the impact on the training and retention of Service chefs, who would continue to be required for operations.

If the trials are a success, PAYD will be rolled out across Great Britain in 2005.

## ADDITIONAL PAY

£ daily

		2002	2003	Increase
<b>Flying Pay</b>				
<b>Officers Pilots &amp; Flying Instructor</b>				
Officer Aircrew (Trained)				
Initial Rate	11.28	11.64	0.36	
Middle Rate	18.94	19.55	0.61	
Top Rate	30.11	31.07	0.96	
Enhanced Rate	35.49	36.63	1.14	
Lt Col on Appt				
after 6 years in Rank	31.18	32.18	1.00	
after 8 years in Rank	29.04	29.97	0.93	
Col on Appt				
after 2 years in rank	26.89	27.75	0.86	
after 4 years in rank	23.88	24.64	0.76	
after 6 years in rank	22.30	23.01	0.71	
after 8 years in rank	20.71	21.37	0.66	
Brigadier				
after 6 years in rank	18.33	18.92	0.59	
after 8 years in rank	15.94	16.45	0.61	
Brigadier	9.55	9.86	0.31	
<b>Non-Commissioned Aircrew</b>				
Qualified Aircraft Comdr				
Initial Rate	11.28	11.64	0.36	
Middle Rate	18.94	19.55	0.61	
Top Rate	30.11	31.07	0.96	
Enhanced Rate	35.49	36.63	1.14	
Qualified as Pilot				
Initial Rate	5.81	6.00	0.19	
Middle Rate	12.81	13.22	0.41	
Top Rate	15.08	15.56	0.48	
Aircrew Pay				
Initial Rate	5.58	5.76	0.18	
Middle Rate	12.31	12.70	0.39	
Top Rate	16.14	16.66	0.52	
RLC, Air Despatch Pay				
Lower Rate	3.93	4.06	0.13	
Higher Rate	6.33	6.53	0.20	
<b>Diving Pay</b>				
Army Compressed Air Diver(ACAD)		6.55	6.76	0.21
Army Unit Diving Supervisor & Army Advanced Diver		9.36	9.66	0.30
Army Supervisor & Instructor		15.93	16.44	0.51
<b>Parachute Pay</b>				
Qualified Parachutists	4.28	4.42	0.14	
Parachute Jump Instructor - Less than 8 years experience	6.14	6.34	0.20	
Parachute Jump Instructor - 8 or more years experience	9.14	9.43	0.51	
<b>Gurkha Language Pay</b>				
Oral & Written proficiency		1.12	1.16	0.04
Oral proficiency rate		0.64	0.66	0.02
<b>Experimental Pay</b>				
Per test		2.14	2.21	0.07
<b>Pay for Work of an Objectionable Nature (PWON)</b>				
Basic Rate	4.92	5.08	0.16	
Higher Rate	14.52	14.98	0.46	
<b>Pay for Work in Unpleasant Conditions (PWUC)</b>				
(Soldiers only)	2.00	2.06	0.06	
<b>Northern Ireland Resident Supplement (NIRS)</b>				
	5.13	5.29	0.16	
<b>Recruiting &amp; Retention Allowance (London)</b>				
	3.18	3.28	0.10	
<b>Longer Separate Service Allowance (LSSA)</b>				
Basic Rate	5.13	5.39	0.26	
Middle Rate	8.03	8.43	0.40	
Higher Rate	10.94	11.49	0.55	
<b>Specialist Pay (Special Forces) SP(SF)</b>				
SAS Officers				
Level 1	20.74	21.40	0.66	
Level 2	24.60	25.39	0.79	
Level 3	26.45	27.30	0.85	
SAS ORs				
Level 1	10.26	10.59	0.33	
Level 2	14.32	14.78	0.46	
Level 3	17.11	17.66	0.55	
Level 4	19.73	20.36	0.63	
Level 5	21.60	22.29	0.69	
<b>Specialist Pay (Special Forces Communications Pay) SP(SFCP)</b>				
All Ranks	8.87	9.15	0.28	
<b>Special Communications Pay (SCP)</b>				
WO2 – Sgt	8.72	9.33	0.61	
Cpl and below	6.55	7.01	0.46	



En-trenched in the action: Jamie Bell, left, with *Full Monty* star Hugo Speer on the set of First World War supernatural chiller *Deathwatch*

# Army's star recruit

## Bell boy comes of age in the trenches

AN exceptional performance in *Billy Elliot* three years ago transported Jamie Bell from his mother's modest home in Billingham in the North East of England to the glitz and glamour of the Golden Globe and Oscar ceremonies in America.

But despite escorting Nicole Kidman to last year's Bafta awards and having forged a friendship with *Gladiator* star Russell Crowe, Jamie is acutely aware that there is more to being an actor than just photo-calls and champagne receptions.

The 16-year-old star had his eyes opened to a far less glamorous side of the acting profession during the filming of First World War supernatural chiller *Deathwatch*, in which he plays Pte Charlie Shakespeare, a young recruit exposed to the horror and degradation of trench warfare.

Set in 1917 on the Western Front, the movie, which hit cinema screens late last year, was filmed on location in and around reconstructed trench systems near Prague, in conditions far removed from those Jamie will have luxuriated in at the Oscars.

"We regularly filmed in temperatures of minus 12," he explained. "On the set there was a big truck with a tanker on the back containing 60,000 litres of water and we had that poured on us each day, and the mud in the trenches was awful."

"Another actor asked me what was worse, doing a dance sequence 13 times or being in the mud? I told him being in the mud. It was relentless. One day I was stood in a field at five o'clock in the morning and could not breathe through my nose because I was completely covered. It was so bad that even the crew and their equipment were getting stuck in the mud."

"It rained almost non-stop during filming so we were standing in water most of the time and that is the film's best quality – it looks right, it looks grimy."

"However, being in the trench everyday with fake bodies lying everywhere was hard – for some of the actors it was too much and people were falling ill. During the real war it must have been hell."

As well as having to cope with a daily mudbath and adverse weather, the cast of *Deathwatch*, which also features

Hugo Speer (*The Full Monty*) and Andy Serkis (*The Lord of the Rings*), had to share their trench with more than 1,000 rodents.

"The rats were released before we started filming," said Jamie. "They were everywhere and there is one scene in the film in which one character has his legs bitten off by the rats. The actor hated them, but I thought they were cute and they did not bother me."

**'For some of the actors it was too much, during the real war it must have been hell'**

Despite the discomfort of his short spell in Army uniform, Jamie has no regrets about becoming involved in the project and hopes that his experience in the trenches will transform his career.

"I wanted to find a script which would help me to lose the label of the *Billy Elliot* kid," he said. "Most of the roles I was offered before *Deathwatch* were still child roles and I was worried that if I accepted one of them I would be typecast as a child actor and that my career would be over and dead at 18."

"I needed a script which would propel me to adulthood and *Deathwatch* offered me the chance to do that."

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Web: www.gordonhighlanders.com

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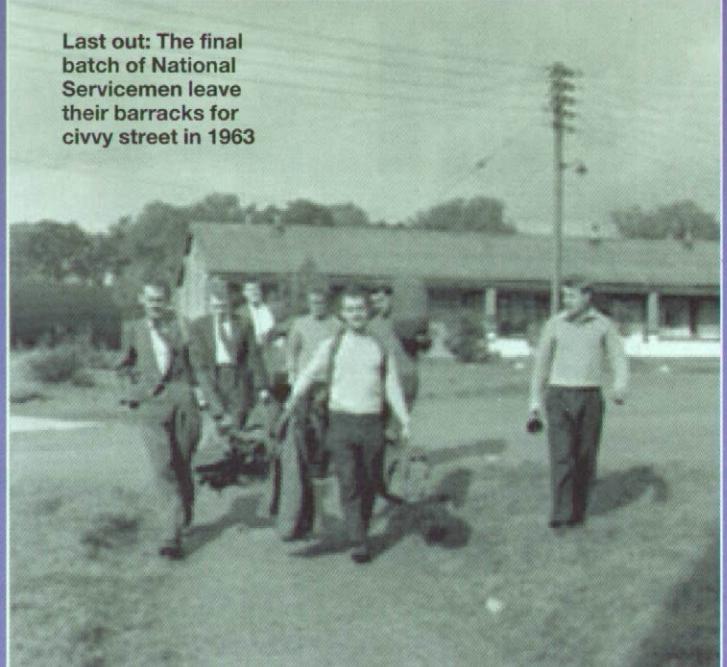
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Last out: The final batch of National Servicemen leave their barracks for civvy street in 1963



## Remember the call-up?

to those of the previous generation who fought in the Second World War," he said.

"This exhibition aims not only to explore the conflicts in which National Servicemen were involved, but also to capture some of the very different experiences of National Service, from the viewpoint of the young men who were there."

They might have whinged about their lot, but the Army gave them a discipline, pride and independence that served the country well. The last of them shed his uniform 40 years ago next month, an anniversary to be recalled in a special exhibition to be mounted at the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

It opens on May 16, followed by a weekend of special events on the 17th and 18th when visitors will have the chance to meet National Service veterans.

Curator Keith Miller said the call-up, from 1948 to 1963, had affected a whole generation of reluctant civilians. "Their experiences and the conflicts they took part in are not generally well known, in marked contrast

to the three key battlefields of the period, Korea, Malaya and the Middle East. The last man to complete his National Service was Lt Richard Vaughan, who hung up his uniform on May 16, 1963.

● 730 days until demob: National Service 1948-63 opens on May 16 at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HT (tel 020 7730 0717) and will run for at least a year. Admission is free.



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[www.ngvfa.com](http://www.ngvfa.com)

The National Gulf Veterans and Families Association website

[www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

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# Man with the golden gun

Former gunner aims to revive fortunes of British biathlon team

Picture: Graeme Main

BRITISH biathlon's newly-appointed shooting coach Roger Roberts is accustomed to being part of a winning team, writes Andy Simms.

As manager of the Welsh smallbore shooting squad, Roberts, who served with 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery before leaving the Army in 1982, watched with delight as two of his protégés won Wales's first gold of the 2002 Commonwealth Games at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley last summer.

Ceri Dallimore and Johanne Brekke shot a Commonwealth record of 1,175 points in the women's 50m rifle prone pairs and the British Biathlon Union (BBU) are now hoping that Roberts can apply the same Midas touch to the fortunes of their World and Europa Cup squads.

"I first became involved in biathlon by complete chance," explained Roberts, who has himself been a member of the Welsh smallbore squad for the last ten years. "I got talking to someone from the BBU last summer when I went looking for a pair of roller skis, and the next thing I knew I was asked to take a look at the technique of a couple of Great Britain's shooters."

It was a request that led to the 60-year-

old meeting and working full-time alongside a number of Army biathletes, including Olympians Cpl Mark Gee (2 RTR) and Cpl Jason Sklenar (28 Engr Regt).

"A lot of the guys involved in biathlon in the United Kingdom are servicemen and being ex-military myself I found that I had an immediate rapport with them – I understand them and enjoy their company," he said. "So for me this coaching job is just like being back in the Army."

"I also found it fairly easy to transfer my skills from one sport to the other. There are obviously a lot of similarities between the two disciplines, with the only real difference being a timing issue."

"Smallbore shooting is more to do with precision than time, whereas biathletes need to hit their targets and move on as quickly as possible."

And despite only being seven months into his tenure as coach, Roberts has wasted no time in applying his expertise to the British biathlon set-up.

"I would like to think that my presence is having a positive impact on the team, and the one thing that I hope I have already addressed is the squad's attitude towards shooting," he told *Soldier*. "It is a sport that is largely mental, it requires no muscle whatsoever and the leading nations in biathlon are already wise to that fact."

"For example, in Norway the top competitors have a psychological coach in

addition to their skiing and shooting trainers.

"So the main thing I have been encouraging the British team to do in training is to shoot quickly, to disregard whether they are hitting the target or not, and just settle into a rhythm."

"That way, when it comes to competitions they will maintain that rhythm and hit the targets without dwelling unnecessarily on the task at hand."

"The problem comes, in any sport, when the athlete starts thinking about what they are going to do – that can make the brain work a little too hard instead of just acting naturally and firing on instinct. After all there is no point worrying about missed targets as there is nothing you can do about them."

Roberts believes that with his new training methods and the talents of young guns LCpl Lee Jackson (1 GH), LBdr Lance Hodgkins (40 Regt RA), Cpl Marc Walker (1 GS Regt RLC), LCpl Emma Fowler (1 GS Regt RLC) and Cpl Tom Clemens (1 D and D), Great Britain can climb the international rankings table to unprecedented heights, and he intends to be around to share in that success.

"Age might not be on my side, but I've said that as long as I am fit enough to pass on my skills then I will continue to do so – both for the Welsh smallbore shooting squad and the British biathlon team," he said. "I love shooting and do not intend to hang up my rifle until my eyes give up on me."

## RESULTS SERVICE . . . RESULTS SERVICE . . .

**BOXING:** British Forces Germany novice championships – 1 RRF beat 1 RRW 5-4.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** Army individual championships, women's – 1, Lt Jo Kelsey (3 (CS) Regt RLC); 2, Capt Sarah Rollins (DMSTC); 3, Cpl Patterson (3 (CS) Regt RLC).

**Men's** – 1, LCpl Hinch (3 (CS) Regt RLC); 2, Cpl Kevin Sheppard (3 (CS) Regt RLC); 3, Capt Crossland (3 (CS) Regt RLC).

**FOOTBALL:** Massey trophy – Infantry 8 RA 5; REME 4 RAC 0; RLC 5 RA 4; AMS 2 Infantry 3; APTC 1 AAC 1; RAC 1 RE 6; AGC 3 APTC 3; AAC 1 Infantry 5; RE 1 RLC

4; RS 6 CA Mus 1; REME 1 APTC 1; RAC 1 R Signals 7; Infantry 4 AGC 0.

**JUDO:** Army championships, novice team championships – 1, 12 Regt RA; 2, RMAS; 3, 1 RGBW and 101 Log Bde HQ/261 Sig Sqn.

**Individual novice men, under 66kg** – 1, OCdt Bailey (RMAS); 2, LCpl Ferguson (101 Log Bde HQ and 261 Sig Sqn) and J/S English (AFC Harrogate). **Under 73kg** – 1, Gnr Crumlish (12 Regt RA); 2, OCdt Toland (RMAS); 3, J/S Barry (AFC Harrogate) and J/S Bryant (AFC Harrogate). **Under 81kg** – 1, LCpl Brown (4 GS Med Regt); 2, J/S John (AFC Harrogate). **Under 90kg** – 1, Gnr Bre-

witt (14 Regt RA); 2, Pte Matthews (1 RGBW); 3, Gnr Baggaley (14 Regt RA) and LCpl Helliwell (201 Sig Sqn). **Under 100kg** – 1, OCdt Devenney (RMAS); 2, OCdt Grant (RMAS); 3, Spr Harby (British Forces Cyprus) and Pte Clarke (1 RGBW).

**Individual novice women, under 60kg** – 1, OCdt Bailey (RMAS); 2, LCpl Ferguson (101 Log Bde HQ and 261 Sig Sqn). **Over 60kg** – 1, OCdt Dibble (RMAS); 2, Maj Howard (School of Logistics); 3, Sig Fiddler (11 Sig Regt).

**Intermediate team championships** – 1, British Forces Cyprus; 2, 1 RGBW; 3, 25 Engr Regt.

**Individual intermediate men, under 66kg** – 1, Cpl Ward (13 Air Sp Regt RLC); 2,

LCpl Brown (2 UK OSR); 3, LCpl Young (1 RHA). **Under 73kg** – 1, Cpl Black (AFC Harrogate); 2, LCpl Hart (HQ NI); 3, Pte Cheeems (1 RGBW) and OCdt Cowie (RMAS). **Under 81kg** – 1, Cpl Pearce (2 Bn REME); 2, Lt Jones (1 WFR); 3, LCpl Elliot (1 RGBW) and LCpl Gallagher (British Forces Cyprus). **Under 90kg** – 1, Sig Glendinning (30 Sig Regt); 2, Cpl Wright (British Forces Cyprus); 3, Capt Astbury (25 Engr Regt). **Over 100kg** – 1, Pte Fisher (1 RGBW); 2, WO2 Compey (42 Engr Regt); 3, Pte Davison (British Forces Cyprus) and Bdr Vernon (12 Regt RA). **Open** – 1, Cpl Pearce (2 Bn REME); 2, Cpl Ward (13 Air Sp Regt RLC); 3, Sig Glendinning and Sgt Street (ASPT).

**Individual intermediate women, under**

**63kg** – 1, OCdt Crowther (RMAS); 2, Cpl Dawson (British Forces Cyprus).

**Men's open team championships** – 1, 1 RGBW A; 2, RMAS; 3, 1 RGBW B.

**Individual open men's, under 60kg** – 1, OCdt Bewley (Welbeck College); 2, Cpl Ward; 3, LCpl Young and LCpl Bruin (3 (UK) Div Sig Regt). **Under 66kg** – LCpl Woods (3 RSME); 2, OCdt Ward (Welbeck College);

3, Cpl Gardner (4 GS Med Regt) and LCpl Reay (5 Bn REME). **Under 73kg** – 1, LCpl Price (4 GS Med Regt); 2, Sig Moore (201 Sig Sqn); 3, LCpl Bock (AFC Harrogate) and Cpl Garratt (British Forces Cyprus). **Under 81kg** – 1, OCdt Pybus (RMAS); 2, LCpl Richardson (4 Royal Irish); 3, Cfn Lucas (4 Regt RA Wksp) and Cpl Simon

(25 Engr Regt). **Under 90kg** – 1, Capt Childs (1 RGBW); 2, Capt Concannon (RMAS); 3, Maj Sloane (HQNI) and SSgt Thomson (ASPT). **Under 100kg** – 1, Pte Sainsbury (1 RGBW); 2, WO1 Tweedie (SHAPE); 3, Sgt Faizley (HQ SOINC) and Spr Spink (British Forces Cyprus). **Over 100kg** – 1, OCdt Ormiston (RMAS); 2, Pte Fisher; 3, Pte Davison. **Open** – 1, Capt Childs; 2, Pte Sainsbury; 3, LCpl Price and SSgt Thompson.

**Individual open women's, under 63kg** – 1, OCdt Crowther; 2, Cpl Dawson; LCpl Ferguson. **Over 69kgs** – 1, LCpl Hart (7 Para RHA); 2, Sig Walker (16 Sig Regt); 3, Maj Howard. **Open** – 1, OCdt Crowther; 2, Sig Walker; 3, LCpl Ferguson.



Aiming for the top in two disciplines: Wales smallbore shooting team manager and Great Britain's biathlon shooting coach Roger Roberts

# Army ref plays

Army official rewarded by the world's governing body for football

Pictures: Graeme Main

BY his own admission WO2 Darren Adie (2 R Anglian) was a woeful centre forward, scoring as infrequently for his battalion as Diego Forlan has for Manchester United, writes Andy Simms.

But despite the absence of a predatory touch, the 36-year-old is still not ruling out the chance of appearing at a World Cup after becoming the British Army's first FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football) accredited match official.

Darren, who is currently working for the Defence Procurement Agency at Abbeywood, was invited by FIFA to apply for an international assistant referee's badge late last year after a series of flawless performances running the line in the Welsh Premier League.

"I had to maintain assessment marks high enough to keep me among the top eight assistant referees in Wales," he explained. "The assessments included fitness tests and a medical, and when I was eventually told I had made the cut I was delighted."

"There are only 18 assistant referees with FIFA badges in the whole of England and Wales, and it really is a great honour to be among such a select few."

It is a badge that has already enabled Darren to rub shoulders with some of footballing's élite. The Army official made his international debut as an assistant referee in a friendly between Wales U20 and Republic of Korea U20 at Cardiff Arms Park and was the fourth official at the Millennium Stadium when Mark Hughes's Welsh side drew 2-2 with Bosnia Herzegovina – fixtures far removed from the Sunday league matches he officiated just over seven years ago.

"Considering I completed my basic course with the Army only in 1996, I suppose it has been something of a rapid rise through the ranks," he conceded. "I love football and having stopped playing at 30 I saw refereeing as a way of staying involved in the game – and as a referee you can carry on until your legs give way."

"At first I pursued it as a way of learning the laws of the game and to keep myself fit, but it soon became a bug that I just could not get enough of."



International peacekeeper: WO2 Darren Adie

An Englishman born and bred, Darren originally registered with the English FA, but a quirk of fate – the Newport postcode of his Chepstow home – meant his services were snapped up by the Welsh FA instead.

"It was definitely a case of being in the right place at the right time because it would have taken me much longer to reach the top flight in England – there are more steps to the premier league than in Wales," he told *Soldier*. "In comparison I moved through the Welsh leagues quickly and to get on to the FIFA list at 36 is fantastic."

"My ambition has always been to officiate at the highest standard possible – all players aspire to be internationals so why shouldn't referees?"

And if Darren continues to play his cards right his FIFA accreditation could provide a passport to football's showcase competitions: the Champions League, European Championships and World Cup finals.

"My immediate aim is to just stay on the list, get some more experience in

competitions like the Inter-Toto and UEFA Cup and enjoy the football," he said. "However, I am more than aware that the European Championships take place in Portugal next summer and that two years later it is World Cup time again. There is no reason, if I continue to get the necessary marks, that I can't be on the list until I am 45, so the chances are that I will get the opportunity to be part of a big tournament."

With extensive travel opportunities and a chance to watch first-class players parade their skills at close quarters, the life of an international referee sounds like the perfect profession for an ardent soccer supporter, but Darren is quick to highlight that the job is not without its flaws. Contending with baying crowds and abusive players has become part and parcel of a referee's lot.

"People seem to forget that officials would rather see a game decided by the two teams and not any decision they make," he said. "It is our job to ensure that fair play is administered, but not everybody sees it that way and you have to be thick-skinned."

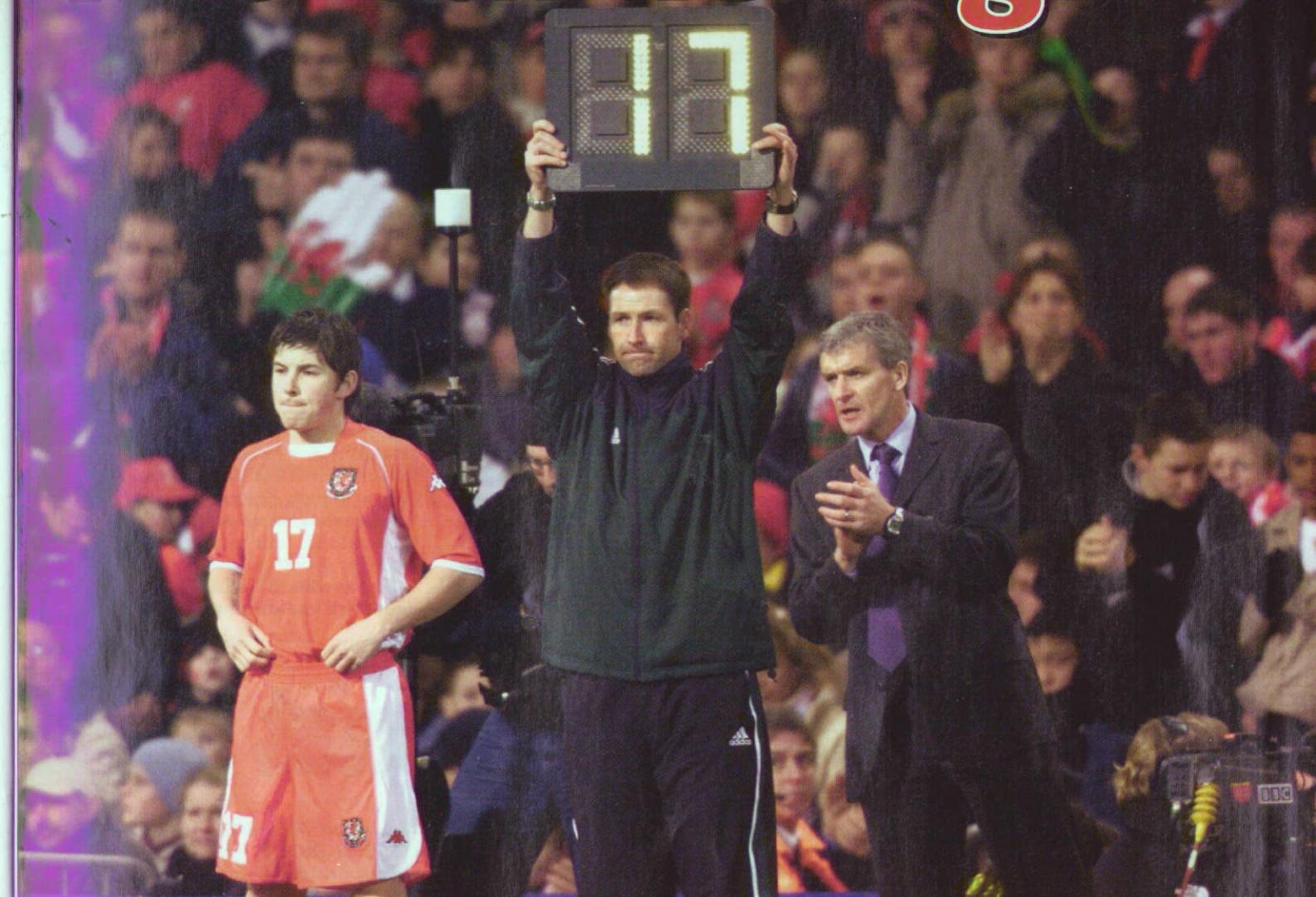
"If I get heckled by a crowd when I am out in the middle or running the line it does not bother me at all. They have paid their money and are entitled to their opinion, but it is hard to accept when a player gives you an earful."

"The worst thing a player can do is call you a cheat or question your impartiality," he said. "Officials can only give an honest decision on what they see at that time. It is easy to make the right decision every time when you can analyse an incident from every possible angle on a slow-motion replay, but referees do not have that luxury and only get a split-second and one chance to get it right."

"To be verbally abused for doing your best is not acceptable. Referees are not in the game for the money, but simply because they love football and many officials are now hanging up their boots because of the continuous barrage of abuse you can get from some players."

"So why do I put up with it? Because if nothing else, being a referee gets you out of shopping with the wife on a Saturday afternoon."

# his cards right



Man in the middle: WO2 Darren Adie is flanked by Sunderland's John Oster, left, and Wales manager Mark Hughes at the Millennium Stadium

## Win tickets to top equestrian show

A FIRM favourite with both competitors and spectators, the Royal Windsor Horse Show heralds the official start of Britain's outdoor show season and has become the Henley of the horse world.

In 2002, the show staged the first of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, and this year's event, which will be held in Windsor on May 14-18, will bring together the largest ever number of showing classes at a single venue. Celebrating its 60th birthday, the show will also include a daily tribute to the vital role played by horses in the Second World War.

The organisers of the Royal Windsor Horse Show are pleased to be able to offer *Soldier* readers a 15 per cent discount on tickets for Wednesday, May 14. To take advantage of this exclusive discount ring the box office on 0870 1215370 and quote *Soldier*. Please note that this discount is applicable only for advance bookings, that all tickets are subject to availability

and that a 50p booking fee will be charged per order. The offer closes on May 9.

Advanced tickets usually range in price from £10-£12 for adults and £7-8 for concessions, with on-the-day prices from £12 to £14 for adults and £7-9 for concessions.

◆ *Soldier* has five pairs of tickets for the Royal Windsor Horse Show on May 14 to give away. For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

In which year was the first Royal Windsor Horse Show held?

Send your answers on a postcard to Royal Windsor Show competition, *Soldier*, Ordinance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by April 30. Usual rules apply.



## SHORTS

## Centre court calling ...

BEAT the queue for tickets to see tennis's top names at Wimbledon this summer by becoming a military steward at the championships. Volunteers receive an allowance of about £66 a day. They have to take leave and wear uniform. Interested? Ring WO1 Jeff McGowan on (mil) 94229 5237, (civ) 01252 868637.

## Injury-time winner

THE Army Football Association is running courses on management and treatment of injuries at Clayton Barracks, Aldershot for Army personnel. Details are: Level two – May 26-29 (£100); Level three – July 28-31 (£150).

Applicants must have a current first- or emergency-aid qualification. Ring Steve Stone on Aldershot mil (94222) 2962.

## Marathon gesture

SEVEN members of 47 Air Despatch Squadron RLC plan to run the New York Marathon to raise £10,000 for Cancer and Leukemia in Children (CLIC) and to buy specialist equipment for Rosie Lockley, two-year-old daughter of Sgt Kevin Lockley (47 AD Sqn RLC). Rosie suffers from cerebral palsy, blindness and epilepsy. To sponsor them, send cheques payable to "47 AD Sqn Fund" to team leader SSgt Russell Wood, 47 AD Sqn, 13 Air Asslt Support Regt RLC, RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 4PZ.

## Barbados awaits AGC CC

HIGH point of the AGC Cricket Club's 2003 season is a Barbados tour at the end of the year, which should encourage a good turn-out for nets on April 23-24, trials on May 8-9, and a packed schedule of inter-corps games. Players, new and old, should contact WO1 Andy Moore on 94321 3462 or Maj David Barrington on 9621 89374.

## Closing date looming

WOMEN'S football teams wishing to enter this year's inter-corps championships at SEME Bordon on May 15 should contact Capt Mark Griffiths on mil 94387 8820 as soon as possible.

## Thorney Island Ten

WANT to run the Thorney Island ten-mile road race on July 13? Capt Charlie Atkins, RTO, 47 Regt RA, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island, Emsworth PO10 8DH (01243 388264) has the entry forms.

## Three Peaks Challenge

TENOVS, the cancer charity, wants teams to take part in the Three Peaks Challenge over Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis on June 21-22. Ring 029 2048 2000 or go to [www.tenovus.com](http://www.tenovus.com)

# Game on at Twickenham

THE Army-Royal Navy rugby match for the Babcock Trophy is definitely on at Twickenham on May 3, writes Roger Thompson.

On that day those whose business is warfare will close with the opposition as though their everlasting souls depend on the outcome. The 40,000 red and blue partisans will again raise the roof at Twickenham.

A few Service players have deployed to the Gulf. Despite the absences, both the Army and Navy are preparing intensely for a match that is finding its true position just behind the professional Zurich League.

"The Combined Services beat the Barbarians in November and both teams will have plenty of top players available for the crunch match of the year," said Lt Col Andy Hickling, the Army coach.

Those who follow the Army-Navy game will know that the battle is won

game plans and individual nerve."

The Navy are travelling to Ireland to prepare for the season's grand finale. Despite going down 18-13 in last year's encounter, they scored the game's only try, in which England international Marine Spencer Brown played a major part. Countering his elusive running will again be a major factor in the Army's game plan.

The Army is building up at training camps in Australia and New Zealand. Coach Andy Hickling is upbeat and focusing on the strengths of the players available. Around the newcomers, old hands Howard Graham and Mal Roberts will provide a firm base for the attacking flair of a lively Fijian contingent. The final match, against Blue Thunder Queensland, will be a crucial test of genesis.

It is down to team preparation,



Attack: Maj Howard Graham (AGC) carries the ball against the Navy in the 2002 match, won by the Army

Picture: Graeme Main

up front. Fortunately, the Army can call on Scotland's Mattie Stewart (PWRR) and England A prop Chris

When the whistle blows it will be game on – the winner takes all. Don't miss it.

Budgen (RWF) for the front row. Front-row play may be a black art for those who insist on watching the ball, but battle flags are hauled up and may be lowered at the very point where Red meets Blue.

The *Daily Telegraph* described the Army-Royal Navy match as "a glorious anachronism that gets bigger by the year". With so many corps and clubs holding their annual reunions at Twickenham, the Reds and Blues will not lack support.

## FOOTBALL TABLES

MASSEY TROPHY						
	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
RLC	10	9	1	0	23	28
Infantry	9	8	0	1	30	24
RA	7	5	0	2	15	15
REME	6	4	1	1	26	13
RE	6	4	1	1	22	13
AAC	8	4	1	3	1	13
APTC	8	1	3	5	-6	6
CA Mus	10	2	1	7	-37	7
R Signals	3	2	0	1	10	6
AMS	7	1	0	6	-22	3
RAC	9	1	0	8	-35	3
AGC	7	0	2	5	-16	2
Int Corps	4	0	1	3	-14	1

## FIXTURES

## Your sporting guide to month of April

ATHLETICS: 13 – London/Inter-Services marathon (London).

BOXING: 8-10 – Army individual and inter-unit team championships (Aldershot).

CRICKET: 30-May 2 – Army cricket festival (Dummer Indoor Cricket School).

FOOTBALL: 2 – Army minor-unit cup final (Aldershot); 9 – Netherlands v Combined Services (TBC); 10 – Royal Navy v Army women (Portsmouth); 16 – Army challenge cup final (Aldershot); 18-26 – TA tour of British Army (Germany); 18-22 – Army women Channel Island tour; 19 – Army youth v Army U21 (Aldershot); 26 – Army youth v Boys clubs of Wales (Aldershot); 28 – Army v Guernsey FA (Aldershot); 29 – Combined Services v Belgium (TBC).

GOLF: 1 – 2 Div (Scotland) spring meeting (Balbirnie Park GC); 2 – 4 Div (London district) spring meeting (Army GC, Aldershot); 3 – Army men v Army women (Tidworth GC); 12 – Triangular match, Army v Dorset GU v Royal Navy (Isle of Purbeck); 13 – Army v Berks, Bucks & Oxon GU (Tidworth GC); 23 – British Army Cyprus spring meeting (Secret Valley GC); 23-24 – 2 Div (north east) spring meeting (Tidworth GC); 24 – 4 Div (east) spring meeting (Greatham Valley GC); 28 – Army women's Stableford championship (Army GC, Aldershot); 30 – 4 Div (south east) spring meeting (TBC).

ORIENTEERING: 19 – RA championships (Catterick); 20 – Army championships (Catterick); 21 – Army relay championships (Catterick); 24 – Army night championships (Sidbury/Firth Hill); 25 – Army short course championships (Hawley).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 16 – Lawson Cup first round ties (various).

RUGBY UNION: 3 – 4 Div inter-unit Sevens competition (Aldershot); 7 – Northampton v Army (Away); 15 – Army v Wasps (Aldershot); 23 – Army v Royal Air Force (Aldershot).

SHINTY: 5 – Glasgow Mid Argyll v The Highlanders (Away); 19 – Glasgow University v The Highlanders (Away).

■ Got a date for the diary? E-mail the details to [fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

# Three out of four ain't bad

## Army's cross-country 'Wembley' is scene of triumph in the rain

THE Army won three of the four titles on offer at the Naafi-sponsored Inter-Services cross-country championships run over a rain-swept Tweseldown racecourse, writes Maj Steve Lonn.

Given current events, it was remarkable the meeting went ahead, and despite the absence of a few established names it turned out to be as competitive as ever.

Pte Michael Sanchez (17), Gibraltar Regiment, made light of the conditions to lead the Army to victory in the under-20 junior men's race. His team mates took five of the next six places. Sanchez, who was a superb 18th in the Army finals, has a bright future in the sport. Sig Laycock and Spr Kempster were second and third.

With three RAF and three Royal Navy veteran men (over-40) boasting 33-min 10km form, it was difficult to see how the Army could break the stranglehold of the other Services. Former national veterans'

10km champion and GB orienteer Maj John Rye RM (47) retained the title, although strong finishing by the RAF secured the title by 11 points from the Navy.

Former Welsh international WO2 Taff Thomas (R Sigs) was first in for the Army in 19th place.

In the women's race, Lt Jo Kelsey's second place in the English nationals six days before gave her an air of invincibility on the start line. The "Black and Reds" filled the first six places to confirm the resurgence of cross-country in the Army.

Celebrating her debut call-up for England in Milan, Kelsey won in 16min 51sec. Runner-up Capt Sara Rollins, better known as a GB orienteer, sneaked the silver medal ahead of GB triathlete Sgt Lisa Yates (APTC).

Inter-Services 1500m champion Cpl Sarah Patterson (AGC) finished fourth, with teenager Sig Becky Harvey and LCpl Briony Thwaite in the next two places to achieve maximum points for the women.

The eagerly-awaited senior race didn't disappoint. Withdrawals by two Army runners, including champion LCpl Phil Hinch, led to the drafting in of SSgt Colin

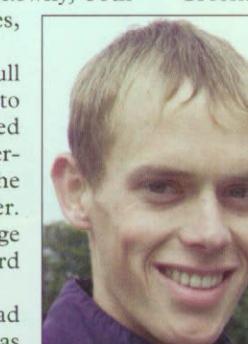
Palmer and OCdt Aiden Whitwam. At the 11th hour Cpl Kevin Sheppard (RLC) and Sig Haggi Chepkowny, both struggling with leg injuries, declared themselves fit.

With the RAF at almost full strength and delighted not to be returning to the rugged Deepcut course, 23 of the Services' finest set off into the worst of the day's weather. Apart from a brief challenge from Chepkowny, Sheppard was never under threat.

The Army's 11-point lead over the RAF at halfway was cut to five with three miles to go when Cpl Dave Branfoot (AGC) limped out with a calf strain.

The RAF ran out of their skins on the final lap, but Army team captain WO2 Craig McBurney overhauled six runners in the final two miles to claim the vital sixth scoring slot.

At the head of the field, Sheppard was chased home by Chepkowny, who had effectively run the last mile on one leg having re-opened a crippling injury.



Win: Cpl Kevin Sheppard

McBurney for 13th and 14th respectively and so achieved a victory for the Army by just five points.

Whitwam, a 30min 02sec 10km performer prior to Sandhurst training, finished ahead of RAF and RN non-scorers.

In spite of the weather, Tweseldown, the Wembley of Army running, drew plaudits from all three Services. Thanks go to Maj Jim Wood (APTC) for the course design.



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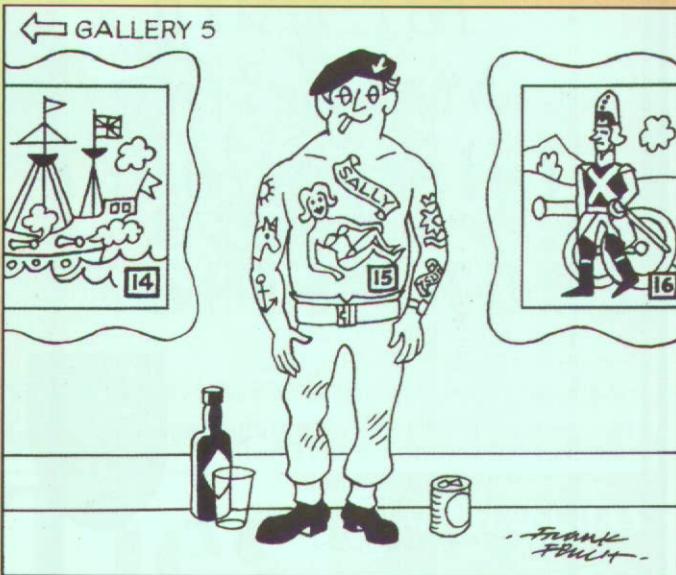
**TIES**

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No 737

# 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 737, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by April 30.

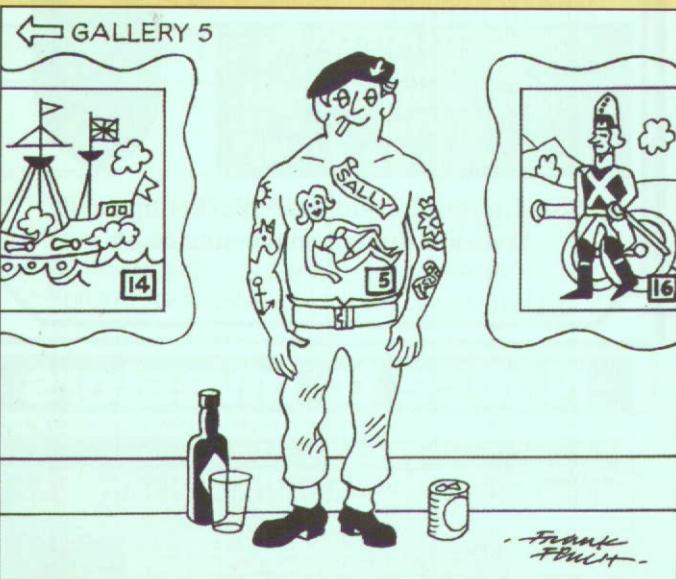
*A photocopy is acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.*

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn

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

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



Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

February issue (No 735): First correct entry drawn at random was from Pte William Suthon, of Telford, Salop, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr Albert Watts, of Marlborough, Wilts and Mr A G Croucher, of Winchester, Hants, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: assistant's hat; finger under plate; soldier's cuff, sleeve, belt and combat markings; chef's hat, hair, tunic bow and griddle.



## Freeze frame

“Capt Smythe decided to save time and hold a javelin practice at the same time as rifle drill” ►

Write a caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in August 1952. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply, entries to reach us by April 30.



OUR prize for the February competition, left, goes to Cpl A Muirhead of 1 LI LAD REME, for his offbeat suggestion: “In the absence of the real thing, Sgt Ken dispatches a Goddess to Barbie's apartment”.

We also liked “The sergeant didn't like the look of his new pacemaker” from SSgt G McLorie, Med Branch, HQ 5 Div; and “Just how long did you leave the CO's car in the car wash?” from Graham Drew, LSA Wing, Army School of



Ammunition; and “Sarge, I don't think the CO is going to be impressed with his new staff car” from Sgt E S Edwards, PAIT, Bicester.

Many others on a topical theme included: “Like Formula 1, driver training has gone back 20 years in the Army”, from Cpl Harrison REME, 7 Flight AAC;

and “Great little mover on the gym floor, but the MoD better modify it for sand” from B Gaze of Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Sjt R G Owen, RTMC Chilwell, and LCpl P McGee, 35 Engr Regt, both came up with variations on “With a bit of fine tuning we could have a chance in this year's Robot Wars”.

## REUNIONS

**Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry:** Reunion on Apr 5, Wigan TA Centre. Buffet, wine, tall stories. Contact D (DLOY) Sqn RMLY, Canal St, Wigan, Lancs WN6 7NQ or 01942 24882.

**Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Association:** Reunion, dinner and dance to be held in Hertford on Apr 19. Full details from John Baggaridge on 01234 294853 or [johnbaggaridge@yahoo.com](mailto:johnbaggaridge@yahoo.com)

**1, 4 and 7 Tank Regiments old comrades:** Reunion at Renaissance Hotel, Solihull, May 2-4. Contact Geoff Bourne on 01752 880527.

**Queen's Royal Regiment and associated regiments:** Reunion on May 3 at Farnham Drill Hall, Farnham, Surrey. Dinner 1800 for 1900 (jacket and tie). Details from Arthur Dunipace on 01483 829117.

**Air Formation Signal Regiments' Association:** Reunion for Army/RAF who served with AFSU or CAFSO, May 10, at Stoke-on-Trent. Membership details from Chris Collier on 01902 338662 or [cecollier@supanet.com](mailto:cecollier@supanet.com)

**Middlesex Regiment (DCO):** Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London on May 10. Members and families welcome. Details from Ron Morris on 020 8949 7605.

**Combined Cavalry OCA:** 79th annual parade, service, Hyde Park, May 11. Assemble on Broad Walk East from 1000, parade 1100.

**Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW Regimental Association:** Reunion, May 31-June 1, Devizes. Details from 01722 414536.

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association (WFRA):** Annual reunion at Worcester Rugby Club, Sixways, Worcester June 7. Details from RHQ Worcester 01905 354359 or [rhq\\_wfr@lineone.net](mailto:rhq_wfr@lineone.net)

## SEARCHLINE

**Sean Fielding** was the first editor of *Soldier*. Bob Blake would like to contact Sean's son John or any of the surviving family. Please write to 1, Manifold Drive, High Lane, Stockport SK6 8DE or [bobblake@talk21.com](mailto:bobblake@talk21.com)

**Ex-sapper Milne (or Milner)**, PoW in Korea 1951-2, and **Willie Madden**, in Barton Stacey in Jan 1953, sought by George Prosser, 21 Northleach Drive, Stanton Park, Hemlington, Middlesbrough TS8 9PP or 01642 288189 [george.prosser@ntlworld.com](mailto:george.prosser@ntlworld.com)

Can anyone help Pat Baines locate old friend **James Glendenning RA**, who was at Barnard Castle, Co Durham in 1953? Write to 10 Kilsyth Road, Queenieburn, Kilsyth G65 9EB or telephone 01236 826611.

**Sgt Paul Taylor**, who was at Lulworth in 1997, is asked to e-mail old friend Chris Veale at [medhatchick@hotmail.com](mailto:medhatchick@hotmail.com)

News of **William Robbins**, who was in Olen, Belgium in 1966-67 and later worked as a truck driver in UK, wanted by researcher Ann Matheve: [a.matheve@capiau-projects.com](mailto:a.matheve@capiau-projects.com)

**Queen's Royal Regiment and associated regiments:** Reunion meeting to be held June 14, 1500-1700 at Weymouth Pavilion. Wives and partners welcome to attend. Details from Harry H Stewart, 1 Evenlode Avenue, Cheltenham GL52 5NR or 01242 239121.

**Movement Control WOs' Dinner Club:** 40th reunion dinner to be held, Jul 4, at Daventry, Northants. Current and ex-MCWOS contact WO1 Nick Pidgley RLC 01264 285545 or e-mail [nick@pidgers.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:nick@pidgers.freeserve.co.uk)

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association (WFRA):** Annual pilgrimage to Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire, July 6. Gates close at 1430 for service starting at 1500. Details from RHQ Nottingham 0115 946 5415.

**43 Battery (Lloyd's Company) RA:** Waterloo reunion weekend July 18-20, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island. Contact WO2 (BSM) Dridge [sdrige@bsm43battery.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:sdrige@bsm43battery.fsworld.co.uk)

**10 (Assaye) Battery:** Reunion to mark 200th anniversary of Battle of Assaye, Aug 15-17. All former and serving members welcome. Visit [www.10battery.co.uk](http://www.10battery.co.uk), write to Assaye 22 Committee, 10 (Assaye) Battery, 47 Regiment RA, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island, Emsworth PO10 8DH, phone 01243 388233 or e-mail [assaye200@10battery.co.uk](mailto:assaye200@10battery.co.uk)

**King's School Chester:** Reunion dinner for past and present members on Aug 30 at the school. Ladies welcome. Details from 2nd Lt D Joseph, The King's School, Wrexham Road, Chester, by phoning 01244 689508 or e-mail [diane.joseph@chester.ac.uk](mailto:diane.joseph@chester.ac.uk)

**Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW Regimental Association:** Reunion with 1 RGBW at Hounslow on Sept 6-7. Numbers by May 1. Details from 01722 414536.

**AAS Chepstow (53 Group):** 50th anniversary reunion for ex-apprentices of Beachley Camp at the Beachley Old Boys Association, Chepstow Sept 19-20. Details from John Furley, (BOBA) 01291 630491, Malcolm Hay (53A), 01980 591132 or Alex Bench (53B), 01923 463723.

**336/19 Coy (Tank Transporters) RASC Ranby Camp 1952/65:** Reunion on Sep 20 at Melton Mowbray Royal British Legion Training Wing PS and REME welcome. Contact Frank Strange, 7 Kennedy Close, Brigg, Lincs DN20 8DG or 01652 654890/01664 566446.

**Glosters Band and Drums:** Reunion in Cheltenham on Oct 11. Contact Jeff Hinchcliffe, 3 Madeley Road, Havercroft, Wakefield, West Yorks WF4 2HU or telephone 01226 701375.

**Calling all ex-14 Field Wksp REME Berlin:** Annual reunion is to be held at 1800 on Nov 1 at the SSV Casino, Streitstrasse 86, Spandau, Berlin. Point of contact is Michael Goetzke at [MichaALT@aol.com](mailto:MichaALT@aol.com)

**RAMC United 2004:** Reunion open to all ex-members of the RAMC, spouses and partners welcome. Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool Feb 6-9 2004. SAE to Mick McCran, 132 Nightingale Crescent, Lincoln LN6 0JZ or e-mail [michael.mccran@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.mccran@ntlworld.com)

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier:** N J Caplin to be Dep Comd COS Joint Helicopter Command, Jan 28; T J Gregson to be Military Attaché Paris, Jan 29.

**Colonel:** J C Bowman to be Comd Army Legal Aid (NWE), Jan 20; H M Fletcher to be Ch J Ops SFOR, Jan 22; D C N Giles to be COS Provost Marshal Army, Jan 27; A P Barnard to be Asst Dir Ops Dir Gen Eqpt Sp (Land), Jan 27; J N Stythe to be Col Prosecutions (UK), Feb 3.

[bernicegiddens@hotmail.com](mailto:bernicegiddens@hotmail.com)

**Former King's Royal Rifle Corps (RGK/KRRC)** sought by the KRRC Association London and Essex Branch for regular events. Write to Bob Young, 16 Hunter Court, Wood Fairs, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8HA or 0207 738 3289.

**LCpl Richard (Woody) Wood, 31 Ord Coy Op Granby**, was a Gulf War penpal of Daryl Brammell, who would like to hear from Woody. Please call 07812 453921.

**Bernie Almond, CMH 1985-87**, is sought by WO1 Jeff McGowan via [sutzusir@aol.com](mailto:sutzusir@aol.com)

**Pete (Jock) Kinnell**, last known at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, possibly Tidworth, sought by old school buddy Cpl Dave Brown RLC, currently with 75 HQ Sqn MT, 4 GS Regiment RLC in Abingdon.

**Cpl John Whitehead**, ex-corporal RE, would like to hear from old mates in 21 Sqn RE at Willich and 50 Sqn (Construction) RE, Maidstone. [rojowhitehead@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rojowhitehead@blueyonder.co.uk)

Picture: Rob Pollard



FLANKED by a bearer party of six drawn from 7 Signal Regiment, the ARRC Support Battalion and the Rheindahlen Support Unit, the remains of a Second World War soldier are laid to rest in the Reichswald Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Germany, writes Alan Patterson.

Sixty years after the unnamed Serviceman was killed, the bearer party carried his Union Flag-draped coffin across the immaculate lawn of the cemetery to an empty plot among the graves of fellow combatants.

Beside it were 31 rounds of .303 ammunition, manufactured in 1944. The Ikarus people, who were represented at the burial, concluded that the soldier's body had been hidden by debris thrown up by the shell that killed him.

Although his name is not known, it is believed he was serving with either the 2 Devons or 3 Monmouthshires, two units heavily involved in the fighting at Teutoburger Wald against fanatical officer cadets and instructors from the Hitler Youth Cadet School at Hanover.

## Useful numbers

**Army Benevolent Fund** 020 7591 2000; [www.armybenfund.org](http://www.armybenfund.org)

**Army Families Advice Bureau** 01722 436569

**Army Welfare Service** 01722 433456

**Army Families Federation** 01980 615525; [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

**British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association** 020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org.uk](http://www.blesma.org.uk)

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**Family Escort Service** 020 7463 9249

**Gulf Veterans Association** 0191 230 1065 [www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk](http://www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office** 01722 436575

**Mutual Support** (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

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

**Regular Forces Employment Association** 0207 321 2011; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion's Legionline** 0845 772 725; [www.royallegion.org.uk](http://www.royallegion.org.uk)

**RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre** 01622 717202/718484; [www.rbl.co.uk](http://www.rbl.co.uk)

**ESHRA Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency** 020 7839 4466 [www.eshra.com](http://www.eshra.com) or [eshra@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:eshra@britishlegion.org.uk)

**St Dunstan's Home** for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021; [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk)

**SAMA 82** (South Atlantic Medal Association) for Falklands conflict veterans 01495 227577 e-mail: [densams@aol.com](mailto:densams@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](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service** 01722 436400

**Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions Agency)** 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); [www.veteransagency.mod.uk](http://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](http://www.wrvs.org.uk)

## ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORS

The author of a book on **HMS Fearless** is keen to hear from anyone, military or civilian, who embarked in her. Also anyone who was rescued or aided by the crew of **Fearless** or who may have been a member of a James Bond movie film crew on the ship. The author requires good and bad memories, views and impressions from all levels, corps and regiments. Documents, photos and charts will be returned and any that are published will be fully credited. Replies to Ewen Southby-Tailyour, Lower Preston Farm, Ermington, South Devon, PL21 9JT or [esouthby-tailyour@interramp.co.uk](mailto:esouthby-tailyour@interramp.co.uk)

Researcher into the German **Molch-class midget submarines** recovered and removed from the Gulf of Trieste in the spring of 1945 wants news of **Maj Bill Wright** and **Capt Carter**, both RASC and possibly members of the following **tank transporter companies** serving in Italy at the time: 228 Coy, 534 Coy and 537 Coy. Write to Col T E H Huggan OBE, British Embassy, BFPO 8 or telephone 0039 06 4220235/2249.

## SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

**Grand Military Gold Cup (Feb)** winners: S Russell, Abingdon Oxon and F Cluer, Epsom, Surrey. Answer: Five.

**Die Hard (Feb)** winners Cpl G Barnett, QRL, BFPO 36; A Paling, Amesbury, Wilts; R Donnelly, Bovington, Dorset; Sgt Joyce, Gaza Barracks, Catterick; G Darch, Keynsham, Bristol. Answer: Die Hard: Die Harder.

**Minority Report (Feb)** winners A Brown, BFPO 806; P Richards, BFPO 801; A Paling, Colerne. Answer: Nicole Kidman.

**Windtalkers (Feb)** winners D Jones, BFPO 15; W Russell, BFPO 35; J Blake, Leconfield, E Yorks; Cpl J Peden, South Cerney, Glos; D Harvey, Angus. Answer: Face Off.

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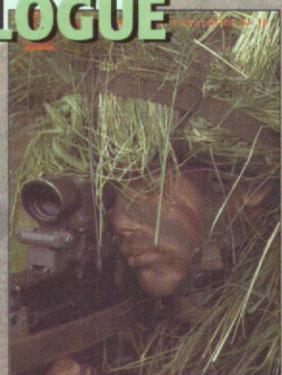
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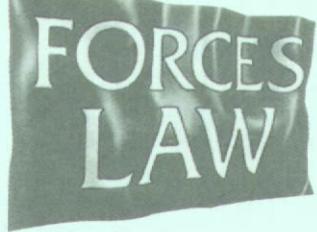


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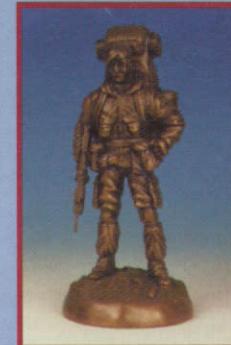
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**Lorna**, (38), 5'6", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys reading, writing, music, sports and swimming. Would love to meet new people and socialise. Seeking pen pal of any age group. P297

**Nikki**, (31), 5'1", slim with dark shoulder-length hair and green eyes. Single mum of two working as an auxiliary nurse. Enjoys reading, writing, evenings in, socialising and having fun. Seeking pen pals, 29-38. P298

**Zoe**, (30), 5'7", medium build with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys horse-riding, keep fit, music, films and socialising with friends. Seeking pen pals, 28-35. P300

**Lorraine**, (35), 5'2", with brown hair and eyes. Enjoys football, rugby, motor sports and likes animals. Caring and shy with her own home and no ties. Over 6ft with same interests. Apply with photo, 30+. P301

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**Jackie**, (34), 5'4", blonde with brown eyes. Enjoys surfing the Internet, reading and swimming. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P306

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22 February 2003

2-way tie for 1st Place (23 Goals, £4,650 each); SSgt D Gascoyne, Kings Troop RHA, London; WO1 CC Tutill, AH/SA (MECH1A), Bath

8-way tie for 3rd Place (22 Goals, £962.50 each); Sgt RH Bevan, 6 Bn REME, Tidworth; WO2 DV Gridley, OPTAG, Shorncliffe; Gds M P Hampton, 1 Coldm Gds, Londonderry; LCpl LW Irving, 3 PARA, Colchester; Pte MS Langton, 1 KORBR, Episkopi; Cpl MD Maney, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; Sgt GP Scott, 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, Hohne; Cpl AF Weatherburn, 2 RRF, Oakham

01 March 2003

1st Place (23 Goals, £6,200.00); Pte L Barnes, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon

9-way tie for 2nd Place (22 Goals, £1,200.00 each); Sgt SD Atkins, 62 Cyprus Sp Sqn RE, Dhekelia; Cpl SP Gater, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; Pte MJ Moore, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; WO2 AE Parsonage, PATA, Hereford; Lt RJ Plummer, ITC Catterick; WO2 GJ Ross, 17 Port & Mar Regt, Marchwood; LCpl JJ Shaw, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh; SSgt RA Urmston, DASAU, Shorncliffe; LCpl RM Wolfe, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne

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08/03

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British cloth formation signs, titles, trade badges, metal badges, titles, collars miscellaneous militaria. Send SAE for list, Morris Militaria, The Old Chapel, The Green, Crakehall, Bedale, North Yorks DL8 1HP or view www.mbattleddress.freeserve.co.uk

04/03

Commission on original cartoon. An ideal present for that special occasion. Web: www.cartoons-by-erik.co.uk or E-mail: erik@cherrypit.freeserve.co.uk

AGC mens mess dress, fit size 44/46" chest and 36" waist. Hardly worn, VGC, £250ono. Contact 01985-223379/846912.

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Orlando - three bed, two and a half bath, fully furnished, air conditioned villa with south facing 30-foot pool. Sleeps up to eight. Ten minutes from Disney. From £350-00 p.w. Phone 0191 2571773. Email valerie.davison1@btinternet.co

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FRANCE: relax and unwind in our country cottage with superb views. Situated on the Charente/Dordogne border, south of Angoleme. Well situated for exploring both regions. Aprox. 1hr 30 min. from Royan beaches. Fully fitted sleeps 4+. Contact les.dalton@wanadoo.fr or phone 0033545240763.

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04/03

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CYPRUS: Limassol Bungalow - Larnaca Flat. Sleeps four, near beach/town, from £150.00 per week. Tel: 02085056855 e-mail: dmc29peel@x-stream.co.uk

01/04

FLORIDA, Kissimmee, Orlando, three-bedroom, two bathroom, villa with own private heated pool. Sleeps up to eight, 15 mins Disney. From £325 per week. Call 01440-707176. Email: ladyape200@aol.com Web: www.floridavilla.com

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

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Florida, Disney, three/four/five bedroom, stunning pool homes on prestigious estates. ten minutes to Disney, discounted rates, car hire and attraction ticket available. Tel. 01634 352143, email: kimmart@blueyonder.co.uk

04/03

To advertise in Soldier's Web Watch  
telephone 01252 347352

### Charity Commission

Reference: EN/167654/CD(T)

ARMY AIR CORPS FUND - 1072126

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.

A copy can be seen for the next month at: Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Director Army Aviation, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 8DY

or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at: <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> Comments or representations can be made within one month.

To advertise in Soldier's Web Watch contact advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk telephone 01252 347352

## SPORTS

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Email: skydiveMik@aol.com [www.ffadventures.com](http://www.ffadventures.com)



## NOTICES

### Charity Commission

Reference: 283327/AF

COMMANDER 42 (NORTH WEST)  
BRIGADE TRUST FUND/COMMANDER 42 (NORTH WEST) BRIGADE RECREATION FUND/42 (NORTH WEST) BRIGADE SPORTS FUND

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities.

A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at: SPS Branch, HQ 42 (NW) Bde, Fulwood Barracks, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs PR2 8AA. or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at: <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> Comments or representations can be made within one month.

## SERVICES

INSURANCE FOR SOLDIERS - MOTOR AND HOUSE. Call: Roy Chandler on 0870 220 1971 or Fax 0870 220 1972 for personal service and quotations.

06/03

PEN PALS: Linkline is a British Registered Charity committed to bringing people together as pen friends. Get to know a companion or partner, like yourself, as penfriends. Just exchange letters until you feel comfortable with your new friend. DETAILS: SAE, LINKLINE(S), BOX 7358, LONDON N1 5QF

08/03

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Vintage military & sports watches wanted by collector. Rolex, Omega, IWC etc. Cash waiting, Tel. 01752 830420.

04/03

Research and development manager wanted. Innovative, progressive, resourceful projects manager. Contact by e-mail only with C.V. to ah@bcbn.com BCB International Ltd www.bcbn.com

04/03

## SHOP AT SOLMART





## REUNIONS

**Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry:** Reunion on Apr 5, Wigan TA Centre. Buffet, wine, tall stories. Contact D (DLOY) Sqn RMLY, Canal St, Wigan, Lancs WN6 7NQ or 01942 24882.

**Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Association:** Reunion, dinner and dance to be held in Hertford on Apr 19. Full details from John Baggaridge on 01234 294853 or [johnbaggaridge@yahoo.com](mailto:johnbaggaridge@yahoo.com)

**1, 4 and 7 Tank Regiments old comrades:** Reunion at Renaissance Hotel, Solihull, May 2-4. Contact Geoff Bourne on 01752 880527.

**Queen's Royal Regiment and associated regiments:** Reunion on May 3 at Farnham Drill Hall, Farnham, Surrey. Dinner 1800 for 1900 (jacket and tie). Details from Arthur Dunipace on 01483 829117.

**Air Formation Signal Regiments' Association:** Reunion for Army/RAF who served with AFSU or CAFSO, May 10, at Stoke-on-Trent. Membership details from Chris Collier on 01902 338662 or [cecollier@supanet.com](mailto:cecollier@supanet.com)

**Middlesex Regiment (DCO):** Annual reunion at Victory Services Club, London on May 10. Members and families welcome. Details from Ron Morris on 020 8949 7605.

**Combined Cavalry OCA:** 79th annual parade, service, Hyde Park, May 11. Assemble on Broad Walk East from 1000, parade 1100.

**Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW Regimental Association:** Reunion, May 31-June 1, Devizes. Details from 01722 414536.

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association (WFRA):** Annual reunion at Worcester Rugby Club, Sixways, Worcester June 7. Details from RHQ Worcester 01905 354359 or [rhq\\_wfr@lineone.net](mailto:rhq_wfr@lineone.net)

## SEARCHLINE

**Sean Fielding** was the first editor of *Soldier*. Bob Blake would like to contact Sean's son John or any of the surviving family. Please write to 1, Manifold Drive, High Lane, Stockport SK6 8DE or [bobblake@talk21.com](mailto:bobblake@talk21.com)

**Ex-sapper Milne (or Milner)**, PoW in Korea 1951-2, and **Willie Madden**, in Barton Stacey in Jan 1953, sought by George Prosser, 21 Northleach Drive, Stanton Park, Hemlington, Middlesbrough TS8 9PP or 01642 288189 [george.prosser@ntlworld.com](mailto:george.prosser@ntlworld.com)

Can anyone help Pat Baines locate old friend **James Glendenning RA**, who was at Barnard Castle, Co Durham in 1953? Write to 10 Kilsyth Road, Queenieburn, Kilsyth G65 9EB or telephone 01236 826611.

**Sgt Paul Taylor**, who was at Lulworth in 1997, is asked to e-mail old friend Chris Veale at [medhatchick@hotmail.com](mailto:medhatchick@hotmail.com)

News of **William Robbins**, who was in Olen, Belgium in 1966-67 and later worked as a truck driver in UK, wanted by researcher Ann Matheve: [a.matheve@capiau-projects.com](mailto:a.matheve@capiau-projects.com)

**Queen's Royal Regiment and associated regiments:** Reunion meeting to be held June 14, 1500-1700 at Weymouth Pavilion. Wives and partners welcome to attend. Details from Harry H Stewart, 1 Evenlode Avenue, Cheltenham GL52 5NR or 01242 239121.

**Movement Control WOs' Dinner Club:** 40th reunion dinner to be held, Jul 4, at Daventry, Northants. Current and ex-MCWOs contact WO1 Nick Pidgeley RLC 01264 285545 or e-mail [nick@pidgers.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:nick@pidgers.freeserve.co.uk)

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association (WFRA):** Annual pilgrimage to Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire, July 6. Gates close at 1430 for service starting at 1500. Details from RHQ Nottingham 0115 946 5415.

**43 Battery (Lloyd's Company) RA:** Waterloo reunion weekend July 18-20, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island. Contact WO2 (BSM) Dridge [sdrige@bsm43battery.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:sdrige@bsm43battery.fsworld.co.uk)

**10 (Assaye) Battery:** Reunion to mark 200th anniversary of Battle of Assaye, Aug 15-17. All former and serving members welcome. Visit [www.10battery.co.uk](http://www.10battery.co.uk), write to Assaye 22 Committee, 10 (Assaye) Battery, 47 Regiment RA, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island, Emsworth PO10 8DH, phone 01243 388233 or e-mail [michael.mccran@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.mccran@ntlworld.com)

**King's School Chester:** Reunion dinner for past and present members on Aug 30 at the school. Ladies welcome. Details from 2nd Lt D Joseph, The King's School, Wrexham Road, Chester, by phoning 01244 689508 or e-mail [diane.joseph@chester.ac.uk](mailto:diane.joseph@chester.ac.uk)

**Glosters, R Berks, Wilts, DERR, RGBW Regimental Association:** Reunion with 1 RGBW at Hounslow on Sept 6-7. Numbers by May 1. Details from 01722 414536.

**AAS Chepstow (53 Group):** 50th anniversary reunion for ex-apprentices of Beachley Camp at the Beachley Old Boys Association, Chepstow Sept 19-20. Details from John Furley, (BOBA) 01291 630491, Malcolm Hay (53A), 01980 591132 or Alex Bench (53B), 01923 463723.

**336/19 Coy (Tank Transporters) RASC Ranby Camp 1952/65:** Reunion on Sep 20 at Melton Mowbray Royal British Legion, Training Wing PS and REME welcome. Contact Frank Strange, 7 Kennedy Close, Brigg, Lincs DN20 8DG or 01652 654890/01664 566446.

**Glosters Band and Drums:** Reunion in Cheltenham on Oct 11. Contact Jeff Hinchcliffe, 3 Madeley Road, Havercroft, Wakefield, West Yorks WF4 2HU or telephone 01226 701375.

**Calling all ex-14 Field Wksp REME Berlin:** Annual reunion is to be held at 1800 on Nov 1 at the SSV Casino, Streitstrasse 86, Spandau, Berlin. Point of contact is Michael Goetzke at [MichaALT@aol.com](mailto:MichaALT@aol.com)

**RAMC United 2004:** Reunion open to all ex-members of the RAMC, spouses and partners welcome. Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool Feb 6-9 2004. SAE to Mick McCran, 132 Nightingale Crescent, Lincoln LN6 0JZ or e-mail [michael.mccran@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.mccran@ntlworld.com)

## APPOINTMENTS

**Brigadier:** N J Caplin to be Dep Comd COS Joint Helicopter Command, Jan 28; T J Gregson to be Military Attaché Paris, Jan 29.

**Colonel:** J C Bowman to be Comd Army Legal Aid (NWE), Jan 20; H M Fletcher to be Ch 3 Ops SFOR, Jan 22; D C N Giles to be COS Provost Marshal Army, Jan 27; A P Barnard to be Asst Dir Ops Dir Gen Eqpt Sp (Land), Jan 27; J N Stythe to be Col Prosecutions (UK), Feb 3.

[bernicegiddens@hotmail.com](mailto:bernicegiddens@hotmail.com)

Former King's Royal Rifle Corps (RGJ/KRRC) sought by the KRRC Association London and Essex Branch for regular events. Write to Bob Young, 16 Hunter Court, Wood Farris, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8HA or 0207 738 3289.

**LCpl Richard (Woody) Wood, 31 Ord Coy Op Granby**, was a Gulf War penpal of Daryl Brammell, who would like to hear from Woody. Please call 07812 453921.

**Bernie Almond, CMH 1985-87**, is sought by WO1 Jeff McGowan via [sutzusir@aol.com](mailto:sutzusir@aol.com)

**Pete (Jock) Kinnell**, last known at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, possibly Tidworth, sought by old school buddy Cpl Dave Brown RLC, currently with 75 HQ Sqn MT, 4 GS Regiment RLC in Abingdon.

**Cpl John Whitehead**, ex-corporal RE, would like to hear from old mates in 21 Sqn RE at Willich and 50 Sqn (Construction) RE, Maidstone. [rojowhitehead@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rojowhitehead@blueyonder.co.uk)

Picture: Rob Pollard



**ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORS**  
The author of a book on **HMS Fearless** is keen to hear from anyone, military or civilian, who embarked in her. Also anyone who was rescued or aided by the crew of **Fearless** or who may have been a member of a James Bond movie film crew on the ship. The author requires good and bad memories, views and impressions from all levels, corps and regiments. Documents, photos and charts will be returned and any that are published will be fully credited. Replies to Ewen Southby-Tailyour, Lower Preston Farm, Ermington, South Devon, PL21 9JT or [esouthby-tallyour@interramp.co.uk](mailto:esouthby-tallyour@interramp.co.uk)

Researcher into the **German Molch-class midget submarines** recovered and removed from the Gulf of Trieste in the spring of 1945 wants news of **Maj Bill Wright** and **Capt Carter**, both RASC and possibly members of the following **tank transporter companies** serving in Italy at the time: **228 Coy**, **534 Coy** and **537 Coy**. Write to Col T E H Huggan OBE, British Embassy, BFPO 8 or telephone 0039 06 42202235/2249.

## SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

**Grand Military Gold Cup (Feb)** winners: S Russell, Abingdon Oxon and F Cluer, Epsom, Surrey. Answer: Five.

**Die Hard (Feb)** winners Cpl G Barnett, QRL, BFPO 36; A Paling, Amesbury, Wilts; R Donnelly, Bovington, Dorset; Sgt Joyce, Gaza Barracks, Catterick; G Darch, Keynsham, Bristol. Answer: Die Hard: Die Harder.

**Minority Report (Feb)** winners A Brown, BFPO 806; P Richards, BFPO 801; A Paling, Colerne. Answer: Nicole Kidman.

**Windtalkers (Feb)** winners D Jones, BFPO 15; W Russell, BFPO 35; J Blake, Leconfield, E Yorks; Cpl J Peden, South Cerney, Glos; D Harvey, Angus. Answer: Face Off.

## Useful numbers

**Army Benevolent Fund** 020 7591 2000; [www.armybenfund.org](http://www.armybenfund.org)

**Army Families Advice Bureau** 01722 436569

**Army Welfare Service** 01722 433456

**Army Families Federation** 01980 615525; [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

**British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association** 020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org.uk](http://www.blesma.org.uk)

**Confidential support lines:**

**UK** 0800 731 4880

**Germany** 0800 1827 395

**Cyprus** 080 91065

**Bosnia** 0800 731 4880

**Others** UK 0800 630854

**Operations worldwide** Paradigm Homelink Access Number \*2999@thePINprompt

**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress)** 01372 841600; [www.combatstress.com](http://www.combatstress.com)

**Consumer Credit Counselling Service** Free

**Confidential Helpline** 0800 1381111 0800-2000 hours Mon-Fri

**Family Escort Service** 020 7463 9249

**Gulf Veterans Association** 0191 230 1065 [www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk](http://www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office** 01722 436575

**Mutual Support** (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

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

**Regular Forces Employment Association** 0207 321 2011; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)

**Royal British Legion's Legionline** 0845 7725 725; [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

**RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre** 01622 717202/718484; [www.rbl.co.uk](http://www.rbl.co.uk)

**ESHRA** Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency 020 7839 4466 [www.eshra.com](http://www.eshra.com) or [eshra@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:eshra@britishlegion.org.uk)

**St Dunstan's Home** for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021; [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk)

**SAMA 82** (South Atlantic Medal Association) for Falklands conflict veterans 01495 227577 e-mail: [densama@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service** 01722 436400

**Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions Agency)** 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); [www.veteransagency.mod.uk](http://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](http://www.wrvs.org.uk)



## DATES

## APRIL

13: Waterloo Band and Bugles of Royal Green Jackets in concert with London Ambulance Pipes and Drums for ABF. Chequer Mead Theatre, East Grinstead, 1500. Tickets 01342 302000.

## MAY

12: Lecture on "Rome, rivers and bridges: the war in Italy 1943" by Prof Richard Holmes in aid of Friends of War Memorials charity. RMA Sandhurst, 1900. Tickets £12 (£6 for RMA cadets) from Deidre Nicol on 01256 862044 or deidrenicol@hotmail.com

14-18: 60th Royal Windsor Horse Show to include a celebration of the horse's role in Second World War. Ticket office 0870 121 5370, (www.royal-windsor-horse-show.co.uk)

## JULY

18-20: International air tattoo, RAF Fairford (www.airtattoo.com)

## AUGUST

1-23: Edinburgh Tattoo (tattoo office 0130 225 4783).

\* A double whammy for ARMY magazine, which is aimed at 13- to 16-year-olds. It was judged magazine of the year in the Association of Publishing Agencies' (APA) Customer Magazine Awards for 2002.

Produced by Haymarket Customer Publishing for the Army Recruiting Group, Army was also judged customer magazine of the year in the 2002 Periodical Publishers Association (PPA) awards.

"As a recruitment tool Army is as original as it is effective," said the APA judges. "It has served its client well and opens up a whole new sector of customer publishing – for which it is the deserved and outright winner."

\* Army recruiters in Bath have received a certificate of appreciation from Burton on Trent branch of the Royal British Legion. Sgt Maj Steve Lane and Sgt Mark Coliacott lent them their recruiting van when branch officers were unable to find a suitable base for their Poppy Appeal collectors last November. Thanks to the high profile of the van in the town centre, £9,500 was collected – £1,500 up on 2001.

\* In recognition of his 28 years of service to the Army Cadet Force, Maj Mark Knight has received a certificate of good service from Lt Gen John Kiszely, Inspector General Territorial Army. Mark is commander of No 1 Company, Cambridgeshire ACF, which has nine detachments covering Wisbech to Peterborough.

WO2 Keith Williams, lately an estate manager at Fallingbostel Station and now posted to Episkopi in Cyprus, has received a GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division commendation for exceptional and valuable service to charity while with the division.

**TRENCH art** – that's arty stuff made from the detritus of war – is to be the focus of this year's summer exhibition at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ. It will run from June 30 to September 19 and feature pieces such as battlefield souvenirs kept on mantelpieces, engraved shellcases and letter-openers made from shrapnel. The exhibition includes items dating from the 16th century.

## Conduct becoming

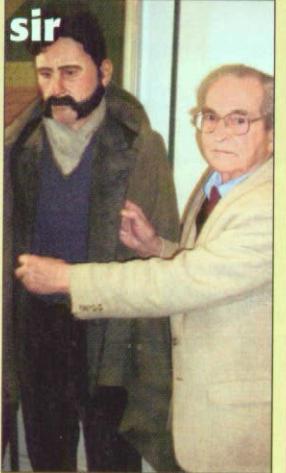
A CLASP to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is seldom awarded, not least because it denotes 30 years of irreproachable conduct. Which is what made the presentation of a clasp to **Lt Col Richard Horner RA**, right, rather special.

To qualify, an officer or soldier must complete a further 15 years' service after receiving the initial LS and GC Medal, of which seven years must have been spent in the ranks.

Richard, who is the Army representative at HQ Naafi, was presented with his clasp by **Brig Stephen Andrews**, Director of Personal Services (Army) at Upavon.



## Suits you, sir



EX-signaller Jim Bourn, right, who escaped from a PoW camp near Bologna in Italy during the Second World War, inspects a suit made in the camp and worn by a friend during his seven-month escape. Jim, now 85, helped organise a PoW exhibition at the Green Howards Museum in Richmond, Yorkshire.

## Shenkin adds pile to carpet

CONTROVERSY at the Welsh Assembly when Shenkin, the goat mascot of The Royal Regiment of Wales, was kicked out of a drinks reception. According to Peterborough in the *Daily Telegraph*, catering staff said he was unhygienic.

An assembly spokesman said: "We were not told in advance that Shenkin was on the guest list and he made a mess on the carpet."

APPRENTICES and staff of ABRO Donnington are helping veterans of the Home Service Force to create a commemorative grove at the National Memorial Arboretum at Arlewas. They have manufactured a 2ft-high insignia out of solid brass. Mounted on slate, it will form the centrepiece in a grove of trees dedicated to all Home Service units.

## Return of Baldrick



BALDRICK, aka actor and TV presenter **Tony Robinson**, put in an appearance for a 101 Logistic Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron (261) team photograph in Aldershot. As part of 101 Logistic Brigade, the squadron is proud to wear the Blackadder patch as its unit insignia.

The patch was inspired during the 1990 Gulf War by the then commander's daughter, who hoped her father, Brig Martin White, had a "cunning plan". Baldrick's catchphrase from the *Blackadder* series caught on and the title was adopted as the formation insignia.

Tony, who is pictured in his famous Baldrick rig with squadron OC Maj Matt Fenson, was presented with a pacesick by WO1 (RSM) Kevin Smith.

## Sam and Anna bow out from Ballykelly Sandes Centre after very long fortnight

SAM, left, and Anna Irons, far right, were presented with a Ballykelly Station plaque to mark their retirement – finally – as managers of the Sandes Centre in

Shackleton Barracks. The couple came out of retirement last May to keep the centre going for two weeks, and ended up doing it for seven months. They worked tirelessly to keep the centre

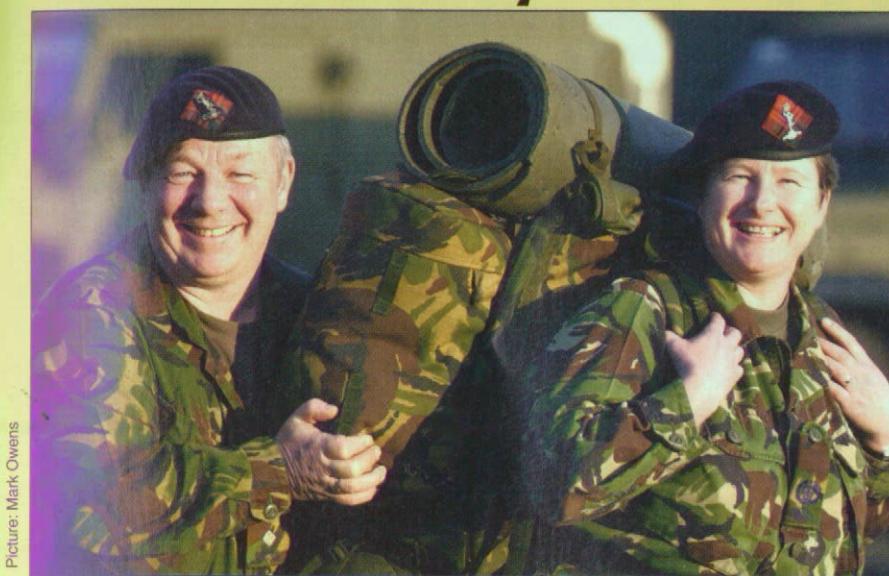
open for soldiers of 1 Green Howards and other 8 Infantry Brigade troops based at Ballykelly.

The "home-from-home" offers a warm welcome, good food, games room, TV

lounge and a listening ear to young soldiers and airmen serving in Northern Ireland.

New managers **Jean and Chris Ford** have taken over.

## That's kind of you, dear . . .



Picture: Mark Owens

Helping the other half: **Capt Jeff Jophcote**, left, gives wife **Helen**, a WO2 (Yeoman of Signals), a hand with her bergen during the exercise phase of a nine-day Signal Brigade trade training camp at Cultrubraggan in Perthshire.

Jeff and Helen are serving with 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers). Nearly 60 personnel, including radio operators, systems engineer technicians and field electricians passed out with enhanced trade qualifications.



## This is my life

Kate Adie enthralled an evening audience of 500 in Edinburgh with a one-off talk on her career as a war correspondent. Kate, left, who was helping to raise funds for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, is pictured with **Rfn Jadbdhadur Pun**, who is attached to the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders and who helped promote the event.

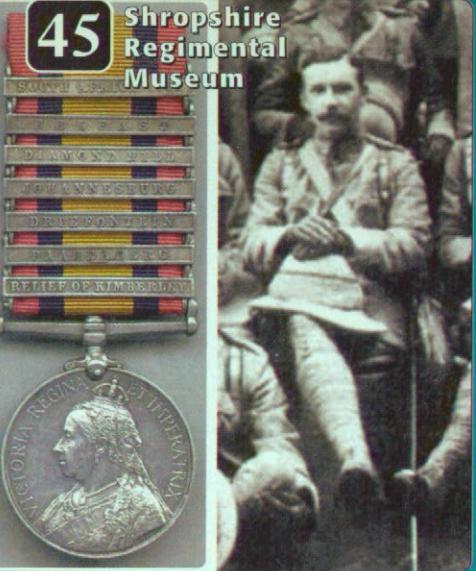
Event coordinator Neil Griffiths said: "Kate has visited Nepal and told us how one Gurkha saved her life in Kosovo."

## Calling all Cormorants

THE Joint Services Command and Staff College boasts a thriving alumni association known as the **Cormorant Club**. Founded by the first members of JSSC in 1947 to maintain contact between officers who had passed through the college, it embraced the National Defence College, the **Joint Services Defence College** and now the **Joint Services Command and Staff College** formed in 1997.

Members – there are more than 3,300 worldwide – are sent an annual magazine, *The Cormorant*, and there is an annual reunion dinner at JSSC. Keeping the membership database up to date is a bit of a challenge for the secretary, **Wg Cdr Dave Best**, so if you are a member but haven't heard from him during the past 12 months, update your details on 01793 788110 or e-mail him at [cormorantclubsecretary@jsscsc.org](mailto:cormorantclubsecretary@jsscsc.org)

## Legends of the regiments and corps



Super seven: Capt J J White and his multi-clasped campaign medal, left

## Mounted infantry's busy war

A RARE medal, regimentally-speaking, has been acquired at auction by the Shropshire Regimental Museum. It features seven clasps.

The Queen's South Africa Medal was awarded to Capt J J White of the 2nd Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He commanded the 85th Mounted Infantry Company of the 4th Mounted Infantry Regiment, which had a rather different experience of the Boer War to its parent battalion.

White's clasps are for the Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Belfast and South Africa 1901, indicating his presence at a number of key battles.

## MAXIMUM NUMBER

Seven was the maximum number of clasps the KSLI could have earned, and Capt White's is the only seven-clasp officer's medal in the possession of the museum at Shrewsbury Castle.

He led the 120-strong mounted company from its raising in January until he was invalided home in September 1900, although he did return to South Africa in 1901. White was mentioned in dispatches by Lord Roberts in that year, but what became of him after the war is not known.

The Shropshire Regimental Museum in The Castle, Shrewsbury, is open 1000-1700 daily, reduced hours in winter, closed all January. Admission £2 adults, £1 seniors, children free, parties by appointment. Tel 01743 262292, e-mail [shropsrm@zoom.co.uk](mailto:shropsrm@zoom.co.uk)

[www.armymuseums.org.uk](http://www.armymuseums.org.uk)

# Switched on . . .



## SOUND INVESTMENT ▲

STYLISH and immensely powerful, the SoundStation 2 is compatible with all games consoles and PC formats, and brings a whole new dimension to the gaming experience. The acoustically engineered system boasts a sub-woofer and twin satellite speakers.

① £49.99, from [www.logic3.com](http://www.logic3.com) (0208 9022211).



## HIGH VOLTAGE ▼

THE InflightPower DC to AC inverter can be connected to airline seat power sockets and car cigarette lighters, enabling users to power laptops, mobile phones and personal CD and DVD players while on the move.

To ensure safe use, the unit has a number of built-in safety features such as a vehicle low battery cut-out and spike/surge protection from power surges.

Endorsed by British Airways, the InflightPower weighs less than 1lb and provides 75 watts of continuous power.

① £89.99, from [www.teleadapt.com](http://www.teleadapt.com)



## TIME FOR A DIP ▲

MADE from lightweight composite carbon fibre, the Suunto Mosquito watersports watch weighs less than 50g and boasts a depth gauge and timer for free divers, a full function air and nitrox computer, and PC interface. Safety features include an ascent rate indicator which warns the wearer if they are ascending faster than ten metres per minute and an audible alarm to warn of excessive depth or dive time.

① £269, from [www.suunto.com](http://www.suunto.com) (01420 587272).

# Game on . . .

## PRAETORIANS, PC

GAMERS must battle their way through the deserts of Egypt and the frozen lands of the Gauls to the heart of the Empire itself, Rome, in this epic combat strategy game from Pyros Studios, based on the military campaigns of Julius Caesar.

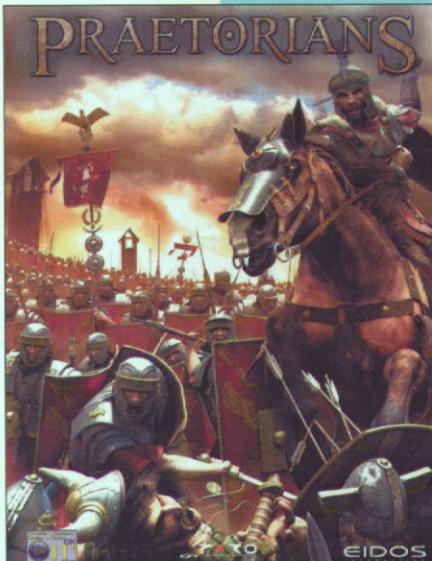
The road to Rome is divided into 24 missions and is far from easy, as the lands that need to be conquered en route are heavily defended by thousands of troops, all with their own special skills, tactics and war machines.

Victory will depend solely on the strategy adopted by the player – how well they deploy the troop formations under their command, combine units and ruthlessly exploit their enemy's weaknesses.

In *Praetorians* gamers can choose to command not only the Romans, but also the ferocious Barbarians and the Egyptians. Each of the three civilisations has its own distinct fighting styles and abilities.

The Romans deploy disciplined formations and well-drilled troops while the Barbarians rely on raw strength and adaptability to different terrains, and the Egyptians employ a combination of religious fanaticism and science to complement their military units.

**VERDICT:** I came, I saw, I conquered. Can you? A welcome blast from the past.



## OUT NOW

## WIN . . . WIN . . . WIN . . .

COURTESY of Eidos Interactive and [www.bensonsworld.co.uk](http://www.bensonsworld.co.uk), *Soldier* has three prize bundles containing a copy of *Praetorians* for the PC and *Ben Hur* on DVD, up for grabs. For your chance to win, simply tell us which actor plays the title role in the 1959 version of *Ben Hur*.

Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by April 30. Usual rules apply.

## BYTE-SIZE NEWS

FAST-food giants McDonalds have added videogames to the menu in the USA by introducing GameCube consoles to 14 of their restaurants. The machines are free to play, with a limit on the amount of time each customer can spend on them.

NINTENDO are lobbying for trade sanctions to help bring organised large-scale piracy under control after more than a quarter of a million pirated Game Boy Advance software units were seized in China.

The company's efforts are particularly aimed at curbing counterfeit operations in China, Paraguay and Mexico, which cost Nintendo \$650 million in lost sales last year.

POPULAR UK cable, satellite and digital channel Bravo is to increase its gaming coverage with the purchase of Gamer.tv's *Endzone*, which covers the crossover between sports celebrities and videogames.

Described as a "unique and historic portrait of the worldwide interactive entertainment industry", the show's guests include David Beckham, Tiger Woods, Tony Hawk, Tim Henman and Anna Kournikova.

## COMMAND & CONQUER GENERALS, PC

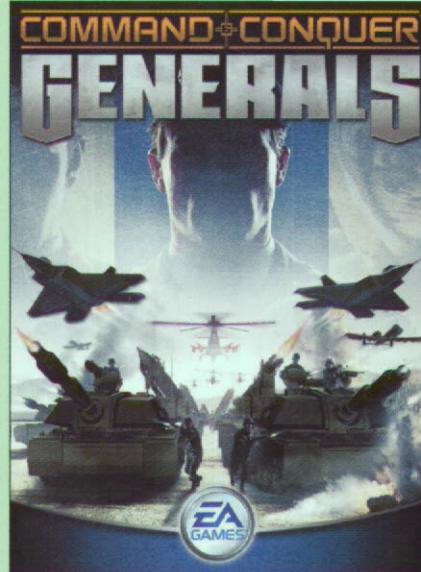
THIS latest addition to the hugely successful *Command & Conquer 3D* real-time strategy series puts players' trigger fingers on the pulse of modern warfare.

Assuming the role of one of the game's nine featured Generals, players must control massive armies equipped with cutting-edge and near-future military weaponry across a globe teetering on the brink of Armageddon.

In *Command & Conquer Generals* you can choose to command one of three unique armies inspired by real-world ideologies; the high-tech US force, the swarming Chinese war machine, or the resourceful Global Liberation Army.

Each force has a high-tech arsenal which can be customised with a host of new units and tactics on offer to the gamer. Generals can opt to assemble their war machine with top-secret Aurora strike fighters, massive Paladin battle tanks, angry mobs, skilled hackers and more than 60 other distinctive units.

The game also allows you to wage war in more ways than ever before, with thrilling air-to-air duels, urban



OUT NOW

combat, and an enhanced veterancy model.

True to its predecessors, *Command & Conquer Generals*' 27-mission single-player campaign is complemented with a host of multi-player options that will ensure this latest offering from Electronic Arts keeps your PC busy for some time.

**VERDICT:** Well worth engaging.

## WIN...WIN...WIN

**SOLDIER** has teamed up with Electronic Arts to offer you the chance to put your command skills to the test.

For your chance to win one of ten copies of *Command & Conquer Generals* for the PC, simply answer the following question:



By which name did Gen Arthur Wellesley become better known?

- a) The Duke of Washington
- b) The Duke of Wellington
- c) The Duke of Warrington

Send your answers on a postcard to *Command & Conquer Generals* competition, **Soldier**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by April 30. Usual rules apply.

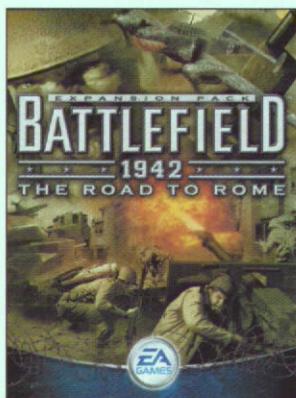
## THE ROAD TO ROME, PC

THIS multi-player expansion pack for Electronic Art's *Battlefield 1942* focuses exclusively on the largely under-publicised Italian and Sicilian campaigns of the Second World War.

Players can choose to fight on six new maps and experience Operation Husky and the battles for Anzio and Monte Cassino.

*The Road to Rome* also features eight more vehicles than the original, including the German BF-110 and British Mosquito twin-engine fighter-bombers, and an Italian torpedo boat.

OUT NOW



**VERDICT:** A stunning sequel. **8/10**

## CONFlict: DESERT STORM, ALL

TAKE control of four British SAS or United States Delta Force soldiers as they infiltrate enemy territory, neutralise key targets and gather intelligence in this third-person squad based action game.

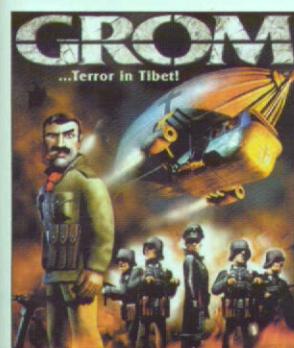
Each member of the squad excels in their own area of expertise and the longer they stay alive the more experienced they become – a game system that encourages players to keep their veteran soldiers alive.

As the war unfolds, new weapons and equipment become available, including the use of heavy artillery and the ability to call in airstrikes.



**VERDICT:** Good practice... **8/10**

## GROM: TERROR IN TIBET, PC

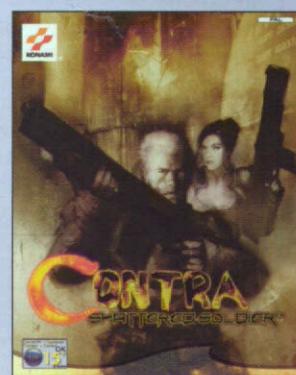


**VERDICT:** An Indiana Jones/James Bond-esque adventure. **7/10**

OUT NOW

COMBINING an in depth storyline with tactical real-time combat, this action/RPG title offers players an inviting mix of adventure, humour and mystery.

Set in Tibet during the Second World War, gamers assume the role of Grom – a colonel in the British Army who has an old score to settle with the Nazis. The game's cinematic plot follows Grom's efforts to thwart the Germans from discovering the Lost City, which is believed to be the location of 12 mysterious weapons.



**VERDICT:** A real blast. **7/10**

## CONTRA: SHATTERED SOLDIER, PS2

KONAMI'S latest release offers a mix of 2D and 3D shoot-em-up action, as one or two players take on hordes of monsters, bio-mechanical creatures and robotic adversaries.

Armed with a succession of increasingly powerful weapons, including multiple direction rifles and flame-throwers, players must run, jump and blast their way through a series of alien-infested stages before tackling huge end-of-level adversaries. The game also features snowboarding and motorcycle-based stages and some spectacular pyrotechnics.

### Story of mercenaries from out of Africa

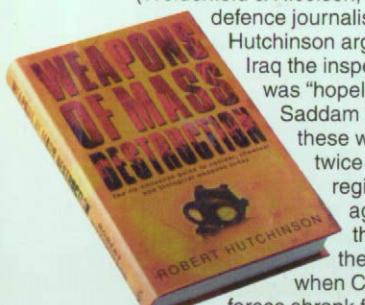
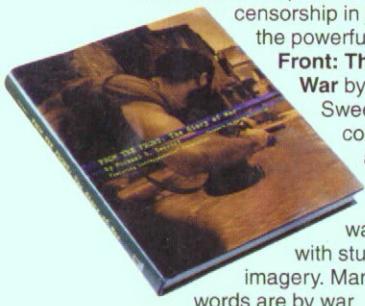
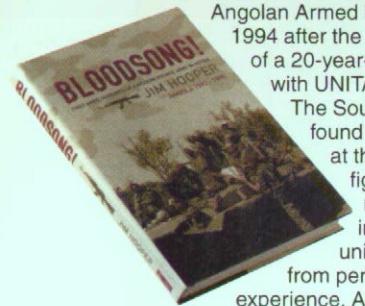
EXECUTIVE Outcomes (EO) was a private military advisory company formed in South Africa to train the Angolan Armed Forces in 1994 after the resumption of a 20-year-long conflict with UNITA guerrillas. The South Africans found themselves at the sharp end, fighting as mercenaries in formed units. Writing from personal experience, American journalist Jim Hooper tells the story in **Bloodsong! First Hand Accounts of a Private Army in Action** (Collins, £19.99). His revealing book helps to dispel the idea that the modern mercenary is a "social misfit".

### Powerful study of the journalism of war

AS you would expect when publisher National Geographic teams up with an author who specialises in war censorship in journalism, the powerful **From the Front: The Story of War** by Michael S Sweeney (£30) complements an intriguing text on the history of war reporting with stunning visual imagery. Many of the words are by war correspondents from the Crimea to the present, including Ernest Hemingway and Ed Murrow. The illustrations are by some of the all-time greats such as Robert Capa.

### Why Iraq hung on to its chemical weapons

THE very title makes you sit up. In **Weapons of Mass Destruction** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99), defence journalist Robert Hutchinson argues that in Iraq the inspectors' task was "hopeless" because Saddam believed these warheads had twice saved his regime, first against Iran in the 1980s and then in 1991, when Coalition forces shrank from pushing through to Baghdad for fear he might use chemical weapons against them. Hutchinson says Iraq has the know-how to build a nuclear weapon and warns that any new ruler of the country "may be unencumbered by UN sanctions and would find it easier to go down this path".



# Britain's greatest

We talk to Sir Winston Churchill's granddaughter about her latest book on the wartime leader

Interview: Ray Routledge  
Picture: Steve Dock

BOOKS about Sir Winston Churchill – recently voted the greatest Briton – are not uncommon.

But the latest has the distinction of being written by someone who knew the Second World War leader better than most – his granddaughter, Celia Sandys.

An acknowledged authority on the life of Churchill, Celia is the daughter of Diana, Sir Winston's eldest daughter, and Lord Duncan-Sandys, a former cabinet minister and member of his father-in-law's wartime government.

Celia spent a great deal of time with her grandfather, who died in 1965 when she was 21.

Her book *Churchill*, which accompanies a three-part TV documentary series about his life, is clear, intimate, and easy to read without being condescending.

"It is an easy guide to Churchill and a good basic reference book," she ventured during an interview with *Soldier* at her home in Wiltshire.

Containing more than 100 illustrations, it includes rarely seen portraits, as well as letters and documents from the family archives and Celia's personal recollections. Of the funeral, she said: "That was an extraordinary occasion, an emotional, almost surreal experience.

"It wasn't a tragedy. He was over 90 and his life had been ebbing away for some years. He was ready to go."

It is her personal experiences of Churchill the man that give the book and TV series special significance.

"As a child, my brother, sister and I spent a lot of our school holidays with our grandparents, first at Chequers then at Chartwell," she said. "At 16 I went on my first holiday with my grandfather which was on the Onassis yacht. This was very exciting and glamorous.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to spend an extended period of time with my grandfather in a very different environment."

She also spent several holidays with Churchill in the south of France.

"We all adored him and although I was a

child I saw how other people wanted to hear what he had to say. There was an aura about him and he had an enormous charm.

"I know that when he was younger he was a difficult man but when I knew him this was not the case."

Patriotism was a strong characteristic. "He was very proud of his country and although he was a Victorian, he had the ability to look ahead, see what was coming and act on it."

She spoke about one of the great disappointments of his life – losing the 1945 general election. "I think he lost because everyone had a family member in the Forces and the Labour Party said it would bring them home. Equally, the Conservatives had not been popular before the war.

"Nevertheless he felt that he had not been treated well and that he had done a good job."

"It was great shock to him to lose to Attlee, although my grandmother said this may be a blessing in disguise. He replied that if it was, the disguise was very effective. In retrospect it was clear that he was a very tired man and needed to take a rest."

Celia Sandys said many people felt too intimidated to pick up a book by or about Churchill.

"In fact he wrote in a style that is easy to read," she said. "I hope that those who already know about him will enjoy my book and that it will appeal to others who have never read a book about him, including school pupils. It has a lot of pictures and information and tells the story in a succinct manner."

Celia Sandys, who is married to retired Maj Gen Ken Perkins, has written other books about her grandfather – *From Winston with Love and Kisses* (1994), an examination of his youth, and *Churchill: Wanted Dead or Alive* (2000) describing his adventures during the Boer War.

Another, *Chasing Churchill*, detailing his travels, is also set for publication this April and a fourth, *We Shall Not Fail*, is planned for the American market in June.

The first episode of the ITV series goes out in the UK on April 3 at 9pm.

● *Churchill* by Celia Sandys is published by Contender Books on April 10, priced £20.



"We all adored him": Celia Sandys with a bust of her grandfather, who "had enormous charm"

### IN BRIEF

**Jones VC: the Life and Death of an Unusual Hero** by John Wilsey. One of last year's major military biographies, out this month in paperback. (Arrow, £6.99.)

**Cassell's World History of Warfare** by Holger Herwig, Christon Archer, Timothy Travers and John Ferris. Readable 600-page introduction to conflict around the globe, from Stonehenge to the 1991 Gulf War. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25.)

**Shine Like a Glow-Worm** by A W Taylor. Includes evocative section on a soldier's life with the Devons in the Second World War. (From Serendipity, Suite 530, 37 Store Street, Bloomsbury WC1E 7QF, £9.95 plus £1.50 p&p.)

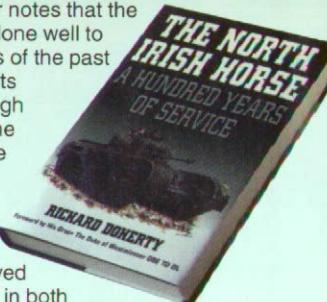
### Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

### Distinction in battle helps ensure survival

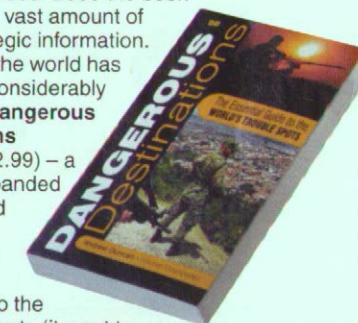
IN his foreword to *The North Irish Horse: A Hundred Years of Service* (Spellmount, £20) the Duke of Westminster notes that the regiment has done well to escape TA cuts of the past 50 years and "its reputation in high places has done much to ensure that survival".

Since its formation in 1902 the Horse has served with distinction in both world wars and, as an armoured car regiment, now serves as a squadron of the Queen's Own Yeomanry and a squadron of Royal Signals. Richard Doherty maintains his usual high standard of narrative, backed by thorough research.



### Aid to understanding a dangerous world

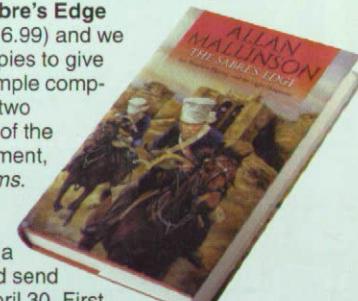
WHEN Col Andrew Duncan and Michel Opatowski published *Trouble Spots* in October 2000 the book contained a vast amount of global strategic information. Since then the world has moved on considerably and while *Dangerous Destinations* (Sutton, £12.99) – a revised, expanded and updated paperback version – is similarly vulnerable to the speed of events (it went to press before the current Iraq situation began to develop in earnest) it will nonetheless prove an invaluable desktop companion in understanding an increasingly volatile world.



### Win the latest Matthew Hervey adventure

BRIG Allan Mallinson's popular series of Matthew Hervey historical military novels reaches number five with *The Sabre's Edge* (Bantam, £16.99) and we have two copies to give away in a simple competition, plus two paperbacks of the fourth instalment, *A Call to Arms*.

Name  
Hervey's  
regiment on a  
postcard and send  
it to us by April 30. First  
and second correct entries  
drawn at random will win a copy of  
the latest book; senders of the third  
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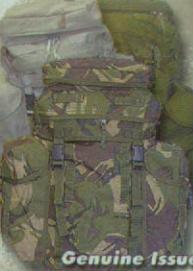
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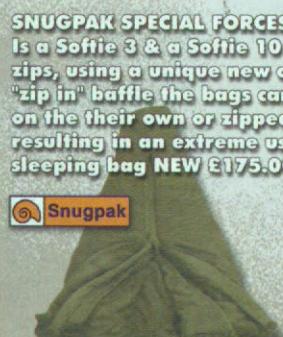
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### SOLDIER to soldier

## Praying for rough men

AS this column is written our troops are moving into Iraq. By the time it is published the course of the war will in all probability have been decided.

In these circumstances there is only one message which we want to convey to the soldiers at whom it is directed: Good luck and come home safely.

Although there has been widespread opposition to war – voiced both in Parliament and on Britain's high streets – the nation is absolutely united in supporting its Servicemen and women in the Gulf.

The media, whether for or against conflict, has identified with Britain's soldiers, sailors and airmen. Much of the venom directed at supposed kit deficiencies has been filed on the basis that "our boys" deserve better.



Whatever unfolds, we pray for a quick resolution to the crisis, a bloodless liberation for the people of Iraq from their foul dictator, and a triumphant homecoming for the tens of thousands of "rough men" – British, American, Gurkha, Fijian, Australian and others – who will make it happen.

Marine Corps General James Conway quoted George Orwell when he exhorted them at a camp in northern Kuwait: "Our countrymen should rest well at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would do them harm." But we won't rest well until they are home.

## Gilty as charged

Cap-badged to the QLR will be a new version, left. Crest, enamelled red rose of Lancashire's Queen's Crown, over a scroll finished in burnished gold. Warrant officer will continue to wear a primrose diamond and an improved material will be used to include the crown.

HANDS up all who spotted our not-so-deliberate mistake in a story about The Queen's Lancashire Regiment's new enamelled badge (Update, March). According to the report, see above, it is finished in "burnished gold".

We stand convicted.

### Home truths

Sue Bonney

# I hate this bit, the waiting bit

IMPOSSIBLE almost to know what to write, given you won't read this until several days after I have written it – and who knows what will have happened by then.

But with any luck the news will be good. I hate this bit . . . the waiting bit.

We might also serve, those who stand and wait, but it doesn't make it any easier, especially for families and especially in these days of instant communication. Just as you are talking yourself into a positive frame of mind, a dramatically-phrased news report can whip your fragile calm away and leave you desperately anxious.

It's drama and good reporting to them – but the possible fate of your soldier to you. Two things you don't need, waiting at home – 24-hour news with no news to report yet hours to fill – and an overactive imagination.

And then there are mobile phones. These days, this is how anyone under 30 expects to communicate, and those soldiers allowed to take mobiles did just that, especially when the welfare phones



Sue Bonney is  
Editor of the AFF  
Families Journal

were yet to be set up. The withdrawal of personal mobiles caused not a little anxiety back at the ranch – why had it happened, and how on earth were they going to talk to each other now?

AFF received calls and emails from partners and fiancées desperate to re-establish mobile communication, despite the vast expense. We had to explain the security reasons why and I found myself trying to point out gently to a fiancée that, in fact, it might be much better if she didn't have instant communication with her soldier.

If she didn't know about the daily problems he had, she wouldn't have to worry about them – and nor would her soldier have to worry about hers. Blueys might be a little slower, but in some ways they are a better way to communicate. I didn't ask if she had expected him to take his mobile into action – but I did wonder if she had thought that one through.

The thing is, you have to let them get on with the job and trust them to do it well. They can't do that on the other end of a mobile.

THE national media has been beating an unaccustomed path to AFF's door of late, keen to contact Army families to find out "how they feel". I suspect the period of inaction after deployment meant they were looking for ways to liven up the somewhat uneventful coverage of sand and uniforms with emotional "human" stories.

We have been inundated with requests to find different kinds of Army families willing to talk to the press, TV and radio, and some of the slants on proposed stories have been breathtaking in their sheer shallowness. But

### Talking to the media

some offered us the chance to get over to the public what Army life means for families, and they were worth taking.

It can only help the Service community for the general public to understand some of the realities of our lifestyle.

We have a lot to be proud of, especially the way in which our community pulls together in times like this: the courage and practical realism of the families, the support they give to their soldiers and each other, and the support the command, units and welfare agencies are giving to them.

## Cut off? We'll put you back in touch

AFF has heard from some partners and parents of Regular, TA and reservists soldiers who don't live on a patch or near a unit and can feel cut off from the mutual support and information, despite everyone's best efforts, especially when direct contact with their soldier is limited.

We are able to put them in touch with the local support systems near to them.

Our website at [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk) carries the latest information on Op Telic and links to other relevant websites, such as the Army Welfare Service, which carry details of where support can be found.

If you need help or information, contact AFF on 01980 615525. There are a lot of people out there working hard to support every kind of Army family.



# Will fleet management put our vehicles out of reach?

WITH the creation of the new Civil Contingency Reaction Force (CCRF) from within the Reserve Forces, I can see a transport issue looming.

As a Territorial Army Infantry unit we are subject to the new vehicle fleet management process, which means we have to book our own vehicles (currently parked outside our TA centre) six weeks in advance of any training or deployment.



**Lt Col Bob Lloyd, SO1 Whole Fleet Management project team,**

**responds:** Your correspondent raises concerns about the new Civil Contingency Reaction Force (CCRF). As far as Whole Fleet Management (WFM) is concerned, the policy is not yet implemented but is still subject to trials, which began last year and are continuing with the aim of incremental introduction of WFM from 2005.

The need to book vehicles six weeks in advance is not a requirement of WFM and can only be one that has been imposed by the author's unit. Booking in advance for

## Prize letter

No booking – no vehicle, and that includes any short-notice emergencies.

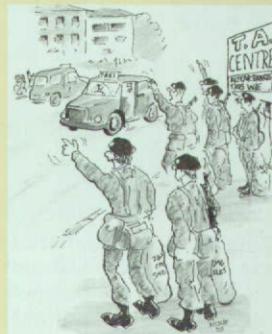
I understand this is because all our green fleet may be held centrally in the future and distributed on an as-required basis, though no one seems to be able to confirm this.

As CCRF we are meant to

training resources is understandable but for operations is neither intended nor achievable.

Under WFM all vehicles will be controlled centrally with the aid of a management information system (MIS), but they will not necessarily be held centrally. Some will be held in unit lines and TA centres, some in an operational pool and some close to training areas, as is the case with the existing Training Materiel Parks (TMP).

For those units, like CCRF-nominated battalions that might have to be deployed rapidly, any green vehicles they require will be held in unit lines or a TMP if it is in a suitable location



be a highly-mobile force with its own integral communications, command and transport based on an infantry battalion orbat. Does this now mean we expect Al-Qaida to give us six weeks' notice for the next September 11? – **Name and Address supplied.**

for quick response. How many vehicles would be required and where they should be held is one of the aims of the 2003 trial being conducted by (among others) the East of England Regiment, a battalion on which CCRF is based.

No changes will be made to the existing system until all the trials have been completed and assessed. If any unit or individual has a question about how the Army's WFM policy might be implemented, or wish to contribute to the debate, they are encouraged to phone the WFM Integrated Project Team on Salisbury Military (94331) 3108 or civilian 01722 433108.

# Why mobilise Terrier medics while Regulars stay behind?

I FIND it incomprehensible that 30 Regular Army permanent staff instructors (PSIs), all combat medical technicians (CMT) class 1 and all with at least 14 years' service, have been ordered to assist with the medical processing of Territorial Army personnel at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell.

This is not what I and most of my fellow CMTs would expect to be doing at this

time. To be told you will not be deploying on Op Telic is one thing but to have to undertake a task normally done by junior staff is demoralising.

When medical services are undermanned, is it not a waste of our training and experience? Call up 30 CMTs from the TA to carry out this role. – **Name and address supplied.**

AS a PSI in a medical unit I am concerned that the MoD sees fit to call up the

Territorial Army at this time. The Army Medical Service is undermanned, but to replace a trained soldier who has practical experience with a TA medic defies logic.

Chilwell has called in Regulars and TA from all Services to man the station, while nobody considered using the first batch of reservists to do the job. I have to train the rest knowing all the effort I put into my trade skills will be wasted while others I consider less qualified than myself are off to do my job. – **Name and unit supplied.**

**YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them as short as possible.**

The more space you take up to get your point across, the less room there is for other letters, and we are anxious to use as many as we can.

E-mails should include your name and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication).

Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

## Please be brief

**The Army Medical Department replies:** RTMC Chilwell is responsible for the mobilisation and demobilisation of all individuals deploying to operational theatres, and specifically for Op Telic. To achieve its task the centre has a Regular group of medical staff, which during periods of increased operational tempo, requires an augmentation for a variety of establishments. It is currently mobilising more than 3,000 TA and Regular reservist personnel.

Mobilising such a large number of reservists is manpower-intensive and critical

to making operations possible. The personnel from Land units currently augmenting the Regular medical staff are carrying out a vital but ultimately temporary function before being returned to their normal duty station.

Personnel augmenting RTMC have been selected for a number of reasons:

- They are currently downgraded;
- Their unit is selected for Op Fresco;
- They are currently in posts that have been identified as retained tasks;
- They are performing rear party duties;
- Their unit is in its training year.

## PISCATOR



"Not again - he's after your compo."

The Army Benevolent Fund is YOUR national charity, committed to the welfare of soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in times of real need. If you would like information on how you can help the Army Benevolent Fund or how we can help you, please contact us on 0202 7591 2000



Call 020 7591 2000 or visit [www.armybenfund.org](http://www.armybenfund.org)

## It's easier to overtake bunched-up convoys

THE traditional method of military convoys spacing themselves out used to make good sense because other motorists were able to pull in between the vehicles in the convoy and allow other vehicles to pass.

Today few motorists understand lane discipline and stay in the outer lanes until they have overtaken everything in sight.

May I suggest that convoy commanders encourage their vehicles to bunch up, so

minimising the time inconsiderate "must-overtake-everything-before-pulling-over" motorists spend in an overtaking lane, holding everyone else up in the process.

The classic example of this is on the two-lane A303 in Wiltshire, where a car that insists on passing every military vehicle in a convoy before moving back to the left-hand lane causes unnecessary congestion. – Maj Giles R Austin RAMC.

Nato policy, which is incorporated into Ch22 (Vehicle Convoy Procedures) of JSP 341 (Defence Road Transport Regulations).

The minimum convoy distance between individual vehicles in free-flowing traffic on A and B class roads is 70m (reduced to 50m at night) and in built-up areas 20m, where possible. Although these convoys may cause some inconvenience to the public, public roads are the only place where MoD units can practise convoy procedures correctly.

PS . . .

## Why did they join?

MY husband is a member of the Territorial Army and has just received his call-out papers. He is apprehensive, as I am, but it's what he has trained for.

What is really annoying me is the amount of people who are now trying to find ways of not going. Some are using the excuse of work commitments (for example, working for themselves), so why did they join the TA?

They seem to want the extra income and the bounty but when it comes to the crunch they don't want to put this into practice. This gets the TA a bad reputation, especially with the Regulars. They should consider their careers in the TA. – Name and address supplied.

## Crossing swords

IN response to Cpl Brown's gripe ("Badge of fitness", Feb) I would debate the fact that para- and commando-trained personnel don't use their qualification within units.

As most soldiers are aware, the ethos and bearing of the majority of these individuals is reflected on a daily basis.

However, despite current trivial matters such as Op Telic and Op Fresco, I am sympathetic to his plight and suggest that in lieu of crossed swords on his working dress he dons a tight-fitting PTI vest for use around the Naafi on an evening.

Then again, there is more to life. – Cpl A Barr, Krefeld, Germany.



Swords: PTI symbol

## This eternal conflict

I HAVE to smile when I read letters in *Soldier* regarding the lifestyle of married versus single members of the British Army (WO1 Harvey, "Time to act as the professionals we all are", Feb).

Was it ever so? I was called to the Colours more than half a century ago, and stayed for 34 years 86 days. I wanted to stay longer but ER II would not agree.

The differences have always been there. No more so than in the Far East (Singapore, Hong Kong etc). Single members lived on a totally different planet from married Servicemen. Maybe singles were envious or jealous?

For my first 15 years I served as a happy single Serviceman, then saw the errors of my ways, joined the enemy and married. I have never looked back.

Thanks for a great magazine, which I have read and inwardly digested over many years. – Len Danby ex-WO (RAF), Brampton, Cambs.



# Negative responses only to be expected

I SUPPOSE it was only to be expected that the two responses to "I'm gay and feel I have no support" (Jan) would be unsympathetic and negative.

Both responses (Feb) were patronising and based on a seemingly deliberate misinterpretation of the originator's letter.

Nowhere in the soldier's letter did I read that he was seeking "special attention". Nowhere did he state he was being "picked on". He was not trying to make a "big deal" out of his sexuality (the opposite was true) and he did not imply that he was in a "terrible unit". He simply wanted support.

Gay people have to confront issues about themselves that others never have to face. During this process, their self-confidence and personal morale can take a hammering and if this happens, they need someone to confide in who is sympathetic, non-judgmental and supportive. The Army welfare system has many such people, although few will be able to talk from personal experience. The Army accepts it is lawful for a serving soldier to

## Time to respect each other

I AM a WO2 and have been in the Infantry all my career. I am gay and remain in the closet because I see no reason to come out. I enjoy the Army and the career I have and I don't see why I should give it up because of other people's prejudices.

I have made use of the [www.aflaga.co.uk](http://www.aflaga.co.uk) website and speak to guys on the net who

are in the Army and use the site for anonymity. I have met a few in person and they are surprised when they realise they can have a career and keep their personal life private.

I am not on a trip to "out" people or fly the rainbow flag; on the contrary, I just think the Army's combat effectiveness is not affected by sexual orienta-

tion. Suffice it to say gay people have been in the Army for longer than we care to admit.

It's time being gay in the Forces was not be an issue. Once we learn to be respectful of one another these issues will disappear and people can get on with their lives and not suffer the way some have. – **Name and address supplied.**

# I still haven't got my jubilee medal

I AM still waiting for my Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal almost a year after it was issued. Am I the only one?

I am an NCO in the Territorial Army, currently serving on Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS). I enlisted in 1994.

The long wait diminishes the sense of achievement and pride gained by tours of duty in locations such as Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. – Name and unit supplied.

# I tried to hide being gay but it didn't work

I RESPOND to "I'm gay and feel I have no support" (Jan). As an openly gay soldier it is my opinion that only the MoD military correctness squad would suggest it is possible to keep your military and private lives separate.

I tried to hide being gay for many years and it didn't work. I suffered from gossiping, innuendoes and whispering from all ranks. I felt forced to "come out".

I underestimated the paranoia that coming out would cause.

Before I could tell my family, phantom telephone calls had already been made to them. I became

have a same-sex partner and it also accepts that the partner may be invited to guest nights and other social functions providing the behavioural guidelines are not contravened.

So when the respondent states "keep doing your job to the best of your ability and keep your personal life personal", how is it possible that one will not impact on the other?

The acceptance of homosexuals by Army's policy-makers has not led to the

the object of curiosity and it took the best part of a year for all the fuss to die down. I found the whole situation very hard to cope with.

Normal channels offered little solace to what was at the time a unique issue. SSAFA-Forces Help is slowly getting better and I thank them for it. But I was really struggling until I found constructive assistance from the Armed Forces Lesbian and Gay Association (AFLAGA) support and advice line.

Their advisers are both serving and ex-serving personnel. – **Sgt M Farrugia, Lincolnshire.**

## You can turn to:

**SSAFA confidential helpline:**  
 0800 731 4880 (1030-2230).

**Armed Forces Lesbian and Gay Association (AFLAGA):**  
 0870 740 7755 (Wed 1930-2130, all Sunday, answerphone other times)

**Samaritans:** 08457 90 90 90  
 (24 hours).

chaos, disintegration and social collapse amusingly

predicted by some sections of the military community. But until the author of the original letter is able to feel totally comfortable reading *Gay Times* in the privacy of his living accommodation, he (and thousands like him) will need to be reassured that there is support available. Meanwhile, the anonymity of the authors of the responding letters means we have no idea what kind of people they are. But I can guess. – **Maj I R Peaple, Arborfield.**



**PS12(A) replies:** The reason it has taken 12 months to issue 96,000 Queen's Golden Jubilee Medals is that the Army Medal Office received 8,400 a month from the Royal Mint.

The issue to units was broken down into four priority categories for issue over a 12-month period. This process has now been completed with the exception of some difficult cases, including those on FTRS.

The computer database set up to capture all those eligible for the medal examines soldiers' Records of Service. This has worked reasonably well and all but 2,000 medals have

been issued on time and in accordance with the issue programme.

The Record of Service of those on FTRS is incomplete and so eligibility cannot be confirmed for many individuals. These cases have been put on hold until the main issue programme has been completed.

In cases where the Record of Service is not available for those on FTRS, commanding officers have been told to make checks, sign a certificate of eligibility and send it to the Army Medal Office.

No such certificate has been received in the case of your correspondent.

## THEN AND THEN



## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1978: "Funny money" is to be withdrawn from Berlin. The British Armed Forces Service Vouchers – or Bafs – have finally been phased out and the garrison will now be paid in Deutschmarks through local banks. The vouchers were introduced in 1946, primarily to stop Servicemen profiteering on the black market.

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1953: Two soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers, above, search a grass-thatched hut in Kenya. They are among troops sweeping through the bush in operations against Mau Mau terrorists. When the state of emergency was declared in October last year, the Lancashire Fusiliers were flown in from Suez to Kenya.

# Why can't my wife and I share a room in Kosovo?

MY wife and I are working together on an operational tour in Kosovo. We are based in Slim Lines, Pristina, where she lives in a room of her own in a mixed corridor with mixed showers and toilets. I also have a room of my own.

We have a certificate of marriage and we share a married quarter in Germany, which we continue to pay for. Why will the Army not allow us to share a room because we are on an operational deployment?

The Army has a situation here where it could improve the morale of two people and it would not affect that of others. – LCpl Horrocks, BFPO 559.

**PS4(A) responds:** While acknowledging that the situation the Horrocks find themselves in is somewhat unusual, co-habitation in single-living accommodation, whether on operations or in barracks, is unacceptable to the Services.

This measure is taken not only in the interests of unit cohesion and discipline, but also in recognition of an individual's right to privacy – not everyone has the good fortune to occupy single rooms on operations.

All personnel deployed on operations, regardless of marital status, are considered as single soldiers for accommodation purposes as it is clearly impractical to cater for the specific needs of married couples.

PS4(A) does not agree with LCpl Horrocks's assertion that their situation could be addressed without a detrimental impact on the morale of married and single peers on operations.

Where the privileges of a minority cannot be extended to all, the potentially divisive nature of an apparently reasonable proposal should never be underestimated.

Operational welfare covers a wide range of activities and is designed to meet the needs of all deployed personnel. Welfare policy must apply evenly across all theatres worldwide, from the expeditionary (such as Operation Telic) to established operations such as the Balkans.

**PS . . .**

## Mobile phones

MY wife has been compulsory mobilised and is serving with 6 Supply Regiment RLC in Kuwait. They were made to hand in their mobile phones in theatre. Can you tell me why this is, as many personnel I know, including those from my own unit, have been encouraged to take mobile phones as an alternative form of communication. – LCpl Bruce Thompson, Lossiemouth.

**PJHQ Media Ops responds:** In sensitive operations mobile phones may be taken away for operational security reasons. The decision is made at command level and is normally only for a short period of time. However, any possibility of outbreak of war may extend this period until it is no longer deemed a security issue.

## Parking charges

MY heart goes out to Lt Col A D Hendrickse and his parking charges at the military hospital unit at Frimley Park hospital (March). What does he think it is like for the NHS nurses on a third of his wage, or the NHS technicians on a fifth of his wage or less? – Flt Lt (Retd) J H Carr RAF, Salisbury.

## Give us credit . . .

I HAVE been serving for 18 years and have been posted to many theatres. Having returned from Cyprus in September 2001 and settled into (expensive) UK living, I decided to apply for an Egg credit card.

This was refused and I was directed to a credit agency. Due to my not having lived in the UK for more than two years, I have a low-to-negligible credit rating. I have another credit card (obtained through using my wife's parents' address) and a £84,000 mortgage. Why is it that, through no fault of our own, we are still treated as financial outcasts?

Must I wait until September 4 (the magic two-year point)? Yours without plastic. – Name and address supplied.

**MORE of your letters on Page 85**

## Crisp look is best

THE Vox pop feature on creature comforts in your March issue shows nine different ways of wearing berets. Only Cpl Andy Crisp, right, has the traditional style and certainly looks the smartest. – Maj Peter Horsfall, London.



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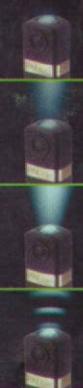
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(Stainless steel strap)



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# They took £2,075 off my pay in one go

MINE is another story of a soldier having nearly all his salary taken off him in one go by Glasgow.

I was transferred to the Army Air Corps, backdated to last July. The trade I have transferred to is pilot, but someone decided I was no longer flying, even though the words "helicopter pilot" were printed on the form for the reason of transfer, and stopped my flying pay.

If that wasn't bad enough, the whole amount was backdated to July 2002 and about £2,075 was deducted in one go.

I am a homeowner and have bills to pay. To add insult to injury I was on leave at the time and had to go into work and my bank to sort

out the mess. My pay office were fantastic, much to their credit as they were dealing with two others in the same boat.

Why does this keep happening? There is always an excuse from the Army Personnel Centre for delays and errors but no one ever writes to say sorry for the distress.

What would have happened if I was operationally deployed and my wife had been left to sort it all out?

Someone must input the data for it to be actioned. Is there not an amount, which they cannot go over (even if you do owe it)? Do they not realise how much £2,000-plus is to a soldier when he or she loses it in one go? – **Sgt Wesson, Dishforth, Yorks.**



**DSPS(A) replies:** Sgt Wesson transferred to the AAC in July 2002, although his transfer was not actioned until December 2002. The RAO does conduct a monthly check of all pay statements (which are received in the unit usually one week before the end of each month).

The error was picked up on this check and a payment was made to Sgt Wesson on February 3. The full balance was restored to his pay account on February 14.

The error is very much regretted, but due to the flexibility of the Army's administrative systems at unit level, a solution was rapidly applied.

## Comparison table of pensions didn't paint the whole picture

THE table in your February edition ("Staying or going – the choice is yours", Page 26), which described the relative merits of staying in the Army or trying your luck in civvy street, made some pretty subjective and selective comparisons, particularly in the field of pensions.

We can all recognise that our defined benefit pension is a valuable part of our overall package, but to make it appear better than it is, compared with provision in civilian life, does no favours to our soldiers and their dependants.

For example, the table makes it clear

that we do not have to pay for our pensions, which is nonsense. Our pay is abated at source, currently by seven per cent, and this is just contributions by another name.

Most of the principal benefits of our pension scheme also score badly alongside comparators in the public sector, such as the police, firefighters and civil service. Elsewhere in the private sector there are also good and bad pension conditions. Soldiers and their families need to know the facts, not just simplistic and misleading one-line comparisons. – Maj Gen J C M Gordon, Forces Pension Society.

## Apology for confidential letter that went astray



I WRITE in response to Sgt Ford's letter ("One that got away", Feb) to reassure anyone who contacts the Army Equal Opportunities Branch or SSAFA Confidential Support Line (by letter, e-mail or telephone) that the matter will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Under no circumstances are the details of any individual's concerns revealed to the chain of command.

The quality and confidentiality of these services is continuously scrutinised, independently of the Army. Test letters are regularly sent to the advertised addresses to ensure no tampering with their contents takes place and all have been received without concern.

An investigation showed that Sgt Ford's letter was never received by the Army Equal Opportunities Branch. In this instance systems in place in the Upavon post room, where mail addressed to Army Equal Opportunities enters the military postal distribution system in Upavon, failed.

An error was made, causing the letter to be misdirected and treated as routine correspondence. While of no comfort to Sgt Ford, this was a much-regretted one-off and orders and procedures in the post room have now been further tightened.

I close by apologising to Sgt Ford for the unnecessary distress he has gone through and have written to him with a full explanation. – **Maj Tony Leadbeater, PS4(A), Upavon.**

## This allowance covers extra costs, not turmoil

A LETTER from a senior NCO – "Disturbance Allowance discriminates against singles" published in the March issue – has drawn the following response from PS10(A) SO2b:

 SOME basic points that seem to have been confused by the letter-writer may be worth explaining.

First, a move from single publicly-funded accommodation does not attract Disturbance Allowance (DA) for single or unaccompanied personnel.

Second, while we do not dispute that moving on posting is "an inconvenience" and "turmoil" for both married and single personnel, DA is not a payment to alleviate inconvenience but to assist with the extra costs that moves entail. These include cleaning of curtains and furnishings, paying for extra rubbish removals, the cost of changing school uniforms,

increased insurance costs and so on. For those in single publicly-funded accommodation, most of these costs are already met by the taxpayer through a variety of contracts. Those who are not eligible for the allowance are entitled to claim up to £38 to cover the insurance increase for personal effects during transit.

And thirdly, single personnel may claim the allowance if they move from their private property to another private property at their duty stations as part of a recognised move (known as a qualifying move).

Last year the Personal Baggage and Furniture Allowance for UK and North-West Europe was increased to six cubic metres for all ranks. This has more than trebled the allowance for most personnel. While we cannot cater for every requirement we hope this increase caters for the majority.

# Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

**Pte Lewis Bass, 13 Transport Regt RLC**

The Scandinavian camouflage combats could not blend into anything unless it was on a Petri dish, but it is more robust than Combat 95. I think we are fine the way we are.



**LCpl Jonathan Warrant, 1 Staffords**

We come from a country that is supposed to be well prepared and professional, so why can't we invest that bit more in making a soldier comfortable. If you are

comfortable, you work better.

We went on joint patrols with the Swedes; they were very disciplined but not as professional as we were. On patrol they wear sunglasses and smoke, which would never happen with us. Yet sometimes we get snow burn and sun glasses would help.



**Pte Courtney Ray, 1 Staffords**

The thing that is most noticeable is that the Swedes are allowed to grow goatee beards and

have long hair. Why do we have to have our hair cut short? I think that is something we should be allowed to have.

**Cpl Robbie Cooper, 1 Staffords**

We have patrolled with the Swedes. Their kit seems to be better put together than ours and all their comfort items are standard issue while we have to buy ours.



**Cpl Jason Rollins, 1 Staffords**

They salute every vehicle in Kfor but are relaxed around their officers. We show more respect to our officers than they do.



**LCpl Steven Lacey, 1 Staffords**

Their soldiers are more informal with their officers. I was on patrol with a Swedish officer who told me I didn't have to call him "Sir".

"Mate" would do. It didn't seem right. Kit-wise they have GPS and night vision goggles as standard.



**LCpl Mark Dugmore, 1 Staffords**

It is great that everyone can speak English but it highlights our ignorance of foreign languages. The Swedish riot kit ranges from really good to really bad. Their radios are a lot better than ours, though.



**Pte Robert Cashmore, 1 Staffords**

On patrol the Swedes don't interact with the public whereas we speak to everyone and gather low-grade intelligence. As for kit, our rifle compares well with theirs.



**Pte Kerven Charles, 1 Staffords**

Their clothing is better than ours and they are well equipped for cold weather. We resent having to buy our own kit to do our jobs.



Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Steve Dock



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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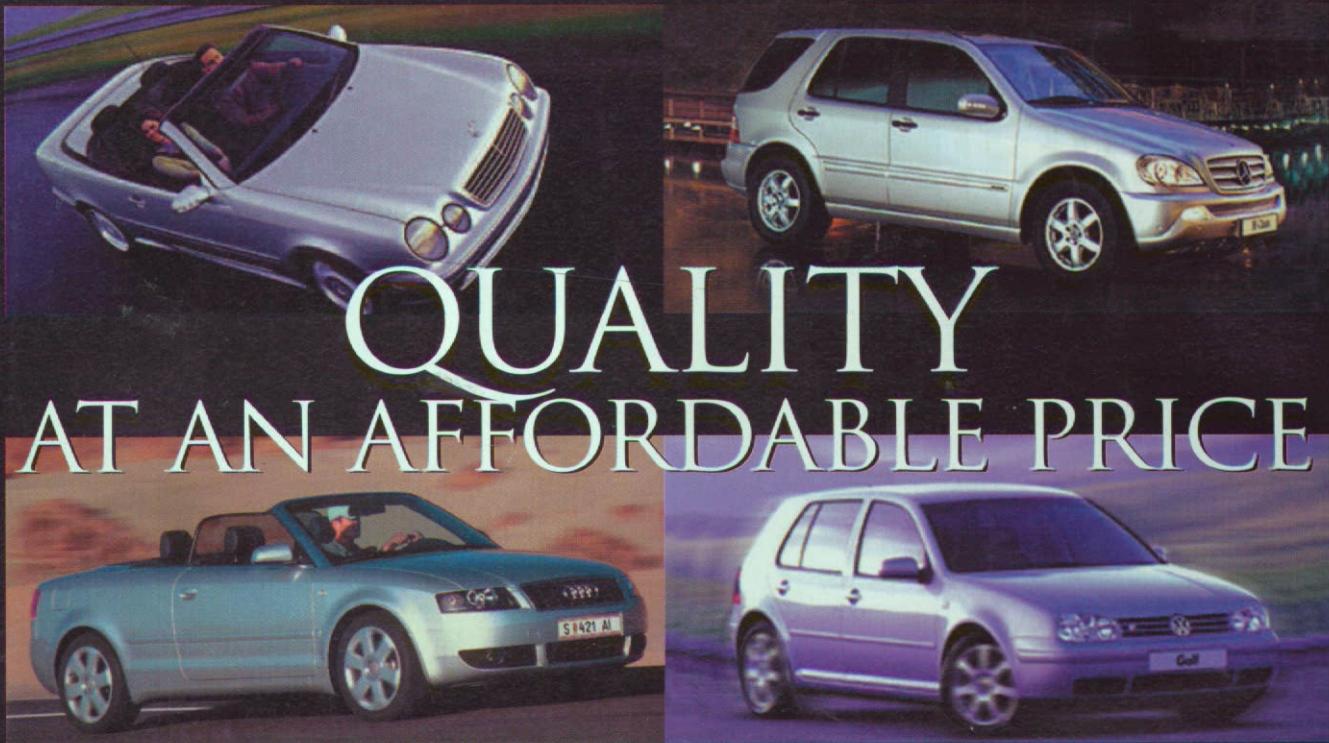


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