

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

July 2000 £2

SOLDIER

**Challenger 2 makes
its mark in Kosovo**



Retention – forward steps
Salute to the Queen Mum



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When not playing in Army sides, Jimmy

turned out for Kent League team Folkestone, where

his expenses often amounted to more than his Army pay

– Page 34-35

'There are significant signs of change, but where is any of this, any aspirations for investing in families and welfare, without funding?'

Sue Bonney's home truths

– Page 43



4-5 Cover story

Potent presence: A Challenger 2 from B Squadron, 1 Troop, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards patrols a road crossing point on the Kosovo boundary. Behind the main battle tank is Serbia. Tank commander Cpl Andy Potter is on the left, with LCpl Rich Hopkins, the loader-operator, on the right

Picture: Mike Weston

How to contact *Soldier*
– see Page 70



● Images of the Queen Mother – Pages 14-15

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SOLDIER to soldier

A proper value on families

FAMILIES feel they are undervalued, according to an independent report.

The Army Retention Study, commissioned by the Adjutant General, and researched during wide-ranging visits to 35 units at home and abroad (and to 800 families), found there was a general belief among Service personnel and their dependants that families' issues were unsufficiently recognised or valued.

This will come as no great surprise to the Army Families Federation (whose conference – reported elsewhere in this issue – reflected that

6 The message from families is clear 9

view), CGS's Briefing Team or the readers of *Soldier's* correspondence pages.

In our view one critical line from the report deserves to be writ in bold: **Feedback is not welcomed.**

It is a finding we can endorse from experience. The occasional blunt reaction from within the system to the heartfelt views of a soldier or spouse (who said they had to be fair or accurate?) published in our Mailbag pages suggests the channels of communication are not always a two-way conduit.

The message from families is clear: listen to us and our representatives (ie welcome our feedback) and value our contribution.

Much is being done by the Army to address families' grievances. The AFF ensures that there is no let-up and the Service Families Task Force is playing its part.

But as long as feedback, however unpalatable, remains unwelcome, the process of change is undermined. Evil communications, Paul told the Corinthians, corrupt good manners. And they don't half annoy families.

Special report

Challenger 2 eases fears in Kosovo

For the first time the Army's new main battle tank has been put to the test on operations

Pictures: Mike Weston

SELDOM has such a noisy neighbour been given the kind of enthusiastic reception afforded to Challenger 2 when it arrived in town. Villagers around Podujevo in northern Kosovo greeted the mighty growl of the tank's engines by waving at the new kid on the block, reassured by its powerful presence.

Lt Col David Allfrey is the commanding officer of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, the first regiment to take charge of 16 Challenger 2s in an operational theatre.

He said: "Curiously, where you would expect people to complain about the noise and everything else that is associated with tanks, in Kosovo people are hugely reassured by the dust, smoke and noise."

"To quote a lady I spoke to: 'The day we heard the tanks coming, we knew that we were secure'."

The tank has performed robustly, in many cases exceeding expectations; one completed a 178km road-run with no breakdowns at all.

In the sweltering Balkan summer, which regularly sees the thermometer rise above 30C, tankies have been using the full

the environmental control system which regulates temperatures inside the hull.

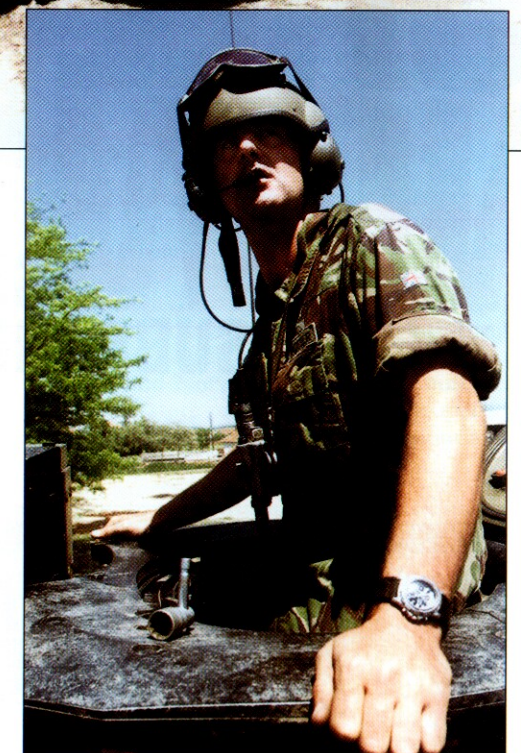
"We are all extremely happy with its reliability; it is a very flexible weapons system indeed," Lt Col Allfrey said. "We have been able to project the tanks around the brigade area in a way that we could never have done with previous main battle tanks."

"Inevitably there are one or two breakdowns, but my own experience of Challenger 1 and Chieftain before it, is that the breakdowns are so infrequent, it is in a completely different league really."

The regiment's main task has been to deter any aggression across the boundary; something Challenger 2 is particularly adept at. Crews carry life-support systems so they can live off the vehicle for many days if required.

"It has been well supported, and we are still learning about the vehicle. I think it is quite excellent," said Lt Col Allfrey.

"Inevitably with a weapons system that big it is being subjected to some very considerable mileage. Conditions are hard-wearing; it is doing very high speeds on tarmac for considerable distances. All in all, it's very good news."



Rising to the challenge: Above, Tpr Tam McGann checks Challenger 2's muzzle reference system mirror; Tpr Neil Gow and LCpl Stuart Gowans of B Squadron take a peek through the turret, and tank commander Cpl Andy Potter, right, surveys the horizon

IN THIS MONTH'S ESQUIRE MAGAZINE

ANNA KOURNIKOVA

CRAIG DAVID

JOHN CUSSACK

KEVIN KEEGAN ON PENALTIES

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OUR
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People, places, events

VIPs and regiment mourn shot brigadier

BRIG Stephen Saunders, the military attaché assassinated by terrorists while driving to work in Athens, was buried privately on June 21 following a military funeral in Salisbury Cathedral the previous day.

Among those attending the Salisbury service were Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, Procurement Minister Baroness Symons – who was visiting Athens at the time of the murder

– the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Mike Walker, and C-in-C Land, Gen Sir Mike Jackson. A representative of the Greek foreign ministry was also present.

Members of Brig Saunders's regiment, the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, mounted a guard of honour, acted as pall-bearers and lined the route.

The brigadier's body was flown

from Athens to Britain with full military honours, accompanied by his widow, Heather, daughters Nicola and Catherine, and other close family members.

It was claimed by the November 17 terrorist group that Brig Saunders had been shot because of Britain's role last year in the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia. At that time, he was serving with the UN in Kuwait.



Poachers take on training task in Sierra Leone

A MILITARY training team based on the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment has settled into a six-week deployment in Sierra Leone.

Under the command of Lt Col Alasdair Wild, CO 2 R Anglian, the 238-strong short-term training team, supported by a company of security troops, is based under canvas at the Benguema infantry training centre in the bush 15 miles south-east of Freetown.

Supporting the Poachers, who are based at Beachley Barracks, Chepstow, are reinforcing detachments from 30 Signal Regiment, 36 Engineer Regiment, 3 Close Support Medical Regiment, 3 Regiment RMP, 29 Regiment RLC and 9 Supply Regiment RLC.

The Royal Anglians group arrived in the troubled West African state as the Royal Marines were withdrawing at the end of Operation Palliser – under which foreign nationals were evacuated. Col Wild's mission, codenamed Operation Basilica, is to complete an intensive



On their way: Armed Forces Minister John Spellar visits the Poachers at Chepstow before their departure for a six-week tour of duty in Sierra Leone

Picture: Stuart Bingham

infantry training programme for Sierra Leone's government forces.

When the Royal Anglians withdraw they will be replaced by a British-led Military Advisory and Training Team, due to begin a three-year stint to help Sierra Leone rebuild its armed forces after years of civil war.

Plans for the MATT to begin its work earlier this year were put on hold when a UN-observed truce broke down, leading to the deployment of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment to secure Lungi airport for the evacuation of foreign nationals.

Careers go live on-line

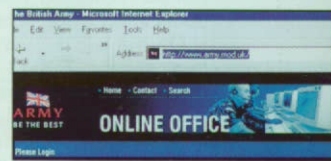
ANYONE with internet access can now "talk" to soldiers and officers about Army careers. The Army Online Careers Office was launched after research showed young peoples' positive attitudes about a career in the military are dramatically increased after contact with uniformed personnel.

Objective of the new service is to increase the contact at present provided by careers offices, and to make access to soldiers easier for a broader group of people.

By logging on to the Army website, www.army.mod.uk, and

visiting the careers section, browsers will be able to have a real-time dialogue with soldiers and officers manning the new on-line office. Potential recruits will be sent a personal perspective on Army life via the internet.

The web has become an increasingly important part of the Army's recruitment strategy. Requests for more information via the internet tripled last year to more than 20,000. That figure is expected to rise by the end of this year to 50,000. The internet is now the single largest source of enquiries about careers in the Army.



Click here for a military career

Kosovo arms find

LARGE caches of arms and ammunition were found last month by a British-led KFOR operation searching the Drenica Valley area of Kosovo.

Operation Leatherman, led by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and involving Royal Engineers as well as troops from Sweden, Finland and Norway, has identified bunkers used to store mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, mines, long-barrelled weapons and ammunition.

IN BRIEF

● **Exercise Cola 2000**, the first Partnership for Peace exercise of the new millennium, was held at Frejus in France and involved more than 1,000 soldiers from 22 countries over six days. The British contingent was led by Headquarters 2 (South East) Brigade from Shorncliffe and the infantry representation of 26 by Maj David Bennett.

● A £40 million contract for the design and construction of a new barracks at Aldershot has been awarded to Kier Build, part of Kier Group plc. **Mons Barracks**, to be completed by 2002, is due to be home to a 700-strong infantry battalion of 12 Mechanised Brigade.

● Soldiers from **24 Regiment RLC** from

Bielefeld and **503 Régiment du Train** from Bordeaux, France, cemented their twinning charter, signed last summer, by taking part in a day of ceremonies at Hermanville-sur-mer, overlooking the D-Day Sword Beach in Normandy. The programme included a parade, a wreath-laying service at the town's military, a lunch and a football match, won by the British.

People, places, events

In the nick of time



Welcome back: MCTC Colchester "old boy" **Brian O'Hagan** gets the keys to the cells and a friendly word of advice from **WO2 Mick Bully**, right, the acting RSM, while visiting his old stamping ground. Forty-five years ago Brian "released" himself from National Service with the 5th Enniskillen Dragoon Guards somewhat earlier than the Army had anticipated and ended up doing two stints in the Military Corrective Training Centre. As a result, his National Service lasted just under three years instead of the mandatory two.

On the left is Brian's son, **Capt Terry O'Hagan**, serving with 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC at Colchester, who accompanied his father on an escorted tour of the military prison – in slow time. Brian visited the MCTC museum and enjoyed a pleasant lunch in the WO's and Sergeants' Mess. "If, all those years ago you'd told me I would be here doing this in the Sergeants' Mess, I'd have thought you were crackers," said Brian.

Picture: Graeme Main

Earthen-ware?



Here's one I prepared earlier: **SSgt Steve Whitehead** shows **Maxwell Hutchinson** how to make an oven out of bits and pieces. The sequence, shot at the Army School of Catering in Aldershot, will appear in *Mod Cons*, a series made by Oval Films and due to be broadcast later this summer on the Discovery Home and Leisure Channel.

Retention study identifies key areas of concern

RESEARCH into why people leave the Army prematurely has identified four key areas in which the Army needs to improve. Internal communication, family issues, management skills and accommodation all need to be addressed if retention is to be sustained.

Research also identified a number of things the Army could do quickly to produce improvements.

Commissioned by the Adjutant General, the Army Retention Study was carried out by independent consultants who were given free access. They visited 35 units in the UK, Northern Ireland, Germany and Bosnia, and heard the views of 1,500 officers and soldiers and 800 families.

"We wanted to know what the Army thought we could do better and what action was necessary to make a difference," said Maj Gen Peter Currie, Chief of Staff to the Adjutant General.

"Having asked the questions it is now up to us to take the right action to improve the situation, and that is what we are doing."

Brig Simon Young, Director Human Resources at Upavon, said: "Much of the content did not come as a surprise and we are already making progress on many of the issues. But we must do better and the study has been very helpful in explaining the areas where we need to focus our efforts."

The study recommends action on:

Management – Operational leadership is acknowledged as excellent, but real improvements to leadership and management skills are seen as essential for non-operational environments.

Officers and NCOs require a better understanding of terms and conditions of service of their soldiers, and need to be better at communicating these.

The Army says more management training has already been built into a number of career courses and comprehensive Army

and tri-Service studies are under way to improve other aspects of training.

Communications – Flow of information, particularly at unit level, needs to be improved so messages are consistent and rumours do not fill the vacuum.

The Army says CGS's Briefing Team has already made a difference, as has the recent introduction of garrison radio.

Family issues – There needs to be greater recognition of problems facing families as a result of Army service.

The Army says much has already been done, led by Defence ministers, to address issues of education and health provision and this effort is continuing. Communication and liaison with the Army Families Federation provides invaluable feedback on progress.

Accommodation – Quality and availability are a real concern to single soldiers and families.

The Army says ministers recently confirmed their commitment to achieving full upgrade to grade one family quarters by 2005. Action is in hand to improve single accommodation, although this is not something that will be solved overnight.

"Many of the issues highlighted in the study can be addressed in the near future," said Brig Young.

"What will take longer to put right, however, are some of the more difficult family concerns and accommodation, which we recognise must be addressed."

"Some of the study's messages are uncomfortable, but that is what we asked for. It is now up to the Army to put them right."

"Retention is vital but we must remember that last year more people joined the Army than left it. This is the first time that has happened for many years, and the trend is set to continue this year. But there is no room for complacency and we hope the priority we are giving to retention will help us to maintain this progress."

● See also Issues, Page 43

IN BRIEF

● Sixty members of **HQ United Kingdom Support Command (Germany)** visited Second World War battlefields in and around Warsaw, concentrating on sites not previously studied in detail by a British forces group.

The aim of Exercise Ulan Knight was to draw conclusions which could be applied to modern warfare.

● Army medical and dental officers are to get a **pay increase** of 3.3 per cent, effective from April 1, following the Government's approval in full of Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommendations.

● A sea of scarlet-coated Chelsea Pensioners, pictured right, greeted The Duke of Kent when he inspected the parade on



First sight: A statue of five tank crewmen is unveiled by the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Tank Regiment, in Whitehall Court, London. The Queen is pictured with Maj Gen Andrew Ridgway, Colonel Commandant of the RTR, who escorted her. The ceremony included a parade by detachments of 1 and 2 RTR, the regiment's Cambrai Band and Pipes and Drums, and a First World War Mark V tank.

Picture: Ian Nelson

Another battalion pulls out of Northern Ireland

TROOPS from the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, which has been deployed as the East Tyrone roulement battalion in Northern Ireland, returned to its barracks in Dover on June 14. The move brought the number of troops based in the Province to below 13,500, the lowest level since 1970.

In future, the East Tyrone battalion will be known as the rural reinforcement battalion and troops fulfilling the commitment will be based on the mainland while remaining under the command of the GOC Northern Ireland. They will be available for deployment to

the Province at short notice should the security situation require it.

The return of 3 Para means five of the six roulement battalions available to the GOC are now on the mainland. The reduced presence reflects the improved security situation in the Province.

● The Army observation post on top of Templar House in North Belfast was returned to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive last month after all military equipment had been removed. The observation post on top of Broadway House, West Belfast, is also to be vacated by the Army.

Guards move in



Hello Hampshire: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards registered their arrival at their new home in Bruneval Barracks, Aldershot by taking part in a beating retreat ceremony. Involved in it were **Gdsm Gareth Pitman**, left, from the Prince of Wales Company, and **Dmr Neil Lawson** of the Corps of Drums and Assault Pioneers of Support Company. The battalion moved into barracks previously occupied by the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment – now in Colchester – as part of the new 12 Mechanised Brigade. Equipped with Saxon wheeled armoured personnel carriers, the Welsh Guards provide the brigade with mechanised infantry assets.

Commanding officer **Lt Col Andrew Ford** said: "We are delighted to be in Aldershot. We bring more than 600 soldiers and their families to the area and look forward to taking a full and active part in garrison life and also within the local community."

Picture: Graeme Main



Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Oak leaves are worn on the day to commemorate the tree that hid King Charles II when he escaped the battle of Worcester in 1651.

According to popular myth Nell Gwynne, his mistress, persuaded Charles to found the hospital.

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People, places, events

Final salute

Cliff Owen, Charlie Anders and Arthur Turner, members of the Dunkirk Veterans Association, stand on a French beach to pay their respects for the last time to comrades lost there in 1940.

The veterans gathered for the final time as an official body to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the evacuation which rescued 338,000 Allied troops from the advancing German army. Most of the veterans,



who were addressed by the Prince of Wales in the town centre, are now in their eighties. They decided the strain of their annual pilgrimage to the Dunkirk beaches had become too

great for many of their members.

● Folkestone veterans have laid up their standard in the chapel of the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover.

Don't miss out on new tax credit, Services told

SERVICE personnel who qualify for Child Tax Credit (CTC) have until the end of August to submit a claim to the Inland Revenue.

CTC takes the form of tax relief up to £4,420 and anyone with one or more children under the age of 16 living with them for at least part of the tax year may be eligible. Like the recently-abolished Married Couples Allowance, the relief, which will be reflected in 2001-02 individual tax codes, will be restricted.

The Inland Revenue intends to send application forms to everyone who has claimed Married Couples Allowance or otherwise indicated on their tax returns that they may have a child or children.

But because the personal addresses of most Servicemen and women are not logged with the Inland Revenue (their pay is administered by the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency), there is a concern some may miss out on the relief.

Those who do not already complete annual tax returns should request a CTC information leaflet and claim form from HM Inspector of Taxes, PD2 MU1 (Forces), Government Buildings, Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5GN (tel 029 20 325017). They will need to quote their National Insurance number and give an address (home, work or address of a friend or relative) to which the Inland Revenue can forward the information.

Loggies out in strength

MORE than 3,000 part-time Royal Logistic Corps soldiers joined British and US regulars last month in the largest UK-base logistics training exercise for many years. Independent and specialist volunteers of the RLC TA based at Grantham took part in the three-week long Exercise Strong Virginian. It involved the movement of stores and munitions within England and Scotland and beach landings.

Sappers pull plug on Gull bridge

BRITISH and Canadian sappers have removed the 45-tonne Lendrum Bridge over the Vrbas River near Mrkonj Grad in Bosnia. The 11-bay Mabey-Johnson bridge, opened in 1996 and named after a Royal Engineer VC, is the latest to be dismantled as the Bosnians reclaim responsibility for their country's roads.

Built by 8 Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment on Route Gull, Lendrum Bridge will be packed up and shipped back to a civilian supplier. Maj Mark Ruddy, who was OC 8 Sqn at the time of the initial project, is now a lieutenant colonel and in command of 22 Engineer Regiment, whose 2 Troop, 4 Armoured Engineer Squadron completed the "de-launch" of the bridge.

An off-spin of the military bridge-building programme to make good widespread destruction of road infrastructures during the civil war, was the benefit to the travelling civilian population.



Going: A bridge section is readied for removal

Picture: Master-Cpl Nathalie Martin

Calling au pairs . . .

JUNIOR officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs looking for brief trips overseas have the chance under the recently relaunched Exchange Au Pair (EAP) programme, which makes possible short reciprocal attachments, usually of two weeks, to the armies of 24 countries.

Those involved are Argentina, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. Application forms are in Chapter 12 of AGAIs Vol 1.

IN BRIEF

● Cpl Leslie John Douglas, R Irish, a 34-year-old father of two, was shot dead on a training exercise in Canada, where he was attached as an instructor.

● Maj Ian Anderson of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment has become the second former officer of the Gloucestershire Regiment to lead a successful assault on the summit of Mount Everest. His team of members of the Reserve Forces

scaled the mountain by the North Face route. In 1976 a former commanding officer of the Gloster, Lt Col Tony Streather, led the first British Forces expedition to climb Everest by the South Face.

● Paderborn residents could be forgiven for thinking they were seeing things when American military policemen appeared on their streets. The MPs, from 13 (US) MP Company based at Vicenza, northern Italy, were taking

part in a week-long exchange with their counterparts from 110 Provost Company, 1 RMP.

● Pte George Nugent was due to be buried with full military honours at Oivillers, France, on July 1, exactly 84 years after he was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He served with the 22nd Tyneside Scottish Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, and his remains were identified forensically after they were found at La Boisselle, near Albert, France.

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People, places, events



Soldiers of the 2nd and 4th Battalions, The Parachute Regiment line Pegasus Bridge for the opening by the Prince of Wales of a new museum dedicated to the battle for the strategically important bridge on the eve of D-Day, June 6, 1944. Prince Charles (inset) speaks to Sgt Meredith Woods while inspecting a guard of honour. He was accompanied by Gen Sir Mike Jackson.

RASS rocks to Cocker sound

ROCK star Joe Cocker played to 50,000 people packed into the Bad Lippspringe showground for the annual Anglo-German summer festival staged by 20 Armoured Brigade and Paderborn Garrison.

RASS 2000 – it began its life as the Rhine Army Summer Show – attracted 96,000 people over the three days of the German spring bank holiday last month. It is the British Army's premier public event in Germany.

Other major attractions at a pop festival introduced to the festival included Tony Hadley, Lutricia McNeal, Amber, Ann Lee and tribute band Bjorn Again. Ten bands performed on two stages through-



On stage: Singer Tony Hadley

out the weekend. After Joe Cocker had topped the bill on the Saturday night, massed military bands ended the night with a traditional finale performed against a background of fireworks.

Military entertainment in the main arena was provided by parachute teams, bands and drill squads.

Centre stage was given to a Zulu dance troupe from the 121st South African Infantry Battalion.

Maj Tim Lai, Chief of Staff of 20 Armd Bde, said: "It was decided to major on entertainment and it has certainly paid off. RASS is a non-profit-making organisation and I'm sure we will have a considerable sum to donate to charity."

Parents visit KRH Kosovo tribute to son

THE parents of a 19-year-old soldier who died as a result of a road traffic accident in Kosovo a year ago have visited a memorial built by his regiment, The King's Royal Hussars.

Tpr Daniel Holt died in the Royal Hospital Haslar three days after the accident in July last year. With the support of the British Brigade Commander, Brig Richard Sherriff, late KRH, Daniel's parents, David and Anne Marie Holt, were flown to Skopje Airport and driven to meet Brig Sherriff at his headquarters in Pristina.

They were shown all the locations in which their son had served, driven in a Challenger 2 tank of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards to the Serbian border and visited a school which the A1 Echelon of the KRH had adopted after its move into Kosovo. While visiting the field hospital Mr and Mrs Holt again met Capt Sarah Boardman, who was the senior nurse at Haslar when Daniel was admitted.

A Scots DG piper played a lament on a nearby hillside as the Holts took part in a service at the memorial site. They also met local people liberated by the KRH.



Prince's 'farewell'

FOR the last time at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Gurkha recruits swore allegiance to the 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles on the famous Queen's Truncheon when the Prince of Wales, their Colonel-in-Chief, paid a "farewell" visit on June 16.

A Gurkha battalion has been at Church Crookham since 1971 but 1 RGR, last Gurkhas in the camp, move to Brunei next month, when the UK battalion will be based at Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe.



IN BRIEF

● Col Maurice Sheen, right, who serves with the specialist units of the Royal Logistic Corps TA, has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of the 20,000-strong Immediate Reaction Task Force. The 47-year-old English teacher from the Isle of Wight is believed to be the first Reserve Forces officer to hold such a senior Nato post. He will be based at Heidelberg following



five months in Kosovo with the multi-national weapons decommissioning team.

● A new service aimed at helping support agencies get messages across to troops based around the world has launched by BFBS Forces Radio. The Forces Action initiative will also be available on forces' TV stations and the BFBS website.



● Amanda Evans-Stone, left, grand-daughter of Green Howards' VC Sgt Maj Stanley Hollis, has joined Saltburn Green Howards Detachment of the Cleveland ACF and hopes to become a sergeant instructor in the unit. She said: "I'm very proud to be wearing the same cap badge as my grandfather."

Saluting the Queen Mum



Honour degree: As Chancellor of the University of London, the Queen Mother inspects an Officers' Training Corps guard of honour on her arrival at the Royal Albert Hall on March 5, 1968. She later presided at the degree conferment ceremony

IT IS an occasion to cherish. After all, even in these days of healthier living, how many of us can count a centenarian in our midst?

Now it is as if we are all part of the same family, preparing to celebrate just such an achievement by our own mum, grandma, great-grandma...

By the end of the first week in August, millions of words will have been written and broadcast, thousands of pictures published, miles of film shown on our screens.

Among many salutes, we shall have witnessed a magnificent pageant in London on July 19 in which the Forces will have played their inimitable part.

In her century Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has made and maintained especially strong bonds with the British Army.

She has, for example, been Colonel-in-Chief of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) since the day after the 1937 Coronation. Her brothers served in the regiment during the First World War, one being killed and two others wounded.

This magazine has been alive for only 55 of those 100 years. Here, as our own modest part of the celebrations, we present a small selection of images showing the unique grace and charm which has won Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother a special place in soldiers' hearts.

Happy Birthday, Ma'am.



When do you take your test? Showing a motherly interest, above, in the then Second Subaltern Princess Elizabeth's car maintenance expertise at an ATS training centre in 1945



My boys: During the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) at Birkhall in 1996, the Queen Mother was heard to exclaim: "They're all my boys... don't they look splendid?"



Spring in her step: With the Welsh Guards, left, at the St David's Day ceremony at Chelsea Barracks in 1957

Double century: A smile for the camera, right, as Gdsm Paul Moffat salutes the Queen Mother. The occasion was the Irish Guards Centenary service at the Guards Chapel last month



Picture: Sgt Ian Lipiot

Training for the big push

Preparing soldiers to deploy overseas with the United Nations is a huge task. We watched the UN Training and Advisory Team doing its stuff

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

TRAINING is one of the things the Army does rather well and its preparations for the many, varied situations in the Balkans are considered to be a vital ingredient in the successful and safe deployment of British soldiers in the region.

Which is where the United Nations Training and Advisory Team (UNTAT) comes in.

Under the direction of HQ Land Command, UNTAT's small tri-Service team of ten Service and two civilian staff is based at Warminster and Sennelager. Formed in 1993, it runs 30 courses a year in the UK and Germany, instructing about 600 soldiers on each. Because of the UK's surge commitment to Nato operations in Kosovo, the team prepared more than 30,000 Regular, reservist and TA soldiers last year.

UNTAT also meets the special requirements of units being posted to UN duties along the Green Line buffer zone between Cyprus's Greek Cypriot and Turkish communities.

Its training support group, found from a different unit for each course, numbers about 150. The team includes RAF personnel, Royal Marines and Army instructors.

"We went into overdrive last year, responding to crises in Kosovo, East Timor and the Congo," said UNTAT's commanding officer, Lt Col Mark Rayner, PWRR.

"Our role is to devise and deliver training for any peace-support operation. Troops come to us fully trained in military skills and we focus them on to the theatre and operation they are going to."

As well as training units for peace support operations, UNTAT staff have been preparing the UN's military observers for missions in Iraq, Georgia and Sierra Leone, plus East Timor and the Congo.

So what's involved in a typical Balkans course? First comes a detailed briefing day followed by two days of skills training. One module is a generic Balkans package covering aspects such as rules of engagement and the Serb language. Another is more theatre-specific for those going to Kosovo.

Differences include mine-awareness – given some prominence in Bosnia training, whereas for Kosovo the emphasis is switched to the hazards posed by unexploded ordnance and booby-traps.

The final two days are taken up by exercises covering five scenarios created to show soldiers what is and what is not the way to go about their jobs once in theatre.

One has a man walking down the street with a gun in his hand. As part of their rules-of-engagement training, soldiers have to learn to snatch the weapon. It is arguably the most important lesson they will learn.

"We teach the guys how to get a weapon off someone who does not want to give it up," explained UNTAT trainer Capt Steve Ballard RM.

It can get tense, even in the rural and less-than-threatening environment of Hampshire's Longmoor training area. For added realism, the gun-toting hostile speaks only Albanian and there is no interpreter on hand to make things easier. Two soldiers take up an aggressive stance while a third (the one who is going to grab

the weapon) dons his helmet. The two cock their rifles at the precise moment the third snatches the weapon.

It's over in an instant and the soldiers quickly "de-escalate" the situation. "If they get it wrong they're going to find themselves killing someone who should not be killed, or not reacting with the right

level of escalation," said Capt Ballard. "Do that and they can lose credibility."

Training complete, the soldiers transfer to their new units in theatre – but are not forgotten by UNTAT. "We go out about a month after a major unit has gone into theatre to see how they are settling in," said Capt Ballard. "We see if anything has

changed in-theatre and find out from the lads how relevant they thought the training was and whether we can improve it."

Changes in theatre are reflected in changes in training. It is this proactive attention to detail that helps UNTAT's dedicated team ensure Britain's soldiers remain uniquely respected in the Balkans.

Bosnians impressed by UN team programme

KEEPING a close eye on UNTAT's latest intake being readied for peacekeeping duties in Bosnia was a small group of military men with more than a passing interest in the proceedings. They were representatives of the Bosnian armed forces.

Fifteen officers, five each from the Bosnian and Croat elements of the Federation Army and five from the Republika Srpska Army, and ranging from lieutenant to brigadier, observed for themselves just how thoroughly British soldiers are trained.

Maj Steve Congrieve RM said any chance to bring the three groups together and to expose them to Nato standards of training and doctrine had to be grasped.

The Bosnians were impressed by what they saw. Col Zuhrie said it was a totally new experience for him. "The Bosnian Army has accepted Nato standards and we are well aware that we can learn quite a lot from this experience," he said. "I hope we will use this opportunity wisely."

His words were echoed by Col Ckonjevic of the Republika Srpska Army. "I am extremely pleased, especially with the way you are training your soldiers prior to their deployment in our country," he said.

"This is valuable not only for the British Army, but for us to see the way you are training your soldiers before deploying."

"I especially like the professionalism that you include in every simple task. You are very responsible and impartial, which is the most important issue."

The senior officer, Brig Musa, a Croat serving in the Federation Army, agreed.

"I think this is the ideal way to train troops prior to their deployment in any military operations," he said. "I think that British troops deployed in Bosnia are doing their job quite properly."

The invitation to Longmoor was made in the hope that the visitors would return to Bosnia and generate similar training schemes.

UNTAT trainer: Capt Steve Ballard RM, right



Street-fighting men: Troops about to deploy to the Balkans are put through their paces in the fighting village on Longmoor training area near Aldershot, left, while emergency procedures for movement in a minefield are a particular priority for those going to Bosnia, below left.

As many soldiers as possible are taught how to guide in a landing helicopter, below right



Learning curve: Officers from the Bosnian armed forces watch the training. From left are Brig Musa, Col Ckonjevic and Col Zuhrie



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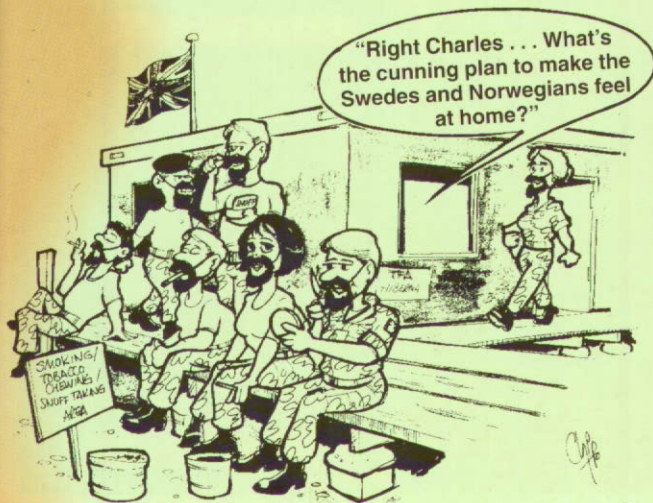
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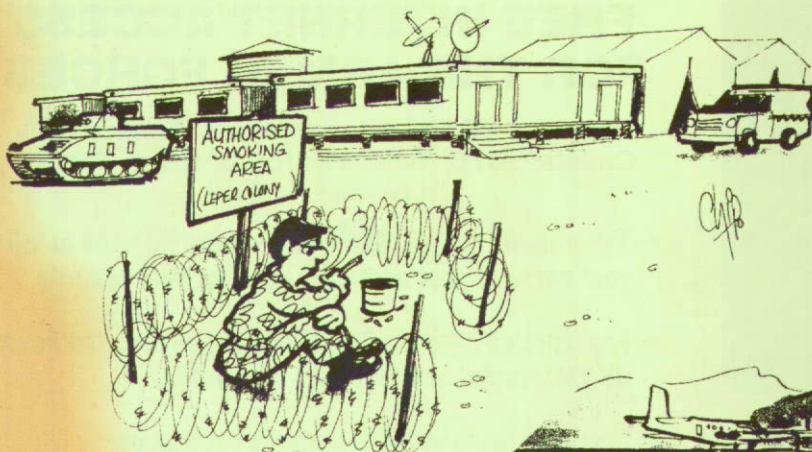
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"The Pristina Harriers are turning in ever more impressive times I see!"



Kosovo capers



"If I were you I'd whistle up some reserves ... What you've got there is the R and R bus!"



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On its way: A Milan missile; above, streaks down the range during live-firing on Salisbury Plain. All smoke and sound: A soldier, right, watches his Law 80 round home in on its target

Milan hitmen



Pictures: Steve Dock

New-style Milan concentration on Salisbury Plain gives anti-tank platoons a chance to sharpen up their act... and fire lots of missiles

SEVERAL thousand pounds' worth of highly sophisticated hardware disappears in a lethal flash every time a Milan missile is fired, so the 68 expended during HQ Land's first "mini-concentration" on Salisbury Plain represented a major investment in platoon anti-tank capabilities.

Gratifyingly, the strike-rate achieved by troops using these expensive, wire-guided projectiles during Exercise Foxhound Strike was an impressive 92 per cent.

Anti-tank platoons from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the 1st Battalions of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and The King's Own Royal Border Regiment took

part in the inaugural exercise. Run by the School of Infantry's Anti-Tank Division and designed to replace the old six-week Otterburn gathering, Foxhound Strike is destined to become a twice-a-year, 12-day, four-stage intensive package which will allow platoons to train "in role".

For the first five days platoons planned their own training across the Plain. Next came two days of stands pitched at refining section-level skills and drills. Half-day battle exercises during this phase were enlivened by the presence of RMCS Shrivenham's T-72 Soviet main battle tank, a T-62 and a BMP 2. Platoons achieved hit rates of between 35 and 50 per cent during a 48-hour exercise using TES laser simulation kit... a big improvement on the current TES rate of 15 per cent.

Then came the bit everyone had been looking forward to – a day of live-firing, boosted by an extra 12 missiles (on top of their annual allocation) provided for each platoon by HQ Infantry. A refined exercise is planned by the Anti-Tank Division for November, with others following in April and November 2001.

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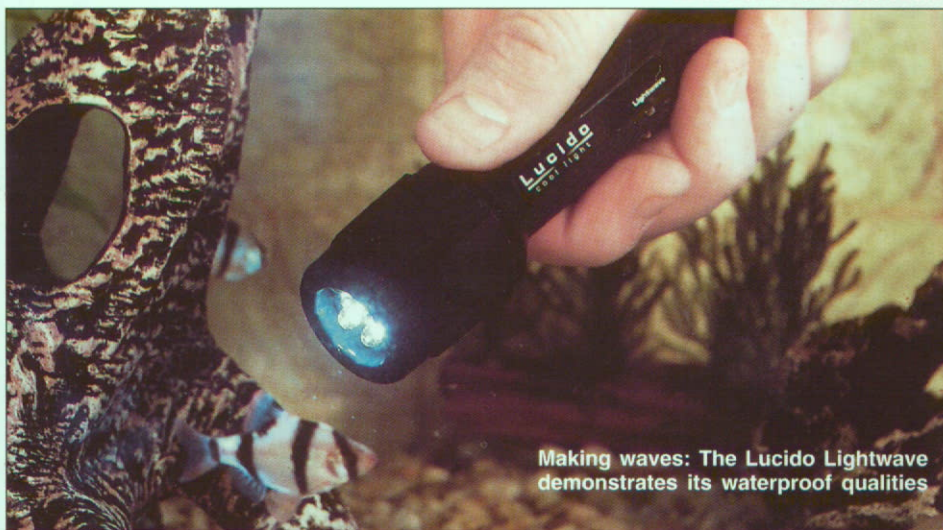
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Pictures: Graeme Main and Steve Dock



Making waves: The Lucido Lightwave demonstrates its waterproof qualities

Torch and go

Thanks to two new products on the market you don't have to keep yourself in the dark

SCENARIO ONE: You can't find your torch but think you may have dropped it while crossing a shallow stream a mile back. Is it worth retracing your steps to look for it?

SCENARIO TWO: It's the middle of the night and you suddenly feel the urge to compose a letter to your beloved/write a novel/complete a report. But you have to be careful not to give away your position or wake up your mates in the same tent. What do you do for light?

The answer to the first question is yes... especially if the torch you accidentally mislaid was a **Lucido Lightwave 2000**. And the answer to the second is: Slip on a **Finger-lite** and scribble away to your heart's content while your colleagues snore undisturbed.

The Lightwave 2000 has stirred some interest among staff at the Infantry Trials and Development Unit, Warminster, where they have thoroughly tested its claim for exceptionally long battery life, unbreakability and, er, waterproof-ability.

Maj Drew Beaumont RWF, who looks after the digitization and personal equipment side of things, told us that while the torch would not necessarily be taken into service, it had impressed his team. Made of black plastic and small enough to fit into a pocket, it had been left immersed in a basin over a weekend (and was still shining brightly on the Monday), and had worked continuously with Army-issue batteries for six days (the makers claim it will last up to 336

hours on three AAs). Oh yes, and they had tried breaking it – unsuccessfully – by smacking it against a table. TSS has let us have one to give away (see details on the right) which, we have to confess, has been underwater briefly to provide the photograph above. Otherwise it's as good as new and worth the £23 price-tag.

The Finger-lite, pictured left, clips on to the finger by means of a velcro strap, providing pinpoint illumination without the need to hold the thing in your teeth. An extra clip means it can be fitted to spectacle frame or helmet strap.

It's also adjustable, so will slip over gloves or NBC gear. Up to 50 hours of operation is normal, via two A76 batteries, and the torch comes in five LED colours – white, amber, green, red and blue (Optomise Systems also do it in infra-red). Designed and made in the UK, the Finger-lite has already been issued to US forces for search-and-rescue. The makers

say it is ideal for navigation, map-reading, route-marking, weapon inspections, setting fuzes, engineering tasks... or repairing that thingy under the sink.

We've heard of one unit which attaches them to bergens so the soldier behind can pick out his colleague in front while marching through jungle on a dark night.

Priced from £5.50 to £9 depending on colour, they're stocked by PRIs and selected Naafis and we've got nine (seven amber, two white) to give away – details on the right.



Fingertip focus with Finger-lite

C-17 will rise to the challenge

FOUR giant Boeing C-17 Globemaster aircraft on lease to the Royal Air Force will transform the Army's ability to deploy its heaviest armour – including Challenger main battle tanks – rapidly and at long range.

Each of the huge transport planes, to be based at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, is capable of carrying heavy equipment ranging from one Challenger to three Warriors, or three Apaches to 13 Land Rovers.

The C-17s are expected to arrive in the UK in the middle of next year.

Under the terms of the £500 million lease agreement, RAF personnel operating the Globemasters will wear US Air Force flight overalls and maintain the aircraft to USAF standards.

The C-17s will fill the gap until Britain's Joint Rapid Reaction Force benefits from the RAF's acquisition of 25 heavy-lift, long-range Airbus Military A400M aircraft to replace the ageing Hercules fleet.

Until now, Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels have been used to deploy Challenger overseas, necessitating long and slow sea passages.

Give yourself a winning chance

TO give yourself a chance to win the Lucido Lightwave torch, answer the following question:

How many days are there in 336 hours?

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To find out more about the Lucido Lightwave, ring 01752 550575, e-mail Andy.TSS@msn.com or visit www.TSS-online.com

FOR a chance to win one of nine Finger-lite multi-purpose torches, answer the following question:

What do the letters LED stand for?

Entries should reach us by July 31 and usual rules apply.

If you want more information about the Finger-lite, contact Optomise Systems Ltd on 01227 453881 or contact your PRI.

Crucial influence of market forces

Arms sales, while controversial, remain one of Britain's greatest sources of foreign exchange. We look at the part the Army plays in the Defence Export Services Organisation

Report: Ray Routledge

IT is a principle of the United Nations Charter that each country has the right to defend itself. The ability to do so, however, depends on the availability of weapons.

Britain's arms export industry is a leading player on that particular world stage, second only to the USA. Small teams of British soldiers play a crucial role in this highly competitive and somewhat secretive multi-billion-dollar business.

Overseeing sales from British manufacturers is the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO), which exists to maximise legitimate UK defence exports and co-ordinate the industry.

Army personnel play a significant part in the organisation, lending expertise and advice to those who make the equipment and those who might buy it.

Set up in 1966, DESO adopted its present title in 1985 and comprises more than 700 personnel.

"Our role is not to sell defence equipment abroad, but to assist manufacturers," said Maj Graham Barlow, RGBW, and currently SO2 co-ordinator in the NBC defence and support vehicles section of the organisation.

Key components of the organisation are the Regional Marketing Directorates based around the world in four strategic areas – the Middle East, including the Gulf States; the Indian sub-continent and surrounding area, and Latin America; Australasia; and the rest of the world, including Europe, North America and Nato. DESO also maintains permanent

project management and technical support teams in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Malaysia.

The military arm of DESO is headed by Rear Admiral John Tolhurst and split by Service into teams fronted by full colonel equivalents. The Army element is broken down into four export support teams – the Royal Engineers at Chatham, the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington, the Royal Artillery at Larkhill, and the Infantry at Warminster.

He is talking about everything from uniforms and ration packs to tanks

"We provide demonstrations of the equipment at home or abroad and we attend equipment exhibitions around the world," said Maj Barlow.

The equipment he is talking about includes everything from uniforms and ration packs to tanks.

But he and his uniformed colleagues don't merely market the stuff. A tri-Service logistics team specialises in cradle-



Royal interest: Cpl Andy Dear, Blues and Royals, discusses digitization in the Scorpion CVRT with Prince Faisal of Jordan at a defence exhibition in Abu Dhabi



Sales pitch: Soldiers and prospective buyers look around the latest version of the Warrior 2000 AFV at Lulworth

to-grave support, including spares and training.

Another branch of the organisation, the Disposal Sales Agency, is responsible for moving on saleable equipment and stores declared surplus to the requirements of the MoD. Its staff negotiated the deal taking Challenger 1 tanks to Jordan.

DESO also sells expertise. Recently a team of specialists spent a month in Saudi Arabia overseeing the construction of firing ranges which they had designed.

Big-spending customers include South Africa, Norway, the United Arab Emirates and USA. What about big sellers?

"Hawk aircraft and the Eurofighter – even though it is several years away," replied Maj Barlow. "Some naval electronics systems are world leaders and the AS90 generates a lot of interest."

"We have just completed the first export order for AS90 to Poland and they have been looking at bridging equipment, logistics vehicles such as Supacat, and armour including turrets with gun systems to put on a T72 chassis. That deal means the Poles will build AS90 under licence."

While keeping faith with the UN Charter, DESO also operates its own self-imposed restrictions. The list of countries with which it will not do business includes Iraq and former Yugoslavia. It won't sell

defence NBC equipment to Pakistan, India, Russia or China.

Mine sales are forbidden, but not mine clearance equipment.

Since anything sold to another country requires an export licence, the DESO deals directly with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Foreign Office to process these documents for industry.

Britain, with the help of its soldier-specialists, ensures its sales of defence equipment are properly controlled. Some of its competitors may not be so scrupulous.

Soldier-speak is crucial to DESO's military customers

A SMALL team of experts who make up the Royal Armoured Corps export support team at Bovington fly all over the world to support British arms manufacturers.

Yet their expertise doesn't always begin at home. One of the vehicles currently in the shop window, the Scarab, is not actually in service with the British Army. It presents no problems.



Maj Paul Milnes

Officer commanding Maj Paul Milnes, Light Dragoons, said his team was getting to know the command-and-control vehicle made by Alvis as part of their sales remit to other countries.

"When we go to exhibitions abroad we need to understand what else is out there so we can give

advice not only about what is in service with the MoD, but other equipment too," he said.

Training to ensure his soldiers fully understand the equipment is vital. It has to be right and they have to be on the ball.

"We don't actually do the selling," said Maj Milnes. "We support the manufacturers in what they are trying to achieve."

Work on Warrior 2000 is an example of the co-operation that exists between the support teams. "The 2000 is Alvis's evolution of Warrior and it's a highly improved version," said Maj Milnes.

For foreign arms exhibitions the armour specialists need to ensure they can deploy expertise across the spectrum of

equipment, so they work closely with infantry, engineer and artillery colleagues.

Ranks in the team range from major to lance corporal and they get to some exotic locations. A recent visit to Abu Dhabi will be followed by Kuala Lumpur, Paris, Greece and South Africa.

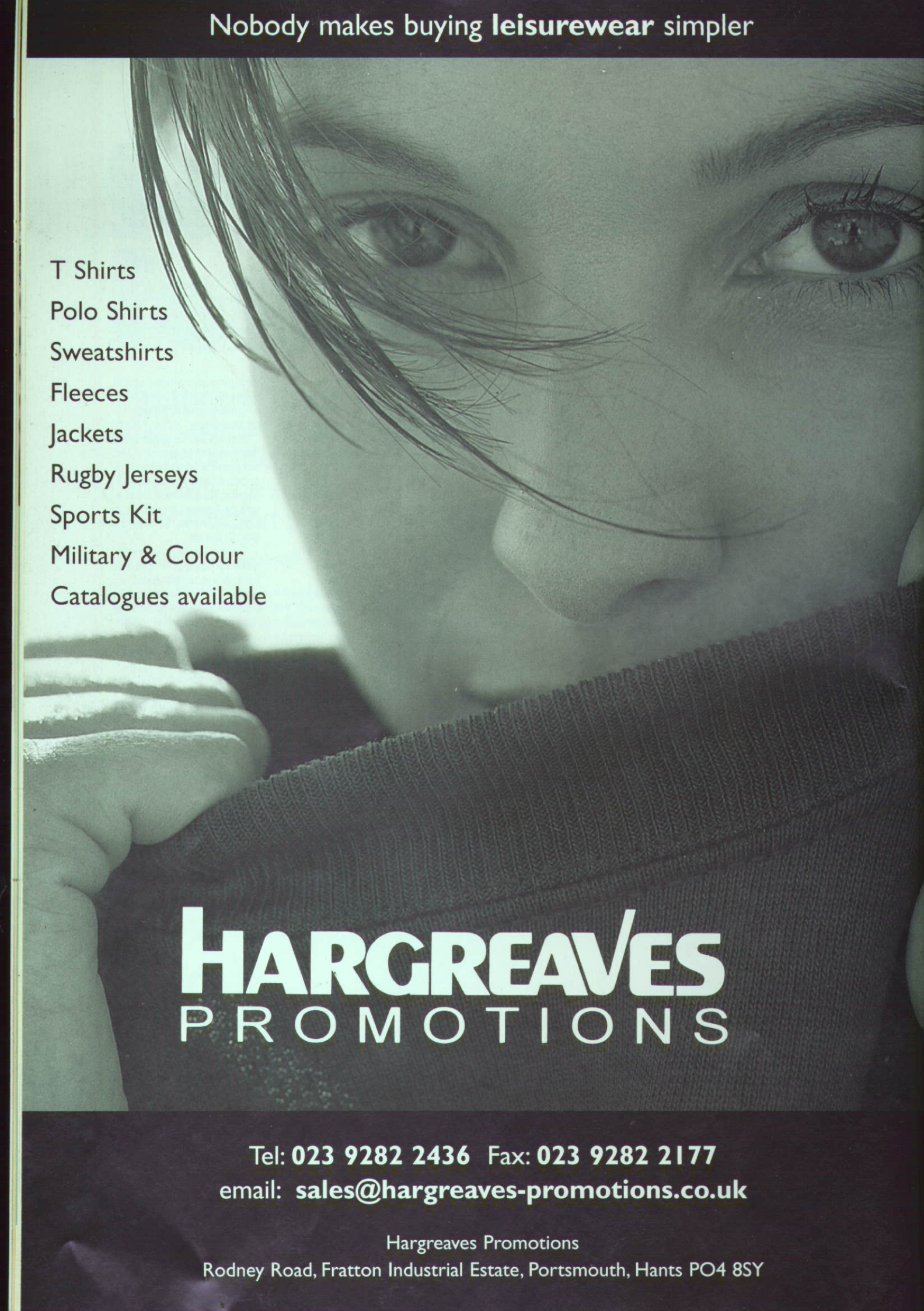
Communication is not usually a problem because, for the more technical work, DESO teams employ interpreters. Most people, they find, speak English anyway.

The soldier-to-soldier contact is not underestimated when it comes to promoting a piece of kit. "When they speak in soldier terms they can make each other understand," said Maj Milnes.

Soldier-to-soldier, it seems, is an international language.

AS90: Going to Poland

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Marking 30 years of Op Banner

Thirty years of British Army service in Northern Ireland has been marked on canvas by a former cavalry officer

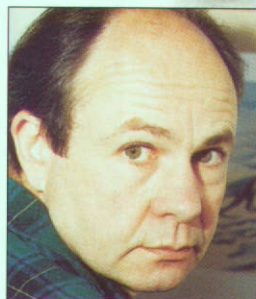
AT a time when the chance of a lasting peace seems to be a real possibility for the people of Northern Ireland, HQNI has commissioned a series of paintings by Robin Watt, a former Royal Hussar. His images capture the flavour of routine patrols and searches and the towns and countryside in which British soldiers have endeavoured to keep the peace and where, all too sadly, so many died or were maimed by bomb and bullet.

In summarising his thoughts about the commission, Robin Watt describes the British soldier as "the salt of the earth".

"The principal qualities that shine through in the character of the British soldier are not only his stoicism, his resilience, his tenacity and his renowned fighting skills, but also his patience, his powers of judgement, his restraint, his willingness to help others and his magnanimity, particularly on the battlefield in the immediate aftermath of war."

Robin Watt retired from the Army in 1993 to devote himself to becoming a professional artist. His observations and drawings of the Gulf War were subsequently published by the National Army Museum as *A Soldier's Sketchbook*. From November 1990 to March the following year he was attached to HQ 7 Armoured Brigade, part of the 1st British Armoured Division which helped to liberate Kuwait.

He has also completed painting commissions in the Balkans.



Robin Watt



Scenes from Robin Watt's sketchbook show, above, North Howard Street Mill, Belfast, a high risk search team, left, on the Fermanagh-Donagall border and, below, a soldier from 1 RWF on patrol near Drumcree



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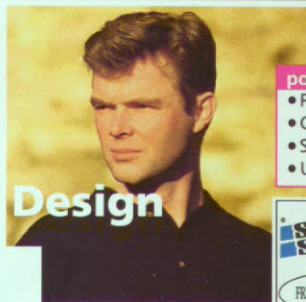
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Staffords in the zone

A first tour in Cyprus for nearly 50 years has allowed soldiers a chance to honour four colleagues killed during troubled times

Report: Maj Mike James

Pictures: Stuart Bingham

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment stood with bowed heads inside the Commonwealth Cemetery which lies in the no man's land in Cyprus's UN-controlled 'buffer zone'.

They were there to pay tribute to four members of the regiment who died while on peacekeeping duties in Cyprus nearly 45 years ago. The Greek-Cypriot Enosis campaign had become increasingly violent during 1955 and civil disorder and murder had become a frequent occurrence.

The South Staffordshire Regiment, in Egypt at the time for desert training, was moved to Cyprus as the crisis worsened. Soon after its arrival, the situation deteriorated to the point where it became unsafe for anyone to move around except in armed parties.

With civilian police failing to cope with the disturbances, isolated police posts were reinforced by three-man detachments of soldiers. By the end of 1955 bombings had become so commonplace that the battalion was totally involved in internal security duties.

In the closing months of 1956, platoon and company-sized detachments played a part in operations outside Nicosia involving cordon-and-search tasks in rural villages. They sometimes yielded important caches of arms and ammunition.

A brief downpour broke the silence as the *Last Post* faded away. A cry of "savages" echoed from a Turkish observation post 200 yards away, a sharp reminder of why the British soldiers were there. It is

South Staffords were moved from Egypt as situation deteriorated

the first time the Staffords have been stationed in Cyprus since the Fifties, so their service of remembrance was particularly fitting.

Some 240 soldiers from the 1st Battalion arrived in December to patrol the UN-controlled Green Line, the buffer zone which has divided the island since the Turkish Army invaded in 1974.

The Staffords have been in control of the 25-mile section which zig-zags through Nicosia, the world's last divided capital. The Green Line snakes its way past houses and shops still bearing the

Victim of times of trouble: Lt Col Chris Hughes, CO 1 Staffords, lays a wreath on the grave of a Staffordshire soldier killed on duty in Cyprus during the 1950s



United force: Staffords train for Green Line duties. Troops from Argentina, Hungary, Austria and the Netherlands serve with them in the rapid reaction unit based at the old Nicosia airport

scars of battle between Greek-Cypriot soldiers and Turkish paratroopers. About 160,000 Greek Cypriots fled south, leaving ghost towns along the border. Buildings in the buffer zone have been untouched for more than 25 years.

Soldiers patrol on bicycles because it gives them closer contact with the opposing forces. It also allows them to listen and keep fit at the same time as they negotiate tracks that have not been repaired for many years.

It can be frustrating: one moment the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish soldiers are laughing with the Staffords, the next – usually when the peacekeepers have had to point out a transgression in the rules – they are quite unable to speak a word of English.

Soldiers work a 15-day rota, with ten days on duty and five away. For those off duty there are plenty of adventurous training opportuni-

ties on the coast and in the hills, while skiing, abseiling, rock-climbing and sailing are within easy reach.

Despite tensions between north and the south, Cypriots are currently more optimistic than for many years about resolving differences and achieving a peaceful solution to their island's problems.

Now at the end of their six-month tour, the Staffords are handing over their segment of the Green Line to the gunners of 16 Regiment, Royal Artillery.

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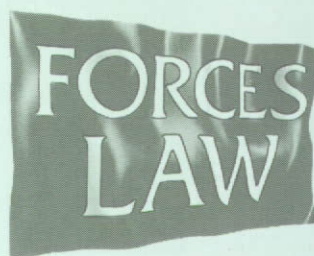
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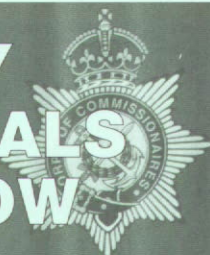


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From Westminster to Wapping

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

New health checks system introduced

THE MoD is setting up a system to monitor the health of those deployed to Sierra Leone which would become routine for future operations in other theatres.

Defence Under-Secretary Dr Lewis Moonie said: "We owe it to our people to ensure that all personnel who deploy on operations do so with the right medical protection."

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon had earlier told the Commons that time had been too short to allow soldiers in the Spearhead Battalion to receive the recommended three-week course of mefloquine, the most effective anti-malarial drug, before deployment to Sierra Leone.

He said a small number of deployed personnel had not started taking the malaria antidote before embarking and an investigation into the reasons for this was under way.

Congratulating the 4,000 British forces members on their deployment, Mr Hoon said Operation Palliser would cost an estimated £8m.

He reiterated that longer-term assistance to the Sierra Leone government would take the form of a UK-led international military advisory and training team. It is expected the team will number 90 people, half from the UK.

Lessons learned: Action is already in hand based on lessons learned from the Nato action in Kosovo, the Defence Secretary told MPs.

His comment followed publication by the Ministry of Defence of a report on the lessons of the UK's participation in Operation Allied Force, the Nato action in Kosovo.

Mr Hoon said that Nato was right to have acted in Kosovo and "successfully achieved its objectives, averting a major humanitarian catastrophe and enabling 1.3m Kosovans to return home". He added: "The UK's armed forces and civilian support personnel performed superbly."

He said work to improve elements such as



secure communication and precision attack capabilities was already in hand.

One key lesson recognised that a soldier trained and equipped for war may play an effective role in peacekeeping, but may require additional skills, whereas a soldier trained

for peacekeeping is not prepared for high-intensity operations.

Among many other points, the report stresses the requirement for and value of reserve forces.

Kosovo internet: An internet service for military personnel in Kosovo was expected to be in place by the end of June. The MoD's Defence Communication Services Agency is providing the communications infrastructure, with Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood, acting as the service provider.

TA in Balkans: About 4,000 TA soldiers have been mobilised for duty in the Balkans since December, 1995.

Joint NBC Regiment: The Joint NBC Regiment will continue to be based at RAF Honington, near Bury St Edmunds. Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said that it was likely that a new office block, training complex and hangar works would be required as well as accommodation, at an estimated cost of £9m. New buildings

housing the Defence NBC Centre at Winterbourne Gunner will cost about £7m.

Marriage lines: Married strength of the Army is 48,614, of whom 2,868 have spouses in the Armed Forces.

Royal Artillery radar: The Mobile Artillery Monitoring Battlefield Radar (MAMBA), currently in the concept stage

of the procurement process, is planned to be in service by 2008-09, although there is to be an initial operating capability by 2002-03.

Army strength: Strength of the trained Army as at April 1 was 96,475, an increase of 175 on the previous year and the first time there has been a net inflow since 1986.

War widows pilgrimage: The War Widows Pilgrimage Scheme administered by the Royal British Legion, which has enabled more than 4,000 widows to visit graves in many parts of the world, has been extended to March 31, 2003.

Warrior armour: Although there are inherent problems in the use of aluminium armour on vehicles such as Warrior, Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said in a written answer that there had been no

reports of specific structural or metallurgical defects affecting any such vehicles deployed to Kosovo.

Defence focus on 'core sites'

FOCUSING activities on a reduced number of core sites is a key element of a new blueprint for the future of the defence estate.

Launching the new strategy on June 7, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon stressed the need to keep enough land for the Services to operate effectively, while also releasing land for other uses.

"Focusing our activities onto a reduced number of core sites should enable us to release more land for re-use and development, particularly in the south and east of England," he said.

"However, the MoD will continue to maintain a presence across the UK. It is vital to reinforce civil links between the services and wider society."

The MoD has 4,000 sites covering 240,000 hectares and spends more than £1.5 billion a year on them.

● THE SAS is facing a shortfall in volunteers for the first time in its history, putting increased pressure on the already overstretched Army. — *Daily Mail*.

● The Army's infantry battalions are suffering from a severe shortage of men following the stalling of attempts to improve recruiting and retention. — *Daily Telegraph*.

● The family of Maj Andrew Harrison, Para, an unarmed UN military observer trapped by rebels in Sierra Leone, has urged the Ministry of Defence to get him

released. He is in a UN barracks surrounded by Revolutionary United Front forces. — *The Times*.

● A year after Serb troops withdrew from Kosovo, the Union Jack is flying triumphantly over this war-torn corner of the Balkans. Where British politicians were swift in condemning Serb atrocities, British companies have been equally quick in sniffing out opportunities amid the rubble. — *The Times*.

● A tennis player is suing the Army after a paratrooper interrupted her game. She was

sent flying when the soldier was blown off course at a Surrey County Show display near Guildford. — *The Times*.

● A private with 1 D and D who stepped out of his sentry box at Windsor Castle in pouring rain to salute the Queen was amazed when she stopped and caringly told him: "Don't be silly — get back in the dry." — *The Sun*.

● Thousands of people whose relatives fought in the two world wars will be able to join the march-past at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, the Government announced. — *The Times*.



Force for good

Plain walker

Pause for breath: Lt Col Mike Jelf, commandant of Salisbury Plain Training Area, takes a break during his charity walk to demonstrate that access to the SPTA, despite military restrictions, allows the public to enjoy miles of byways and footpaths.

Picture: Terry Champion



NBC team sets sights on Britain

TWELVE soldiers and airmen from RAF Honington-based **Joint NBC Regiment** were joining forces to run round Britain as this issue went to press.

Their 2,700km marathon began on June 18 when Maj David Couzens and LCpl Derek Turner – both fathers of premature babies – set off from London on a continuous, round-the-clock, 12-man relay, each member of the team running two hours a day.

Ambitious aim of the ultra long-distance project was to raise £27,000 for Bliss, the national charity for the newborn. The runners were calling at the Army's main garrisons on their way as well as raising money for the Army and RAF Benevolent Funds.

Running was also the fund-raising method chosen by 19 potential officers from the **Army School of Education** at Worthy Down. They galloped across the 104-mile South Downs Way to raise nearly £1,000 for Snaps, a local charity for special needs activities and play schemes.

A team of 24 from the **Defence Medical Services Training Centre** at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot raised £1,664 for Leukaemia Research by completing the Fleet half-marathon. Capt Alison McCourt QARANC, an instructor, rounded up colleagues to take part in memory of SSgt Paul Collins, who died of leukaemia earlier this year.

Soldiers from **238 (Sefton) Squadron RLC (V)** raised £3,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund, the RNLI and Alder Hey Children's Hospital during a 214-mile run from their barracks in Bootle to Hull and back.

The **Force Workshop Company, Cyprus Engineering Unit** at RAF Akrotiri organised a coast-to-coast endurance challenge to raise funds for BLESMA, the limbless ex-

Servicemen's charity, Dreamflight, which provides holidays to Disneyland for terminally-ill children, and the Theotokos Foundation, a Limassol-based charity for children with special needs. Five teams from British Forces Cyprus joined the 75-mile challenge – won by Forces Workshop West – while other teams took part in the slightly less demanding Workshop Walkdown and women's race to Episkopi. Organisers hope to meet their target of £C6,000.

Catering Platoon, Support Bn, HQ ARRC raised DM 3,271 for the Queen Charlotte's Appeal, London and the Rheindahlen crèche by finishing the RAF Bruggen ten-mile run.

Soldiers at **Prince William of Gloucester Barracks** challenged Lincolnshire Fire Services to a 26-mile marathon run and 13-mile row – in the gym. Using rowing and running machines, the soldiers finished first and made £1,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Gymnasium staff at **SEME Bordon** collected £839 for cancer research by taking part in a 24-hour running event.

Teams from **Northern Ireland-based** units took part in a three-day sporting extravaganza including five-a-side football, canoeing, swimming, running and paint-balling to raise more than £2,500 for the Starlight Children's Foundation. Meanwhile, cadets from **Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland ACF** collected £4,500 for the foundation for sick children by taking part in a sponsored cycle ride from Land's End to John o'Groat's.

Twenty pupils from **Chilton Cantelo School Corps of Drums** plan to take part in 100 parades during six days in July to raise money for CancerCare Dorset.

Feature

One throw of the dice

Gurkha soldiers have only one shot at promotion. For them, the JNCO cadre is make-or-break time

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main and Mike Weston

IMAGINE if, just to get into the Army, you had to be selected as one of the top 200 from thousands of applicants.

Then, after four years' service, you found yourself among 62 determined, fit and highly-motivated colleagues bidding for promotion to one of just 30 vacancies at lance corporal.

You get one chance only. Pass, and promotion is yours. Fail, and you face 11 more years as a private.

Sounds harsh, but it's a reality for the British Army's Gurkha soldiers.

Promotion candidates with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles have just been through the selection mill at Sennybridge in Wales. Each rifleman on the Junior Leaders' Cadre (JLC) had completed four years of service. The cadre has two aims: to train young Gurkhas to be section 2iCs and to select the best for promotion to lance corporal.

Why do they get only one shot at earn-



Capt Duncan Hoy:
"They're all pretty talented guys"

ing those coveted stripes? It's simple: no one leaves Gurkha battalions before completing 15 years' service, so because there is no turnover in manpower, there are no vacancies other than those created by Gurkhas leaving at the end of their time.

Promotion opportunities are so limited it is not practical to give soldiers chance after chance. The only exception to the one-shot rule is if a candidate is prevented by injury from completing the cadre. He can have another go.

There are strong incentives for passing. Success means an added length of service for the soldier... a sergeant in the Gurkhas can, for example, complete 18 years instead of the 15 available to a rifleman. Because of an agreement with India and Nepal that allows them to serve in the British Army, Gurkha soldiers may not increase their length of service by transferring to another regiment.

The five-week cadre, spent mostly in the field, is exceptionally demanding. It includes just one evening off. The main part of the assessment – mostly undertaken in exercise conditions – puts the soldiers' tactical abilities under scrutiny. Candidates are tested in all types of operations, including defence,

attack and patrols situations, and each soldier is given ten chances to command.

The fitness element includes six-, eight- and ten-mile runs, and while *Soldier* was visiting the cadre the Gurkhas were given a surprise fitness assessment consisting of a timed 3½-mile run in full kit – and this immediately after a week-long exercise.

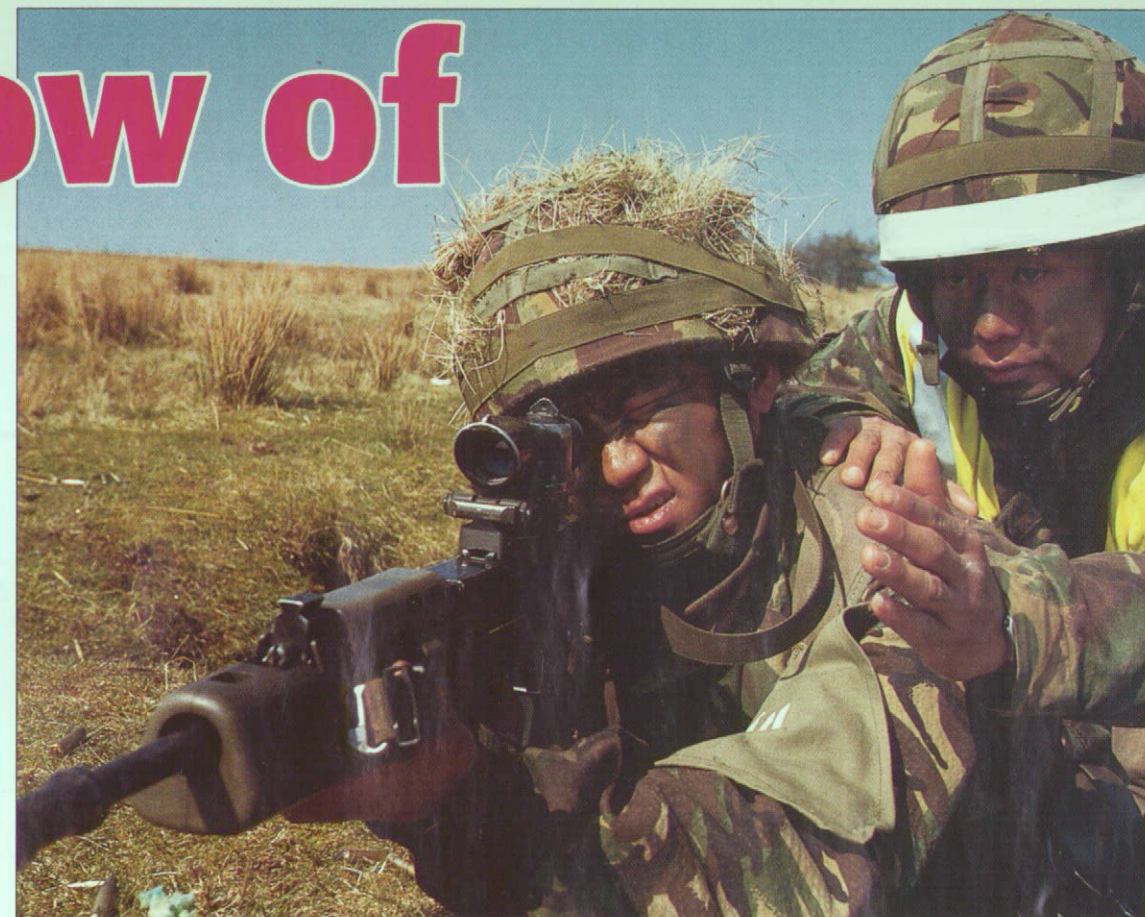
Later there was a team run across the Brecon Beacons, again in full kit.

Ability to instruct is put under the microscope and soldiers are asked to present lessons in skill-at-

arms, drill and battlefield crafts such as obstacle-crossing. They also face a tactical test based on what they have been taught during the cadre. The soldiers are assessed throughout the cadre by their platoon commanders and instructors.

The final day, when they find out whether they have made the grade, is the most nerve-racking part of the cadre.

"Joining the Gurkhas is a popular thing for a young man in Nepal to do and last year the two Gurkha battalions, along with signals, engineers and transport, offered



Hands on: LCpl Kiran Pun, right, instructs Rfn Deman Rana during the junior NCO cadre live-firing at Sennybridge



Steps to promotion: Fighting in built-up areas at Sennybridge



Class mates: Rfn Bahadur Budha, right, has his instructional skills assessed by Cpl Taramani Gurung, seated

He could have been an officer

In the world of football, he's done it all . . . player, leader, manager, executive, pundit. Jimmy Hill has left his mark on our national game and he started by playing in the Army

Interview: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

IT comes as a mild surprise on meeting Jimmy Hill to discover he does not have "Football Fan" tattooed across his forehead.

This, after all, is a man who has spent 50 years living, breathing, totally involved in the sport he loves. His passion for the game is all-consuming.

An occasionally controversial, always opinionated figure, he took his first faltering steps on the football ladder during post-war National Service in the British Army.

Jimmy's background couldn't be further from the old cliché image of a working class footballer. He was a grammar-

school boy for starters and his first job was on the Stock Exchange.

"I did my first six weeks' National Service training with the Suffolk Regiment at Bury St Edmunds," he recalled in his beautiful home north of Brighton. He gained officer recommendation status so moved to 3 Training Battalion RASC at Cirencester.

Jimmy went on a clerical course and got himself picked for the unit football team. "I nearly got myself into the unit dance band, too," he revealed. Crowds gathered every Thursday to watch the band's star turn, the 19-year-old Johnny Dankworth, an exciting new talent.

"He was fantastic," recalled Jimmy, who didn't make the band because his Boys' Brigade trumpet-playing was not what jazzman Dankworth had in mind.

But the world of music's loss was to be football's gain. Jimmy palled-up with Derek Upton, later of Charlton and England, and the two became lifelong friends.

Then came a decision that was to change his life. "My company commander said I could stay and carry on playing for the unit team by becoming an instructor on the course I had just taken, but I would have to give up my officer aspirations."

"It took me about eight seconds to say 'Done'. My Army career finished almost before it started, but I played football every week."

The RASC gathered their best players, including Hill and Upton, in one unit and transferred them to Farnborough, where they paraded in front of a Major Mallon.

Jimmy recalled their first conversation. **Mallon:** "Cpl Hill, do you know why you are here?"

Hill: "Yes sir. I'm to take charge of the documents office."

Mallon: "True, but you're really here to play football

so we can win the Army Cup."

Despite the high aspirations of the corps, the team failed to win the trophy that year. Nevertheless, when not playing in Army sides, Jimmy turned out for Kent League team Folkestone, where his expenses often amounted to more than his Army pay.

Just before he left the Army, Jimmy was injured in a match and had a cartilage removed at

the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot.

Seven weeks later he ran out for a trial in front of the leg-

endary Ted Drake, then manager of Reading in the old Third Division.

Drake didn't sign him, but Brentford of the Second did, and after scoring a hat-trick in a 6-0 reserve team win over Watford in only his second game, Jimmy found himself playing in the Football League. Not bad for a lad whose only previous experience was in Army soccer and the Kent League.

He moved to Fulham, where he was to spend nine happy years. While at Craven Cottage he became an extremely influential chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association and played a crucial part in what he regards as his finest achievement in the game – the abolition of the maximum wage. Until then, no matter how good a player was, or for which team he played, his salary was limited to a ceiling of about £20 a week.

"There was great injustice in the maximum wage," said Jimmy. "Players had virtually no say in their own careers and the clubs ruled them with a rod of iron. They weren't far from being serfs and they just accepted their lot in life."

"By the time my playing career was finished they were free, although most of the

'You're here to play football so we can win the Army Cup'

Still passionate about the game he has played and served all his life



Pundit: Jimmy Hill still attends as many games as he can and watches every match on television

credit should go to the association secretary, Cliff Lloyd."

Jimmy went on to become a successful coach, manager, football director and club managing director. In a parallel field he enjoyed a hugely successful broadcasting career, both with ITV and, perhaps more famously, with the BBC. He hosted

the then massively popular *Match of the Day* for nearly 15 years during which his famously long chin and goatee beard were to become a nationally-recognised symbol of pungent, heartfelt and forthright views on the game.

The six years he spent as manager of Coventry City were synonymous with

innovation and success as he took a previously underperforming outfit from the old Third Division to the top flight. Under Hill, the club quickly built a reputation for thinking ahead of the pack.

"We did things that were different; we had our own training ground, ran 'Sky Blue' trains to take supporters to away games, and in 1981 built the first all-seater ground in England."

Jimmy still feels that in the 1960s the Football Association made a massive blunder from which it has not recovered, by not appointing England coach Walter Winterbottom as its secretary.

"Today you could compare Walter to Arsene Wenger. The worst thing that happened to English football was that Walter wasn't given the job." Winterbottom, he says, would have set in train ways of nurturing young talent.

"I think we are still suffering and the Dutch, Germans and Italians have all overtaken us in terms of the sophisticated training they give to young players."

Who does he think have been the outstanding players on the world stage in his time?

There are no surprises: Pele, Maradona and Cruyff. "George Best was an extraordinary talent but you can't put him ahead of Cruyff or Pele. Pele was a lovely, open, nice, gentleman and an extremely talented player. Cruyff was a master of technique. You could put him in any position on the field and he would play well."

Jimmy still works in broadcasting, on Sky Sports, and takes in as many games as he can, mostly at Coventry, occasionally at Charlton with his old friend Derek Upton, and at Ryman League Corinthian Casuals, where he is club president.

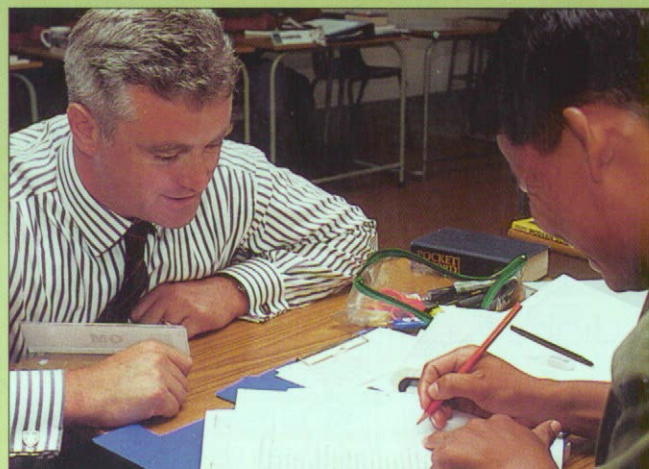
And he watches every match he can on TV . . . which during the season is most nights of the week. How does his non-football fan wife Bryony put up with it?

"She goes mad," he said with a grin. "Actually she takes it very well and has her own interests to keep her entertained."

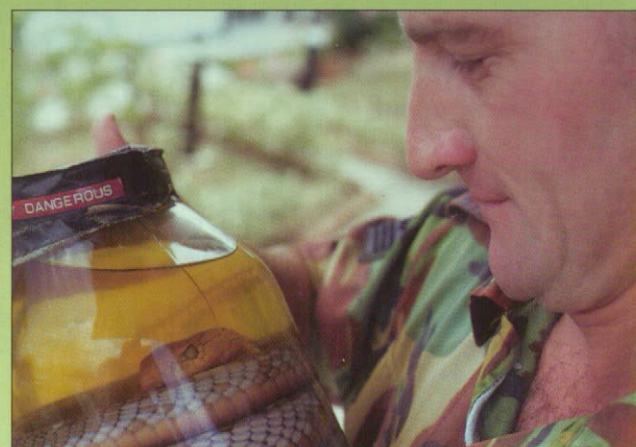
It was our cue to leave. "Sorry," he said, "but there's a big game on tonight and I don't want to miss it."

We didn't think he would.

Focus on Brunei



Tuition time: English lecturer Jeremy Nowers works with 2 RGR



Fangs for the memory: SSgt Dave Derbyshire, RAMC, above, examines a king cobra exhibit at the garrison's medical centre

Clean machine: Bdr Sher Limbu, 2 RGR, right, takes extra care of his weapon in the typically hot and humid conditions



Three for tea: Igoh Anak Mai, above left, stops for a break at the REME workshop with WO2 Trevor Hirst, AQMS and SSgt Andy Everett

Hot spot curries favour

Pictures: Graeme Main

AFTER nearly three years in Brunei, the resident infantry company, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, is leaving for Shorncliffe, to be replaced by its 1st Battalion.

This marks the end of a successful tour which saw elements of the battalion and the garrison deployed in East Timor on Operation Langer.

Brunei Garrison is home to about 100 British and 350 Gurkha families, making a total of about 2,500 people. There are three major sub-units within the garrison: support units, the jungle warfare wing and the Army Air Corps' 7 Flight. The flyers and ground staff provide 24-hour casevac cover, support the resident battalion and visiting exercises.

It's a busy place and far from a "sunshine post". But when the guys do get the chance, there are some fantastic opportunities to get out and see more of the exotic landscapes.

Despite the country enjoying one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, most of the country remains untouched and unexploited. Wherever you go, the jungle, one of the last great primary canopies, is never far away.

The population is mostly made up of Malays and Chinese and this rich blend makes it a colourful feast for the eyes and the tastebuds.

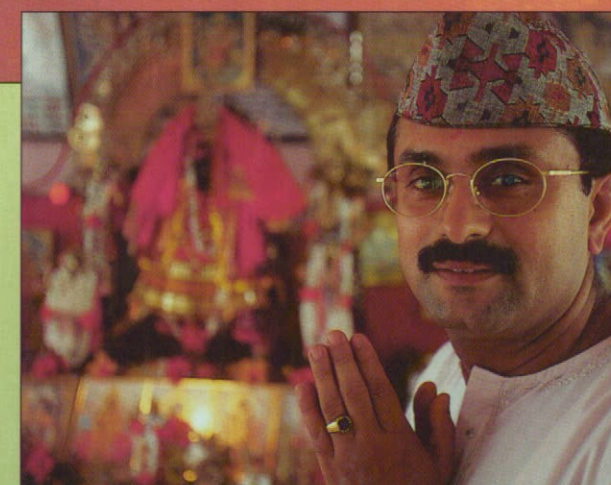


Sunset: The scene outside the officers' mess at twilight, left. Whenever you go to Brunei, the weather is always hot and wet



Making waves: WO2 Trevor Hirst, left, WO1 Binod Dhoj Khadka and station manager Dave Boyle in the Brunei BFBS studio

Peace be with you: Shiva Chandra Niraula, right, administers to Gurkhas' spiritual needs at the garrison temple. He is carrying on a family tradition begun in 1890 and is the fifth consecutive generation to become a Hindu priest



In the bag: Rfn Heniamkumar Raid, 2 RGR, below, gets in some practice on the pipes

Return to Panmunjom

For two years in the early 1950s the eyes of the world focused on a place called Panmunjom. Now this outpost in no man's land is to take centre stage in peace talks between North and South Korea

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

FIFTY years ago a ceasefire was agreed which ended the Korean War. The place where it happened – Panmunjom – is an hour's drive north of the South Korean capital of Seoul.

Today it is still a place of negotiation between the Koreas of north and south, a place on which the hopes of two nations will again focus in the hope that a first step to re-unification may be taken.

A *Soldier* team joined members of the British Korean Veterans Association on a visit to Panmunjom. Half a century ago these brave men prayed every night that a ceasefire would be declared. It was eventually – two long and bloody years later.

Panmunjom stands in a joint security area in the middle of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), a heavily-guarded, 4,000-metre wide strip bisected by a military demarcation line. A more formidable, albeit invisible, divide is 50 years of mutual hatred and mistrust.

Panmunjom's south side is policed by the UN Command and Security Battalion, made up of US and Republic of Korea (ROK) forces. Its mission is to provide a secure environment in which "armistice, diplomatic, humanitarian and peace operations" can take place.

Specialist McNeilly, an American liaison soldier, said the battalion, established in the spring of 1952, has 550 soldiers, 60 per cent of whom are provided by the ROK forces. "We are really no different to any battalion stationed in Kosovo or Macedonia, other than that we have been

here for more than 40 years," he said.

Visual contact, which is made daily with the North Korean People's Army (NKPA), has flared into violence in the past.

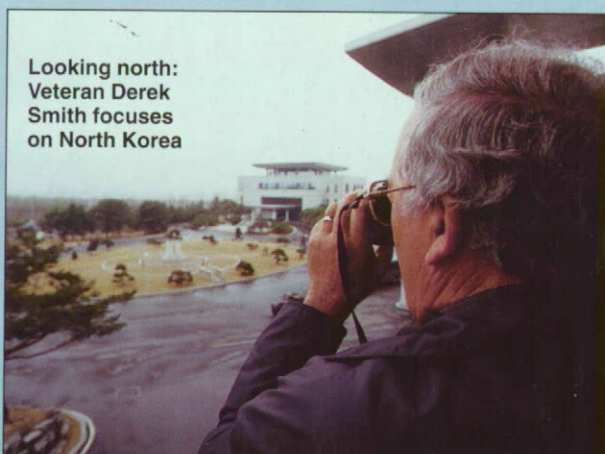
In August 1976 the UN commander dispatched a five-man civilian and ten-man security detail to trim a poplar tree restricting the view between two observation posts. They were met by an NKPA force of 28 soldiers who attacked them as they began work on the tree. The UN company commander, Capt Arthur Bonifas, and Lt Martin Barrett were axed to death in a four-minute fight.

The incident is recalled today in the title of the battalion base, Camp Bonifas, just 400m from the DMZ. The US soldiers in the battalion are hand-picked for their 12-month tours while ROK soldiers complete two-year tours. They are impressive soldiers. Taller than the average, they are all black belts, possess above-average intelligence and have been security cleared back through four generations. The officers are all graduates of the Korean Military Academy and have previous command experience.

They have to prove their mental and physical toughness and excel in decision-making. "These 18- to 20-year-old soldiers have a locked and loaded weapon and face an enemy every day," explained Specialist



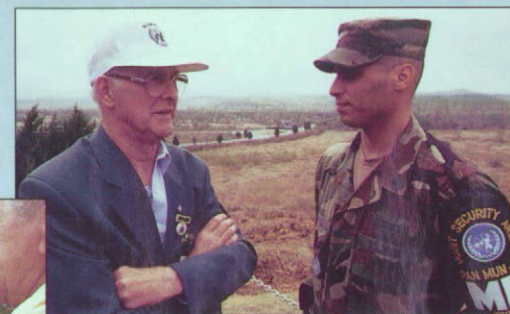
McNeilly. "If they feel their lives are in danger or under threat, they can respond with deadly force. Those soldiers are making international decisions, and they have to be the right ones."



Looking north: Veteran Derek Smith focuses on North Korea

Soldier talk: Former RMP corporal Ron Jarvis with Specialist McNeilly, UN Command and Security Battalion

Noel Tilling, in the wheelchair, below, and his wife Sheila, are escorted around Panmunjom by a GI



to the north, its only inhabitants are some extremely large loudspeakers that broadcast propaganda for up to 12 hours a day.

On the southern side of the DMZ is the village of Tae Song-Dong, the residents of which enjoy modern homes but are guarded around the clock.

They also have to put up with a curfew which obliges them to be back in the village by nightfall and indoors – with their doors and windows secured – by 2300 hours.

Panmunjom's "Bridge of No Return" earned its name at the end of the Korean War when prisoner exchanges were held on this section of front line. PoWs were lined up on either side of the bridge and given the opportunity to walk to the country of their choice. Once across it, they could never return.

Perhaps the most important site is the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) building, where peace talks take place at the most senior level.

The widespread hope is that, after 50 years of lingering aggression, the peoples of the Korean peninsula may find reconciliation... to the benefit of everyone in this beautiful part of Asia.

For what is already a very unusual place, Panmunjom can boast a number of rather bizarre features. Take, for example, Ki Jong-Dong, popularly known as Propaganda Village. Located in the DMZ just

Children who won't forget

FIFTY years after they first arrived in this corner of Asia, British Korean veterans, joined by their families, visited a village 45 minutes south of the capital Seoul. Away from that city of 11 million people and just off the busy main highway is Suwon, a place of tranquillity. Well nearly.

The village contains reconstructed 19th century rural buildings from all over Korea, which surprised Nathan Ritz,

a veteran returning for the first time. "Seoul is a fantastic, busy and modern city," he said. "But the Korea I fought in was just like this village, very rural and very old. The whole country was like this."

But the peace and quiet was about to be shattered – in the nicest possible way.

Before the old soldiers knew what was happening, thousands of primary school children visiting the village as part of their history classes,

caught sight of the veterans. Immaculate in their uniforms, the youngsters recognised the veterans for who they were and cheered and waved to them. The spontaneous show of affection was done with a respect for elders which is second nature to Korean children.

● While in Korea, the veterans did what they could do to help others, raising £70 for the Army Benevolent Fund at an auction.

Echoes of war

Ken Prosser, 1 KSLI

"We went to Inchon in about April or May 1951, arriving from Hong Kong. The battalion landed on the beach and I remember the colonel took his bull moustache with him. There was nothing at Inchon and Seoul was virtually flat. We relieved the Middlesex, took all their equipment, and headed for the sharp end.

"We saw planes rocketing a hill but didn't know we would be going there. We took the high ground and the North Koreans never pushed us off."



Ken Prosser, right, KSLI, shows Derek Wolton, RA, where he landed at Inchon

Derek Wolton, 20 Fd Regt RA

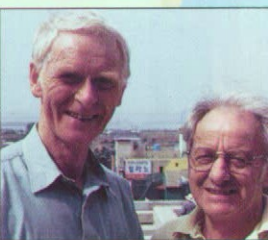
"It was a stagnant war when I came out in 1953. There were hordes of the enemy: they'd take the ground from us and we'd take it back. I lived with my gun crew and only knew one chap who was killed. He was from another battery and died when his gun blew up prematurely. I saw his grave at the UN cemetery at Pusan."

Harry Minnards, R Norfolks

"I arrived in August 1951. We were on Hill 555 in early November during the big push. I remember we took a lot of shells but what others took on their positions was unbelievable... and they came through it."

Terry Jackson-Brown, R Norfolks

"We used the Lee Enfield rifle. It was powerful, easy to use and I never found a drawback with it. The Bren gun was the thing, though. It could fire single shots or be used as machine-gun. And it had a flash eliminator so you could use it in the dark."



Keith Nutter, left, and Harry Minnards, R Norfolks, at the memorial in Inchon

Noel Tilling, A and SH

"We took Hill 282 and two American Mustangs came across, waggled their wings and bombed us. The Americans had everything and liked to trade. For two tins of corned beef you could get an American rifle. One day, returning from the front, the Yanks offered us showers and we gratefully accepted. Our uniforms were in a terrible state and the Americans gave us new ones. But our sergeant major took one look and said: 'You look like a bunch of blankety-blank Christmas trees' and he made us change back into our dirty kit."

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AFF conference



Question time: John Humphrys's incisive technique focused the debate and produced one of the most illuminating conferences in years. From left to right, Humphrys addresses the panel of John Spellar MP, Liz Sheldon, Brig Andrew Ritchie and Air Marshal Malcolm Pledger

Changing attitudes

Army wives speak out over homes, jobs and schools

Report: Anthony Stone
Picture: Steve Dock

JOHN Humphrys, the nation's favourite radio Rottweiler, went straight to the meat of the matter.

Chairing a question-and-answer session featuring a panel including Armed Forces Minister John Spellar, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel) Air Marshal Malcolm Pledger and Brig Andrew Ritchie, the Director Personal Services (Army), Humphrys received the loudest applause of the day when he said: "The core problem remains that you are asking more of Britain's Services, and therefore their families, and there is less with which to reward them and to see that they are kept in the way in which they ought to be kept."

It was one of the most incisive and informative Army Families Federation conferences in years, and the importance which the Army places on the family could be gauged by the attendance of many influential figures, including Lt Gen Tim Granville-Chapman, the new Adjutant General.

Picking up the conference theme of "changing attitudes", hundreds of delegates at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster seized the opportunity to highlight their concerns.

Chief among these was housing, especially UK married quarters still not up to grade one condition. The timetable for completing improvements had already slipped from 2003 to 2005.

"Families are still living with leaking roofs and antiquated kitchens," Kirsty Dudin, the AFF housing representative, told the panel. "What is the guarantee the deadline will not slip again?"

Housing touched a nerve with many of the delegates, who would have appreciated seeing more Defence Housing Execu-

tive area managers putting in appearances.

Anxieties over children's education was another hot topic. Frequent moves left parents with the dilemma of how to get their children into local schools.

Sally Osment, AFF education specialist, said: "The new code of practice produced by the Department for Education and Employment, which offers guidance to local education authorities to be 'sensitive' to the needs of Service children, is not working as well as it should.

"The maximum class size means that some families have been told to keep their children at home as there are not places for them."

Finding a suitable job for wives, especially when their husbands were posted overseas, remained a source of irritation.

Delegates heard the story of an officer who, noting the efficiency with which an Army wife typed a letter and believing her to be a trained secretary, offered her a job as his typist. "That's very nice," she replied. "Actually, I am a solicitor." No

● Turn to next page

Issues

Contribution to retention seen as vital

● From Page 41

one was expecting quick-fix solutions to very complex issues, but this was more than just a cathartic experience for the delegates and offered valuable feedback to decision-makers.

AFF chairman Liz Sheldon said a belief still existed that families did not contribute to operational effectiveness, while

their contribution to retention – vital for operational effectiveness – was generally accepted and the key reason for supporting accompanied service.

"Why the link between families and operational effectiveness is not made more explicit in some of the decisions relating to welfare provision, housing maintenance and

upgrade and leaving and joining packages is unclear," she said.

Overstretch and the increase in operational tours had meant more soldiers being away from home more often. Whereas families accepted this was part-and-parcel of the job, it was annoying that some soldiers were unable to spend more time at home even when they were back in the UK because of exercises and training.

This first AFF worldwide conference for 18 months was sharp, focused and organised with military precision. For the first time highlights were relayed around the globe via a website – www.aff.org.uk

The web is seen as a particularly good medium for Army families because 47 per cent of them – twice the national average – have access to the internet.

"I have chaired a lot of these things," Mr Humphrys told the conference in his closing remarks, "but I have never met a more articulate, determined or impassioned audience in my whole life."

His words were still hanging in the air as delegates left the hall to the strains of *Don't Call Me Baby* playing over the public address system.

Useful numbers

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

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
British Limbless Ex-Service

Men's Association 020 8590 1124

Confidential support lines:

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

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

(Combat Stress) 020 8543 6333
Family Escort Service UK 020 7463 9249;
Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272

Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812
Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011

RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 0345 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing

advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

WRVS 01235 442940

US Army 'enlists soldier, but re-enlists the family'

WHILE British Army recruiting is on the up-and-up but undermined by relatively poor retention, the US Army is experiencing the reverse.

While the USA's bouyant economy, booming job market and high employment make life difficult for recruiters to meet their targets – they need to attract 80,000 people a year to support the 480,000-strong active army – above-expected retention figures have allowed them to balance their manpower books.

How do they do it? We asked Col Charles R Kaylor Jr, head of the US Army's Strength Analysis and Forecasting Division, who was in the UK to exchange views with British Army manning and personnel officers during a week-long conference at the Adjutant General's Upavon headquarters.

Two major planks in the US strategy are support for families and the well-being of single soldiers. "We reckon we enlist the soldier, but re-enlist families," said Col Kaylor. "Family support started big-time after the Gulf War when we found out our safety nets weren't as good as we had thought they were. We also got

our officers to talk to our soldiers about staying on, and introduced incentives for doing so, such as bonuses and choice of station."

In a major programme started seven years ago, 64 per cent of barrack-room accommodation has been upgraded to give each soldier his own space.

As far as possible, a six-month period of stability follows every deployment of six months. "Much more than that and we give them a choice for their next posting," said Col Kaylor, "although they can't all go to Hawaii."

Family focus groups have a real voice in the corridors of power, while junior soldiers also have a chance to air their views – not through officers but through people of the same rank. Every unit has its own morale, welfare and recreation office to help soldiers integrate into the community, arrange visits and events and ensure facilities such as gyms are open at convenient times. "If there's a problem, they know who to contact," said Col Kaylor. "Quality of life for enlisted men and their families is incomparably better than when I joined up 27 years ago."



Col Charles R Kaylor

Guild of St Helena celebrates 125 years of support to Services

● The Guild of St Helena, which provides holidays for Service youngsters with special needs, marked its 125th birthday at a reception at Airport House, home of the tri-Service Chaplains' Department near Andover, Hants.

Founded in 1875 by an officers' wife, the charity later amalgamated with the Guild of the Holy Standard, which had been founded in 1873 by 19 Army chaplains. Today the tri-Service ecumenical charity works with SSAFA

Forces Help to provide holidays for special needs' children, funds a bursary for a Service pupil at the Royal Hampstead School who would otherwise have to quit full-time A level studies because of a change in parental circumstances, and supports the Royal Cambridge Widows' Home, which provides comfortable and safe accommodation for 24 Service widows.

Three new branches of the guild have

Home truths

Sue Bonney

London venue was worth every penny

AS you will read elsewhere on these pages, the AFF's Conference 2000 in London was a milestone in establishing once and for all the importance of people, and especially families, in the Army.

AFF has had many conferences, but this was the first time we had allowed ourselves the luxury of a professional conference venue in London and the skills of professional presenters – and it made a difference.

No one attending could have been in any doubt that they were dealing with a professional organisation representing a large body of people who matter, and whose concerns were of importance. Many who were there told us so. Past conferences paled by comparison. And all because we decided to commit more funding – courtesy of our sponsors and careful budgeting – to what is our major event.

The people in the federation, their professionalism, hard work and commitment, have not changed. The people they represent – Army families worldwide – have not changed. And, heaven knows, the major issues have not changed. The only thing that has was the price we were willing to pay, the value we decided to place on such an important event. We decided the time had come to take ourselves more seriously and to value our own and our families' worth more highly, and to do it properly. Money, we felt, well spent.

Given our decision, it was more than a little ironic that, on the day of the conference, news broke of the Treasury searching for cost cuts. Needless to say, defence was almost at the top of the list. Not exactly a morale-boosting thing to hear on a day when so many speeches, questions and answers were addressing the value the MoD – and therefore the



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

Government – places on Service personnel and their families.

As John Humphrys so succinctly put it to Armed Forces Minister John Spellar: "The Government is asking more and more of the Army and you are being asked by Gordon Brown to spend less and less." What hope is there for more realistic investment in housing, welfare and allowances when the Defence budget remains one of the first targets for cost-cutting?

We received many reassurances from the senior politician and military personnel on the platform that the Services and

their families really were important, valued... treasured even. Much, they claimed, is being done. There has been a change of focus – "tilt", as the Adjutant General called it – towards the personnel side, mainly because of worrying retention figures and a move towards modern management inside the Army.

There is an Overarching Personnel Strategy, a Family Policy Unit, a Service Families' Task Force – all signs of significant change for the better. But where is any of this, any aspirations for investing in families and welfare, without funding?

On the road to hell, with the rest of the good intentions. Many people in the Army and MoD are working to improve things, changing policy and attitudes and tackling long-standing issues.

We are being listened to. But outside the MoD lurks the shadow of the Chancellor. The Government uses the Services to support and implement foreign policy, and does not hesitate to commit "forces for good" in the national interest. Yet the same Government places no visible priority on defence funding. More for the Treasury, and less for us, the people for whom there is a policy but no purse.

New study puts focus on families

AN independent study conducted on behalf of the Army into why soldiers leave early found that family issues were not sufficiently recognised or valued.

The Army Retention Study, commissioned by the Adjutant General, highlighted five areas which contributed to Service personnel voting with their feet:

● Family issues and problems were often a major factor in an individual's decision to leave the Service prematurely.

● Help to military families in finding suitable employment after posting was seen to be inadequate. Linked to this was a belief that the availability and cost of childcare varied too much from garrison to garrison.

● There was too great a danger that postings resulted in loss of entitlement to medical treatment and NHS waiting list places.

● There was concern among some about the selection and suitability of their unit families' officer.

● Communication with families, especially on postings, housing and careers, was poor. "Rumour control" was a real issue.

RESPONSE

Responding to the findings, the Army said family issues featured among its top priorities. The Service Families Task Force had already done much at ministerial level to improve access to health, education and employment across the three Services, and it intended to build on that progress.

Improvements already made included: ● Making it easier for spouses to claim Job Seeker's Allowance.

● Providing incentive schemes to local NHS dentists to encourage them to take on more Service families and make registration easier on posting.

● Making it easier for Service children educated overseas to claim student grants.

● Making it easier to claim child benefit in Northern Ireland.

Communications with families was being improved by strengthening the already close links between the Army Families Federation and the chain of command. The introduction of garrison radio stations in the UK and the work of CGS's Briefing Team was proving to be a real step forward.

The Army recognised the "march in and "march out" process could be a source of stress and a new scheme was being introduced to reduce the hassle of moving house.

The study emphasised that family issues would continue to have an impact on successful retention and that the needs of the family must be given a high priority. The Army acknowledged this and was committed to making further improvements.



Edited by Anthony Stone

SHORTS

In which we serve

IT'S not too late to enter for this year's Army tennis championships which take place from July 28 to August 2 at the Army tennis centre, Aldershot. But hurry, completed forms must be in by July 7. Serving personnel can enter singles and doubles and there is a plate competition for those knocked out in the first round. Veteran and junior competitions will also be held. Entry forms are available from Col (Retd) Roger Thompson, (9)4222 3573.

Pulling power

ARMY pullers dominated the Princess Royal's Open Inter-Service tug-of-war championships at Windsor, sponsored by Microloans. In the 640kg class 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC beat 4 Royal Irish Regiment in the final. In the 600kg division, 4 R Irish Regt overcame a very determined 40 Regt RA.

The event patron, the Princess Royal, sat in for a commemorative photograph to celebrate Maj (Retd) Dick Field's 30 continuous years of involvement with Army tug-of-war.

New sponsors kick off

EUROPEAN van specialist LDV is the new sponsor of the Combined Services football team.

Skiing in Cyprus

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers completed a gruelling journey around Cyprus on roller-skis to raise money for the four major hospitals on the island.

Running team triumphs

ARMY athletes Sgt Alan Shepherd (3 (CS) Medical Regt), SSgt Kenny Butler (HQNI Logistic Support) and CSgt Craig McBurney (RMAS) helped the team win the Inter-Services marathon in London. Capt Mel Rayner (31 Sig Regt) was the third woman to finish out of the Service runners.

Cheshires win cup

THE first Episkopi invitational sevens saw 24 teams from the UK and Cyprus join battle. The bowl was won by 1 Cheshire's second string, and the plate was won by The Royal Regiment of Wales. In the cup final, 1 Cheshire saw off the challenge of Plymouth Command, 17-12.

MOTORCYCLE



Picture: Dave Sykes

On track: Speed king Capt Jamie Clarke, RLC, corners his Yamaha R1 at Thruxton. The bike can reach speeds of up to 180mph on the back straight

To the limit to win it

Report: Anthony Stone

CAPT Jamie Clarke has a simple philosophy when it comes to sport. "If it goes fast," he says, "I want to be on it, in it, or doing it."

The same bullish attitude that saw him win the Army Alpine championships in 1993 is now steering him towards success on the race track.

Clarke, of 27 Transport Regt RLC, races a Yamaha R1 in the British Superstock championships – that's the level just below the superbikes.

When Clarke races his 1,000cc machine, which delivers 150bhp to the back wheel, at speeds of 180mph, there's no room for doubt or indecision.

"You have to be 110 per cent committed, on the point of falling off the whole time, otherwise you might as well not be out there," he said. "The skill is finding that dividing line, the consistency of keeping up that pace."

"I can do every corner as fast as the top

boys, but I don't have the experience yet to piece them all together at that level without making a mistake, and that's where my lap times are dropping.

"If you push it hard enough you are going to crash, but unless you are riding to the limit you might as well not be out there. The bike will do 180mph easy. It's quite fast."

Clarke was brought up in Cyprus where he learnt to ride trail bikes, on and off-road. He passed his test when he was 17 and has not looked back.

His current bike costs about £9,000 and he has spent another £5,000 to get it up to race spec. It is an expensive business but fortunately he has secured sponsorship from Army Recruiting and the Be The Best logo can now be seen whizzing around the top race tracks in the country. British Aerospace, too, has recognised his talent,

and has awarded him a scholarship, through the Army Sport Control Board.

When he competes at meetings, the bike generates plenty of interest, especially when fans realise the rider is a soldier.

"I have been in the Army ten years and I am having fun," he said. "I tell people 'this is the place to be'."

Clarke has also managed to tie-up deals with madaboutbikes.com, a website where race fans can track his progress.

"This is a learning year, my first at British championship level," he said. "There are 17 full-time professional riders in my class, so breaking into the top 20 is a real achievement. My best result so far is 28th. I am on the edge of it, but I need to spend more time on the track."

His rivals on the grid include former world champion Ron Haslam and many others with bags of back-up and skill.

"It's all about time and experience, and the more time and experience I can get, the further up I can go. I am quite pleased with my progress so far."



Capt Jamie Clarke

ORIENTEERING

Heading in the right direction for success

ORIENTEERS found their way to success in the two biggest civilian events in which the Army Orienteering Club takes part.

Nearly 4,000 took part in the Jan Kjellstrom International Orienteering Festival in Perthshire, commonly known as the "JKs". It is a memorial to the Swedish orienteer who helped established the activity in the UK in 1967.

Although missing some of its regular runners, the club had a strong nucleus of well-established talent and were supported by fresh legs, notably from London University OTC.

In the relay, the men's team finished 12th out of 38 teams and the ULOTC 33rd.

In the women's event Maj Wendy Allen, Maj Bev Walters-Davies and 2Lt Sarah Rollins finished second out of 23 teams.

Maj Alan Farrington (AGC) came first

out of 71 runners in the 45 age group.

In the British championships at Hereford, the best result was provided by SSgt Calvin Routledge (AGC) who completed the 11.5km course with its 650m of climb to win the men's 21 long course and become national champion.

In the relays, the open class women's team of Maj Bev Walters-Davies, Maj Miller and 2Lt Rollins took third place while the men's team of WO1 Rollins (RLC), Capt Barrett (AGC) and SSgt Routledge (AGC) finished fifth.



Cup holders: Maj Bev Walters-Davies, 2Lt Sarah Rollins and Maj Wendy Allen, the team which secured second place in the JKs

MARATHON

Going the extra mile

SOLDIERS raised thousands of pounds for good causes when they ran the Flora London Marathon.

Among the dozens who took part were twins Col (Retd) Peter French and Lt Col (Retd) Paul French, who generated more than £2,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Three members of the Household Cavalry at Combermere Barracks in Windsor, Capt Adam Lawrence, Capt Harry Whitbread and LCpl Matthew Flood ran for Combat Stress, the ex-Services mental welfare society. The same charity was chosen by Lt David Eydes (KOSB), who ran with his sister Claire, supported by their father Peter, who also served with KOSB.

Guardsmen from Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards, including

Maj Robert Adams, pictured, raised money for Rukba (The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association), the charity which helps elderly people on low incomes to remain independent.

A strong contingent from HQ Land Command at Wilton including Lt Col Leo Callow, Lt Col Richard Hall, Maj Dickie Davis, Maj Hamish d'Bretton Gordon and Sgt Maj Mike McKeown, took part with the Lord's Taverners team.

The Royal Star & Garter Home's regular team of Bill Kesby, the home's engineering manager, and Sgt Maj Charles Jenkins (Int Corps) were joined by new members Lt Col John Ross and Jon Faulkner.



RUGBY

Reports: Roger Thompson



With me: Pte Emosi Naisaramaki's fast hands, and even faster legs see him storm through

Royal Scots in seven heaven

Barrage leaves clubs at sixes and sevens

WITH the SODEXHO sevens championship, the domestic Army rugby season ended on a very positive note. The representative squads had performed strongly throughout the year and the club game produced the best festival of finals in recent memory.

The sevens competition was the icing on the cake with many emerging clubs such as the Coldstream Guards, Troops Hereford and the Light Dragoons winning through to the finals for the first time.



Not this time: Kite Bavadra is shackled

It was, however, the Royal Scots that immediately caught the eye – six Fijians and a Scotsman. Quick hands, uninhibited deception and powerful acceleration took the Blues easily into the semi-finals where they met 7 Para RHA, determined to defend their title.

Guile and innovation eventually overcame strength and dogged tackling, but not before Rory Greenslade-Jones and Andy Dawling, both Army players, had made their mark.

In the final the Royal Scots met 22 Regiment RA – the Welsh Gunners – in a somewhat one-sided affair in which Kite Bavadra, Bull Bulumakau and Ken Kainoko notched up more than 40 points. It was a magnificent performance.

Sevens is all about space and movement; largely unstructured with the emphasis on virtuosity. The ball was made to work, the quick eye and quicker hands spreading the attack to points on the field where the gunners' defence was unable to respond.

The Fijians and Scotsman celebrated their victory with a typical impromptu concert in front of a packed and appreciative stand. We are likely to see a lot more of these players in the near future, hopefully at fifteens. But then, it's the same ball, different game.

The plate competition was won by 2 Signal Regiment, and the women's inter-corps shield by RMA Sandhurst, who held off a die-hard challenge from the gunners.

Pulling the lion's tail

ENGLAND versus the Army. Yes, I'll say that again. England v the Army – but England put up a strong rearguard action and eventually ran out winners by the odd couple of tries.

Based on the highly successful Fijian sevens' players currently serving with the Royal Scots in Colchester, and strengthened with Army players Howard Graham, Andy Dawling and Glen Kyle, the Army played a total of six seven-a-side games against the England squad preparing for the World Series sevens in June and the World Cup in November.

With Emosi Naisaramaki, Rob Kama and Bull Bulumakau deftly calling the gambits, Army flyer Kite Bavadra and Epele Qolikibua carved great chunks out of the England defence.

Rob Kama's speed and sidestep proved more than a match for the opposition. On more than one occasion, the Army led England on merit by a couple of tries but in the end professional fitness and raw sprinting speed won the day for the national side.

It was a case of what might have been had the Army fielded its strongest seven!

Based on their performance against England, Graham and Dawling were invited to play in other prestigious sevens tournaments, the Fijians also making their name together as the South Seas Drifters.



Dummy salesman: Tricky Pte Raisevu (RS) gives England the "Mothercare" treatment

HOCKEY

Pictures: Steve Dock



Runaway winners: Army women's champions, 3 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment completely out-played the team from BRNC Dartmouth, who crashed out 11-0

Nothing can stop us now

THEY had beaten the best to take the Army Warrior Cup; now it was time to have a crack at the best sides in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The men's side from 42 Survey Engineer Group RE and the women's from 3 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment travelled to Portsmouth to compete in the Gawley Trophy to decide the tri-service inter-unit championships.

It was a round-robin tournament with 42 playing RAF Halton and HMS *Heron*, Yeovilton, and the women playing RAF Innsworth and BRNC Dartmouth.

A strong 42 Survey side which included three Army players, Lt Mark Chapman, SSgt Graham Symes and Spr Joe Ruggiero, devoured RAF Halton 5-0, four goals coming in the second half. They also demolished HMS *Heron* 8-2.

The team from 3 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, Army winners for the past two years, coached by SSgt Bru Baker and captained by Cpl Tracey Hoffman, took full advantage of the affiliation system and drew in talented new blood from units in the

Bulford and Tidworth area. As such, members either played for the Army or their corps. Consequently, the 21-3 drubbing of RAF Innsworth and 11-0 win over Dartmouth did not come as a complete surprise.

This is the third Army men's team to win the competition since it was conceived four years ago, previous winners being the AGC Worthy Down and SEAE. The women's tournament was run for the first time.

■ In the Inter-Corps men's final between the Infantry and the Royal Artillery, played at Aldershot, Lt Paul Tapp scored a hat-trick and the winner to crown the gunners as champions.



Balancing act: 42 Survey in white run rings around HMS *Heron*

SHORTS

Challenge accepted

MAJ Nick Fenton (QDG), pictured, has been selected from almost 200 applicants to become one of just 12 skippers on the BT Global Challenge. Yachts set sail from Southampton in September and sail a westerly course against the forces of nature.

The 30,000-mile race is expected to take around ten months to complete and will cover some of the toughest waters that a sailor can expect to encounter.



Cadets on tour

CLEVELAND Army Cadet Force Cdt Sgt Mark Forster of Dormanstown Green Howard's Detachment, a student at Laurence Jackson School, has again been selected by the Regular Army to represent the Army Football Association youth team on their tour of Scotland this month. He is the only Army cadet selected, the rest of the 34-strong squad being Regular Army junior soldiers. This will be the tenth time he has been called up.

Poles apart

British Army (Germany) rugby players beat the Polish under-23s by a resounding 27-8 at the Warsaw Rugby Stadium in front of supporters from UKSC(G)'s Polish battlefield tour, Exercise Ulan Knight.

Surfers chill out

CPL Jimmy Ewing (9 Regt AAC) became the first winner of the Army novice surfing title in the Zuma Jay championships at Penhale, Cornwall. Sig Chris Treweeks (14 Signal Regt (EW)) took the bodyboard crown while LCpl Dai Jones from the same regiment claimed the seven-foot prize and Pte Barney Sculley (3 CS Bn RLC) won the shortboard event.

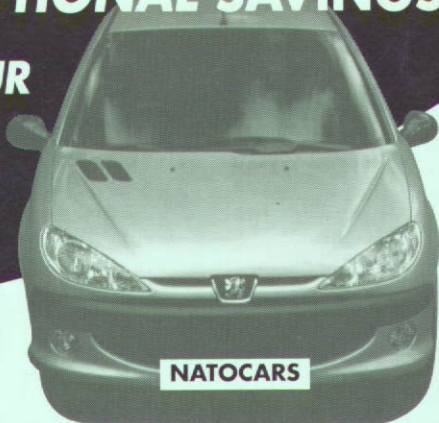
To get involved with Army surfing contact Sgt Jase Fern on Brawdy Mil (9)4359 5825.

Vikings go on rampage

IN a football match that had unnerving similarities with the England-Portugal game, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers took a two-goal first-half lead over the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in the Northern Ireland Cup. But the Vikings fought back to win 3-2.

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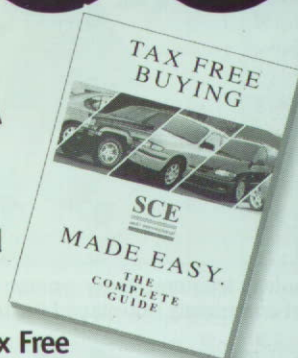
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FENCING

Young blades cut their teeth

But razor-sharp older swordsmen dominate

THE clash of blades rang out at the RLC Training Centre, Deepcut, as nearly 50 Regular and Territorial Army fencers battled it out over three days at the Army championships.

Despite the number of newcomers competing, the older fencers still managed to dominate, as Col Iain Campbell (late RLC), won both the épée and foil titles.

However, he was edged out of the overall champion-at-arms title by Lt Col Tony Williams (RE) who also won the sabre competition.

The women's entries were depleted due to operational commitments but this did not distract from the quality of fencing by Sig Jane Perry, who repeated her triumph of last year by making a clean sweep in all three weapons, retaining her champion-at-arms status.

Col Warwick Stanton, chairman of Army fencing, said: "I was delighted to see so many new fencers competing and the marvellous sportsmanship displayed throughout the competition.

"Along with our partner, Leon Paul, the fencing manufacturer, we have developed a three-day introductory fencing course for units, where all coaching and equipment is provided at no charge to the unit.

Not surprisingly, units are



Overall champ: Lt Col Tony Williams (RE)

extremely interested and our sport is enjoying a resurgence."

Rfn Amber Gurung (1 RGR), who took part in an introductory course only two months before the championships, won the trophy for best-improved fencer.

In the team events the RLC emerged victorious as Army champions after a particularly close final against the RE. In the inter-unit competition, 21 Engr Regt took the three-man team title, while the HCMR retained the six-man team honours.



Making a point: Capt Chris Roberts catches Maj Tony Williams with a thrusting challenge

SHORTS

Corps climbs new peak

AGC runners, pictured, won all the main trophies in the military section of the Welsh 1,000m peaks race (aka the Snowdon summits marathon). It covers some 22 miles with 9,000ft of ascent, navigation and fitness being the key attributes required to finish.

SSgt Calvin Routledge was the first home, in 4hr 55min, 23 minutes ahead of the next runner.

LCpl Alison O'Connor also excelled, finishing 17th overall, in 6hr 51min, well ahead of the majority of the men.

Maj Steve Donoghue finished seventh and Cpl Ross Williamson came in 13th. Of the 110 runners who started, only 74 managed to finish the whole event.



Medics' winning tonic

A LATE flurry of goals from 204 (North Irish) Field Hospital (V) sank 205 Bty 101 Regt RA (V) 7-2 in the TA cup final at Newcastle.

It was the first time in the 88 years the competition has been running that an Army medical unit has won the cup.



Picture: John Tuttle

Gunner goalkeeper Sgt Fisher, above right, prepares to block a shot from 204's Pte Colin Moore as WO2 Gavin Kirk attempts to tackle.

Sappers sweat

RUNNERS from 14 nations were among the 721 starters in the Batlava half-marathon in Kosovo. Organised by 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, the race raised DM6200 for schools' supplies.

Lt Col Barry Le Grys, commanding officer of 32 Engr Regt, of which 31 Squadron forms a part, said: "Those of us who participated found a way to maintain our fitness for operations, raise money for a good cause and see some beautiful countryside at the same time."



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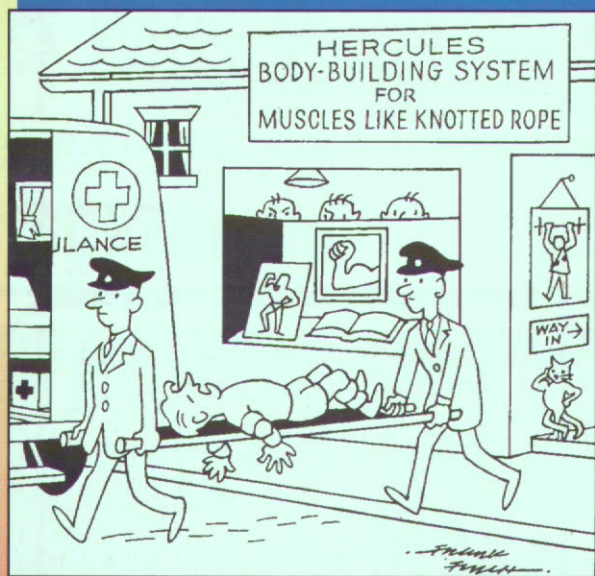
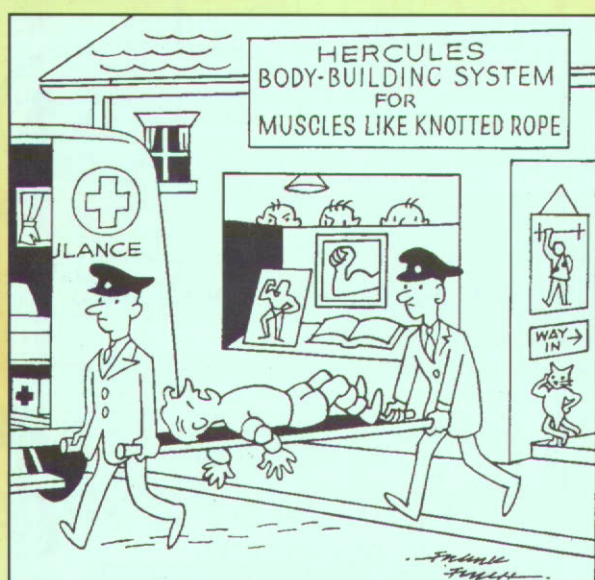
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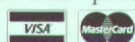
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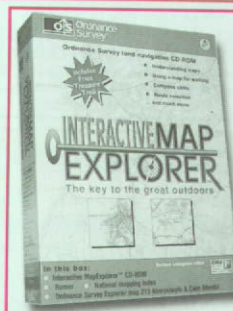
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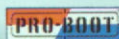
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01/01

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MAY 27, 2000

First (393 runs, £4,300): OCdt RK Pillans, RMA, Sandhurst.

Second (371 runs, £2,112.50): Maj AD Burgin, 16 Signal Regt, Rheindahlen.

Third (367 runs, £1,612.50): Pte SA Banks, 1 RRW, Paderborn.

Fourth (365 runs, £879.17): SSgt ST Laverie, JSSU Ayios Nikolaos; WO2 SJ Randles, 5 Regt AAC, Aldergrove; SSgt DR Stevens, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

Seventh (363 runs, £312.50): Cpl AP Evans, 210 Squn RLC (V), Sutton; WO2 MJ Payne, 106 Regt RA (V), London; Sgt AG Quinn-Williams, 1 RRW, Paderborn.

Note: Only 9 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

PRIZE MONEY UP AGAIN! Owing to increased ticket sales, weekly prize

money increased to £12,000 with a top prize of £4,400 (effective June 3).

JUNE 3, 2000

First (291 runs, £2,200): Capt AK Fisher, HQ 143 (WM) Bde, Shrewsbury.

Second (283 runs, £2,200): Tpr MJ Stevens, QRL, Osnabrück.

Third (278 runs, £1,450): A Tpr MJ Cochrane, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Sgt A Martin, JSSU Digby.

Fifth (275 runs, £900): SSgt WJ Kerr, AFCC Southampton.

Sixth (274 runs, £600): Maj AG Netting, HQ DEMA (A), Arborfield.

Seventh (273 runs, £400): Cpl DM Wight, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh.

Eighth (269 runs, £300): LBdr DJ Quinn, 40 Regt RA, Topcliffe.

Ninth (267 runs, £200): Maj NJ Bateson, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford.

Tenth (266 runs, £50): Pte GL Greenwood, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Capt J O'Neill, 1 R Irish, Canterbury.

JUNE 10, 2000

First (379 runs, £4400): Col RJ Bacon, MOD.

Second (367 runs, £2200): WO2 KJ Hindley, HQ 12 Mech Bde.

Third (354 runs, £1700): WO2 is Norton, 38 Rengr Regt

Fourth (350 runs, £1,050 each): Capt S Hill, 1 RRW; Cpl IJ Lloyd, 1 LI.

Sixth (348 runs, £600): WO2 SL Grundy, ATSA Woolwich.

Seventh (337 runs, £300 each): Maj AJ Duncan, Dera Fort Halstead; WO2 AP Gig, 1 BN REME; CSGT GA Smithers, 2 PWRR.

Tenth (335 runs, £100): WO1 R Convery, RMAS.

NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION CHY-116D
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REFERENCE: EN/157225/AF

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Regimental Headquarters, the Royal Regiment of Wales, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff CF14 3YE or can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

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REUNIONS

Dave, radio-communicator from Scotland, who was in Weymouth between September 27 & October 1, 1999. Please contact Angela Moser c/o Cler Sager, Gewerbehofstrasse 4, CH-2503 Biel Switzerland - Phone 0041 32 323 68 76 or e-mail - Venusstar24@hotmail.com.

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DATES

JULY

Weekends: Horse Guards, Whitehall open, free, 1030-1600 (020 7414 2360).

8-9: Parachute Spectacular, Southsea Common, Hants.

10-15: Royal Military Tattoo 2000, Horse Guards, in aid of principal Service charities.

12: Kneller Hall concert (Band of Royal Signals), 8pm (gates open 6pm). £4 on night.

Advance sales for minimum booking of ten. Details on 020 8898 5533, ticket hotline 020 8744 8646.

12: Open day at Chivenor RM Barracks, Barnstaple, Devon, 0930-1630, including Red Arrows and tri-Service displays.

15: Defence, Intelligence and Security Centre open day, Chicksands, Beds. Open 0900.

20: Harmony 2000 Young Musicians, Kneller Hall. Entry £1. See also July 12.

22-23: International Air Tattoo, RAF Cottesmore.

26: Kneller Hall concert (Bands of RLC and REME). See June 14.

AUGUST

9: Kneller Hall concert (Bands of RA and AAC). See July 12.

SEPTEMBER

5-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show (tickets 0115 912 9196; www.mwias.com)

12-16: Royal Hospital, Chelsea *Son et Lumière* 2000 - Men in Scarlet (020 7881 5308/9).

22-24: North Wales Millennium Youth Services Tattoo, Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay. Standard bearers please fax 01745 583794.

OCTOBER

27: Isle of Thanet RBL Festival of Remembrance, Winter Gardens, Margate. Tickets, enquiries: Dennis Stokes, 01843 292882.

NOVEMBER

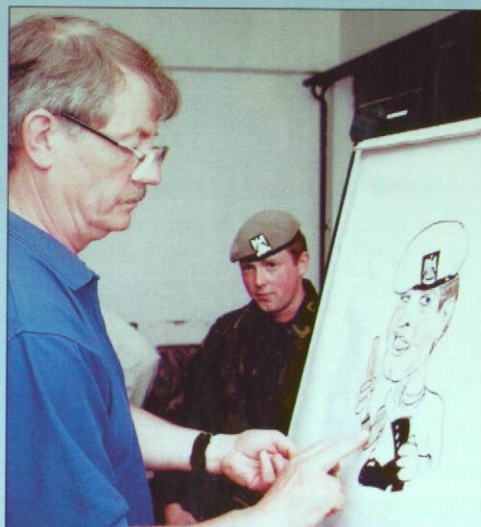
25-26: Birmingham International Tattoo, National Indoor Arena.

Norway remembers Namsos 'Dunkirk'

The names of the York and Lancaster Regiment, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment are inscribed on a memorial unveiled at Namsos, central Norway, on May 17, Norway's national day.

British forces were evacuated from Namsos in May 1940, suffering many casualties. In all, 4,500 British Servicemen lost their lives in the Norwegian campaign.

The memorial, which also bears the name of Royal Navy ships which lost personnel during the hazardous operation, is fashioned from a large boulder. Sponsored by the Friends of War Memorials organisation, it was unveiled by British Ambassador Richard Dales.



Masterclass: Soldier cartoonist **Chip Wood** put on what he describes as his "Rolf Harris" performance when he visited the Scots Guards battle-group HQ at Podujevo in Kosovo in company with chief photographer **Mike Weston**. He passed on tips about the art of cartooning, told some funny stories and completed a quick caricature of **Tpr David West**. Chip, a former major in the Royal Engineers, will be drawing on his Kosovo trip for cartoon inspiration.

Horse Guards make-over for RMT 2000

HERE'S an update on the **Royal Military Tattoo 2000** taking place on Horse Guards from July 10 to 15. The MoD's spectacular tri-Service millennium celebration will involve more than 1,800 Service personnel in a script written by Rosemary Anne Sissons of *Upstairs Downstairs* fame.

Voice-overs of some of the principal historical roles are being contributed by **Dame Judi Dench** (as Elizabeth I), **Robert Hardy** (Winston Churchill), **Prunella Scales** (Queen Victoria), **Hanna Gordon** (Nell Gwyn), **Timothy West** (Duke of Wellington) and **Anthony Andrews** (Admiral Horatio Nelson).

Other contributions will be made by actors **Edward Woodward**, **Keith Michell**, **Peter Bowles**, **Nickolas Grace**, **Denis Quilley**, **Michael Williams** and **Martin Jarvis**. **Viscount Montgomery of El Alamein** will speak the words of his father, Monty.

The two-hour pageant will be performed on a Horse Guards arena transformed by 13,000-seat grandstands, a 300-sq metre video screen and 3,500 tons of a special mixture of sand, silicone and wax to transform the gravel parade ground into a horse-friendly surface. Tickets ranging from £20 to £50 are available on 0870 241 0301. All profits will go to the principal Service charities.

It's a promotion hot-spot

If you want to get ahead, get recruiting. Four members of staff in the Middlesbrough careers office have been promoted within a few weeks. So take a bow **SSgt Brian Gerrard RA**, **SSgt Colin Fletcher RE**, **SSgt Mo Donaghy RLC** and **SSgt Russ Shield, R Signals**.

Scots Guards take control

For years and years you never see any Academy Sergeant Majors from the Scots Guards, then suddenly two come along at once. After three years in post, **WO1 Alan Crawford**, left, the first Scots Guardsman to hold the coveted appointment at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, handed over to **WO1 Ronnie Convery**, right.

Both are former RSMs of the 1st Battalion, with **WO1 Convery** recently completing a two-year tour at Ballykinler in Northern Ireland. **WO1 Crawford** has been posted back to the battalion as a late entry officer.

● **WO1 Joe Farrell** was succeeded as RSM at Shrivenham by **WO1 Peter McNab** at the end of May. As both are Scots Guardsmen, and in the light of the Staff College's imminent move to Shrivenham, the regiment may claim through its warrant officers to have unique influence. All officer cadets and officers at Sandhurst have a Scots Guards RSM, as do officers attending the staff colleges.



RDG ski guides forge cross-border bonds



Capt Peter May, quartermaster of **The Royal Dragoon Guards**, guides **Bethan Collins**, a blind student from Trinity College, Dublin, on to the slopes at Schladming in Austria. It was the 12th year that the regiment had taken visually-impaired people from Southern Ireland on a week-long ski outing. Asked why soldiers

from a Northern Irish regiment had chosen a project linked with the south, Peter, who organised the event, said it helped them develop some of the qualities they used in their peacekeeping role.

Of the trip, he said: "Bethan was on her first week of skiing. Unbeknown to her, her final run had a large audience of holidaymakers on a pretty challenging red run. My job satisfaction watching her complete it without a fall went off the scale." If anyone wants more details, Peter can be contacted c/o the RDG, York Barracks, BFPO 17 or at www.rdg.co.uk

Tree planted for LCpl Cripps

A flowering cherry tree was planted by Mrs **Helena Cripps**, widow of **LCpl Paul Cripps**, after a memorial service for the 6 Supply Regiment RLC soldier who died while on duty at Princess Royal Barracks, Gutersloh on January 14. **LCpl Cripps**, 25, a section commander with 61 Ammunition Squadron, died after an accidental fall and his ashes were laid to rest in Coventry. The tree planted in his name is in the Regimental HQ garden at the Princess Royal Barracks.

Bush doctor Nick saves gore victim

SSgt Nick Rushby RAMC, pictured below, is a bit of a hero in the bush. The medic, serving in Kenya with 35 Engineer Regiment's 29 Field Squadron, has been given a Masai tribal spear for saving the life of a 60-year-old man badly gored by a buffalo.

Nick was based several hours north of Nairobi with the squadron when the call for help arrived. After a 20-minute flight in a two-seater aircraft, a ride by trail motor-cycle across untracked bush and dried riverbeds, and a last leg in a battered jeep, he arrived in the dying light to find an old man propped against a tree, blood seeping from a fist-sized hole in his chest.

With three jagged ribs protruding from his wound, the man was deep in shock. Nick, who learned to his horror that the buffalo attack had happened six hours earlier, was amazed his patient was still alive. He

quickly sealed the hole with a field dressing but failed to get a vital saline drip - essential if the Masai was to survive the evacuation to hospital - into the man's arm because his peripheral circulation had closed down. "So," said Nick, "I cut the end off the giving set [the pipe that links the fluid to the cannula] and inserted it up his backside."

Nick's neat improvisation worked so well he got a litre of the life-saving solution into the barely conscious victim, and a further litre during the 2½ hours that it took for the jeep to negotiate the rough bush tracks back to a road.

To everyone's surprise, Nick's Masai reached hospital alive. "The old man's survival can in no uncertain terms be described as amazing," was how the British Army medic put it. "The initial attack alone would have killed a lesser man."



Lancashire Fusiliers return to police station at Ismailia

Former Lancashire Fusiliers **Walter Benham** and **Brian Fairhurst** were given a surprisingly friendly welcome when they called at the new police station at Ismailia in Egypt to hand over a regimental plaque. They learned that the old police station, which the Lancs Fusiliers attacked in January 1952, had been demolished.

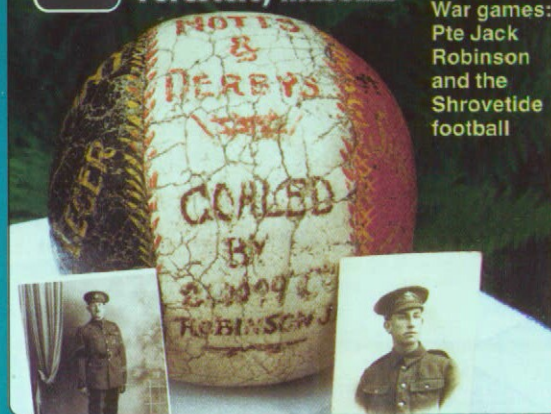
Walter and Brian were met by Gen Shafie

Elashry, who was distressed to be told the two men had been denied permission to photograph the graves of their fallen comrades. Walter said: "They were so friendly to us and the police were amazed when we told them we had not been awarded medals for service in the Canal Zone. They were very proud that the police of 1950-54 stood up against the British Army and honour their dead and living heroes."

Legends of the regiments and corps

13

WFR (Sherwood Foresters) Museum



War games: Pte Jack Robinson and the Shrovetide football

Foresters opt for long-ball soccer tactics

ASHBOURNE in Derbyshire is renowned for sustaining the ancient English custom of street football - said to be a form of "murderball" - played at Shrovetide each year.

During the First World War, Ashbourne was home to C Company, 1st/6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, later sent to the Western Front. Records describe how, during a period in reserve in France, the Ashbourne men sought permission to organise a game of Shrovetide football at their base at Ivergny, near Sus St Leger. The town's Shrovetide committee agreed and sent them a special ball.

MILE-LONG PITCH

On March 7, 1916, a mile-long pitch, which included the village duck pond, was marked out... to the amazement of local people.

For the rest of the day the game raged "with enthusiasm". Eventually Pte Jack Robinson "goaled" the ball, which was inscribed and presented to him.

He returned home at the end of the war and continued his service with the Territorial Army, re-enlisting during the Second World War for home duties in the Military Police.

Four months after the game at Ivergny, the 1st/6th Battalion, a part of 139 Brigade, 46th Division, fought with distinction at Gommecourt on July 1, 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme.

The WFR (Sherwood Foresters) Museum in Nottingham Castle is open from 1000-1700 weekdays (free) and weekends (entrance fee charged). Details from RHQ on 0115 9465415.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor

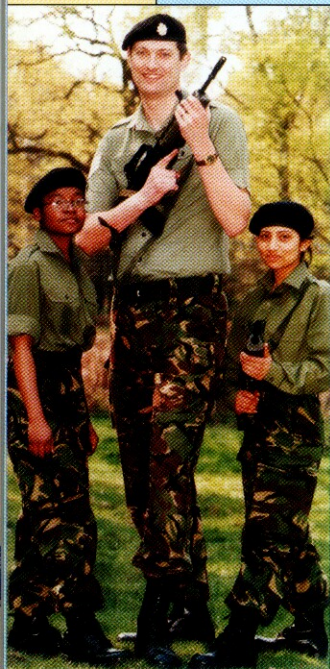
Bulletin board

Tall story

● **Sgt Ian Pratt** has a tough job not looking down on his soldiers. At 7ft, he towers above most of them. The TA soldier serving with Leicester-based combat ambulance unit C (222 East Midlands) Medical Squadron, 4 General Support Medical Regiment RLC (V), is pictured with

new recruits **Elizabeth Egundebi**, left, and **Patel Kamini**, who at 4ft 10in just makes it up to Ian's elbow.

Picture: Gareth Griffiths



● A plaque in memory of 21 men of the **Worcestershire Regiment** who died during the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s was unveiled in St George's Chapel, Worcester Cathedral, on June 17. The plaque was the initiative of a group of Malaya veterans who raised the money to pay for it. After the dedication, more than 500 Malaya veterans and other old comrades paraded through the city centre to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the regiment's Freedom of Worcester.

By coincidence, also on June 17, a plaque to the fallen was unveiled at the Batu Gajah Christian Cemetery (known locally as God's Little Acre), near Ipoh, Malaysia, by the Perak Planters' Association. It includes the name of John Thompson of the regiment.

● A formal affiliation has been cemented between **HMS Chiddingfold**, a Hunt-class mine counter-measures vessel based in Portsmouth, and **101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD)(V)**.

● **LCpl Kevin Dowdles** of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, passed out top of the class in an internal JNCOs' cadre which started with 60 candidates. The Black Watch is swapping its Highland home for a move to Fallingbommel, Germany, where it will replace the **1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers** and re-role as an armoured infantry battalion with Warrior.

● Hertfordshire Army Cadet Force believes it has recorded a first in twin brothers **Sgt Richard** and **CSgt Luke Checkley** achieving master cadet status at the same time. The 18-year-olds joined Rickmansworth Army Cadet (Irish Guard) Detachment on the same day in September 1994 and have chased each other through the ACF's star achievements system ever since. Both plan to go to university before making their minds up about an Army career.



All for Callum: Sgt Peter Fyffe, who survived the "friendly fire" attack by an American A-10 Thunderbolt which killed nine fellow soldiers travelling in two British Army Warrior armoured vehicles during the Gulf War, is raising money to help a three-year-old cancer victim.

Sgt Fyffe, right, a qualified tank commander with The King's Royal Hussars, is now a platoon sergeant training recruits at ATR Winchester. Pictured with him are young Callum Kenny and his parents, Heidi and Darren. So far Peter has collected £2,000 towards sending Callum, suffering from a tumour on his spine and undergoing chemotherapy, to Disneyland in Florida.

If anyone wants to help, Peter can be contacted at 4 Troop, A Squadron, ATR Winchester, SO22 6NQ.

Watch Jim record Generation Game

If you want to be part of the audience for recordings of the next series of comic Jim Davidson's popular TV show, *The Generation Game*, free tickets are available to Service personnel and their families (children, though, have to be 16 or over).

The dates are July 5, 7, 19 and 21; August 4, 16, 18 and 30; September 1, 13, 15 and 29; October 1, 10, 12, 25 and 27; and November 22 and 24.

Doors at the BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 open at 1900. Nearest tube to the Television Centre is White City.

For free tickets, call 020 8576 1227 or e-mail tv.ticket.unit@bbc.uk

REUNIONS

Northamptonshire Regiment: Annual reunion of Northamptonshire Regiment Association and Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Northamptonshire Branch), Northampton, July 8-9. AGM, dinner and reception by ticket only from TA Centre, Clare Street, Northampton NN1 3JQ.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association, Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment: 50th anniversary celebration dinner at the Conservative Club in Surbiton on July 14.

Joint Helicopter Support Unit: 18th anniversary reunion, July 27. Former members welcome. Details from RAF Odiham Mil 7396 or 01256 702134 ext 7396.

Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment: Reunion weekend in Salisbury, July 29-30, open to former members of Glosters, Royal Berkshire Regt, Royal Wiltshire Regt, DERR (1959-94), past and present RGBW. Ring RGBW RHQ on 01722 414536 or e-mail RHQRGBW@cs.com

16 Signal Regiment (1960s): Reunion on Sept 1-4, to include HQ BAOR Sig Tp Reunion Club. Details of the "60's 16ers" and reunion from Chris Bartlett, 45 Whitehouse Road,



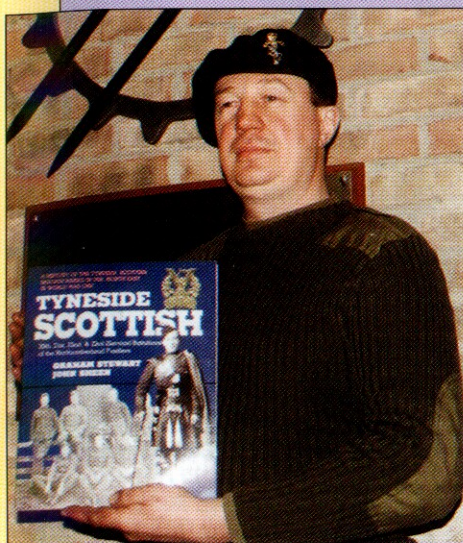
Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR (tel 01702 524620) or e-mail chris60's16er@tesco.net

723 (CS) Squad RM (1959-60): Reunion at Exmouth, Sept 8. Ring Dave Prichard on 029 20790233.

Wolverhampton Guards (Household Division): First Thursday of the month at WUISC, Humber Rd, Wolverhampton. Dinner-dance, Sept 22. Ring Ted Clarke on 0121 552 2227.

4th (1/4th and 2/4th) and 4/5th (TA) Battalions, The Royal Hampshire Regiment: 54th

Man of words



Cpl Graham "Ninja" Stewart, a vehicle mechanic serving with 124 Recovery Company REME(V), has just published his first book. Seven years of detailed research went into the writing of *Tyneside Scottish*, the story of the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd (Service) Battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers during the First World War.

The Tyneside Scottish were virtually annihilated on July 1, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Between them the four battalions lost 2,438 killed, wounded or missing. Graham's book includes eye-witness accounts of some of the survivors, who fought on through the Battle of Arras in 1917 to final victory.

It's the tenth and latest in the very readable, well-illustrated Pals series published by Pen and Sword. The large-format, soft-cover book is available from most good book stores, price £18.95.

RAMC in safe hands

RHQ of the Royal Army Medical Corps at Keogh Barracks near Aldershot currently boasts a hierarchy entirely of former apprentices from the now defunct RAMC Apprentices' College. From left are retired officers **Lt Col Terry Reeves** (an apprentice from 1956 to 1959), the corps secretary; **Brig Malcolm Ratcliffe** (1959-61), Representative Colonel Commandant; **Lt Col John Harvey** (1959-61), regimental secretary; and **Capt Peter Starling** (1964-66), curator of the RAMC Museum.

Picture: Steve Dock

annual reunion, Newburgh House, Winchester, Sept 23. Tickets, details from Maj Ian Taylor, 4 Cedar Wood Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 7LN (tel 023 8069 4771) or Western HQ, PWRR, Serles House, Southgate Street, Winchester SO23 9EG.

4th Regiment RA, Walsall: Reunion dinner at Walsall, Oct 14. Details: Mick Avery on 01902 570942 or Pete Lazell on 020 734 15278.

National Service Veterans Alliance: Reunion, Oct 14-15 at Britannia Hotel, Coventry. Details from Ken Wakeman on 020 8850 2246.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior appointments: Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Hon Colonel Oxford University OTC, Mar 10; Maj Gen F R Viggars, Deputy Col Commandant AGC, May 11; Lt Gen Sir Roderick Cordy-Simpson, Col LD, May 22.

Brigadiers: MCH Manners-Smith to be HS Language Trg Camp Comdt (AD), May 9; P T C Pearson to be ACOS G3 Trg, HQ Land, May 8; D R Wilson to be Comd HQ 49 (E) Bde, May 15; D E Radcliffe to be Chief of Staff Command Group HQ BF Cyprus, June 1.

Colonels: G R Coward to be DJWD Comd, May 10; S C Hall to be Comd UK NSE Split, May 10; D H A Bleas to be Chief CJ3, May 15; A Anthistle to be AD Def Log (ISS), May 22; K L Cogbill to be Clinical Adviser PHC Osnabrück, MRS, May 22; C W Lyon Dean to be Medical Officer 9 Sig Regt (Radio), May 22; H H McNinch to be COS UN Mil HQ Democratic Republic Congo, May 24; J A M A Selfe to be Colonel (W) Dep Director Prog Man Office DCIS (A), May 22; C G Le Brun to be Colonel Inf MCM Div, May 22.

A B Barton to be DACOS G4 Ops & Plans HQ Land, Jun 2; A P Farquhar to be Comd HQ 15 (NE) Bde, May 29; A D Meek to be Comd HQ 143 (WM) Bde/9 Regt AFHQ, May 30; T P Grimshaw to be DCOS HQ 4 Div, Jun 2; C J Kitchener to be Colonel PPPA, May 31.

Lieutenant Colonels: P V Atwell RA - to D/Bowman, Apr 10; C J Barkes RLC - to HQ LISA Andover, Apr 1; J A Bourne AAC - to DA Vienna, Jun 3; T S Brand RE - to BMM Kuwait, Aug 23; R D Bruce, R Irish - to DNBC Centre, Oct 2; N S Chapman, Cheshire - to DTD, Jul 24; M P Dodson, Hldrs - to HQ AG, Jun 20; G D Duthoit, R Anglian - to DA Rabat, Jun 11; M R England RLC - to HQ LISA, Apr 1; R J Eustage AAC - to HQ ATRA, May 22; H M Fletcher, Para - to DOC, Jun 26; D A Gibson AGC(OPS) - to G3 Comd Plans HQ Land, May 8; P N Hinde LI - to G3 Trg HQ Land, May 8; A P Hudson, R Signals - to APC, Apr 10; D Kershaw AGC(OPS) - to HQNI, Sep 18; K C McQuilton REME - to SEME, Jul 3.

J F Pelton RE - to HQ AG, Jun 12; P A Shewry REME - to HQ DEME(A), Jun 18; J R Suggitt Int Corps - to DJW, May 15; C J

Thackray, R Signals - to DGD&D, Sept 4; D F Venn AAC - to JSCS, Aug 28; P G Walker, R Signals - to HQ BF Cyprus, Mar 24; S P Wallis, R Signals - to SANGCOM, May 24.

J F J Allen RLC - to HQ UKSC(G), Apr 25; D J W Baylis, R Anglian - to RHQ AFSOUTH, Jul 24; N C Best RA - to DPA, Jul 24; A T Boyd RLC - to MONUC, Jul 25; A G Brand, R Signals - to HQ Land, Apr 3; N T Campbell RHF - to UNTAT, Jun 9; N D Cooke RA - to CATC, May 15; R J Cripwell RE - to HQ KFOR, Apr 17; R Crook REME - to DPA, Jun 26; R W Currie QRH - to CJPS, Jun 4; A J S Edington RE - to DCC(A), May 22; G K Gibbs RE - to HQ Land, Jul 31; R D Gibson RE - to APC, Jul 10; R G R Hall RE - to HQ KFOR, Jun 20.

J M R Henderson REME - to SHAPE, May 15; R T Hoole, R Signals - to HQ Land, Apr 3; P D Jones, R Anglian - to UNOMIG, Apr 28; P G J Keating AGC(OPS) - to DGICS, Jun 12; P J King - to HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Sept 11; P L Kirkbride RLC - to PJHQ(UK), Nov 27; D Littlewood RLC - to CATDC Australia, Aug 1; H M McGarva RHF - to HQ Chilwell Station, Jun 14; G M McNamara RE - to UNFICYP, Oct 2; S K Macrostie, R Signals - to Jul 17; J E Mendonca QLR - to DCDS(Pers), Mar 20.

T V Myatt QRH - to MONUC, May 22; K K W Parsons, R Signals - to SHAPE, Jul 31; J F Pelton RE - to HQ AG, Jun 12; J M N Powell RRW - to DPA, Sept 25; P A Robertson RLC - to HQ BRITFOR, Mar 30; J W Shanahan RE - to HQ KFOR, Apr 16; G D Shuttleworth DWR - to HQ NI, May 22; A M Speight RLC - to HQ 4 Div, Jun 12; S W L Strickland KORBR - to MONUC, May 8; A S Taylor RLC - to HQ KFOR, Mar 25; M C H Underhill RLC - to MATT(SL), Apr 17; M C van der Lande LG - to HQ KFOR, Jul 19; T R Wilson QDG - to JSCSC, Aug 7; P P Wincombe RLC - to DLO, Sept 11; S P Wolsey RA - to JSCSC, Aug 29.

Retirements

Brigadiers: M J Blyth, late RCT, retired May 14; J A Thorp, late RE, retired May 10.

Colonel: D T I Glyn-Owen, late WG, retired May 29.

SEARCHLINE

JATE(U) Association: Newly-formed organisation open to all former, serving members of JATE/JATEU. Write to or call JATE(U) Association, RAF Brize Norton, Carterton, Oxon OX18 3LX (tel 01993 897843 or 896282).

Sgt Ken Tripp, stationed at Blockley in Cotswolds during Second World War, would like to hear from British military friends. Replies to 70 Fruit St, Norfolk, Ma 02056, USA.

Ex-LCpls Julie and Spike Elliott wish to hear from **WCpl Cherie Morgan (née Paterson)**, based at JHQ Rheindahlen in 1988 and **LCpl Tony Morgan**, RAMC, who was at Munster. Replies to Mr and Mrs Elliott, 4 Friars Close, Colchester, Essex CO4 4SA.

Peter (Tich) Andrews wishes to contact former members of **6 Squadron RCT (1971-75)**, attached 4 Div Regt, Glamorgan Barracks, Duisburg, especially anyone from **B Troop** or **HQ Troop**. Replies to 12 Old Mill Road, Wind-

on his posting to France in 1939, **Pte W F Mathews** (or Mathews), RAOC, left his kit box with a friend at Bovington Camp, Dorset. Pte Mathews, died of wounds at Dunkirk. He is believed to have married a woman who worked in the Naafi and came from the Isle of Wight. On behalf of his father, W H Hilton wishes to return the kit box to Pte Mathews's family. Contact him at 24 Stoborough Green, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5BA (tel 01929 553895).

mill Estate, Conisbrough, Doncaster DN12 2DN or Pete12@btinternet.com

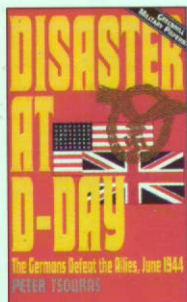
John Bright (Advance Wireless Section, 1st British Corps, 1942-45) would like to hear from others who served in his unit from 1942 in Barnborough, Yorkshire, via West Kilbride, Weybridge and Juno Beach (D-Day), France, Holland and Germany to Iserlohn. Annual reunions already held and Hash Harkin, Jack Walsh, Ken Hands, Johnny Sharples, Cyril Dorman, Jacko Jack and

Doug Smith contacted. Details from 22 Merillies Crescent, Holland on Sea, Essex CO15 5XX.

Former **Pte Tom Colquitt, Royal Norfolk Regiment**, seeks news of comrades from 2nd and 7th Battalions: **Capt G Woodward**, **Lt Percy Price**, **Nobby Clarke**, **Bob Butcher**, **Alfie Barffe**, **Sid Mace**, **Leslie Long** and **Chalky White**. Replies to William Ward, 19A Fen End, Over, Cambridge CB4 5NE.

Tinkering with history turns victory to defeat

PETER Tsouras, a senior analyst at the US Army National Intelligence Centre, introduces a few

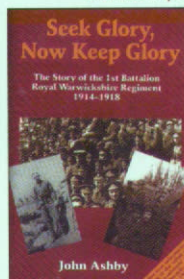


minor adjustments to the early stages of the D-Day campaign to produce a "what-might-have-happened-if" account of the great invasion. IF this unit had been in a different position, IF the weather had been worse than it was, IF an order had been slightly mis-

judged. As the mission gathers momentum, the impact of Tsouras's subtle alterations in **Disaster at D-Day** (Greenhill, £11.99) make a catastrophic difference to the outcome.

Warwick colonels under microscope

SEEK Glory, Now Keep Glory (Helion, £26.95) is the first book to deal specifically with the 1st



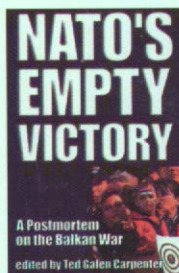
Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment during the First World War.

It is particularly detailed on the "two colonels" affair of August 1914, when Lt Col Mainwaring and Lt Col Elkington (later of the Royal Warwicks) were

alleged to have agreed to surrender their troops *en masse* to save the town of St Quentin from destruction by the advancing Germans. Although both officers and most of their men escaped, the scandal ended in courts martial.

Another perspective on victory in Balkans

NATO waged a successful campaign to prevent genocide in the Balkans... or did it? In **Nato's Empty Victory** (Cato, £13.99) Ted Galen Carpenter conducts a post-mortem which comes to a different conclusion. He introduces, and contributes to, a series of essays on the war in former Yugoslavia.



Nato might have prevented Belgrade from cleansing Kosovo of its ethnic Albanians, but the Kosovo Liberation Army is now pursuing an equally systematic strategy to cleanse the province of Serbs. Contributors include Christopher Layne, James George Jastras, Doug Bandow and Stanley Kober.

Going into a spin over war

AWARD-WINNING journalist Phillip Knightley has updated his 1975 publication of *The First Casualty* to include three new chapters which question the future role of war correspondents after allegations of media management in Kosovo and the Gulf.

Knightley is worried that the days of objective reporting are over and that the media are so keen to step into line with government policy during times of war they are willing to become military spin-doctors.

He comments: "In fact, I predict that control of war correspondents – both open and covert – will be even tighter and that in general this will be accepted by the media because in wartime it considers its commercial and political interests lie in supporting the government of the day."

There are criticisms within these chapters of dogmatic journalists stirring up a wave of anti-Serbian and Iraqi feeling with stories of war crimes that were pulled from "the drawer

The First Casualty by Phillip Knightley. (Prion, paperback, £12.)

of atrocities from previous wars", according to Dr Mark Almond, a Balkans expert at Oxford University quoted by Knightley.

However, there is nothing new in this. "The first casualty, when war comes, is truth", said Senator Hiram Johnson in 1917 – and earlier chapters of the book reveal reports of outlandish atrocity stories from the First World War and the faking of stories as far back as the American Civil War.

"Junius Browne of the *New York Tribune* collected from officers details of the Battle of Pea Ridge (March 1862) and wrote a brilliant, but entirely imaginary, eye-witness report," writes Knightley.

The picture painted of the war correspondent in the book is not entirely black and Knightley tries hard to make reference to the journalists who went out of their way to

beat censorship restraints or give objective accounts.

In a recent example, Knightley pays compliment to John Simpson, the BBC's veteran war correspondent, who faced a hail of criticism for daring to report the Nato bombing of Serbia and Kosovo from within Belgrade. In the book Simpson refutes claims that he was a "glove-puppet" for Slobodan Milosevic and emphasises the true role of the war correspondent.

"Journalism is about telling people more, not less," Simpson says. "There was no point in staying in Belgrade if we couldn't work properly, but we were free to say what we wanted to say."

Knightley shows the good, the bad and the downright useless correspondents since their emergence in the Crimean war and anyone with the remotest interest in the media or the military would find this a fascinating insight into what the general public is not always told. – MW

IN BRIEF

The Great War: Opening Moves edited by H W Wilson and J A Hammerton. This illustrated history of the First World War, reprinted from the 1914 and 1915 editions of *The War Illustrated*, is a blockbuster in every sense – a hefty, large-format volume with a price to match. It offers a huge collection of eye-witness testimonies. (Trident Press International, £50.)

The Second World War: Blitzkrieg edited by Sir John Hammerton. Another immense offering from the Trident Press International stable, this time covering the period from January

to July 1940 as reported in *The War Illustrated*, issues 21 to 44. (£25.)

Nothing Less Than Victory: The Oral History of D-Day by Russell Miller. Former *Soldier* writer's unsurpassed collection of eye-witness stories, first published in 1993, (Pimlico, paperback, £12.50.)

Panzer edited by Dr Russell Hart and Dr Niall Barr. Illustrated history of German armour forces in the Second World War includes more than 200 previously unpublished pictures. (Aurum Press, large-format hardback, £19.99.)

Kosovo-Serbia: A Just War? edited by Frank Columbus. Analyses and questions the American motivation for intervening in Kosovo. (Nova Science Publishers, New York, paperback; from Gazelle, tel: 01254 68765 at £16.99.)

Tanks of the World by David Miller. Superbly illustrated directory of tanks from the First World War to the present day, published in a handy format for the enthusiast clambering around the Tank Museum at Bovington. Part of the Salamander Illustrated Directory series. (Salamander, £7.99.)

Long Range Desert Group by W B Kennedy Shaw. The author served as an intelligence officer with the ground-breaking LRDG and gives an insight into its operations. (Greenhill Books, £10.99.)

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days

for delivery. Postal address: Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, UK (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Former National Serviceman makes a spectacle of himself

Oi, you: Former Defence Secretary and National Serviceman Tom King MP (in civvies) is given an earwiggling by WO2 (CSM) Eddie Manners, Scots Guards, for coming on parade with dirty glasses. The occasion was the Imperial War Museum launch of a new paperback edition of *Brasso, Blanco and Bull* to coincide with the ending of



National Service 40 years ago. Far left is Tim Rogerson and second right author Tony

Thorne, both in authentic 1950s uniform. See below. Picture: Steve Dock

Horsing around for a princess

IT WAS one of the most memorable cries ever to be heard emanating from a sergeant major's hoarse throat on any parade ground.

"You, Sir, King, Sir. Move your feet sharpish, Sir. You are the idlest King on this parade, Sir!"

Addressed, one must hastily add, not to the Rt Hon Tom King MP, one-time National Serviceman and more latterly Secretary of State for Defence – pictured above by our photographer enduring a similar humiliation – but to the late King Hussein of Jordan, on the parade ground at Sandhurst.

The famous dressing-down of the much-lamented monarch is quoted by Tony Thorne in *Brasso, Blanco and Bull*, which for its sheer hilarity quotient comes with the firm endorsement of the likes of Sir Paddy Ashdown, Bernard Cribbins, Windsor Davies, Leslie Thomas and Freddie Trueman.

And to paraphrase the Duke of Westminster's foreword,

Brasso, Blanco and Bull by Tony Thorne (Robinson, paperback, £7.99). A donation from sales will go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

this affectionate account of National Service experiences laughs with the Army, rather than at it – and he challenges any soldier or ex-soldier not to find it as funny as he did.

Thorne, who has produced this previously privately-published book in association with fellow East Surrey Regiment officer Tim Rogerson, tells one revealing story of the Duke's home, Eaton Hall, then on loan for use as an officer cadet training school.

The vast forecourt of this stately pile, doubling as a parade ground, was (and, we are told by the Duke, still is) graced in one corner by a statue of his Waterloo-era forebear astride a large horse in the centre of a pond.

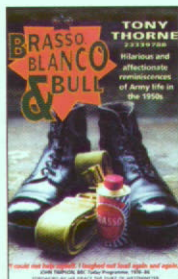
In a nocturnal stunt before one passing-out parade – at which Princess Margaret was due to take the salute – cadets removed the old duke's plumed hat, borrowed the camp fire-engine and filled the hollow statue with 200 gallons of water.

They then pricked a small hole in the horse's visible symbol of masculinity, which they stopped-up with wax, timed to dissolve just as the royal VIP marched on to the parade ground to take the salute.

"At precisely the right moment," says Thorne, "the horse started to relieve himself noisily into the surrounding pond and continued without interruption for 24 hours."

It gave a whole new meaning to "passing-out parade", but Princess Margaret's reaction is not recorded.

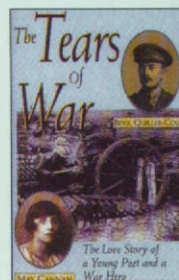
Apart from the fact that there are many even funnier stories, all family readers need to know is that this light-hearted read is peopled by quite a lot of fockers, not all of them aircraft. – CH



A story of love in letters and poems

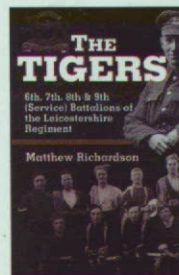
PUBLISHED to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916, *The*

Tears of War (Cavalier, £12.99) by May Wedderburn Cannan and Bevil Brian Quiller-Couch, is the true love story of a First World War poet and an artillery officer. Bevil Quiller-Couch, son of Sir Arthur Q-C, had known May Cannan since their childhood in Oxford (his father edited her father's *Oxford Book of English Verse*). Days after the Armistice he asked her to marry him in Paris, but three weeks later led his battery into Germany and died in the flu epidemic of 1919.



Tiger Togo and other Leicestershire tales

TOGO Bolesworth, a one-time all-India middleweight boxing champion and reckoned to be the hardest hitter of his weight in Britain, was as brave on the field of battle as he was in the ring. The story of his DCM and Croix de Guerre is told, with many others, by Matthew Richardson in his very readable account of *The Tigers* (Leo Cooper, £21.95), an absorbing history of the Leicestershire Regiment in the First World War. Packed with photographs and anecdotes, it traces the four Tiger battalions from training days to the Somme, Arras and Passchendaele.



How a nation turned itself into an army

THE manner in which British Army expanded (hardly an adequate word in the circumstances) from six to 65 divisions following the outbreak of war in 1914 was a huge achievement. It is summed up in the famous poster depicting Kitchener's stone-faced stare and legendary appeal to the nation's menfolk. In *Your Country Needs You* (Leo Cooper, £18.95) Martin Middlebrook shows how it was done, resulting in the New Army and the phenomena of the many Pals battalions sent to the front.



CS95 fleece RSM got it just right

I WRITE in response to "Layer of ignorance" (May), which commented on an RSM in Kosovo who told a junior NCO that the Combat Soldier 95 (CS95) fleece is designed to be worn under the issue smock, and accused him of ignorance of the layered system. I feel I have to point out that the ignorance is on the part of the sergeant who wrote the letter, not the RSM educating the JNCO.

I am the SO2 (W) Countersurveillance at the Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Night Observation and Countersurveillance (STANOC) Centre, which specialises in surveillance, camouflage and deception. As such, I have been involved with the development of the camouflage aspects of CS95, a system designed by the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency.

As part of the system, the DCTA designed the fleece to be an insulating undergarment, so it is therefore not ruggedised (like the rip-stop smock) or waterproof. Also, because it was designed as a liner, near infra-red reflectance was not incorporated into the garment. This means a soldier wearing the fleece on the outside will appear to be very bright and all one colour when viewed through an image intensifier.

The sergeant's mistake is a common one, but he is lucky in his case that he didn't take the RSM to task over the issue. I recommend the STANOC Centre's Nato all arms battlefield countersurveillance instructors' course to him – or to anyone else wishing to learn more about this and many other surveillance and camouflage matters. – **Maj M P Hay, A and SH, STANOC Centre, Larkhill.**

Layer principle seems to have been undermined

MUCH to my surprise, as yet, there does not seem to have been a reply to the "Layer of ignorance" letter. Firstly, the CS95 layer system (so I am led to believe) works on the principle of removing the underneath garments first as you warm up (ever wonder why there are not numerous pockets and rank slides on the fleece and waterproof?).

This means that I am now confused as to what it should be. I would be grateful if someone from DCTA could put us all straight.

Secondly, it is disappointing to see that an SNCO has had to write to air his views about such a matter. Surely the SNCO should have approached the RSM. When on operations or not, the Army has not and never will lower its standards of dress and discipline, which make us an envied, respected and admired fighting force throughout the world. – **WO1 K A Griffin, ATDU, Bovington.**

How Soldier Smith might miss out on LSSA bonus

I'VE just read your story on the £1,000 bonuses ("Cash boost will compensate for separation turbulence", Feb). On the surface it seems a very good idea, but in reality there will be a lot of people who have spent a long time on tours but who will receive nothing because of the two-year rolling qualification period.

Here is an example. Soldier Smith collects his first day's Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) while on a two-month detachment in March 1998. He then doesn't go anywhere until October, when he deploys on a six-month tour, returning in April 1999 – by now having

about 240 days' LSSA. Because Soldier Smith is lucky, he collects another operational tour in February 2000, returning from Kosovo in September 2000. Over a period of 2½ years he would have racked up more than 400 days of LSSA, but doesn't get anything.

Soldier Smith is not, I believe, alone. Although this new allowance looks good on the surface, a standard bonus for a six-month tour would have been a better option. I hope no one thinks I am being a moaner because I think this type of problem should be addressed. – **Cpl (name supplied), Op Agricola, Kosovo.**

We think new system is fair

I'M a corporal in the Royal Air Force and have been reading *Soldier* for about a year. I and my colleagues find the articles interesting and usually see three or four items which keep our tea-break discussions lively until the next issue.

I felt the need to respond to the letters from WO2 Carter ("Learning credit falls far short of my fees") and Cpl Watkins ("Not a lot of help buying our own home"), which appeared in the May issue.

Although WO2 Carter feels aggrieved that she can claim only £1,050 of her £4,000 Open University fees, this is still £1,050 more than she would be able to claim from most civilian employers. She has chosen to undertake a degree course. Why? Will it benefit the Army, or is it in preparation for her return to civilian life?

If it is the latter, why should the MoD pay for the course in full? I presume she will also attend two weeks of summer school, which is classed as duty.

As regards the surplus of £30.6 million in unclaimed credits, why not invest this in resettlement training?

On allowances, a line has to be drawn. There have been improvements over the

years to equal-out allowances. Things are changing but it takes time. We have been treated well in regard to allowances such as home-to-duty travel, and rightly so. I believe the new system is fair. If you are posted and do not claim disturbance allowance by staying in your own home you qualify for Residence to Place of Duty (RESPOD) or Recompense in Lieu of Relocation (RILOR). No civilian employer would refund travel expenses if you moved further from your place of work.

If you can't afford the extra expense of travelling from home, use Service accommodation. If neither of these appeals to you, use your final option and take premature voluntary retirement. – **Cpl N Ward, RAF Brampton, Cambs.**

▲ It's good to know our light-blue cousins enjoy the magazine. It's worth remembering that the Army's welfare packages and allowances are aimed at helping soldiers to remain in the Service. It is also recognised that additional qualifications, including degree courses, will make them better soldiers AND help them make a smoother transition back to civvy street when they do eventually leave. – **Editor**

My BFPO number baffled the UK system

I'VE had difficulty obtaining a mail-order item in England via the BFPO address system. Reasons for firms not being able to deliver to my BFPO number included never having heard of BFPO and being unable to use it as a post code. I was told I would be

charged at the international rate, even though I am serving in Northern Ireland, part of the UK. I had the item sent to a civilian address. I sympathise with single soldiers who don't have that option. Can something be done? – **LCpl Paddy Henderson, HQNI.**

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1950: WRAC members, pictured, try a fence-jump at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot in readiness for the Royal Tournament. Three weeks of rehearsals, six days a week, go into preparing a ten-minute display by 120 women from the WRAC, WRNS and WRAF.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1975: A rare blood disease found in Mediterranean countries is being studied by Army doctors serving in the British Military Hospital at Dhekelia in Cyprus. The hospital has treated a growing number of newly-diagnosed cases of thalassaemia or Cooley's anaemia.

How can different meal costs be fair?

I WAS in complete agreement with SSgt Lavis ("Living in cost me £300 more than married colleagues", May). It is incomprehensible to me how two Servicemen, regardless of age, can sit next to each other and eat the same meal and, while the unaccompanied soldier – even if he or she has elected to serve unaccompanied – pays £16.52 a week for meals, the single soldier pays £22.61 a week.

As the equal opportunities trainer for my unit, I have to stand in front of these soldiers and tell them that MoD policy states there will be no discrimination on the grounds of marital status.

If this isn't a clear example of discrimination, then please tell me what is.

It's even worse when the unaccompanied

soldier reaches the age of 37. To rub salt into the wounds of his single contemporary he stops paying anything for his accommodation, while his single equivalent might pay, as a SNCO in grade one accommodation, £1,029 a year.

Allowing them the same privilege as a married colleague is not asking for much.

I cannot believe there are thousands of personnel in this situation. Perhaps someone will complain to the Equal Opportunities Commission and single soldiers who have been disadvantaged over the years will be compensated. Let's hope the MoD lawyers read *Soldier*. – WO2 (SQMS) R D Somerville, Scottish Tpt Regt RLC (V), Dunfermline, Fife.

● 'Unfair' food charge – Page 68

Mail us!

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

PS...

Corps' added value

I READ with interest your feature on the Royal Military Police (May). The article stated that RMP soldiers are the only students to graduate from Army phase two training as NCOs. This is incorrect.

In fact, the Royal Corps of Signals has not one but three trades in which students leave phase two training in the substantive rank of lance corporal. These trades are specialist operator, specialist operator (linguist) and systems engineering technician. In each case, promotions take place on the final day of phase 2 training prior to an individual's posting to a field unit.

The corps offers excellent opportunities for young men and women who wish to combine soldiering with the application of high technology in communications and information systems. – WO1 (Corps RSM) G Hodgson, HQ R Signals, Blandford.

Billy got it wrong

I WRITE to congratulate you on the excellent My Army feature on Billy Bragg (March), and also to take issue with one of his comments. Like Billy Bragg, I was one of the large number of "working-class lads" who joined the Army in the early 1980s, but I think his description of recruits of the period as having no experience of "people of colour" prior to enlistment is inaccurate and serves to reinforce the myth that those who join the Army are recruited from some junior branch of the KKK. I, like many of my military peers, was born and raised in an urban area with a large Afro-Caribbean and Asian population. – J D Ellis, Glos.

Any old drums...

I AM looking for some old drums. Ones that are no longer serviceable or usable would do. They are needed for drumhead services and parades during cadet camps and weekends. If anyone has such kit gathering dust in their unit, please get in touch. – Padre Andy Pell, c/o 6 RWF HQ, Bethesda, Gwynedd, N Wales, or CTC Frimley Park, or e-mail andy Pell@zoom.co.uk

Too many cadets

With reference to "From Westminster to Wapping" (May), I was aware our cadet strength had risen over the past 12 months, and a figure of 17,079 is certainly impressive, highlighting the fact that we do indeed have the most cadets in the country. It is also pleasing to note that our neighbours, Yorkshire North and West follow us. I fear the correct numbers are, in fact, although above the 1,700 mark, not quite as high as your figures, which for all the three counties listed totalled more than the overall UK strength. – Maj D I Fuller, Humberside and South Yorkshire ACF.

▲ The figures quoted, which we accept are inaccurate, were as published in Hansard.

Singlies reply to *that* letter

THE title of Mrs Canham's letter ("My tears of laughter over plight of singlies", April) was bad enough, but the point she was making was out of order. If she had bothered to read Maj Robinson's letter ("How system fails to move us singlies", Feb) she would have realised that he was asking for a better Military Freight Organisation (MFO) system for single soldiers.

Let's face it, there isn't much room in an MFO box for most singlies' possessions.

What got me was the point of her letter. I would never let my children sleep on the floor with only a coat to cover them. One suitcase for a family of five to last eight weeks and two days in an unfurnished quarter? Forgive my ignorance, but don't you get put up in a hotel until your furniture arrives?

As for disturbance allowance, household items are provided, if needs be, to pads, as are curtains and nets. The children's school uniforms I understand... and the matter of the change in climate. What I don't get is Mrs Canham's lack of organisation. By the way, could she tell me where to get a free-rental telly? – **LCpl G M J Ryder, QRH, Sennelager.**

HOW can a pad's wife possibly know about single life in the Army? I too like to live comfortably and have acquired furniture, only to be told I have to pay extra to have it shipped to my next posting. School uniforms and the kids' toys have priority in this army.

I would love the option of having a quarter I could share, just to have a near-normal life instead of being cooped up in a condemned block, with people forever entering my private room whenever they feel like it for an inspection. And it's a large block to clean. Single soldiers don't get free TV rental and have to pay for a TV licence. – Cpl (name supplied), R Signals, London.

I nearly laughed out loud when I read Mrs Canham had to wait two days in Germany before her furniture arrived. On my last posting (I've had five in the past five years), I had to wait seven weeks before receiving any kit.

Surely it is the responsibility of her husband to pre-arrange the taking-over of a quarter by his new unit to prevent the situation she describes.

Would Mrs Canham prefer her one "march-out" to the numerous invasions of privacy singlies have to endure during routine inspections? I have yet to come across a singly serving in a unit with free TV rental or phone lines. – **Cpl S A Bird, CJPu, Episkopi, Cyprus.**

● **LCpl M Bourne, Wksp REME, 25 Engr Regt, Northern Ireland,** a married unaccompanied soldier who reckoned Mrs Canham's was the best April Fool's letter he had seen for a long time, and **LCpl Henry Pool, RAC Export Support Team, Bovington,** wrote to express similar sentiments.

Compassion didn't extend to the east

FOLLOWING the second half of WO2 Carter's letter (May) concerning unequal treatment and benefits for single soldiers, I would like to highlight another Army policy perceived as discriminatory – the restriction of compassionate leave travel at public expense to personnel travelling to the UK.

This effectively discriminates against any soldier whose parents do not live in the UK, such as those with foreign wives or foreign parents.

My family has suffered the adverse effects of the current policy on two occasions.

In June 1992 my mother-in-law in the Philippines became terminally ill and was given six weeks to live. She had not seen my wife in five years and had never seen our daughter. We could not afford flights to the Philippines so asked our admin office if we could get compassionate travel to Hong Kong (from where we could afford the onward flight).

We were told that we were ineligible, even though soldiers could get compassionate travel at public expense going in the opposite direction. In the end, the

Army Benevolent Fund, SSAFA and my corps association stepped in and paid for our flights to Hong Kong.

Two years later we were posted to Hong Kong, largely for my wife to be closer to her surviving family. Her father died suddenly in November 1995. This time we had taken the precaution of having an emergency fund and were able to pay our own way to the Philippines for the funeral.

Ironically, the Army were willing to pay for a 14,000-mile round trip had we wanted to go to the UK on compassionate grounds. They would not, however, consider paying for the 1,800-mile round trip to the Philippines. The argument for the current policy cannot, therefore, be made on grounds of cost.

I feel the Army is over-reliant on charities covering for a flawed policy. I am not litigious by nature, but it must be only a matter of time before this policy is challenged in the courts, with the resultant costs to the Army in terms of image as an equal opportunities employer and Investor in People. – **SSgt Peter Phillips, Int Corps, DISS, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds.**

'Unfair' food charge is top of my hate list

AS there is no open forum for complaint within the Forces I feel compelled to write to you to highlight the unfair treatment of single people by the Army. Here's my list:

● Why does a married unaccompanied man over 37 living-in get free accommodation and a lower rate of food charges than a single man living-in?

● Why does my married neighbour receive an allowance for being separated (MUSA or Married Unaccompanied Service Allowance) yet I, with a steady partner of five years, do not?

● Why, when I have to move, if my belongings don't fit into an MFO box, they don't go?

● Why are single soldiers in steady, long-term relationships not allowed to have their partners in their accommodation blocks? (See Vox pop – Page 70.)

● We've heard lots about the X-factor bringing pay scales into line throughout

the Army, yet the Infantry, one of the major teeth arms, is still one of the lowest paid in comparison to the Royal Armoured Corps, even though the Infantry operates in armoured vehicles.

● In response to Mrs Canham's letter (see "Singlies reply to *that* letter" on this page): single soldiers also have to change their clothes to suit the climate (as do civilians); single soldiers don't get free TV rental and have to buy their own licences; when a fastball comes in on a Friday afternoon or over the weekend, duty personnel always go to the single soldier accommodation, not the married quarters; single soldiers also have to wait for their MFO to arrive; and, finally, single soldiers would love to help Mrs Canham clean her quarter, but are too busy cleaning their own and getting the equipment her husband probably uses ready for hand-over. – **CSgt (name and address supplied), Sennelager.**



Freeze-frame

Our May freeze-frame winner (picture below) is Cpl Glyde RE, serving with K Troop at Kitchener Barracks, Brompton, Chatham, for "I say, chaps, there's definitely a touch of class about this Imperial Leather". Honorable mentions go to Colin Lamb of South Shields, for "If he sings that 'Dan, Dan the dirty man, washed himself in a frying pan' one more time I'll..." and "Volunteers for the Corps of Drums" from Lt Col R Jarman, of London (and several others who wrote in a similar vein). We also quite liked "Bayonet cleaning by numbers" from Sgt Tony Stead AGC, serving with 12 Regiment RA at Sennelager.



"... and this is little Jimmy Osmond's microphone..."

Write your own funny caption for the photograph above left, first published in *Soldier* in October 1952. The best, in the opinion of the Editor, will win a silver-plated book-clock bearing the Army logo. Usual competition rules apply and entries should reach us by July 31.

Sleep-in group will miss 'new' Saturday recruiting

AFTER two years in recruiting in Lincolnshire I recently returned to my trade as a vehicle mechanic. Through friends in recruiting, I hear that new policies are to be adopted to improve recruiting figures, such as opening offices on Saturdays and closing down others.

Can this be correct? Saturday opening has been tried in the past and found to have made little or no increase to the total walk-in figures. Youngsters in our target group have been out with their mates the night before and sleep late on Saturdays, when they are hardly in the right frame of mind to attend a career orientation interview, or present the right image to recruiting staff.

Please, would whoever decides on these

"new" measures, listen to our experienced AFCC and ACIO office managers. They are your continuity and have implemented these policies time and again.

Instead of closing down offices, we should be spending more money improving the locations of the many recruiting offices which are hidden from public view down out-of-town back streets or built as an annex to a TA hall.

Make these careers offices high-profile and the number of walk-in applicants will rise. As an aside, I can recommend recruiting to anyone looking for job satisfaction. I gained more in two years than I have in 18 as a vehicle mechanic. — **SSgt J Kinnear, 40 Regt RA Wksp REME, Thirsk, N Yorkshire.**

Seems to me like you've got a good deal

AS my fiancé is in the Army I read *Soldier* regularly to keep up with what he is doing and find nearly every month a letter from someone complaining about Army pay, accommodation and so on.

How I wish I could join up, get out of "dead end" civvy street and enjoy all the benefits that soldiers are lucky enough to enjoy. Having graduated with a degree in

business studies, I am nearly unemployed, having to make do with making coffee and filing before I am trusted with a "proper" job. Even when I do earn this trust, I'll still be living hand-to-mouth on about £11,000 a year in the centre of London — which isn't easy. So stop moaning and realise what a good deal you've got. — **Adele Peters, London.**

PS...

Telling it like it was

MY father-in-law, Maj Joe Youle RAMC, served in Pakistan from 1935 to 1942, mostly at the British Military Hospital, Rawalpindi. He died in 1975 — and I have only just got round to looking through the bits and pieces he left behind.

Among the stuff was a diary with some interesting snippets recorded on the back page:

● "This mountain gun can be moved by a mule or two intelligent NCOs" (extract from Indian Army manual).

● "Spoken English sold here" (from a notice outside a bookshop in Cochin, southern India).

● "Today the hospital was visited by Capt XXXX, C4th Highlanders" (written by an Indian babu clerk in a war diary).

● "Next Friday at 10am there will be a surprise fire alarm" (notice on board in mess). — **Charles Golder, Lancs.**

Get on with it!

EVER since I left the Army early in 1976 after 33 years' service, I have been a regular reader of your splendid magazine. Indeed, I am often able to tell my son-in-law — a serving brigadier — facts of which he was not aware.

But over recent years I've become increasingly despondent at the whingeing tone of your correspondents, who seem to be much more concerned with complaining than getting on with the job in hand, or realising the positive advantages of being in the Army.

They should be proud of being soldiers and doing a magnificent job, which few, if any, other armies could do, and not continually complain about the allowances they get.

As regards problems of unaccompanied tours, in Cyprus and Borneo we used to enjoy them as we were able to concentrate on soldiering 24 hours a day. — **Lt Col (Retd) P A Winter, Alcester, Warks.**

Please deploy me

IN seven years in the Army I have had only one opportunity to go on an operational tour.

I'm itching for the chance to do the job I'm paid for, so imagine my disappointment when I heard the news that the Territorial Army is being sent to the Balkans to cover for the Regular Army and cut down on overstretch.

There must be hundreds of single soldiers in barracks dying for the chance to serve abroad, but unable to do so because they are in a training establishment or a rear-echelon unit.

Surely it can't be that hard to attach these people to deployed units, depending on their trade. Even to be attached in an infantry role would be a change.

It would be a lot cheaper than paying the TA and their employers for six months at a time. — **LCpl Milne, REME Wksp, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln.**

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Living-in and let live

Should single soldiers with steady partners be allowed to entertain them in their blocks? Should single soldiers in long-term relationships be allowed to live in quarters? We asked soldiers in Gibraltar what they thought

Sgt John Payas, Gibraltar Regiment

I think single soldiers should have the same rights as married ones. Camps are quite big so it should be possible to segregate married and singles. Girlfriends should be allowed, maybe not to spend the night, but they should be able to spend the day and chill out.



LCpl James Frendo, Gibraltar Regiment

I think it is something the Army should review. The system could be based on merit rather than seniority as there are immature senior soldiers and mature junior ones. If there were problems the privilege could be withdrawn.

Pte Nathan Cruz, Gibraltar Regiment

Girlfriends should be able to stay the night and you should be able to relax. But the problem would be people abusing the system.



Sig Daniel Jackson, R Signals

I think it's a good idea and it would stop a lot of problems. If you have long-term girlfriend they could be issued with a pass for the accommodation.



Pte Brandon Tosso, Gibraltar Regiment

It all depends. It could lead to partying and drinking.



Cpl Jon Cartwright, Gibraltar Regiment

If you had a long-term girlfriend it would be good, but it could be abused. You could find partners living in and the next thing they would start complaining. It has its perks but there is a downside.

Pte Steene Busto, Gibraltar Regiment

At the end of the day it's our home. Maybe girlfriends could stay until a certain time, such as 5am.



Pte Leif Simpson, Gibraltar Regiment

Personally, I think single soldiers should be allowed girlfriends and partners in their rooms

on Friday and Saturday nights. That's why nobody here wants to live-in. Lifestyles have changed but the Army's attitude has not. Soldiers pay for the accommodation, it is their home, so why not?

Pte Cara Loyd, AGC (SPS)

We are all adults at the end of the day. But it is important that other people in the block are not upset and their wishes respected.



Cpl Chris Ghio, Gibraltar Regiment

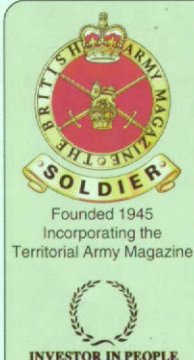
I think partners should be allowed to stay. If a soldier signs somebody in that is the responsibility of that soldier.

Pte Christian Jeffries, Gibraltar Regiment

The Army talks about equal opportunities so I don't see anything wrong with having a girlfriend back to watch TV and have a drink. Perhaps there should be a curfew.



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Fax 347358 (2358)

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www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit the Army website on
www.army.mod.uk

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Photographer Graeme Main 347357 (2357)
Librarian Stuart Robinson 347351 (2351)
Advertising Manager Sheila Little 347352 (2352)
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