

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

August 2000 £2

SOLDIER

**Five tattoo
videos to
be won**

**Brac: the
Army's isle
of dreams**

Catterick's new image

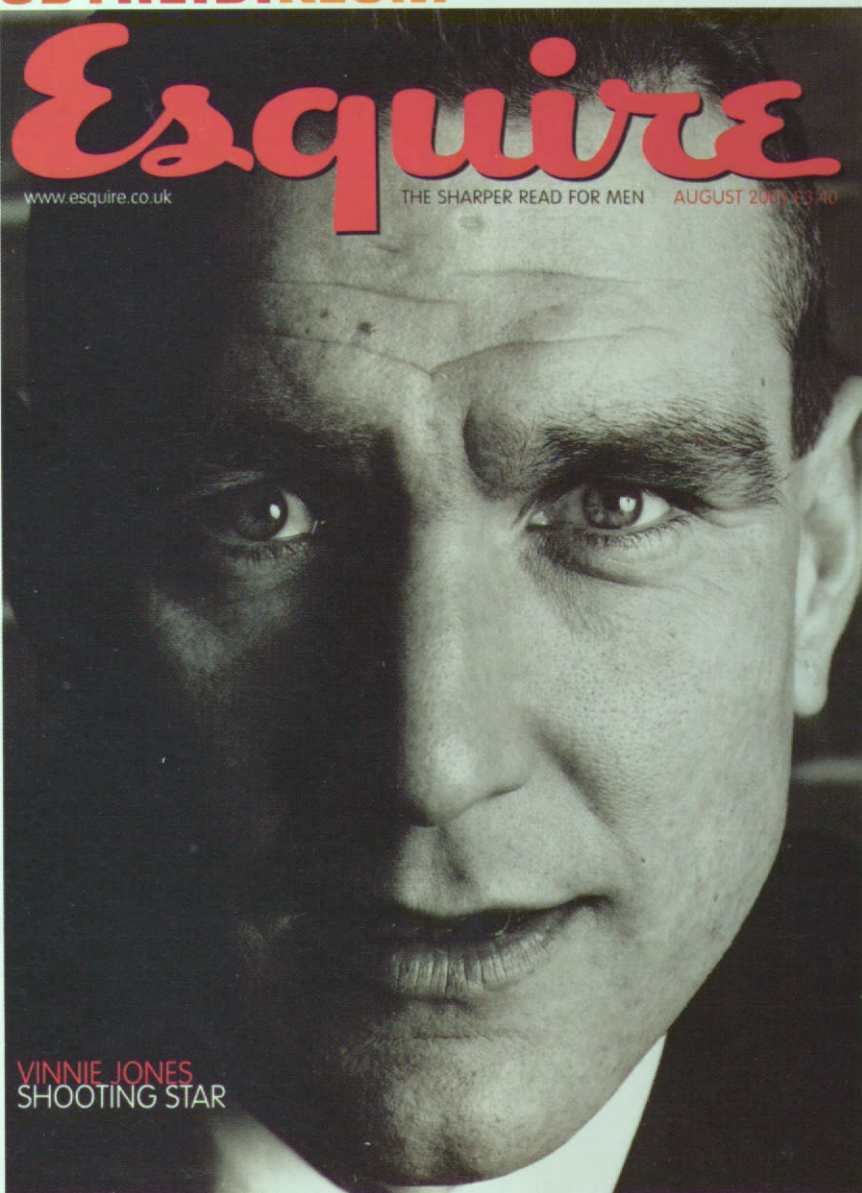
Sappers in Kuwait



IN THIS MONTH'S ESQUIRE MAGAZINE
THE WELL HARD ISSUE
VINNIE JONES

PRINCE NASEEM
HARD BODY HEIDI KLUM

**AND
OUR
MAN
TAG-
WRESTLES
THE
PROS**



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Value of TA skills

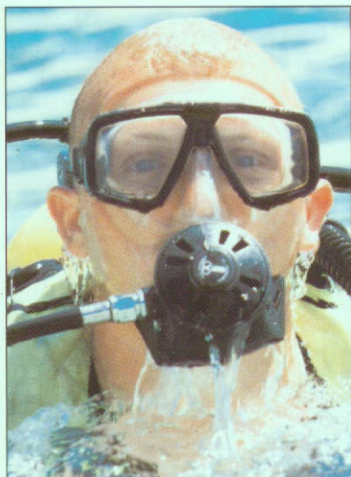
About ten per cent of British soldiers serving in Bosnia are TA and reservists. We asked them about the experience of serving alongside the Regulars. Their answers reflect a real feeling that the skills they offer are highly appreciated.

– Vox pop, Page 70

TOP MANAGERS

Two REME specialists, one a staff sergeant and the other a lance corporal, have won national accolades for their management skills.

– Issues, Page 41

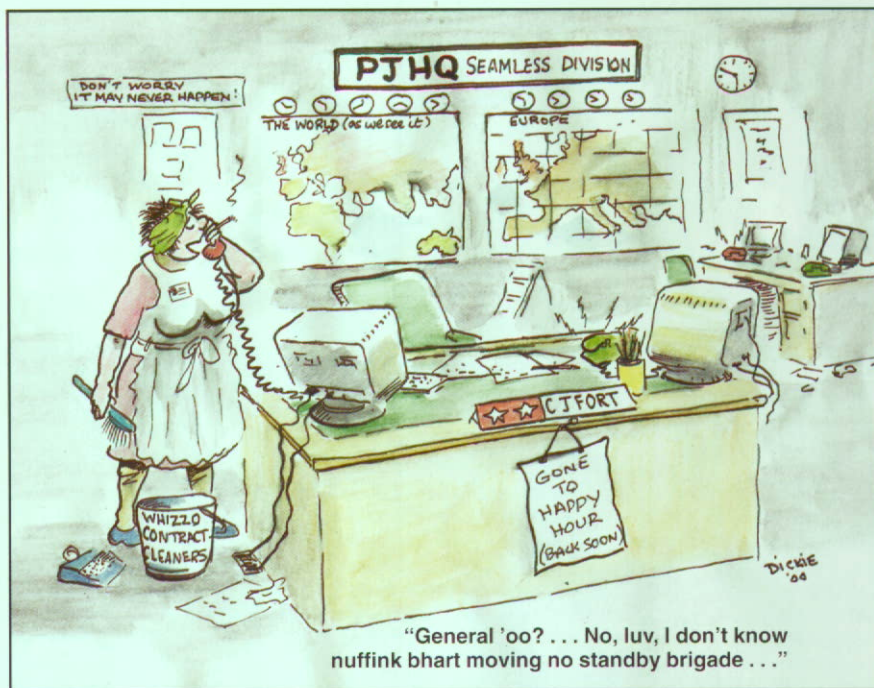


26-27 Cover story

Taking a breather: Cpl Carl Martin, 2 RTR, surfaces off the island of Brac, in the Adriatic, during a spell of scuba-diving. Soldiers serving in Bosnia have the opportunity to take a four-day adventurous training break there which has gained a reputation as “the best aid to retention in the Army”.

Picture: Graeme Main

How to contact Soldier
– see Page 70



● Down in the Bunker – Page 21

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Your letters on the hot topics fill another four pages

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SOLDIER to soldier

The right to voice opinions

THEY say the benchmarks of a flourishing publication are its advertisements and readers' letters.

In our case we shall leave readers to judge for themselves, while gently pointing out that for the sixth month in a row, our *Mailbag* feature stretches to four lively pages, with *Vox pop* a bonus.

Like everyone else in a free society, soldiers have views which they are entitled to express – and they are doing so forcefully on such hot topics as food charges, allowances, single-soldiers' rights and attitudes towards unmarried soldiers in stable relationships.

One writer tells the bizarre story of an unmarried couple with children having to occupy two quarters in the same road in order to abide by the rules.

Another, pleading for privacy for himself and his girlfriend, uses a modern American buzz-phrase in wishing the Army would “get with the program”.

'WHINGEING'

Non-serving readers are not always sympathetic. The general thrust of their letters is to urge complainants to “stop whingeing, count your blessings and get on with the job”. Soldiers being soldiers, the “old and bold” are respectfully requested this month to wind in their necks.

Both sides are entitled to their opinions and are encouraged to express them in our pages.

But the well-argued and articulate letters from serving soldiers indicate they may have very good reasons for questioning their quality of life. One cites “inconsistencies and the lack of an easy-to-use complaints system”.

That so many are choosing to air their grievances in *Soldier* suggests we are providing a platform they feel is not available to them elsewhere.

RMT 2000

Tattoo leaves its mark

Colourful, dynamic and entertaining – the most spectacular military show ever staged in London

Pictures: Graeme Main

HORSE Guards Parade had never seen anything like it. The tri-Service contribution to the millennium celebrations was the biggest and most complicated military show ever assembled – a riot of colour, noise and action that has set a new benchmark against which all subsequent events will be judged.

Nothing showing at the West End came close to matching the production values of this hit show with a cast of 1,800 and a nightly audience of seven times that.

The Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, the Duke of Kent, the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary were among those taking the salute during the six-night run.

The two-hour show was a non-stop presentation, roaring to life with a fly-past including the Red Arrows and a

Lancaster bomber. Parachutists dropped in from overcast, inclement skies bringing a ray of sunshine to the chilly, July evening.

Writer Rosemary Sisson, best known for her work with the television series *Upstairs Downstairs*, had worked with the show's producer, Maj Michael Parker, to weave together key moments of the island story, from the Battle of Hastings to the Battle of Britain and beyond.

One of the most spectacular moments was the recreation of the Charge of the Light Brigade, when 180 horses charged across the parade ground.

What is believed to be the largest mobile video screen in the world magnified the action, fusing historical tableaux with the latest technological wizardry.

The voices of stars including Dame Judi Dench (Queen Elizabeth I), Robert Hardy (Churchill) and Prunella Scales

(Queen Victoria) recited some of the stirring literature which those 1,000 years have inspired.

Soldier is offering the chance to relive the experience or enjoy it for the first time by entering our competition.

DD Video is releasing *The Royal Military Tattoo 2000* on August 7 featuring all the highlights as well as exclusive material not broadcast on television. The tape retails for £14.99 but *Soldier* has five copies to give away as prizes.

Answer the following question on a postcard marked RMT 2000 Competition and send it to *Soldier* by September 1 (usual rules apply).

Who wrote the following lines:

*Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the six hundred.*



Fired up: This re-enactment of a Boer War battle, above, saw soldiers don false moustaches and beards to add realism, 27 wigs were also worn

Going with a bang: Fireworks light up the night sky, right, with accompaniment from some of the 600 musicians who played 182 pieces of music

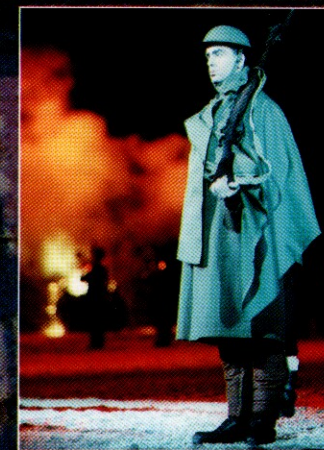


Sound and vision: Horse Guards was dominated by one of the world's largest mobile video screens, main picture



Up for it: The King's Troop, left, demonstrate their precision riding techniques

Lone sentry: A tableau from the First World War, right



SPECTACULAR

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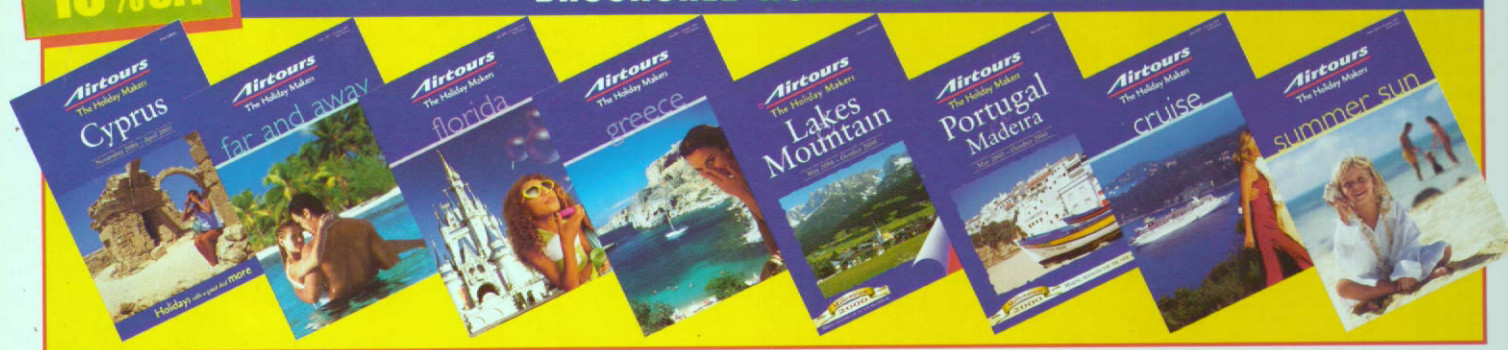


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People, places, events

Soldiers free Para hostage

BRITISH troops helped United Nations peacekeepers free Maj Andy Harrison, 2 Para, and ten other UN military observers who were trapped by rebels in Sierra Leone.

The rescue mission used a Chinook to fly into the compound during a heavy tropical downpour to carry out the evacuation.

The rescue was the climax of a ten-week stand-off and followed a request for support by the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone.

At one point during Maj Harrison's ordeal, in which he was subjected to beatings, he believed he was to be executed. "But I refused to kneel," he said. "I wasn't going to be shot on my knees. I had images of Vietnam in my mind."

Maj Harrison, who had previously served in the Gulf conflict and Northern Ireland, had been trapped with a battalion of Indian soldiers in a UN barracks in Kailahun, in the south-east corner of Sierra Leone, after the base



Rescued: Maj Harrison back in Freetown was surrounded by the Revolutionary United Front.

The rescue was launched after a signal was received from the barracks warning that food and medicines were critically low. Maj Harrison, along with the UN observers, was taken by helicopter to Freetown, before flying back to the UK. He plans to return to Sierra Leone to finish his tour.



Pageant: More than 7,000 participants, including military units from Britain and the Commonwealth, took part in the celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 100th birthday. The King's Troop RHA, pictured, was particularly honoured to take part as it was formed in 1946 under the express wishes of King George VI

Feeling the heat

Typically tropical: Pte Neil Bushell, 1 Para, leads an assault in the jungles of Jamaica during exercise Red Stripe, in which 120 paras of A Company learned the basic skills to allow them to live and fight in the most hostile of environments.



Platoon commanders had the opportunity to carry out a two-day exercise before the company progressed through a variety of packages including field firing, advanced jungle skills and adventurous training. The course culminated a company attack.

The seemingly simple question of movement takes on a new dimension in the jungle and personal hygiene assumes an importance not always recognised in temperate climates.

Control of soldiers is much more difficult in the jungle; commanders and soldiers alike struggle with how easy it is to become disorientated.

"You could walk ten metres into the jungle, turn around, and you're lost," said Pte Nick Thorogood. "It is very hard going."

"Jungle warfare is the most difficult kind of fighting and if you can master this, you can master anything," said Pte Jamie Brown.

March of time

Eyes left: Coldstream Guards exercise their privilege to march through the City of London with "drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed" on the 350th anniversary of the regiment's formation. The salute was taken by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Clive Martin, and the regiment's Colonel, Gen Sir Michael Rose.



Soldier has it taped

WITH the help of St Dunstan's, an audio-tape version of *Soldier* is now available for those with reading difficulties.

Anyone knowing a potential recipient, and who has not already made contact, is asked to telephone the St Dunstan's PR Department on 020 7723 5021 or fax 020 7224 9616 or e-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.co.uk

IN BRIEF

● **London Pride**, an NBC defence exercise held on Salisbury Plain was the first time British and American NBC troops had exercised together in the United Kingdom. About 250 soldiers from the **Royal Yeomanry** (Swindon and London squadrons), the **Joint NBC Regiment** and the **United States Chemical Corps** conducted a clean-up operation

following a simulated chemical attack.

● Kenya was the setting for **Exercise Oakapple**, the final opportunity for **29Fd Sqn** to deploy in its current role. On its return to Germany the 140-year-old squadron re-rolled for the ninth time in its history as an armoured engineer squadron. Construction tasks tack-

led in Kenya included work on schools, a bridge and a weir.

● A leaner **1 Army Air Corps** has been on its first exercise in Germany since re-structuring and fighting only with Lynx helicopters following the departure of the Gazelles. Exercise Falcon Force involved US and Dutch forces.

Sweet sound



Good vibrations: Students from the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, Inchdrewer House, completed their 27-week training with a touch of class by passing off the square at Redford Cavalry Barracks as a formed band. It was the first class-three course to complete its training at the new School of Excellence.

Lt Col Peter Hollins Para, commanding officer, 3rd Battalion Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, to which the ASBM and HD is a formed company, took the salute and presented certificates to the pipers and drummers.

Harmonious notes



Count me in: The Band of The Irish Guards made an historic four-day visit to Dublin as part of its centenary celebrations. It was the first time a British Army Band has performed in the city since 1921. In a charity concert at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, The Band of the Irish Guards joined forces with the Irish No 1 Band, whose conductor, Commandant Joe Ryan, said: "The programme was a celebration of music which reflected both our traditions and included music from the greater musical heritage which we both share." Maj Andrew Chatburn, Irish Guards Director of Music, said: "It was a unique and historic occasion which we have been looking forward to for quite some time."

Dealing with Drumcree

Report: Simon Mander
Pictures: Cpl Chris Redford

WHILE the peace process moves steadily forward, the British Army once again had to mount a major operation in Northern Ireland at the start of the Province's marching season for the sixth year in succession.

Troops temporarily returned to the streets of Belfast for the first time in nearly two years in response to loyalist protests and street violence.

At Drumcree, the annual Orange parade passed off relatively peacefully although crowds of protesters lit fires on the other side of a crowd control obstacle erected by the Royal Engineers ahead of the march.

Throughout, the security forces' tactics were to pursue a graduated response to any trouble – with the RUC's water cannon deployed in the Province for the first time in almost 30 years.

Generally the Army sought to maintain a low profile, but when violence intensified, the response from military units was swift and decisive.

This was evidenced on one occasion when a group of protesters attempted to go around the Army's obstacle on Drumcree Bridge by trying to pull down the razor wire that had been stretched across the fields.

A short stand-off ensued before police and 1st Battalion The Light Infantry units in riot gear, assisted by 1st Battalion The Scots Guards deployed from helicopters, cleared the area.

But it was the short-term return to the Province's capital of soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets and units from 40 Commando Royal Marines that caught the headlines momentarily.

The last time the Army carried out routine patrolling in the city was in Sep-

Units deployed during marching season

Resident in Northern Ireland: 1 WFR, 1R Anglian, 1 RWF, 1 RGJ, 1 RGBW, 1 Kings, 3 Sqn RAF Regt, 25 Engr Regt, 6 RMP

Royal Irish Units: 3 R Irish, 4 R Irish, 5 R Irish, 7 R Irish 8 R Irish, 9 R Irish

Roulement units: 1RRF, 40 Cdo RM, 1 LI

Northern Ireland Battalions: 39 Regt RA, 1 Hldrs

UK Land Command units: 1SG, 1 A and SH, 1 QLR

Air units: Joint Helicopter Forces Northern Ireland

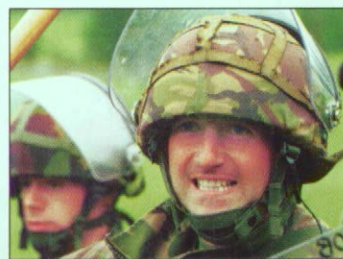
tember 1998. This time the troops were carrying out a public order support role at the request of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Back in Drumcree and the nearby town of Portadown, five battalions were deployed as tensions mounted after the Parades' Commission banned Protestant Orangemen from parading down the mainly Catholic Garvaghy Road.

At the bridge itself the 1st Battalion The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment were backed up in the early part of the disturbances by companies from 1 LI who deployed to nearby fields.

In the Portadown area, the scene of successive nights of burning barricades and crowd trouble, the police called on the 1st Battalion The Highlanders, the 1st Battalion The Scots Guards and the 1st Battalion The Kings Regiment for assistance.

As civil disorder spread to Londonderry companies from the 1st Battalion



Ready: 1 RGBW soldiers deploy



All quiet: Pte Jonathon Pickering, 1LI, patrols the field opposite Drumcree Church

The Royal Anglian Regiment, the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and the 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers were also deployed.

In the event the RUC were able to cope with the vast majority of incidents without significant military support, and only a fraction of the manpower and resources available to the GOC Northern Ireland, Lt-Gen Sir Hew Pike, needed to be deployed.

Behind the headlines, soundbites and statistics there were a number of human stories.

At the height of the disturbances at Drumcree Bridge, one Highlander discovered he had just become a dad. LCpl Garry Gibb, from Dundee, was on duty

when the news came through that his partner Kathleen had given birth to a baby boy which the couple named Ryan.

Among the units, the Scots in particular, who are no strangers to the Portadown area having been a resident battalion at Ballykinler for two years, were well received by some sections of the community.

Scots Guardsman David McConachie, from Glasgow, said: "Many local people were very pleasant and had come out of their houses with trays of sandwiches and cups of tea. They seemed to be quite happy we were there."

The Army sustained a total of 15 casualties in the Drumcree area over the period – none of them serious.

IN BRIEF

● A Royal Military Police interpreter working in Bosnia, Mr Sinia Pepic, has been awarded a commendation. Last December a Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicle from the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales, slid over the side of a bridge in Mrkonjic Grad, killing two soldiers and injuring three others. The subsequent rescue operation took over two hours

and was almost single-handedly co-ordinated by Mr Pepic, who received his award from Lt Col Mike Griffiths, GOC Multi-National Division (South West).

● Cyprus has been singled out by the worst fire since the Turkish invasion of 1974. British bases responded to calls for assistance from the Republic by providing

ground appliances from the Defence Fire Services. RAF Akrotiri provided Wessex helicopter support using rainmaker buckets. The operation was co-ordinated by air using a Gazelle helicopter from 16 Flight Army Air Corps based at Dhekelia.

● A statue is to be erected at the entrance to the Infantry Training Centre, Dering

Lines, on the outskirts of Brecon, Wales. The project, which has charitable status, will be solely funded by voluntary contributions. Cheques should be made payable to Infantry NCOs Statue Appeal and sent to Lt Col P Butler, Army Training Estate Wales, Sennybridge, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8PN. Full details for the project on www.infantry-nco-statue.org

Paras march out



Picture: Graeme Main

Farewell: The Parachute Regiment took leave of Aldershot following a service in the Royal Garrison Church and a march through the town which had been its home since just after the Second World War.

Hundreds lined the streets as 400 soldiers from the regiment marched through the town. Gen Sir Mike Jackson, Commander-in-Chief HQ Land Command, and the Mayor of Rushmoor Coun Jim White, took the salute. Also present were the Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire, Mrs Mary Fagin, and Gerald Howarth, MP.

The regiment will exercise its freedom of the borough with the 1st Battalion, which recently returned from Sierra Leone.

The regiment's departure follows the Strategic Defence Review, which resulted in the disbandment of 5 Airborne Brigade and 10 Para (V).

The 1st Battalion will move to Dover and will be replaced in New Normandy Barracks by the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

In April, 2 Para left for Colchester and was replaced by 1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards.

Soldiers from 7 Para RHA will remain in Aldershot while 3 Para, presently based in Dover, will transfer to Colchester.

Bucking the system

Lucky mascot: Bobby the Black Buck Indian Antelope mascot of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was lucky to escape injury while on his way to a regimental engagement in the West Midlands. After an accident on a slip road to the M6 Bobby emerged at full speed from his trailer and set off to London down the motorway, chased by his handler Sgt Paul Martin.

Bobby bounced off a passing coach, at which point handler Sgt Martin yelled "Bobby" and the mascot stopped, turned around and trotted back. Bobby, Sgt Martin, Land Rover and trailer were recovered with no further incident, although they never made the regimental engagement.

Radio makes waves

Tune in: Catterick Garrison has launched the UK's first permanent radio station in Nepali. Gurkhas in North Yorkshire now have their own nightly shows on Forces Radio BFBS. There are news and music programmes featuring well-known Nepali broadcaster Kishore Gurung – the Chris Evans of Kathmandu.

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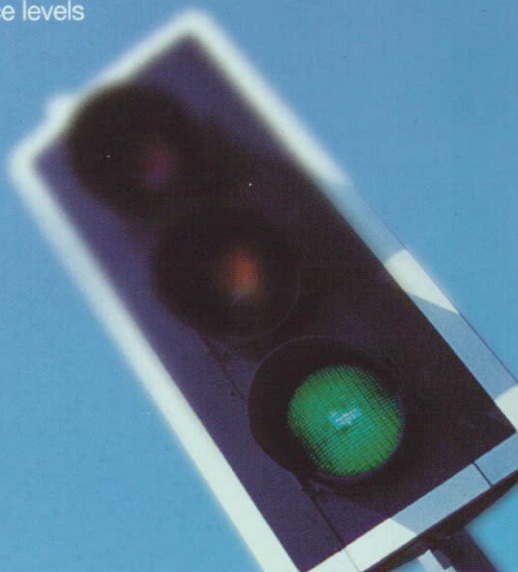
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People, places, events

KRH receive Guidon

THE Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of The King's Royal Hussars, presented the regiment with its new Guidon during a parade at Tedworth Park, Tidworth.

The Guidon – The Light Cavalry equivalent of an Infantry regiment's Colour – is to replace the two original Guidons of The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) and The 14th/20th King's Hussars, which were amalgamated in 1992 to form the King's Royal Hussars.

Each light cavalry regiment has a Guidon of crimson silk damask, 2ft 8in deep and 3ft 5in to the points of the swallows' tails and embroidered and fringed with gold.

KRH, one of the first units to move into Kosovo last year, arrived in Tidworth at the beginning of the year and will be there until 2006.

The regiment, known as the Cherry Pickers is unique for wearing crimson trousers and the distinctive brown beret.



On parade: The Princess Royal makes the presentation at Tedworth Park, Tidworth

Cash boost for Armed Forces

FOR the first time in more than a decade the defence budget will rise in real terms from £23 billion this year to £25 billion by 2003-04.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said: "The growth in the defence budget is a vote of confidence by the Government in the quality and effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

"It is recognition of the important and magnificent work done by the Armed Forces since this government came to power: in Kosovo, in Sierra Leone, in the Gulf, East Timor and elsewhere, helping people who cannot help themselves."

Veggie rations satisfy appetite for change

SPECIAL 24-hour operational ration packs have been introduced to cater for vegetarians in the Armed Services.

The packs, which will be issued to troops when they deploy on operations, join Moslem, Hindu/Sikh and kosher ration packs which have already been introduced.

The vegetarian range features three menus including non-meat sausage and beans for breakfast, spicy rigatoni and cheesy pasta and vegetables for the two main course choices and a tinny spread.

They have been developed in a partnership with industry to meet the strict nutri-

tional standards laid down by the Services and to have a shelf-life of up to three years.

As part of the Services' commitment to Equal Opportunities, the MOD introduced a range of rations suitable for each ethnic group.

Wing Commander John Morgan, of the Defence Catering Group, said: "We believe the introduction of such a ration pack will be a valuable addition to the service we provide."

More than 1.6m operational ration packs are produced every year, 42,000 of them vegetarian.

Enlisted at home



Go on my son: **Fus Nicholas Preston** is given the once over by his Yeoman Warden father Alan following his enlistment into The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at the Tower of London. Quite convenient really, as they both live within the Tower precincts. Alan completed 22 years as WO1 (ASM) in the REME before taking up his warden duties.



Home support: Some of the UK's leading businessmen were presented with awards in recognition of their support for the Reserve Forces. Pictured left, the businessmen with TA soldiers they have helped, Alan Davis HR director BTUK, Lt Ellie Hytch, QARANC, Anthony Caffyn, Caffyn's PLC, Capt David Burke, QARANC, 256 Fd Hosp and Mr Simon de Zoete, Credit Suisse - First Boston. The presentations were made by Dr Lewis Moonie, Defence Under-Secretary, at the Permanent Joint Headquarters, Northwood.

IN BRIEF

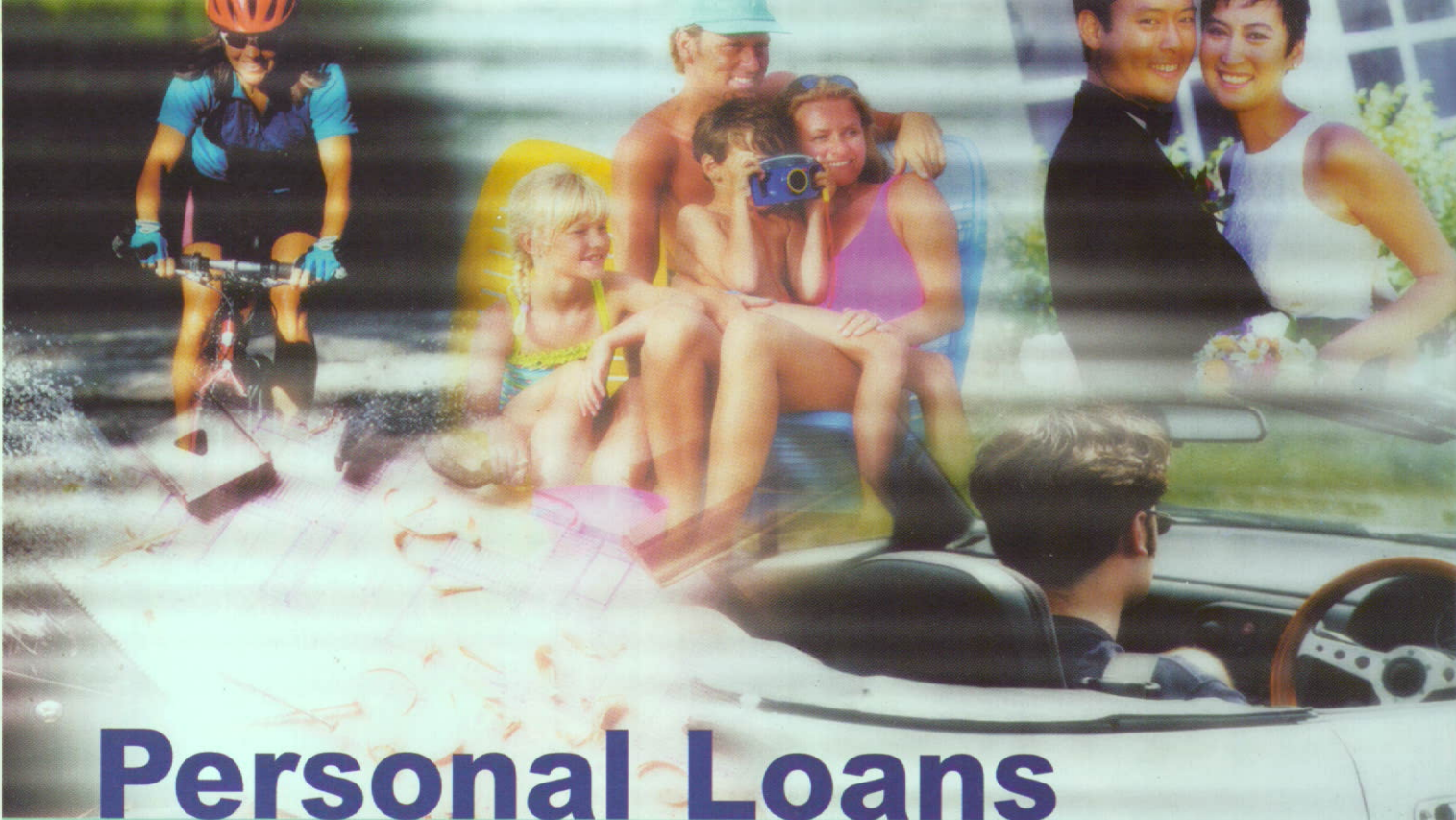
● A Challenger II main battle tank crossed the River Tamar into Cornwall for the first time to form the centrepiece of the Schools Challenge Trophy at **HMS Raleigh, Torpoint**. More than 600 pupils from across Devon and Cornwall took part in the two-day team work competition.

● The **Light Infantry** underpinned its illustrious 218-year association with Somerset with one of the biggest events of its kind in the

county this year. Regulars of the **2nd Battalion and Territorials from B Company The Rifle Volunteers** deployed tactically at Merryfield Airfield, Ilton. A direct descendant of the old Somerset and then the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, the regiment continues to recruit about 15 per cent of its soldiers from the county.

● Army dogs at **1 Defence Animal Support Unit** in Germany have been settling into their

new homes. **Brig Jeff Cook**, commander 20 Armd Bde, opened 35 new kennels during a visit to the unit at Sennelager. 1 DASU is responsible for the supply, maintenance and licensing of dogs for British Forces Germany and the training of handlers and the inspection of dog units. Dogs from DASU serve on operational deployments in Kosovo, Bosnia and further afield, sniffing out weapons caches, hunting criminals and carrying out VIP protection.



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People, places, events



Picture: Graeme Main

Test pilot: Capt Nick Wharmby, AAC, stands in front of an Army Apache AH Mk1 helicopter which is undergoing comprehensive trials at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency site at Boscombe Down. This trials Apache is equipped with an instrumentation package that records a vast amount of data associated with the aircraft and weapon systems performance which is then relayed in real time back to scientists on the ground to assess its performance.

Army pilots are British champs

TWO non-commissioned Army pilots from 671 Squadron of the School of Aviation at Middle Wallop won the British helicopter championships, beating off fierce competition from the other Services and crack civilian helicopter teams.

The championships, held in Northamptonshire, consisted of precision flying tasks, complex navigation events and a slalom test whereby helicopters had to fly through an obstacle course carrying an underslung bucket of water.

The Army team of WO2 Nigel Thompson and SSgt Tim Trott flew an Army



High fliers: WO2 Nigel Thompson, left and SSgt Tim Trott

Gazelle against teams flying a range of more modern aircraft including Jet Rangers, Hughes 500s and the Eurocopter Squirrel.

New Colours for R Irish

First parade: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Irish Regiment, presented new Colours to two battalions. They were the first to be awarded to home service battalions of the regiment since it was formed in 1992 and replaced those awarded when the battalions served as part of the former Ulster Defence Regiment.

The 3rd (County Down and County Armagh) Battalion received its Colours at a ceremony at the Regimental Depot, Ballymena and the 4th (County Fermanagh and County Tyrone) Battalion at the battalion headquarters at St Lucia Barracks, Omagh.

Both sets of Colours will be consecrated before being presented at full ceremonial parades.



On parade: The first outing for new Colours

Southampton patrol

Hidden assets: Southampton University OTC took part in the Lombardia 2000 military skills competition in northern Italy, competing against

Regular and Reserve teams. A patrol team led by OCdt Mike Brennan, pictured centre, came fifth in a field of 70.



IN BRIEF

● The Royal Green Jackets exercised the Freedom of Milton Keynes – the first time all parts of the full regimental family were represented and honoured by a city. The Representative Colonel Commandant, The Royal Green Jackets, Maj Gen Andrew Pringle, pictured, noted in his speech that Green Jackets



aged between 13 and 86 were on parade.

● Maj Gen Brian Plummer, Director General Training Support Command (Land), opened the new library and information complex at Warminster Training Centre. The library holds 2,500 works covering major conflicts, armed forces, regimental

histories and military technology. The main focus will move towards the impact of new technology on the battlefield of the future.

● Physical rehabilitation and remedial fitness training were given a boost at ATR Gencorse when Brig Ian McGill opened a £1.8m facility which included extensive cardio-vascular machines, a weight room, sports hall and climbing wall.

Bomb disposal

Licensed to save lives

Disposing of explosive devices requires soldiers with nerve, technical know-how and the ability to think fast. Only those of the very highest calibre need apply

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

IT could be an item on the Six O'Clock News.

"Police and Army bomb disposal experts have sealed off part of Gatwick Airport after a terrorist bomb was discovered. Over now to our reporter at the scene..."

"Gatwick Airport is closed this evening while Army ordnance disposal experts deal with a bomb..."

"The device was believed to be bound for Flight 123 to New York, which was scheduled to carry a number of prominent passengers on their way to the United Nations."

"A suspected terrorist was caught by police when he attempted to run away after being hit by a taxi as he was about to enter the terminal building. He was in possession of a radio cassette recorder which had modified leads and an LED display."

"Police called in experts from 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps, who are rendering the device safe as I speak."

It sounds all too real, but this time it's

an exercise used by 11 EOD Regiment when Army operators, who have to be licensed, take their six-monthly re-test in the safe disposal of improvised explosive devices.

The regiment deploys 38 EOD teams throughout Britain and Germany, dealing with explosive devices from both terrorist and conventional sources.

The work is demanding and the twice-yearly licensing ensures the soldiers maintain their high level of technical expertise.

6 Experts from 11 EOD Regiment RLC are rendering the device safe as I speak

Saton Force, which takes place at Catterick, is one of eight joint military and police exercises held each year. Typically, 25 improvised explosive

device disposal (IEDD) operators will be licensed in a week while more than 100 police officers will receive valuable training in a number of disciplines.

"The police were originally asked to join in to make our training more realistic," explained Maj Alistair McArthur, officer commanding 521 Squadron, which covers the north of England, North Wales and Scotland. "But as the police became more responsible for anti-terrorist duties, the exercises became a vital part of their training too."

There are four elements to the exercise - licensing IEDD operators, training police officers in bomb-call response and search techniques, post-bomb scene management techniques including capturing evidence after an explosion has occurred, and the use of specially trained dogs.

Army operators carry out four licence-assessment tasks each day, each one lasting two-and-a-half-hours. On being summoned by the police to an incident the IEDD team will question the police and witnesses before carrying out a threat assessment and devising and undertaking

a make-safe procedure. Meanwhile the operators are examined by members of the directing staff, themselves highly-qualified and experienced IED experts. They decide if the operator is safe and competent to do the job and although 85 per cent pass on re-licensing, it's not with-

out a lot of hard work. Sgt Alex Johnson, who passed the assessment before we arrived, described the process as nerve-racking.

"I don't think anyone actually enjoys the experience," he said. "It is a test of our skills, and if you fail to qualify, then your

location nearby and destroy it there. We can destroy in situ if we are not happy to move it, or we can pass it to another agency. Chemical shells, for example, would be passed to Porton Down."

So if you find a bomb in the back garden - who ya gonna call?



Remote check: LCpl Gary Hale, above, examines images of an IED, part of the process of making it safe

Inside story: Capt Jim Smith, left, prepares to X-ray a suspect device

colleagues have to take on your duties until you can take and pass a re-examination. That puts even more pressure on during the licensing tests."

While terrorist IEDs have a high profile with the media, the bread-and-butter work of "bomb disposal" is in regular explosive ordnance. The regiment deals with 3,000 such calls a year - 30 per cent of its work.

Calls can involve anything from First and Second World War munitions unearthed on building sites to souvenirs grandad brought home from the Front.

Capt Roz Thom, who deals with such devices on a daily basis, said people find them all over the place.

"War souvenirs are quite common, particularly the Mills grenade. And the Home Guard very often hid large amounts of ammunition which turns up from time to time."

"When we are called our first task is to identify the device and then undertake one of four actions. We take it back to base and destroy it at a later date if it is safe to move, or move it to a safe

Plenty more behind the high profile

WHILE the high-profile element of 11 EOD Regiment's work involves unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices, there is more.

Working within Land Command, the regiment deploys soldiers and EOD teams on operations to look after units' ammunition and provide force protection.

Lt Col Steve Cooper, commanding officer, outlined this wider role. "The principal tasks on current operations are to ensure the explosive safety and serviceability of the ammunition, to provide expert advice on the disposal of land service ammunition and the delivery of heavy IEDD teams which can deploy remotely controlled 'wheelbarrows' to deal with possible devices," he said. "It is a big role and a growing area of responsibility for the regiment."

Technical support for the storage and movement of ammunition and explosives is also provided, as well as an inspectorate function which checks safe storage of ammunition.

The regiment also looks at weapons and ammunition handed in during amnesty programmes being run in the Balkans to ensure that what has been recovered is in a safe condition; a lot of it is not.

As well as operational commitments in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the regiment has troops in Bosnia, Kosovo, Albania and Sierra Leone.

And when not on EOD operations at home, the regiment provides an inspectorate function to ensure the safety and serviceability of front-line ammunition.

Stressing the importance of the inspectorate work, Lt Col Cooper said: "We carry out about 1,000 inspections a year, not only on Regular Army units, but also on TA and cadet units."

"We also investigate 500 ammunition performance failures, accidents and defects to find the cause of the incident and to help prevent its reoccurrence."

In addition to its operational commitment and inspectorate function, the regiment provides technical support to ranges and field-training exercises at home and abroad, monitoring all missile firings, investigating ammunition incidents and providing EOD support to the exercising unit.

The regiment is supported by specialist Royal Signals operators spread among the five EOD squadrons in Britain and Germany.

Lt Col Cooper is proud of his soldiers. "We may be a small regiment, normally only 380 personnel, but in many technical areas we are world leaders and, in our field, we reckon we are the best."



Lt Col Steve Cooper



Police brief: WO2 Dave Lord gathers vital information about an incident from PC Steve Dickson of West Yorkshire Police

Sappers' strength keeps RAF flying

Busy 'rapid-reaction' regiment is often in first with vital work on the ground

Pictures: Steve Dock

IT'S what the sappers do on the ground that keeps the Royal Air Force flying in the air.

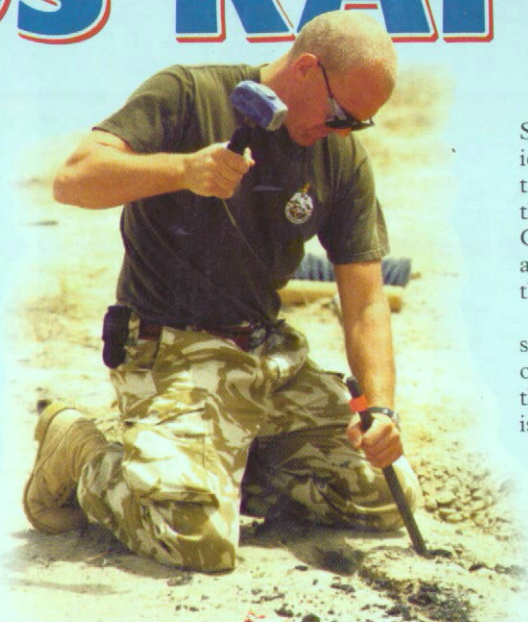
At short notice, elements of 39 Engineer Regiment are ready to move worldwide to support the RAF.

The regiment, based at Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, has a unique role and comes under the direct control of HQ Land and Strike Command.

Over the past two years the regiment has played a vital part in RAF operations in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Italy, Corsica and Kosovo.

Maj Jim Greaves, 2iC, said: "Last year we had more than 60 per cent of the regiment deployed, with only 40 per cent in barracks."

The regiment, which usually enters theatre before the RAF goes in, repairs



Chipping away: SSgt John Barraclough at work

runways and operating surfaces, radar, air traffic control units, amenities and accommodation.

"Last year we supported the Balkans campaign at six hours' notice and we were involved fully with getting Pristina back on line as an airfield," said Maj Greaves.

Numbers deployed vary according to the job. Each squadron within the regiment carries out the role of the Lead Air

Support Squadron (LASS) in turns. Typically it might deploy on short tasks for up to five weeks with about five weeks back in the UK before deploying again. The Corps of Royal Engineers has 39 trades and nearly all of them are represented in the regiment.

SSgt John Barraclough, 48 Fd Sqn, said: "This unit offers more hands-on opportunities for tradesmen to carry out their work than any other engineer unit. It is what everyone joined up for."

Soldier caught up with 48 Fd Sqn in Ali al-Salem, Kuwait, where airbase facilities were being upgraded and improved.

SSgt Will MacGill, Clerk of Works on the Kuwait project, explained: "Once the LASS arrives on the base the project liaison officer is responsible for the supervision of work. He decides on the materials needed and they are bought locally."

Even on the non-operational regimental training cycle, squadrons travel extensively. Sappers from 53 Fd Sqn have just returned from British Army Training Support Unit Belize, where they were involved with building an aircraft hangar and barracks as well as redecorating a school in Belize City.



Light touch: Electrician Spr Robert Hebb, above, installs strip lighting at Ali al-Salem airforce base in Kuwait

On the level: Spr Kain Ramsey, left, makes sure his handiwork on the airport project is a cut above

Heavy work: Sgt Michael Bates joins Spr Jamie Woodfine and SSgt Barraclough, right, digging foundations for office accommodation



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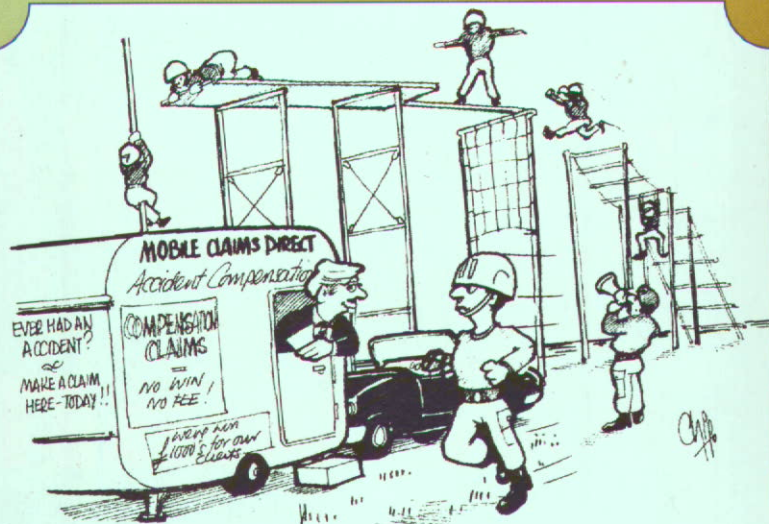
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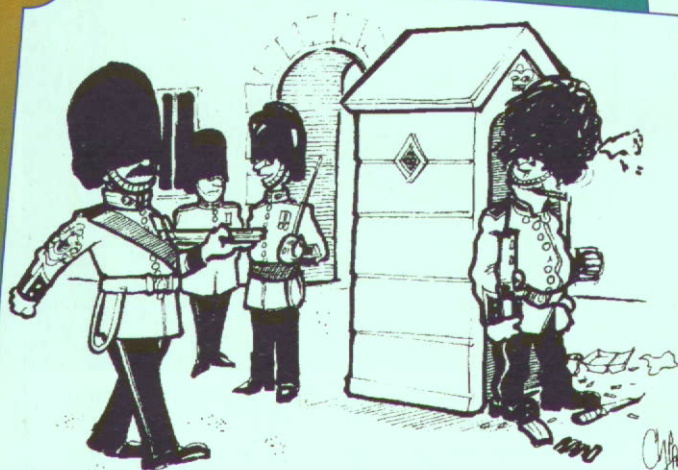
Chuckle with Chip



"Any sprains, twinges, ... vertigo?"

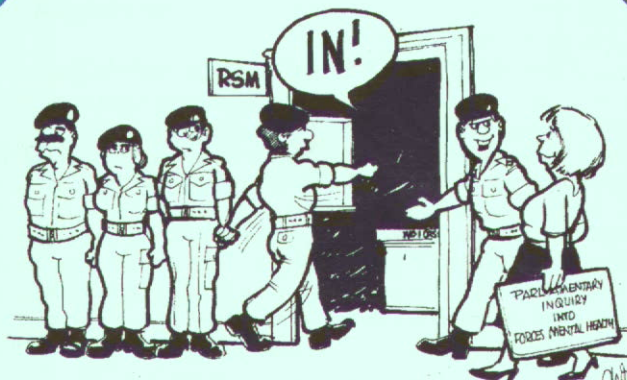


"I'm pretty certain the QM will not see this as a stress management coping strategy!"



"You'd better call a trauma counsellor for the Sar'nt Major ... I fear he's about to bump into Guardsman Perkins!"

Stressed to kill



"And this is the Regimental Stress Manager's morning clinic!"



"The CSM's a jolly good counsellor isn't he? ... It only took a minute to persuade the lads not to worry so much about the enemy!"



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SOLIDER 08/00 PR1228

Down in the Bunker

It's a hush-hush sort of place. But we were allowed a peek into PJHQ Northwood's best-known 'secret'

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

NORTHWOOD seems about as suburban as you can get in greater London. Then you come across the high fence surrounding one of the Services' best-known 'secret' establishments – the Permanent Joint Headquarters.

And behind the barbed-wire, deep underground, is PJHQ's Control Room – known by one and all as the Bunker.

Since it was set up in 1996, PJHQ has earned a first-class reputation, having been the national focal point for more than 40 operations.

The staff of up to 400 are divided into joint-service teams controlling theatres at operational level. It is a classic example of separate services working together with a common aim.

When *Soldier* was invited along last month to take a peek behind the normally

Nerve centre: Operations in Bosnia, Kosovo and the Middle East are controlled from here. Inset – Maj Mark Thomas RE, part of the integrated joint-service staff, monitors events

closed doors, teams were dealing with Kosovo, Bosnia, Sierra Leone and the Middle East.

Staffed 24 hours a day, each joint-service desk is overseen by an officer at major rank or equivalent in direct contact with a theatre of operations.

Direct communications are constantly maintained with the MoD, Land and Strike commands, and Nato. The Fleet headquarters is on site at Northwood.

Video conferencing facilities link PJHQ with command sites and operational headquarters. Officers frequently visit the theatre they control.

PJHQ's Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Garnett, described the fundamental role of PJHQ as "directing,

deploying, sustaining and recovering UK forces".

Surprisingly, it has nothing to do with UK defence. Nor does it deal with actions involving Nato's Article V – in other words, general war – where operational command of UK forces would be handed over to Nato. Nor indeed is PJHQ responsible for the strategic nuclear deterrent.

What PJHQ does do is command operations and perform the co-ordinated support function in any other Nato operation in which Land, Fleet and Strike commands provide the military capability. It leads the UK's contribution to international coalition operations.

"The Ministry of Defence's job is policy and to provide ministerial strategic advice, not to run operations," said Admiral Garnett, who commands UK forces given to him for a specific operation and hands them back when the job is done. He also has 55 people at Joint Force Headquarters, as well as operational command of the British Forces in Gibraltar, Cyprus and the Falklands. PJHQ is the focal point of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF), the means by which the UK deploys forces on various missions at short notice.

Building a seamless force

AS the person responsible for co-ordinating the development of the JRRF, Maj Gen Cedric Delves places a high priority on team-building and breaking down inter-Service barriers in PJHQ.

"This requires a trust, respect and even an affection with one another, and it is not easy to develop," said Maj Gen Delves, Chief of Joint Force Operational Readiness.

"We recognise that people's

immediate loyalties are to the people closest to them. People in small groups relate best to one another and the bigger the thing gets, the less personal it becomes.

"It could be said that the current state of joint fighting is a form of synchronising the activity in separate areas. We want to go further in working in an absolutely integrated fashion. We want to create a force with a desire and an ability to fight as one."



Big guns go on offensive

This year's Divisional Artillery Group Exercise, Iron Typhoon, had an international flavour

SALISBURY Plain Training Area rocked to the sound of heavy artillery during Exercise Iron Typhoon – 3 (UK) Division's chance to get in some major live-firing practice.

The Offensive Support Group is an integral part of the division and provides not only the firepower but also the means to pick up, observe and engage the enemy at a distance.

This was a chance to practise offensive support at brigade as well as divisional level.

An international flavour to the proceedings was added by the participation

of United States and Italian Army artillery units.

The exercise involved 40 Regt RA as the major Divisional Artillery Group unit together with elements from 5 Regt RA, 7 Para RHA, 29 Cdo Regt RA, 32 Regt RA, 47 Regt RA, 3 (UK) Div and Sig Regt.

More than 1,500 personnel took part in the 12-day exercise along with 500 vehicles and hardware including AS90 guns, Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and high-velocity missiles.

By the time the dust had settled gunners had fired 5,000 rounds of artillery and 2,000 mortar rounds.



Supporting role: Driver Pte Darren Hill checks the side mirror of his DROPS vehicle while Pte Richard Bradley provides top cover during Iron Typhoon



Heads up: A crew from 18 Bty 32 Regt RA, above, drive off after firing missiles from a MLRS launcher

Out of sight: Bdr Darren Such, below, uses the Commander's Alerting Sight on the turret of his HVM



Big gun: An AS90, with a range of 24.7km, fires off a round on the training area



Italian flare: Soldiers from 132 (IT) (Ariete) Regt, above, line up to fire their M109s

Pictures: Steve Dock



Surveying the scene: SSgt Chris Tinsley operating Phoenix – the all-weather day or night real-time surveillance system – from a ground-control station

Over here: US Army battery from 82 Airborne Division, below, fire a 105mm light gun on the Plain



'Carrier' Catterick takes off

Soldiers used to dread a posting to the North Yorkshire garrison. If they could see it now they might welcome a chance to serve there

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main
and Chris Barker

GENERATIONS of British soldiers have squirmed to be told: "You're off to Catterick, sunshine." For many it meant a cold, remote, dull and inconvenient posting.

But not any more. Catterick Garrison is now on the map for all the right reasons: welcoming, secure, a centre of excellence and a great place for sport and leisure.

To coin a naval analogy, it is in the vanguard of the "aircraft carrier" way of doing business, with troops flying off on operational tours while the garrison maintains a stable infrastructure, welfare and support services for the families left behind.

So what's happened to transform the dreary old North Yorkshire base into an enviable home-from-home?

Garrison commander Col Nick Gaskell, late LI, told *Soldier* the Catterick renaissance began about five years ago.

"There had been a lack of funding for development in the garrison because of uncertainties about change within the Army," he said. "Although the garrison had existed in one form or another since 1914, there had been little inspiration from the Army or the local authority to develop the kind of facilities that people take for granted in any other town."

All that has changed.

Five years ago a plan was drawn up by the then garrison commander proposing major developments to provide facilities for the garrison population and create a better quality of life for the military and their dependants.

The spin-off was that the local community would also benefit. With agreement from Richmondshire District Council, work started to develop a proper town centre for Catterick Garrison. Phase one finished in March.

"We are the largest employer in the district with 2,500 civilians, including many dependants," said Col Gaskell.

"For major shopping trips, our families travel to Darlington, York, Leeds, Thirsk or Northallerton. Given that in three years we will have a garrison population of 18,000, clearly we need to develop facilities that brings that spending power closer to home."

Development plans involved creating virtually a new town, which meant attracting big name retailer into the high street. It came in the form of Tesco, which opened a purpose-built store this spring.

It followed hard on the heels of a MacDonalds while construction of a shop for Boots the Chemist is well under way.

While the first phase went a long way to convincing people there was a military



New nosher: Enjoying a break are Cpl Sue Fear and LCpl Andy Hall, both AGC from HQ 19 Mech Bde

future for Catterick, phase two is already embedded in Richmondshire District's planning.

"Our vision is that by 2016, and in line with the local plan, we create within Catterick Garrison a true town that has quality retail, sports and leisure facilities and

meets the same requirements for its population as any other town of the same size does around the country," Col Gaskell enthused.

His stirring words are already being matched by deeds. A number of Army-funded millennium projects within the garrison are in place, including 12km of cycle track linking all married estate areas and the town centre. Eventually it will link into the national cycle network.

St Aiden's Methodist Church hall is being rebuilt as a millennium project and an indoor riding school will be constructed in the autumn. The garrison athletics stadium is being upgraded and a new pavilion is going up to help develop Catterick as an Army centre for sporting excellence in the North.

An arboretum and woodland project has been completed using stones from around Jervaulx Abbey, donated by the district council, rounded off with a picnic area.

A state-of-the-art CCTV system with 38 infra-red cameras has been installed to cover all public areas in the garrison and town centre, making it one of the safest



Watching brief: RMPs LCpl Steve Woodley and Cpl Jenny France keep their eyes peeled in the CCTV control room

local community. Catterick already boasts its own regional quality athletics stadium, complete with a tartan synthetic track and a good viewing stand, and there are plans in hand to improve changing room facilities which will add to the existing attractions of a high-class cricket square and 18-hole golf course.

An outstanding, Football Association-recognised mini-soccer organisation is in place and the soccer authorities have agreed to match additional funding to turn it into a county centre of excellence. News of that is already attracting the interest of local professional clubs such as Leeds United, Middlesbrough and Sheffield United.

Col Gaskell said the National Army Museum was considering an option of taking its 20th and 21st century vehicle collection to Marne Barracks in Catterick.

"The museum is looking to develop its North of England site here.

"I am confident that in ten years time you will see a completely transformed town centre. We are trying to develop Catterick Garrison so that it is an exciting place to live and work," said Col Gaskell.

Jewel in the crown



Hi-tech studies: Cpl Mick Thompson RLC and LCpl Pam Johnstone prepare to continue their education

PERHAPS the most far-reaching enhancement so far to the "new" Catterick has been the building of Darlington College of Technology.

Considered to be the most advanced computer-based learning centre in the United Kingdom, it opened for business last September. "Darlington College has enjoyed a strong working relationship with the MoD for ten years," said Col Nick Gaskell.

The relationship proved so successful that the college invested £3 million in a high-quality building with 160 computer terminals. It now offers more than 80 courses, with about one third of its students being military personnel, one third depen-

dants and one third from the community.

There's even a day-care centre so students with young children can be accommodated.

Soldiers may enroll on courses not provided by the MoD, although the Army will help to fund a soldier's education. And they shouldn't have to disrupt their learning when they deploy operationally.

In this brave new world, the hope is that soon a soldier will be able to pack into his bergen a laptop computer and video facility. With a mobile phone to get him "on line" from, say Kosovo, he (or she) can have a one-to-one with the tutor back in Catterick.



Ration waggon: LCpl Andy Brown AGC finds shopping easy in the new supermarket

places in the country. It is manned 24 hours a day and housed in the only police station in Britain to be operated by the RMP and the civilian police.

The system has already reduced crime and successfully gathered evidence for prosecutions.

With the support of the district council, options are being explored for a sports and leisure facility, including a swimming pool, halls for tennis and squash, and an aerobics fitness centre. These would all be "outside the wire" and available to the

Bosnia briefing

Refresher course on the isle of dreams

For soldiers serving in Bosnia, the opportunity to take four days' adventurous training on the island of Brac comes as a welcome change

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

"IT'S the best aid to retention in the British Army." That was the verdict of one soldier serving in Bosnia after four days of adventurous training on the idyllic holiday island of Brac.

A one-hour ferry trip from Split, Brac is a jewel set in the glimmering, crystal clear waters of the Adriatic. And it is home to the Army's much-used and much-admired adventurous training facilities.

By midsummer, more than 1,300 British soldiers of all ranks and from all over Bosnia had taken part on 33 courses held at the centre in the village of Povlja.

Their seafront billet was the Hotel Geleb (Seagull), right on the seashore, whose basic accommodation, compared with conditions up country, is a haven and includes the Holy Grail – en-suite toilet facilities.

From this base they can enjoy a variety of recreations and for a while forget patrols, stags or duties at the Banja Luka Metal Factory and the Mrkonjic Grad Bus Depot. All their activities are under the watchful eyes of qualified instructors, who ensure that training and safety are of the highest quality.

The soldiers have to work hard to play hard. Rock-climbing, scuba-diving, windsurfing, kayaking and snorkelling are all on offer.

If all this sounds a bit like a holiday, think again. There is not too much sitting around, although allowing time to unwind from regular duties is important. The adventurous training ensures practical skills and fitness are maintained, and encourages team working. But, above all else, it's fun.

The centre, opened in 1996, is available all year round, with similar activities in the winter as in the summer – even if in

February and March the weather can be grim.

It can accommodate up to 60 students on each four-day course. Some staff are attached for six-month tours, others for two weeks.

"The numbers are slightly less during the middle of a tour because of the battlegroup's R&R, so we get around 40 per intake at that time," said Chief Instructor WO1 Helen Sleightholme.

"They do not gain any qualifications from the courses – it is just a taster really and a respite from the front line," she said.

"The soldiers go back refreshed and with a better outlook. Before the centre opened, all they had to look forward to were two weeks R&R in mid-tour."

Safety is, not surprisingly, given the highest priority – in the rock-climbing area, for example, most students are novices. They learn basic skills, including tying-off and belaying.

Brac rock-climbing introduces the students to the potential thrill of the sport at

a basic level in the hope that some may get the bug and wish to go on. But whatever happens, it improves team-work skills because the

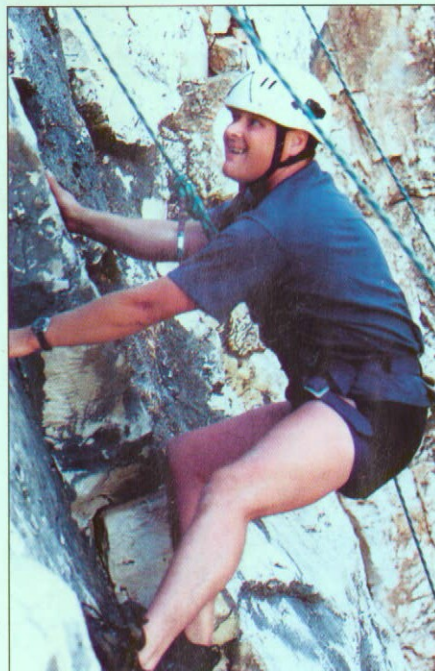
climber has to rely totally on his belayer in case of a problem. There has to be confidence between the two people involved.

Windsurfing training takes place on land, using a movable sailboard, before the students are allowed onto the water. Each soldier receives individual instruction on how to climb on the board, and learns basic control – enough for a novice to make a first successful attempt at the sport.

For many, the Brac highlight is scuba-diving – and for many it is also a novelty.

Once again safety is to the fore as the students receive instruction about equipment and emergency procedures before being allowed anywhere near the water.

One student typified the general enthu-



Going up: LCpl Russell Spencer 1 KORBR begins to wish he'd taken a lift



siasm for the sport after 40 minutes' diving.

"It was my first time and it was fantastic," said Cpl Carl Martin, C Sqn 2 RTR.



Balancing act: Running the canoes James Bond style, above, to test the stability of the 23 Pioneer "raft"

Full sail: Instructor Sgt James Thomas 1 KORBR, left, prepares to show his students how to sail in the calm waters off Brac

"At times you feel a bit of panic with breathing so you have to concentrate. But it was magnificent.

"The other activities have been good,

too, and I am looking forward to sailing."

Pte Samantha Weedon, a TA soldier from 256 Fd Hospital in London serving with 1 KORBR in Mrkonjic Grad, was equally as positive.

"I wasn't expecting the chance to take part in something like this before I came on tour," she said. "It has been absolutely brilliant. The facilities are great and it is nice to get out of the confines of the camp."

Adventurous training in Brac is without doubt a great success with the students. The four-day break from routine brings soldiers together, forging both comradeship and trust.

Maybe, as the soldier said, it is the best aid to retention after all.

Life's a laugh

– with Doug Baker



"If exercise keeps you fit, he's got the fittest tongue in the British Army."



"If it's a man's life in the Army, Lumsden, what are you doing here?"



"He's married to the Army? Couldn't the Army get a divorce?"

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At last -

The mobile pub

Naafi's rapid-reaction unit comes up with the build-it-yourself boozer - or canteen

Reports: Ray Routledge

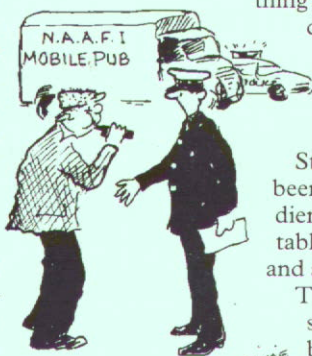
SO you're miles from anywhere with all your mates and time on your hands. You've forgotten your soap but there's no shop, you'd kill for a burger instead of the packed lunch and a pint would be great.

Well, the Naafi may have just the solution to your problems. The organisation is developing a cunning plan to deliver the goods any time, any place, anywhere.

And if that sounds like an advertisement for Martini, well that's OK, because those facilities will include a pub.

In a project called Rapid Deployment Solutions, Naafi says it will be able to provide soldiers with a shop, canteen or bar at very short notice and anywhere in the world.

A 20ft by 8ft container will house all the fixtures and fittings of a shop, pub or canteen in some-



thing like flatpack form. Naafi says the containers' contents can be bolted together and ready for use in ten hours. Pre-decorated wall panels will give the feeling of being inside High Street premises.

Stocking a wide selection of bottled beer, the pub will accommodate 20 soldiers at a time who will have a pool table, dartboard, games machines, TV and a sound system for entertainment.

The canteen will provide favourite scoff including burgers, hot dogs, burritos and baguettes as well as hot

and cold drinks, while the shop will sell items ranging from snacks to electrical goods.

The idea is that Naafi would fund the kitting-out of the facilities, with the Ministry of Defence footing the bill for the actual structures.

While the go-ahead from the MoD, who are awaiting a formal proposal, has not yet been given, the signs are encouraging. And if the system gets the green light, Naafi reckon it could be operational in 12 months.

Cheers.

Just like the local: Well, almost. If Naafi gets the go-ahead from the MoD it will be able to rush flat-pack "pubs" like the one in this artist's impression to soldiers all over the world



And now, over to the Met Office . . .

WATCHING the weather forecast after the six o'clock news often makes you wonder if there is any science involved. Are forecasts based on old wives' tales, or just blind chance? Somehow it never seems quite right.

But accurate military weather forecasting is vital and the Met Office predicts that new technology is about to improve the quality of information when preparing to fire live ammunition. That in turn should improve accuracy of fire.

Three years' development have produced the Computer Met System (CMETS), set to become an integral part of Fire Control BISA, the Battlefield

Information System Application, which is itself being developed to provide a digitized system for artillery targeting.

CMETS uses a small-scale battlefield model measuring 200 sq km and applies meteorological data from a Met Office weather model. It takes into account local features such as hills and valleys to produce high-resolution weather information that can be plotted to the nearest five kilometres so enabling gun targets to be adjusted.

Other applications are being investigated and CMETS could be used to provide forecasts for unmanned air vehicles, parachute drops and the dispersion of NBC agents.

IN AN age where the nuisance from noise is becoming an increasingly important subject, the Army is taking steps to pinpoint and potentially avoid the problem on firing ranges.

The key is an acoustic prediction tool developed by the Met Office and Cambridge University.

Recalling the French artist famous for his tranquil scenes, MONET (Met Office Noise Evaluation Tool) is under evaluation at Larkhill.

MONET will provide an analysis of noise levels at different locations, taking into account weather conditions

and the local terrain. Armed with this information, military exercises can be planned to

All quiet on the nuisance front

minimise the noise nuisance caused by gunfire and explosions. The device takes into account certain conditions, including wind speed and direction, that can

affect the distance and direction in which noise travels.

Met Office scientists say it may be possible to use the technology in real battle situations because if used in reverse, MONET could pinpoint the source of enemy fire or aircraft.

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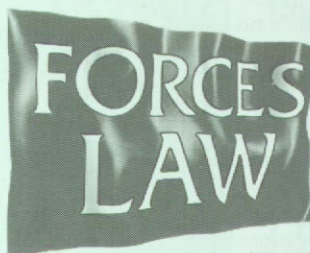
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From Westminster to Wapping

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

'New' SA80 could be world-beater



MODIFICATIONS to be carried out on 200,000 SA80s at a cost of £80m will make the weapon system "among the best in the world", Parliament was told.

Defence Under-Secretary Dr Lewis Moonie said that options for curing problems associated with extremes of climate had included procuring a completely new weapon.

But after extensive trials of the proposed modifications in Alaska and Kuwait, the chosen solution was deemed the most cost-effective way of providing reliable weapons in all climatic conditions.

The first modified SA80s will be produced as early as January, with 22,000 to be delivered by the end of next year. The MoD intends to retain the weapon in service until 2020.

Modifications will be carried out to the barrel extension, bolt-head carrier, hammer-stop and receiver.

New components will include a re-designed magazine for improved feed, firing pin, hammer, gas plug, gas cylinder, springs, bolt assembly-extractor and cocking lever. The

LSW will have a new barrel.

Baroness Symons, Defence Procurement Minister, said "We now know that the weapon can be improved. This programme will make the SA80 among the best in the world."

Too much, too late: In a hard-hitting report, the National Audit Office said the top 25 MoD equipment projects were forecast to cost £2.7 billion more than originally estimated and many were several years behind schedule.

The NAO said 94 per cent of the cost overruns come from just four projects, including the Army's Bowman communications

system, whose original in-service date had slipped from 1995 to 2004.

The Tactical Reconnaissance Armoured Combat Equipment Requirement (TRACER), due to replace Scimitar, Sabre and Striker variants of CVR(T), has been delayed by almost four years.

Responding to the criticism, the MoD said it is changing the way it organises and conducts procurement business.

Malaria cases: Among the 4,500 personnel who had been deployed to Sierra Leone, 48 cases of malaria had been confirmed by June 21, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told the Commons.

He emphasised that all Service personnel should ensure they have the required routine vaccinations and members of the Joint Rapid Reaction Forces should be up to date with cer-

tain additional vaccinations depending on their degree of readiness.

Gulf veterans: An independent study by Manchester University, published in *The Lancet*, said that Gulf veterans' mortality rates are not significantly different from those of Service men and women who did not serve in the Gulf.

Overseas deployments: MPs were told that 32,000 Regular soldiers, including Gurkhas, are currently serving overseas.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said 27 per cent of the trained Army is committed to operations, including units preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

TA numbers: Latest available figures give the total strength of the Territorial Army as 43,334.

Ethnic minorities: In 1999-2000, 1.9 per cent of the total Armed Forces intake came from British ethnic minority communities. The Army's figure was 2.1 per cent.

Service accommodation: Independent surveys show that 82 per cent of service families are content with the standard of family accommodation.

Troops in N Ireland: The withdrawal of the Belfast and East Tyrone roulement battalions has left 13,500 troops in N Ireland, the lowest number since 1970.

On the net: Full internet access is planned for all personnel in Bosnia, except those serving in dispersed locations, by the end of August.

Canadian concentration: Exercise Iron Hawk, involving 3,200 soldiers, will take place at BATUS in Canada later this year, replacing the final two Medicine Man exercises.

● Women may be given the chance of joining infantry regiments as combat soldiers to give them a better chance to compete with men for senior commands. A decision will be made by the Defence Secretary next year, after completion of field trials. — *The Times*.

● Britain is set to agree a multi-million pound compensation package for thousands of ex-servicemen who suffered as Japanese prisoners-of-war. — *Sunday Telegraph*.

● Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon rejected calls for the re-opening of the inquiry into the Chinook helicopter crash in the Mull of Kintyre in 1994 in which 29 people died, including British Army personnel. — *Daily Telegraph*.

● The Ministry of Defence plans to open a number of golf courses on military land to

bring in revenue by leasing them out, subject to ministerial approval. There are already half a dozen courses on military land, including Tidworth and Upavon. — *Sunday Telegraph*.

● Italy's campaign to recruit women officers to a new professional army has backfired after all but a handful of thousands of women applicants failed military requirements. The newspaper *La Repubblica* said: "It seems we have no female Rambos in Italy." — *The Times*.

● Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon promised to consider giving medals to all servicemen and women who die serving their country, following a plea from Rita Restorick, whose son LBdr Stephen Restorick was the last soldier

killed by the IRA in Northern Ireland. — *Mirror*

● Foreign special forces troops including Germans who usually spend about six months with the SAS on an exchange programme are staying on for up to two years because more and more British volunteers are failing to complete the training. — *Sunday Times*.

● Two Falklands gunner veterans are handing back their medals in protest at the lack of support for troops emotionally scarred by battle. A spokesman for MoD, which faces 280 traumatic stress compensation claims from Servicemen, said: "We recognise some of the Armed Forces suffer stress but it doesn't mean the MoD has been negligent." — *Sun*.



Day Big Jack went AWOL

On his first day with the Royal Horse Guards the future World Cup winner was locked up

Interview: Anthony Stone

BIG Jack is a blunt-speaking kind of bloke who does not shirk confrontation. His outspoken performances off the pitch mirror the fearless style he employed on it. He makes a habit of speaking his mind and a career in the diplomatic service was never really on the cards.

So it won't surprise many to know that Charlton was locked up on his very first day with the Royal Horse Guards – the regiment in which he did his National Service. But for Wor Jack, being given the red card by the adjutant was all a big misunderstanding.

He still clearly remembers the incident. "I went to the door and I gave them my passbook. They said: 'Come inside, take your tie off, take your socks off and the laces out of your boots'."

"Then they marched me in and locked me up and I didn't know why. I was 18 and had never been down to Windsor in my life."

He wondered if they did that to all the new boys. It was not the sort of warm welcome he was used to in his native north-east.

"After about four hours lying on a bed they came and got me and marched me across to the adjutant's office," he remembered. "The charge was read out: Absent Without Leave. I said, 'But ...'"

"He said: 'Shutup and just stand there'."

"Apparently what had happened was that I had been selected to play for the northern command against the southern command at Catterick, but nobody had told me and I had gone on a week's leave before reporting to the regiment."

"The adjutant made a phone call, looked at me and said: 'OK, dismissed' and I never heard any more about it."

"I didn't like jail and that sort of put me off. I behaved myself when I was at Windsor."

Pte Charlton spent two years there with the Royal Horse Guards, driving armoured cars, wagons and jeeps.



As you were: Pte Jack Charlton, with ball, and the Royal Horse Guards football team

"I really enjoyed my time in the Army," he said. "I often think that had I not made it as a footballer I would probably have stayed in the Army. Otherwise I'd have been a policeman – and I could have been a right bastard if I had."

The Army and Pte Charlton got on well and Windsor was all a young man could have hoped for. "Where else would you rather be at the age of 18? It was an absolutely splendid place to be based as long as you looked after yourself, didn't do anything wrong, and kept your kit in good order. It was the perfect place to learn how to drink and smoke ... the girls were about, I loved it."

"In the Army you can do anything you want as long as you don't get caught. Anyway, I never got caught. I enjoyed my time."

The Royal Horse Guards were quick to notice Charlton's precocious football talent, already recognised by Leeds United, who had signed him as a professional at 17.

He quickly helped mould the regimental side into a formidable unit. "Two or three of the lads were ex-professionals, and suddenly from being just a mediocre football team – rugby was mainly what people looked at – the football team started to beat everybody," he said.

"I was the first private ever to be made captain of the football team. I made

arrangements that we would train two or three mornings a week. We got to the Cavalry Cup final, went to Germany and won it 3-1."

"I was on a retainer with Leeds United and I got paid by the Army. I got away once a month to play the match and I was actually reasonably well off. I could afford to hire a car every now and again and go and see my relatives."

6 In the Army you can do anything you want as long as you don't get caught 9

"I made a lot of good friends in the Army – you do, you are there together. Some I still see to this day. Whenever I turned up to a football match as a player they would always say hello."

As Jack's National Service was about to finish, his brother Bobby's was about to begin. So the two never played against each other in the Army.

To many, Jack's playing career straddled the golden age of English football with the 1966 national team, of which Jack was a pivotal part, taking the ultimate prize.

So how come we are such useless plodders today? Where did it all go wrong? Big Jack's verdict on the state of the modern English game identifies two key areas: lack of playing fields and too much money.

"We have got far too many foreign players coming into the game now," he said. "They all come for the money. They don't come because they like the club or

Signed for Leeds United in 1952 and spent 21 years with the club, scoring 70 league goals.

Capped 35 times for England and played in the 1966 World Cup-winning side.

Middlesbrough manager 1973-77, taking them to the 1974 Second Division Championship.

Manager of Sheffield Wednesday 1977-83 and Newcastle United 1984-85.

Manager of the Republic of Ireland 1986-95. Took Ireland to the European Championship finals in Germany in 1988 and the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy where they were knocked out by the home team in the quarter-finals. Four years later in the United States they beat the Italians 1-0 in the World Cup before going out in the second round.

because they want the experience, they come because they get more money than anywhere else."

It's all very different from when Jack and Bobby were growing up in Ashington, Northumberland. "In those days there was no television and no cars. You could play in the streets and parks. Nowadays kids can't kick a ball about in the street because there are cars flying about all over the place. Anybody with a piece of spare land rails it off and won't let them get in to play and kick a ball about."

"We played football and kicked the ball about for seven or eight hours a day. Our mother used to come and kick the ball about with us in the street now and again. She had four brothers who were all professional footballers – Jack, George, Jimmy and Stanley Milburn – and Jackie Milburn was her full cousin."

"She could kick the ball about, stop it and trap it. She was quite all right."

Mostly the Charlton boys played with tennis balls, but when their uncles came to visit they always brought footballs with them.

The skills learned on the streets took the pair to the very summit of the football world.

Jack, now 65, retired five years ago. "Basically I am not working in the game by choice. I do a bit of fishing and play a bit of golf."

"Mainly I do a lot of after-dinner speaking and talks. I am retired from the game but not from football."

Picture: Martin McCullough, PA



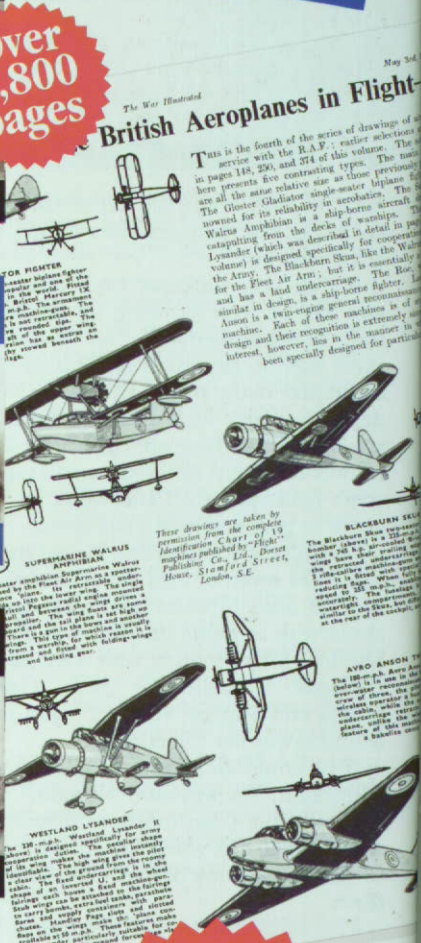
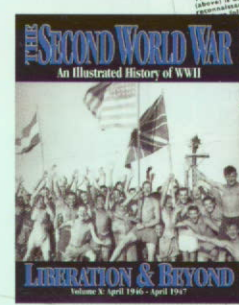
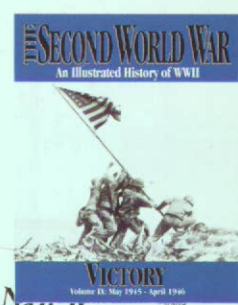
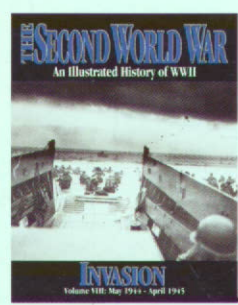
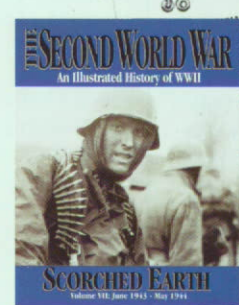
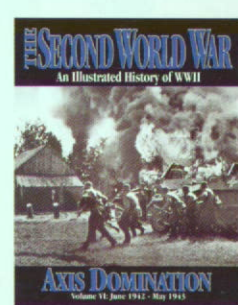
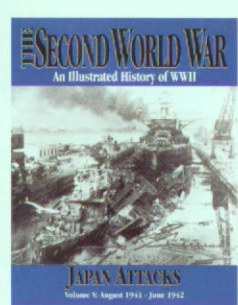
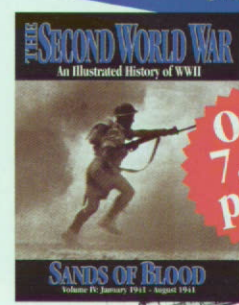
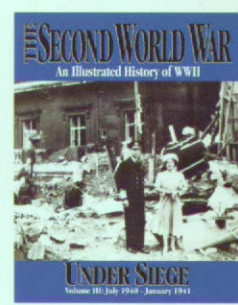
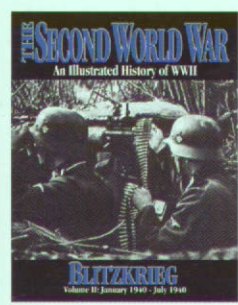
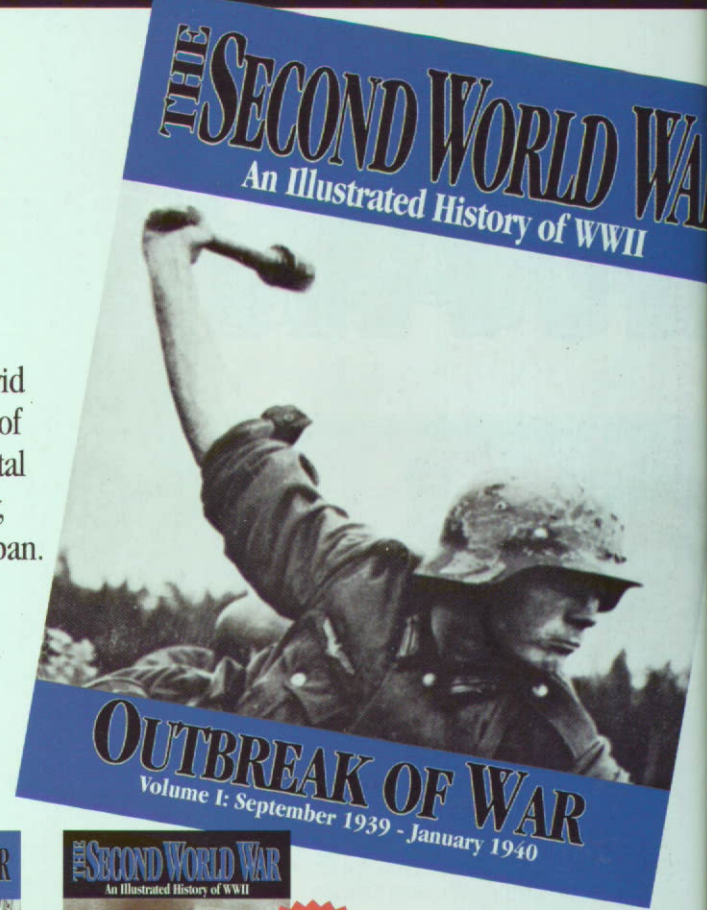
Straight-shooting: Big Jack made many good friends in the Army

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Blue is the colour,

purple is the game

Pull together now: The Gibraltar field gunners eat up the 85-yard course at the Forces Open Day

A unique Joint Services team has taken part in a field gun competition that went with a bang

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

THIS was most definitely a purple exercise. Soldiers, sailors and airmen pulled together knowing that if this one-tonne field gun and carriage ran over toes – or anything else, come to that – participants would end up black and blue and every shade in-between.

A team from Gibraltar, featuring nine soldiers from four cap-badges, took part in a competition at HMS *Collingwood*, near Portsmouth, to see which was fastest over an 85-yard flat course. With a spirited performance the Gibraltar team stormed to second place in the final, sinking the hopes of many Royal Navy teams.

Soldier caught up with the unique gunners as they demonstrated their controlled pulling power at the Gibraltar



Gloves off: Competitors' hands are taped for protection and resemble a boxer's after a few rounds in the ring with Mike Tyson

Forces Open Day, a showpiece for the Rock's military, a couple of weeks before the competition.

Describing a successful team's qualities as skill, strength and stamina, as well as teamwork, crew captain Sgt Simon Honor, AGC (SPS) said: "My job is to motivate the team before the race and to get the guys to control their aggression. I wind them up and tell them what they are going to do.

"If they don't know how to channel their aggression and adrenalin they can lose the run before the starting gun has gone off."

The crew's nine soldiers were drawn from The Royal Gibraltar Regiment, AGC, APTC and RMP. Months of training and fitness paid off, producing a polished performance despite the ever-present blisters. Field-gun competitors get through more zinc oxide tape – the team's band-aid – than a mummy's tailor.

"You quickly learn to keep your feet out of the way," said Cpl Craig Wilson, RMP. "Still, I've got some lovely black-and-blue toes at the moment."

WO2 (CSM) Mel Watts, RRF, attached to The Royal Gibraltar Regiment on a two-year posting and in the team for the first time, said: "The hardest part is lifting the back of the box. It is easy when you are doing it fast but it only needs one person to make a mistake and it snowballs for everyone."

One of the team's veterans, Cpl Kenny Alvarez, 1 Gibraltar, has been with the regiment for 11 years and put in his third appearance with the team. His message is that, to succeed, everyone must remain 100 per cent focused.

He said: "To do well, it all boils down to how much each person wants it."

Don't knock The Rock

Gibraltar offers unique training facilities and some outstanding R&R opportunities, too

Pictures: Mike Weston

BRITISH soldiers have been training and living on The Rock for nearly 300 years, and their footprints are everywhere. Echoes of this military heritage are to be found on every street and all over, and even inside, the very Rock itself.

It is not surprising that British military strategists took such a liking to this rugged outcrop.

Climbing to 426m and visible from more than 100km away, it is a superb natural fortress, controlling the gateway to the Mediterranean.

Today, British Forces, including Special Forces and the TA, go to The Rock to take advantage of the unique training opportunities, which include tunnel fighting courses.

And, when the hard work is over and it is time to relax, it has to be said Gibraltar remains one of the most picturesque postings in the Army's portfolio.

To stand on the summit, with Spain to the north and Africa to the south, is to understand why the ancients believed it was the *non plus ultra*, the end of the known world.

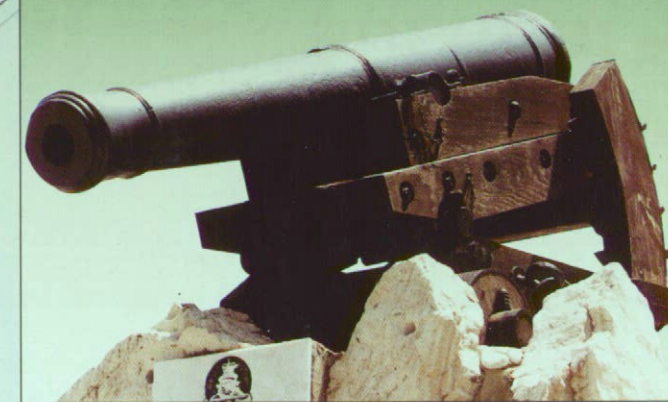
Europa Point: The lighthouse, left, was built in 1841 and shines across the Straits to Africa



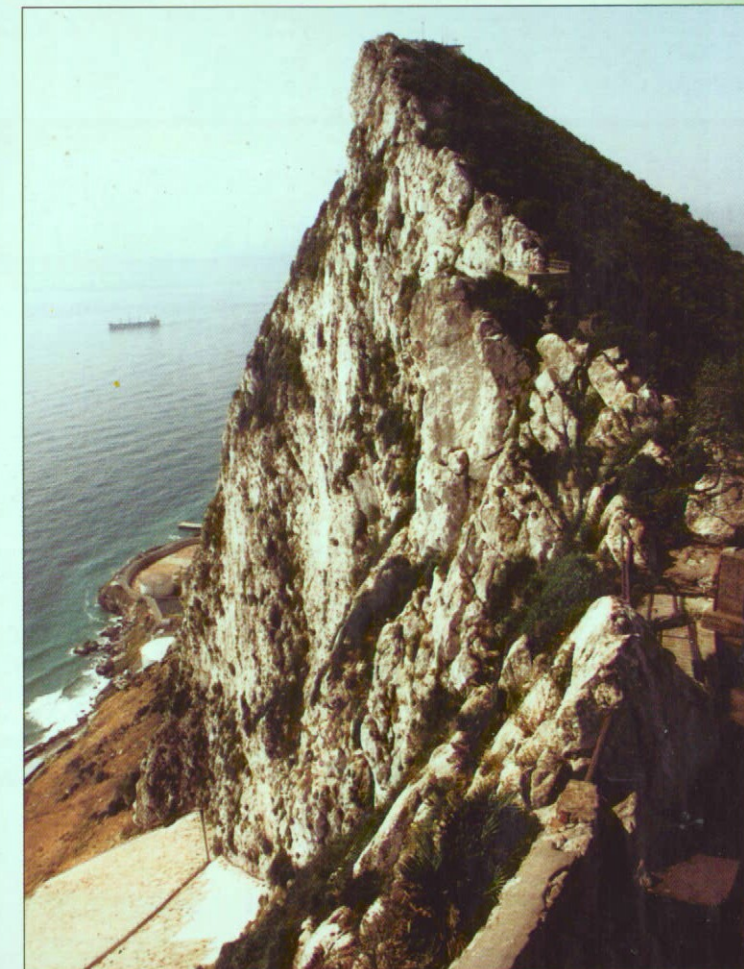
Riding high: Enjoy the best views of The Rock from the cable car, above

Barbary Ape: Tailless monkeys like this one, left, live semi-wild on the Upper Rock

Low tide: Catalan Bay Fishing village, right, nestles on the eastern side of The Rock



Low aim: During the Great Siege, the British developed cannons capable of firing downwards, known as depression guns



Natural fortress: In ancient times people believed Gibraltar, the gateway to the Mediterranean, stood at the end of the world



Gibraltar Regiment: Changing of the Guard outside the Governor's residence, one of The Rock's most historic buildings



Going underground: St Michael's Cave is a natural grotto, parts of which are used for concerts

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Combat shooting



Shoulder high: Sgt Lalit Gurung is chaired off the field after being crowned Army top gun

Marksmen target top Army honour

SGT Lalit Gurung of the Royal Gurkha Rifles is the Army marksman of the year. He won the ultimate accolade for Army shooting at Bisley for the second time, the first occasion being in 1992.

Alongside him was WO2 Tommy Sands, RM, who has won the Navy title equivalent four times.

More than 200 of the world's top combat marksmen from the British Army and from Australia, Canada, the Oman and the United States shot for the

top prizes in a series of intensive, combat-relevant matches over three days to select the winners.

In the Army competition, Cpl Prembahadur Baral, 2 RGR, was second by only one point to Sgt Lalit with Cpl Robert Doak, 3 R Irish, last year's Queen's medallist, third.

The British Army team won the open international eight-man team match and Sgt. Lalit won the open individual rifle championship.

TA soldiers hit the bullseye

TA soldiers from 160 Wales Brigade met on the Sennybridge ranges to compete for titles as best shots.

The annual skill-at-arms meeting is the brigade's premier competition where volunteers and Regulars from the Infantry Training Centre Wales compete for individual honours as well as for their respective teams in rifle, light support weapon and pistol skills competitions.

The toughest phase of the contest was the march and shoot where teams were

required to march in full kit for two miles in a tight time-frame, immediately followed by a close-quarter battle shoot.

The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) team were crowned TA champions, with the award for Wales skill-at-arms meeting team champions going to the Infantry Training Centre Wales, Dering Lines, Brecon, who won ten of the 21 matches staged.

Sgt Man Bahadur Garbuja was the overall rifle champion.

Pioneering protection plan for the Plain

A NEW "pioneering and ground-breaking" plan for managing the Salisbury Plain Training Area will ensure continuing protection for its flora, fauna and archaeology.

It will also mean that, as much as possible, they will remain unaffected by military activity, writes **Karen Moseley**.

The Salisbury Plain Integrated Land Management (ILMP) is the first of 14 similar plans being prepared for military training areas around the country.

Just before signing the ILMP at Newcombe Hall, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Dr Moonie said: "The aim of each plan is to maximise the sustainable military training potential of the area in a way that is consistent, economic, environmentally-acceptable and reflects the MoD policy in pursuit of active conservation measures."

"It does this by identifying the objectives for nature conservation, cultural heritage, military training and other land uses – such as forestry, agriculture and recreation – and then to provide the necessary management information to achieve the best balance between existing military training and the other interests."

The ILMP for Salisbury Plain Training Area was prepared by the Defence Estates Training Area Estate Management section which is based at HQ SPTA.

The process began in 1995 and it is hoped it will pave the way for a dynamic programme of management for the Plain.

Back in 1993 it was recognised that the effect of withdrawing large numbers of soldiers from Germany would have an impact on Salisbury Plain. Many areas were churned up into quagmires, and the level of activity highlighted the realisation that there was little information available to identify the effects that military training was having on SPTA's environment.

The ILMP is described as "a holistic approach to land management by ensuring that all land uses and interests are considered as part of one document".

The unified approach to management is addressed by ensuring that all interested parties, such as the RSPB, wildlife trusts and archaeological groups, will now be able to refer the plan in their dealings with the military on the Plain.

● The MoD has sold Rainham Marshes in Essex to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for £1.1m. The sale will create one of the largest nature reserves in the London area.



Dr Moonie



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Coming soon – the Army's PDR Roadshow

FOLLOWING six months of successful trials, the Army's new Personal Development Record, or PDR – vital to the career and future of every soldier – will go "live" next month.

A series of roadshow presentations will take place at selected garrison locations, worldwide, from September to December.

The Army initiative, previewed in *Soldier* last September, will help all soldiers and officers, both Regular and TA, plan

their career and record their achievements in a loose-leaf PDR folder. This will be owned by soldiers themselves – they will keep it, complete it and don't have to show it to anyone. And it's free!

The PDR will:

- Provide a central record of experience, skills, appraisal and qualifications;
- Encourage and assist soldiers to plan their personal development;
- Allow soldiers to map their progress against recognised career goals;

● Enable soldiers to demonstrate their commitment to their career and future.

Those serving now – and those new to the TA – will get their PDR from their unit starting in September. Future Regular recruits and officer cadets will receive it during initial training.

At the roadshows, unit representatives will be given a briefing pack which they will then use to pass on the detailed information to their soldiers and officers.

REME specialists win top honours

TWO REME specialists won accolades in a national competition to promote excellence in management skills.

SSgt David Howard took first place in the Lord Oxfuird's Awards for Excellence, run by the Institute for Supervision and Management (ISM), while LCpl Melvyn Metcalf was in the top six.

They travelled to the House of Lords for a ceremony in which the awards were presented by Viscount Oxfuird, the Institute's president.

SSgt Howard, 35, collected a gold medal and a cheque for £2,000 after displaying qualities which were tested to the limit on operations in the Balkans.

In addition to normal duties managing an inspection and maintenance programme for plant equipment, he quickly took on responsibility for helping build and run a refugee camp.

Until recently a vehicle artificer in the REME fitter section at 28 Engineer Regiment RE, Hameln, he has since been

posted to the Defence Logistics Organisation, Malvern, Wilts.

Determined to add to his portfolio of qualifications, he is also working for an Open University degree in design innovation and environmental strategy.



LCpl Metcalf

LCpl Metcalf achieved his high place after the judging panel heard how he had increased efficiency by totally reorganising the Stores Troop MT section he runs in 1 Battalion

REME, Osnabruck.

The competition, sponsored by Wickes plc, City Truck Group and TNT UK Ltd, is for practising first-line managers or team leaders from private, public or voluntary sector organisations. There were 11 entrants this year from the Army.

It recognises outstanding achievement beyond the normal performance of managerial duties.

SSgt Howard said he would spend his prize money on a trip to Florida with his wife, Kathryn, and three-year-old son, Eliot.



SSgt Howard

War pensioners' NHS priority system going wrong – Legion

WAR pensioners having difficulty getting the priority treatment to which they are entitled under the National Health Service are being urged to contact the Royal British Legion.

Under current NHS arrangements, when a doctor has two patients with a similar health problem on his waiting list, he is supposed to give priority to a war pensioner – but only if the complaint results from military service.

Calls to the RBL show that the priority system is not always being applied.

Tom House, head of RBL's pensions department, said: "We hope to curb confusion about entitlement by inviting war pensioners to call us for information."

"In an ideal world you wouldn't need a priority system but the harsh reality is that the NHS is stretched and doctors are forced to choose daily who can be examined and treated."

"That is why a priority system exists and why we want to ensure that those who find out they are entitled under NHS arrangements don't feel guilty about it."

● Those who think they may be eligible, or need to know more, should contact Tom House on 0207 973 7236.

Useful numbers

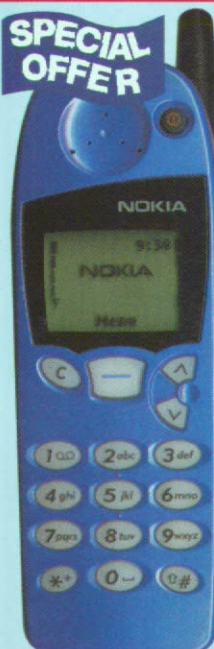
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 Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569
 Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
 Army Families Federation 01980 615525
 British Limbless Ex-Service
 Men's Association 020 8590 1124
 Confidential support lines:
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 Germany 0800 1827 395
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 Bosnia 0800 731 4880
 Others UK 1980 630854

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
 (Combat Stress) 01372 841600
 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
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 National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812
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 0207 321 2011
 RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
 Service Children's Education 01980 618244
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Sport

Edited by Anthony Stone

SHORTS

Sports centre opens



DEFENCE Secretary Geoff Hoon worked up a sweat after he opened the £12.8m Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre by taking on Army squash champion Pte Alex Smith (1 D and D), pictured. Aldershot is the Army's centre of sporting excellence and facilities include a 50m swimming pool with a floating floor, a physical and recreational training centre, six squash courts, two sports halls and a fitness and weights centre.

Springing into action

NO wonder Cadet Executive Officer John Beeton has a spring in his step. He has been selected as a trampoline judge for the Sydney Olympics. The former Royal Scots Guards sergeant will chair the judges' panel for the men's individual competition and will be assistant chair for the women's competition.

Winning direction

SOLDIERS from 7 Para RHA took the major units honours in the Army Orienteering Association team championships held at Haltern Training Area, Germany. In second place were teams from 14 Regt RA, with RMCS third. Units had to enter two teams of four orienteers. In the minor units competition MND (C) took top spot followed by MMG Didcot and Upavon.

In the women's event 2 (CS) Regt RLC were first home followed by 1 MI Bn and London UOTC.

DIVING

Divers torpedo rival Services

ARMY divers sank the Royal Navy and RAF in the Inter-Service championships at RAF Cranwell, taking first and third in the men's springboard, first and second in the men's platform, and first and second in the women's springboard and platform.



The Tina Childs Trophy, for the most points scored in both springboard and platform, went to Sig Lizzie Brown (1 (UK) ADSR). The Mike Kempson Cup, for the highest scoring dive of the competition, went to SSgt (SSI) Amos Greenfield (APTC), pictured, for an inward two-and-a-half somersaults in the tucked position.

In the Army diving competition at Southampton, the men's senior springboard title was again taken by SSgt Greenfield with second and third places going to Gnr Liam Clarke (RA) and Cpl Andy Broad (RSME). SSgt Greenfield also took the senior platform title with Sgt (SI) Dave Cox (APTC) second.

In the junior one-metre springboard, the first four places went to 2Lt Dave Wood (RLC), LCpl Damien Woods (R Anglian), Gdsm Steve Smith and Pte Andy Rowley (Staffords).



Picture: Graeme Main

Head over heels: LCpl Amanda Prentice (RLC), left and Sig Lizzie Brown (1 (UK) ADSR) pictured in training days before competing in the individual championships

Anyone interested in taking up high-board diving should contact SSgt Greenfield on Aldershot Mil (94222) 4014/2114.

WATER POLO

Army sinks opposition to claim crown

FOR the first time in a decade, the Army are Inter-Service water polo champions. They took on the title holders on their own turf at RAF Cranwell and beat them 6-5. The Army sank the Royal Navy 11-3 and the RN beat the RAF 8-6.

Other honours this season included SEAE being crowned UK champions by beating HQ NI & 15 Sig Regt 5-3. In Hohné 16 Sig Regt beat 21 Engr Regt to become BA(G) champions.

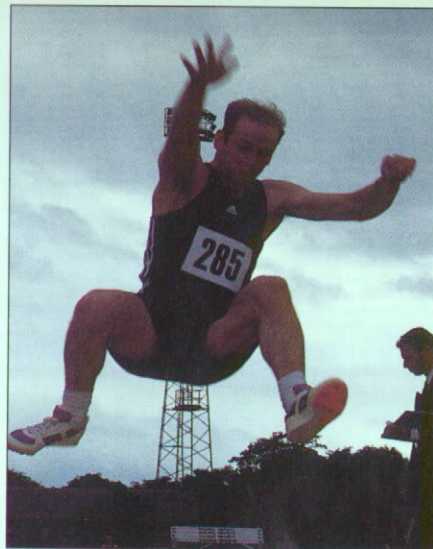
In the Army finals at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, AFC Harrogate won through, beating HQ NI & 15 Sig Regt 10-9 with SEAE and 16 Sig Regt third and fourth.



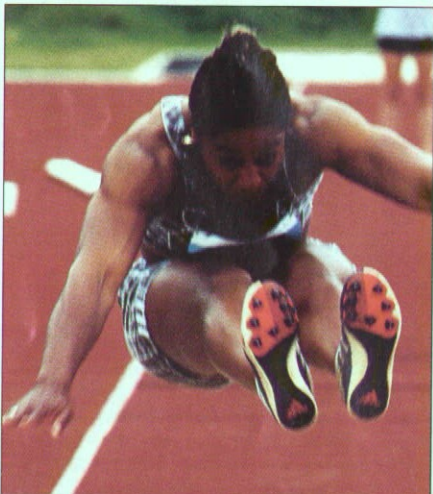
Picture: Steve Dock

Spot the maul: Action from the Army finals between AFC Harrogate and HQ NI

Faster, higher and longer



Jump to it: Sgt Cliff Pearn (ASPT) finished second in the Army individual long-jump championship at Aldershot. Spr Karl McMullen (42 Survey RE) was the winner



Best feet forward: LCpl Donita Benjamin (4 GS) Regt won the individual long-jump title

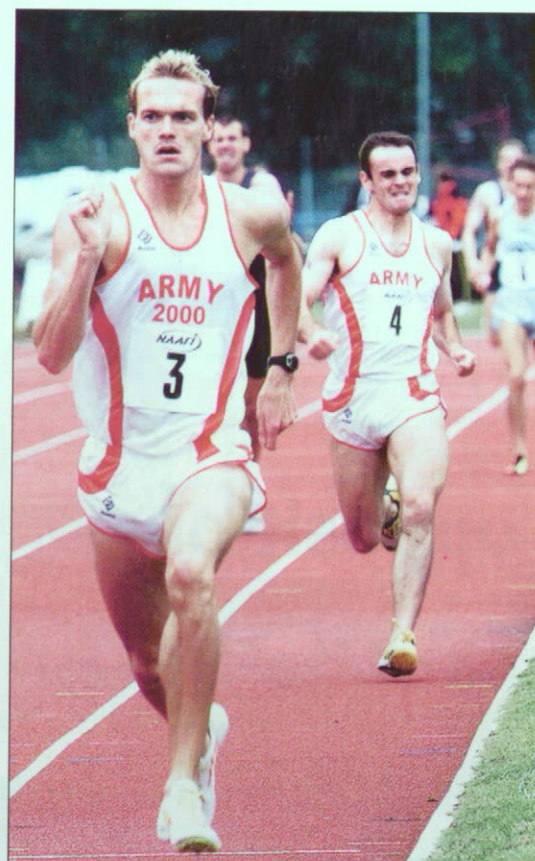


Sharp end: LCpl Kevin Ricketts (RTMC), international decathlete and winner of the individual javelin competition with 54.90m

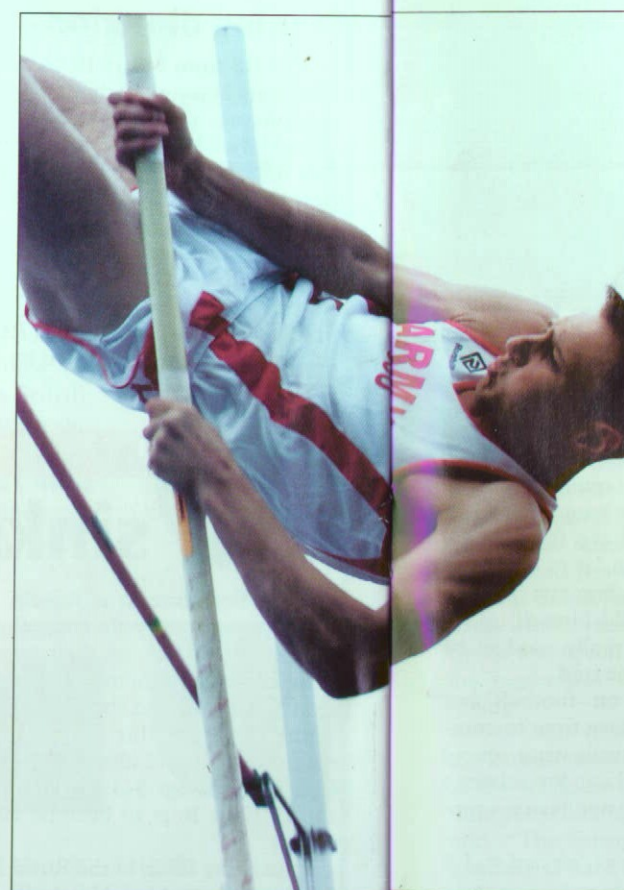
Army athletes produced excellent performances in the Inter-Service championships at Aldershot. The men's team was beaten by a short head by the RAF, but the women kept the team trophy. In this selection of pictures we also feature action from the individual championships



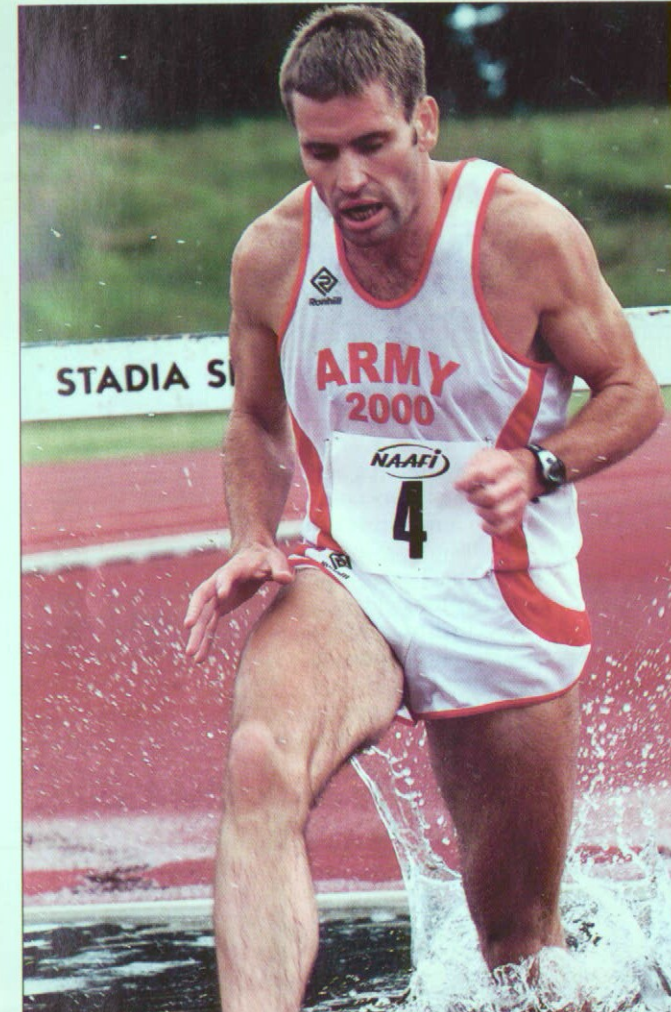
Eye-opener: Spr Karl McMullen on his way to top place in the Inter-Service long jump with a distance of 6.83m. SSgt Alvin W was second with 6.84m



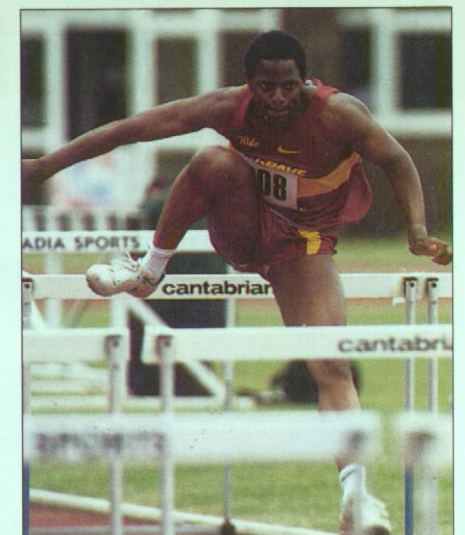
Front runner: Capt James Mayo (1 Cheshire) storms home to win the Inter-Service 800m in 1.53.25. He was chased all the way by Cpl Steve Haywood in 1.55.79



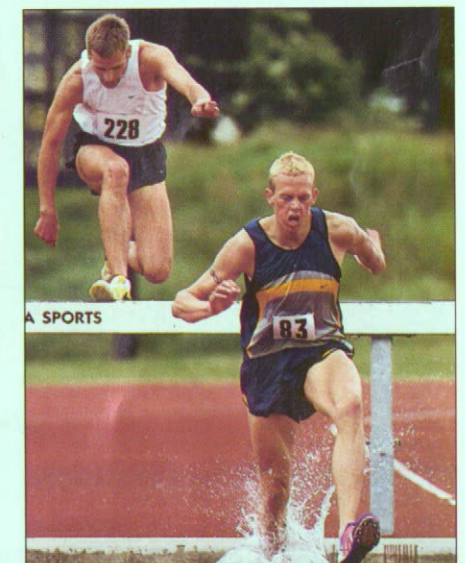
Going up: Pte Gerald Manville was the winner in the Inter-Service pole vault with 4m. The ever versatile LCpl Kevin Ricketts was fourth



Cold comfort: Sgt Rod Leach (ASPT) on his way to fourth place in the Inter-Service 3000m steeplechase, the first Army runner home



Left leg lead: Cpl Paul Beaumont (SEAE) was the winner of the 110m individual title



Splashdown: Pte Kevin Sheppard (3(CS) Regt RLC) won the individual 3000m title narrowly beating Sgt Rod Leach (ASPT)



Block leave: Sgt Lorraine Jackson, pictured centre, powers away at the start of the women's Inter-Service 100m. She put in a strong performance but was unable to catch LCpl Donita Benjamin who flew home in 11.91sec

SHORTS

Winners to the corps

ABINGDON'S 3 Close Support Regiment took top honours in the Royal Logistic Corps sports awards. The regiment's record-breaking athletics team were the outright winners of the sports team of the year award and coach Maj Clive Osborne was sports personality of the year.

The prizes were presented by Olympic star Sharron Davies at The Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut.

The men's team won the divisional championships by a margin of 32 points and the women's by nine points, the first double championship victory within the Army. In the Army finals, the men's team won by 40 points and the women's by 16.

Ice work if you can get it

PLACES are now available for the Army Ice Sport Camp in Lillehammer, Norway. This is your chance to learn to drive a two-man bobsleigh, a skeleton bobsleigh or a luge. These are all Olympic disciplines and Servicemen and women will form a substantial part of the team for the next Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Places are available on a first-come-first-served basis – and can be booked on payment of a £50 deposit to Capt PA McClellan, OC 31 CTT, HQ 160 (Wales) Bde, Brecon, Wales. Contact details and first and second choice of sport are also required.

The actual cost per person is £700 but with grants and sponsorship it will be £350. Members of the Sports Lottery will receive a refund of £100 after the event. Equipment, flights and food are included in the price. The only other costs are for insurance.

Mountaineers wanted

ARMY mountaineers are asked to help raise funds for Children's Aid Direct. The Big Event – the most ambitious mountain challenge of its kind – is open to teams of four, with mountains suitable for the complete novice through to experienced climbers. Each team is being asked to raise a minimum of £1,000 for the children's charity that helps those affected by conflict, poverty or disaster. Sign up via the web on www.bigevent.co.uk or call 0118 953 3238.

Wise up on the web

COMPREHENSIVE coverage of Army sport is available on Britsport.com, a new internet website which features 53 sports played across the Army.

INTERVIEW

Loggie will supply top-quality finish

For more than a decade Cpl Chris Bessey, RLC, has proved himself England's finest amateur boxer. And he is still chasing titles

Interview: Anthony Stone
Picture: Mike Weston

CPL Chris Bessey, MBE, the six-time Amateur Boxing Association champion and Commonwealth Games gold medallist, is thinking about his future. The boxer, who has been responsible for delivering more painful jabs than a garrison medical officer's syringe, is considering moving up a weight.

The Royal Logistic Corps corporal has been an outstanding champion, an ambassador for the sport and a walking recruitment advertisement for the Army.

His skill and courage in the ring have been rewarded with an enviable medal collection – he has more gold discs than the Bee Gees. But thoughts of retirement are still some way off and he wants a crack at one more title.

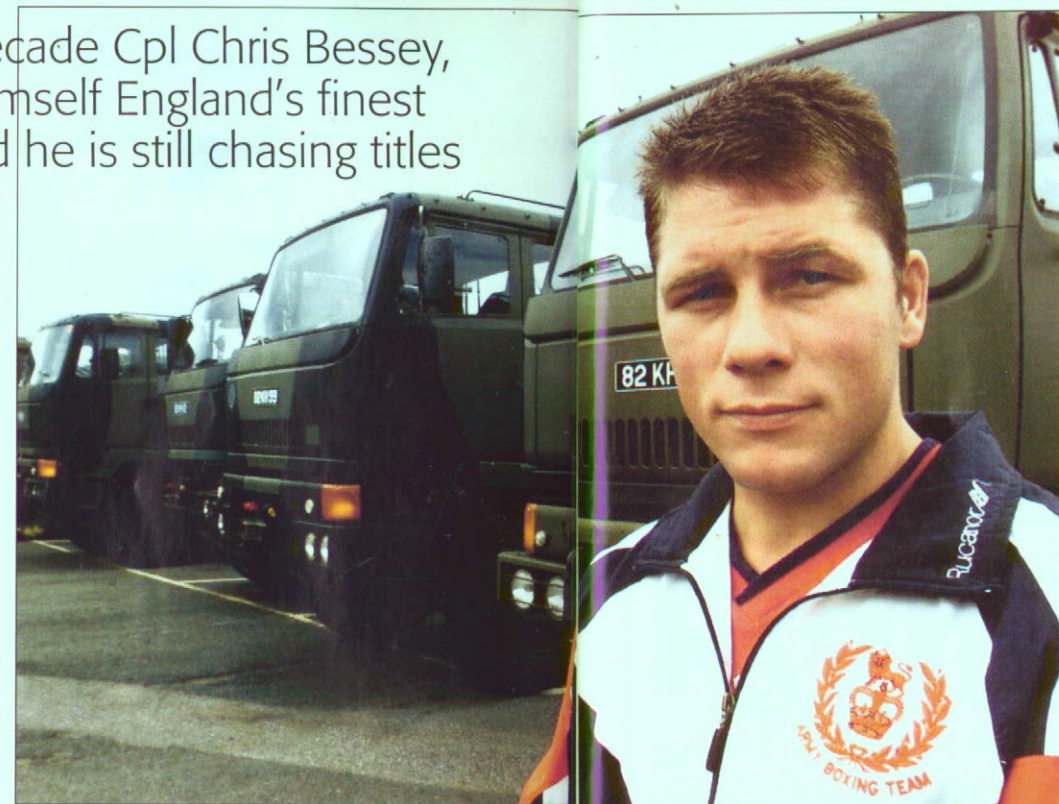
"It was an ambition of mine to go to the Olympics," he said. "But I think that has gone by the board now after not qualifying for Sydney. I can't see myself boxing as an amateur in four years' time."

"But I do want to box on for another year and then I will probably knock it on the head and retire. Then again, if I win the ABAs next year, that would be seven and only one away from the record."

If Bessey decides to go for it, few would bet against him. He boxes in a classic style, using his jab to devastating effect. His defence remains one of the finest in the realm and despite 160 bouts, he plainly feels no ill effects.

But one aspect of boxing he won't miss when the bell sounds for the final time is having to watch his weight. For boxers, like supermodels and jockeys, count the pounds as precisely as a cash dispenser.

Boxers have three weights: walking around weight, training weight and fight-



Driving force: Cpl Chris Bessey drove eight-tonners into Kuwait during the Gulf War in 1991

ing weight. The trick is to try and keep the difference between them within limits.

"I keep myself at a basic level of fitness and then four to five weeks before a competition I go into a more intensive type of training," he said. "As long as I know when a competition is I can regulate my weight and bring it down."

Bessey got the boxing bug as a boy and started the sport to build himself up. "I am not big now, but I really used to be skinny, painfully thin," he said.

He was also keen on football but realised that he didn't have time to compete at both sports. After leaving school he got casual jobs working for relatives but was soon fed up with not having a regular income.

"It was literally a case of 'oh sod it, I'll go and join the Army'."

Initially he wanted to join the REME. But the six-month waiting list put him off

CHRIS BESSEY

RUGBY LEAGUE

Paras go down with their guns blazing

HISTORY was made at Aldershot when The Parachute Regiment rugby league team played their first game against the Royal Marines.

Considering the Paras' side had only been formed on the Sunday and their first game was Wednesday, they played remarkably well, containing the Marines to a six-point lead at the end of the first half.

Power and passion ruled the day with bone-crunching hits coming in from all sides. But it was the Paras' lack of training that proved critical at the final whistle.

Team captain Cpl Ryan Swindle (1 Para) said: "We gave away too much stupid ball. Our error count was simply due to the fact we had not played before. It was a big learning curve for us."

Rugby League only started in the Army in 1993 as a unit sport and 1 Para was one of the first battalions to field a side. They went on to win the Army Nines competition three years in a row (1994-97) and were the Challenge Cup winners in 1996.

The following year 2 Para got a team together. They met 1 Para in a cup fixture in 1998 and went on to win the Plate competition.

The sport is now firmly established in the Army and it is hoped the Para-Marine game will become a permanent fixture.

Hundreds of spectators watched the action, which saw the Paras take to the pitch accompanied by *The Ride of the Valkyries* – the regimental quick march.

"The atmosphere was absolutely electric," said Swindle.

Despite tireless work from Cpl Taff Davis and the forwards, the Paras even-



Not this time: No way through for the Royal Marines



Stalemate: From the left, Pte Mark Reid, Cpl Russ Reading and Pte Matt McGowan successfully smother another Royal Marine attack

tally went down 36-0 but never gave up.

The Trafalgar Public House in Aldershot donated a trophy which the Paras will have to loan to the Marines until they have a chance to redress the balance next year.

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ARMY OFFSHORE REGATTA



Sailing by: Yachts glide over the Solent towards the Isle of Wight during the ASA Regatta

Right Royal is majestic

PERFECT conditions, glorious sunshine, a fresh wind and 22 boats ensured a memorable millennium Army Sailing Association regatta in the Solent.

On the first day of the inshore races, SSgt Paul Anderson quickly established a commanding lead in the Victoria 34 Class, although he was closely pursued by Lt Philip Cooper of 14 Regt RA.

The AAC team, skippered by SSgt McKean, were keen to show that although relative newcomers to the event they were a force to be reckoned with, producing a consistent string of second, third and fourth places to take third place overall. The REMEYC produced a strong team under the leadership of Maj Cameron Ferguson, assisted by Sgt Kinsella and Sgt Jack Ferguson.

In Division 2, Maj Mark Johnston-Fer-

guson of the REYC produced an impressive performance in the sapper yacht *Right Royal* to win the inshore series. The bookies' favourite (the RLC yacht *Thunderflash*) failed to live up to expectations.

The Passage Race, sponsored by Wightlink Ferries, gave skippers the option of going inside or outside the Isle of Wight. Those who chose the outside route included OCdt Scullion, leading a team from RMCS Shrivenham. They benefited from the better winds, but lost out to a foul tide.

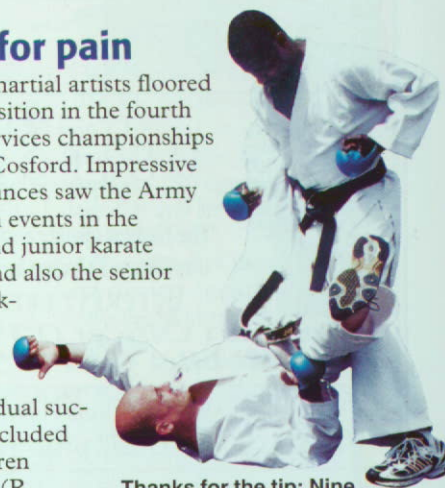
In the final analysis it was tide which proved to be the critical factor and line honours were taken by Maj Peter Smith and a team from 202 Fd Hosp (V) in *Swifan* his Contessa 32, narrowly beating *Right Royal*.

SHORTS

Gain for pain

ARMY martial artists floored the opposition in the fourth Inter-Services championships at RAF Cosford. Impressive performances saw the Army win team events in the senior and junior karate events and also the senior team taekwondo competition.

Individual successes included Cpl Darren Morgan (R Anglian) who took the senior individual Inter-Services taekwondo crown, Cpl Tony Cashmore (RE) who took the senior individual karate crown and Pte Zippy Murdoch (RLC) who became the weapons' kata champion.



Thanks for the tip: Nine times world taekwondo champion, civilian Wayne Otter shows Cpl Tony Cashmore (RE) how to perform a front-drop at an Army training session

Surfacing on top

FOR youth swimming champion Kerry Thompson, discovering Ibstock's Army Cadet Force was a stroke of good fortune.

The 14-year-old from Ashby de la Zouch has just won her national colours for competing in the 200m medley in the home internationals at Colchester.

"Joining the cadets 16 months ago was one of the best things I ever did," she said. Also receiving their colours were Leicestershire cadets Jodie Blair for the high jump and Sarah Turner for the 3,000m.

Tri-Service champs

HOCKEY players from 42 Survey Engineer Group completed a unique season by adding the Tri-Services title to their Army major unit honours.

Unstoppable 42 Survey demolished RAF Halton 5-0 and HMS Heron 8-2.

■ The Combined Services Hockey Association, featuring 11 Army players and the coach in the 18-man squad, took on the English Hockey Association's President's XI at Bisham Abbey, represented by England U21s. They lost 6-2.



Surrounded: Lt Guy Fordham, in white, finds a way through to score



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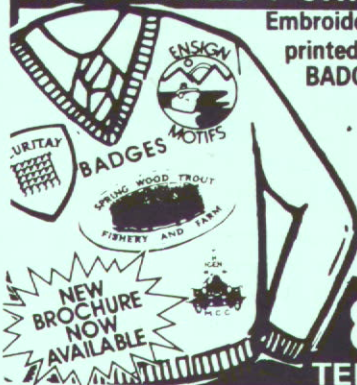
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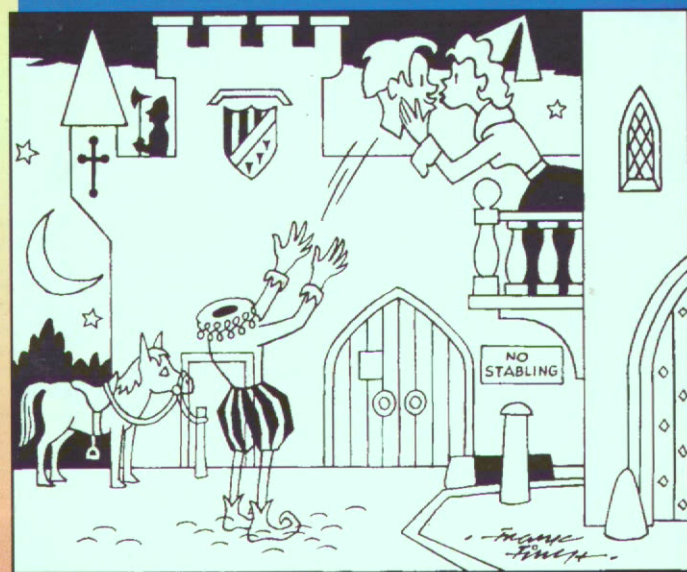
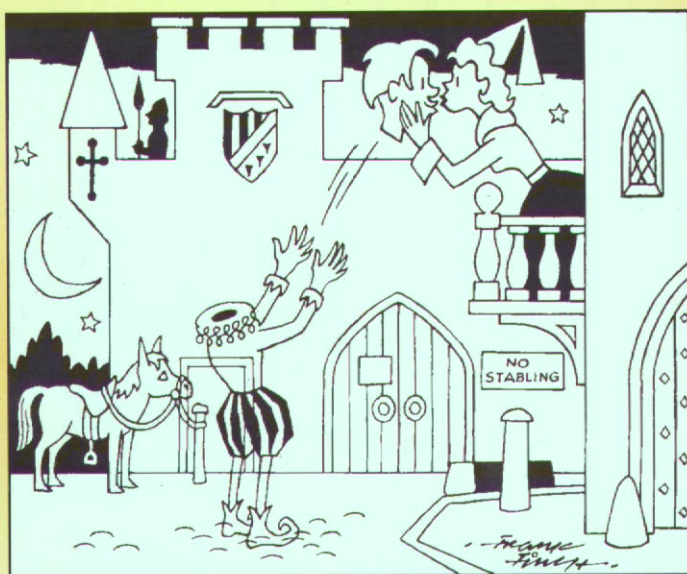
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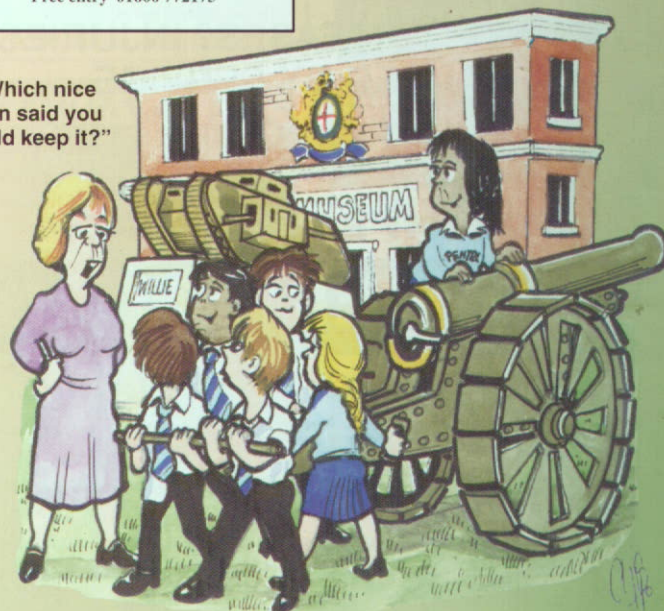
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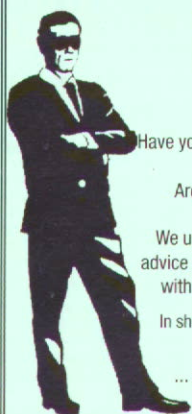
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Soldier Magazine - complete collection starting Dec '87. Most in binders. Space forces sale. Offers invited. Please phone 01244 301 437 after 6pm. 08/00

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NOTICES

DISBANDMENT

5th Bn The Royal Irish Regiment

5 R Irish are to be disbanded on December 31, 2000. Past members who presented items to their respective Messes and wish them returned are to contact the Bn by August 31, 2000. Past members should also be aware of the unveiling of Bn Memorial to fallen comrades and presentation of New Colours in early October 2000. (These will be the final 5th Bn The Royal Irish Regiment Parades). POC for all details Ceremonial Events Office 028777 21662

Faugh-a-Ballagh

CHARITY COMMISSION

CHARITY: Certain charities for the benefit of The Royal Anglian Regiment

REFERENCE: 3955217 / 118920

The Charity Commission proposes to make three Schemes to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy of the draft Schemes can be seen at Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN 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.

CHARITY COMMISSION

CHARITY: Charities for the benefit of the former 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and the 15th/19th The Kings Royal Hussars (3011279)

REFERENCE: 3011279 / 88249

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Home Headquarters, The Light Dragoons, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NP or can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

JUNE, 2000

First (477 runs, £4,400): Lt PJ Searle, 1 GH, Warminster.
Second (450 runs, £2,200): SSgt DAT Burns, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück.

Third (440 runs, £1,700): Pte JD Shubert, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford.

Fourth (437 runs, £1,200): CSgt B Desborough, 5 R Irish.

Fifth (433 runs, £900): WO2 CJ Palmer, HQ Corsham Station.

Sixth (432 runs, £600): LCpl KJ Maddox, 1 RRW, Paderborn.

Seventh (431 runs, £400): SSgt DM Pearson, MOD AMD, Ash Vale.

Eighth (429 runs, £300): Maj AD Perrey, HQ INT Corps, Chicksands.

Ninth (428 runs, £200): LCpl AM Willoughby, 7 Bn REME, Watisham.

Tenth (424 runs, £100): Spr CT Reason, 3 RSME Regt, Minley.

JUNE 24, 2000

First (547 runs, £4,400): Sgt MF Veale, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh.

Second (538 runs, £2,200): Sgt (name withheld), HQ Hereford Garrison.

Third (528 runs, £1,700): Cpl S Wark, 1 RGJ.

Fourth (527 runs, £1,200): Sgt PB Szeremeta, 259 Signal Sqn, Episkopi.

Fifth (526 runs, £750): Maj G Irving, 1 GS Med Regt, Munster; SSgt PC Worthing, JSPC (L), Sennelager.

Seventh (522 runs, £400): SSgt G Fraser, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbommel.

Eighth (519 runs, £300): LSgt SJ Hynds, 1 SG, London.

Ninth (518 runs, £200): LCpl NS Judge, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh.

Tenth (513 runs, £100): Cpl K Watson, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham.

JULY 1, 2000

First (388 runs, £4,400): Sgt SC Gray, 12 Regt RA, Sennelager.

Second (367 runs, £2,200): Lt Col K Smith, AGC Trg GP, Worthy Down.

Third (360 runs, £1,700): Sgt WA Copland, KRH, Tidworth.

Fourth (355 runs, £1,200): Cpl D Queenan, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gutersloh.

Fifth (349 runs, £750): Sgt DM Balogh, Cyprus Log Unit, RAF Akrotiri.

Sixth (348 runs, £500): LCpl BRD Rix, The Light Dragoons, Hohnhe.

Seventh (348 runs, £250): Cpl DM Bailey, Def Animal Centre, Melton Mowbray; Spr M Bracegirdle, ATR Bassingbourn; Sgt AJ Medcalf, 1 KORBR, Catterick; LCpl DG Moody, Lowland Band, Edinburgh.

JULY 8, 2000

First (338 runs, £4,400): Sgt JB Gray, SEAE, Arborfield.

Second (332 runs, £2,200): LCpl KM Shardlow, 110 Pro Coy RMP, Sennelager.

Third (323 runs, £1,700): Maj M Bellwood, DKMH, Catterick.

Fourth (321 runs, £1,200): Sgt E Campbell, 1 Hldrs, Catterick.

Fifth (316 runs, £900): LCpl MDL Williams, DISC SP Unit, Chick-

sands.

Sixth (315 runs, £600): Lt Col WP Crowley, CPA Abbey Wood.

Seventh (310 runs, £400): Cpl NCG Hanson, Scots DG, Fallingbommel.

Eighth (309 runs, £250): LCpl J Ade-wole, The Light Dragoons, Hohnhe; LCpl C Maxwell, 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, Bulford.

Tenth (307 runs, £50): Bdr K Heywood, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Cpl G Oliver, BVD Ashchurch.

JULY 15, 2000

First (469 runs, £4,400): Pte M Skillen, 1 KORBR, Catterick.

Second (466 runs, £2,200): LCpl DC Wood, QRL, Osnabrück.

Third (461 runs, £1,700): Cpl P Bell, The Light Dragoons, Hohnhe.

Fourth (449 runs, £1,200): WO2 KA Burke, 20 Tpt Sqn RLC, London.

Fifth (447 runs, £900): Fus PD Edwards, 1 RWF.

Sixth (442 runs, £600): Cpl M Cummings, UKSU SHAPE.

Seventh (438 runs, £400): LCpl SM Brown, KRH, Tidworth.

Eighth (436 runs, £250): Sig AJ Berry, 249 Sig Sqn AMF (L), Bulford; Capt SL Bradley-Walker, ATR Pirbright.

Tenth (431 runs, £100): Pte TS Puddle, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon.

Join the Army Sports Lottery. Application forms available from your RAO or from the Lottery Manager, Aldershot Mil ext. 3550

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Diary

'Feathers' film needs ex-soldiers

FORMER soldiers are needed for the latest remake of A E W Mason's *The Four Feathers*.

Film company OIC wants to recruit and train a team to provide the director with a realistic military group skilled in infantry drills and tactics of the 1890s.

The group will be used in "close-to-camera" scenes both within barracks in the UK and in the desert scenes to be filmed in Morocco.

Contracts will include payment of between £350 and £400 per five-day week with meals included. A similar tax-free payment, accommodation and all meals will be included during filming in Morocco.

Those interested and able to attend training and filming between August and December are asked to contact Tony Hood on 020 7381 1937 or download an application form from www.oic.co.uk/fourfeathers.htm

DATES

AUGUST

9: Kneller Hall summer concert (Bands of RA and AAC). 8pm (gates open 6pm). Tickets £4 on night. Advance sales for minimum booking of ten. Details on 0181 898 5533 or ticket hotline 0181 744 8646.

12-13: Re-enactment Festival, Kirby Hall, Northants.

SEPTEMBER

2-3: Weapons and Warfare weekend, National Army Museum, Chelsea, London

5-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show (information/ticket hotline 0115 912 9196; website www.mwias.com)

9-17: Royal British Legion Pilgrimage to Korea for events to mark the 50th anniversary of the war.

10: Winchester and District Militaria Society Exhibition and Fair, Guildhall.

12-16: Royal Hospital, Chelsea Son et Lumière 2000 - Men in Scarlet (020 7881 5308/5309).

24: Aldershot Militaria Society Exhibition and Fair, Farnham Maltings, Surrey.

NOVEMBER

18: Bugle Call 2000 military model exhibition, Pavilion North, Parade Road, Bath (01454 616084).

● To include public events in this diary, contact the Editor.



Black Watch, white wedding

Great honour: We don't often feature weddings in these pages... but reckoned we had to make an exception for Pte Gary McMillan, of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, and his new bride, Adele Morman. The Cowdenbeath couple can probably claim to having had the largest guard of honour in the history of the regiment... the entire battalion and the Pipes and Drums turned out for their nuptials at Dunfermline Abbey.

Gary and Adele had the good fortune to get hitched on the same day the Black Watch was exercising its Freedom of Dunfermline, so the traditional march through the streets with colours flying and drums beating was timed so that the regiment could call in on the abbey.

As well as Gary's colleagues from the 1st Battalion, the parade was also made up of the Territorial Army's A Company, 51st Highland Regiment, and the Black Watch Army Cadet Force.

Somme victim is laid to rest after 84 years

LAST respects were paid to a First World War soldier on July 1 when the funeral of Pte George Nugent was conducted at Oivillers, France, 84 years to the day after he was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. His remains were found in 1998.

Present at the funeral were 1,000 people, including members of his family, Sir Michael Jay, British Ambassador to France, senior officers from the British and French armies and representatives from the Northumberland Fusiliers Association.

Something's brewing

SSAFA Forces Help is teaming up with the National Blood Service for its annual Big Brew Up between September 18 and 24.

Serving men and women can do a double good turn by giving a pint of blood and then raising a cuppa in aid of SSAFA, the national charity which helps serving and ex-serving men, women and their families.

Contact the appeals department at SSAFA Forces Help on 020 7463 9300 or 020 7463 9210 or visit www.ssafo.org.uk

Gigantic effort

Soldiers from Scunthorpe-based 147 REME (V) Port and Reclamation Company helped local strongman Ian (Chalky) White tow a one-tonne model dinosaur around the town to raise £1,000 to improve children's facilities in a local park. A piper from 102 Battalion Pipe Band led the way.

Per's flying visit

Balloonist Per Lindstrand, who made a notable attempt to circumnavigate the globe in a hot air balloon with Richard Branson, visited the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury



Hot spot: To mark the millennium, Northern Ireland-based 5 Regiment AAC commissioned a silver centrepiece unmistakably connected with Army Air Corps operations in the Province. After some soul-searching, Bessbrook Mill, one of the hottest spots for aviators in Northern Ireland, was chosen.

Designed and built by silversmith Roger Squires, pictured, in his workshop at Lains Farm, Quarley in Hampshire, the piece reproduces Bessbrook's buildings, security fence, landing pads, aircraft and capbadge in sterling silver. The surrounding area is fashioned from patinated bronze, all mounted on a hardwood base with silver plaques showing the names of COs, squadron and REME Workshop commanders.

Welsh queries

ANYONE making a telephone enquiry to the Ministry of Defence and who prefers to speak in Welsh can now call a new Welsh Language Helpline on 01554 821 413.

Children's Canadian tribute

Kent schoolchildren laid posies on the graves of Canadian soldiers from the First World War buried in the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery at Folkestone. The annual ceremony, carried out on Canada Day, dates back to 1919. In many cases, children from the same families have carried the posies from generation to generation.

Mother's plea for two brave young soldiers

RITA Restorick, the mother of the last British soldier killed by the IRA, is raising funds for a memorial and is asking *Soldier* readers for help.

Her son, LBdr Stephen Restorick, 3 RHA, was killed by the IRA in February, 1997, as he manned a checkpoint. The memorial will also commemorate 24-year-old Cpl Michael Boddy, R Anglian, who was killed by a sniper in Belfast in 1972.

It is hoped the memorial, in the form of a low circle of bricks containing a pile of rocks from the mountains of Mourne over which water will cascade, will go in a small park in the centre of Peterborough, the hometown of both men.

Although Mrs Restorick has been able to persuade firms to donate the raw materials, it

Names from history found on memorial

PTE Steven Brain of the Intelligence Corps unearthed a bit of family history during a battlefield tour to the Somme by 43 recruits and four permanent staff from ATR Winchester.

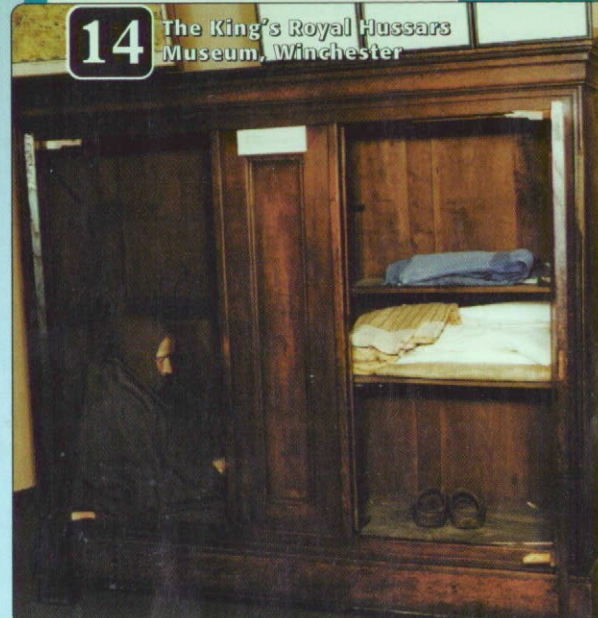
While visiting the Thiepval Memorial to the missing, he found the names of his great-grandfather and great-uncle. Neither he nor his family had known the names of the Brain brothers where on the memorial. The party was guided by Col (Retd) Christopher Newbould, of the Royal British Legion.

Digging up the facts

A series of hour-long lunchtime lectures is to be held at the National Army Museum on Thursdays throughout September, to show how modern understanding of past battles - the Somme, Naseby and Towton - can be increased by using the latest archaeological techniques. Ring 020 7730 0717 for details. The NAM is hosting an exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War until October 10.

Legends of the regiments and corps

14 The King's Royal Hussars Museum, Winchester



Cupboard that hid a soldier for three years

DURING heavy fighting near Le Cateau in the early days of the First World War, Pte Patrick Fowler of the 11th Hussars was cut off behind enemy lines.

He evaded capture for some months, living off the land until in the bitter winter a farmer brought him into a French village. He was taken to the house of a widow and her daughter, where he was hidden in a cupboard because the house also billeted unsuspecting German soldiers.

The cupboard was to remain his home for more than three years until the village was liberated by the advancing Allies. Throughout this time the women shared their meagre food with him and lived in constant fear of being discovered.

Fowler was reunited with his regiment and in due course the brave women were brought to England, presented to the King and Queen and appointed honorary OBEs.

Now the amazing story is set to become a major film - perhaps starring Robert Carlisle and Jeanne Moreau - casting the spotlight on The King's Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester, where the actual cupboard can be seen and the full details of the story are told.

The King's Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester is open Tuesdays to Fridays from 1000 to 1600 and from 1200 to 1600 on Saturdays and Sundays. Tel: 01962 828541.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor

Youngsters hear the call

FIFTEEN young people, 12 of them unemployed, were the latest to complete an action-packed 12-week programme as part of the Prince's Trust.

They were led by a team leader from the Army - LCpl Simon Johnson, from 27 Transport Regiment RLC, who was seconded to a programme designed to develop confidence, motivation and key skills in people aged from 16 to 25.

"The team leader gets an action-packed time away from the regiment," said LCpl Johnson. "And there is the added responsibility and experience of working with a diverse group of people. It is a big challenge and a test of tolerance and leadership."

● Those interested in becoming a Prince's Trust team leader are invited to contact Lt Col Charles Jackman on 020 7543 1328.

Water feature: Prince's Trust volunteers Victoria Troup and LCpl Simon Johnson, front, and Michael Lucas, Aysha Mulla and Jason Lupton



Picture: Steve Dock

CiB* Awards 2000

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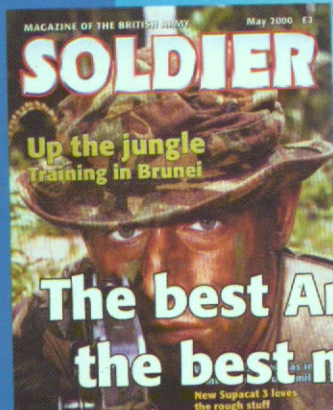
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BIRTHDAY HONOURS

KCB

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CBE

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OBE

Lt Col P Budd, RLC; Col G Dodds, MBE, late RE; Lt Col M Hewetson, AAC; Lt Col C Hughes, Staffords; Lt Col P McLelland, PWRR; Lt Col J Page, MBE, Para; Acting Col T Quinn, ACF; Lt Col A Richards, Para; Lt Col R Smith, RA, TA; Lt Col R Steel, APTC; Lt Col S Watts, CA Mus.

MBE

Maj G Bacon, AAC, TA; Maj D Baggeley, APTC; CSgt T Balloch, Hldrs; Maj G Bateman, RLC; Sgt A Beard, RE; Sgt J Burns, RA; Cpl S Byrne, Int Corps; Maj K Molyneux-Carter, RRF; Cpl R Clydesdale, RE; Acting Maj L Collins, Shropshire ACF; Maj J Compston, R Signals; Maj G Connelly, RHF; Lt Col M

Cooper, RE; Maj R Davies, AAC; WO2 E Dobson, RA, TA; WO1 I Girvin, QGM, RA; Maj S Gray, RGBW; Capt G Gurung, MVO, QG Signals; Maj I Harrison, RA; WO2 J Hempshall, RA; WO1 1 M Hobbins, RLC; WO1 A Hope, REME; Maj K Howard, TD, AGC, TA; Maj K Hume, RWF; Maj D Rankin-Hunt, MVO, TD, London Regt, TA; Maj M Jones, RE; WO1 K Keast, AGC; Maj K Lane, RA; Maj L Laverder, AGC(SPS); Capt J Le Feuvre, RA; Sgt L Lewis, Para; WO2 P Lewis, R Signals; WO1 M Lloyd, RLC; Capt N Loader, RLC; Maj M Lowe, Para; Maj A McCord, R Irish; SSgt S Mean, RLC, TA; WO1 1 K Meek, RLC; CSgt J Millar, KORBR; Maj J Monteith, BW; Maj M Neve, RLC; Lt Col G Pearce, RLC; Capt A Pigg, DWR; Maj G Pomroy, RLC; Maj K Seekings, Para; Cpl A Smith, KORBR; Sgt S Smith, RA; Cpl M Sterritt, R Irish; Maj M Todd, QRL; Capt W Turnbull, 52nd Lowland Regt, TA; Lt Col M Underhill, RLC; Maj T Urch, RE; Capt V Westbrook, QRL, TA; Maj R Whiteway, RA; Lt Col C Wilks, RE; Maj N Williams, RE.

QVRM

Col C Gardiner, TD, ADC, late RE, TA; Maj I Hankinson, RLC, TA; Rev R McKelvey, TD, RACD, TA; WO2 P Snaddon, 51st Hld Regt, TA.

REUNIONS

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 chris60's16er@tesco.net

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

Wolverhampton Guards (Household Division) meet every first Thursday in the month at WUISC, Humber Road, Wolverhampton. Dinner-dance on Sept 22. Contact Ted Clarke on 0121 552 2227.

4th (1/4th and 2/4th) and 4/5th (TA) Battalions, The Royal Hampshire Regiment: Fifty-fourth 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.

South Notts Hussars Association: Reunion dinner at TA Centre, Bulwell, Nottingham, Nov 11. Former members should contact Capt G E Aldridge, 6 Goodwood Drive, Toton, Nottingham NG9 6HX (tel 0115 972 5909).

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

DSMRC Headley Court: Past and present reunion to commemorate the 50th anniversary of DSMRC Headley Court, home of Armed Forces rehabilitation, will be held on May 19. Those who served there or at JSMRU Chessington should contact Flt Lt Bob Jones, c/o Physiotherapy Sept, DSMRC Headley Court, Epsom, Surrey KT18 6JN or at robejone@dsc.gov.uk

Battle of Britain 60th anniversary charity ball, Royal Lancaster Hotel, Hyde Park, London, Sept 15. Tel 020 7798 5519 or e-mail 60thbob-ball@virginnet.co.uk

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

RMP Association, Aldershot Branch: Celebration weekend to mark 54 years of service, Aug 5 and 6. Details from secretary, W A Taylor, 01252 524826.

ATS Dinner Club will hold its annual luncheon on Saturday September 30 at the Hotel Leofric, Broadgate, Coventry (12 noon). Ex-ATS may obtain tickets from Mrs M Rogers, 103 Lion House Road, Hailsham, E Sussex, BN27 2SE.

Sixth Somerset Light Infantry 1955-59 all-ranks reunion on Oct 7 in Taunton. Attached personnel, wives and partners welcome. Seeking ex-Ptes (Reg) Hathaway, Knight, Walters (RAEC Plymouth 1956), Ex-LCpl "Skin" Williams ACC (from Liverpool, in Cyprus 1956). Organiser Dave Williams, 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, Bridgwater, TA7 8JH (01278 683022).

Hong Kong: All who served in Sek Kong, Kowloon or Hong Kong between 1995 and the handover in 1997 who wish to attend the next reunion in Winchester on Oct 7 please contact WO2 Dave Wood on Worthy Down 94271 ext 2364 or 01962 887364 or e-mail hk2000reunion@hotmail.com

British Korean Veterans Association Northampton Branch Standard Dedication Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Roade, Northants, on Sept 24 followed by a march-past and reception. Details from R J Fuller, 25 Jubilee Road, Daventry, Northants NN11 5HB (01372 872964).

SEARCHLINE

ATpr Nacanieli Draunidalo, of 668 Squadron, 2 Trng Regt, AAC, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants SO20 8D, is asked to contact his cousin Jone, on +679 956007 or 679 30883, whose message "to all the Fiji boys" is that all is well at home and returning to normal.

Calling all ex-permanent staff of **9 Fld Wksp(V)/128 Reclam Co (V)**. There will be an all-ranks reunion at the TA Centre, Portsmouth, on Sept 23. For further details, phone 023 9267 5808.

Paul Stevens seeks news of his grandfather, **Matthew Robson Petty**, who was in the RASC and was posted to the Shetland Islands in Oct 1943. Replies to 9 Higher Westlake Road, Roundswell, Barnstaple, N Devon EX31 3XN.

Great-niece wishes to trace other surviving relatives of **Joseph Livingstone Campbell**, a rivetter from Walker, Newcastle, who died in the First World War, leaving a wife and two girls. Contact Ms Iris J Campbell, 18 Lambourn Avenue, benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8DQ.

More than 160 members of the **5th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment** attended a reunion at Guildford in May. Any elderly Queensmen in need of assistance should contact Stuart Browning on 01483 892474.

Details, photos, events, publications, memories, anecdotes, unit names associated with **Bielefeld Barracks** in Bielefeld, Germany since 1945 sought by Dieter Stuckmann, Weissenburger Strasse 36, D-33607 Bielefeld, Germany.

City of London RAMC Association meets at TA Headquarters, Braganza Street on the first Wednesday of February, May, August and November. Details from J Keen on 920 8651 6050.

Information sought on the whereabouts of **Ben Tippin**, from Liverpool, who served in the Eighth Army (Desert Rats), 1940-45, spending time in Jerusalem. Contact his comrade Ken Porter (known as Nippo) on 01202 521975.

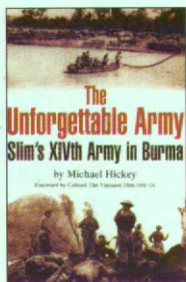
Information sought on any former member of **Crawley and District Branch, Royal Engineers Association**, for completion of records and particularly location of 1955-66 records and branch standard. Other sappers in Sussex-Surrey area also invited to make contact with Tony Muir, "Dockray", 1 Perryfield Road, Southgate, Crawley, W Sussex, RH11 8AA.

Former chum from Walton High School, Nelson Lancs, organising a reunion, wishes to contact **Neil Poole**, who joined the Army in 1986 and may be serving in Colchester. Contact Cpl Byles (formerly Sedman) 34 Venning Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9LU or seddy@bytes.screaming.net

New members will be welcomed by the **Army Guild of Bellringers**. The autumn meeting is being held on Sept 2 at Cosgrove, St Margaret, Northamptonshire. Details can be obtained from Barry Sexton on 01483 474669 or armyguildringers@hotmail.com

Ensuring Slim's Army will be remembered

COLONEL Michael Hickey, this year's winner of the Westminster Medal for military writing, has

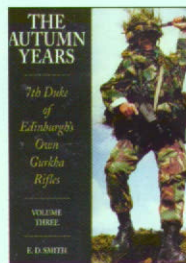


done much to ensure that Slim's 14th Army in Burma, which won 29 VCs and five GCs, is anything but forgotten. His 1992 book, **The Unforgettable Army**, now out in paperback from Spellmount at £16.95, is a substantial tribute to the heroic Servicemen

from Britain, India, Nepal, Africa, America, Burma and China. It has a foreword by Col the Viscount Slim, son of the legendary commander, and 37 pages of appendices giving orders of battle, casualties and other details.

Falklands episode in Gurkha tribute

ALTHOUGH previous years are touched upon, the main purpose of **The Autumn Years** (Spell-

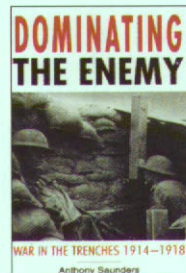


mount), the late Brig E D (Birdie) Smith's limited-edition third and final volume of the 92-year history of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, is to record its achievements from 1972 until its disbandment in 1994, including the regi-

ment's participation in the Falklands conflict. Readers of *Soldier* can obtain this fine illustrated tribute at the special price of £15, plus £3 p&p, from Hon Sec 7GRRR, Dene Cottage, Monxton, Andover, Hants SP11 8AL.

Trench warfare owed much to middle ages

AS a follow-up to his well-received *Weapons of the Trench War*, former Ministry of Defence



civil servant Anthony Saunders has produced a fascinating guide to the devices such as shields, periscopes and mirrors used by the soldier to help survive on the Western Front.

Dominating the Enemy: War in the Trenches 1914-1918

(Sutton, £19.99) reminds us that maces were used on foot patrols. What with body armour, helmets and face-protectors, the reader can be forgiven for assuming that warfare, despite the tank, had not progressed much since the days of Henry VIII.

Sharpe practice in the Peninsula

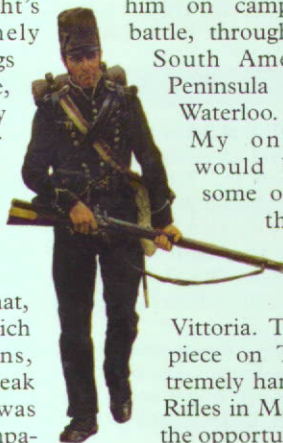
Review by leading Napoleonic historian Ian Fletcher*

Rifleman by Philipp Elliot-Wright. (Military Illustrated Books, £18.99.)

AFTER the great success of the Sharpe novels and TV series, many people now believe there was a 19th-century version of the SAS skulking around Spain and Portugal, engaged on secret missions and bumping-off hapless Frenchies.

So much myth and legend surrounds the 95th Rifles that Philipp Elliot-Wright's *Rifleman* is a timely reminder of how things really were. Of course, the book is not solely about the 95th, for the 5/60th was an integral part of Wellington's army between 1808 and 1814.

The problem is that, unlike the 95th, which fought in battalions, albeit sometimes weak ones, the 5/60th was broken up into companies and scattered throughout the army. Hence it is far easier to follow the 95th.



This, however, is not just a "what-they-did, where-they-went" book, for it begins with the origin of the rifleman in Europe and North America and ends with his post-Napoleonic legacy.

In between these two chapters we discover how the rifleman was armed, we follow him on campaign and in battle, through Europe and South America, to the Peninsula and finally to Waterloo.

My only criticism would be that, like some other works on the Peninsula, the story ends rather abruptly at

Vittoria. True, there is a piece on Tarbes, an extremely hard fight for the Rifles in March 1814, but the opportunity of examining the Rifles in action in the Pyrenees and Southern France is missed.

The real value of this book lies in the analysis of the function of the rifleman, for he represented a tremendous break from tradition in the British Army, both in his role in battle, on campaign and in his armament.

Rifleman is a book that gets to the parts other books do not reach by examining a multitude of important aspects of this soldier's role.

It is obvious that a great deal of research has gone into it and it is an absolute must for students of riflemen and of light infantry in general (as well as fans of Sharpe). It is, without doubt, the definitive book on the subject.

*Ian Fletcher is the author of many books on the Napoleonic Wars, including the recently-published *Gallop at Everything* (Spellmount, £20), a reappraisal of the British cavalry in the Peninsular War. He is a Fellow of the International Napoleonic Society and a member of the British Commission for Military History. *Rifleman* is available in all good bookshops or by telephoning (UK) 01226 734555 or (US) 1 800 418 6065.

IN BRIEF

Encyclopedia of the Boer War by Martin Marx Evans. Indispensable 414-page companion for historians and general readers alike, with an A-Z, maps and other illustrations, chronology, documents, bibliography. (ABC-CLIO, Oxford, paperback, £14.99.)

Modern Machine-Guns by John Walter. Latest addition to the Greenhill Military Manuals series. (Greenhill, £13.95.)

Military Small Arms of the 20th Century by Ian V Hogg and John Weeks. Expanded, updated seventh edition of the illustrated

encyclopedia. (Greenhill, large-format paperback, £19.99.)

An Unorthodox Soldier: Peace and War and the Sandline Affair by Lt Col Tim Spicer. Sandhurst Sword of Honour, The Scots Guards, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Bosnia, capture at gunpoint in New Guinea, "Arms for Africa", Sierra Leone, worrying predictions of trouble ahead – it is all racy and readable stuff, and it is not a novel. (Mainstream, paperback, £7.99.)

Queen's Own Highlanders by David J Hunter. Latest in the collectable series, *Famous Regi-*

ments on Cigarette and Trade Cards, and produced with the help of the regimental museum. (£7.99 plus 60p p&p from the author at 11 Sunnindale Drive, Tollerton, Nottingham, NG12 4ES.)

Reflections 1939-1945 by Charles Farrell. Personal memoir of service as a 25-year-old major commanding a tank squadron in the Scots Guards from Normandy to the Baltic. The author was awarded the MC and MID. (Pentland Press, £12.50.)

The Mammoth Book of Sword of Honour edited by Mike Ashley. Almost 600 pages of military adventure stories by Conan Doyle, George MacDonald Fraser and others, with a foreword by Bernard Cornwell. (Robinson, paperback, £6.99.)

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>

Micks' family album

Review by Brig Sebastian Roberts*

I MUST declare my interest: as a serving Irish Guardsman, this is my family album, and I love it. But you don't have to be a Mick to enjoy this marvellous book.

The pride, affection, tragedy and humour of the family regiment shines through what is a new and brilliant way of producing a regimental history.

For this really is the family photograph album, lovingly chosen by an editorial team of Micks led by Col Sir William Mahon Bt. I commend it to all soldiers and anyone interested in the history of the United Kingdom and her Army.

Like with any good book or album, you are left yearning for more. I hope sincerely that the Micks are already preparing a second edition, to include other heroic regimental figures like "the man who was Greenmantle", Aubrey Herbert, who bluffed his way into the 1st Battalion in August 1914, in spite of being rejected for being blind, and had won his MC within a month; Paddy Leigh Fermor, who, "ill met by moonlight", captured the German general in Crete; or Big Desmond Lynch, the legendary RSM of Mons.

Every Mick will have other memories to add; every reader will enjoy a terrific book; and every regiment should follow suit. This is regimental history at its best.

Irish Guards: The First Hundred Years 1900-2000 (Spellmount, £24.95).



*Brig Roberts is Director of Corporate Communications (Army) and Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Irish Guards

Verity – a true sporting hero

CRICKETERS or not, all members of the Army should cherish the name of Hedley Verity, the master spin-bowler of unyielding menace.

Alan Hill's biography of this diligent and observant cricketer has been reissued, 57 years after Verity's death after being wounded in action with the Green Howards in Italy.

Verity headed the English bowling averages in his first season with Yorkshire and twice took ten wickets in an innings. Overall, his mesmeric left-arm spin yielded 1,956 wickets, including 144 for England, in less than ten years.

This book, which won the Cricket Society's Jubilee Literary Award in 1986, contains a foreword by Wisden's Cricketer of the Century, Sir Donald Bradman, whom Verity twice dismissed at Lord's in June 1934 to mastermind England's only victo-

Hedley Verity – Portrait of a Cricketer by Alan Hill (Mainstream Publishing, £14.99).

ry over Australia at cricket's headquarters in a century.

It also includes a revealing memoir of Verity's boyhood in Leeds and an Australian tour journal for 1932-33.

Much of the book naturally concentrates on his rise to fame, first with Yorkshire and then England. The account of his final first-class match at Hove, where his figures were an amazing 6-1-9-7, is particularly poignant given subsequent events.

Two excellent chapters on Verity's military career detail his journey into the Green Howards (he was gazetted in 1939). He was not alone among famous English cricketers passing through the Depot at Richmond. Others included Sir Leonard Hutton, Herbert Sutcliffe, Maurice

Leyland and Arthur Wood. What a formidable regimental side that would have made!

After various overseas postings Capt Verity was with the Green Howards when they launched their first attack in Sicily on July 10, 1943. The detailed account of his wounding, evacuation, operation and final few days is detailed and vivid. He died on the afternoon of July 31, 1943.

This readable book contains a full statistical analysis of his career in the appendices. The figures speak for themselves but give only a hint of what might have been achieved, but for the war.

Alan Hill shows Hedley Verity to be a shy, modest man who was not only one of the finest slow left-arm bowlers of all time, but a real professional in all that he did and one of the Army's true sporting heroes - D.R.E.O'K.

Update yourself on guided weapons

FOR those who want to gain a better understanding of the technicalities of the modern battlefield, particularly the design implications, Brassey's Land Warfare series provides concise and authoritative texts and diagrams. The revised fourth edition of **Guided Weapons** (£35), by J F Rouse, of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, explains the technology and development of such systems and their use against armoured vehicles, ground targets and aircraft. It also brings us up to date on all recent advances, with particular emphasis on fibre-optic guidance.



This blockbuster is the real Ryan story

ANYONE looking for the definitive "good read" would do well to consider **The Guns of War**

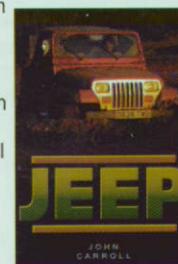
(Robinson paperback, £12.99), which combines Canadian D-Day veteran George Blackburn's Second World War memoirs *The Guns of Normandy* and *The Guns of Victory*.

The result is a gripping, 500-page, first-hand testimony written with the immediacy of the present tense and which has been dubbed a "vivid account of the real world of *Saving Private Ryan*". Blackburn's artillery unit landed in Normandy and was in the front-line continuously for the next ten months.



Jeep and cheerful, but what a classic

MOST people know Jeep refers to a four-wheel-drive vehicle but there are still those (including owners of the modern "fun" FWDs) who don't appreciate that the Americans derived the word from GP, or general purpose. As John Carroll reminds us in **Jeep** (Sutton, £14.99) it was conceived as a simple, robust, light, utility vehicle for the Allied armies in the Second World War and has since served well in other conflicts, notably Korea. This connoisseur's story of a classic is superbly illustrated with many black-and-white photographs, some rare.



Army 'family' divided into two homes in same road

I SYMPATHISE with WO2 Alger ("Let single soldiers rent Army quarters", June).

I am also a single soldier in a committed heterosexual relationship with another serving soldier – committed to the extent of having a "planned" daughter and a step-daughter from my partner's previous marriage.

At present we are both serving in Northern Ireland and were both allocated quarters at the same station, in the same road. This caused amusement among the neighbours as they spotted us at various hours throughout the day and night traipsing across the road with children, babies and dog in tow.

Due to the lack of stability this caused, the eldest daughter, aged seven, started asking which house she was sleeping in tonight, so we took the big step of buying our own house, which has provided a marked improvement in terms of quality of life.

But as they say, life goes on and we are both posted in the New Year back to the mainland. I contacted the Defence Housing Executive, which informed us that as we were not married we would again be allocated two quarters and not necessarily in the same area.

This has resulted in my partner and I having to get married before we are posted if we wish to live together. I do not feel that "forcing" people into marriage in this way can be conducive to lowering the divorce rate and that a more modern view of relationships outside marriage should be taken.

As WO2 Alger states, it has been shown to work in other armies, why not ours? – **Cpl N Burnham, 7 RMP, BFPO 801.**

Lack of respect

I AM a reservist serving six months in Bosnia, my second tour in three years.

There were many factors in my leaving the Army but I would like to mention one in particular.

I served three years with 16 Regt in Dortmund and had a house in Massen. In Germany they like to put specific refuse into certain binbags – for example, plastics, wood and paper would all go into differently coloured bags.

You can imagine my surprise when I was called in front of the RSM with the estate warden present, to be told I had put an item in the wrong binbag and that I would be penalised.

What did this sergeant major get out of making a young gunner's life difficult? Maybe if we all treated each other with more respect and tact the Army would not be as short of men and women as it is today.

I must add that reservists are treated so much better. Why can't they do this when you're a Regular? – **Gnr Mark J Munn, 19 Regt RA, 28/143 Bty, Ljubija, BFPO 553.**

I wish the Army would 'get with the program'

AFTER reading the July Vox pop feature ("Living-in and let live"), I thought I'd put pen to paper.

My girlfriend and I are both single soldiers living in our respective accommodation, I in a room with two other guys, she in a room of her own. The Army says we're not allowed into each other's rooms.

I share with two others, so I wouldn't bring her to mine. But she has a room of her own which would give us privacy.

We are both 26 but basically the Army is saying that the only places we're allowed to meet on camp are in the various squadron bars and messes or the WRVS. Is that acceptable?

Next thing we know, we'll have to have a chaperone. I wish the Army would get with the program. Just because you're not married doesn't mean you're not entitled to privacy. – **LCpl John Donaghue, Dog Section, Pioneer Def Tp, LSAU, BFPO 801.**

Prize letter

Petrol price climb hits us even more

I AGREE with Maj Giggins (June) in his view that Recompense in Lieu of Relocation (RILOR) is derisory and fails to cover even fuel costs, let alone increased wear-and-tear and depreciation of the vehicle.

As I write, fuel costs have increased from his figure of 78.9p to 86.9p per litre (36p per gallon) with no corresponding increase in RILOR.

It certainly appears that those who have purchased their own homes are losing out compared with those who continue to live in married quarters.

RILOR is recompense "in lieu" of relocation, and therefore the officer or soldier has already forgone any disturbance al-

lowance or payment of removal expenses.

Further, more and more officers and soldiers are electing to move into a married quarter not at their place of duty (or remain in occupation of an MQ at a previous duty station).

I understand that these officers and soldiers are eligible for Residence to Place of Duty allowance (RESPOD) or various others that allow them subsidised food and accommodation expenses in their messes.

I would suggest that these individuals should not receive special treatment and should be required to pay full market rents for their married quarters. – **Maj G L Hunter, REME, Arborfield.**

Neighbours are pounds apart

IN response to Maj Giggins's letter on RILOR, my neighbour, serving with 16 Regiment Royal Artillery in Woolwich, receives Recruiting and Retention Allowance, London – RRA(L).

This means that at any time he can move up to 70 miles away from London and claim 140 miles RILOR, or about £8.50 per day. (The move has to be for personal reasons).

Although our married quarters are 30ft apart, I do not receive RRA(L). This is because I work in Bexleyheath, about seven miles away.

Therefore, should I move for personal reasons, I am entitled to claim only up to the amount of Residence to Place of Duty allowance (RESPOD) that I am presently claiming, or about £1 per day – and try travelling 140 miles for that.

As RRA(L) is granted for "lifestyle dif-

ferences", I am at a loss to understand why I have not received 22 months' worth of RRA(L) since living in Woolwich. I have the same costs etc. as my neighbour, as well as the extra burden of travelling through London traffic every day.

Unlike Maj Giggins, I would gladly accept the wear-and-tear on my vehicle, if only I could be treated as well as my neighbour.

This is a real situation, as both my neighbour and I are in the process of purchasing houses on the same estate, about 70 miles from Woolwich.

I am sorry to say that after nearly 20 years of service, it is these inconsistencies and a lack of an easy-to-use complaints system that lead me to understand why many younger soldiers are voting with their feet. – **Sgt M G Weeks, 71(Yeomanry) Sig Regt, Bexleyheath, Kent.**



THEN AND THEN

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1950: Malaya is not the only hot-spot where British soldiers wear the jungle hat. Mountain patrols are a welcome break from routine for this smiling group in Eritrea, pictured, where two infantry battalions are combing the area for bandits.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, August 1975: When the Tremeloes and other groups arrived in Dhekalia to entertain soldiers of 1 D and D, some of the popsters were promptly "arrested" for having long hair. They were soon released and treated to a tour of the battalion's area.

Too much bitching about allowances!

AS a regular reader of *Soldier* (retired after more than 32 years' service) I am appalled at the carping and moaning by soldiers over allowances – it seems to be a major preoccupation.

Surely it is time for a quick review of allowances with a view to discontinuing 50 per cent of them. That would lessen the scope for bitching and moaning and possibly encourage the less committed to seek fresher pastures outside the Army.

There is far too much time and effort spent on "welfare" to the detriment of the Service. – **G.A. Simmons, Maidstone, Kent.**

IN response to Lt Col (Retd) Winter's letter ("Get on with it", July) I, for one, am sick to the back teeth of retired officers who left the Services before I even

started school saying that today's modern soldier is constantly complaining about trivial matters like pay, accommodation, welfare and time spent on operational deployments.

It didn't happen in my day, they tell us. Exactly. Their day has past and today's modern Service personnel have been taught to think for themselves and should quite rightly question their quality of life.

By the way, I'm sure that RMA Sandhurst teaches today's officers to take into account the wellbeing and welfare of the people under their command.

I am grateful for what the old and bold did in the past, but let us get on with being one of the greatest armed forces in the modern world and one in which I am proud to serve. – **Cpl H Cunliffe, JSPSU, Mount Pleasant, BFPO 655.**

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.

Mail us!

PS...

Chaplains' centre

IN your note about the Guild of St Helena's 125th birthday reception at Amport House you referred to it as "home of the tri-Service Chaplains' Department". Lest your readers be confused it is in fact home to a tri-Service unit, the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre. Each Service continues to provide its own chaplains. – Rev Peter J Howson, Armed Forces' Chaplaincy Centre, Amport, Andover, Hants.

Leading by example

HAVING watched *Commando: Real Life* on ITV I can understand why so many dropped out and never finished their basic training. In my day and in my regiment instructors dressed and did the same things as recruits.

In *Commando* the instructor sent the recruits on "beastings", wet, carrying a rifle and 30lb of kit, while he was dry, had no kit to carry, and waited for them to finish. What happened to leading by example? Maybe that's why my regiment is fully recruited. – Maj (Retd) Ron Goodwin (The 22nd (Cheshire) Regt), Chester.

Disgusted, Kosovo

ON picking up the June issue of *Soldier* I was not surprised to see yet another picture of a para in Sierra Leone. However, I was disgusted as it showed a senior soldier patrolling with L2 and smoke grenades hanging from his webbing like ornaments on a Christmas tree.

Not only is this a dangerous practice; it is unprofessional. I was also surprised by the lack of thought on the part of *Soldier* for showing this picture, considering the number of young, impressionable soldiers who read the magazine. – CSgt A Corbett, OC2 Platoon, A Coy, 2RRF, Op Agricola, Kosovo.

● We portray the reality – Editor.

Aussie congrats

JUST a short note to offer you the congratulations of all at the Australian Army Newspaper and Army Magazine on your awards (June). All the staff were pleased to see a military production receive recognition in the civilian sphere. Keep up the good work. – Maj Rod Horan, OC/Editor, Australian Army Newspaper/Magazine, Canberra.

Amazing eyes

I AM haunted by those amazing eyes (Soldier awards story, June). Is there any chance, please, of another photograph of your very own Kath Adams? – Michael Young (e-mail).

● Kath appreciates your compliment, Michael – but her innate coyness has won the day, so no picture! – Editor

How Soldier Smith could be £2,000 better off

I WOULD be grateful if you would consider publishing the following as a response to the letter "How Soldier Smith might miss out on LSSA bonus" (July).

Without knowing the exact dates of "Soldier Smith's" deployments it is not possible to be certain whether or not he would qualify for either or both of the LSSA bonuses, LSSA(AT) and LSSA(AT+1). It does seem, though, from what is said in the letter, that he might well qualify for both – each one a taxable payment of £1,000.

If an individual achieves 280 LSSA days within a two-year period, he qualifies for the AT bonus. He then has the remainder of that same two-year period (which is deemed to have started on the first of the 280 LSSA days) to achieve 365 LSSA days and qualify for the AT+ bonus.

In Soldier Smith's case, his first LSSA days were his two-month detachment in March, 1998. But two years later he has not yet reached the required 280 days, so the LSSA Days of that detachment are effectively ruled out for AT and AT+ purposes. Assuming, from the scenario given, that he is not paid LSSA again until the start of his October 1998 operational tour, the next time the counter would be applied to Soldier Smith is 280 LSSA days after the start of that tour, in May 2000.

ENTITLED

If those 280 days have been accumulated in a two-year period (and in this case they appear to have been) he would be entitled to the AT bonus. He then has the rest of that period, which is deemed to have begun on the first day of the tour, and should therefore be entitled to the AT+ bonus.

It must be emphasised that without knowing the exact dates it is not possible to give a definitive view on Soldier Smith's entitlement, but his RAO would be able to confirm whether he should be in line for payment.

It is acknowledged that this is a complex way of calculating the entitlement, but there is no simple way of ensuring that each individual's circumstances are assessed.

Finally, the writer of the Soldier Smith letter suggests that a standard bonus for a six-month tour would have been a better option. The bonuses are intended to compensate for excessive separation suffered as a result of a variety of occurrences, e.g. exercises, as well as operational tours.

Ideally, we should not have to pay them at all. The fact that they are being paid indicates the unusually high degree of turbulence still being experienced throughout the Army. – Maj R A M Christmas, for Director of Personal Services (Army).

Thanks for your support – gay soldier

FOLLOWING my letter "I've got the support of straight guys" (May), I would like to add a huge thankyou for the support and generous comments I received when it was read by friends and work colleagues.

You know who you all are and I hope your kind understanding will go on and that other Servicemen and women will have the same support. We all live and work closely together and we are all part

of a big team. Being a gay soldier has not affected me or my heterosexual mates because we both know where we stand with our personal lives.

If more people could understand that, then people might be less critical and judgemental.

I support all gay Servicemen and women who so willingly sign up to defend our country like our heterosexual colleagues. – Pte H, Aldershot.

Married man misses out

I AM a married man and before being posted to Cyprus I was on a two-year unaccompanied tour of Northern Ireland.

While I was there I received Married Unaccompanied Separation Allowance (MUSA), which was obviously a welcome bonus. However halfway through my tour I was posted to another unit, from which I worked out of a patrol base with another RMP, who was single.

As the patrol base was not the home of my parent unit the single man I worked with was entitled to LSSA. Unfortunately I was not, as I was receiving MUSA.

I questioned this with my regimental admin officer, who politely told me I could not have LSSA instead of MUSA. This was rather annoying, as LSSA was more. OK, it was my choice to go unac-

companied but I had a family to feed, so the LSSA would have been of more benefit.

If a married soldier is unaccompanied and then works and lives somewhere qualifying for LSSA, then why isn't that soldier allowed a choice or just given the higher allowance?

In addition, since the Government decided that bonuses would be paid with regard to LSSA days, I have missed out on at least one bonus, plus the difference between LSSA and MUSA.

Since arriving in Cyprus I have again sought the advice of my RAO, but again I was told nothing can be done. Can anyone tell me when married men can and will receive LSSA instead of MUSA? – Cpl C J Davies, CJPU, BFPO 53.

LSSA 'just another PR exercise going wrong'

WO2 Brown's letter ("Do LSSA changes go far enough?", June) made some very valid points and I believe it will have been better received by most Service personnel than either HQ Land Command's rather dull response or the new LSSA package as it stands at present.

It was reported that 2,000 service personnel went AWOL in the last 12 months. Is it not time for the MoD to look at the "small" picture, rather than their overstated "BIG" picture. This I believe is relevant in the case of the new LSSA package, which appears to be just another PR exercise going wrong.

I would be interested to see a statistical

report comparing those soldiers who have completed two operational tours in the past 26 months against those who have actually received the second bonus.

Would HQ Land Command dare to produce such a report for public viewing? If it did, I think it would only reinforce and support the suggestions put forward by WO2 Brown.

In addition to these points it is good to see that HQ Land is reiterating the fact that the LSSA package will be computerised on UNICOM. They failed to mention, however, that this will actually take a minimum of 30 months to implement. – SSgt D Donaldson, QRH, BFPO 16.

Freeze-frame



They practised all the way but they still couldn't get the hang of the Macarena...

Write your own funny caption for the photograph above, first published in *Soldier* in November, 1951. 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 September 1.

Our June freeze-frame winner (see picture below) is Capt (Retd) R F Mutch, R&LS Scotland, with **Aldershot sold – troops move into the Dome**. Others we liked were: **"It's Cairo 1946, and the morning PT session gets into full swing!"** (John Prescott, of Wigan – obviously a devotee of Egyptian PT); and (only joking, pals) **"Another RAF flight delay!"** (Cpl Sarah Davey, 2 RTR, OPFOR, BATUS, Canada, BFPO 14).



OK, so is this a good deal?

DOES "Adele Peters" (July) really think we get such a good deal in the Army?

When she is married to her soldier fiancé she may disagree when her husband comes in from work and informs her he is off on yet another six-month tour in Kosovo or the Falklands, but before that has to spend about a month away on various pre-tour training packages.

Then six months later he returns to find another tour in only ten months' time as well as fitting in the usual exercises, and so on. I believe they call that one "quality of life".

As for pay, accommodation and so on, I am one of those "over-37" soldiers who voluntarily live unaccompanied, not because I don't want to pay accommodation charges or get reduced food rates but because the Army has "invited" me to live in Germany for two years which coincide with my son finishing his last year in education.

Then again I could move him from his current school and let him take his exams in the ninth school of his childhood... I think not.

I still pay tax, National Insurance, mortgage for my house, TV licence, car tax, gas bills, electric bills, food bills,

phone bills and of course my £85-a-month council tax – although I don't actually live there but the local council are good enough to class it as my marital home.

Bear in mind I will have served six months on tour and a further five months in my 14ft by 8ft room in the mess.

So no tax-free wages there – that's what the 'X' Factor is for, is it not? The remaining month is my leave entitlement. I even have to buy another car (not compulsory) and all the add-ons to get me back to UK to visit my family if and when I can. Well, there you go – you can now see all the benefits of being in the Army.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not complaining – or am I? This is the life I choose to lead and will do for 18 months and another tour in Kosovo, but do we really get a "good deal"?

I suppose the bottom line is that with her qualifications, Adele could always join the Army and get out of her "dead-end job".

I have spoken to 40-to-50 soldiers here in Kosovo and not one disagrees with my views. – **WO2 (RQMS) Jim Valentine, UK CS Engr Regt, Op Agricola, BFPO 550.**

PS...

SA 80 footnote

YOUR picture of the Royal Anglians on their way to Sierra Leone (July) shows them with a 7.62 mm SLR.

I have for about two years advocated the scrapping of the SA80 for reasons well known to all, except the MoD. Can I assume the lads are now being issued with a tried and trusted weapon that works and the undisciplined roving gangs in that sad country have handed the British issue weapons back to their rightful owners? – T Levy (RSigs 72-84), Wolverhampton.

● See Page 31. – Editor

Some increase!

WHEN I reached the age of 80 I was granted an extra 25p per week. As from April this year, 75p per week was added to my old-age pension. As an old soldier, my Army pension is to go up by a further 55p per week.

Wow! These increases make a grand total of £1.55 per week and not enough for my wife and me to treat ourselves to another cup of coffee. Need I say more? – RA Steward (late IEME/REME), Sidmouth, Devon.

Safety first

IN your June feature on the Falklands you show a soldier pointing his personal weapon directly at the head of another soldier and with his finger on the trigger.

This manages to destroy two of the cardinal principles of safe weapon-handling that I endeavoured to instil into cadets for more than 30 years. In this case, the worst-case scenario of a negligent discharge would have had tragic and wholly preventable consequences. – Andy Jackson, WO1 (RSMI) (Retd), SW London Army Cadet Force.

● The weapon in the picture was unloaded. Its blank-firing attachment had been removed for the photograph. But we take the point. – Editor

'Top Chef' is RLC

"TOP CHEF" Tony Powell (June) is not, as you say, a regimental cook of 2 LI. He is in fact an RLC chef attached to that unit and this should have been made plain.

Civil servants and Government ministers who might read your splendid magazine are not aware of how the Army works and must not be allowed to think that all personnel of a unit are necessarily cap-badged the same. They are formed of various tradesmen and women who are attached to make up a team to support that unit. – Bruce Dyson (formerly Army Catering Corps), Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey.

● Sorry, we were misinformed. – Editor

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

TA skills a bonus

About ten per cent of British soldiers serving in Bosnia are TA and reservists. We asked them about the experience of serving alongside the Regulars

Capt David Bailey (professional broadcaster), manager of 104.9 Radio, Banja Luka

My job is very rewarding and I will have completed two-and-a-half years here by the time I have finished. Some jobs here are better suited to the TA. Specialisations like media ops are far better dealt with by a TA officer with a media background. With our professional expertise we can advise the military on how to get maximum platform for minimum effort. You can gain a lot of job satisfaction by putting your home-based skills into an environment like this.



Sig Sarah Stedman (34 Sig Regt), currently a driver in Banja Luka

I have been in the TA for three years and came to Bosnia at the suggestion of my CO. I am the padre's driver,

and am shortly off to Kosovo. I get on well with the Regular soldiers here and I think they look on us in a positive way. If we weren't here then a Regular soldier would have to do my work. Some of them think I am mad for volunteering.

Sgt Colin May (306 Fd Hospital, York), attached to 1 KORBR as a medic in Mrkonjic Grad

I was a Regular for 15 years and I've seen a big change in the way the Regulars treat the TA. They are more for it now and the TA has come more into line with the Regulars. The TA is far more professional now than it was.



I am on my second stint with the TA. I joined in 1986 for six years and rejoined a couple of years ago.

I can see a massive difference in the way the Regulars treat the TA compared with how they used to. The TA is now a vital and crucial part of the Army.

And remember, TA soldiers volunteer to be here – they want to come. For a lot of TA people this is an adventure, where they can be real soldiers for six months on a real operation and treated the same way as the Regulars.

I think the Army recognises that TA soldiers bring skills from their jobs that the Army just does not have.

I am on my second six-month tour and speak the language to a good standard. I did some private study and have taken Army-sponsored courses in colloquial use of the language.



Lt Richard Stephen (105 RA (V)), working in the G5 cell in Mrkonjic Grad



SSgt Duncan Astley (RAMC reservist), serving for 12 months in Mrkonjic Grad

It's had its ups and downs, but generally it's been OK. I have worked with five units

in theatre and none has treated me as an outsider – after all, we live and work in the same conditions as everyone else.

Capt Jon Sions (256 Fd Ambulance), serving in Sipovo Hospital

I am an accident-and-emergency charge nurse in civilian life. I enjoy it here

because I am able to put into practice a lot of the military training we've had back home. People know now that if they join the TA they will have the opportunity to go off on an operational tour. With a lack of specialist nurses in the Regular Army, the TA can pick up that shortfall.



LCpl Martin Dalton (161 Fd Ambulance), working as a chef in Banja Luka

I work for Sainsbury's at home so this is a real contrast. And it's a different world compared to my TA unit. I extended my tour here and have gained several catering qualifications. I feel I can go back to my unit better qualified because the standards of catering here are so high.



Pte Naleene Leelah (158 Royal Anglians RLC (V)), a driver in Banja Luka

I joined the TA because I wanted to do something exciting. I am a qualified driver

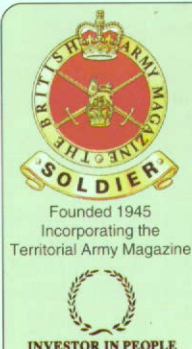
and out here I drive the DROPS vehicles. You have to be careful because the local drivers are maniacs. Overall I am having a great time and in future I hope to go to Belize.

Sgt Lesley Potts (306 Fd Hospital, York), attached to 1 KORBR in Mrkonjic Grad

I've been in the TA for 15 years and I think the Regular soldiers are accepting us more. They can respect our expertise as medics and it is easier for us to fit in. My husband's in the Army too as a Regular, and while I'm serving in Bosnia, he's at home minding the kids.



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www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit the Army website on
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Photographer Graeme Main 347357 (2357)
Librarian Stuart Robinson 347351 (2351)
Advertising Manager Sheila Little 347352 (2352)
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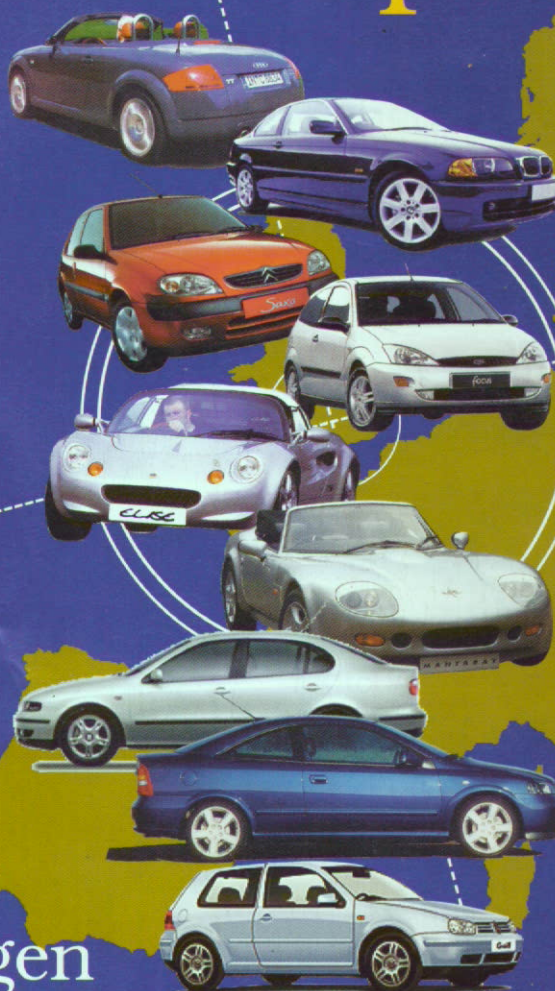
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