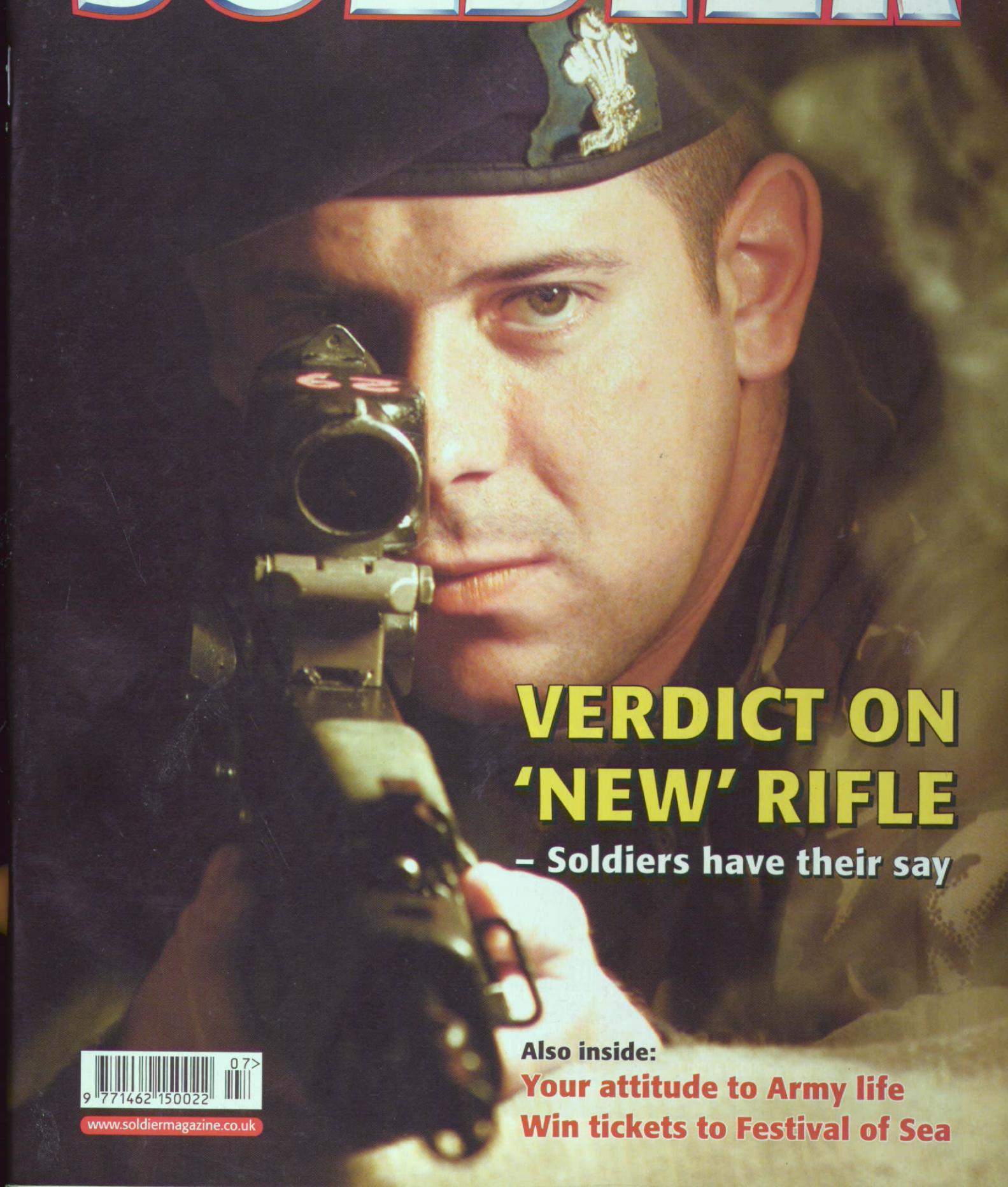


MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

July 2001 £2

SOLDIER



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... of your award-winning magazine



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Lock, stock and two roaming camels

Modified SA80 exorcises demons in the heat of the Kuwaiti desert

Report: Andy Simms Pictures: Mike Weston

ONE of the hottest inhabitable countries in the world, Kuwait is the worst place you could ask anything mechanical to perform – not least an SA80. With temperatures exceeding 50 degrees and a suffocating wind that carries a cargo of sand and grit, the Kuwaiti desert and the British Army's rifle and its light support weapon (LSW) variant are old adversaries.

Serious questions about the reliability of the Individual weapon (IW) were raised when soldiers returned home from the Gulf War in 1991 with stories of trapped fire-cases and breaking firing-pins.

Despite more than 22 modifications since that conflict, the weapon's suspect durability and reliability had become a topic of debate in messes Army-wide.

Last month the rifle returned to the desert with soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment to level an old score.

The SA80's return journey to the Arab state began in 1996 when the MoD issued German-based firearms manufacturers Heckler and Koch (H&K) with a three-month contract to examine the weapon.

After studying high-speed videos of the gun in action, H&K identified design weaknesses in both the IW and the LSW.

Two years later 200 prototype weapons, featuring a number of alterations (see opposite), were delivered to the small-arms section of the Infantry Trials and Development Unit (ITDU) at Warminster.

The modifications include replacement firing-pins, some gas parts and springs, magazines, bolt assembly and a new barrel for the LSW.

"In 1999 we held comparative trials between the modified and unmodified weapons in Kuwait and Alaska," said ITDU's Maj Andrew Macdonald, PWRR. "There was a marked difference in the performance of the two weapons and we were seeing a ten-fold improvement with each stage of the trials.

"In June last year the MoD made the decision to go ahead with the entire programme on the proviso that the reliability of the production weapon was proved in all likely environments – arctic, jungle, desert and temperate."

Earlier this year production models of the modified rifles and LSWs were tested in the cold and dry climate of Alaska and in the humid jungle of Brunei. During each phase 31,500 rifle rounds were fired in 210 battlefield missions and 96,000



No mirage: Soldiers from 2 PWRR find the modified rifle in good working order

LSW rounds in 100 missions. These combat missions, devised by the School of Infantry, are far tougher than those used when the SA80 was introduced.

Each rifle fires 150 rounds in 8min 40sec and each LSW 960 rounds in 36min. In the original trials the rifle fired 120 rounds in 24 hours and the LSW 800 in the same time.

"These missions represent the hardest

With high temperatures and a wind that carries a cargo of sand and grit, the Kuwaiti desert and the British Army's rifle are old adversaries

thing you are ever going to ask a rifle or LSW to do on the battlefield," said Maj Macdonald. "The reliability targets for these trials have been set at 95 per cent for the IW and 70 per cent for the LSW, which takes into account the more severe firing regime that machine-guns have to sustain in battle and the reality of the laws

of physics. That said, we are currently achieving around 90 per cent with the LSW."

With a multi-million pound contract in the balance, the trials have been impressively tough. With such a small margin for error, Kuwait's deserts represented the modified weapon's hardest challenge.

But unlike ten years ago it was not the SA80 that found the inhospitable climate unbearable. While several soldiers were forced to beat a retreat suffering from early signs of heatstroke, the "new" SA80 system exorcised the demons of its predecessor.

The figures speak for themselves. During the comparative trials in 1999 the unmodified weapon managed, on average, 99 rounds before failing, while the modified weapon recorded many thousands.

With just the temperate trials to be completed, the modified SA80 is already proving itself to be more reliable than the M16 – said by many British soldiers to be

their preferred choice of weapon. "I have had the chance to test a lot of weapons in this job," said Maj Macdonald, "and I genuinely believe that the new rifle is the most reliable 5.56mm rifle in the world."

It is a view shared by H&K's Wolfgang Bantle: "We believe the SA80 is one of the best weapons in the world – these trials prove that. No other weapon that we know of on the world market could complete the fire missions the LSW has without failing."

"We know British soldiers do not like the SA80 but they will when they get the chance to fire this modified version."

• H&K will begin production of the new system in August-September. The first revised IW and LSW are expected to arrive in service in February.

Weapons will be phased in across all three Services, with priority given to units with the highest operational need, such as the Joint Rapid Reaction Force and those on active service.

Well, what was YOUR verdict?

Pte John Townsend

Having done the comparative trials in 1999 I know that the SA80 in service at the moment is nothing compared with the one we are firing this week. Having been here before I have seen the old rifle pile in quite early, with stoppages



ranging from broken firing-pins to trapped fire-cases. However, my opinion of the SA80 if I had not come on these trials would have been okay – I have had no problems

• For more impressions of the new SA80 turn to Page 7

before. The modified weapon is extremely reliable, I have not had a stoppage yet and I've fired at least 7,000 rounds. My only complaint would be the weight.

Old and new – analysis of the improvements

Gas system

Old: Under extreme temperature conditions the original gas parts showed a tendency to break when subjected to an intensive firing regime.

New: Almost identical in appearance, the new gas parts are manufactured to higher tolerance from higher-grade metal. The parts are heat-treated, more durable and less prone to cracking, even when subjected to extremes of temperature and intensive firing.

Bolt

Old: The original extractor was shown to be unable to consistently extract and eject the fired case, especially at elevated temperatures.

New: A bigger, stronger extractor within a redesigned bolt, together with the removal of some splines from the barrel extension, have improved the consistency of extraction. The changes have enabled a firmer grasp to be made on the spent case and allow earlier turning of the case in the chamber to aid ejection.

Hammer

Old: High-speed videos revealed that the bolt and other parts of the firing system were still moving when consecutive shots were fired on automatic.

New: The hammer's centre of gravity and mass has been altered so that it strikes the firing-pin four milliseconds later than originally designed. This allows the SA80 time to settle so that subsequent rounds are fired from a static bolt.



Magazine

Old: The current SA80 magazine has been shown to be not very durable and easily prone to damage. The spring and platform are prone to severe canting, which leads to problems in consistently chambering a round.

New: The new magazine is considerably more robust due to its steel construction and it incorporates a stiffer spring for extra durability and reliability. It has a deeper feed platform which does not cant while feeding and therefore presents the round to the bolt at a consistent angle.

Cocking handle

Old: A high proportion of stoppages were caused by empty cases striking the cocking lever and being thrown back into the weapon's working parts.

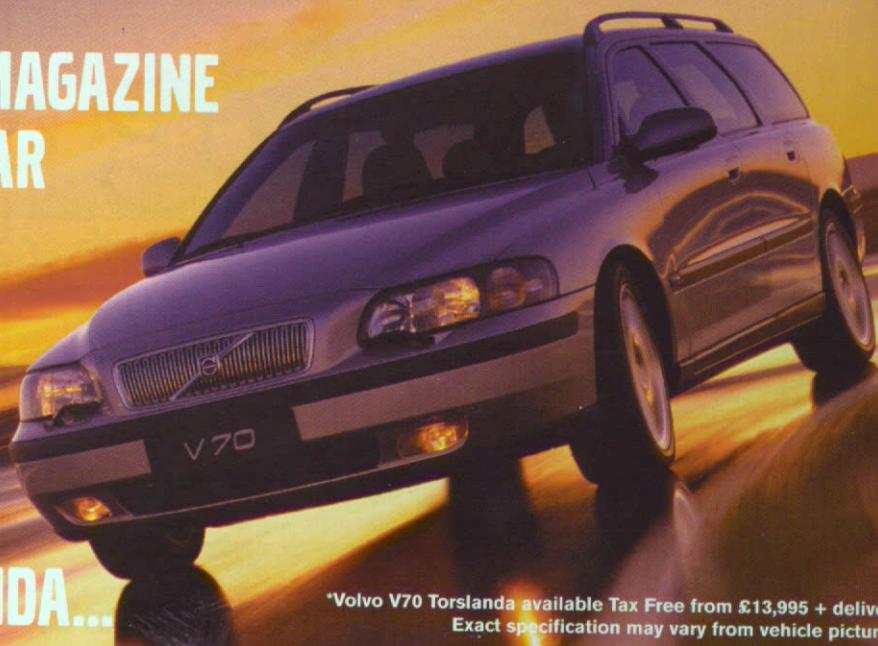
New: The cocking lever has been re-designed to improve the ergonomic of cocking the weapon and is contoured so that it deflects spent cases away from the weapon consistently.

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Tried and tested

Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment give their impressions of the new SA80 system

LCpl Nick Wadey

I have a very low opinion of the old SA80 – it has problems with firing pins.

The new weapon is 100 per cent better. There are only a couple of visible changes to it but once you actually get down behind it and fire it you feel a lot more comfortable and have more confidence in the weapon.



LCpl Craig Ide

The SA80 is a good weapon, although I have had the odd stoppage on exercise. Since I have been in the Army I have only ever had one firing pin snap.

As far as the modified weapons go I am impressed; both the LSW and individual weapon are comfortable to fire. To actually be out here in this heat and not have any problems is pretty reassuring.



Pte Scott Lindley

I have not really had much experience with the SA80 – I've only been in the Army a year and have had six months of training and six months in Bosnia. But I have had loads of stoppages.

The modified weapon is 90 per cent better – you still get the odd stoppage – but no system is perfect. It's smoother and a lot more reliable, which is important because I think that if you have confidence in the weapon you are using then you have more confidence in what you do and how you work.



Pte Darren Miley

This modified weapon is amazing. I have fired about 3,000 rounds this week and not had a single stoppage on the LSW or the rifle. This weapon is one of the best I have used.



Pte Scott Henderson

I have had a few problems with the SA80 with stoppages and gas parts breaking. This weapon is much better . . . brilliant, actually. It is a lot smoother.



‘This new SA80 is everything a weapon should be – reliable and something that you would be happy carrying into a live situation’

Pte Robert Schwar

The SA80 in service now isn't very good. I personally have had many stoppages. I've fired loads of rounds with the modified SA80 and only had two stoppages – so I'm impressed.



Pte Dave Decosta

I have experienced a few problems with the old rifle. I've had a few broken firing pins and stoppages. I'll go back to my regiment and tell the lads that this new rifle is okay.



Pte Wayne Morgan

My opinion of the weapon in service at the moment is not high at all.

The modified weapon is brilliant, I have been firing it for three days solid and had just one stoppage. Every other time it has worked perfectly.



This new rifle is everything a weapon should be – reliable and something that you would be happy carrying into a live situation.

We are the British Army and we are the best so we should be equipped with the best.

Pte Scotty Scott

I have not been in the Army long and I don't think that the rifle is that bad a weapon – it does the job when it has to. I think I could rely on it in battle. Look after your weapon and it will look after you – that is how it works.

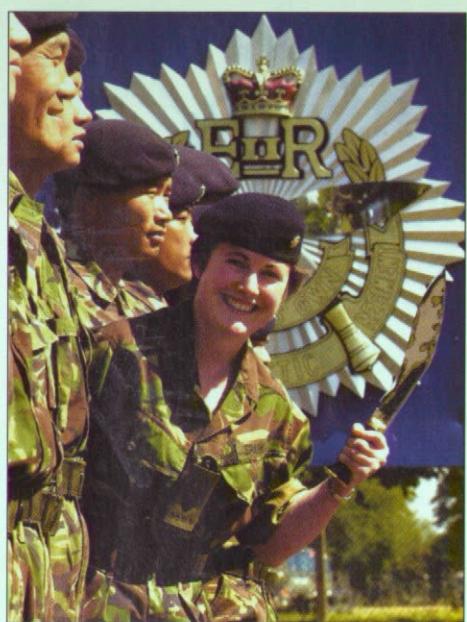


The weapon we are using on these trials has taken a lot of stick but it has stood up to the test. It is an extremely good weapon.

When the lads get hold of the new rifle and LSW they will see that it will stand up to any conditions you put it up against. I think that with this one they will soon realise how good it really is.



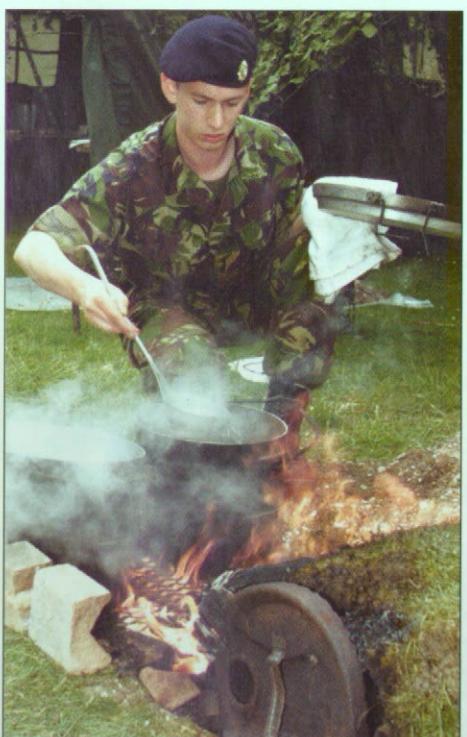
Kukri class . . .



Making history: 2nd Lt Heidi Sparks, above, has become the first woman to serve with the Colchester-based Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment. She has taken command of 50 Gurkha drivers and in September will lead a transport troop to Kosovo. Following a course in basic Nepali, 2nd Lt Sparks is to spend three months trekking in Nepal and compiling a report on welfare projects in remote areas

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Cookery class . . .



Picture: Graeme Main

Flaming in June: Cpl Steve Faulkner of 36 Engr Regt, built his own oven during the 3rd (UK) Division Logistic Support Group's improvised field cookery competition at Perham Down, Tidworth. Pirbright-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment was the best team while Cpl John Watson, 47 Regiment RA, was chef of the year.



Picture: Steve Dook

Les Choppers: Nearly 90 French helicopters used the Army Air Corps' Netheravon airfield in Wiltshire as the turn-around point for an airmobile deployment across the Channel. They were hosted by 7 Regiment AAC (V) before flying back to Brittany.

● To the applause of British pilots at the School of Aviation at Middle Wallop,

23 students of the Aviation Legère de l'Armée de Terre received their French pilots' wings in the culmination to a week-long programme of military and aviation skills competitions carried out with 668 Squadron AAC.

Col Nigel Thursby, Regimental Colonel AAC, and Col Yann Pertuisel, the French training colonel, took the salute.

Two changes in MoD ministerial team

ADAM Ingram has replaced John Spellar as Armed Forces Minister, one of two changes at the MoD following last month's general election.

While Geoff Hoon remains as Secretary of State for Defence and Dr Lewis Moonie continues as Under-Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for

Veterans, Lord Bach succeeds procurement minister Baroness Symons.

Mr Ingram, MP for East Kilbride since 1987, was a minister in the Northern Ireland Office before moving to the MoD. Lord Willy Bach of Lutterworth arrived at Main Building from the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Walk on by

IT'S not too late to enter Trailwalker (UK), the annual 100km blister-buster across the South Downs Way through East and West Sussex.

Walkers will support the Gurkha Welfare Trust, which provides pensions and aid for ex-Gurkhas and their dependants in Nepal.

The event is over the weekend of July 21-22. For details, ring Sgt Nandaray on 01455 222576.

IN BRIEF

● The War Pensions Agency has been transferred to the MoD in a move which will build on other initiatives for veterans, including the recent appointment of a Minister for Veterans.

● The European Union Military Staff (EUMS) was declared a permanent body



New look for garrison radio

FORMER Radio 1 and BFBS presenter Mark Page is to head up the Army's new dedicated, 24-hour local radio coverage in the UK.

GR – short for Garrison Radio – begins a two-year contract starting on July 1. It will broadcast initially from Catterick and Bulford/Tidworth on 1287AM medium wave – the same spot on the dial as the two garrisons' current BFBS-produced shows.

Subject to Radio Authority approval, Aldershot and Colchester should get their own local stations by the

end of the year. BFBS, which has run garrison radio in the UK until now, will go on broadcasting to Service audiences based overseas and in operational areas, for which it has just been awarded a ten-year contract.

Catterick will have three resident DJs and a news reporter while Bulford/Tidworth will have a breakfast presenter. When they come on line, Aldershot and Colchester will be based on the Bulford model. In addition to national news

updates and Army items, each station will broadcast news exclusive to its own audience area. Listeners will be able to access the Army news content on-line at www.army.mod.uk

GR is putting in a universal, 24-hour telephone number for requests to soldiers based anywhere in the world. The number is 0705 0256789 and messages for personnel serving abroad will be passed to BFBS, with whom the new station is expected to dovetail.

from the steps at the Imperial War Museum to RAF Duxford, where it will feature in a new D-Day Landing exhibition.

● The first of four Boeing C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft leased by the RAF are now based at RAF Brize Norton. Each is capable of lifting one Challenger tank,

three Warrior infantry fighting vehicles or three Apache helicopters.

● Allerton, Bingley and Odsal detachments of Yorkshire (North and West) Army Cadet Force have been re-badged from 45 Field Regiment RA, in suspended animation, to 106 (Yeomanry) Regiment RA (V).

Crash victims meet saviours

THREE soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have met two Sheffield men whose lives they saved following a serious car accident in May.

Dmr Paul Wadsworth, Fus Mark Davis and Fus Marvyn Atkinson were returning to St George's Barracks, North Luffenham when they stopped to help at the site of the accident on the A57 at Worksop.

Kevin Warriner had suffered multiple fractures and David Baxby had sustained a serious head injury and was losing a lot of blood.

Fus Davis, 17, applied pressure to the wound while Dmr Wadsworth reassured the victim until an ambulance arrived. Mr Baxby needed 350 stitches to close his head wounds and was given three pints of blood.

Mr Warriner said: "Without the soldiers' help, David could have died from loss of blood. They didn't panic – they were professional. They kept us both conscious by talking to us and adminis-



Life-savers: Fus Mark Davis, left, Dmr Paul Wadsworth, centre, and Fus Marvyn Atkinson of 2 RRF, whose first-aid skills were vital

Picture: Stuart Bingham

Mountain-bound



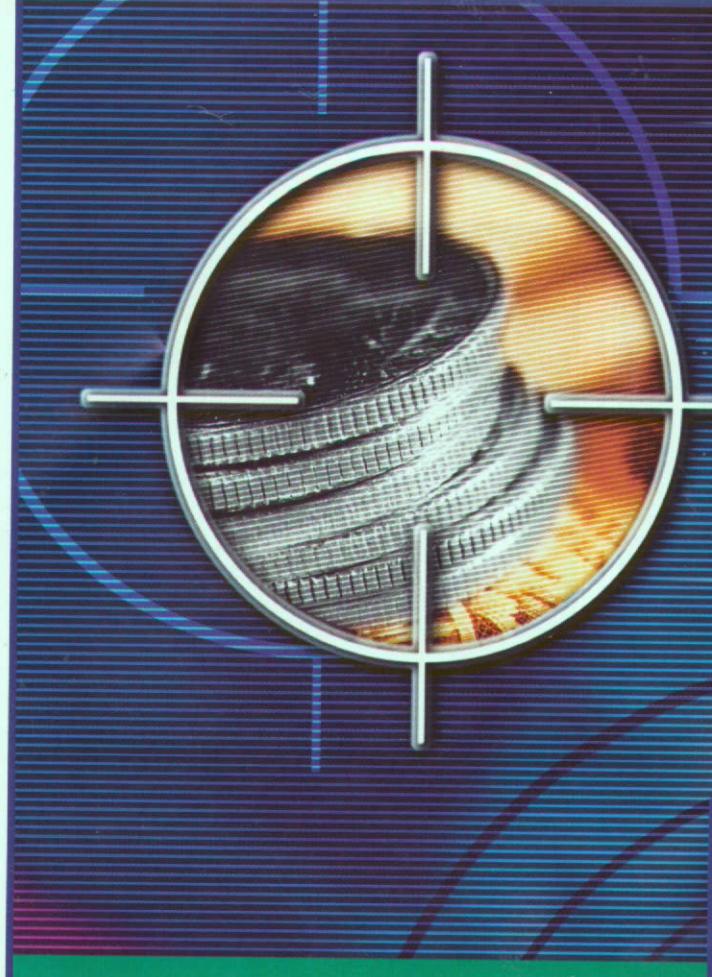
Welcome: Glasgow's Lord Provost, Alex Mosson, left, greeted six Royal Highland Fusiliers when they arrived on bicycles during their Mission Imperial fund-raising exercise. From left, Sgt Sammy Torrance, Fus Hugh Fyfe, RQMS Alan Grant, Sgt Jan Cameron, LCpl Terry Lowe and Lt Neil Brown went on to climb the Cairngorms and run the Fort William marathon. Their aim was to raise £5,000 for Imperial Cancer.

Picture: Mark Owens

Flying Colonel



Shake on it: The Prince of Wales meets Tpr Benjamin Hoare during his flying visit to the Royal Dragoon Guards at their base in Munster. It was Prince Charles's first visit to the regiment since it moved to Germany last year. He is Colonel-in-Chief of the RDG. Also in the picture are Tpr Lynden Bairstow, left, and Tpr Kevin Siddle.



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Royal parade: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Irish Regiment, paid a special visit to Northern Ireland to present new Colours to three battalions at a ceremony at Ballymena.

He awarded the Colours to three home service battalions, the 7th (City of Belfast), the 8th (County Tyrone and County Armagh) and the 9th (County Antrim).

Sappers' message is: 'Don't touch it'

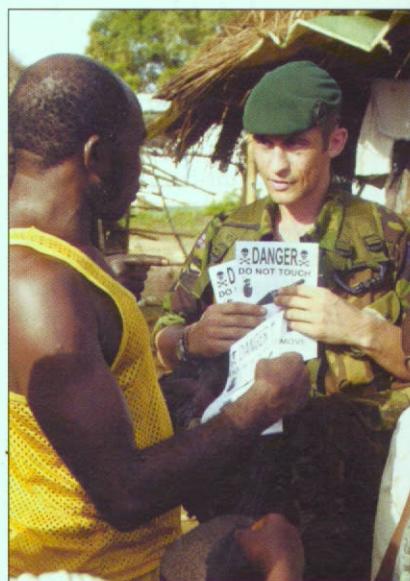
SAPPERS from 49 Field Squadron RE are helping to rid war-torn Sierra Leone of unexploded ordnance.

Sgt John Mason and Cpl Steve Goulding also spend a lot of time warning local people, especially children, about the hazards of picking up potentially lethal objects.

"A lot of the stuff the Nigerians dropped didn't go off," said Sgt Mason, "either because the fuse mechanism wasn't set properly or because the parachutes caught in tree branches and the fuses have not yet hit the ground and activated."

Although most of the EOD work in the country is done by UN personnel, he and Cpl Goulding, who are based with the British Army's Short-Term Training Team at Bengema, 30 miles from Freetown, get called in for local disposal jobs.

Both men hand out warning leaflets illustrated with pictures of bombs known to have been dropped over the country and emblazoned with the message: Leave it alone.



Warning: Sgt John Mason and the leaflet

Picture: Cpl Mark Ballantyne

On-line Colchester

SOLDIERS posted to Colchester have their own internet website, which tells them everything they need to know about the garrison, its welfare services and the town in general. Information about local schools, health, housing and churches can be found at www.army.mod.uk/16_aasit_bde

When in Rome

TWENTY-one soldiers from **26 Regiment RA** based at Gutersloh took part in celebrations to mark the 55th anniversary of the Italian Republic in Rome. They joined more than 7,000 troops from Italy and other Nato nations in a parade.

Ripon good time

SOLDIERS from **38 Engineer Regiment** exercised their right to the Freedom of Ripon as part of the city's annual festival weekend. The Band of the Royal Engineers led a parade through the streets and put on a concert for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Parchment day



Ancient order: **WO1 Ian Mapp** holds the parchment scrolls presented to warrant officers class one who hold the appointment of conductor – the most senior non-commissioned rank in the British Army – within the Royal Logistic Corps.

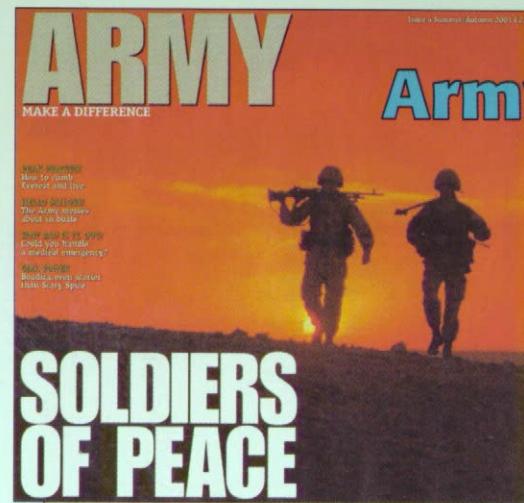
The earliest mention of conductors dates back to 1327. The current appointment – "inferior to that of all commissioned officers, but superior to that of all non-commissioned officers" – was created by royal warrant in 1979.

In the first of what is to become an annual event, Brig Tony Dalby-Welsh, Director RLC, presented parchments to all serving conductors during a ceremony at the HQ Sergeants' Mess at The Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey. Picture: Graeme Main

Soldiers-in-arms



With this bandage I thee wed: Nursing officer **Lt Alex Braithwaite** and physiotherapist **Lt Jayne McLenaghan**, both serving with 256 (City of London) Field Hospital RAMC (V), met on exercise in 1999. Alex has been given permission to wear uniform when the couple get married in September.



Army of kids needs your input

A campaign to encourage youngsters to take an interest in the Army needs YOUR help.

Camouflage, a scheme to give 13- to 16-year-olds an insight into the military and to guide them through the recruiting process, is looking for interesting stories to use in the quarterly magazine, *Army* (pictured left), mailed three times a year to members.

Launched last September, Camouflage has already signed up nearly 40,000 youngsters and is aiming for 100,000 by next year.

The people behind the scheme are also looking for soldiers and officers to profile and exciting events which the members can attend. Individuals and units should forward their ideas to SO3 Soldier Recruiting,

HQ Recruiting Group, Trenchard Lines, Upavon SN9 6BE.

The campaign gives information about the opportunities for study within Army establishments, such as the Army Foundation College and the Army Technical Foundation College, and provides access to a website with up-to-date news of what the Army is doing.

Green Jackets return to Balkans

THE 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets has begun its third tour of the Balkans in just over three years. A and R Companies have remained in Paderborn while B and S, with elements of HQ Coy, have deployed to Banja Luka and Mrkonjic Grad in Bosnia.

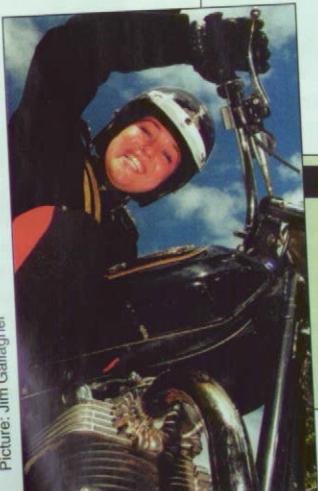
The Green Jackets, with C Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers and A Squadron, The Queen's Dragoon Guards, make up the UK battle-group. The 2nd Battalion took over from the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.



Guard of Honour: The Queen inspects a guard mounted by B Squadron, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards on her arrival at Fallingbostel. The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, visited the unit before its tour to Kosovo. Picture: Roger Lortie

Marching

AS this issue was going to press, seven Black Watch wives were walking 150 miles from MoD's Whitehall headquarters to their base in Fallingbostel to raise cash for a children's project in Kosovo. The battalion is preparing to deploy to Kosovo, where it will be based in Pristina until November.



Picture: Jim Gallagher

Ball is rolling for Saif Sareea

MORE than 1,000 Royal Engineers and Royal Logistic Corps personnel are already working in Oman to prepare the ground for Britain's largest exercise of the past 15 years.

Exercise Saif Sareea 2 in October will involve 20,000 British Servicemen and women as well as Omani forces. British involvement will demonstrate the concept of Joint Rapid Reaction Forces.

Most of the soldiers now in theatre are from 102 Logistic Brigade and 39 Engineer Regiment.

Since May they have built Camp Sword – Saif Sareea means "sharp sword" – at the port of Salalah, Oman's second city and the main seagoing entry and exit point. So far three Royal Fleet Auxiliary ro-ro ships have delivered vehicles, stores and supplies.

The Royal Air Force has also flown its first Globemaster C-17 sortie to deliver heavy equipment. The first convoys

have moved up-country to Thumrait, an Omani air base about 70km north of Salalah. Thumrait will be the main reception point for soldiers arriving for the exercise.

A carrier group of 17 ships, an amphibious landing group and a mine-countermeasures group will be provided by the Royal Navy while Army elements will include HQ 1 Division, HQ 4 Mechanized Brigade (including 60 Challenger 2 tanks, support vehicles and infantry), and the RAF will have 30 combat aircraft and 12 heavy support aircraft in the desert. Support helicopters from all three Services will be involved.

Training will begin in Oman in late September, culminating in a combined exercise in the north in early October, when Omani forces and 3 Commando Brigade will be pitted against 4 Mech Bde, also supported by Omani troops.

SCHOOL'S IN: Germany-based soldiers from 6 Pioneer Troop, Sp Bn, HQ ARRC, built a play-park and renovated facilities at Ayrshire Pre-School, Monchengladbach

RUNNING HOT: Chefs from Support Battalion, HQ ARRC, presented a cheque for DM1,700 (£530) to the Army Benevolent Fund. They ran the RAF Bruggen ten-mile road race to raise cash.

WE'RE BACK: Soldiers of 26 Engineer Regiment paraded at Larkhill to mark the re-formation of the regiment and its return to the order of battle. Before reviewing the parade, the Chief Royal Engineer, Lt Gen Sir Scott Grant, opened 26 Regt's new home in Corunna Barracks, Ludgershall.

IN BRIEF

● **Capt Kyra McAnulty**, pictured left, the new leader of the Royal Signals' White Helmets motorcycle display team, revs up before the first show of the season.

● Chelsea In-Pensioner A/CSM John Griffiths, who is sponsored

by 4 General Service Regiment RLC, visited the UK Combat Service Support Battalion in Kosovo. The regiment is providing the battalion HQ and two sub-units.

● A boat crew from 417 Maritime Troop RLC based in Cyprus recovered a pleasure craft washed ashore on the Akrotiri penin-

sula during unseasonably rough weather. Five Cypriots were rescued by an RAF helicopter.

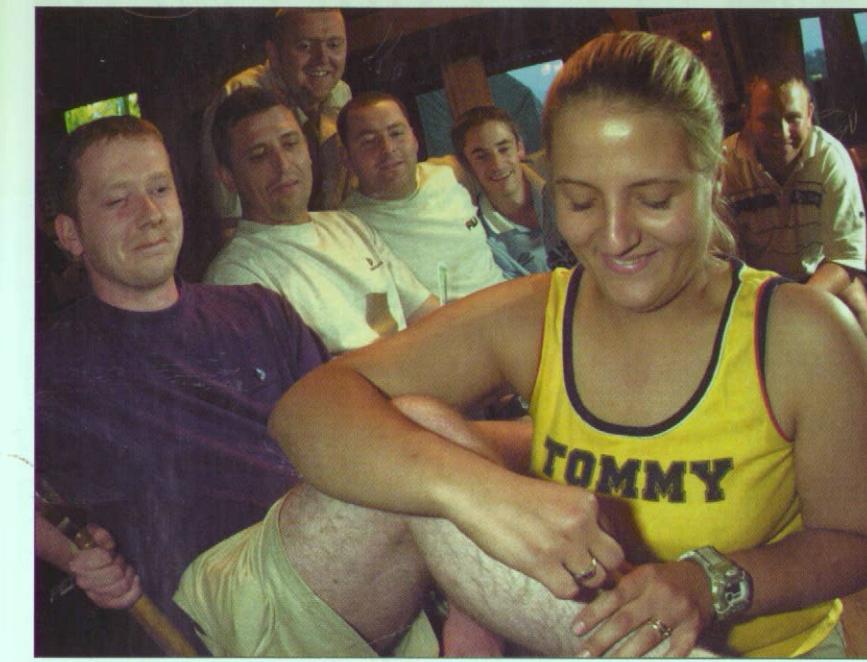
● Fourteen soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment made the move from Belfast to Chepstow the hard way, by running in relay a distance of 246 miles. The Poachers raised £3,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund and rugby's Wooden Spoon charity.

● A Gurkha visitor and information centre has opened at Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, to help explain the role played by the Brigade of Gurkhas in the British Army.

● C (Glamorgan Yeomanry) Troop, 211

(South Wales) Battery RA (V) fired a royal salute at Cardiff Castle to mark the Duke of Edinburgh's 80th birthday.

● The period children must stay overseas to qualify for a school children's visit (SCV) flight has been reduced from 21 days to seven with effect from August 1.



Waxing lyrical: LCpl Dave Kelly, left, subjects himself to the agony of a leg-wax administered by Pte Helen Jeffreys in the name of charity. He and his Royal Logistic Corps colleagues in the British Forces Post Office at the Metal Factory, Dragocaj Barracks, Banja Luka, bared all to raise money for a life-saving operation for a three-year-old Bosnian suffering from a congenital abnormality. Bravely waiting their turn are, from left, WO2 Ian McKinney, Pte Paul Burgess, Cpl John Colville, Cpl Danny Moore and SSgt Jamie Lucas. They raised more than DM2,300 (about £750). Picture: Cpl Pete Mobbs, RAF

Grief of Gurkhas



Mourning: Rfn Yout Limbu, facing camera, was one of more than 800 Gurkha soldiers who took part in a memorial parade for the dead members of the Nepalese royal family, slain in a multiple killing last month. The parade, involving mostly soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, was held at Sir John Moore Barracks in Folkestone. Each soldier laid a wreath in front of pictures of the late King and Queen of Nepal. Picture: Chris Fletcher

Supporting roles



Royal visitor: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Logistic Corps, called on 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC at its Colchester barracks. Princess Anne is pictured with, from left, driver-radio operator Cpl Stuart Evans; commanding officer Lt Col Mark Poffley; Capt Nicola West, 2iC 34 HQ Squadron; and WO1 Jo McCord, regimental sergeant major. The regiment has taken under command 47 Air Despatch Squadron, which joins 15 Attack Support Squadron and 63 Air Assault Brigade Support Squadron.

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On the spot: LCpl Darren McDonald, QDG, whose uncle is a farmer in Wales, at work on the £75 million state-of-the-art burial site at Ashmore, Devon, capable of taking 370,000 sheep. No longer required, the site remains a valuable asset for a rapid response to any future crisis

Army vigilant as outbreaks abate

Troops return to Devon as foot-and-mouth flares again

ALTHOUGH the tide of disease has turned, there is no complacency – foot-and-mouth can strike suddenly. The Army remains vigilant, writes David Harris.

Devon, which vied with Cumbria for the

dubious distinction of being the most infected county, soon became the template for the Army's vital job of command and control, logistics and support to the civil authorities.

Slaughter figures of biblical plague proportions were a grim reality as the Army got to grips with 172 infected farms in the Devon area, disposing of more than 73,880 cattle, 281,560 sheep and 33,100 pigs.

Wales says ...
Carwyn Jones, Rural Affairs Minister at the National Assembly for Wales, visited Maindy Barracks in Cardiff to thank soldiers of the Household Cavalry Regiment for their efforts in the fight against foot-and-mouth. After two months in Wales, they are now back at Windsor.

... thank you

For soldiers from the RMP, 1 RHA, 1 QDG and later 1 PWRR, the mass culling

of animals and the enormous disposal operation was something far removed from their military experience.

Three months later, the Exeter Military Group – at its height 350 soldiers and sailors – was wound down to a 43 (Wessex) Brigade liaison officer, Maj Steven Higgs, D and D, a Territorial Army officer.

But not for long. The Army disengaged on June 12 but less than 24 hours later, on news of a flare-up in East Devon, 50 soldiers from The Queen's Dragoon Guards were posted back to Okehampton Camp.

• Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, GOC 5 Division, which led the military response in the West Country, said: "This was an operation way beyond our normal line of duty. We came in as quickly as we could after we had been summoned and did our best to help.

"It was a situation where no one else was capable or prepared to assist and, in the most unimaginably sad and foul conditions we have performed in our usual cheerful and positive way ... and for no personal gain."

• SOLDIERS from the Royal School of Signals in Blandford and 47 (Air Despatch) Squadron RLC at RAF Lyneham parachuted from a DC3 Dakota on to the site of the Merville Battery in Normandy, watched by veterans of 9 Para, who neutralised the battery in the early hours of D-Day, June 6, 1944. The drop was organised by the Pathfinder Parachute Group of serving and ex-Service soldiers.

• SOLDIERS training with 86 Squadron RLC at Deepcut, Surrey, paid £5 for the privilege of having their breakfast served in bed by their officers (or £10 for breakfast and a lie-in) and raised £850 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation UK, the charity which fulfils the hopes of children with life-threatening diseases.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

• The MoD is preparing to recruit New Zealand's top combat pilots after Wellington's decision to scrap the Royal New Zealand Air Force's fighter squadrons. – *The Times*

• Inspired by James Bond films, the US Army has come up with a \$1 million armoured car equipped with gadgets such as a spinning laser gun. The Ford F350 pick-up truck can squirt an oil slick, smokescreen or pepper spray. – *The Times*

• Members of the Royal British Legion voted against changing military records of 306 soldiers executed in the First World War for cowardice and desertion to say that they died in action. – *Daily Telegraph*

• America signalled that it intends to pull its peacekeeping troops from Bosnia, despite fears that the country could slip towards further civil strife without US ground forces. US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he intends to reduce the number of foreign missions. – *The Times*

• The Army could make training courses for women easier because female recruits cannot cope with the gruelling regime faced by male soldiers. A report has revealed a ten-fold rise in the number of women discharged because of training injuries. – *Daily Mail*

• Campaigners who want to put a £2.4 million memorial to the Commonwealth dead of the Second World War on London's Constitution Hill are seeking to reverse a Treasury ruling that they must pay £200,000 VAT on the project. – *Evening Standard*

• Multi-billion-pound stealth bombers could be rendered obsolete by a British invention that uses existing mobile telephone masts to detect and track aircraft that were previously invisible to radar. – *Daily Telegraph*

• The MoD's plans to fire MLRS training rockets at Otterburn, one of Britain's most beautiful national parks, are doomed to failure – because the Army is running out of rockets and has no budget to procure any more. – *Independent on Sunday*

• Armed Forces chiefs are understood to have been given overwhelming evidence to recommend against women being allowed to serve in front-line infantry and armoured combat roles. – *The Times*



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Undoing an army

British soldiers help to transform KLA into force for good

Report: Andy Simms

Pictures: Graeme Main

THE desire to serve their country remains as fervent as ever among the former soldiers of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

And the British-led Multi-national Brigade Centre (MNB(C)) in Kosovo is keen that the former freedom fighters do exactly that – albeit in a very different role than before.

Disarmed at the end of the war in accordance with KFOR directives, the KLA has been demilitarised and transformed into the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), a civil defence organisation.

Lt Col Richard Barrons, CO of the 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, told *Soldier*. "This process of transformation has been charged as a task for the gunner regiment in MNB(C).

"It began as a matter of making sure that the newly-formed KPC complied with the rules over weapons and restrictions on their activities," he said. "But it has now migrated into a programme of training which aims to turn the KPC into a useful, useable, responsible and professional demilitarised organisation."

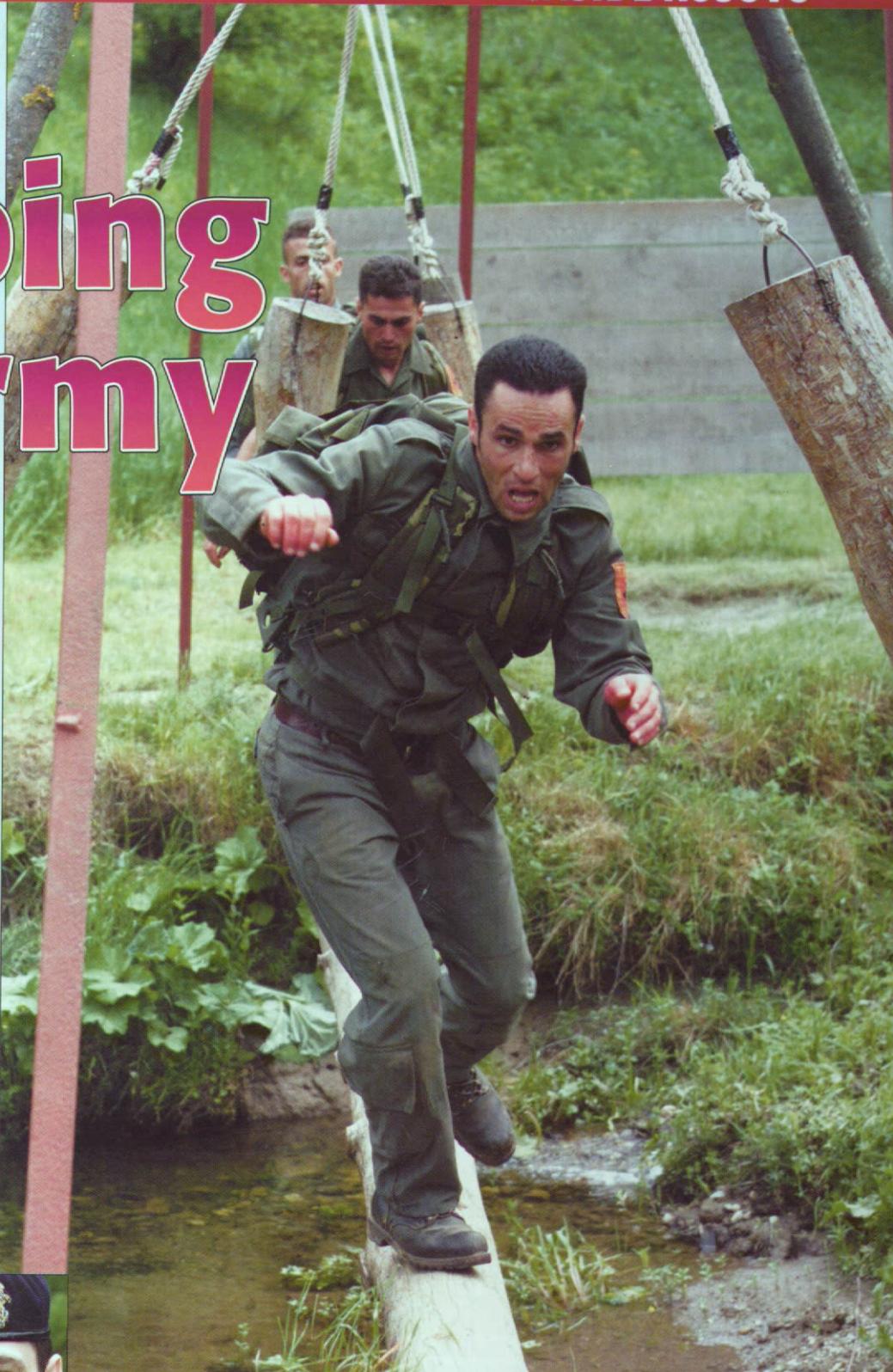
And so during their six-month tour of Kosovo, soldiers from 3 RHA have busied themselves teaching the 5,000-strong corps first aid, navigation, command and control, and search-and-rescue skills.

"Our long-term aim is to turn the KPC into a force for good for the whole of Kosovo," said Capt Michael Knubin (REME, 3 RHA Wksp), a member of the Training and Advisory Group (TAG) responsible for overseeing the KPC programme.

"The training we provide is all non-military and is aimed at preparing the KPC



Teacher training:
Capt Michael Knubin



Wood in motion: Members of the KPC tackle a challenging assault course

for becoming an emergency response force," he said.

"We are using the teach-the-trainer approach whereby those we train go on to teach others – eventually removing the responsibility altogether from KFOR."

And after months of hard graft, members of the KPC were given the chance to put their new-found skills to the test in an MNB(C)-organised best detachment competition.

The one-day event – devised to evaluate the standard of training attained by KPC personnel – included staged med-

ical emergencies, search-and-rescue missions and a punishing assault course.

Watching one of the 12 competing teams tend "wounded" British soldiers, Capt Knubin said: "Their ability to plan and organise is very good and the progress in their first-aid skills is incredible.

"We are now having people coming through to teach subjects that they knew very little about when we first came in contact with them," he said.

"However, their high motivational level is their strongest asset. They are very keen to learn and become a recognised force."

A sentiment echoed by Ibush Salihu, ● Turn to next page

Belle of the Balkans

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

WHEN the B-17 Flying Fortress 41-24485 returned safely from a bombing mission over shipyards at Kiel in Germany on May 19, 1943, it became the most famous aircraft of the Second World War.

Adorned with its distinctive motif of a woman clad in a skimpy red dress and named after the subject of its pilots' affections, the Memphis Belle was the first of the American-built bombers to fly 25-missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. In reward for what was a rare and infrequent feat, the Belle and her courageous crew were retired from action.

Fifty-eight years later, soldiers serving with 57 Battery, 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery in Kosovo are hoping to add a

Army's eye in the sky over Kosovo

new chapter to the legend. The British Army's Phoenix specialists are in the Balkan state as KFOR's eye-in-the-sky.

Equipped with a thermal imagery camera, Phoenix is an unmanned aircraft which can be used for battlefield reconnaissance, target acquisition and battlefield damage assessment.

Pointing towards a Phoenix carrying the serial number 291, SSgt Tony Hart, Launch and Recovery Detachment Commander (LRDC), told *Soldier*: "The lads have grown quite close



Phoenix commander:
Lt Dai Hockday

to this particular plane – they've called it the Memphis Belle II."

One of 27 reconnaissance drones deployed in Kosovo, it is Phoenix 291's flight record that sets it apart from the rest.

"This will be the 24th flight of its lifetime and its fifth in Kosovo," explained SSgt Hart. "We've got perfect take-off conditions for tonight so I can't foresee any problems."

Minutes later the Belle is catapulted from its flat-bed launcher into the night sky. The launch crew stand and watch as its five-and-a-half metre wingspan rides the wind... seconds later only the dull drone of the Belle's two-stroke engine can be heard and the anxious wait begins.

If the Belle returns, it will have just one mission to fly before being granted a reprieve from action and a return home to the UK.

The fate of Belle's 24th mission now rests in the hands of the Ground Control Station (GCS).

Manned by four soldiers – a mission controller, signalman, image analyst and aircraft controller – the GCS receives a live feed of what Phoenix is doing and seeing.

Information is relayed between the GCS and the aircraft by a Ground Data Terminal (GDT), which can communicate with Phoenix over a range of 70km. It is from the GCS that the Belle's penultimate sortie is plotted and controlled.

"Most of our missions in Kosovo have been to help police the handing back of sector bravo of the Ground Safety Zone (GSZ) to the Serb Army," said Bdr Mark Owens, Phoenix mission controller. "We are looking for the presence of Serb troops and Albanian rebel forces in the GSZ."

Whereas the B-17s of the Second World War took to the skies laden with bombs and sporting seven machine-gun turrets,



Lying down on the job: Gnr Chris Birch, 3 RHA, acts as a casualty for KPC soldiers

Undoing an army

From Page 17

leader of the KPC's 5th Regiment, Batalva team. "We have learned so many things from the British soldiers because they are the strongest Army and are far more professional than we are," he said.

"I hope KFOR continues to work with us and that in the future we will be able to work alongside it."

Although the relationship between teacher and student appears to be a happy one, many of the KPC are eager to learn more than just bandaging tech-

niques from the British Army. "The Kosovo Protection Corps to a man aspire to become the army of Kosovo in the future, something that is not allowed for under the agreement which they currently abide by," said Lt Col Barrows. "They are entirely open about that ambition."

"All we can say to them is: 'we hear you but we are here to help you to become a civil emergency response organisation' – that is all we are able to offer."

Ready and waiting: Phoenix, right, spreads its wings at Waterloo Lines

In control: Front to back – LBdr Paddy Mills, Bdr Tommy Booth, LBdr Minty Kendal and Bdr Mark Owens, pictured below in the Phoenix ground control station



the Phoenix is armed only with its camera.

But on today's battlefield, the images relayed by Phoenix can prove even more devastating to the enemy than the bombs of a dozen B-17s.

"Information is power," said Lt Dai Hockday, Phoenix commander. "And Phoenix provides exactly that."

"On any deployment a commanding officer will want to know what the enemy is, where it is and what it is doing, and



Winging it: Equipment managers Sgt Kevin Pound and LBdr Jason Foster attach a wing to Phoenix in preparation for its night-time information-gathering mission

Phoenix has the capability of answering those questions.

"It provides a live, real-time thermal picture that can follow the exact movements of the enemy," he said.

At a cost of approximately one third of a million pounds, Phoenix represents the cutting edge of "big brother" technology.

There is no escaping its thermal camera's glare, which is powerful enough to spot someone making a cup of tea and even trace the heat of an enemy soldier walking.

And although Phoenix 291 is never likely to face the hostile fire that the original Belle faced in the embattled skies over the Third Reich, it can sustain up to 75 per cent battle damage and still fly.

But, as with any piece of machinery, the Phoenix has its share of flaws. Its effec-

tiveness and capability is dictated by the weather – it cannot be launched in winds of more than 34 knots and heavy cloud cover renders the aircraft's camera redundant.

After almost four hours over hostile territory the GCS cuts Memphis Belle II's engines, sending her into a nose-dive. The free-fall is cut short by the aircraft's parachute – packed into the tail – which flips Phoenix onto its back. Its landing is light and cushioned by the air-bag that opens from its top.

Two two-man teams race to its recovery, guided by Phoenix's ground-locating system, which transmits a grid reference to their laptop computers. The lights on the bottom of the craft are easily picked up by the recovery crews' night-vision goggles and the Belle lives to fight another day.

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Chuckie with Chip



"He says he's completed a risk assessment on doing PT and concluded that the residual risk of injury is unacceptably high!"

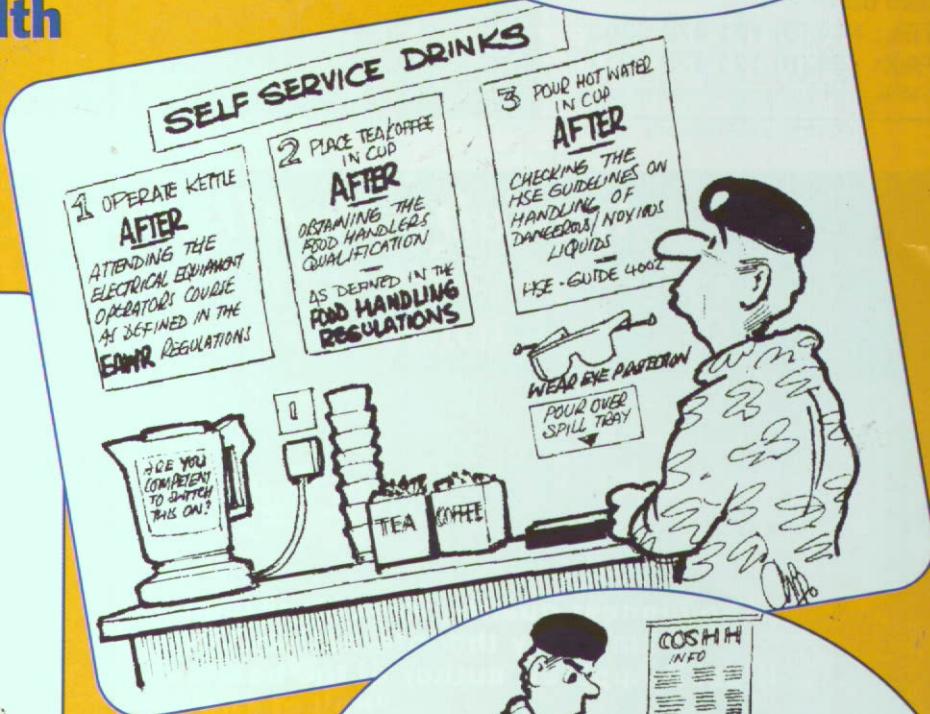


It's all in the small print

(A wry look at Health and Safety issues)



"Wait a minute... I trust you two have studied the HSE guidelines for the safe use of ladders?"



● Department that's good for your health – Pages 30-31



"Sorry sir... by the time I'd read the safety data sheet, the paint was all stiff!"

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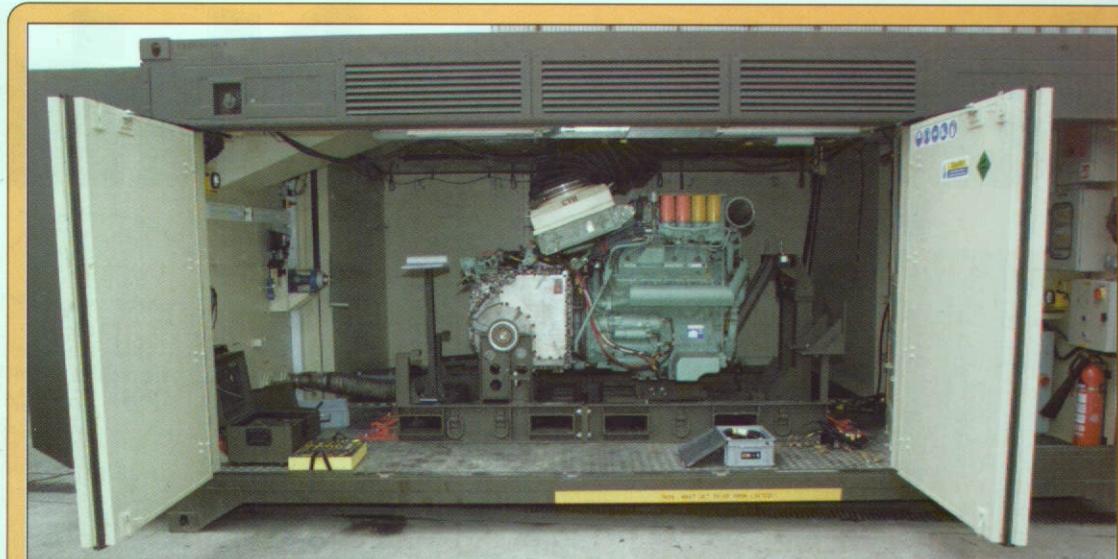
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Have workshop, will travel: The ISO-container based PPRF, left and above, of which the Army is to get six this year

P-p-p-pick up a power pack

IT seems you can put anything in a container these days, which is good news for the boys in armour.

Now, if they bust an engine, REME specialists can whip it back to the brigade support area, fix it in a state-of-the-art mobile workshop which guarantees "engineering hygiene", and refit it.

The REME's new power pack repair facility (PPRF) is designed to make work on engine and gearbox assemblies

in Challenger 2, Warrior, AS90, the FV430 series and Chieftain easier, cleaner and quicker.

It will allow mechanics to test, clean, drain, repair, refill and re-test the pack before returning it to the front. PPRF comes in a series of lightweight, ISO-based containers carried on DROPS and trailers, together with three medium-mobility fork-lift trucks for lugging the power packs around. The Army is to get six of the £1.8 million

systems this year. First to use it will be 1 Battalion REME on Exercise Saif Sareea in Saudi Arabia in the autumn.

Marshall Specialist Vehicles of Cambridge developed PPRF with the close armour team at the Defence Procurement Agency.

A development model deployed to the Balkans in 1999 and still in service in Pristina threw up many valuable lessons which have been incorporated in the final design as improvements.



Rubber tracks: The armoured heavy-wheeled tractor, above, and Deuce, right, on show at 39 Engineer Regiment's base at Waterbeach. Both will be used to repair bomb-damaged runways

Movers, shakers ...

TWO specialised runway repair vehicles have just come into service with the Royal Engineers.

The **Caterpillar Armoured Heavy-Wheeled Tractor** (AHWT), which replaces the sappers' out-of-date Terex 72/71 tractor, will be issued to air support units, Regular and Territorial Army.

The AHWT has a 4.5 cu metre bucket, armoured dozer blade and a compactor attachment used to stamp down crater fillings. When fitted with armour plating to protect the operator, it is not possible to open the windows,

so the tractor has air-conditioning.

The **Caterpillar 30/30** – also known as **Deuce** (Deployable Universal Combat Earthmover) – will be used in a light role to repair crater damage.

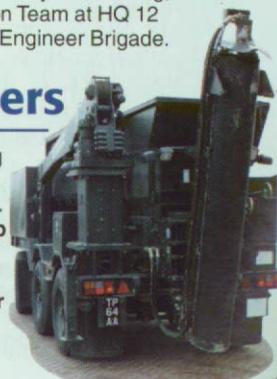
Air-portable and rubber-tracked, it is capable of 30mph over most terrains, has air-conditioning for hot climates and can operate in very low temperatures. The blade at the front has ripper teeth for breaking up hard ground and there is a winch at the back.

Caterpillar users are being shown their finer points by the Training, Trials and Evaluation Team at HQ 12 (Air Support) Engineer Brigade.



... and flush-cappers

MEET the sharp end of a flush-capping system, which allows sappers to make rapid repairs to bomb-dented runways. The mixer unit, pictured right, teams up with a water bowser to spew a rapid-setting cement material into the crater. The runway can be operational an hour after the pour. The system is made by American company Entwistle.



What you think of Army life

Most of you are satisfied with the pay, reckon Army life is what you expected (or better), want to travel and have a challenging job... but are unhappy with the side effects on your family life

FOR the past 20 years the Army has carried out surveys to help identify areas of military life which cause you most concern. Your answers help to shape the personnel policies of the future, so improving recruitment and retention. These latest statistics are drawn from a new-format questionnaire sent out last December, writes John Elliott.

The survey is anonymous. Names for the December project were picked at random by the Worthy Down pay computer and forms were sent to five per cent of the trained Army, covering all ranks from private to brigadier, all cap-badges and all trades... from dog-handler to brain surgeon.

Most of the questions in the 16-section survey required just a tick in a box.

An overall response rate of 57 per cent was a big improvement on previous surveys, which have rarely touched 48 per cent, but there is a need for even more people to get involved and give their opinions.

The latest questionnaire was printed in fetching green and gold... and illustrated, which may have encouraged more soldiers to fill it in. Further impetus to respond came in the form of a personal letter from the Adjutant General, Lt Gen Tim Granville-Chapman.

Of the 603 officers who received CAS questionnaires, 74 per cent sent them back; of the 4,177 soldiers polled, 54 per cent responded.

Although the figures indicated better returns for officers, more forms were sent back by privates and corporals than before and the Infantry was well represented. The message from the Continuous Attitude Survey team is: If you receive a form, PLEASE take the time to complete it and say how you feel.

The Army wanted to assess your satisfaction levels in 16 different areas of your military life:

- Why you joined
- Workload
- Training
- Clothing and equipment
- Facilities
- Families
- Quality of life
- Job satisfaction
- Tours and posting
- Career development
- Pay and allowances
- Welfare
- Accommodation
- Communication
- What affects your intentions to stay or leave
- Equal opportunities, fairness and discipline



"I know what your game is Eccles... what have you told them?"

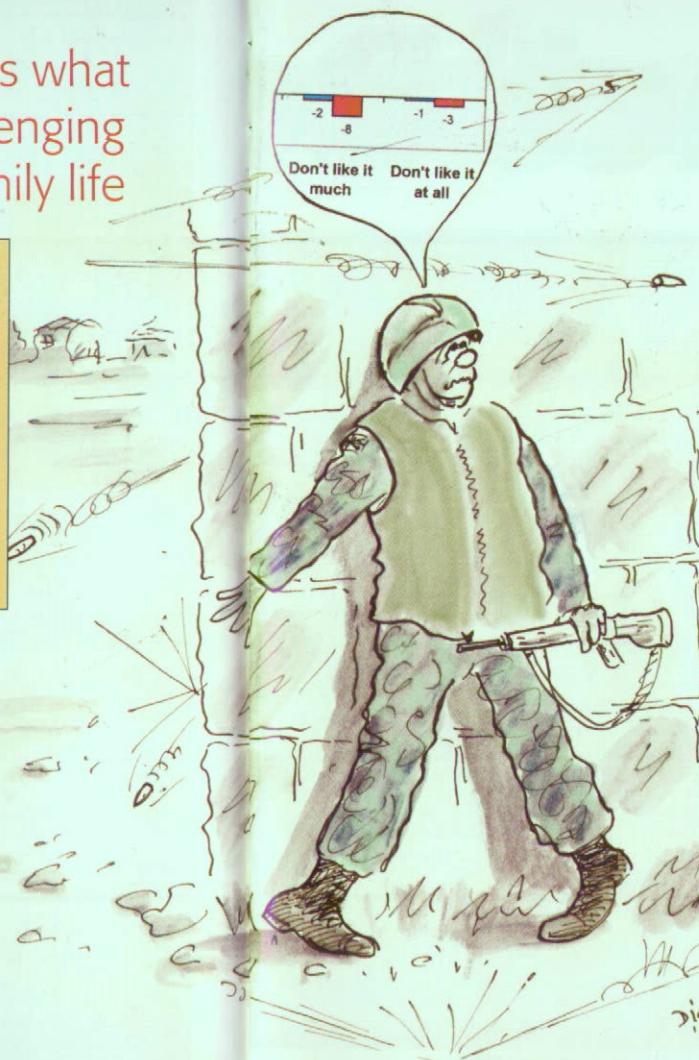
Why did you join?

Those in the first five years of service were asked to select from a list of 18 items their top five reasons for joining. You said:

Travel	64%
Challenging job	59%
Sport/active life	52%
Job security	45%
Variety	28%

Have your expectations been met?

Most of you – 81.6 per cent of officers and 66.6 per cent of soldiers surveyed – said you had found Army life as expected or better. On the other hand, 48 per cent of you felt you would get a better job in civvy street.



Responses to: How much do you enjoy Army life? (whole sample)

If it's so good, why do people leave?

In this Continuous Attitude Survey, for the first time, recipients were asked which factors affected intentions to stay in or leave the Army. The top five retention positive factors were all aspects of job satisfaction.

Main reasons for wanting to leave were:

- ▲ The effect of Army life on personal/family life
- ▲ Pay and allowances
- ▲ Operational commitments and over-stretch
- ▲ Opportunities outside
- ▲ Standard of accommodation

What do older serving members think?

YOUR responses have highlighted problems and in many cases steps are already being taken to remedy things. Future surveys will measure what impact those changes have had.

The next Continuous Attitude Survey for serving personnel is due

Separation causes problems

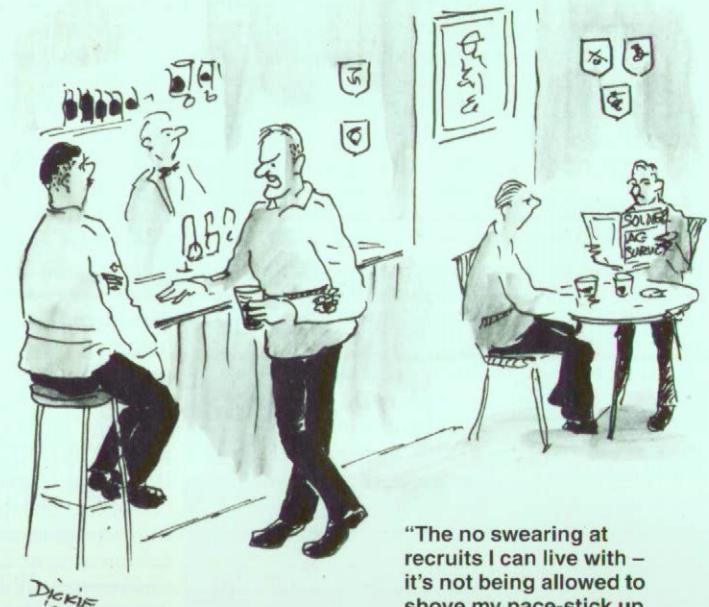
THE side effects of an Army career on personal and family life are a serious problem for many, according to the December survey. It indicated that 37 per cent of officers and 53 per cent of soldiers were dissatisfied with the effect of Army life on their personal relationships.

Curiously, dissatisfaction was higher for those who had partners (70 per cent) than for those who were married (56 per cent). Single soldiers are not being overlooked.

Digging a bit deeper, the indications were that individuals were dissatisfied with

the separation from spouses or partners, with the support given them while on operations, and with the effect of Army life on their careers.

These are not new messages and steps are already being taken to give a better deal to single soldiers (measures include improved single-living accommodation, baggage allowance and barrack regime), and to reduce some of the problems faced by families (such as hospital and school waiting lists, balancing partners' careers and improving posting notices).



"The no swearing at recruits I can live with – it's not being allowed to shove my pace-stick up their nostrils that hurts."

Attitudes to Army life were very positive among experienced soldiers. Only ten per cent of the whole sample said they disliked the Army way of life while 75 per cent (of both officers and soldiers) were proud to be in the Army. Most (80 per cent) felt that their life in the Army was as satisfying or more satisfying than that of civilian friends of the same age.

to be sent out at the end of this month so if you receive one, please fill it in.

Later in the summer a revised questionnaire will be sent to spouses and those leaving the Army. An attitude survey of the Territorial Army is due to be introduced next year.

Between the lines with Project Reader

With a promise for all future new-build single living accommodation to be to Type Z standard, we look at facelifts designed to improve existing quarters in Germany

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

PROJECT Reader, the quick-fix blitz to make a rapid difference to some of the Army's poorest single living accommodation (SLA) is already having an impact on sites throughout Germany.

It follows hard on the heels of the announcement that all new-build SLA will be to Type Z standard – one soldier to one en-suite room.

Retired Capt David Welton, SO2 G4 Estates at JHQ, who advises the GOC on Project Reader in Germany, explained the background.

"We have two areas of expenditure in Germany – property management, that is the maintenance, upkeep and minor new works up to 900,000 DM (£300,000), and capital works," he said.

"These capital works projects, such as the construction of new-build Type Z accommodation, can take years to plan. Property management has looked at existing SLA

and tried to improve the lot of soldiers.

"Project Reader is buying us time – the three-year waiting period it will take us to plan for a massive £200m spend in Germany to improve soldiers' accommodation to Type Z standard."

Thousands of troops based in Germany live in massive structures built in the mid-1930s. While the buildings are sturdy, robust and sound, the internal accommodation often is not.

"Combining Project Reader with some

property management money has meant we have been able to achieve a great deal already," said Capt Welton.

This includes upgrading blocks at Rheindahlen, while at Hohne, three out of six blocks scheduled to be done this year have been completed and a further six are earmarked for next year.

In all, 22 submissions for Reader cash will be considered in Germany, including the refurbishment of junior ranks' SLA rooms and replacement of furniture in Blocks 23, 25 and 30 for 102 Logistic Brigade at Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh; renovation of ablutions, electrical rewiring and furniture replacement at accommodation used by 1 Signal Brigade at Rheindahlen; and work on bedrooms with new power points and furniture at Campbell Barracks in Hohne.

Campbell Barracks is the home of soldiers of 32 Engineer Regiment, who live in blocks typical of the Hitler-era. Three have already been refurbished using property management and Reader money.

Ken McIntosh, property manager at Hohne, said the unit made the decisions on what it wanted from the facelift. "Their main desires were to create a private area within a three-man room, so we developed the blocks in line with their wishes. The rooms have bed spaces as well



as private and communal storage facilities. And power points were increased from two or three per room to six per person."

The real focal points of the job, he said, were to increase the level of privacy and improve the quality of the furniture. While it doesn't raise it to Type Z-level, it does represent a real improvement. Initial

Hohne blocks: JNCO quarters, above, in the refurbished block, while below, typical storage problem in an unconverted block



feedback is that it has been well received.

Sgt Danny Cuthbert, who lives in a new three-man unit, said it required a bit of give-and-take to share a room.

"The carpets are good and the furniture is excellent, with loads of storage space," he said.

LCpl Wayne Floyd lives in a single room and overall is very impressed. "But I

Corimec it ain't



FROM the outside, the new junior ranks temporary living accommodation (TLA) at Princess Royal Barracks in Gutersloh may look just like the familiar Corimec facilities found in the Balkans.

But Maj Peter Osbourn, SO2 G4 Estates at Gutersloh, is quick to point out that this perception could not be further from the truth. And he's right.

"The standard of TLA is higher than you would imagine," he told *Soldier*.

Although Gutersloh's TLA has been constructed to cope with a temporary surge in bed-space numbers, it is what many other soldiers can expect to live in while their own permanent accommodation is being refurbished to Type Z standard or while new accommodation is under construction in a few years' time.

Capt David Welton added: "We are not going to knock the pre-war blocks down, but they will be gutted and refurbished to as near Type Z as we can get."

"If we didn't have this TLA, soldiers would have to go into attics and other cramped conditions while the refurbishment and new build happens. That could take several years."

The TLA provides mixed accommodation. Rooms are large and boast telephone and TV points. Each floor has space for 25 soldiers.

There are Miele washing machines, ablutions and a common room. Dividing walls are insulated to reduce noise levels.

Civilian-bought fitted furniture will be supplied under Project Reader and each soldier will have a new wardrobe, rug, bin and mattress designed for a divan bed rather than the metal-framed Army version with its two-inch foam mattress.

The Gutersloh site has become a template for the future. With the experience gained, the builders can now prefabricate the buildings and build new blocks in about three weeks.



High standard: Maj Peter Osbourn, left, says the TLA, above and below, is of a very high standard



was in Montgomery Lines at Aldershot before and anything is better than that," he added.

Sgt Smudger Smith is still in an old block awaiting refurbishment. He was glad the message had finally got through to the people at the top.

"If like me you have been in for a few years, you accumulate a lot of kit," he said. "There is inadequate storage space and some shelves have collapsed. There is a hole right through the window frame in one room."

"We have two showers for 13 soldiers and only two toilets, which sometimes back-up. Because we are in Germany, we

can't nip home at weekends like UK-based soldiers. This is our home and we need something half decent to live in."

Upgrading each block takes about three-and-a-half weeks, including moving everything out and redecorating before installing new furniture, electric and TV points. Improving a block costs about 350,000DM.

Work is due to start in 2003 on a five-year programme of intensive upgrading. Eventually all SLA will be gutted for conversion to en-suite.

Right now Project Reader is making life a little more tolerable until the major projects kick in to make a real difference.

Viewpoint



LCpl Wayne Floyd: Very impressed



Spr Smudger Smith: Glad the message has got through



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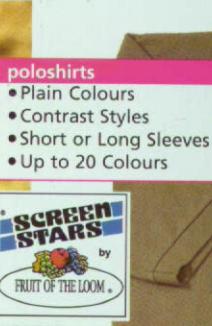
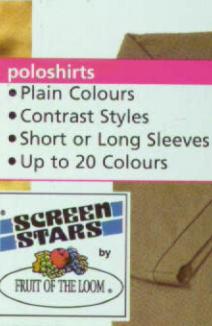
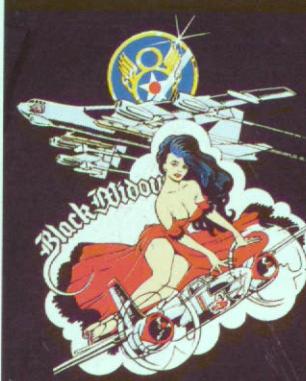
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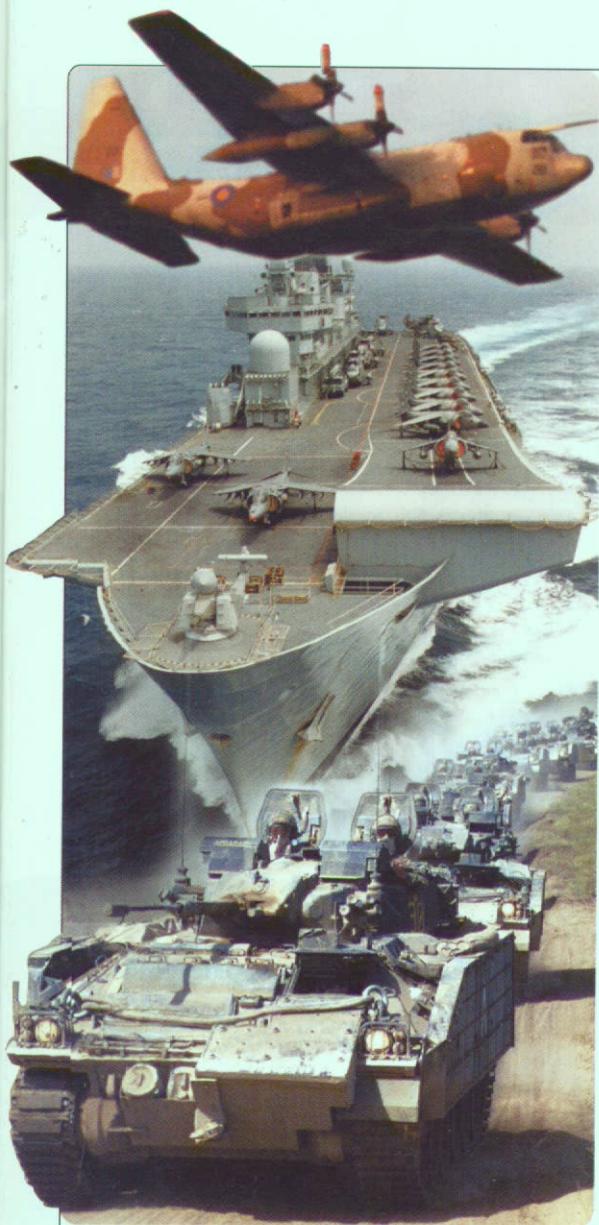
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Win tickets to Portsmouth extravaganza

SOLDIER, in association with the Festival of the Sea organisers, has six family tickets to give away for next month's Royal Navy-led extravaganza in Portsmouth Naval Base.

Each ticket, worth £44, will ensure free admission for a family of two adults and two children aged six to 16. To have a chance of winning tell us on a postcard or sealed envelope:

- a) Which famous wooden flagship is on permanent display at Portsmouth?
- b) What was the name of the admiral who died on board the warship as an historic naval triumph was being sealed?
- c) Which nation's fleet was defeated during that sea battle?

First six correct entries out of the hat will receive the tickets. They should reach us by July 31 and usual rules apply.

The festival takes place between August 24 and 27.

- For ticket enquiries and bookings, ring 08705 505040. For groups, ring 08705 949494. For military concessions ring 023 92726590 or (Portsmouth Naval Base mil) 9380 26590.

Let battle rage

Services to ensure Royal Tournament is not missed

WAR will break out during Britain's biggest military pageant of the year, the third International Festival of the Sea at Portsmouth next month.

The bank holiday spectacular will feature a daily battle in one of the naval base's giant docks, involving Apache gunships, Lynx, Merlin and Sea King helicopters, Harrier and Tornado jets and possibly a Typhoon Eurofighter.

In addition to 45 ships, including vessels from ten overseas navies, the USS *Winston Churchill*, one of the world's most advanced warships, will be making her international debut. The festival has been given added status this year as the

first of a series intended to replace the famous Royal Tournament, which means the Army and Royal Air Force will also be playing a part.

The Services will be contributing to several specialist arenas, including an "Adrenalin Island" where teenagers can try their luck over an assault course, on simulators and in other exciting hands-on activity areas.

Twenty-six of the universally-popular tall ships are booked to make an appearance, 2,000 musicians will be entertaining visitors at every turn and every night there will be a major concert in a purpose-built 10,000-seat arena.

International Festival of the Sea ... Portsmouth ... August 24-27 ... Don't miss it

'Disastrous' career move

UN role suits former hostage

A FORMER RLC officer held hostage in Sierra Leone two years ago was among United Nations representatives from several countries who met in Bermuda earlier this year to run a disaster co-ordination exercise, writes Chris Horrocks.

In August 1999, a year before Operation Barras – the raid to free Royal Irish Regiment hostages – Lt Col Ian Howard-Williams led a British contingent of five officers among a group of UN military observers captured by the West Side Boys.

"It was hard, it was very frightening. They pushed us around but they didn't actually beat us up or anything," he said. "It was mentally stressful. Of course, we didn't know whether we were going to come out, or when. But fortunately it all turned out reasonably well."

He and the others were freed physically unharmed. Later last year he was made OBE for his work in Sierra Leone.

When he left the Army at the end of his service in January, 2000 he stayed in Sierra Leone – with the United Nations.

"While I was there I was invited to join the Emergency Response Team as their operations manager. I had been closely involved with them – they were running the disarmament, demobilisation and rehabilitation programme there."

He was in Bermuda this year to help run a disaster rapid-response co-ordination course for the Caribbean region. His current job title is a bit of a mouthful – Senior Humanitarian Specialist with the Emergency Response Team of the Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department (CHAD).

Since he left the Army he has twice visited Mozambique, first for a month during the 2000 floods and latterly for two weeks to monitor the situation during this year.

"I've also done various courses in Switzerland and Sweden, a two-week trip to India and another to Bangladesh, all to do with floods."

Wherever he is sent, Ian Howard-Williams, born in Kenya and brought up in Tanzania, feels he is well suited to his work with the United Nations. But where next?

"Who knows? That's the nature of the business. It could be another month or two in the office, which my wife at home in Surrey would be really happy about."

- Are you ex-Army with a second career that would be inspiring to those about to leave? If so, drop us a line or send an e-mail to routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Lt Col Ian Howard-Williams

Department that's good for your health

Whether you go on exercise or operations, handle dogs, or are part of a band, the work of the Environmental Health Team affects your well-being

Report: Ray Routledge and Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

YOU would have to be barking mad to want to study noise levels in military dog kennels. Wouldn't you?

Actually, no. It is an area of concern to staff in the Environmental Health Team (EHT), part of the Medical Branch from HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div at Herford in Germany.

The din created by barking dogs is a real problem for kennel maids working at the Defence Animal Search Unit at Sennelager. Forty howling canines can raise noise levels above 100dBs, which is potentially dangerous for humans and probably not very good for the dogs themselves.

Then there are military musicians.

But before we go on, let's define noise. To the EHT team it is unwanted sound, which is an interesting concept when it comes to music (let's be fair, music to one person can be an awful racket to another).

"Excessive sound can permanently damage hearing," said Capt Dougie Ralph, head of the EHT. "This is because sound is made up of a pressure wave that hits the eardrum. If you can control the wave as it goes into the ear, there's a good chance of protecting the individual's hearing."

Routine EHT work is part of the all-encompassing Force Protection duties, and concerned with medical and health aspects. It covers a range of activity, from vaccines to, well, noise.

"Normally, when there is a noise problem, steps are taken to remove it or to protect individuals," said Capt Ralph. "But a



Capt Dougie Ralph:
Duty of care for soldiers



Andover may look at a specifically designed ear-defence system which will allow musicians to hear what they are playing while protecting their hearing

musician tries to produce sound, so in this case we don't want to remove the noise altogether."

EHT staff in Germany carry out their band noise work on behalf of the Chief Environmental and Safety Officer (Army)

at Andover. Currently they are running a wide-ranging project to assess every band in the Army and a definitive report is expected soon.

"Andover is looking at a variety of means to protect our bandsmen and this

MOST of us don't wear a hat or carry a bull-whip, although, like Indiana Jones, we do hate snakes.

Clearly this is not a phobia shared by Sgt Stewart Bell, RAMC, an instructor on the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (DEOH) courses at the Defence Medical Services Training Centre (DMSTC) in Keogh Barracks, Aldershot.

"He's never bitten anyone before," said Sgt Bell as he lifted Rocky – a 6ft ball python – from his tank. "He is a constrictor, so he's not venomous anyway."

Rocky keeps equally skin-crawling company. His neighbours in the DMSTC's animal house include ship rats, Madagascan cockroaches and a tarantula from Chile.

This house of horrors is more than just a refuge for the world's ugliest insects and reptiles, it is also a valuable teaching tool. The DEOH is responsible for providing training for Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Air Force environmental health technicians and unit health advis-

ers, using the living specimens as an alternative introduction to entomology – the study of vector and animal-borne diseases, and venomous pests.

With Rocky coiled tightly around his left arm, Sgt Bell explained: "Hopefully this part of the course will help soldiers when they return to the field.

"Not only do we teach them all the necessary theory but

we also give them a chance to see the real thing so that if they ever come across any of these species they will have



Planning a safer environment: WO1 Jeff McGowan, right, instructs members of the tri-Service course, from left, CSgt Zak Sawczyszak, Commando Helicopter Force; Sgt S Wilson, 10 Tpt Regt RLC; CSgt R McAllister, 8 R Irish; WO1 Chris Peters, 71 Eng Regt; and WO1 Wurz Young, RMP Close Protection Unit

some idea of what they are and the implications. It is a very hands-on approach and we can help people overcome their phobias."

Thankfully for the faint-hearted, more conventional teaching methods are used to cover other areas of environmental health, such as food hygiene, sanitation and sexually-transmitted diseases.

Model villages and dockside locations plagued with environmental pitfalls are produced to test the knowledge of the students.

An additional responsibility placed on the department is to provide health presentations to units deploying overseas. These are carried out by the Mobile Health Instruction Team (MHIT) led by WO1 Jeff McGowan, RAMC.

The MHIT presents up-to-date Medical Intelligence Assessment's (MIA) to all three Services in the UK. Units can book a lecture by calling 94222 5237.

places like Kosovo, Bosnia and Sierra Leone. For Capt Ralph it means a dual responsibility encompassing medical intelligence and force protection.

"I work as part of the specialist planning group of the Divisional HQ, and when intelligence is gathered – from air reconnaissance, for example – we look for any health implications."

"The Environmental Protection Law, Health and Safety, and Food Safety Law all apply to the Armed Forces, wherever we are in the world," he said. "They apply on operational and non-operational duties, but always within practical constraints."

"By definition military work carries an inherent risk which has to be accepted, but our soldiers are an expensive and highly sought-after resource and we cannot afford to lose them unnecessarily. We have a duty of care for them."

That means assessment of hazards in

force. It's a far cry from the conflicts of the last century, when many soldiers died of disease and accidents – losses written off because war was seen as a risky business.

Today it is simply not acceptable for a soldier to go to another country and die from something that could be prevented.

Epidemiology, the study of the distribution of disease, is another of the EHT's areas of responsibility. They investigate, for example, incidents of salmonella poisoning.

"The commander must be able to rely on having his troops fit to undertake the tasks required of them. Salmonella is a common enough complaint but it could have catastrophic implications in an operational environment."

"We teach the soldier to look after his food although, like most issues, it's down to common sense."

Pass the ear defenders.



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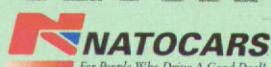
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Proud day: As commander of the Sovereign's Escort at last month's rain-soaked Trooping the Colour ceremony, Capt Justin Butah, HCMR, above and left centre, made history as he rode at the wheel of the carriage taking the Queen from Buckingham Palace to Horse Guards Parade.

Capt Butah is the first black officer in the 4,000-strong Household Division and the first in the 341-year history of The Life Guards. There are nine black men in the regiment.

Ghana-born Capt Butah was sent to school in England when he was 14. He attended RMA Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery before transferring last year to The Life Guards.

The Queen's Colour of the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, which is in suspended animation, was trooped by Nijmegen Company.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Order Of The Bath

KCB: Lt Gen A D Pigott, CBE, late RE.

CB: Maj Gen L D Curran, late REME; Maj Gen A P N Currie, late RA; Maj Gen A E G Truluck, CBE, late R Signals.

Order Of The British Empire

CBE: Col S M Andrews, MBE, late REME; Col E B L Armitstead, OBE, late Coldm Gds; Col A W King-Harman, late RA; Maj Gen M L Wildman, late REME.

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MBE: Maj A J Anspach RLC, TA; Lt Col R J Batty AGC; WO2 D M C Belam RA; WO1 M Brown AGC; WO1 K J Coates, CAMus; Sgt P Collinson AGC; SSgt D L Connor RLC; WO2 P Crawford RA; Maj M P A Cray RTR; Acting Maj W A Davis CCF; WO1 S J Dawes AGC; Maj Lalithchandra Dewan RGR; Capt L R Drage REME; CSgt A J Easton, Para TA; Lt

Col T P Evans LI; Maj J R Free RA; WO1 D R Goodwin RLC; Capt Kamalparsad Gurung RGR; Maj I C Heath REME, TA; Maj S G Heath RA; Capt P E Houlston RE; SSgt P S A Hubbard AGC; WO1 A J Hunt REME.

WO2 S R Jenkins AGC; Cpl M A Jones, R Anglian; Maj R T H Jones, D and D; LSgt P D Jupp, Gren Gds; Maj J N Kettle RAMC; Capt W A Lambert TD, RAMC, TA; Lt Col K J Leslie REME; Sgt R H Lewis RWF; Capt J J Lynch, IG, TA.

Acting Lt Col M Macbean ACF; Capt S W Maddison, Int Corps; Capt E Mahony KOSB; Acting Capt J Malone ACF; SSgt R C Manning RA; Sgt B D McGregor AGC; WO2 J McMillan AGC; WO1 A Morrison SG; Lt Col P J Nuttall TD, RA, TA; Maj D C Pardy RE; WO2 A J Plewa, WG; SSgt J A Purnell RA; CSgt S D K Reeder, Para; Capt I Simpson KRH; WO1 P F Stowell, R Signals; Maj C S E Thackway RE; Maj A E Todd, R Anglian; Rev A J Totten RAChD; Maj D Trayers TD, R Signals, TA; Maj L S Tuson RE; Maj P P Vowles, BEM, RE; Maj J E Wood, BEM, APTC; Maj I R Woodbridge, 9/12 L; Maj S R Workman, R Signals.

QVRM: Lt Col R Eden TD, RLC, TA; Maj R E W Hall, R Signals, TA; Maj P J Phillips, Para, TA; Col J C Power TD, late Para, TA.

Manage your money



David Mapes, Assistant Director of the charity Credit Action, suggests a way to balance your spending against your income

Take control on a budget

LAST month we looked at Cpl X, a multiple-debt client who owed more than £16,000 to eight creditors. Being in the Army, he has regular earnings and creditors love to offer him money, which it's often hard to refuse.

Cpl X is not like his mum and dad, who saved up for what they wanted. He's got to have things today. Anyway, it's more exciting to buy. Also, he doesn't know where he'll be next... Germany, Bosnia, Cyprus or Northern Ireland.

Doing a budget – the first stage of getting out of debt

Budgeting means controlling your spending, or, to slightly misquote Mr Micawber in *David Copperfield*: "Annual income £20, annual expenditure £19 19s 6p, result happiness. Annual income £20, annual expenditure £20 and 6p, result misery."

It would help Cpl X to learn to live within his means. The reality is, spend more than you earn and you have to borrow (and pay interest) or use some of your savings.

Do you know where your money goes? Do you sometimes get a shock at how little remains in your pocket? A good way to keep track is to write what you spend in a notebook and make use of the stubs in chequebooks and on paying-in slips. It can be very revealing. Those trips to the sandwich shop at lunchtime, the sweet shop in the morning or the mess in the evening could be costing more than you realise.

It's helpful to categorise what we spend money on. I suggest these four categories:

- **Priority spending.** Anything which keeps our homes safe: rent/mortgage, gas or electricity, council tax and water charges.

- **Formal commitments.** Things which are important and we are committed to: life insurance, telephone, TV licence.

- **Everyday spending.** What we spend money on regularly each day (or week): housekeeping (food), fares or car expenses, children, pets, leisure, hobbies, sports.

- **Occasional costs.** Christmas and birthdays, clothing, appliance repairs, decorating, dentist/optician costs, holidays.

Add them up (on, say, a monthly basis) and take them away from your net income (what you get paid). If there's a surplus, how do you want to save? If there's a deficit, what spending can you cut down on?

If you're not in debt, a budget may help you plan for something special. If you are, it's the first step to getting out of debt. If you want to know more, call the Credit Action HelpLine who will send you a budget form with fill-in categories.

If you need to talk to someone, call the HelpLine. David Mapes will be pleased to answer questions addressed to the Editor. They will be treated in confidence.

0800 591084

Westminster's man of action

From Marine to political heavyweight – the newly-ennobled former Liberal Democrat leader acknowledges the debt he owes the Services

By: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

"I HAVE no doubt that the Services today, especially the Army, by a factor of two or three, are more professional and capable than when I left."

Not the words of a desk-bound politician, but of former Royal Marine Sir Paddy Ashdown, who experienced life at the sharp end, fighting in the jungles of Borneo and deserts of the Middle East.

Over the course of nearly 20 eventful years, Sir Paddy has become one of the most familiar faces on the British political scene, whether jousting with the Prime Minister of the day in the Commons or standing up to the political inquisitions of Sir Robin Day or Jeremy Paxman.

He stepped down as leader of the Liberal Democrat Party in 1999 after 11 years in the job, retiring as an MP at last month's general election. But before he quit the House for the last time he gave *Soldier* an exclusive interview.

Jeremy Ashdown was born in New Delhi, into a family with a long military tradition.

"My family went to India as soldier adventurers with Clive and stayed for 200 years," he said in his office in Parliament Street overlooking the Palace of Westminster. "My father and uncle were in the Indian Army and my grandfather was the chief of police."

In common with many Anglo-Irish families in India, soldiering was part of their way of life.

One of Jeremy's early memories is a massacre of Muslims by Hindus at a train station as his family travelled from the North-West Frontier to Calcutta to begin their sea journey home. He was four years old.

That voyage was to have a lasting impact on the youngster



because he fell in love with the sea and he determined to make his career in the Royal Navy.

The family settled in Northern Ireland so, when aged 11 he started school in Bedford, his accent earned him the nickname that was to stick.

"Of my contemporaries at Bedford, ten went into the Royal Marines, so the name just followed me into the Service."

Although awarded a naval scholarship at the age of 16, Ashdown transferred to the Royal Marines. "My first active service came when I was 18 and we were in Karachi," he recalled. "We heard that the Iraqis were going to invade Kuwait."

He was a 2nd lieutenant in charge of a troop and he and his men were bundled on board HMS *Bulwark*. "We thundered up the Gulf expecting an opposed landing . . . instead we were met by a lot of Arabs selling postcards of a dubious sort.

"I was sent to the Mutlah Ridge [on the Basra-Kuwait City road], which featured during the second Kuwait crisis ten years ago. We sat on the ridge and roasted for six weeks. For the first fortnight there were just 400 of us facing three Iraqi divisions."

He also recalled a sudden deployment which had rather more serious implications. On December 8, 1961 he and a group of Marines were at a party on Singapore's Changi beach.

"I was slightly the worse for wear when someone said there had been a rebellion in Brunei. We had to get our kit sorted so

we could take off at dawn to recapture the place. A quicker way of sobering up I've never come across."

That conflict was to rumble on for several years.

Ashdown's troop was involved in fierce fighting in Brunei and five of his Marines were killed. He also saw action in the jungles of Sarawak.

Later his commando deployed to Aden. A new job in Singapore gave him a timely opportunity to learn the Malay language.

"When the confrontation came, I was the only one in the unit who could speak Malay so I was sent into deep jungle to live with the Dayak tribesmen. I learned their dialect too, largely because they were head-hunters and I thought it was a good idea."

Having discovered a passion for languages, he applied for a sabbatical to learn Chinese and spent the following two-and-a-half years in Hong Kong, becoming an interpreter.

But there were to be few opportunities to exercise his linguistic skills on his next posting, which took the young Royal Marines officer in 1971 to 41 Commando in Belfast. A year later he quit the Service to join the Foreign Office, spending several years in Geneva.

Ashdown had begun to think seriously about politics while in the Marines, and his interest was now growing into a desire to become much more involved.

"I was scandalised when I took over my troop because some of them could not read and write," he said.

"It made me angry and my political beliefs as a liberal were born. I became

The Services knocked things out of me that shouldn't have been there and put things there which I really relied on a lot

Westminster's man of action



Looking forward: As this issue went to press Sir Paddy Ashdown had not announced the full details of the title he would take up when he becomes Lord Ashdown in mid-July

obsessed with the idea that people should get on according to their ability and be judged by who they are and what they can make of themselves, not on where they come from.

"When I joined, the Services were very class-based, especially the Royal Navy. Today it is based much more on a merit structure."

He took the plunge and stood for Parliament in Yeovil in the 1979 general election.

"I was far too naive.

Going into politics was the most dangerous decision I had ever taken in my life," he said. "It was irresponsible. I had two children and it never occurred to me that I couldn't win. We were third."

"It took me four years to win that seat and during that time I was unemployed for a while. We were down to our last £100 in the world."

Ashdown won the Yeovil seat in 1983 and was elected leader of the Liberal Democrats in 1988. He was appointed to the Privy Council the following year.

He regards his Service life as training for his subsequent career. "It turned out

Ashdown on the Balkans

AN acknowledged expert on the Balkans, Sir Paddy Ashdown says of the current situation: "There is a real possibility that things could foul up in the Balkans again, although I am more optimistic than I have been for five or ten years.

"But we are not there yet. My judgement is that probably Serbia will now turn out to be all right. I think Bosnia, given a fair wind and good political direction, can probably make it.

"Croatia and Slovenia are nearly there. I think Montenegro is a great little country and Albania is a force for good but could easily slip and become a force for chaos. That could be disastrous.

"I am very disappointed with Kosovo. I think the Kosovars have foolishly decided that there is some future for them as an island of 'refuseniks' in the Balkans, I am gloomy about the future of Kosovo unless the Macedonian government and Albanians in Macedonia really push forward the process of political reform."

He sees Macedonia as a problem. "All the powder trails and all the fuses lead to the big bomb – Macedonia – because that could involve Greece and Turkey. "We are further down the road to peace than we were two years ago, but the big problem concerning Macedonia has not been resolved."

And the Americans? "I don't think the Americans will pull out. My view is we should cut the American administration a bit of slack. For as long as [American Defense Secretary] Colin Powell is in the position he is, I don't think they would withdraw."

to be an apprenticeship for being a politician. Learning a sense of judgement, the capacity for taking risks and the love of my fellow human beings . . . that is very important to me as a politician.

"All of those things came from my time in the Corps. The Services knocked things out of me that shouldn't have been there and put things there which I really relied on a lot.

"What I do next, I don't know. I am sure I was right to stand down when I did. Most people in politics leave in tears. I left at a time of my own choosing and on my own terms."

G.D. Golding

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Your move, Czech mate



Listen up: Instructors like Sgt Dave Bushell, PWRR, centre, have the operational experience and leadership qualities that demand respect

A tri-Service British Military Advisory and Training Team is helping Central and Eastern European countries from its Czech Republic base

Reports: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

PEOPLE used to say that under the communist system everyone was responsible for everything and no one was responsible for anything. Try running an army like that and you are going to have problems.

Non-commissioned officers in Warsaw Pact countries were afforded little respect or authority in their own armies.

A sergeant faced with making a choice, even something simple like map-reading, would defer up the chain of command and ask an officer.

But in 1989 the Iron Curtain came off its runners, the political map of Europe was re-drawn and Britain's former adver-

saries were now her partners in peace. Everything was changing, and the armies of the new republics would have to

When students return home they will take with them an understanding of the ethos of armed forces

change as well to be appropriate and democratically accountable. So they looked around to see how other countries did things.

There are many reasons why the British Army is acknowledged as the best small fighting unit in the world. Professionalism, training and equipment help it punch well above its weight. The Army's combat effectiveness has been tested virtually every year since peace broke out after the Second World War.

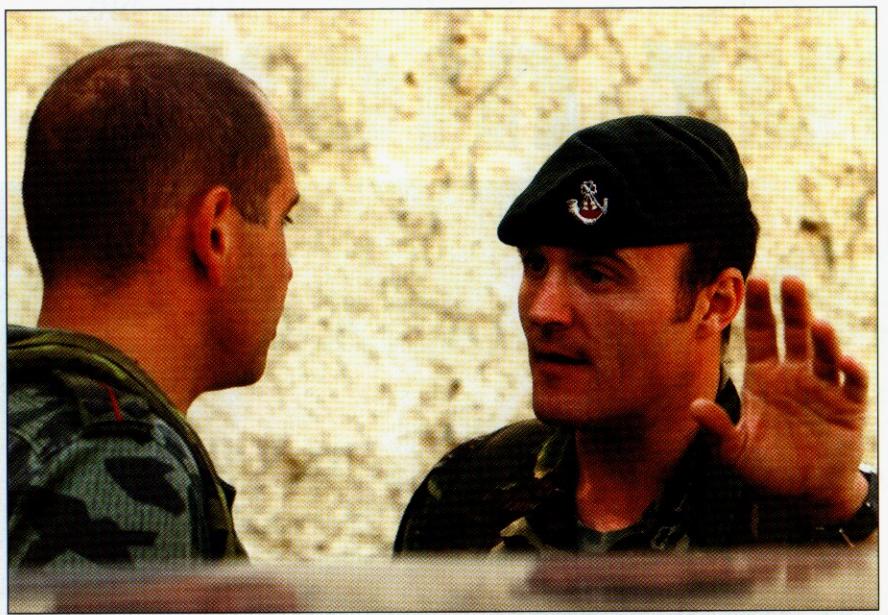
Brig Janis Kazocins, late RA, and BMATT commander, told new students what they could expect. "We don't want to train your soldiers directly, we want to train the trainers."

This maximises results. It's the same

● Turn to next page



Brig Janis Kazocins



Hands up: Sgt Dave Garside, 2 LI, makes a point to Lt Andonov of the Bulgarian army

Czech mate

● From Page 37

idea as teaching somebody how to farm more efficiently, rather than giving them food aid. The other main plank of this BMATT is that it teaches ethos over tactics. Instructors show students how to do things, not what to do.

When the students return home they will take with them an understanding of the ethos of armed forces – what it means to be a soldier in a democratic society.

"Students are asked to think and develop their own minds and see how things taught in the Czech Republic relate to things in their own countries," said Brig Kazocins.

"Of the professional armies with a senior NCO structure ours has probably been going the longest, and, because we have an unfortunate history of being involved with armed conflict of one form or another almost continuously since the Second World War, it gives a great deal of experience at junior level."

Courses are taught in English, which can lead to difficulties. But Brig Kazocins argues that it is better to teach 70 per cent to someone who will pass it on, than 100 per cent to a good English speaker who then bags a job driving a desk in Brussels.

There are 24 British officers and senior non-commissioned officers in Vyskov, among them Sgt David Bushell, PWRR. He has been instructing students across the range of infantry skills: weapons training, fieldcraft, battle exercises and range work.

"The main emphasis is on them going back to their home countries and becoming competent instructors," he said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed it. The

teaching is challenging because of the language barrier. They are interested in our backgrounds, and, if you can relate what you're teaching to your experiences they will listen more.

"For instance, when you talk about firefights they will ask you what's it like coming under contact. They'll ask if you have ever had to fire your weapon. You can relate it to Bosnia or Northern Ireland. Most of the instructors have that experience from one or the other. I suppose it's boasting in a way, but it's what they like to hear because you have the experience to teach them."

After 18 years in the Army, Sgt Greg Broadstock, 1 Kings, grabbed the chance of going east, and being part of BMATT. "It's been excellent. I would say the students are quite impressed. We try and get through that our sergeants and warrant officers are possibly the most experienced soldiers in the battalions instead of lieutenants who may have only done a couple of years' training. They are impressed with what they hear."

Reaching out in a spirit of friendship

THE BMATT in the Czech Republic is part of the Outreach programme of bilateral defence co-operation between the MoD and the Armed Forces of the UK and those of our Central and Eastern European (CEE) partners. It is hoped Outreach will promote regional stability and democracy between nations which until 1989 confronted each other across the Iron Curtain.

Senior NCOs form the backbone of the BMATT based in Vyskov. There is a mix of cap badges including infantry, armour, artillery, signallers, AGC (SPS) and Royal Marines.

Since 1992 the UK has provided basic training in CEE through short-term training teams (STTT). But it was clear that a training

Starting from scratch

Probably the only place in the world where Para instructors retire for a night at the opera after a hard day of weapon training on the ranges

JUST over a year ago five guys with a laptop sat down in the Ministry of Defence headquarters in Whitehall and drew up plans for the BMATT. A few months later Maj Sid Taylor, of The Light Dragoons, and BMATT deputy chief of staff, arrived in Vyskov charged with sorting out the admin and welfare support.

"We had to start from scratch and had three months to get everything in order," he said. Among the challenges he faced was sorting out suitable housing, medical cover and organising transport.

"There was a real excitement to coming out, you felt like a pioneer," he said.

Team members have the option to serve accompanied, but because there is no international school, soldiers who accept tend to have older children who board back in England or pre-school youngsters.

"The biggest problem for wives is the language," said Maj Taylor. The Czech language is fiendishly difficult, with most words worth more than 50 points in Scrabble. Apart from Czech, the main languages are Russian and German.

Some of the wives work as volunteers in



Maj Sid Taylor

local schools teaching conversational English. "There's lot here if you have the right frame of mind," said Maj Taylor. "But you have got to have the pioneering spirit of getting out there and getting on with it."

The close-knit team is always driving the programme forward. The constant buzz of activity creates an energy that seems to feed off itself.

Maj Stephen May, RTR, one of the team officers, said: "They had a hell of a challenge starting this from scratch. The instructors are enthusiastic, thoroughly professional and have a great sense of humour."

For the instructors, loan appointments present many opportunities. The Czech Republic is rich in culture and history and Prague is crammed with beautiful buildings, museums and galleries. Some of the capital's architecture is straight out of a fairytale and was reputedly the inspiration for the castle in Disneyland.

The Czech Republic is in the heart of Europe, making travel to the rest of the Continent easy. But with so much to see and do there's no need to leave its borders.

Where else in the world you find a couple of Paras retiring for a night at the opera after a hard day on the ranges? That's what WO2 Mark Roche and WO1 Dave Moore did one night. It was the first time they had been to the opera and both were impressed with the fat ladies singing, perhaps their sounds made sweeter by the cost – just a tenner – and for that they got their own box.

BMATT's intense workload and travel commitments were underlined as *Soldier* prepared to leave the Czech Republic. A sub-team were leaving before dawn for Tbilisi in Georgia. Music for the trip had already been selected as they drove to the airport and Gladys Knight and her Pips were about to board that midnight train.



Follow me: Combat fitness tests leave nowhere to hide physical weaknesses. Sgt Hugh Scouler, RHF, left, lends vocal support to SSgt Dumitru from Romania

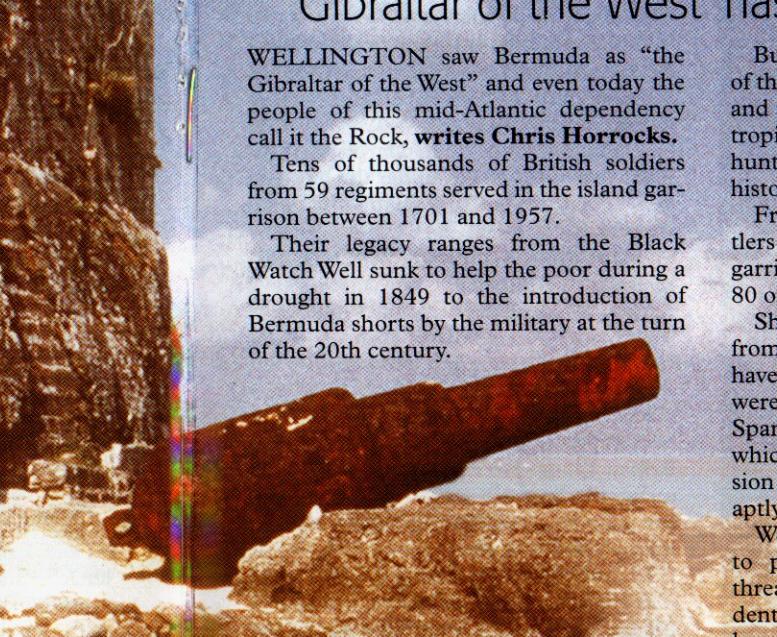
Britain's Atlantic fortress



Still visible: Scaur Hill Fort, right, built in the 1860s by the 61st Regiment of Foot and unaltered since, was armed with 64-pounders on disappearing carriages, one of which is shown here. The fort was occupied by British troops until the First World War and by the Americans in the Second



Well-trodden: The Black Watch Well, left, was sunk by soldiers in 1849. The cutting to the left was gouged out of solid rock so "the poor and their cattle" could reach it from Hamilton without climbing a steep hill



Lest we forget: The War Memorial in Hamilton, right, a replica of the Cenotaph in London, commemorates the Bermudian dead of two world wars



In full cry: The Town Crier of St George, the old colonial capital, is E Michael Jones JP, below - who performs the same function in Dorset, England

Military milestones

1814: British Peninsular War veterans sail from Bermuda to America and pillage Washington, setting fire to the White House, during the Anglo-American War.

1892: Bermuda Militia Artillery (BMA) and the Bermuda Rifles (BR) created. Earlier there had been a local militia in addition to the British garrison.

1901-2: Boer prisoners-of-

war held on islands in Bermuda's Great Sound.

First World War: Bermudian soldiers serve with Royal Artillery and Lincolnshire Regiment in France and Belgium.

1929: BVRC's affiliation to Lincolnshire Regiment (latterly The Royal Anglian Regiment) approved by King George V.

1957: Last British garrison leaves. Reserve conscription introduced in Bermuda.

1965: BMA and Bermuda Rifles amalgamate to form The Bermuda Regiment.

Second World War: Two

Bermudian contingents serve with the Lincolns in northwest Europe and Burma. BMA called up to man island batteries. Bermudian officers and men serve in Italy and Egypt with the Caribbean Regiment.

'Gibraltar of the West' has remained a haven of peace for centuries

WELLINGTON saw Bermuda as "the Gibraltar of the West" and even today the people of this mid-Atlantic dependency call it the Rock, writes Chris Horrocks.

Tens of thousands of British soldiers from 59 regiments served in the island garrison between 1701 and 1957.

Their legacy ranges from the Black Watch Well sunk to help the poor during a drought in 1849 to the introduction of Bermuda shorts by the military at the turn of the 20th century.

But by far the most enduring reminder of the British Army's presence are the forts and artillery-pieces which make this semi-tropical remnant of the Empire a happy hunting-ground for tourists and military history buffs.

From the time of the first English settlers in 1612 to the final withdrawal of the garrison, 90 forts were built in Bermuda, 80 of them by the British Army.

Shots have rarely been fired in anger from the bastions built to protect this haven of peace and beauty. Most notable were the brace which saw off predatory Spanish ships in 1614 and the fusilade which failed to deter a short-lived incursion by American rebels in 1777 at the aptly-named Gunpoint.

Wellington's "Gibraltar of the West" plan to protect the colony from unfulfilled threats from France and newly independent America resulted in Bermuda's largest fort, the Keep in the Royal Naval Dockyard, and its biggest military camp, at Prospect.

Further suspicion of the Americans after

Web links - <http://bermuda-online.org/britarmy.htm> <http://bermuda-online.org/forts.htm>

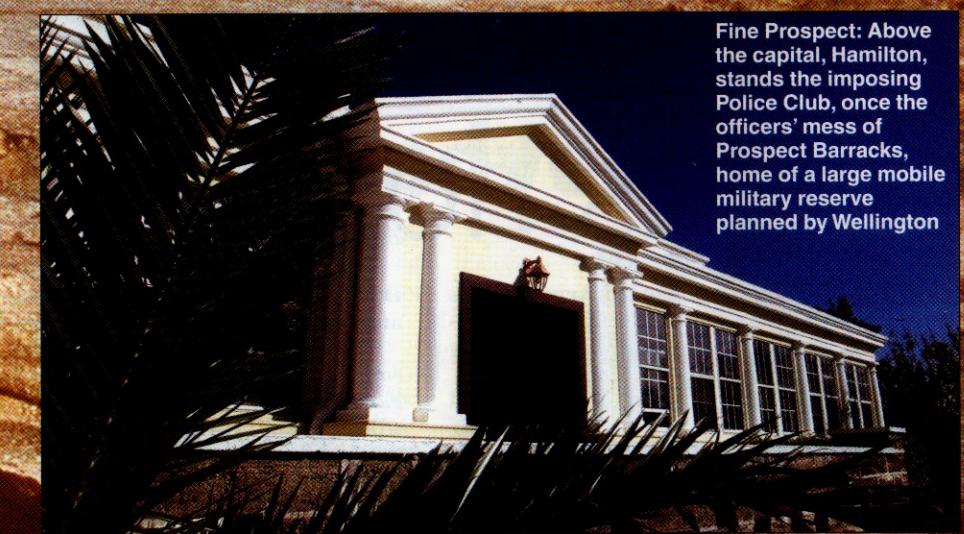
the Civil War of 1861-65 led to a massive fortification programme by a 6,000-strong British garrison, but by the Second World War our former adversaries helped us arm this strategic British crown colony.

The distinction of being the last permanent British Army presence in Bermuda fell to A Company, 1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who left in 1957, although to this day Royal Anglians are seconded to The Bermuda Regiment, maintaining a long-established affiliation.

According to local military historian Dr Edward Cecil Harris*, the forts and surviving artillery in Bermuda represent almost the entire span of artillery fortifications, certainly as far as British coastal defences outside Europe are concerned.

"The collection of rifled muzzle-loading guns is perhaps the largest in the world," he said, "and there is every suggestion that none of these guns left Bermuda, so there are more to be discovered in the fullness of time."

*Bermuda Forts 1612-1957 by Edward Cecil Harris (Bermuda Maritime Museum Press, 1997).



Fine Prospect: Above the capital, Hamilton, stands the imposing Police Club, once the officers' mess of Prospect Barracks, home of a large mobile military reserve planned by Wellington

Background picture: As if still guarding the maritime approaches to Bermuda, two huge old rifled muzzle-loading cannon lie rusting on the rocks below the ramparts of Fort St Catherine, from where they were unceremoniously dumped in 1865 to make way for new weaponry. Today the fort is a major tourist attraction containing replicas of the Crown Jewels

Lions' roar of approval



Leader of the pack: British Lions captain Martin Johnson in action

Pictures: Roger Thompson

THE Army Rugby Union's Centre of Excellence in Aldershot proved its international credentials when it played host to the British Lions before they departed for a two-month tour of Australia, writes Roger Thompson.

The rugby giants trained ferociously for four days in Aldershot under the hawkish eyes of coaches Graham Henry and Andy Robinson.

Led by Martin Johnson, the Lions mesmerised the small crowd as they rehearsed high-speed routines ahead of their three test matches against world champions Australia for the Tom Richards Trophy.

Maj Tom Richards is the only player to have represented both Australia and the British Lions. He was the son of a Cornishman who travelled to Australia to join the gold rush. His father later moved to the South African goldmines.

In 1906 Richards was not qualified to play rugby for South Africa so he followed the team to England and ended up playing against the Springboks for Gloucestershire.

Hearing Australia were about to tour the UK, he returned home and scored a memorable try in the final match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Then, on tour in Wales, he registered the first try at the newly-opened Arms Park in Cardiff.

He then returned to Johannesburg and in 1910 the British Lions arrived for their tour of South Africa. An arduous training

schedule and major injuries meant that the Lions management were soon looking for back-up players. Learning of his recent Gloucester qualifications, they asked Richards to join the squad. He played in both tests and thereby secured a place in sporting history.

In 1914 he enlisted in the Australian Army and went on to serve at Gallipoli and on the Western Front (Belgium and France) with great distinction, winning the Military Cross. He also endeared himself to military historians by taking photographs and keeping extensive and beautifully-kept war diaries, which are shortly to be the subject of a book.

Maj Richards died in Brisbane in 1935, aged 47, from tuberculosis, avowing that "the gas I swallowed during the war is beating me down steadily".

The Lions' preparations to lift the trophy named in his honour attracted the British sporting press to Aldershot. Everyone complimented the Army on its facilities, green in the blazing sun, and the Sodexho staff for arranging the sort of administrative details that make such high-profile events run smoothly. Afterwards the Lions signed shirts, autographed books and had photographs taken with the 500-strong crowd of Army supporters.

This pride of lions has a common touch off the park but clearly from what was seen at training they are mighty ferocious when they sense a kill.



Quick march: England international Matt Perry, left, outstrips Lions team-mate Dan Luger

Scots honour wild-card selection

THE Sodexho-sponsored Army sevens produced the best exhibition of running rugby seen in Aldershot for many years, writes Roger Thompson.

The reigning champions, the Royal Scots, were only able to defend their title through a wild card entry, having been beaten by the RGBW during the knock-out stage in Northern Ireland.

As it transpired the match-of-the-day was the semi-final which saw the Army champions exact their revenge over the RGBW with a 26-5 victory. Both teams played absorbing sevens and it was interesting to see the RS first parry, contain and then vanquish a Fijian-style attack.

As usual Pte Emosi Naisaramaki provided the play-making and Pte Ken Kainoco the "whizz", but it was Pte Kite Bavadra (pictured right) and Pte Bull

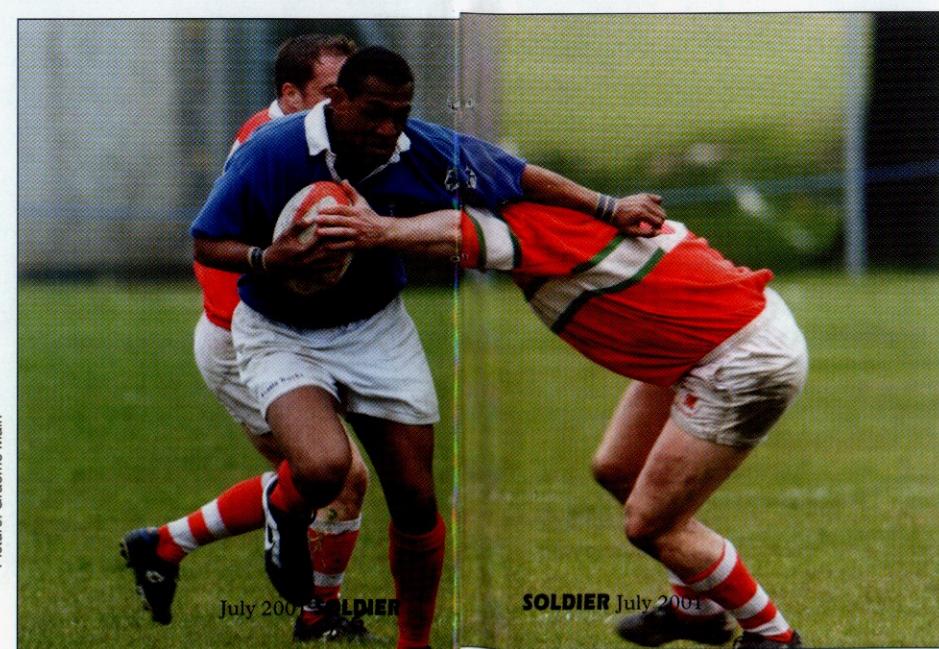
Bulamakau whose combined strength and speed out wide proved unstoppable.

For the RGBW, Pte James Matanikoro, Pte Saula Roko and Pte Toobs Koroinavlivou showed the sort of flair which, in any other year, would have won the Army crown. All three have now been selected for the Army sevens squad.

The final was a somewhat one-way affair with the RS playing exhibition rugby against a talented and gallant 22 Regiment RA squad. For the gunners, Cfn Gareth Slade-Jones and Capt Dave Blackburn were prominent but the "blue machine" rolled on remorselessly and cruised to a 62-0 win.

The old Jaguar cars advertised "grace, space and pace" – an ideal maxim for the 2001 Army champions.

◆ RMAS won the women's inter-corps trophy.



Picture: Graeme Main

African adventure

THREE Army Rugby Union coaches are swapping the training fields of Northern Ireland for the savannahs of South Africa.

Over the course of a two-week programme, Capt Chris Chudleigh (RWF), Capt Chris O'Connor (3 R Irish) and LCpl Stevie Harris (3 R Irish) will put their technical skills to the test coaching young people in schools, universities and townships throughout the region.

The trio will be accompanied on the joint Army and Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) initiative by seven rugby development officers from Ulster.

"We will work in association with South African rugby development officers and will conduct approximately ten coaching clinics," said Capt Chudleigh. "In return we will visit the Natal Sharks and receive training from some of the best coaches in South Africa."



Picture: British Army Northern Ireland

Tourists: LCpl Stevie Harris (3 R Irish), top left, Capt Chris O'Connor (3 R Irish), right, and Capt Chris Chudleigh (RWF)

Taunting Tyson

Fights fans come face to face with boxing's biggest personalities

NOT many people can claim to have thrown a torrent of abuse at former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and escaped unscathed, writes **Andy Simms**.

As a fighter Tyson has flirted with greatness, destroying some of the best boxers of his generation and losing to just two men – James “Buster” Douglas and Evander “The Real Deal” Holyfield.

But with a ferocious storm of a temper, Iron Mike has more often than not made the headlines for the wrong reasons. His notoriety as the bad-man of boxing scaled new heights in 1997 when, in an act of sickening brutality, he bit a chunk out of Holyfield’s right ear.

In short, the self-styled “baddest man on the planet” is not someone to be crossed.

But that is exactly what Sports Network’s Frank Maloney asked SSgt Spud Woollatt (HQ Med GP) to do when British heavyweight champion Julius Francis went head-to-head with the most feared man in boxing last year.

Woollatt and WO2 Rhino O’Neill (RAMC) befriended the pint-sized promoter when Francis used Aldershot’s Maida gymnasium – home to the Army boxing team – as his training camp ahead of the big fight.

The Army pair, both self-confessed boxing fanatics, found the lure of professional boxing hard to resist and became regular faces at the gym for the duration of Francis’s stay.

“We found ourselves becoming part of the furniture and were soon on first-name terms with Frank, Julius and the rest of

RESULTS SERVICE

FOOTBALL: REME tour to Australia – Banyule City 1 REME 4; Australian Defence Force Academy 0 REME 10; Australian Army 1 REME 5.

Harwood Cup final – DSCA Catterick 4 Five GS Med Regt 2.

MARTIAL ARTS: Winners of the Army open championships were: **Karate:** Senior men’s kumite – Pte Graham Thomas (RRW); Junior men’s kumite – Spr Darren Thompson (RE); Senior men’s kata – Spr David Fisk (RE); Junior men’s kata – Sgt Andy Howarth (RA); Women’s kumite – Cpl Leanne Gabbitas (RLC); Women’s kata – Sig Stephanie



Dream ticket: Boxing fans WO2 Rhino O’Neill, left, and SSgt Spud Woollatt Picture: Steve Dock

the team,” said O’Neill. “It was great to be able to get so close to professional boxing.”

When Team Julius departed Aldershot for the showdown with Tyson, Woollatt was asked to join them. “I managed to get a week’s leave and was able to go to Manchester with Julius,” said Woollatt. “They basically hired me to shout at Mike Tyson.

“At all the press conferences I kept telling him he’d go down in the eighth – it’s fair to say he didn’t warm to me,” he said. “After one press call I asked him for his autograph . . . he took one look at me, said

‘I was hired to shout at Tyson’

‘eighth round’ and turned his back.” However, Francis’s inevitable second-round defeat did not spell the end of Woollatt’s and O’Neill’s association with Sports Network.

Thanks to their continued friendship with Maloney the pair have been granted continual access to the British fight scene and have attended countless high-profile fights.

“Everyone from Lennox Lewis to Joe Calzaghe now know our names and take time out to say hello whenever we see them,” said O’Neill. “As a boxing fan, the last 12 months really have been like a dream come true.”

Boggart (R Signals); Team kumite – BA Germany; Team kata – RSME. **Taekwondo:** Senior men’s patterns – Csgt Dave Bissett (Coldm Gds); Junior men’s patterns – Sig Tulsibir Shahi (QG Signals). **Taekwondo (ITF):** Senior men’s sparring – CSgt Dave Bissett (Coldm Gds); Junior men’s sparring – SSgt Dave Tyson (REME). **Taekwondo (WTF):** Junior men’s sparring – Sig Jamie Emett (R Signals). **Weapons kata:** Men’s – Maj David Worsley (QARANC). **Kendo:** Men’s – Maj David Worsley (QARANC). **Winners of the 5 Div open championships were:** **Karate:** Men’s kumite – Sgt Sean Gilsean (RLC). Men’s kata – Sgt Andy

Howarth (RA). **Taekwondo (WTF):** Men’s sparring – Sig Balkrishna Rai (QG Signals); Men’s patterns – Sig Talsibir Shahi (QG Signals). **Weapons kata:** Men’s – Maj David Worsley (QARANC).

Kendo: Men’s – Maj David Worsley (QARANC).

RUGBY UNION: Manila Tens, group stage – Black Watch 40 Mekong Pirates 0; Black Watch 38 Flying Elvises 0; Black Watch 36 Sydney Dwellers 0. **Quarter-final** – Black Watch 32 Nomads 19. **Semi-final** – Black Watch 29 British Club of Bangkok 17. **Final** – Black Watch 15 Bahrain Warblers 12.

Army's hot steppers

THE captain of the The Green Howards skiing team swapped the chill of the piste for the heat of the desert in an effort to raise money for children's cancer charities.

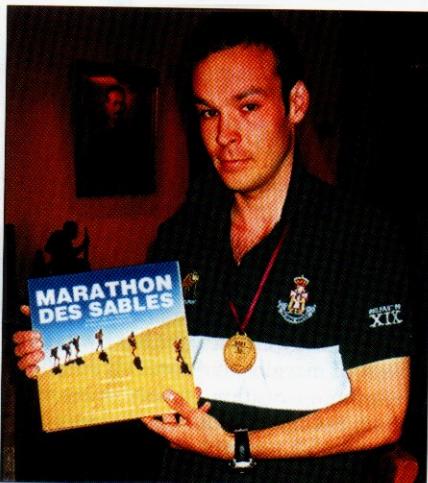
And determined not to do things by halves, Lt Ben Knox became the first British competitor to cross the finish line in the 2001 Marathon Des Sables – a gruelling 150-mile race across the Sahara Desert.

The 23-year-old finished 23rd from a field of 700 runners in the seven-day race across the Moroccan desert, where daytime temperatures top 60 degrees and plummet to five degrees at night.

Each contestant had to carry at least 2,000 calories of food for each day, a sleeping mat, survival kit and an anti-venom pump. The Marathon Des Sables is the equivalent of running six marathons end-to-end with only nine litres of drinking water each day to quench the thirst.

Knox's courageous performance raised more than £12,500 for the Children's Cancer Fund at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary and Candlelighters at St James's Hospital in Leeds.

◆ Flying the flag in the team race were three soldiers from the



Best of British: Ski captain Lt Ben Knox (GH)

Grenadier Guards who finished tenth out of 50 entries.

Capt James O'Connell, Gdsm Ben Rutt and LCpl Glen Cameron were the first British team home and raised more than £12,000 for the Meningitis Research Foundation. The trio completed the race in memory of Gdsm Simon Holohan, also of the Grenadiers.



Disneyland-ing Florida

IN preparation for next year's national championships the Army's formation skydiving team honed their skills at the DeLand drop zone in Florida.

Under the guidance of new coach Shannon Pilcher – a member of world medal-winning team DeLand PD Blue – the four-man team rehearsed the routines

that they hope will win the national title and earn them the right to represent the British Army and Great Britain at the World Air Games in 2003.

Maj Dave Tyler (RLC), Capt Alastair Macartney (RLC), Sgt Jim O'Kane (RE) and Sgt Ian Cashman (PWRR) are pictured in action above.

SHORTS

Four-midable display

WITH four winner's medals to his name WO1 Chris Sturdy (1 RSME) dominated the 2001 Army badminton championships at Grantham.

Competing in both the senior and veterans' competition, WO1 Sturdy began his haul of silverware with the veterans' singles title. Teaming up with Dave Ormerod (1 (UK) ADSR), he then picked up the veterans' doubles championship crown.

Not content with a double, Sturdy beat LCpl Andy Abbott (3 (UK) DSR) in the men's final before completing his quadruple alongside Sgt Steve Pengelly (11 Sig Regt) in the men's doubles.

Not to be outdone, Capt Gillian Layton-Shaw recorded a treble and helped guide her regiment, 1 RMP, to the women's team title.

Her hat-trick of victories began with a win against Cpl Mhairi McIntosh (30 Sig Regt) in the final of the women's singles. Further medals followed when she won the women's doubles and mixed doubles with Cpl Jinty McTurk (7 ABSS) and WO2 Ormerod respectively.

◆ McTurk and McIntosh won the women's doubles title at the Combined Services championships at HMS Neptune in Scotland.

The Royal Air Force collected the Inter-Services title.

Sappers succeed

AT the end of a highly competitive season, the Wilsons Hogg Robinson-sponsored Army Inter-Unit squash championships came to a climax at the Aldershot Garrison Sports Centre.

The Major Units title was awarded to 1 RSME who beat 5 Regt AAC in the final. The race for the Minor Units crown was won by DLO Andover, who successfully saw off the challenge of AGC Centre in their final showdown.

TABLES

MASSEY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
RE*	10	7	3	0	33	24
RA	10	7	3	0	28	24
REME	10	6	2	2	20	20
RLC	9	6	1	2	6	19
Infantry	10	6	0	4	16	18
AAC	10	4	1	5	-7	13
AGC	10	3	3	4	-10	12
APTC	10	3	2	5	-5	11
R Signals	9	2	1	6	-10	7
AMS	10	1	1	8	-29	4
RAC	10	0	1	9	-42	1

* Winners of the 2000/2001 Massey trophy

SHORTS

Palmer's first home

A RECORD 1,500 runners took part in the RAF Brüggen ten-mile run which was won by SSgt Colin Palmer (1 RSME) in a time of 52min 42sec.

The 34-year-old said: "This is the first time I've done the race and I'm really chuffed to have won."

Army's bat in business

THE Army cricket team began the new season with a 75-run victory over an Isle of Wight Cricket Board XI at Shanklin.

After losing the toss and being made to bat first, the Army's openers, Maj David O'Kelly (GH) and team captain Sgt Nick Palmer (AAC), made good use of a firm batting track – top scoring with 74 and 63 respectively.

Lt Alex Senneck (R Signals) staked his claim for a higher place in the batting order with an unbeaten 29 that included a six which cleared the ground. The Army finished their 50 overs on 232 for eight.

In reply, the fast and accurate bowling of Senneck and Sgt Steve Cornhill (PWRR) proved a constant threat to the home side, who found themselves all but out of the game on 46 for four. But despite the Army's aggressive bowling, the Isle of Wight managed to post 157 runs before their last wicket fell.

♦ Emulating the success of the senior side, the Army U25s stormed to an emphatic ten-wicket victory over the Cambridge Crusaders at the Pembroke College Ground in Cambridge.

Fielding first, Army spin-bowler Capt Ed Gairdner (QRH) set his side on the road to victory with a five-wicket haul. The university side finished their innings on 193 for six.

Lacking a spin king of their own, the Cambridge bowlers were tormented by Army openers Cfn Ian Dixon (REME) and Capt Paddy Wheeler (AAC), who reached their personal half-centuries in 78 and 79 balls respectively.

Quick running between the wickets, allied with a beautiful display of batting prowess, sealed a well-deserved victory for the Army, with Dixon (96), making his debut for the U25 side, and Wheeler (61) finishing unbeaten.

♦ The RMAS cricket team recorded a six-wicket victory over a Swiss XI during a tour of Malta.

Other results included a draw with the Malta Cricket Association and a three-wicket defeat to The Hague.

They think it's all over . . .

Cup fever grips the Army as season comes to a close

Army Challenge Cup

HAMELN-based 28 Engineer Regiment won the Army Challenge Cup by the narrowest of margins at Aldershot's Military Stadium – beating fellow sappers 3 RSME 5-4 on penalties.

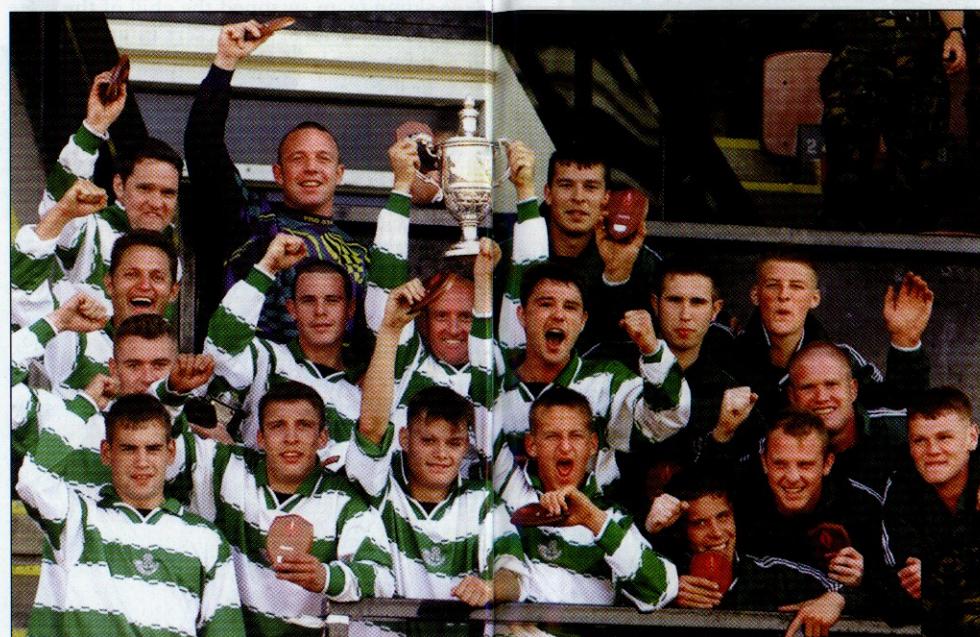
With a 2-0 lead at half-time – courtesy of a headed goal from Sgt Si Mayers and a Spr J J Newell spot-kick – the eventual champions looked as though they would cruise to the silverware.

And had it not been for 3 RSME's lofty central defender, Sgt "Flash" Gordon, that could well have been the case. In the second half, the big-man twice escaped the attentions of the 28 Engr Regt defence to head home – his all-important second goal coming in stoppage time.

Spurred on by their late reprieve, 3 RSME then snatched the lead for the first time in the game through a Sgt John Ross glancing header at the end of the first period of extra-time.

But the UK unit's jubilation was short-lived, Spr Jacko Jacobs making it 3-3 just three minutes after the re-start and placing the outcome of the final in the lottery of a penalty shoot-out.

With the teams still level after five penalties apiece, nerves got the better of 3 RSME's Cpl Dixie Dixon, who blazed his



spot-kick over the 28 Engr Regt crossbar to bring a close to the see-saw battle.

♦ The Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC) prevented the sappers from completing a major and minor units double by beating 42 Engr Regt 3-2 in the final of the minor units Challenge Cup. AC Craig Hatton and Sgt Paul Merchant put DISC two goals to the good before Cfn Craig Clinton pulled one back with a thumping free-kick midway through the second half.

Spr Aaran Ashcroft made it 2-2 before Hatton completed the scoring with his second strike of the day.



Infantry Cup

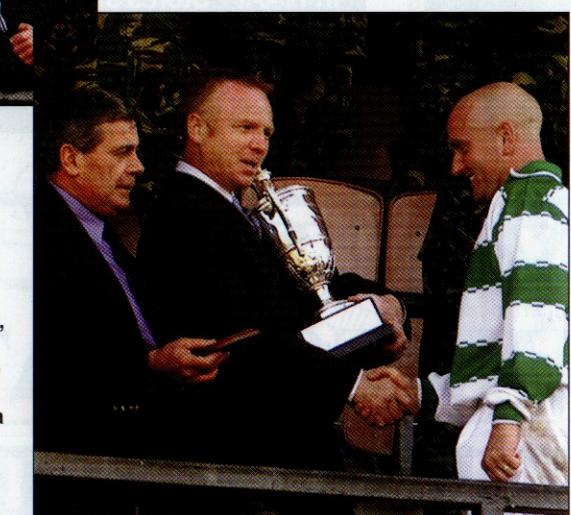
THE 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry lifted the Infantry Cup after an exciting ten-goal final against the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots.

The game, which was played at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Stadium, finished 7-3 at the end of extra-time.

Pte Glen Conville (1 LI) laid claim to the match ball after netting a hat-trick for the eventual champions.

Guest of honour at the game was Alex McLeish, boss of Scottish Premier League giants Hibernian.

Captain marvel: Winning skipper Sgt Mark Shelton (1 LI), below right, is presented with the coveted Infantry Challenge Cup by Hibernian FC manager Alex McLeish



Winning formula: The 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, above, celebrate winning the Infantry Football Challenge Cup at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Stadium

They shall not pass: Pte Steven Jacobs (203 (W) Fd Hosp), below, finds his route to goal blocked by 204 (NI) Fd Hosp defender Pte John McDowell during the TA Challenge Cup final at Ballymena

TA Challenge Cup

FOR the first time in the competition's 80-year history, the TA Football Challenge Cup final was contested by two Army Medical Services units.

Defending champions, Northern Ireland-based B Squadron, 204 Field Hospital, took on their Welsh counterparts, RHQ and HQ Squadron, 203 Field Hospital, in the Ballymena showdown.

The Welsh medics – competing in their first final – arrived as clear underdogs but silenced the partisan crowd by netting the game's opening goal. Pte Ceri Williams coolly slotted home after 204's goalkeeper, Cpl Ray Gilliland, recklessly sent SSgt Dom Mello crashing to the floor.

An upset looked to be on the cards until

the predatory boot of LCpl Tiny Calderwood levelled the scores on the 70-minute mark and turned the tide back in the cup holders' favour.

But heroics between the Welsh posts by SSgt Ian McLeish prevented the Irish from snatching a late winner and forced the game into extra-time.

With more than 100 minutes of football played, Pte Steve Douglas finally gave the "Ballymena Boys" the lead when he met an inch-perfect cross with a well-directed header. A goal from Pte Rob Wright seconds from the final whistle condemned the Welsh to a 3-1 defeat and crowned 204 Field Hospital as champions for the second successive year.

... it is now!

SHORTS

County cup misery

THE Army hockey team came up against uncompromising opposition at the Division B county championships in Ludlow.

With seven key players unavailable for selection, the Army side were unrecognisable from the team that triumphed in the Inter-Services championships. The change in line-up took its toll in the opening game – Northumberland taking full advantage of an unsettled Army side to record a 3-1 win. Eventual cup winners Bedfordshire then added to the Army's woes with a hard-fought 4-3 victory.

However, some pride was restored on the last-day of the round-robin tournament when Spr Joe Ruggerio (RE) scored minutes from time to secure a 3-2 win against Shropshire.

♦ Boasting a total of 11 Army players, the Combined Services hockey team finished third in the Spirit Trophy. The inter-regional tournament was contested by teams from across the UK.

Managed by Maj David Rutherford and WO1 Chris Peachy, the team won two of their five fixtures.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to July . . .

CANOEING: 1 – Army sprint and marathon championships (River Mon, Monmouth).

CRICKET: 2 – Wiltshire v Army (Marlborough CC); 3 – Herefordshire v Army U25 (Hereford); 9 – Combined Services U25 v Hyderabad Cricket Academy (Aldershot); 11 – Dorset XI v Army (Blandford); 12 – Combined Services v ECB XI (Vine Lane); 13 – Army v Middlesex 2nd XI (Aldershot); 15 – Army v Free Foresters (Aldershot); 16 – Combined Services v Australian Crusaders (US Portsmouth); 18 – Army v Fire Service (Aldershot); 23 – Kent 2nd XI v Army (Beckenham); 24 – Army v Civil Service (Aldershot); 25 – Bath v Army (Bath CC); 27-30 – Yorkshire matches (Beverley).

EXTREME SPORTS: 16-20 – Nijmegen four-day marches (Nijmegen, Holland).

LAWN TENNIS: 1 – Inter-Services championships (Wimbledon); 20-25 – Army championships (Aldershot).

POLO: 14 – Army v Navy (Tidworth).

SWIMMING: 13 – Army diving championships (Aldershot)

TUG OF WAR: 4 – Inter-Services championships (RAF Cosford); 6 – Army inter-unit championships (Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot).

WINDSURFING: 9-14 – Army, inter-corps and individual championships (Weymouth and Portland Harbour).

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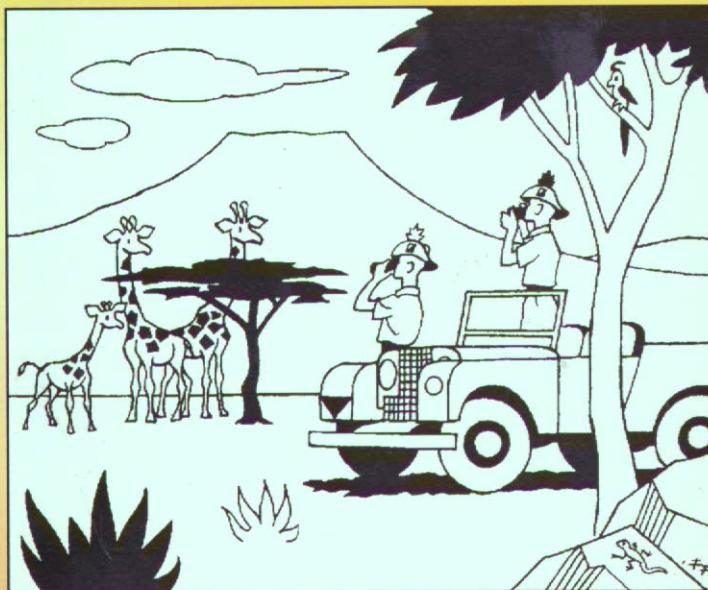
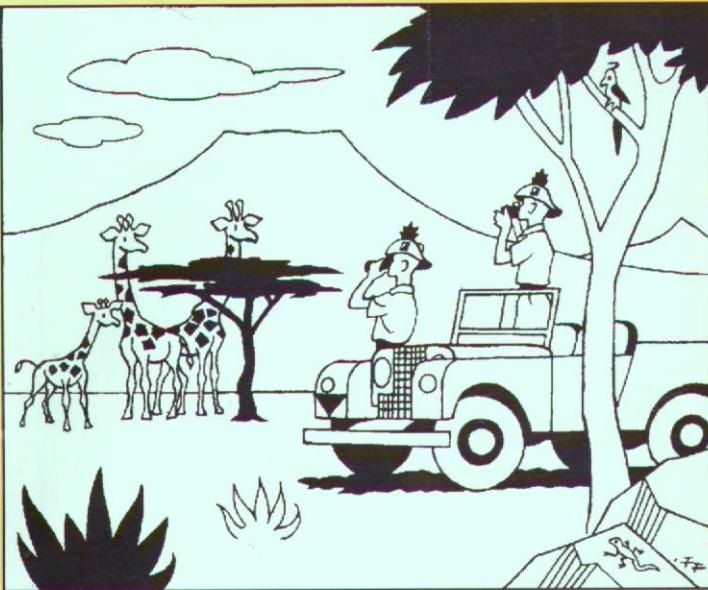
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No 716



How observant are you?

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 716, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by July 31.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

May issue (No 714): First correct entry drawn was from Mrs S Poll, of Hornchurch, who wins £100. Runners-up Mrs P Tomlinson, of Halifax, and Mrs J Bosworth, of Blandford, receive a £10 gift voucher each. The ten differences were: tepee pole and central and lower designs; lines in sky; Sioux brave's headdress feathers, hair, elbow and fingers; mountain top; twigs in fire.



Freeze frame

"Sergeant Lunchbox had a bit of a reputation at the hospital."

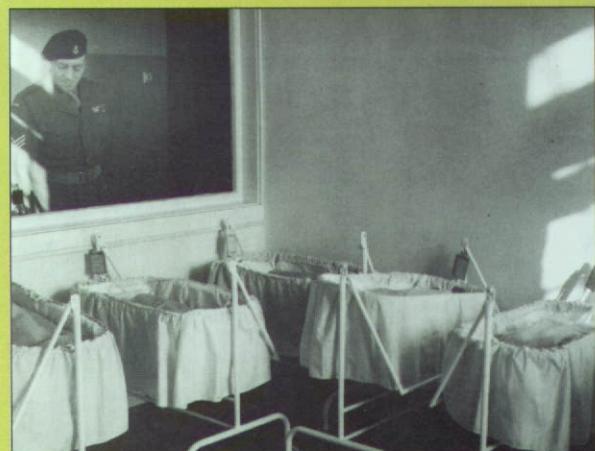
Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in March 1954. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by July 31.

FUNNIEST caption, in our opinion, for the May image (inset right) was "Lunchtimes were livened up when bored squaddies took to balancing their meatballs on their heads instead of eating them", from Alan Frehley, who knows what he is talking about because he is a civilian chef with 30 Signal Regiment at Nuneaton.

Still in the cookhouse, we also liked the topically cutting "Despite the chefs' Pay 2000 wage rise, they still couldn't get the haggis right" from SSgt Ure, Tech Office, 4 Bn REME at Bordon. Mentioned in dispatches were "My tea leaves show that I'm going to



Army), who is obviously a student of the Korean War; "In these days of health and hygiene, the Army still issues virus tins to eat from" by Sgt



J D J Long at JHQ Centre, Heidelberg; "Rabbit? With a long, thin tail tapering to a point like that?" from Ron Ashbridge of Richmond, N Yorks; "Quick, pass me that Bren gun! Mine's still alive" from WO2 Rich Nixon of 2 RTR at Fallingbostel; and "The chef said he dropped a tanner in the range stew" from Cpl Coleman, 1 KOSB LAD REME, at Catterick.

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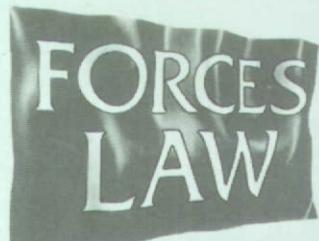
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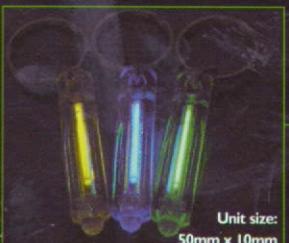
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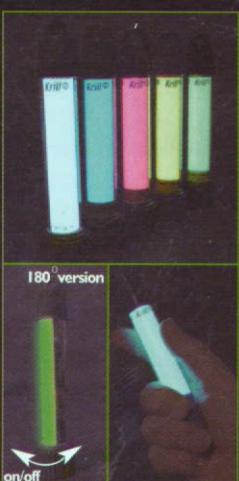


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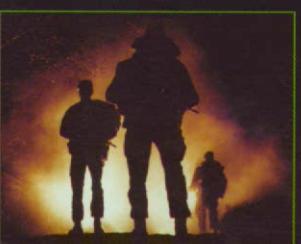
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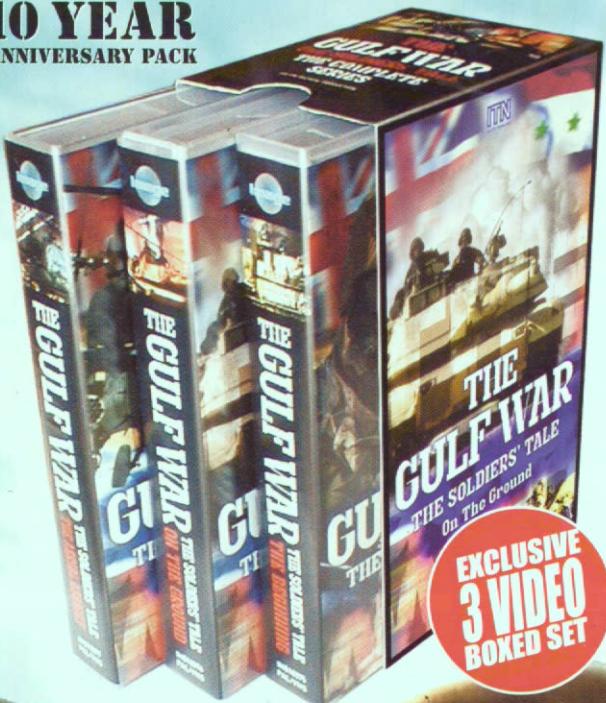
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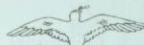
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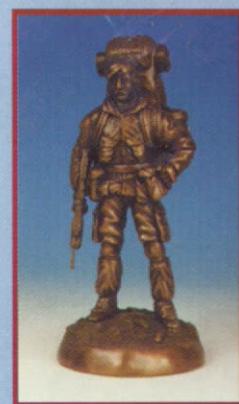
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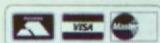
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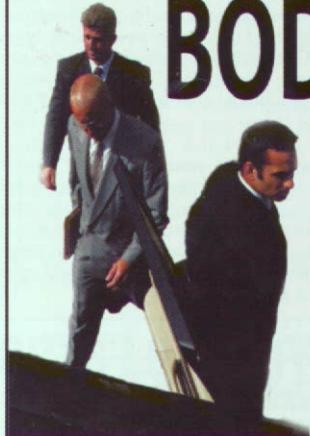
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Sam, 33-year-old, 5'4", slim blonde with shoulder length hair. Enjoys swimming, horse riding, shopping, eating out, TV, videos, going out and being at home. Single mum, pretty, bubbly with an outgoing personality. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P917

Kim, 30-year-old, 5'7", medium build shoulder length brown hair. Enjoys swimming, eating out, going to the pub and socialising. Single mum, seeking pen pals, 30-40. P904

Mary Ann, 55-year-old, medium build, fair hair with hazel eyes. Enjoys the countryside, gardening, 60s & 70s music, TV and loves animals. Seeking pen pals, any age up to 65. P905

Anne, 25-year-old, 5'4", dark hair with blue eyes. Enjoys clubbing, pubbing, sport, films, music, swimming and walking. Seeking pen pals any age with a good sense of humour. P906

Brigitte, 29-year-old, 5'6", fun loving blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs, keeping fit and reading. Seeking male pen pals age unimportant, a photo would be cool! P907

Sandra, 23-year-old, 5'3", brown hair and eyes. Enjoys writing, socialising, holidays, karaoke and plenty of fun. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P908

Gillian, 39-year-old, blonde hair, medium build with brown eyes. Female graduate who uses a wheelchair. Enjoys the theatre, cinema, London, restaurants and swimming. Lives on the River Thames with a good view. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P909

Gabrielle, 5'6", good looking blonde with blue/green eyes. Enjoys homelife, clubbing, travelling when possible, socialising with friends and music. A down to earth, genuine and has GSOH., seeking pen pals 22-34. P910

Jessica, 33-year-old, 5'8" tall, white with jet-black hair. Interests include writing novels, piano, needlework, collecting porcelain dolls and novels. Would like to write to soldiers especially who like rap music, Christians welcome, 30+. P911

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4th (500 runs, £1,500): Tpr PN Armitage, HCMR, London
5th (495 runs, £1,100): Sgt MA Wilson, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon
6th (480 runs, £800): Maj AW Butterfield, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, Hereford
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26 May 2001
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DEATH

MARSHALL - on Oct 6, 2000 at Southern General Hospital Glasgow, age 45 - Sgt R Marshall (Marshy). Served RAOC 1970-1992. - Mrs Pam Marshall - 3 Gigha Crescent, Irvine, KA11 1DH.

07/01

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Concert Favourites, Plantagenet PMRD 9423.

A concert programme has also been recorded by the **Band of The Prince of Wales's Division (Clive)**. Apart from the Eric Coates march *Calling All Workers* and the overture to *The Barber of Seville*, it principally comprises TV, film and show tunes, with some big bands thrown in for good measure. All are well played and, in some cases, sung.

There is an Irving Berlin medley, *Hetty Wainthrop Investigates*, *March of the Men of Harlech*, *My Heart Will Go On* from *Titanic*, *The Dam Busters*, *John Williams in Concert*, *Thunderbirds*, *Alexander's Ragtime Band* and others.

Concert Time!, Soundline Recordings.

Droit Music have re-issued a collection of marches and melodies from the Boer War and both world wars. There are too many individual titles to list but virtually all the important tunes are included, together with a clutch of appropriate marches such as *The Old Brigade*, *The Vanished Army*, *The Contemptibles*, *The British Legion* and *By The Left*.

Most tracks are by the **Band of the Royal Corps of Signals** but **The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders** and the **Light Division** also contribute.

The Old Brigade, Droit Music TRCD 213.

Last, but certainly not least, except in price – it is only £4.95 – is a collection of Sousa's compositions played by the **Royal Artillery Band** conducted by Keith Brion.

Mr Brion is recognised as the leading interpreter of Sousa and came over from America for the recording. There are several rarities (at least in the UK) including *Looking Upwards*, *Colonial Dames*, *Dance Hilarious, With Pleasure*, *Daughters of Texas*, *Foshay Tower*, *Washington Memorial and Imperial Edward March*, plus several others.

John Philip Sousa – Music for Wind Band, Volume 1, NAXOS 8.559058.

SEARCHLINE

Fishing for members: Graeme Tennick, a fan of Fish and his former band, Marillion, and a member of The Company, Fish's fan club, is setting up a website for Forces' Fish fans. Write to LCpl G Tennick, 43 Sup Sqn, 1 GS Regt RLC, PRB, BFPO 47 or e-mail graeme@teknikal-solutions.com

Ex-Service, civilians with **Priority Freight Service RCT**, Sept 1975 – particularly Danny Robson, Steve Pope, Mick Wakley or Joe Lane – please contact John Little, Caretaker's Flat, Salvation Army, Minden Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 4WR or littlej532@aol.com

Windsor School Hamm 1953-83: Thriving society for ex-pupils and staff reunions, newsletters and members register. Details from Gill Walker, 32 Felmer Drive, King's Worthy, Hants SO23 7PY.

Anecdotes wanted on **Centurion tanks** and variants in the Suez Crisis, on Op Motorman, BARVs in Falklands or on AVREs in the Gulf. E-mail lawsonkent@freeuk.com

Anyone who served with Bill Colclough, Unit 1004 Mob Wksp WAEME, 2 WA Inf Bde HQ (Gold Coast Regt), 82 WA Div, 15 India

Corps, Arakan Campaign, Burma 1944-45. Contact K Colclough, 16 Park View, Hasland, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 0JD or 01246 558389.

West Kirkby Hospital Ward 6, 1949-50 patients asked to authenticate accounts for researcher. Write to John Beasley (ex-RAF), 283 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 5AL or ring 0208 570 2780

Family researching **Pte John (Jack) Birch, 4 Bn, Duke of York's Own, 1937-46**. Also battalion history of soldiers captured in France 1940 and held in PoW camp in Poland. Contact Mark Fooks on 01666 50 8877 or fooksanfield@aol.com

Warren Mahoney, Liverpudlian and best man in 1989, may still be serving, is sought by groom and old friend Jim Seddon. Reply to bedfordfalls@totalise.co.uk

Les Carr is searching for contacts from BAOR units, especially **14 Sqn RCT and 8 Regt RCT 1977-90**, Munster and Bielefeld. Reply to les@leslisa.co.uk

1 ADTR RCT/RLC at Birdwood Barracks,

Battlefield tourists

● Eighty-four members of 101 Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V) spent four days touring the Arnhem battlefields during a study of Operation Market-Garden.

Accompanying them were two veterans of the battle, Lt Gordon Cantlay, a Royal Engineer, and Cpl Bill "Boysie" Bloys of the Paras.

Bunde, Germany has its own website at www.delphi.com/bundeboys

Researcher seeks anyone serving or having contact with **A Force, Jan 1943-April 1944, N Africa, Sicily, Italy. R Force, April 1944-Sept 1946, N W Europe**. Letters acknowledged. P W Laycock, 11 Ave de la Ferme Rose, 1180 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Information on **Frederick George Kent, 1 Para, born Swansea, Aug 13, 1920**, may have been **Arnhem PoW**. Contact W A Lloyd, Swansea Para Regt Assoc, on 01792 406229, spr109@york.ac.uk

Y Coy, Royal Norfolk Regiment members, **Sennelager 1946-47 and Detmold**, sought by James A Merry, 20 Coorara Court, Craigmore,

South Australia 5114. Particularly Spike Baldy of Lowestoft and Clem Dogget (Landbeach).

B Battery, RHA old comrades' database is being updated. Anyone wishing to amend or add details should contact Sgt M Graham, Downman's Troop, B Bty RHA/1 RHA, Assaye Barracks, Tidworth Hants SP9 7AB.

Lofty Rendell, TAVR RAOC-sponsored unit Deepcut, 1975, also RAF Henlow and Aden, is asked to e-mail Ray Iles rayiles@altavista.com

Arnhem Platoon, C Coy ACC: Jim Hopper would like to trace former members for reunion. E-mail jimandrea@hopper@aol.com

York University researcher seeks experiences of veterans of **British Airborne Div** (and attached elements), **Op Market-Garden**, Arnhem-Oosterbeek area Sept 15-25, 1944, and veterans of **D-Day Pegasus Bridge** operation. Contact Stephen Reid, Collisters, Woodside Green, Lenham, Kent ME17 2ET or spr109@york.ac.uk

Emry (Lofty) Jones, married to Linda, sought by old mate Geordie Clayton. Replies to georgeclayton@btinternet.com

STANOC CENTRE

The Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Night Observation and Countersurveillance Centre at Larkhill will close on Sept 1. Anyone who has presented gifts of pictures, plaques or other items to the STANOC messes, and who would like them returned, is invited to contact WO2 (QMSI) Simon Oats on 01985 845272 (Larkhill mil 5272), who will arrange their return. Items not claimed by Sep 1 will go to Warminster, where the STANOC roles will continue at the Infantry Trials and Development Unit and the Reconnaissance Division.

Soldier in focus

WHEN students from King Alfred's College in Winchester undertook a project to examine the Army's relationship with the media, they turned to *Soldier* for help.

The result, a 15-minute documentary which was given its premier at the college, included an in-depth interview with editor John Elliott.

Also featured were soldiers based at the Sir John Moore Barracks, home of the Army training regiment just outside Winchester. The film included external footage and comment from BFBS and a local newspaper, the *Andover Advertiser*. The project was an integral part of the media students' degree course.

ATR Winchester's day of fun for the kids



Picture: Graeme Main

Special outing: Sgt Dave Evans RGJ, who is based at the Army Careers and Information Office in Milton Keynes, is pictured with a party of children from the town's Slated Row special needs school during a fun-packed outing he arranged for them at ATR Winchester

Useful numbers

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Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service

Men's Association 020 8590 1124

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Home-link Access Number "2999@thePINprompt

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

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

Joint Service Housing Advice

Office 01722 436575

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

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011

RBL's Legionline 0845 7725 725

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen

and women 020 7723 5021

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272.

War Pensions Agency 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 00441253 866043 (from overseas)

WRVS 01235 442940

REUNIONS

651 (AHF) Sqn AAC: 60th anniversary open day, Aug 4. Ex-members welcome. Netheravon Airfield, 1100-1530. Displays, historic aircraft. Dinner-dance. Contact WO2 Kev Hainey 01980 674073 or ajtd65@dial.pipex.com

Queen's Own Buffs: Remembrance service and reunion, Aug 5. Parade 1200, Cathedral service 1300 and reunion at Howe Barracks. Details from H Delo on 01227 765867 or henry.lyn@freeserve.co.uk

Queen's Own Buffs, Royal West Kent Regiment: Remembrance service followed by reunion, Sept 9, in Maidstone. Details from Bryan Bartlett on 01322 346053.

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

22 Armd Bde (7 Armd Div) 1944, Orwell Park, Suffolk, D-Day trainees: Reunion at Orwell Park School, Nacton, Suffolk. Sep 15, 1100 followed by buffet lunch. Contact D S Huett, 15 Mulberry Way, Spalding, Lincs, PE11 2QJ (01775 712188).

Brigadiers: A J Faith to be COS UNAMSIL, May 15; J D Deverell to be DA Riyadh, May 12.

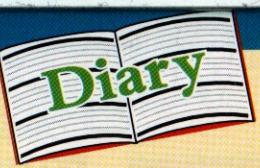
Colonels: A A A Beattie to be Dep Comd BRITFOR SFOR, May 10; R N Wertheim to be Col PS10, May 7; J J S Bourne-May to be Col Force Development/Concepts, May 8; R J Bacon to be Col Manning (A), Directorate of Manning (Army), May 14; S Carraff to be Comd BATUS, May 16; A J Miller-Bakewell to be COS HQ 2 Div, May 14; H J Cunningham to be Dir PDS (BFG), May 21; A P Burnside to be Col Engr Services, May 21.

C H Vernon to be Col RAC Manning and Career Management Div, May 21; A C Jackson to be DACOS G7 HQ Land, June 1; H L A Macdonald to be Author Doctrine and Concepts, June 1; C A Knightley to be Col RA MCM Div, May 30; R J McCormick to be Dental Officer, 5 Region DDA.

S A Jasper RTR to HQ MNB(C), Aug 6, S W Ledger LD to RCB Jul 17; A J Loudon, R Irish to HQ KFOR, Sep 20; C J A Lyne-Pirkis RA to UKMILREP Brussels, Jul 24; A D Mason, Para to MONUC, Jun 11; M J R Motun RGBW to HQ Land, May 21; G R Pinney QRL to HQ TSC(L), Jul 24; I A Rigden RGR to DASD, Jun 18; P J Tabor RHG/D to LWTC, May 7; L J Usher REME to DGES(L), Jul 23; T J Wakefield RE to AMCS, May 8; C F Warren RGR to NEPG, Jun 8.

Lieutenant Colonels: P J Angus RA to PM/Tracer, June 29; C W Bailey RE to DCIS(A), Aug 13; B W Ballinger RLC to DPA, Aug 6; M P Banham RA to DDC, Aug 28; R G Beavis RLC to DTR, Aug 12; D R Bottomley RRF to HQ ATRA, May 8; P R Cobley, Para to UNAMSIL, Aug 7; M W Ewence RA to HQ Land, May 8; P D W Garbutt KRH to RCB, June 25; G A B Grant RA to HQ KFOR, Aug 3, R L M Hackett RWF to LSP Oman, Jan 17.

S A Jasper RTR to HQ MNB(C), Aug 6, S W Ledger LD to RCB Jul 17; A J Loudon, R Irish to HQ KFOR, Sep 20; C J A Lyne-Pirkis RA to UKMILREP Brussels, Jul 24; A D Mason, Para to MONUC, Jun 11; M J R Motun RGBW to HQ Land, May 21; G R Pinney QRL to HQ TSC(L), Jul 24; I A



DATES

JULY
7-8: Flying Legends Air Show, Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Booking line: 01223 499353.

11: Summer concert, Kneller Hall. For ticket information call 020 8898 5533 ext 8682.

14-15 47 Regt RA Military Extravaganza on Thorney Island.

15 Portsmouth Branch of the Parachute Regt Assn holds a Spectacular on Southsea Common. Free admission.

17-21: Music of the Night. Massed bands of Royal Artillery. Front Parade, Woolwich (tickets on 0208 317 8687; credit card hotline 0870 608 2000).

18-22: Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society five-day War and Peace Show. Beltring Hop Farm Country Park, Kent. Enquiries: 01304 813128.

25: Summer concert, Kneller Hall. For ticket information call 020 8898 5533 ext 8682.

AUGUST
3-25: Edinburgh Tattoo.

8: Summer concert, Kneller Hall. For ticket information call 020 8898 5533 ext 8682.

24-27: International Festival of the Sea, Portsmouth.

25-27 Essex Classic Military Vehicle Show, Tilbury Fort.

SEPTEMBER
8-9: Duxford 2001 Air Show.

17-23 SSAFA Forces Help's Big Brew Up. Details from www.ssafa.org.uk

22 Spirit of Kent 1940s Big Band Dance, Kent County Showground, Detling.

OCTOBER
14: Duxford Autumn Air Show.

26: Isle of Thanet Festival of Remembrance, Margate (tickets from D Stokes, 01843 292882).

NOVEMBER
2: Suez, an evening lecture by Maj M W Walsh, Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (01252 349619).

Staying in focus

SECOND World War Army cameraman Harry Oakes visited the Joint School of Photography at RAF Cosford to be guest speaker at the Royal Logistic Corps professional photographers' seminar. Harry's photographic record of the horrors of Bergen Belsen concentration camp were used as evidence in the trials of the Nazis after the war.

Harry is pictured with RLC photos Sgt Shaun Lewis, Sgt Stuart McKenzie, Sgt Teresa Pickin.

Feast fit for a duke

SSgt Billy Barrie, an instructor with the Catering Support Regiment, RLC TA, recreated a meal the Duke of Wellington might have enjoyed before the battle of Waterloo.

The culinary classic will be included in BBC Radio 4's *Food Fit for Heroes* programme to be broadcast later this year.

SSgt Barrie, pictured right, said: "It was amazing to discover how etiquette had changed. In those days it was good manners to wipe your mouth on the table-cloth. You would use the same knife and fork for everything and even plonk your main course and pudding on the same plate."

The menu, served in the Waterloo Room at RLC TA's Grantham HQ, included ox-cheek soup, pheasant, quail and lobster.

But in 1815 Wellington's troops would have dined on simpler fare. A common dish was steak cooked in axle grease over an open fire.



May the Force be with you

STONYHURST College in Lancashire has celebrated the centenary of its Army Cadet Force. During that period seven Victoria Crosses were won by former military members of the college.



The school's CCF has its own cap badge and is affiliated to The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, and in the near future its officers will be wearing the regiment's badge. As part of the centenary celebrations, veterans from the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association paid a visit to watch the cadets train.

Cpl Elizabeth Sheehy is pictured in front of the college with Matthew Davis, ex-Durham Light Infantry, and Arnold Wilson, ex-Para.

Remembering Peter

POET Scott Martin, a former soldier in The Royal Scots, has written a tribute to his friend Peter Heppenstall who was killed in Belfast in 1972. The friends met as boy-soldiers when they were 15 at the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Troon in 1968. Scott served with The Royal Scots from 1969 to 1973, which included four tours of Northern Ireland.

The poem has recently been accepted by the Royal Logistic Corps museum in Deepcut, where it will form part of the archive.

Scott achieved national recognition in 1998 after he won a competition to find a poem for Scotland. His composition, *The Ploughman*, now resides in the Scottish Parliament and at civic buildings throughout the country, including the Writers' Museum in Edinburgh, where it shares space with the works of Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Caps off to rugby great

A LINK with Welsh international rugby of the pre-war years has been created by the last wish of Maj John Ford who died recently aged 83, writes Michael Boon.

Maj Ford donated his international rugby caps to the Welch Regiment Museum in Cardiff Castle. The museum already has his one full cap, won against England at Twickenham in January 1939.

"We know that he played for the Army, Surrey, the Harlequins and Newport," says curator John Dart.

"There would have been caps in all these cases, but where they are is something of a mystery."

"His family, most anxious to see his wishes carried out, are searching everywhere. But we would welcome any news that anyone has about their career – perhaps they are in a cupboard or an attic."

Army duties and the imminent outbreak of the Second World War prevented John Ford from achieving the summit of his rugby ambitions: a British Lions tour to South Africa in 1938.

John Ford showed great resilience in both his military career and in rugby. He played in the Army Cup final of 1939 for the Welch Regiment and was back again for the same fixture in 1949. Between times he had fought the Germans in Crete and then spent four years in a POW camp.

Raising hope, smiles and cash

SOLDIERS from 1 RHA raised £2,230 for Cancer and Leukaemia in Children while they were stationed in Kosovo.

The charity was chosen because a nephew of Cpl Darren Thorpe has successfully completed a course of cancer treatment and is in remission.

■ Members of 135 Independent Geographic Squadron RE (V) raised £1,180 for Comic Relief by doing a fun run, during which SSgt Keith Butcher, pictured, stopped at a pub and had his head shaved.

Support for Suez medal

SIR David Ramsbotham, former adjutant general and, until the end of the month, chief inspector of prisons, has lent his support for a Suez General Service Medal.

In a letter to campaigner Charles Golder Sir David said he was all for the issue to be raised again.

"Like Field Marshal Lord Bramall, I have always been of the view that natural justice must prevail and all those who served and faced dangers on active service should be awarded a General Service Medal," he wrote.

Security centre's skeletons

THE Defence Intelligence and Security Centre at Chicksands, Beds, has given up two of its best-kept secrets.

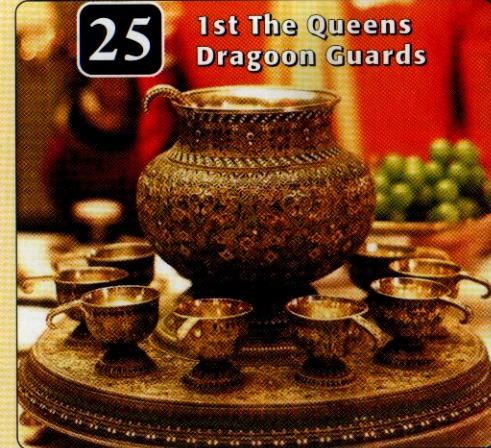
Two skeletons were dug up during excavations by the Channel 4 archaeology programme *Time Team* at the 12th century priory. It is unclear if the monks were tunnelling to freedom or to get to the nun's quarters.

The three-day project saw the team dig trenches around the area of the site's priory, which today houses the officers' mess.

Legends of the regiments and corps

25

1st The Queens Dragoon Guards



Bowed over: The Csarevitch Punch Bowl is shown off in its natural setting as part of the dinner display

Punch hit the spot

THE Dragoons must have made quite an impression on the heir to the Russian throne when he visited the 1st Kings Dragoon Guards in India in 1891.

Their hospitality and horsemanship left an indelible memory with the Csarevitch. Before he left he presented the officers' mess with a magnificent silver punch bowl.

Complete with ten goblets, the elaborate bowl is believed to have last seen active service in the mess in the 1960s.

With detailed craftsmanship worthy of Faberge, the bowl was made by the noted Russian silversmith Pavel Ochinnikov in 1889.

CAVALRY HISTORY

The museum of the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards in Cardiff Castle vividly displays more than 300 years of cavalry history.

Full dress tableaux and showcases display uniforms, weapons and medals from 1685 to the 1990s.

Exhibits include items worn at Waterloo, a fine collection of medals and badges, a collection of swords, pistols, rifles and machine guns, guidons, standards and photographs.

There is also a hologram and TV monitor display of the two regiments in action during the First and Second World Wars.

The museum, in Cardiff Castle, is open all year except Fridays and Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. May to Oct 1000-1800 and Nov to Apr 1000-1630.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor

Marking time: Soldiers of the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment based at Tidworth parade on the sun-baked streets of Albuhera, the village in the south-west of Spain which in 1811 was the scene of a decisive battle involving their forebear regiments, the 3rd Foot (Buffs), 31st Foot (East Surreys) and 57th Foot (Middlesex). The drums were part of a PWRR contingent and more than 100 veterans who accompanied the Duke of Wellington to

Picture: Capt Helen Fry



All aboard: Soldiers from the Munster-based Royal Dragoon Guards played host to visitors from HMS *Superb*. The regiment has a long-standing affiliation with the submarine and organises job swaps for soldiers and sailors. Capt Dale Ter Haar and Tpr Stephen Britton, pictured centre and top right, spent five months at sea with HMS *Superb* last year, becoming fully trained submariners.

Blind date for safe shades

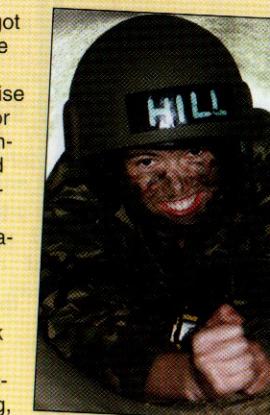
THE Guide Dogs for the Blind Association hopes to persuade soldiers to sport sunglasses for a day on July 18 to raise awareness about the importance of wearing safe shades. There is growing evidence that prolonged exposure to sun can increase the risk of cataracts. To find out more, log on to www.guidedogs.org.uk

Krypton factor tested

DERA scientists got a taste of life in the Army when they took part in Exercise Krypton Boffin. For 36 hours the scientists were plunged into a realistic setting in which they had to conduct platoon level operations. They were airlifted into Bovingdon by Chinook and got first-hand experience of tactics, mine-clearing, drill and aerial recce.

The exercise aimed to give scientists a better understanding of the context in which future equipment will be used. The 37 scientists and engineers from Chertsey were concerned with research and armour, virtual reality, mine countermeasures, training systems and future armoured and logistic vehicles.

Representatives from the UAV research community and the Centre for Human Sciences in Farnborough also took part. Miss Kim Hill, pictured, makes her way through a concrete pipe on the assault course.



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Clean and mean

This safe, quiet, Green machine delivers high mileage per gallon and low pollution

DESPITE tremendous progress by manufacturers and oil companies in cleaning up fuel and emissions, the internal combustion engine cannot shrug off its villainous mantle of being one of the worst urban air polluters, writes **Syd Taylor**.

Banning vehicles from city centres would spell disaster for many but with local authorities given greater power to regulate air quality, they are an obvious target. It's a case of clean up or keep out.

All this strengthens the alternative fuel case. In particular, electric vehicles eliminate both noise and emission pollution altogether – but battery-powered transport has a limited range until technology catches up.

Meanwhile, manufacturers have already acted to lessen their vehicles' environmental impact and Honda's innovative solution gives probably the best compromise so far. The Insight petrol-electric two-seater coupé blends many new technologies to achieve outstandingly low fuel consumption and minimal pollution.

Honda's Integrated Motor Assist (IMA) hybrid system features the world's lightest one-litre, three-cylinder petrol engine – which uses the most advanced technologies and materials in combination with an ultra-thin brushless electric motor controlled by an advanced power control unit.

The motor is directly connected to the crankshaft and assists engine performance under acceleration, drawing its power from batteries which are recharged during deceleration – and when cruising, when the motor acts as a generator. Engine output is increased as a result of motor assist, but it is torque that really benefits. Electric motors have a totally flat torque curve, so non-assisted torque of 90 Nm at 4,800 rpm rises to a remarkable 113 Nm at just 1,500 rpm.

All this means that the performance on-road is the equivalent of a lively, 1.5-litre conventionally powered car.

Weight reduction is also crucial to the Insight's remarkable performance and economy. The aluminium body is 40 per



Road test: Honda Insight

Tech Spec

Engine: Integrated Motor Assist (IMA) one-litre SOHC, VTEC lean-burn petrol engine and in-line brushless electric motor. Power without assist, 68 PS; power with assist, 76 PS. Torque without assist 90 Nm at 4,800 rpm; with assist, 113 Nm at 1,500 rpm.

Electrical: 120 cells providing 144V.

Transmission: Five-speed manual.

Suspension: Front, MacPherson strut; rear, twist beam and trailing arms.

Steering: Electric power assistance.

Brakes: Front, discs; rear, drums. ABS.

Weight: 850 Kg.

Performance: Top speed, 112 mph

Fuel Consumption: (MPG) Urban 68.9, extra-urban 94.2, combined 83.1.

Price: £17,000 on the road.

cent lighter than a comparable steel one. Total weight is just 850kg.

With outstandingly efficient aerodynamics combined with special low rolling resistance tyres, the Insight returns an amazing 83.1 mpg overall and 94.2 mpg in the extra-urban cycle – and remember this is a car that gets to 62 mph from standstill in just 12.5 seconds and can reach 112 mph. In fact you'd be hard-pressed to tell you were driving something so radically different.

The biggest give-aways are the digital instruments indicating when the electric motor is assisting

or when it's acting as a generator. The other clues are the almost silent start-up and the auto-idle stop system which cuts the engine as you come to a standstill and select neutral. Re-starting is automatic as soon as you engage a gear.

Out on the road it's brisk and torquey and you don't need to over-use the slick gearbox. With a weight roughly half that of a Civic three-door, you might expect a bouncy ride, but that's not the case.

The lightweight structure is strong and

rigid and this has safety spin-offs. "G-force Control Technology" works so that the new body can absorb a 50 per cent greater load than a comparable steel one.

Sharp handling aided by precise electric power-steering means that you can enjoy the performance if the mood takes you – so the car lives up to its sleek sporty coupé image.

Inside you don't lack for anything, with creature comforts like air conditioning, electric windows, central locking and a good sound system. Seats are high-backed and sporty and proved really comfortable and supportive on long runs. A big luggage platform is accessed via a huge hatchback, so although it's only a two-seater, the Insight is more practical than it at first seems.

There's certainly an excitement to driving the Insight – you're at the forefront of automotive technology for £17,000 on-the-road and the car's green credentials make you feel particularly virtuous.

As you slip effortlessly past 15 mpg V8s you realise that their days are surely numbered – because with the Insight and other hybrids surely yet to come there are no negatives, only positives.

‘It's at the forefront of automotive technology’



Dream on . . .

ICE-COOL ACCESSORY

THE world's first internet fridge has arrived on the UK's shores and is capable of transforming any kitchen into a state-of-the-art entertainment centre.

LG Electronics' unique digital side-by-side fridge-freezer features a built-in LCD touch-screen with full internet and e-mail access. The screen also has a built-in television and sports an MP3 player for listening to music tracks downloaded over the internet.

The fridge-freezer keeps track of its contents, which can then be viewed at a glance on the screen without having to open the fridge door.

There is also a full nutritional food file detailing the content of different food groups needed for maintaining a well-balanced diet.

Using the built-in video messaging facility - which includes a camera and microphone - video images and text messages can be left on the screen for other family members. You can even make video phone calls from the fridge.

The internet fridge can also help organise your life. With the help of the built-in electronic organiser, users can store birthdays, anniversaries, meetings or social events.

£8,000, available to buy in John Lewis stores.



Switched on . . .

SHINE ON . . .

THIS battery-operated alarm clock eliminates the need to turn on a light to check the time. A touch of a button will project the time onto the ceiling of any darkened room.

Accurate to one millionth of a second a year, the clock's time display is controlled by a radio signal - overseen by the National Physics Laboratory in the Midlands.

£24.99, for stockist information call 01628 580154.



THE HEAT IS ON

AS soon as the sun comes out men invariably don a stripy apron and start barbecuing.

Oregon Scientific's barbecue master ensures that the fair-weather chefs avoid sending their guests home with food poisoning.

Its two-pronged sensor tests the internal temperature of the meat and notifies the cook on an LCD display.

£14.99, for stockist information call 01628 580154.



WHATEVER THE WEATHER

OBSESSION with the weather is our national pastime but if you really want to know what you're talking about then check out this Linear Weather Station.

Sporting a chrome finish, the station comprises four modules - a wireless rain gauge, weather station, radio-controlled clock and wireless thermometer-hygrometer.

Prices range from £29.99 to £69.99 for each module. For stockist information call 01628 580154.



Game on . . .

OPERATION FLASHPOINT - COLD WAR CRISIS, PC OUT NOW

YOU may be dead before you even hear the crack of gunfire. Codemasters' *Operation Flashpoint* is a conflict simulator where everything, including the speed of sound, is based on reality.

For the first time in a game of this genre, players get to control and command not just soldiers, but also land, sea and air vehicles ranging from M1A1 Abrams tanks to AH1 Cobra helicopters. Each has its own unique handling and physics system so that the game's fleet of vehicles feels exactly as you would expect.

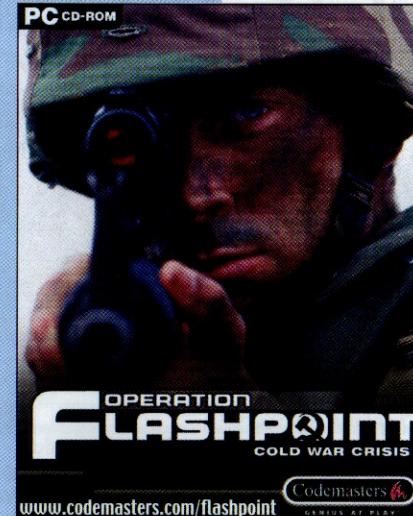
Whether controlling a single soldier or an entire infantry company, action can be viewed from a first or third-person perspective and, thanks to an innovative blend of motion capture and animation, the game is visually stunning.

The attention to detail is explicit with real-time lighting, variable weather conditions and even accurate star constellations that have been designed to allow lost soldiers to navigate their way back to camp. Much of the game's realism can be attributed to the personal knowledge of its developers, Bohemia Interactive. Based in Prague, the team is headed by Marek Spanel and his brother Ondrej - both former soldiers in the Czech Republic Army.

The brothers became involved in computer programming in 1985 when Prague still rested behind the Iron Curtain as part of Czechoslovakia. While visiting Switzerland, Ondrej saw a computer and bought it in place of the five digital watches he had made the journey for.

After smuggling it back under the Iron Curtain the brothers used a beat-up tape player as a data storage device and, due to the lack of games available under the communist regime,

began experimenting with coding and wrote their own. Sixteen years and a stint in the Army later, *Operation Flashpoint* has been released. "I did my one year's national service



OPERATION
FLASHPOINT
COLD WAR CRISIS

Codemasters

www.codemasters.com/flashpoint

in 1995 - six years after the end of communism in this country," explained Marek. "I didn't see any real action because most of my time in the Army was spent working on bases that were being decommissioned."

"Operation Flashpoint includes almost every type of Russian and US military equipment - so in that respect the influence of my own experience was minimal," he said.

"But the game itself is very complex and I hope that my time in the Army has helped add to its realism."

VERDICT: A ground-breaking release that deserves to be decorated with a medal.

9/10

SOLDIER has joined forces with Codemasters to offer readers a fantastic give-away.

For your chance to win one of ten copies of *Operation Flashpoint*, simply answer the following question: What is the full title of Codemasters' conflict simulator?

- a) Operation Flashpoint - Cold-sore crisis
- b) Operation Flashpoint - Cold-war crisis
- c) Operation Flashpoint - Coleslaw crisis

Send your answers on a postcard to Codemasters competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by August 1. Usual rules apply.

C-12 FINAL RESISTANCE, PSX OUT NOW

TASKED with saving mankind from the grasp of alien forces, players assume the role of Lieutenant Vaughan - a cyborg resistance fighter - in *C-12 Final Resistance*.

Played in third- and first-person perspectives, gamers are confronted by a view of the Earth in the aftermath of a ground invasion and must seek out and destroy the enemy.

However, this is more than just another shoot-em-up. Stealth and strategy come into play as Vaughan is faced with a series of *Tomb Raider*-esque puzzles.

VERDICT: Resistance is futile. Buy it.

8/10



QUAKE III REVOLUTION, PS2 OUT NOW

AN infantryman's dream. Utilising the power of the PlayStation 2, *Quake III Revolution* throttles players through amazingly detailed levels of ultra-smooth first-person action, pitting them against the fiercest warriors in the universe.

As players' skills develop, so too do their characters as they blast their way through various game modes until they become the ultimate battle-proven warrior.

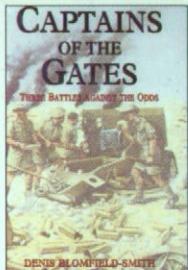
Carnage is the call-of-the-day and with weapons ranging from nail guns to rocket launches, game-play is at worst frantic.



VERDICT: Bigger, better and more beautiful than its predecessors. 8/10

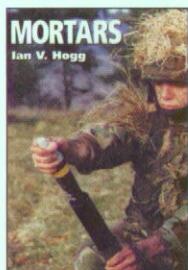
Backing winners against the odds

IN 1940 at Calais, Regular and Territorial Green Jackets held off the advancing Germans against overwhelming odds long enough for thousands to be evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk. The stories contained in *Captains of the Gates – Three Battles Against the Odds* (Robert Hale, £20) are united by the theme of good order and military discipline. The author, retired brigadier Denis Blomfield-Smith, examines the defenders of the Channel Ports, the First Battle of Alamein, and Kohima, where, even though isolated and poorly equipped, the units never forgot their training, self-respect and fighting spirit.



Pinpoint weapon of devastating power

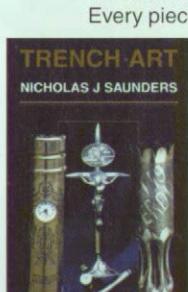
IT was Emperor Mohammed II, the Sultan of Turkey, who in 1453 came up with the idea of pointing canons upwards so fire rained down on his enemies' heads.



The mortar is easy to define technically: any piece of ordnance that can fire a projectile at an angle of greater than 45 degrees. But within this definition there is a diverse range of designs, from individual weapon systems to 30.5cm siege mortars. Ian V Hogg tells the development and use of the weapon in *Mortars* (Crowood Press, £19.95).

Creating beauty from the wastage of war

TRENCH art is the evocative but misleading name given to objects made from the waste of war.



Every piece tells a story of the momentous experiences of its maker, whether frontline soldier, prisoner-of-war or civilian refugees. Best known from the Great War of 1914-18 and the inter-war years, such items include engraved shellcases, bullet-crucifixes and cigarette lighters made from cartridges. In *Trench Art* (Leo Cooper, £19.95) Dr Nicholas Saunders's richly illustrated account investigates how items were made, and explores their personal meaning.

When it's OK to tell porkies

Deception in War by Jon Latimer (John Murray, £25).

Review: Brian Jewell

MANY readers will be familiar with the deception operations of 1944 under the code-name Fortitude that succeeded in making the Germans think the Allied invasion was to be either on the Norwegian coast or in the Calais area.

Less widely known are the Middle East operations of 1940 in which Wavell's A Force caused the Italians in Abyssinia to believe they were to be attacked from Kenya.

This drew them to the south, so opening a way for a genuine invasion from Sudan.

The deception was all too successful: the Italians retired because they believed that by withdrawing to a shorter line they could create a stronger defence and when the 4th and 5th Indian Divisions attacked from the North they had to fight fiercely to overcome the more massed Italian Army.

Former TA officer Jon Latimer begins this study of strategic and tactical deceit

with a paradox: "Everyone employs deception at times... although adults reprimand their children for lying, they themselves lie all the time, especially to their children."

In normal circumstances a liar may blush and feel ashamed when found out but in war the biggest porkies are a source of pride if they result in victory.

Latimer delves back into history for examples of deception, including, of course, the work of Sun Tzu, whose name is considered synonymous with the science of strategy, of which deception is a fundamental part.

As the author says: "Since at least the time of Sun Tzu . . .

6 In war the biggest lies are a source of pride if they result in victory,

deceptive skill has been highly prized by the Chinese as a leadership quality."

Interesting as it is to read of past methods of manipulating an enemy, it is the 20th century military deception to which we can better relate and we are treated to a wealth of examples from this period.

The book deals with two forms of deception: leading the enemy to think along certain lines and secondly making objects hard to see or appear to be what they are not – in other words the art of camouflage.

It is indeed an art, for painters, more at home in their studios, have been instrumental in creating dazzle and disrupt patterns.

In 1914, Parisian portraitist Guirand de Scevola invented painted canvas sheets to throw over heavy guns to make them

invisble. Mobile corps comprising de Scevola and other prominent painters travelled to forward areas camouflaging artillery, airfields and observation posts.

In Britain camouflage work was promoted and carried out by another artist, Solomon J Solomon, while the Germans used the avant-garde painter Franz Marc. He was later killed at Verdun.

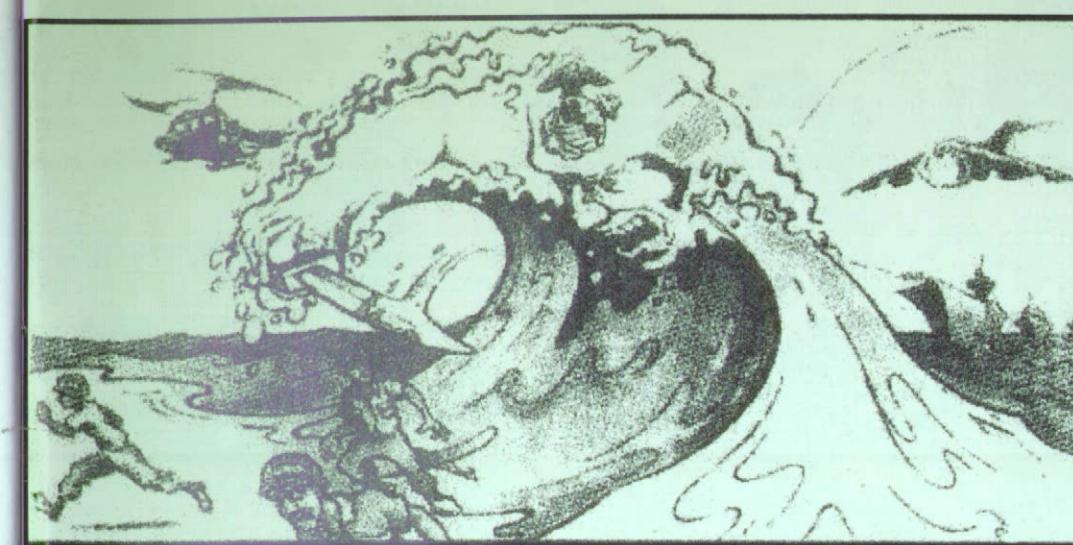
Enlightening facts emerge. Latimer tells us, for instance: "Contrary to popular belief, the wearing of enemy uniforms is not prohibited by international law or article 23 of the Geneva Convention as long as they are discarded

before opening fire." The author does not say if international law forbids fighting in the Full Monty!

Jon Latimer must have been faced with a formidable task when he began this work, involving as it does such a wide canvas and jumping from one conflict to another at the expense of chronological sequence. Although not an easy book to read, it is well worth the effort.

Prizewinner

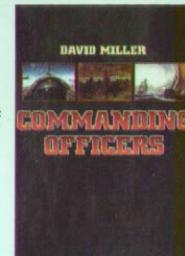
Winner of a copy of *A Regimental Affair* by Allan Mallinson in our May books competition was Mr R A Steward, of Sidmouth, Devon. Answer was King George III.



Message in a bottle: Psyops leaflets like this one reproduced in Jon Latimer's *Deception in War* were designed to reinforce the Iraqi fear of an amphibious assault on Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. They were put in bottles and floated ashore the day before the Allied deadline of January 15, 1991. As the name of the operation makes clear, Kuwait's liberators did not come from the sea . . .

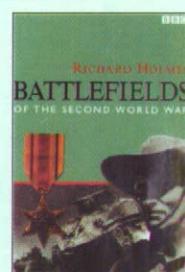
Understanding what makes the right stuff

ANYONE who has to make decisions that will affect large numbers of people will find plenty to reflect upon in David Miller's *Commanding Officers* (John Murray, £22.50). The author's exposition of the qualities of leadership concentrates on the role of the CO upon whose shoulders success or failure in the front line depends. Drawing on actual command dilemmas taken from different countries and periods, the examples illustrate the diverse pressures leaders face in their struggle to get things right.



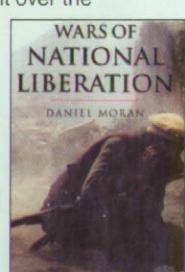
Making sense of the sacrifices

RICHARD Holmes has long believed the sacrifices made by British Service personnel in the Second World War have not been properly understood or appreciated. His superb *Battlefields of the Second World War* (BBC, £17.99), will go some way to redress the balance. This articulate and accessible history, which ties in with a new television series in the autumn, uses eyewitness accounts to illuminate the horror, confusion and sheer enormity of war. The complexities of four campaigns are examined and the privations soldiers suffered while carrying out their orders.



Mapping the world of liberation conflicts

IN *Wars of National Liberation* (Cassell, £20) Daniel Moran demonstrates the ways in which wars have been fought over the past 50 years. He describes the peasant uprising that led to the revolution in China, the guerrilla warfare of Vietnam and the use of terrorism in Palestine, Algeria and Ireland. He also accounts for the current wars raging around the peripheries of the former Soviet Union in the name of national liberation. The text is complemented with striking photographs and informative graphics.



IN BRIEF

Challenger 1 and 2: Spearhead of the British Royal Armoured Corps with text by Walter Bohm and Peter Siebert. Glorious colour pictures, some by Army photographers, fill the 48 pages of this large-format paperback. There are also illustrations by Hubert Cance. (Greenhill Books Mini Colour Series, £9.99.)

The Western Front by Richard Holmes. As the book of the new TV series is published (see side panels), the companion to the earlier acclaimed historical documentary is available in a high-quality, well-illustrated and lucidly-written paperback. (BBC, £9.99.)

The Great World War 1914-45, Vol 2: Who Won? Who Lost? by John Bourne, Peter Liddle, Ian

Whitehead. Like the first, this volume focuses on the impact of events on people. But be warned: although this sweeping canvas is an academic masterpiece of social history, its 500-plus pages are a daunting read for all but the most dedicated. (HarperCollins, £24.99.)

Forgotten Victory – The First World War: Myths and Realities by Gary Sheffield. Military historian and academic argues that this conflict was far from futile: the millions of Allied

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).

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National Service: An Insider's

Story by E G Barracough. National Service was much easier for those of privileged background – but as this frank book shows, apart from some brutality there were lots of laughs. A valuable contribution to the folklore of this brief military episode. (Pentland Press, paperback, £11.50.)

With Our Backs to Berlin by Lt Col Tony Le Tissier. The author, who served with the Royal Corps of Military Police until 1977 and was British governor of Spandau Prison, Berlin, 1981-87, has obtained first-hand accounts to tell a story of the German Army in retreat in 1945. (Sutton, £19.99.)

The Black and Tans by Richard Bennett. First published in 1959, this illustrated large-format paperback tells the story of the controversial volunteers recruited for the Royal Irish Constabulary from the trench veterans of Glasgow and Liverpool. The Irish named them after a famous pack of wild dogs in County Limerick. (Spellmount, £14.99.)

The Shoebury Story by Maureen

Orford. This paperback history of Shoeburyness tells how the arrival of a British Army garrison changed the life of this peaceful corner of Essex. (Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH; £9.95.)

The Search for 'Gestapo' Muller by Charles Whiting. What happened to Heinrich Muller, Gestapo leader since 1936, after he was seen in Hitler's bunker? A Third Reich authority tries to trace the truth. (Leo Cooper, £19.95.)

Whisper of the Blade by Erik Durschmid. Celebrated former TV war correspondent, author of *The Hinge Factor*, turns his quirky eye on revolutions. (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99.)

The Hitler Conspiracies by Prof David Welch. They weren't all bad, by any means, and this book tells how German people opposed Hitler. (Ian Allan, £19.99.)

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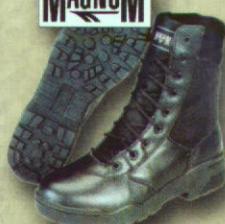


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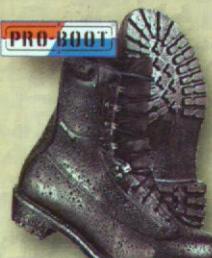
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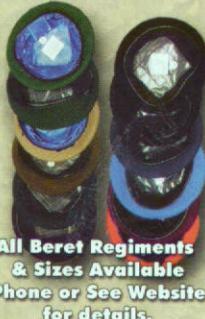
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SOLDIER
to soldier**From the mouth of the barrel**

OUR assignment was to get ourselves off to Kuwait to report on hot-weather trials to which the modified SA80 system was being subjected.

So, on the premise that the best person to road-test a chisel would be a carpenter, we asked soldiers involved in the trials to give us their first impressions of the "new" rifle and light support weapon.

As they are the people who will rely on it in life-and-death situations, who better to give credibility to our story?

Our quick poll of men from B Company, 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was revealing.

♦ ♦ ♦

"I'm impressed" . . . "smoother and more reliable" . . . "this rifle is okay" . . . "it's amazing" . . . "one of the best" . . . "it's brilliant" . . . "the rifle is extremely good" were some of the many glowing testimonies from soldiers who had just fired thousands of rounds from the individual and light support weapons.

Those sound bites will be music to the ears of the team tasked with rectifying the original weapon's faults.

So far so good. The modified SA80 is still undergoing a rigorous programme of trials and a final decision is likely in September. We will know then how many the Army will get and which units will get them first.

♦ ♦ ♦

Issue priority will be given to the Joint Rapid Reaction Force and other front-line units, so what is the message to soldiers who will go on relying on the original version of the SA80? After all, it is going to be around for some time yet.

The current rifle, while not perfect, is still reckoned to be more than capable of performing the vast majority of tasks asked of it.

And if a major crisis involving the Army was to arise, we could reasonably expect the SA80 modification programme to be reviewed.

Home truths**Sue Bonney**

If our *Journal* is in YOUR pile please read on

I HAVE been in the business of communication all my working life, and in the frustrating world of assisting the Army to communicate with its families for more than ten years.

I have to tell you that the latter is difficult – and there are times when I despair and the dent in my desk where I bang my head gets deeper and wider.

It isn't that the Army doesn't want to communicate with its people – it does. In these days of recruitment and retention crises, demonstrating to your employees and their deeply involved families that their views, experience and concerns matter is rather crucial to your success in keeping them interested.

A lot of time and thought is spent at the top trying to improve things. But what about the rest of the world, where it matters – the unit COs and OCs, welfare officers, regimental admin staff, station staff officers and their staff – are they all as keen to communicate or facilitate information reaching soldiers and their families?

As Editor of the *AFF Families Journal*, working daily to ensure that their free magazine reaches all Army families wherever they may be, I am probably rather well informed about the degree of commitment to communication there is among the people whose job it is on the ground.

And I can tell you that success or failure is entirely personality-driven. There are people out there, God bless 'em, who knock themselves out to get the AFJ through the doors. Equally, there are those who don't.

I have to hope that the former are in the majority – but when I hear of a station officer who does not distribute any of the hundreds of copies of the *Journal* which are sent to him, then I know the dinosaurs are still roaming the park.



**Sue Bonney is
Editor of the *AFF
Families Journal***

Apparently, because of his personal views about the AFJ, and the low priority he attaches to a magazine for "wives", this gentleman is denying more than 1,200 families access to the AFJ. Sure, he leaves it in odd piles here and there about his patch and a persistent fan can track a copy down.

He is not actually required to do any more than that. But what about the spouses who have never heard of the *Journal* and are unaware of the existence of a magazine focused on the life he or she leads with the Army?

They just carry on thinking that no one really gives a damn, and that information is just naturally hard to get in the Army. Valued? Appreciated? Don't make them laugh.

And all those magazines go to waste.

It is hard enough – for a variety of complex reasons, none of which are a good enough excuse for a staggeringly inefficient system – to get the AFJ distributed to units in the first place. It can take weeks instead of days to reach them.

At least when it gets there, families should know that the unit or garrison will do their best to get the *Journal* to them as soon as possible. And a lot of them do. It's just that some of them don't. And no one is going to make them.

Or are they?

Families should have received their May AFJ in May, or June at the latest. If you haven't seen your free copy yet, ASK YOUR UNIT. Or contact the AFJ editorial office on 01980 615517.

**When the
Journal isn't
delivered, I
know the
dinosaurs
are in the
park !**

AFF continues to do its best to aid communications between the Army and its families and has just published *AFF Conference 2000 Update – Your Questions and Their Answers*, and the *AFF/SSAFA FH changing attitudes survey report*. Copies of both can be obtained from AFF Central Office on 01980 615525.



Chefs deserve more

WHO placed EOD so high on a pedestal ("EOD job on a par with chef" from LCpl Rowlands, May)?

I'm disgusted that someone who probably only works 0830 to 1630, Monday to Friday, with Wednesday afternoons off, can be so righteous about his pay.

As the wife of a very hard-working chef (he put in about 85 hours last week and spent less than eight with his son), I am fully in favour of chefs being placed in the higher pay band (and not just for the money). It is about time the catering section of the Army was given some recognition as a trade and not just as people who work hard, long hours.

They suffer abuse from everyone about everything on the hotplate at

Prize letter

mealtimes, but when it comes to private barbecues or functions, units are happy to take advantage.

There is a lot of stress within kitchens – mainly due to a shortage of personnel – trying to meet the demands of units asking for favours while having to put a healthy meal on the hotplate within budget restrictions.

People like LCpl Rowlands should respect what the catering section is trying to achieve under what can be difficult conditions. – **Donna Sandison, Perham Down, Andover**:

▲ *SSgt Wright, Master Chef, Belfast Roulement Battalion; Sgt T McCawley, Army School of Catering, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot; and Cpl Patrick Harrison, RLC at 1 QLR, at Bessbrook, also wrote in defence of chefs.*

Other Pay 2000 letters have been held over to the August issue

Taking the heat

AFTER reading LCpl Rowlands's letter (May) comparing a staff sergeant who runs a cookhouse and a staff sergeant who is an ammunition technician, I am compelled to voice an opinion.

To say a SSgt who runs a kitchen does not face stress suggests he hasn't the first idea of what is involved.

Every kitchen in the Army has three deadlines a day which must be met 365 days a year on a rate of less than

£2 a day. Along with accounting for every penny spent, the SSgt also has to contend with a large civilian workforce and the welfare of troops.

I have nothing but admiration for Ammunition Technical Officers and wouldn't do their job for ten times the wage. Perhaps the ATO deserves better wages – but to compare one against the other is a shallow argument.

When moaning about early starts and late finishes we chefs hear day-in, day-out that we chose our profession. So did you, so be thankful for a pay rise. – **Sgt D Hamilton, RLC**.

My moving tale

I READ with interest the article by Sue Bonney (Talkback, May) on moving out (not marching out) of a married quarter.

I recently moved out of a quarter in Rheindahlen and was subjected to one of the most degrading experiences of my life. As a widower I was faced with preparing the quarter on my own. I accept that my domestic situation doesn't warrant any favourable consideration and I realise that there were other people needing to take over my quarter.

The old saying that you never leave a dirty quarter and you never take over a clean one was true in my case – again. The quarter handed over had been cleaned by me from top to bottom, with the exception of one window frame.

One out of 15 wasn't bad. When it was discovered that I had missed it I cleaned it immediately. I had stripped the cooker and soaked it in soda crystals. It was spotless – except for some black spots on the

inside of the door. I couldn't see them but the estate warden assured me that they were there. A cobweb in a light fitting also attracted an unfavourable reaction, as did some spots on the outside of a window. It had rained the previous night so I should be grateful I didn't have spots on all of the windows.

The end result was a £35 bill for the complete cleaning of a cooker – which would have taken two minutes to clean, if you could find the spots – and a general cleaning bill for up to 40 sq metres (for a window frame that I had cleaned). It wasn't the £35 that upset me but the fact that I had to pay anything for what I considered to be a clean quarter.

All the carpets are due to be replaced before the next occupant moves in and, at this point it has been vacant for ten weeks. Of course, the house will be spotlessly cleaned by a contractor before the new arrival takes over and there won't be any

cobwebs and it won't have rained and caused spots on the outside of the windows . . . not.

All in all, I considered that I got off lightly with a small bill because I could have handed over DM755 (about £250) for the privilege of having someone else do the cleaning for me.

It took me about ten hours to clean the quarter, which means I paid myself about £25 an hour. Besides, I had other things to spend my disturbance allowance on, such as ferry crossings, car registration plates and insurance increases.

Two days later I arrived at my new quarter. I wish there were just spots in the cooker and cobwebs in the lights. This would have made me very happy. Instead I got the results of a contractor doing the job . . . another ten hours work ahead of me, except this time I don't get paid for it. – **Maj Mike Alcock, Headquarters London District**.

This welfare package has a nasty sting in the tail

I SCANNED your article about welfare for troops on operations (April) to read about the sting in the tail as heard on BFBS.

You failed to mention that at the same time as all this welfare was being set up it was planned to withdraw Local Overseas

Allowance (LOA) completely from soldiers serving in those operational areas.

So which is it to be? Benevolence to the tune of £60 million, or a cynical spin on yet another money-saving exercise? Editorial you usually face up to this sort of issue, so it may have

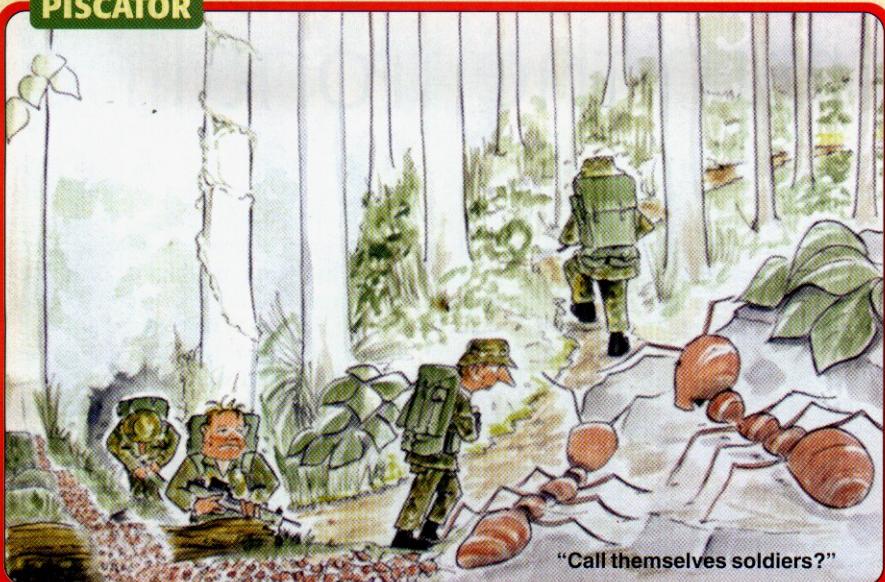
been a mistake in the reporting.

I suppose we can all count our lucky stars that the X-factor will no doubt compensate us all for this, as it does for the withdrawal of UN pay from our pay packets in UN operational areas. – **Maj T P Waites, Cyprus**.

▲ *Operational welfare support in the 1990s attracted universal criticism. Soldier has been told. It was ad hoc and unbalanced between theatres. The new package is neither cost-saving nor cost-neutral: the £60m of extra money over the next three years has been provided to enhance welfare support to those on operations in as many theatres as possible, bringing*

coherence to the muddled legacy and levelling the playing field. There is inevitably a perception that there must be losers as well as winners, and indeed there are one or two refinements required in a few locations. But this package is genuinely good news for the Army, not least because any deployment overseas over two months now qualifies (eg Ex Saif Sareea 2).

PISCATOR



Question time: What insignia or badge does a major wear on his or her shoulder?

A) A lion; B) A star; C) A crown.

Answers on a postcard please to ABF Soldier Competition, 41 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HR. First ten correct entries picked out of the hat will win a Piscator Bugler Boy keyring and a Tommy Atkins fridge magnet (no name and address, no prize). All entries will be placed in the ABF Grand Prize Draw.



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Unpaid leave 'unfair'

I HAVE just read about parental leave on my unit Part 1 orders and was disappointed to find that any leave taken would be unpaid. How can this be justified?

Does this mean that when I take such leave I would not be eligible for service?

It doesn't state that this is non-reckonable service, so during my time off I would (should) not expect to be called back into work for any reason. I find this difficult to believe. I'm certain that if there was an emergency my superiors would not hesitate to cancel my unpaid leave . . . and then worry about making up my wages at a later date.

This seems to be discrimination against parents especially when the parents of young children are young themselves and struggle to get by on a full wage, never mind losing seven days' pay. – **Sgt J Brown, DAC, Melton Mowbray.**

▲ Since December 15, 1999, Service parents of children born after that date have had the statutory right to parental leave – in effect the right to take up to three months' unpaid leave between the birth and the fifth birthday of each child born after that date.

This is consistent with the legal entitlement available to civilian employees. Soldier has learned. Parents can take up to four weeks of parental leave in any one year.

However, the regulations do allow employers to postpone leave in certain circumstances which, for the Army, will normally only be connected with operational deployments.

Parental leave is unpaid, in the same way that it and occupational maternity leave are unpaid for civilians, and is non-reckonable for pension purposes.

Theoretically, any soldier can be returned from any leave at any time. This would happen only in the direst emergency.

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

Mail us!

PS . . .

No 2 dress concerns

I'M amazed Sgt Parsons and LCpl Beard of 5 GS Med Regt are so concerned with No 2 dress ("Parading in working rig gives us the Worzel-look", May). How often is it used?

Money spent on useless uniforms would be better spent on improving No 8 dress (CS 95), which wears out after a week of hard use. Let's start supplying professional soldiers with the kit they need to do their jobs in the field. Worrying about marching up and down the square in front of the SSM is best left for ceremonial occasions (units that take part in this use No 1 dress, don't they?). I for one have a good book to read and the rest of my section has either a piano lesson or a movie to see.

Incidentally, I would spend £250 (Vox pop, May) on a hand-held pulse oximeter (reads oxygen saturation of body tissue, pulse and blood pressure . . . vital when trying to save life). – **Sgt Dowle RAMC, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey, Lincs.**

Mountain men Mk 3

I WAS interested in the letter from R G Rennie ("Mountain Men", May).

The HLI did indeed train in the Lebanon and the Lovat Scouts, of which I was proud to be a member, trained in Canada's Jasper National Park. On our return to the UK we were shipped to Italy, seeing action there until the end of hostilities. We then helped in the occupation of Austria before being flown to Greece when troubles broke out there.

There are few of us left but we still manage a reunion dinner every September in Inverness. Somebody suggested that as I came from Liverpool I should have been called a "Lovat Scouse". I am proud of the fact that I have two grandsons serving in the Royal Signals. – **Eddie Russell, Liverpool.**

Battlefield tours

I recently returned from a tour of First World War Western Front battlefields organised by HQ Director Royal Artillery. Like many others I was of the impression that this was an officers' "sport". How wrong I was. The experience was enlightening, fascinating and humbling.

It is no bad thing to stand at Arras, Neuve Chapelle, the Somme, Vimy Ridge or Ypres to listen to the bravery and endurance of those who have gone before us. It puts our service to the Crown into perspective. I recommend battlefield tours to everyone. – **WO1 (RASM) C Broadfoot, RHQ, London.**

Pioneers so proud

SGT Dave Salter, whose foot-and-mouth team was singled out for praise ("Lads were great", June), is actually from 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, not 101 (N) Regt RA(V). And we're proud of them. – **Capt Hirst, Adjutant, 23 Pioneer Regt, Bicester.**



Thoughts from the front line

AS a serving soldier for the past ten years, during which I have read your magazine avidly, I've served all over the world and seen lots of changes. Most have been for the better . . . but not all.

I enjoy your Talkback pages most of all. On the subject of TV licences, I reckon funding should be on a chip-in basis – all those in single-living accommodation with TVs should pay towards a camp licence.

On Combat Soldier 95 clothing . . . where do I start? The idea is fantastic, the field jacket is great (I can get everything in it, which, being in the cavalry, is quite a lot), but the neck and cuffs wear too quickly.

On my last tour of Bosnia a new jacket wore out. I've had nine pairs of CS 95 trousers since my initial issue is 1995, yet I still have two of my original shirts. It's always the knees and crutch that go. These days I usually wear windproof trousers, which I've bought as we aren't scaled for them.

On Task Force Cambrai to the Macedonian border we were issued with windproof trousers and smocks (what a shock!), although most of the small guys had to make do as the kit was issued only in a very large size. Imagine our surprise when we returned to camp to be told to hand them in so they could go back on the shelf – pathetic.

I'm sure the system works . . . it's just that it always seems that the front-line troops suffer. We've still got 58-pattern ponchos and sleeping bags that have only got half zips rather than the nice full ones that we had in the UK (which were a lot better to get "crashed out" in).

I'm sure most of the lads and lasses who write to you would agree that we need a system based on the American pre-tour kit allowance. I spend a fortune before an operational tour on things like assault vests, GPS, compass, Lumocoulores, windproofs . . . the list goes on.

I serve my country as best I can and I only have 12 years to push. – LCpl in Podujevo (name, address supplied).

Thanks from grateful farmers

THE following letters were received by the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders on foot-and-mouth duties in the Dumfries and Galloway area:

Please pass on our thanks to the team who arrived to take our sheep in the pre-emptive cull. They made a dreadful day easier with their kindness and understanding of a horrible situation. – Diana Kewley, Lochmaben.

I would like to convey our appreciation of the sensitive, courteous and most efficient manner in which the pre-emptive cull of our stock was carried out. – Dawn Anderson, Kirkcudbright.

Four hundred sheep were culled and removed from a farm adjacent

to our factory, a horrendous task for anyone. The team carried out the task quickly and with consideration to ensure the minimum of distress to our staff. – Charlie Kennedy, Glaribia Foods, Lockerbie.

We wish to record our appreciation of the consideration and professionalism shown by the Gurkha officer and his team in dealing with our concerns over the proximity of a disinfection point to our private water supply. Their behaviour was exemplary. – D Terence Leigh, Moffat.

They arrived, having completed one cull, and did not finish until 0300 hours with a long drive back to barracks. At all times they were friendly, cheerful and helpful. – Charles Irving, Wigton.

Puzzled by medal wait

THE May edition of *Soldier* has just been given to me and, as usual, it makes good reading. I have been a fan for many years and have seen it improve out of all recognition.

Recently there has been correspondence and editorial relating to various medals. Long service in the Territorial and Regular Army is recognised by awards that have "post-nominals".

But strangely this is not the case for cadets, although the reasons are

well documented. What seems much less well documented is why it is necessary to wait for what I understand to be a Royal Proclamation to reduce the length of service required for the award of the Cadet Force Medal and subsequent bars.

A public announcement was made some 18 months ago, yet this has still not been authorised. Why the extraordinary wait? – Capt M J Buckley, Cadet Forces Signals Adviser, Croydon, Surrey.

Two TV licences for one set

AFTER reading the letter on TV licences in *Soldier* (April), the response from PS4 (Army) took me by surprise, especially the sentence: "The key point is that the regulations require that it is the individual who intends to operate TV equipment who needs to be licensed".

This was also my belief until I received numerous letters from the TV Licensing Authority (TVLA) stating it had no record of a licence at my home address.

I wrote to the authority (with a photocopy of my TV licence for my military address) on three separate occasions, only to be told that it is the address that is licensed and not the individual. I had to buy a separate

licence for the one TV set which I had with me in my room in order to use it at my home address.

The TVLA is obviously informing PS4(A) of one rule and the likes of me another.

As a single soldier and homeowner, why am I expected to have two licences for one TV set?

Can you clarify what the situation really is?

I don't doubt the information that PS4(A) has given you, but it is quite the opposite to what the TVLA stated in writing to me. Incidentally, I am about to write to the TVLA again with a copy of the said article just to see what its response is. – Sgt Steve Appleton, HQ Land, Wilton.

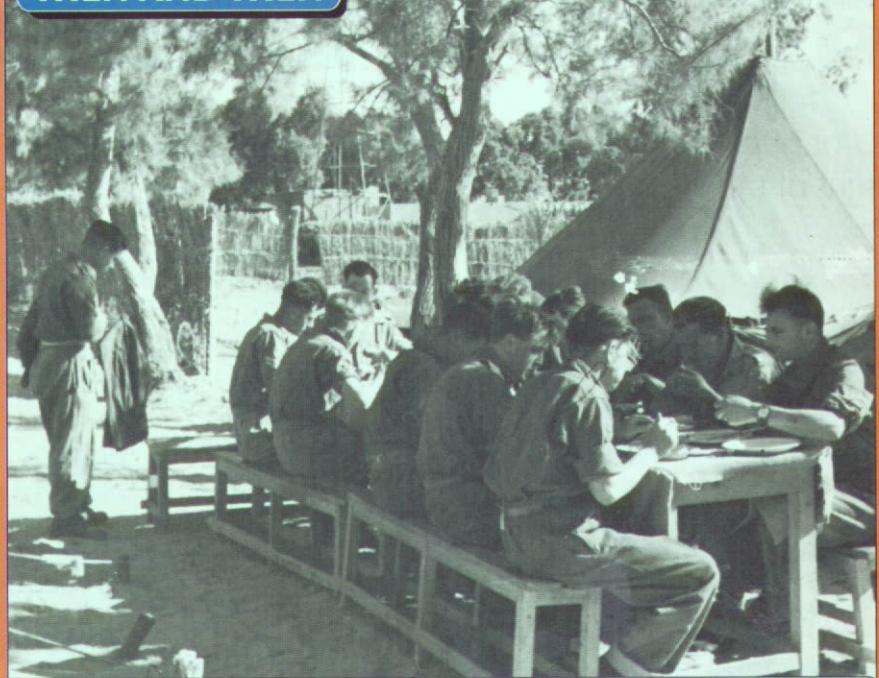
▲ HQ Land writes: Sgt Appleton asks why he is expected to purchase two licences for one TV set. As explained in the Joint Service DCI 49/99, for an individual to remain properly covered a separate licence is required if other accommodation is occupied during the week unless there are no TV receivers remaining at the normal place of residence. As Sgt Appleton has only one set he needs only one licence but, as shown in the notes on the back of all licences, for an individual to remain correctly

licensed when they move they should call the Address Management Centre TV Licensing Bristol.

The telephone number has recently altered and individuals with older licences may wish to note that the new number is 08705 246246.

Individuals with queries about their personal TV licences should be using the established customer care helplines operated by the TVLA in Bristol. The enquiries number is 08705 763763 or visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1951: British soldiers, above, eat in their open-air mess at Sebha in the Sahara. They had a swimming pool beside the palms. They were among a party of three officers and 15 men from the 1st Infantry Division at Tripoli who enjoyed the hospitality of the French Foreign Legion in the Fezzan, part of Libya under French administration.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1976: It was the moment of triumph, an achievement of planning and sheer endurance as two soldiers, Sgt John "Brummie" Stokes and Cpl Michael "Bronco" Lane, stood on the roof of the world. Almost 23 years after Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing conquered Everest, the British Army had tamed the world's highest peak.

Single soldier disturbed by an 'unfair' allowance

HAVING been posted to Germany I have become aware how unfair the disturbance allowance (DL) for single personnel is when compared with married people.

I realise DL is intended for families to meet the cost of things such as school uniforms and household furnishings, none of which apply to single personnel, but what annoys me and countless other single soldiers is the fact that a married soldier can expect around £800 on moving quarter, whereas we receive a flat rate of £37.

I had to meet a jump of £180 in car insurance and buy continental headlamps (£80) and furniture for my accommodation which, although less than ten years old, has only two electric sockets and no bin.

I'm out of pocket because I was posted abroad and would like to know the Army's response to another example of singles being treated as second-class citizens. – Cpl C Baty, RLC, Gutersloh.

▲ Soldier has been told by Personal Services (Army): Single personnel do not receive Disturbance Allowance (DA) when moving from publicly-funded accommodation to publicly-funded accommodation, although they do when moving into privately-funded accommodation.

Moves into the former do not incur the avoidable expenditure incurred for moves to private accommodation. We are aware that some single soldiers feel disadvantaged when posted and a review of DA is being conducted next year when consideration will be given to the case for single personnel to receive the allowance.

Cpl Baty's letter highlights other misconceptions about DA. The £37 he received was to cover insurance for personnel effects in transit. DA has an element to cover soft – but not hard – furnishings. Car items – additional premiums and headlights – are recompensed through LOA, not DA, applying equally to single and married.

DA is not designed to cover perceived shortfalls in the scaling of Service accommodation for either married or single personnel. Accommodation considered below the JSP scale is graded accordingly and compensation achieved by a reduction in charges. As Cpl Baty pays Grade 4 accommodation charges the lack of such amenities as electrical plugs has been assessed.

The bin is a matter for the QM's Department.

PS . . .

Increments for TA

I WAS interested to read in the magazine that the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team had widened its scope to cover the Territorial Army. Perhaps it can address the issue of why TA soldiers have no incremental pay structure, an issue particularly relevant for those members who carry the added responsibility for senior management.

If the Army wishes to retain and develop high-calibre staff with the potential to lead others it needs to remunerate those who have the acumen. As the saying goes: "If you want something done, ask a busy person." Surely performance should be appropriately rewarded. – Caroline Whittaker, Vale of Glamorgan.

Tap into my skills

I READ with interest the problems some of your soldiers are having with accommodation. Dripping taps are easy to fix: just make sure you turn the water off and drain the system, take off top part of tap, replace washer (you may have to re-grind the seat), replace, turn water on and check for leaks.

Perhaps I could come and do it for the MoD. By the way, I took my copy of *Soldier* from the Probation Service at Crewe, Cheshire. Does the Army like criminals? I'm 44 years old, unfortunately too old. – Dave "Koz" Woods, Cheshire.

It's a hard life

ON the subject of the so-called "softly-softly approach" (Mail, May), I'm fully behind all Service people. Just do your training, stick with it, get shouted at, get sworn at and become a soldier. I'd rather have one good soldier in front of me than 20 bad ones. – K R Arnold, (ex-2 Bn Gren Gds 1967-70), Bournemouth.

Medal without frills

I WAS interested in your survey on whether too many medals are available for today's soldiers (Vox pop, June). The point made by Sgt Holmes was most significant – if too many are issued "the medals that mean something are lost among those that don't".

The survey brought back an unusual memory for me. Having served for about 19 years I was in the Radfan mountains as the CSM of 3 Coy, 2 Coldm Gds when I was sent for by the CO. He handed me a tiny box and said something along the lines of: "I thought you would like this now rather than wait for some long-winded ceremonial parade". The box contained my Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

He was absolutely right, of course, as the wait would probably have been about nine months. Incidentally, the qualifying period for the medal in those days was 18 years' "undetected crime". – Maj P Horsfall, London.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Pte Amy Chamberlain, AGC (SPS)

The telephone allowance could be handled a bit differently. There are some people who haven't got anyone to call back home so they could be given money instead – that way they still benefit. Aside from that there is plenty going on out here to keep us entertained. There is internet access and you can now hire DVDs and videos.



Cfn Mark Walker, REME

This is my first tour but I think that the welfare is quite adequate. The bar is good although the EFI could be stocked better. Sometimes you go and there is nothing left on the shelves. The canteen could also have free cold drinks like the Americans have in Bonsteel.



LCpl Mike Fuller, 11 Field Squadron, 38 Engr Regt

Welfare is getting a lot better for a tour in Kosovo, especially compared with last year. There is not really much that can be improved and overall I am very happy with it.



Gnr Karen Bell, 3 RHA

It's okay, but 20 minutes of phone calls a week is not really enough... and more hot water would be great – there is never enough for showers.



Cfn Alan Wardle, REME

The standard of welfare is quite good. We have had some problems with the phones but if they had been working then I would have no real complaints. As far as improvements go, the officers' mess has an outdoor veranda and in the hot weather it would be nice if the lower ranks had a similar facility so that they could sit outside.



Pte Jonathan Rumbold, RLC

It's pretty awkward for me because all my family are in New Zealand – we get 20 minutes of phone calls a week and that is not really long enough to talk to my missus and the rest of my family. If we had longer on the phone I would be happy.



Pte Aaron Katemba, RLC

I think the telephone entitlement is all right, the accommodation is brilliant and I have no complaints about the food. The only improvement I would suggest is that the EFI should find a proper aerial for its television – the reception at the moment is pretty poor.



Gnr Andy Failey, 3 RHA

It is the first time I have been to Kosovo so it is hard to comment on the welfare we receive. Our camp – Slim Lines – could



have a better football pitch but that is about my only real complaint.

I've seen other camps, such as Bonsteel (the American base) and the facilities there are brilliant, so when you compare Slim Lines to that I guess there is still room for improvement.

LBdr Steve Sinclair, 3 RHA

Having internet access is useful but we have had problems this tour with the phones going down and 20 minutes a week is not really enough. The accommodation is fine. It is a lot better than Bosnia but the hot water can be a problem... especially if you do not get in the showers early.



Bdr Alan Calver, 3 RHA

Compassionate-wise, the welfare out here is very good. Those on this tour who have had compassionate cases have been treated very well. I think we should get

more telephone time and the mail could be a bit more efficient but apart from that everything is fine.

LBdr Stuart Ankars, 3 RHA

The accommodation here is very good – it has changed a lot since the tented system but I don't think it is worth the £110 million that has been spent on it.



Overall I would say that the welfare gets a thumbs-up. There are things that could be improved but at the end of the day you're out here so you make do with what you've got.

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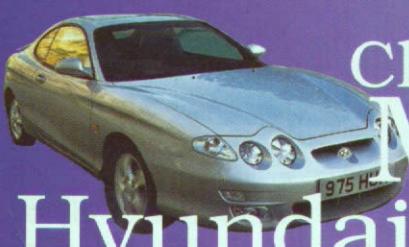


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