

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

October 2001 £2

SOLDIER

**TERROR
WAR:
ARMY
ALERT**

**Thunder on the prairie
Thumbs up for Bowman
On the line in Belfast**



9 771462 150022

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

major deal

a special offer for all those serving in the British Army

free Motorola Ti250e (rrp £59.99) or Sony J5e (rrp £39.99)

plus complimentary

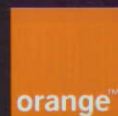
- £25 cashback
- leather case and personal handsfree kit
- itemised billing
- delivery

what's more you can keep your existing mobile number when you switch to Orange. So to take advantage of this great offer call Orange Direct on

0800 168 168

(quoting SOL 7A)

Subject to status and a minimum 12 month term on an Orange Service Plan.
Ask the Orange Direct operator for full terms and conditions.





ARMY

Soldier Magazine
Parsons House,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hampshire, GU11 2DU.

Tel 01252 347353

Contact list: Page 78



● Smugglers jeopardise tax concession – Pages 18-19

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

19 Cover story

Vigilant: LCpl Lee Jones (front cover) of 1 Staffords with his Warrior in Canada. He was taking part in Exercise Iron Anvil. The flag on the vehicle is the Staffords'.

Picture: Kevin Capon



On the gunline: An AS90 gun crew of 19 Regiment RA service their 155mm weapon during live firing at BATUS

First winning photograph – Page 12

Ex-RMP heads security at Pompey's Fratton Park stadium

– Page 51



Explosive character: TA officer has EOD job in the Army ... and a volatile one outside it – Page 35

● SSAFA's life-support system is there for you

● BFG fleet manoeuvres set pattern for the UK

– Pages 28-29

Antarctica Expedition heads south

– Page 23

St Dunstan's boost for Stephen – Page 33

PLUS

21 Chip cartoons
33 CGS feedback
43 Money column
44 Sport
62 Info section

64 Diary
66 Wish list
68 Books
71 Comment
72 Mail

4 Thumbs up for Bowman

New communications system is on the way

17 Festival of the Sea

Picture round-up of Services' spectacular in Portsmouth

18 Adhering to the customs

Abuse of the tax benefits in Germany could spoil it for all

24 Harvesting for peace

Troops on mission to Macedonia gather in weapons

27 Safe house in a trauma

Germany's safety net for victims of abuse and violence

31 How much am I worth?

How Pay 2000 evaluation team summed up a bombardier

34 My Army: Bishop Jim

Senior cleric once commanded a Conqueror tank

36 Suez's battling diehards

Fifty years on, veterans haven't given up on a medal

39 Containing the cauldron

Soldiers caught in middle of north Belfast's violent streets

78 Vox pop

What do you think of your single living accommodation?

Thumbs up for Bowman



After years of uncertainty in which the ageing Clansman system has been pushed well past its use-by date, the British Army is preparing for the imminent arrival of Bowman. And it doesn't have long to wait...

Report: John Elliott

BOWMAN is finally on its way. Some soldiers could see it in their units within their current tour.

After several false dawns, the actual box of tricks is about to be delivered across the three Services, with initial training and support thrown in by the company that won the contract.

The £1.8 billion task of providing the Armed Forces with Bowman was awarded to General Dynamics UK Ltd (previously known as Computer Devices Canada – a name-change which reflects the importance of Bowman to the parent company).

So what is Bowman? In broad terms it is a secure voice and data service down to section level, and the backbone for digitizing the land battle-space.

For the soldier on the ground it promises to deliver:

- **Secure communications** (you won't compromise your position or need Battle Code);
- **Integrated automatic GPS** (you won't get lost and you can find out

where your mates are, too);

- **Faster orders process** (get the job done quicker);
- **Logistics units included** (no-one gets left out of the loop);

- **HQ set-up/tear-down times reduced** (less hassle – more fighting);
- **Reliable radios** (enough said);
- **Computers down to section level** (a picture paints a thousand words); and

- **Less maintenance**

Bowman will not only replace the Clansman combat net radio, it will effectively overlay the battlefield with a secure, high-capacity tactical internet. This will be used in every echelon to access an array of data services. Reports and returns, stock states and even up-to-the-minute map overlays will be just a few keystrokes away.

The heart of the system is the Local Area Sub-system (LAS) which will replace the current Clansman harness, Ptarmigan cabling within and between vehicles, intercom cabling and the wide variety of ad hoc connections required for currently fielded networks. Instead, headquarters and command posts will need just a single information-bearer between vehicles.

Within the vehicles the LAS will con-

Coming soon to a location near you

A BATTALION serving with Aldershot-based 12 Mechanized Brigade will be the first to get its teeth stuck into Bowman as part of a programme of conversion over two years.

Between 2003 and the end of 2004, the whole of 12 Mech will absorb the system, with trials running alongside conversion and training. If all goes well, the whole Army will be converted by the end of 2007.

For units in the Formation Readiness Cycle (FRC) conversion will start at the end

of their "other tasks" year and run into the early part of their training year.

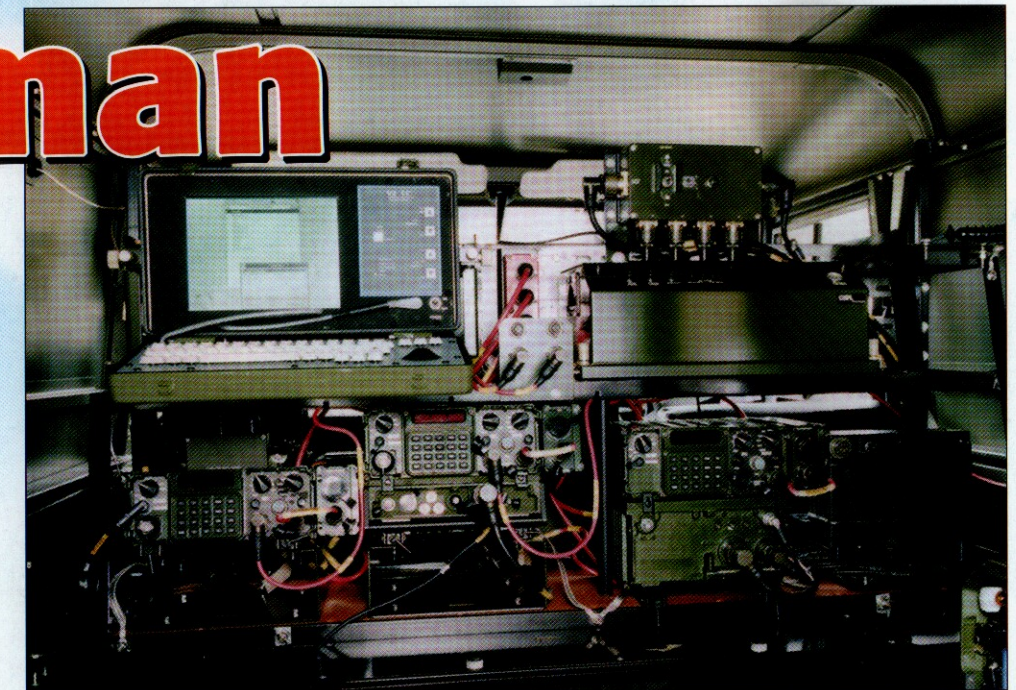
After 12 Mech has blazed the trail, the conversion programme is:

2005 – 7 Arm'd Bde, 19 Mech Bde, 3 Cdo Bde and 1 Signal Bde.

2006 – 20 Arm'd Bde, 1 Mech Bde, 16 Air Asslt Bde and 2 and 11 Signal Bdes.

2007 – 4 Arm'd Bde.

The programme to convert CS, CSS, training and administrative units will run concurrently.



Future: Is this the FFR of tomorrow? A contract bidder's technology design for the rear of a fitted-for-radio Land Rover

Nothing personal, but...

ANOTHER new capability brought to you by Bowman is the Personal Role Radio, which, as reported in the September issue of *Soldier*, is for use over short ranges. About 45,000 are being bought and issued as you read this.

It will provide insecure voice radio out to about 500m within sections and small teams and will enhance low-level command and control, replacing the use of shouted orders, hand signals, whistles and flares.

nect all voice and data services. It will also allow radios to be remoted and even connected to systems outside Bowman.

So, for example, a satcom detachment may connect directly into a battle-group HQ via the Bowman LAS, or a staff officer could place a call over Ptarmigan via the LAS.

Effectively, this means that all radios except the PRR will be able to access ISDN facilities should the need arise.

Only one radio needs to be switched on per net to serve an entire cabled-up HQ. That means fewer masts, antennae and generators (not to mention fewer duty operators "sitting on set").

With "information superiority" increasingly important to the outcome of battle, Bowman is poised to allow British Forces to lead the world in faster, more accurate and more effective communications.

Text messaging isn't so very far away

CLANSMAN will be replaced by a secure voice and data service based on a combat radio net.

Although the way in which the Army organises its radio nets will probably not change much (they are, after all, linked more to the operational chain of command than the technology involved) all HF and VHF radios will be combined voice-and-data capable, and all will be secure.

Battle-code (BATCO) will be a thing of the past and the Army will be able to exchange data all the way down to half-section level (as opposed to regimental/battalion HQ). Text messaging for the section is not that far away.

All manpack and portable combat net radios will also provide conventional GPS functions (making it virtually impossible for troop leaders and platoon commanders to get lost) and provide data for automatic transmissions of locations to provide an accurate "friendly picture" of where our own troops are.

Similarly, each platform will have its own GPS to provide the location information. In a nutshell, the system should greatly enhance situation awareness.

Beating those data traffic jams

IN this age of information overload, the High Capacity Data Radio will provide the Army with a new capability.

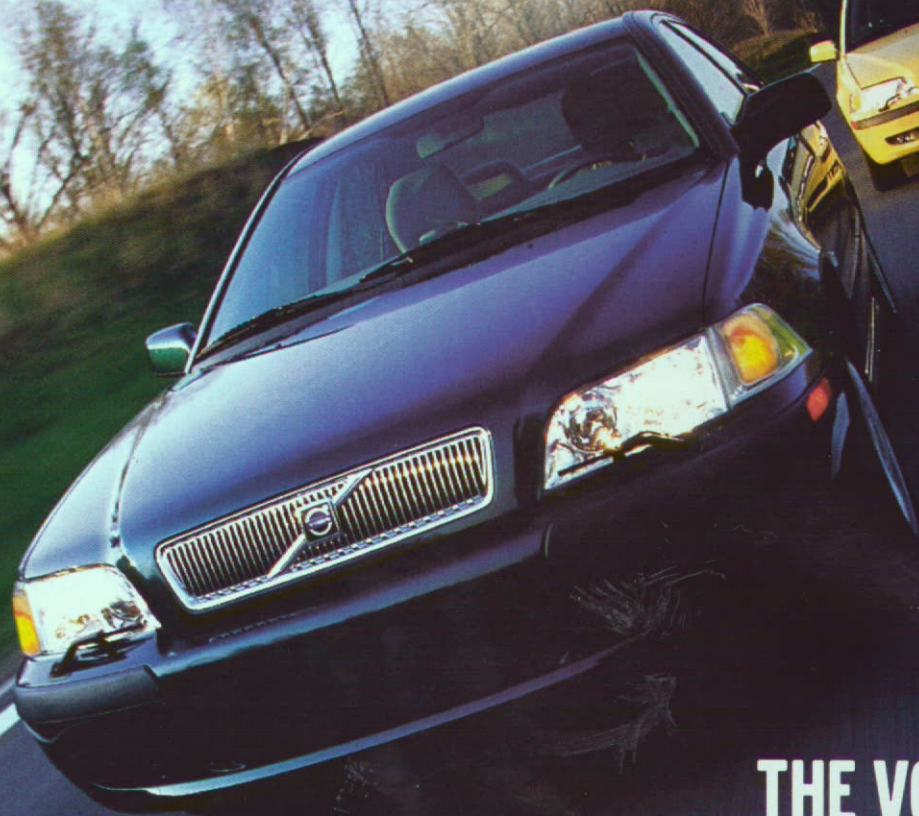
It is designed to meet communications needs created by the vastly increased amount of data that will be passed in the future. This is an area of comms traditionally left to the Royal Signals in support of brigade headquarters and above.

Bowman, however, brings this capability into the battle-group environment, heralding a significant increase in capability for signals platoons and their equivalents across the three Services.

FROM JUST £9,995*
FOR TWO MONTHS ONLY...

VOLVO

for life



THE VOLVO S40 1.6 S

Volvo British Military Sales is delighted to introduce special editions of the Volvo S40 saloon and V40 estate. For orders placed during the months of August and September only, the S40 1.6 S is available for just £9,995* and the stunning V40 1.6 S available for £10,495*.

These prices represent significant savings on the UK list price (before tax). What's more, being Volvos, both models should hold their value strongly when it's time to sell. Volvo British Military Sales are the only authorised supplier of genuine UK Spec Tax Free cars to the Military and will ensure you receive the very highest standards of service and customer care.

To experience a new generation of Volvo cars at very special prices this summer, please call today to book your test drive.

S/V40 1.6 S standard specification includes:

- 15" ALLOY WHEELS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- 6 SPEAKER CD PLAYER
- ABS
- DUAL STAGE DRIVERS AIRBAG
- EBD (Electronic Brake Distribution)
- METALLIC PAINT
- REAR SPOILER
- SIPS (Side Impact Protection)
- WHIPS (Whiplash Protection)
- SIPS AIRBAGS
- INFLATABLE CURTAIN
- ELECTRIC FRONT WINDOWS
- ANTI-THEFT ALARM
- REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING
- 109BHP, 16 VALVE ENGINE
- VARIABLE VALVE TIMING
- FULL UK SPECIFICATION
- 3 YEAR WARRANTY*
- 3 YEAR EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE

HEAD OFFICE

Volvo Car UK (British Military Sales) PO Box 200, Hatfield, AL9 7AR, England

Tel: +44 1707 262388 Email: vcc4.tdsuk@memo.volvo.se

*Volvo S40 1.6 S available from £10,425 + delivery (tax-free) not in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions. All models available with initial 1 year international warranty followed by 2 year UK warranty.

Pictures: Sgt Shaun Lewis

Palace guard pays musical tribute to people of America

US Ambassador William Farish, inset, left, accompanied by the Duke of York, watched as the Band of the Coldstream Guards played the American national anthem in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace as a special tribute, on the orders of the Queen, to the people of the USA. Thousands of American tourists were among the many spectators who gathered to watch the special Changing of the Guard ceremony. Pictured in the palace forecourt is 7 Company, Coldstream Guards. The Colour is carried by Capt Charles Thurstan, Coldm Gds, left.



● Britain will provide military help in what both President Bush and Tony Blair are calling a war against international terrorism. — *Guardian*

● British people overwhelmingly support a military strike against the terrorists responsible for bringing war to America. — *News of the World*

● Military activity is increasing in Britain as forces are built up for a possible strike against the terrorist network that attacked American cities. — *Independent on Sunday*

● Britain has placed extensive military resources at the disposal of President Bush for any retaliatory strike against the terror bombers. Military planners were earmarking units and equipment for a possible strike. — *Times*

Paper talk

We're at war — Prime Minister

Forces on higher alert in aftermath of USA attacks

BRITISH military bases all over the world heightened security in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in Washington on September 11. Flags were flown at half-mast.

Measures in the UK included a reduction in the notice to move of military personnel who would assist the police.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told BFBS listeners: "I am confident that the superb professionalism of British forces could be used to maximum effect to deal with the appalling events that we now have to face up to."

"We will stand by the United States. Right around the world British Forces are rightly admired for their skill and professionalism, and I am confident that if called upon they will give an excellent account of themselves."

As this issue went to press it was believed no MoD staff, either in permanent, exchange or liaison posts, or on visits, had been killed or injured in the attacks.

Response to the atrocity is regarded as a matter for the US, but the British Government has made clear its willingness to consider requests for help from the US, be they in terms of planning, use of British bases or military assets. Asked if the country was at war with the terrorists, Prime

Minister Tony Blair said: "Absolutely."

Nato, to which Britain provides leadership, troops and equipment, invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty for the first time, confirming that an armed attack against one member state is regarded as an attack against all.

Meanwhile, Saif Sareea 2, the British Army's major exercise in Oman, was set to continue, although planning elements of the Joint Forces Headquarters due to fly to the desert were remaining in the UK. More than 7,000 troops from 1 (UK) Armoured Division in Germany were deploying for the biggest overseas training event for years. Planning for Saif Sareea 2, has been going on for the past four years.

The exercise also involves a large naval task force led by the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious* and up to 60 RAF aircraft.

The Army is hoping to have an operational stock of 15,000 modified SA80 rifles in place by December. The stock,

which could be issued to troops in the event of war, stands at 10,000. The first issue of modified SA80s will go to the Infantry Battle School, Wales in December, with 3 Commando Brigade RM receiving the second batch in March.

In an open letter to military personnel based in Germany, three senior commanders expressed support for American Service personnel in Europe.

Gen Christopher Drewry, Commander HQ ARRC; Gen Robin Brims, GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division; and Gen John Moore-Bick, GOC United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) wrote: "... our hearts and prayers are with our immediate US colleagues in the ARRC and those who serve the wider community in north-west Europe. They must know that we are there for them and will support them."

They said measures had been taken to "increase the security of our own bases".

Silent patrol: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards in North Belfast were among British troops across the United Kingdom who joined the nation in a three-minute silence for those lost in the US terrorist attacks. Following the silence, a piper from the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Centre, played a lament.



In the media eye



Our kinda town: Troops from the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment clear houses in Copehill Down fighting village on Salisbury Plain. The 70 paras, reinforced by Swedish, Italian and German airborne troops, jumped on to the Plain before assaulting the village.

They were watched every step of the way by 40 members of the Media Operations Group (Volunteers) based at HQ Land, Wilton. The exercise gave the Media Ops team a chance to get to grips with kit held by Permanent Joint Headquarters for deployment on operations.

Maj Dave Reynolds, Media Ops Gp (V), who was involved in writing the exercise scenario, said: "We are putting our professional media skills into practice in a military environment. With a high-profile unit such as 4 Para, we are doing exactly what we might be doing on an operation."

Picture: Jim Gallagher

Danish queen visits troops on Salisbury Plain exercise

QUEEN Margrethe II of Denmark was due to visit soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment as this issue went to press.

The Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, was meeting the Tidworth-based troops, and members of their families, during an exercise on Salisbury Plain.

The regiment's connection with the Danish royal family goes back to 1689 when Prince George of Denmark was honorary colonel of an English regiment of foot.



What's under here? Cpl Jason Lyall and his search team go to work in Pristina market

Jocks in market for drugs, guns

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch deployed in Kosovo have kept up the pressure on armed criminals and political extremists in Pristina with a series of raids to recover illegal weapons and counterfeit goods.

Operations officer Capt Angus Ferguson said the key to success was sound intelligence, which the Black Watch troops gathered from observation posts and street patrols.

Most ambitious of the battalion's operations so far was a search of the city's Stadium Market, which attracts thousands of stalls and up to 200,000 people a day. The jocks, supported by soldiers from other battalions in the multi-national brigade, sealed off the area before beginning a sweep which recovered three pistols, a shotgun and rifle and ammunition, and more than

DM100,000 (about £32,000) in used notes, suspected by police to be linked to extremists. In another operation, ten eastern European women were freed following raids on bars suspected of running prostitution and drugs rings.

Battalion spokesman Capt Rob Walker said: "It is clear from our operations so far in Kosovo that there is a close connection between organised crime and ethnically-motivated political extremism." He said the raids hit the criminals' ability to generate money which was used to buy arms and equipment.

The Highland soldiers, who are due to return home next month, also seized a number of weapons, including several grenades, two pistols, two AK47 automatic rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

New Tory leader was SG officer

FORMER Scots Guards officer Iain Duncan Smith has succeeded William Hague as leader of the Conservative Party. He joined the regiment in 1975 and was an aide-de-camp to Gen Sir John Acland between 1979 and 1981, when he left the Army as a captain. He was an opposition defence spokesman in the last Parliament.

IN BRIEF

● The 650 men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles flew to Bosnia at the end of last month to begin a six-month SFOR tour in Bosnia. They will be based mainly at Banja Luka and Mrkonjic Grad.

● Husband and wife Cpl Andrea and Sig Stephen Smith, pictured, both of the 3rd

(UK) Division Signal Regiment, were among 37 soldiers to receive UN medals at Bulford. The couple married shortly before deploying



Welfare menu goes à la carte

Package to become available sooner

WELFARE provision has been extended to cover all operational deployments and exercises lasting for two months or more.

A recommendation that a range of support should kick in much earlier for soldiers deployed abroad, and their families, was one of the main conclusions of a major review of welfare provision. Out of it has emerged a "menu" of facilities which can be drawn on to meet any length of deployment.

Wherever possible, troops can expect telephones, e-mail and e-blue facilities to help them keep in touch with home, retail facilities and leisure and fitness equipment for off-duty relaxation.

Phoning home: Telephones are a priority for all missions

with the warning that soldiers on duty in remote locations (current examples include areas of Kosovo and Oman) will remain beyond the reach of facilities such as ready access to internet and e-mail terminals, mobile laundry and canteen, or phone equipment.

Authority to grant R & R during operations must rest with the operational commander and where possible it should be taken in-theatre. Factors such as force protection and cultural differences may result in leave being taken in the UK.

The thrust of the new arrangements is that the longer soldiers are deployed the more allowances and facilities they and their families will become eligible for.

Troops can expect three phases

of welfare provision while on operations:

Initial – Twenty minutes of phone calls and access to phones for private use, shower bags, laundry, mobile shop, blueys and newspapers.

Follow-on – Fitness equipment, internet, TVs and videos, mobile shop, e-blueys and TV broadcast equipment.

Sustained – Local BFBS radio and TV, cinema, Combined Service Entertainment (CSE) shows and a welfare co-ordinator.

Troops away for six months or more will be entitled to every item on the welfare menu, which includes two extra family travel warrants in the UK, family travel abroad (three for nine-to-12 months, four for more than 12 months), additional carry-over of leave, adventurous training and, where possible, an education centre.

Deployments of between four and six months attract everything except additional carry-over leave.

Missions which last less than four months will not qualify for R & R or carry-over leave. Nor will they attract extra family travel warrants or travel abroad. Fitness equipment, CSE shows, welfare service agencies, family guides and adventurous training are also not on the menu for shorter tours.



Dancing girls: CSE shows are on the menu for all deployments lasting four months or more

Scooter patrol



Wheel get there, eventually: Sgt Tam Burns, left, PTI Sgt Rab Birss, centre, and Cpl Stuart Gowans, all of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, scootered 200 miles from Aberdeen to Edinburgh to raise cash for a new bus for BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association. Mission completed, the trio returned to their regiment, which is deployed in the Balkans. Picture: Mark Owens

Miss B signs up



Handy work: Gunners from 12 Regiment RA's recruiting team pose with Miss Blackpool, Natalie James, on the resort's Pleasure Beach. Blackpool is a prime recruiting target for the regiment (also known as the Lancashire and Cumbria Gunners) and Natalie will be visiting the artillerymen in Cyprus this month. A couple of soldiers from the regiment flew back to Blackpool last month to help select the finalist of the Miss Blackpool 2001 competition, which sounds like terribly hard work.

Liquid was not NBC agent

LIQUID discovered in an Iraqi storage tank at a girls' school in Sabahiyah Municipality, Kuwait City, in August 1991 was nitric acid, not a chemical warfare agent, a joint US-UK report has confirmed. It is thought most likely to have been inhibited red fuming nitric acid, a highly corrosive fuel component used by Iraq to power its missiles.

to Bosnia to serve with the British Forces Signal Troop at Banja Luka.

● HQ 20 Armoured Brigade has relocated from Barker Barracks to Antwerp Barracks in Sennelager, Germany.

● C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse) Squadron, The Queen's Own Yeomanry won the best British Army team award for the second time in three years at the Nijmegen marches in Holland.

● Two new nature walks, one suitable for disabled people, have been opened at Sennybridge Training Area, Wales.

THINK

**Defence**

Who knows what the future holds?

In your fast-changing world, one thing remains certain. You need information in the right place, at the right time to make the right decision.

The BT Ignite Solutions Defence team are dedicated to delivering the communication strategies and services that will give you an information edge.

We deliver the Defence Fixed Telecommunication Service, connecting MOD and all three Armed Services to common communication platforms – serving 195,000 voice users and wide area data networks covering 852 sites.

Our mission is to be your first-choice partner in transforming your business. Through our unique and distinguished partnership with Defence, we understand the challenges you face. So our solutions are tailor-made to your needs – providing cost-effective capability, now and long into the future.

Allow us to be your gateway to BT's armoury of innovation and expertise. Discover the most powerful information and communication solutions that the future holds.

We'll lead in our field
so that you can lead in yours

For more information log on to www.btignitedefencesolutions.com
or Tel: 0113 203 6434 email: info@btignitedefencesolutions.com



Hi-tech: Six-year-old Harry Everill of Great Barr enjoys a guided tour of AS90 by Bdr Andy Wood of 26 Regiment RA at a major display of military equipment and weaponry in Birmingham. Bdr Wood, a member of the regimental recruiting team, was one of hundreds of soldiers on hand to "sell" the Army in the Midlands. Tanks, armoured vehicles and major artillery pieces featured in the exhibition at Birmingham's International Convention Centre

Tyne Tees find their rhythm in Romania

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers of The Tyne Tees Regiment exercised in temperatures touching 42C when they deployed to Romania as guests of the 282nd Mechanized Brigade based at Foscani in the east of the country.

Key elements of Exercise Carpathian Express were live firing on the baking hot plains near Malina, and training with a Romanian mountain warfare company in the Carpathians. Malina's terrain was similar to Otterburn, but the temperatures were more like central Africa.

Despite beer at 20p a pint, the unit maintained an exemplary disciplinary record.

The regimental band drew appreciative crowds for a series of concerts around the country. At the end of the visit the mayor of Foscani organised a cultural evening. A joint Romanian-British parade ended with Romanian folk dancers encouraging the Tyne Tees soldiers to take part in a final



Two-step: Tyne Tees soldiers give folk dancing a try following a formal parade at Foscani

cultural exchange. Commanding officer Lt Col Duncan Hopkins described the visit as "highly successful".

Cheaper and quicker

ALVIS Vehicles have signed an agreement with the Army Base Repair Organisation (ABRO) to co-operate on equipment support of Alvis's wheeled and tracked vehicles, including Saxon, CVR(T) and Warrior. Key objectives are to reduce repair and overhaul costs, improve reliability and speed up maintenance.

Statistically ...

THE proportion of female officers reached 9.3 per cent in April, according to the latest defence statistics. The proportion of ethnic minorities in the Services rose to 1.7 per cent in 2001, and the intake to 2.9 per cent during 2000-01 from 1.9 per cent the previous year.

Altogether now

THE Multi-national Division Central, the world's only multi-national airmobile formation, exercised on Senneberger training area last month. It involved 2,500 airborne troops in units from Belgium, Germany, Holland and the UK.

PM raises soldier's death in Macedonia

SPR Ian Collins, who died after he was struck on the head by objects thrown at the Land Rover he was driving east of Skopje in Macedonia on August 27, was buried in a private funeral in Sheffield.

A member of Aldershot-based 9 Parachute Squadron RE, 22-year-old Spr Collins was single and from Sheffield. He had deployed to Macedonia as part of the weapon-gathering British contingent on Operation Essential Harvest.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon expressed his regret at the death and the incident was raised by Prime Minister Tony Blair with President Trijkovski of Macedonia.

It is believed rocks were thrown at Spr Collins's vehicle on a carriageway east of the city. He suffered severe head injuries and was treated by medics before being taken to the neurological unit at Skopje University Hospital. He died in the early hours of August 27.

● Bdr Simon Hunston, 25, who was killed when a shell hit his Warrior during a night live-firing exercise at Suffield, Canada, on August 28, was a member of B Battery, 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery based at Tidworth. Four colleagues were injured in the accident.

Bdr Hunston was married and came from Doncaster.

Lt Col Kevin Abraham, CO 1 RHA, said: "Bdr Hunston was one of the stars of the 1st Regiment RHA. Since joining the regiment in 1993 he had been an energetic, highly likeable and highly professional soldier. He served with distinction on four operational tours in the Balkans. Our thoughts are with his wife and family."

● **Thunder on the prairie** – Page 19



Spr Ian Collins

Pudsey pounds



Drafted drachma: If you've been abroad recently and have unwanted foreign currency cluttering up your wallet/purse, Pudsey would be glad to take it off your hands... for the BBC's Children in Need appeal. Bells provided 500 large (but unfortunately empty) whisky bottles for the collection, and they can be found in HIVES and messes throughout the UK. Alternatively, **Cpl Mark Atkinson**, left, who can be contacted at RAF Cosford on (mil) 95561 7229 or (civ) 01902 372393 ext 7229, will be happy to pass coins or notes on to the big bear. Helping them publicise the nationwide appeal are **LWren (Phot) Angie Pearce**, centre, and **Pte Joe Smith**. Picture: Ground Photo Section RAF Cosford

Win a trip to 'Antarctica'

SOLDIER readers can win three pairs of tickets to London's newest production – "Antarctica" at the Savoy Theatre in the Strand.

The play, by David Young, is a fictional work based on the fight for survival in April 1912 by six men cut off from the rest of Capt Robert Falcon Scott's doomed polar expedition.

To have a chance of winning, tell us on a postcard who was the first explorer to reach the South Pole. Answers should reach us by October 22. Usual competitions rules apply.

And if you don't win, you can still take up an offer of £10 off two top-price tickets by calling the Savoy Theatre on 020 7836 and quoting "Soldier Magazine". The offer excludes Friday and Saturday performances and is valid until November 30.

Gary trips the light fantastic

CONGRATULATIONS to Cpl Gary Ranu, who is the first winner of the new *Soldier* amateur photographic competition.

Gary, who is serving with the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry at Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh, impressed our panel of judges with this striking image of a bugler from his regiment.

Mike Weston, our chief photographer, said of Gary's prize-winning entry: "He has made good use of low sunlight for maximum impact and done a good job of retaining detail in the shadow area. It is a clean and vibrant picture."

Keep sending us your best recent photographs depicting any aspect of Army life. Each month our judging panel will decide which picture submitted by a certain date merits publication in the following issue.

The monthly winner will receive a £25 photographic gift voucher. All

the first-placed pictures will go forward to be judged in February for the *Soldier* award in the 2001/2 Army Photographic Competition – a prize valued at £250.

The *Soldier* monthly Amateur Photo Contest is open to any reader who is NOT a professional photographer. Send your entries – preferably prints up to 10x8in – to the Chief Photographer, *Soldier*, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU. Include a suitable self-addressed envelope if you would like your entries returned.

You can also e-mail them to mweston@soldiermagazine.co.uk indicating "Soldier Photo Comp" in the subject box.

Photographs may not be entered more than once.

● Continued on Page 23

SOLDIER
PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION



Sarajevo squadron



Air today: On guard at the Sarajevo base of 659 Squadron, 4 Regiment AAC is ATpr James Steele. Twenty-five men of the unit were deployed on an eight-week tour to the city as the UK Lynx detachment. Their two Mk 9 helicopters were used as air taxis by senior officers attached to the Multi-National Division (South). Picture: Kevin Capon

Sappers back in business

FORMER members of the unit will be present this month to watch the re-formation parade of 25 Armoured Engineer Squadron, part of 38 Engineer Regiment, at Ripon, North Yorkshire.

The squadron deployed to Salisbury Plain in September for three weeks to train in its war-fighting capabilities of bridge-laying, gap-crossing and minefield clearance.

Milton Bridge leavers move on

Last out: Maj Gen Robert Gordon, GOC 2 Division, inspects the farewell parade of D Company, Army Training Regiment (ATR) Glencorse – otherwise known as the School Leavers Scheme (North) – which has disbanded. In future, school leavers will be sent to ATR Bassingbourne to complete the very suc-

cessful 31-week course. D Company's home, Milton Bridge training camp, near Glencorse, is to close. Picture: Mark Owens



Aren't we meant to be friends? LBdr Sam Hall of 7 (Para) RHA is wrestled to the ground by two Ukrainian soldiers during training at Copehill Down fighting village. Pictures: Steve Dock

Ukrainians learn to keep peace – in Wiltshire

TROOPS from Ukraine and Poland went into action on Salisbury Plain while training for peacekeeping duties with British soldiers.

They were confronted by a series of challenges designed to simulate situations they might be confronted by while on operations in places such as Bosnia and Kosovo. The training was concentrated on the urban training area at Copehill Down village.

The two-week Exercise Cossack Steppe was the latest under Britain's Outreach programme aimed at promoting peace and stability in Eastern Europe through joint training and exchange packages.

Soldiers from the Aldershot-based 7th (Parachute) Regiment RHA, which has personnel working as liaison teams in Macedonia, hosted the visit and trained with their East European visitors.



Me and my mates: LBdr Leon Holdridge, 7 (Para) RHA with Polish and Ukrainian soldiers

IN BRIEF

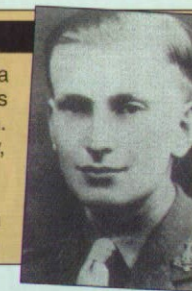
● Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers paraded through the streets of Newport last month to celebrate being awarded the Freedom of the town. Old comrades were also represented.

● Maj Clive Masson RHF and Maj Martin Rudd RLC are pictured right on Mount



Lefroy in the Canadian Rockies during a mountaineering expedition by ten students from Royal Military College Shrivernham. The team climbed on Mts Norquay, Niblock, Temple, Yamnuska and Wilcox.

● The posthumous Victoria Cross won by 21-year-old Lt Basil Weston, right, in



Burma in 1945 has been given on permanent loan to the Green Howards Museum by a member of his family. All 18 Green Howards VCs are on a special display in the Richmond museum (www.greenhowards.org.uk).

● Visitors to Southport Air Show watched 50 Territorial Army members of the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment drop onto the resort's beach from an RAF Hercules aircraft.

● Six detainees from the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, decorated the outside of a local infants school.

FOR ARMY PERSONNEL ONLY

4 GREAT PHONES ALL WITH FREE CONNECTION

2 NETWORK CHOICES - 4 TARIFF CHOICES

YOU CHOOSE BT CELLNET OR VODAFONE AND **WE DELIVER**

FREE MOTOROLA V50
ON **BTcellnet**

NEW
LEISURE TIME
TALK • TEXT • NET

- WAP
- WEIGHS 82g
- ACTIVE FLIP
- VIBRA ALERT



**WEEKEND
CALLS 2p
PER MIN**

TARIFF LEISURE TIME TTN

FREE CALLS PER MONTH 600 MINS OFF PEAK
PLUS 100 TEXT + 100MINS WAP OP

PEAK CALLS OFF PEAK 35p per min.
5p per min.

LINE RENTAL
£19.99* per month

FREE NOKIA 3310
ON **vodafone**

**50
FREE TEXT
MESSAGES A MONTH**

- VOICE DIALLING
- VIBRA ALERT



**WEEKEND
CALLS 2p
PER MIN**

TARIFF OFF PEAK 600

FREE CALLS PER MONTH 600 MINS OFF PEAK

PEAK CALLS OFF PEAK 40p per min.
2p per min.

LINE RENTAL
£11.99 per month

FREE ERICSSON T29
ON **BTcellnet**

**NEW
ALL TIME
TALK • TEXT • NET**

- VOICE DIALLING
- ACTIVE FLIP
- VIBRA ALERT
- WAP



**WEEKEND
CALLS 2p
PER MIN**

TARIFF ALL TIME TTN

FREE CALLS PER MONTH 100 MINS ANYTIME
PLUS 200 TEXT + 200MINS WAP

PEAK CALLS OFF PEAK 15p per min.
5p per min.

LINE RENTAL
£24.99* per month

FREE NOKIA 3330
ON **vodafone**

**50
FREE TEXT
MESSAGES A MONTH**

- WAP
- ALL FEATURES OF 3310



**WEEKEND
CALLS 5p
PER MIN**

TARIFF MINISAVER 100

FREE CALLS PER MONTH 100 MINS ANYTIME

PEAK CALLS OFF PEAK 10p per min.
5p per min.

LINE RENTAL
£18.99 per month

All Phones Come With Free Accessories • Are Sim Locked for contract use only
Bring your existing mobile number • BFPO enquiries welcome



FREEPHONE
0800 018 8200

PLEASE HAVE
YOUR
BANK DETAILS
HANDY WHEN
ORDERING

* ON LINE BILLING
ADD £2 FOR STANDARD BILLING

OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS AND A 12 MONTH AIRTIME CONTRACT (INCLUDING 30 DAY PERIOD).
ALL OFFERS APPLY TO DATE OF PHONE CONNECTION & ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.



Cliff-hanger: Fourteen Fijian soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment in Cyprus got their kit off for the sake of art.

Some of them are pictured forcing Flt Lt Darren "Indiana Jones" Scales RAF into a tricky situation during the shooting of "Doom Raiders", a spoof movie made by amateur film-makers Backyard Productions. The Fijians were turned into head-hunters

for the sake of the plot. Ten hours of spear-waving produced about ten minutes of footage to be premiered at the cinema in the Western Sovereign Base Area.

One soldier said: "It was an unusual break from routine, but I think we will stick to our day jobs." He spoke too soon. Costume lady Angie Hill, from the Media Ops office, was already measuring him up for the robes he would need for a desert scene.

Services set for day with Queen

MEN and women from all three Services will meet the Queen in Portsmouth on June 27 during a major Forces' celebration of the 50 anniversary of her accession. The event will not be open to members of the public.

Whale Island will be the venue for jubilee displays designed to reflect the role of the Armed Forces in the 21st century.

A royal lunch, prepared by the Army School of Catering, will be attended by personnel ranked major or below.

Commodore Geoff Edwards RNR, who is heading a project team planning the event, said the Queen particularly wanted to meet junior personnel. The planning

team includes Lt Col Maurice Ewance RA.

The royal route around HMS *Excellent* on Whale Island will be lined by cadets, while a royal guard of 150 will be drawn from all three Services, as will a band of 300 musicians.

A thousand Service personnel, each of whom may bring a guest, will be invited.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will watch a "dynamic" display from an aircraft carrier before sailing down the harbour in a minesweeper, to be cheered by ships, whose companies will be joined by soldiers and airmen from affiliated regiments and squadrons.

A tri-Service fly-past is also planned.

Reservists make their mark in Madrid

A UNITED Kingdom squad of reserve officers competing in an international military pentathlon in Madrid recorded the best British result in the event, returning with medals in nearly every category.

British teams were second in the veterans', novice, first-aid and law of

war events, and third in the female and experienced team categories.

The competition is the highlight of the annual Inter-allied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR), meeting hosted by a Nato country.

A high level of fitness was required from the 60

teams, who completed shooting, swimming, orienteering, assault courses, first aid and law events

Team manager Maj Ian Webster said training for the 2002 competition in St Tropez would be held at Deepcut, Surrey, in the new year. Final selection will take place in May.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Members of the Armed Forces are being sent at taxpayers' expense to the exclusive Priory clinics, favoured by the rich and famous, for treatment for eating disorders, addictions and other psychological problems. — *Independent*

● The US Army called in a combat stress specialist after a blockade of the road from Macedonia to Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo cut off supplies of scoopable ice cream to the base's pizza and potato bars. — *Telegraph*

● The Army, struggling with a recruitment crisis and a rising number of overseas commitments, is now as small as it was in 1828. — *Daily Mail*

● Record numbers of black and Asian people are joining the Army, new figures reveal. Non-white recruits rose from 3.5 per cent in April to six per cent in August. — *Sun*

● A "Nintendo generation" of unfit youngsters is to blame for a shortage of Army recruits, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told a gathering of school careers advisers. — *Daily Mail*

● As many as 9,000 Gulf veterans believe they have Gulf War syndrome, even though research has never been able to identify what the condition is. — *Independent*

● Many military sites, including firing ranges and training areas, have become nature reserves by default, with wildlife surprisingly tolerant of military manoeuvres. "Our boys" don't necessarily frighten nesting curlews. — *Times*

● Tony Blair was urged to deploy troops at both ends of the Channel Tunnel to keep out asylum-seekers. — *Telegraph*

● Sending women into front-line combat units will reduce the Armed Forces' efficiency, increase costs and could prove "little short of criminal", says a leading military authority, Prof Martin Van Creveld. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● Who'd be a soldier in Belfast? One can only marvel at the Army's steely determination — in the face of the anger of both sides of the sectarian divide. Nowhere in the world are there better professionals in uniform. — *Sun*

● A "green" grenade filled with non-polluting explosives is being developed by scientists. Although lethal, it will not harm the environment. — *Mirror*

ONLY
£4.99

The British Army Calendar 2002

SOLDIER



Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Please send me calendars at £4.99 each (inc p&p UK/BFPO)

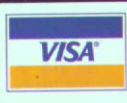
I enclose a cheque/postal order* for £

*Please delete as appropriate

Please make cheques/POs payable to *Soldier* and allow 28 days for delivery.

Orders should be returned to: *Soldier* Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

All items are inclusive of p&p for UK/BFPO. Overseas rates are available on request.



Credit card hotline: **01252 347353**

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



Sea? Ships? It's the Army for us!

It was a maritime show, but the soldiers won over the kids – and the grown-ups

Report: Chris Horrocks
Pictures: Graeme Main and
LW(Phot) Lou Baverstock

WITH hundreds of ships present it was hailed as the world's top maritime event – but the Army still managed to steal the show for many of the quarter-of-a-million visitors to the International Festival of the Sea in Portsmouth.

Mock parachute drops, cookery demos and tastings, an assault course, Gazelle helicopter "rides", and the chance to take a close look at a real Challenger 2, Warrior and Scimitar were among the popular attractions for all ages.

Specialists from regiments and corps were on hand to pass on information about the 140 Army career choices available to young people.

The Royal Navy-led festival, seen by an estimated worldwide TV audience of 300 million, was the first of the post-

Royal Tournament tri-Service events. The Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, described it as "an outstanding success that has raised the profile of the Services in the perception of the public, the media, decision-makers at all levels and mariners throughout the world."



Can we help? Above, Bdr Ed Brennan and Sgt Lloyd O'Donnell, of 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery, greet visitors while, below, Pte Lee McCrabbe provides a guiding hand for Jack Eld (5) on the Paras' paintball shooting range

Don't look down: Jake Scott-Gormal (6), above, makes a Para drop thanks to Ptes Daz Bramel and Dion Needan, while, right, Charlotte Main (4), gives her Dad an "ice" birthday smile



Don't let go: LCpl Danny Law looks on amused, above, as Colin Boys (13) "pilots" an Army Air Corps Gazelle helicopter



Warpaint: This Infantry Recruiting Team Warrior, embarked on a vessel of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, was an eye-catcher



Adhering to the customs



Paperchase: Laura Jennings, left, and Susan Stradling-Day show some of the forms required to keep car ownership legal

Paper trail for tax-free cars is worth the effort

IT is widely acknowledged that the biggest perk to working in Germany is the tax-free concession on cars. While the paperwork may seem long and tedious, the reward is worth the effort.

C&I have a computer system programmed to control the import and export of cars.

"We have to have the correct documents for everything that goes in and everything that goes out," explained C&I officer Susan Stradling-Day. "It's because everything that comes in is coming to a tax-free zone, while everything that goes out is tax-free but going back into a tax-paid economy."

When a soldier is posted to Germany and wants to take his car with him he applies to C&I for an import licence. He may not register the vehicle with the military licensing authorities until he has an import licence.

When the soldier wants to sell the car, on the German or UK market, he has to go back to C&I to get authority to take the vehicle back to the UK or into the German economy.

If it is bound for the UK, the vehicle is registered through the DVLA system via Customs in Dover (where all vehicles are recorded, even if the point of entry is somewhere else). Dover returns the completed documents to C&I to complete the loop.

"Personnel must keep a registered vehicle for a year and a day to qualify for the tax concession," said Susan. "They are allowed one new car a year. The system works well."

A posting to a unit in Germany has tax benefits, but abuse of the system by a few could spoil it for everyone

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

IF you serve in Germany and are thinking of passing your duty-free allowances to your nearest and dearest at home, think again. The chances are that Customs and Immigration will find out.

Jim McClarence, who heads up the C&I team in Germany from its headquarters in Rheindahlen, told *Soldier*: "One of the prized concessions for British Forces Germany is the exemption from German VAT."

The BFG-German agreement, in place since 1959, allows concessions on the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and petrol.

Those who try to bend the rules are up against a tough team. Jim's ten-strong C&I squad are part of the British Forces Liaison Organisation, Germany, which covers customs, immigration and tax.

They fill the fine dividing line between BFG and the German authorities and part of their mission is to ensure BFG's treasured concessions remain intact.

C&I started life as a frontier service in 1946, created to control the flow of refugees. Its officers also helped to resuscitate the German customs service after the Second World War.

Once it had responsibility for the inner German frontier, a role which fell away when the Berlin Wall came down.

Today, C&I's immigration function covers the whole of Germany. It has two officers at Hanover Airport to cover troop flights and another at Emden port. Monchengladbach, now opened to service flights, will become a C&I responsibility.

A priority is operational traffic to training areas such as Poland and BATUS in Canada, while the opening of the Polish frontiers has accounted for a large part of C&I manpower.

"Six of our ten officers will be colloquial Polish speakers by the end of the year," said Jim McClarence, whose team are all



Car booty: Customs officers Susan Stradling-Day, left, and Janet Robinson are experts at searching for the smugglers' favourites, cigarettes and booze. Offenders risk having their vehicle confiscated

fluent in German. Susan Stradling-Day, a member of the C&I squad, also speaks Scandinavian.

To the outsider, the crime element of their work appears to be the most interesting.

They have powers of investigation and work closely with German customs authorities.

"Our work in this field is solely because of the greed of individuals," Jim said.

Cigarettes, alcohol and cars are always a problem, but controls are becoming ever tighter.

Tax evasion is a criminal offence in Germany and when crime is uncovered the case is handed over to the police authorities and SIB.

They have instant links to UK customs, so a swift tip-off could mean a soldier arriving at Dover with a boot full of booty having his (or her) vehicle confiscated. Smugglers also risk a custodial sentence.

Despite the occasional car packed to the wheel-arches with contraband, most smuggling involves small amounts of cigarettes and alcohol.

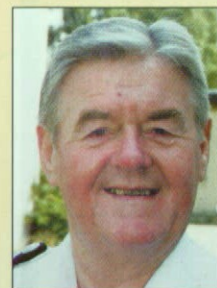
Some miscreants have been known to send dodgy packages through the post to mum or dad.

Unfortunately you aren't allowed to send a duty-free item by mail; you have to accompany it across the border. As packages go through an x-ray machine, contraband is likely to be spotted and destroyed.

War trophies are another problem for Jim's people. During the Gulf War they searched 47 ships and filled two warehouses in Osnabruck with booty... including a T52 tank imported with no paperwork.

Two years ago an AK47 rifle was found in the fuel tank of a Warrior.

Those who buck the system face severe penalties, but it is the law-abiding who should be most angry. The tax-free benefits they enjoy in Germany are a concession and the misdeeds of the smugglers could ruin it for everyone serving in BFG.



Jim McClarence: VAT concession is prized



Carefully does it: A sapper from 26 Engineer Regiment guides a 42-ton AVRE across an armoured vehicle launcher bridge during Exercise Iron Anvil at Suffield in Canada

Thunder on the prairie

Report: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon and Darren Hilder

CANADA'S prairies have been fought over since man set foot in the Americas. Now these ancient lands have again been the subject of dispute as new warriors claim possession.

This time the Warriors were the infantry fighting vehicles of 12 Mechanized Brigade's three armoured battle-groups in Canada on Exercise Iron Anvil. Involving more than 4,000 men and 3,000 vehicles, the six-week exercise was the largest held in the 29 years of the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) as a training area.

Brigade commander Brig John Cooper said Iron Anvil was a new exercise, using a brigade of three units. Its aim was to make the new formation ready to deploy anywhere in the world.

The battle-groups involved were the Challenger 2-equipped King's Royal Hussars, and the mechanized 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, which



Night fighter: A Warrior observation post vehicle caught by the sunset at BATUS

have Warrior. Each was supported by an artillery group based on 19 Regiment RA and 47 (Air Defence) Regiment. Heavily involved at the front were the armoured tractors and bridge-layers of 26 Engineer Regiment.

The brigade includes the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, 9 Parachute Squadron RE and RLC, RAMC and REME units.

ONE OF THE UK's LEADING CO-ED BOARDING & DAY SCHOOLS 11 - 19 YEARS

Why choose Queen Ethelburga's for a boarding education?

- ▶ Our boarding facilities are considered to be the best in Europe
- ▶ A Sunday Times' Top UK School for GCSE & A-Levels results
- ▶ Our Key Stage 3 Test Results are well above the National Average
- ▶ We have invested over £17,000,000 in new facilities and resources
- ▶ Equestrian minded students can bring their horse to school with FREE Livery
- ▶ We offer over 100 different Scholarships, Bursaries and Riding Options

**20%
REMISSION
FOR ARMED
FORCES**



Teaching Resources

Over £17m has been invested in high quality new classrooms, libraries, computer networks and floodlit sports facilities. We accept a broad range of pupils from many backgrounds. They leave us confident and successful. 95% of A-Level 6th Form go to University.

100 Scholarships, Bursaries & Options

From 100% of full boarding fees, to free livery for a horse at school, to scholarships for Art, Choral/Music and Sport. Having just gone co-educational there are a number of interesting awards for boarding boys. There are remissions of up to 20% for Forces and other categories of parental career. Over £500,000 is awarded each year. Please ask for full details.

Boarding Facilities - every bedroom has...

Direct dial telephone & voice mail, TV/Video (on timer), music centre, safe, hot drinks facility, fridge, iron, hair dryer, heated towel rail, fitted carpet, wash hand basin, powered ventilation, fire sensor, study area and more. Many rooms have their own ensuite bathroom.



Equestrian Facilities

Boarding pupils can bring their horse to school with free livery. The Royal Court Equestrian Centre is part of our campus and has 185 stables, 10 acres all weather floodlit surfaces, Olympic sized indoor arena, 3 cross country courses and more. Sixth Form can study BHSAI and Equestrian Management. Instructors include Karen Dixon - Olympic Eventer.

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OFFERING A 20% REMISSION OFF BOARDING FEES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Co educational Day, Weekly & Full Boarding 3 to 19 years (Boarding from 6 years)

We think there are four important points that make our schools your ideal choice for a boarding education for your child. Firstly we understand the needs of service families. We have staff who are married to serving members of the forces. We have decades of experience in ensuring your child will settle well, be confident and successful. Secondly our boarding facilities are the best of any independent school in Europe. Thirdly QE is one of the Sunday Times Top UK Schools for GCSE and A-Level results. Our Key Stage 2 & 3 exam results are well above the national average. Fourthly we are the only leading Independent Schools offering a 20% Remission for members of the Armed Forces.

Chapter House Preparatory School

ONE OF THE UK's LEADING CO-EDUCATIONAL BOARDING & DAY SCHOOLS 3 - 11 YEARS



**A first class boarding education
can be like a game of chess.
The right move is essential.**

- Girls & Boys boarding from 6 years of age. Caring, friendly staff
- Superb new boarding facilities - probably the best in Europe.
- Every bedroom has: in/out telephone, voice mail, Music Centre, TV/Video (on timer), Fridge and more. Many bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms. Our new boarding house is very comfortable. Please visit us to see how good our first class boarding is.
- One of the UK's Top Schools for Key Stage 2 Exam Results.
- Amazing Equestrian Centre - possible FREE livery for boarders
- Seamless move to Queen Ethelburga's College at 11 years
- Huge investment in new teaching facilities and resources
- Small classes with dedicated and friendly professional teachers
- A happy school where every child is treated as an individual



**Easy to get to by
road, rail & air.
10 minutes
from A1M**

Queen Ethelburga's College Charitable Foundation (Reg No: 1012924) for the purposes of Education

QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S COLLEGE & CHAPTER HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

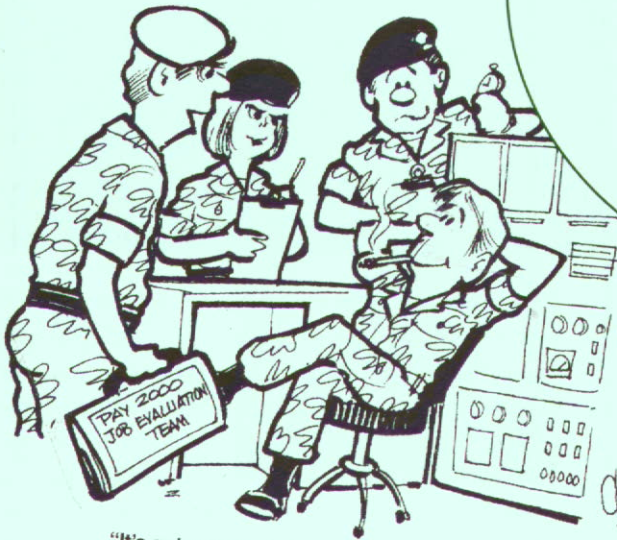
Thorpe Underwood Hall, York. YO26 9SZ. Telephone for prospectus & video: 08707 42 33 30
You may care to visit our website: www.queenethelburgas.edu. E-mail: remember@compuserve.com

Chuckle with Chip



"And now Corporal Simpkins on his specialist subject ... Homer's Odyssey ... Homer Simpson, that is!"

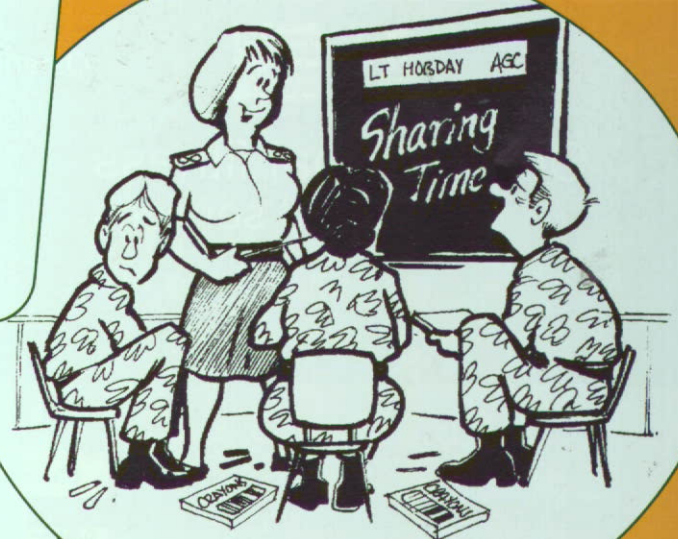
EFP: Education for Promotion



"It's going to be difficult to evaluate your job unless we see you actually doing something."



"You may now be thinking that last night's ten pints in the Naafi was insufficient preparation for this examination!"



"Why yes, I was a primary school teacher ... what made you ask?"



"Oh no, it's much worse than a ministerial enquiry ... it's a request for an answer to a Pay 2000 query from Soldier!"

Learning difficulties

There isn't another car on the market that can match the Octavia's outrageous blend of space, pace, price and practicality.

The New Octavia RS



It's
a škoda
- honest!

Available from Natocars who offer

**Special Military Prices
on over 1,500 new cars,
TAX FREE for export
or TAX PAID for UK use**

Best rate part exchange • Low rate finance
Discount insurance

Call Natocars 01278 455555 NOW!



NATOCARS
For People Who Drive A Good Deal!

Wylds Road • Bridgwater • Somerset TA6 4BH
Tel: 01278 455555 • Fax: 01278 450396

www.natocars.co.uk • E-mail: sales@natocars.co.uk (Please give full postal address)

SOL SKO/RS

With so many
mates to rely on,
why do you need
the ABF?



Few jobs generate the friendship and camaraderie that you find in the Army. Facing danger and hardship together means that soldiers develop bonds that are stronger than 40mm Chobham armour. Even after you leave the Army you can always call on your mates for help.

But what if the help you need is beyond what they are able to give? It's then that you need the kind of specialist support and resources that the ABF can provide. In the 55 years since the ABF was formed, we have helped soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families with all kinds of problems, emotional, physical and financial.

You know your mates will never let you down and, with the help of your donation, neither will the ABF.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help the Fund, please contact us, quoting 'Soldier'.

020 7591 2000

www.armybenevolentfund.com

e-mail: enquiries@armybenevolentfund.com

Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR



**ARMY
BENEVOLENT
FUND**
SUPPORTING THE BEST

The ABF is the Army's national charity and is committed to the welfare of Army and ex-Army personnel and their families.

(Registered Charity No. 211645)

Occupational fitness in the uniformed services

6-8th November 2001

Organised by
QinetiQ and the British Army

www.iuss.co.uk

"To bring together experts and practitioners in the field of physical fitness to discuss its impact on recruiting, selection, training and retention of uniformed services personnel."

Thematic session details

Title	Keynote speaker	Date
Occupational fitness in the uniformed services	Dr William Kraemer University of Connecticut USA	Tue pm
Physical fitness and training	Dr Joseph Knapik US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (USACHPPM)	Wed am
Fitness and youth	Professor Neil Armstrong Exeter University UK	Wed pm
Fitness, gender and occupational performance	Dr William Kraemer University of Connecticut USA	Thur am

With speakers from: Armed Forces, Police, and Fire Services and Academia

For further information and registration visit:

<http://www.iuss.co.uk>

or contact:

IUSS
Centre for Human Sciences
QinetiQ Ltd
Cody Technology Park
Ively Road, Farnborough
HAMPSHIRE GU14 0LX

Tel: 01252 39 64 98
Fax: 01252 39 21 22
Email: enquiries@iuss.co.uk

Bound for Antarctica

Soldier-sailors set out from Solent on trip of a lifetime

THE British Army's most ambitious expedition of the year got off to a gentle start under blue skies last month at the International Festival of the Sea in Portsmouth.

Waved on her way by Gen Sir Mike Walker, Chief of the General Staff and patron of the project, the 72ft steel-hulled ketch *John Laing* sailed out of the Solent with the first of seven crews who will take her to Antarctica and back.

The yacht, chartered from the Ocean Youth Trust, will be crewed by different units for each of the three outward and three return legs. The Antarctic passage will be undertaken by a pre-selected crew of 15. In all, about 100 soldiers, many of them novice sailors, will take part.

Five years of planning have gone into the expedition, which will build on previous Army trips to South Georgia and Brabant Island in the deep south. The aim of the 2001-2002 expedition is to explore the Danco coast of the Antarctic peninsula by



Pictures: Graeme Main

Adventure: Members of the first-leg crew prepare to sail from Portsmouth



ski and sail. Team members will record historical, ecological, geological and geographical information.

The first-leg crew was sailing to the Canary Islands and further crew changes will be made when the yacht reaches Brazil and the Falkland Islands.

Lt Col Andy Bristow, R Signals, joint leader of the expedition, will stay with the *John Laing* for the entire nine-month

voyage. The manager of the Army's off-shore sailing team, he has completed the Whitbread round-the-world race and sailed across the Atlantic eight times.

Money for the trip has been raised by team members, helped by generous commercial sponsors which include Canon, FirstPersonGlobal.com, Siemens, HP Invent, Kyocera, Nera and Worldcom.

The Prince of Wales has lent his support to the Antarctica expedition.

For updates on its progress, log on to the website www.baae.org.uk

Let's face it . . . these are good

TWO other entries in our photographic competition caught the judges' eye, so even though they didn't win, we thought we'd share them with you. Celia Mannings, whose husband is in the Army, sent us the pic-



● From Page 13

Deadline for the November issue is **October 11** and for December, **November 9**.

For seasonal reasons the January issue goes to press early, so the deadline for that

ture, below left, of three-year-old son Matthew in face paint for a party to say farewell to his pals in Kingston-upon-Thames before a posting to Colerne, Wilts. We also liked the all-action shot, right, by Maj Malcolm Russell RAMC.

month's contest will be **December 3**. Be sure not to miss it.

Dependants, too

ENTRIES for the British Army Photographic Competition, which closes on **February 8**, will be particularly welcomed from dependants as well as serving and retired Regular Army, TA, cadets and Army-employed civilians.

SOLDIER
PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION



For details, visit the Army website on www.army.mod.uk/apc2001.htm or obtain them from unit admin offices, media ops staff, DCI Army 80/1 (July 27), or the competition desk on 020 7218 1508 (ATN 9621 81508).

Harvest for peace in Macedonia

British soldiers help to collect weapons surrendered by Albanian nationalists

BRITISH-led Nato forces have been busy ensuring that peace is upheld in the troubled Balkan-state of Macedonia.

As *Soldier* went to press, Task Force Harvest, a coalition of 15 Allied nationalities under the command of Brig Barney White-Spunner (16 Air Assault Brigade), had completed the second phase of its programme to collect weapons voluntarily surrendered by the ethnic Albanian National Liberation Army (NLA) and were preparing to return to the UK.

By the end of the Nato mission, code-named Operation Essential Harvest, it is hoped that some 3,300 weapons will have been collected from the Albanian nationalists whose presence in northern Macedonia had threatened to topple the country into civil war.

The nucleus of the 4,000-strong multinational force is made up of soldiers from Colchester-based 16 Air Assault Brigade and 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Troops from both have played a pivotal role in the process of collecting, recording and destroying the mass weapons haul.

Headquarters and signals personnel from 16 Air Assault Brigade formed the bulk of the the 400-strong advance party

into Macedonia and have been responsible for orchestrating the international effort to collect arms.

The Paras have had a more hands-on role in the operation, cordoning off and securing the perimeters of identified sites for collection, and auditing the weapons surrendered.

Snipers from the battalion have also been deployed in and around the sites of the weapon handovers, offering protection to both British and other Nato troops, and to members of the NLA.

Weaponry collected to date ranges from AK47 assault rifles and hand grenades to air defence systems. The majority of the arms have been serviceable and in good working order.

Each weapon submitted has been carefully inspected and catalogued before being transported in shipping containers by Chinook helicopters to a storage site in Krivolac, southern Macedonia. Any unstable weapons are destroyed on-site by EOD experts.

CSgt Alistair Hutcheson 2 Para told *Soldier*: "From our point of view things have been going really well."

"The NLA have been voluntarily coming to the collection sites, handing in

their weapons, and then disappearing back into the hills," he said. "The men handing in arms have been non-committal – they have agreed to do it and respect the fact that we are here just doing our jobs."

With the third and final phase of the operation awaiting the Macedonian parliament's further consideration, it is likely that the mission may exceed the initial estimate of 30 days.

But despite the political delays, Lt Col Mark Poffley, commanding officer of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC, believes the mission has been a credit to the nations involved.

"From my own experience of operations, the level of co-operation has been unprecedented," he said. "In an international operation like this you hope that that level of co-operation will be there, but you should not take it for granted."

"Some nations will inevitably be more reluctant than others in allowing their units to be controlled and co-ordinated by another nation," he said. "But the level of co-operation here has been intimate and it has been a good model in terms of Nato gelling together."

Disarming an army: NLA soldiers arrive at the inner cordon of a British-led weapons collection site

Picture: Cpl Tim Heale (R Signals)

Arms haul: Pictured right, hundreds of weapons collected from Albanian nationalists at Radusa prior to being packed into shipping containers and transported by helicopter to a storage site in Krivolac

Picture: Cpl G Moreno (RLC)

Chief harvester: Commander of Task Force Harvest, Brig Barney White-Spunner, below, inspects tank ammunition surrendered at a British collection site

Picture: Capt Andy Phipps (RTR)



Too hot to handle? Capt Andy Stockdale of 11 EOD RLC, below, ensures that the munitions handed in are stable

Picture: Cpl G Moreno (RLC)



UK elements of Task Force Harvest

Headquarters, liaison teams and signals (400 soldiers), include troops drawn from:

- 16 Air Assault Brigade
- 216 Signal Squadron
- 7 (Para) Royal Horse Artillery
- 156 Company RMP
- Army Air Corps (helicopters)

Collection teams (680):

- 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment

Supporting specialists (820), include teams drawn from:

- Reconnaissance –
- Recce Troop, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Scimitar recce vehicles)

Bomb disposal –

- 11 EOD Regiment RLC

■ 33 EOD Engineer Regiment

Engineering support –

- 9 (Para) Squadron RE
- 65 Field Support Squadron RE
- 32 Engineer Regiment (from KFOR)
- 35 Engineer Regiment

Logistic support –

- 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC
- 29 Regiment RLC

Technical support –

- 7 Battalion REME
- 8 Close Support Company REME

Medical support –

- 5 Medical Regiment RAMC
- 16 Medical Regiment RAMC

Logo[®]

leisurewear

**HEAVYWEIGHT KHAKI
T-SHIRT**
EMBROIDERED FROM £4.70
NO SET-UP
OTHER COLOURS AVAILABLE

**Suppliers and
manufacturers of
specialist
SPORTS STRIPS.**

- RUGBY ● HOCKEY
- SOCCER ● NETBALL
- CRICKET
- TUG-OF-WAR

**The very best
in embroidered or printed
sports and leisurewear**

**111 HUBERT ROAD
SELLY OAK
BIRMINGHAM
B29 6ET**
TEL: +44 (0) 121 472 5300
FAX: +44 (0) 121 472 8017
E-MAIL: peter@rsfarmah.freemove.co.uk

- SWEATERS ● SWEATSHIRTS
- T-SHIRTS ● POLO SHIRTS
- SKI HATS ● BASEBALL CAPS
- TIES ● BLAZER BADGES
- SPORTS BAGS ● POLAR FLEECE
- TRAINING TOPS/TROUSERS

RAC membership from £29 plus free Joint Cover

if you join before 31.08.01



- Limited offer for Soldier readers
- 25% saving on RAC membership plus free Joint Cover (normally £22) if you join before 31.08.01
- Cover as a driver or passenger in any vehicle
- No call-out discount option*

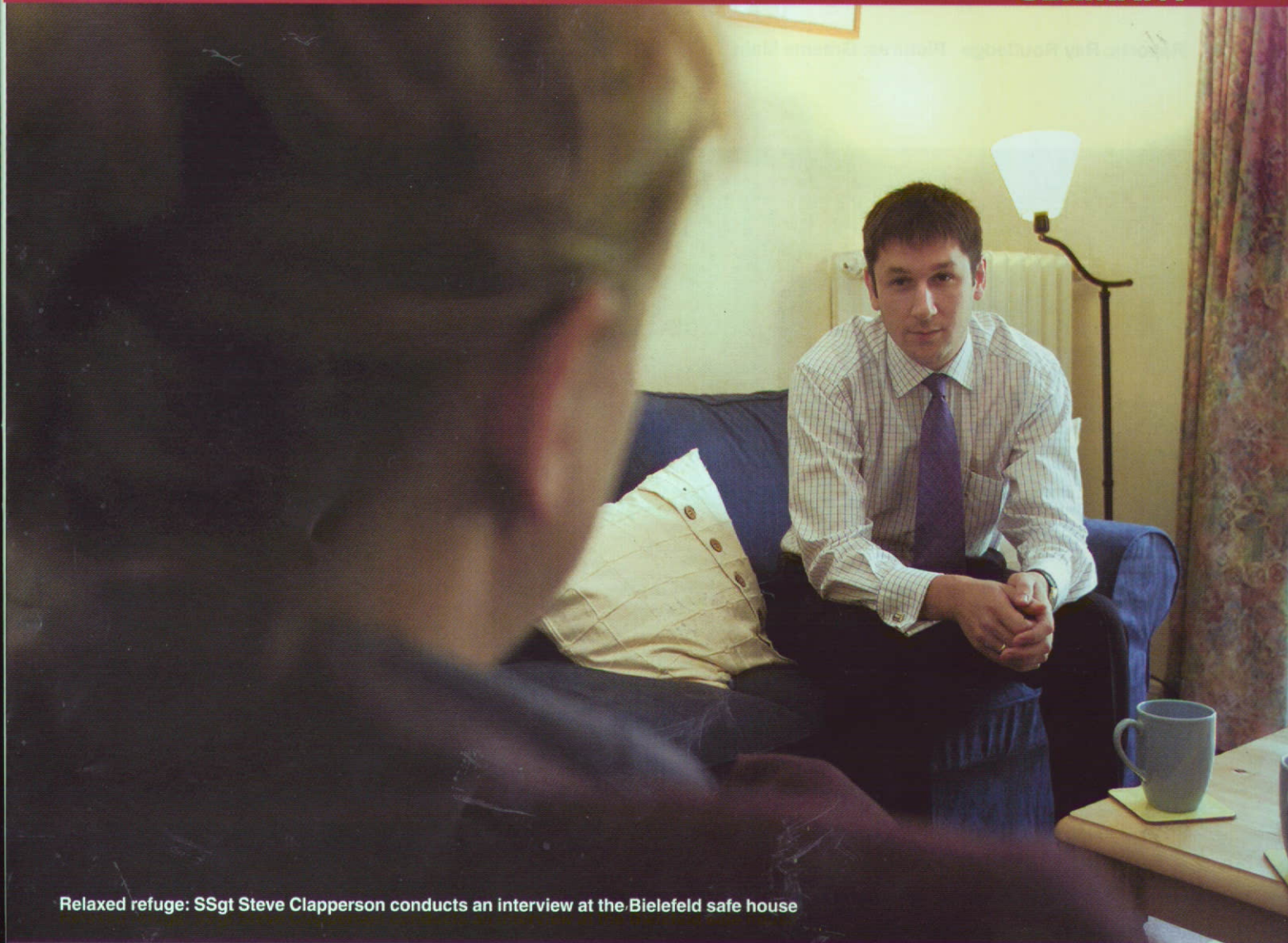
Call now
0800 716 976

Quoting code DT0069

A to B - we RAC to it

RAC

This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other RAC offer. Discounts only apply to certain service levels. Prices include Insurance Premium Tax at the standard rate on VAT exempt insurance and joining fee if applicable. All details correct at the time of publication. Full membership details in RAC Terms Of Membership. Prices shown are for continuous payment methods only - other methods are available, please ask for details. Offer ends 31.08.01. *Available with Standard Cover only.



Relaxed refuge: SSgt Steve Clapperson conducts an interview at the Bielefeld safe house

Safe hands in time of trauma

It's a sad fact, but some vulnerable Army families need protection from abuse, neglect, sexual attack and domestic violence

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

INCIDENTS of child abuse, neglect, rape and domestic violence are a staple ingredient of news bulletins.

As unpalatable as it may sound, it is a fact that a few Army families will inevitably become exposed to such trauma. In Britain, they can turn to Social Services, the local police and other welfare agencies. But what do you do if you are posted to Germany?

First port of call could be SSAFA Forces Help, which has welfare people on stand-by. So has the Special Investigations Branch of the Royal Military Police. In fact, for those in fear, the RMP has a team of sympathetic, understanding and highly-trained officers.

There are also refuges throughout British

Forces Germany. Maj Kevin Bell-Walker, based at Bielefeld, commands the eastern region and is responsible for the policing of serious crime. His specialist unit – known as the Child Protection Team (CPT) – investigates domestic violence and sexual offences including rape, as well as crime against children.

These specialists include a warrant officer, a staff sergeant and a sergeant trained to carry out interviews in cases of rape and child abuse.

"The overriding factor is what is in the best interests of the victim," he explained. "We do interviews in accordance with the Home Office Memorandum of Good Practice."

Because his team understands that victims

● Turn to next page

Right form means they know what you think

While the 2001 census was taking place in the UK, something similar was happening in BFG

WHEN a year ends in a one it is usually time for a national census, and 2001 has been no exception.

It also heralded a census among British forces deployed in Germany. Unlike the UK affair, however, the BFG version wasn't so much a head count as an opinion poll.

Under Maj (Retd) Peter Williams, SO2 G1 Welfare Support in UKSC(G), BFG set out to establish the needs of the community – effectively to tell those with their hands on the purse-strings where they would need to spend money over the next few years.

"Some information is already available through data, statistics and previous reports," he said. "While the UK census directs gov-

ernment planning for the next ten years we thought we'd call ours the BFG census because that's what we plan, too. The form we issued was not the same as in the UK but people could relate to it.

"I am trying to establish the actual needs of a community as opposed to what command thinks they need."

There is only so much money in the pot and the census was a means of finding out the best way to spend it in meeting the needs of the community.

"For example, we may think that a site needs a swimming pool, but the people who live there might say a bus service would be better for them."

Maj Williams sought the views of welfare agencies and the chain of command to establish the questions that were asked.

"We also recruited an independent UK consultant experienced in these matters," he added.

In the end, two forms were issued, one for the head of household or single soldier, and one for each spouse.

Single soldier questions centred on accommodation, recreational facilities and what they thought about BFG



Census man:
Maj (Retd) Peter Williams

welfare agencies. Spouses were asked, for example, their opinions on schools and crèche facilities.

Unlike the British version, completion of the BFG census was not mandatory. About 40 per cent were returned.

They are being analysed at Stirling University and will provide a community profile on each garrison and, in some cases, stations within those garrisons.

"We will get an overarching strategic profile across BFG which will help us in deciding where our priorities should be and we will be able to extrapolate further information from it."

Preliminary results are expected by late autumn.

Safe hands

● From Page 27

may be further traumatised by being interviewed in a police station, the unit makes use of a network of secret refuges.

"If a child who has been abused is taken to a police station and sees uniforms, police cars and people in handcuffs, it gives the impression that he or she has done something wrong. It produces the opposite effect.

"We want to create a relaxed atmosphere in which the victim can feel comfortable and we can get the story." The same applies with rape victims.

To get the best evidence the CPT has to minimise trauma and it is a lot more effective if the team can take victims to a facility in which the interview and the medical examination can take place.

The refuges have the bonus of complete confidentiality.

Funded by *Sixth Sense*, the Forces newspaper in Germany, the Bielefeld refuge is a superb facility. Interviews with children, always carried out with the con-

Life support system



Crucial: The SSAFA team – from left, Janice Lightowler, Anne Moore-Bick and Kate Burgess

sent of a parent, are recorded on a closed-circuit TV system. If necessary the recordings may be used in court as the child's testimony.

CPT member SSgt Steve Clapperson told *Soldier* that youngsters are often reluctant to speak in front of a parent, especially if it involves an incident with the other partner. In many cases interviews are carried out with no parent present.

Abuse of children could cover emotional, physical, sexual and neglect elements, SSgt Clapperson said.

"We don't want to do anything that will distress the child. Recording equipment is unobtrusive and no notes are taken. The TV monitor room doubles as a bedroom and parents can watch interviews discreetly."

The team, established in 1995, covers all of Germany, with occasional visits to Cyprus and Gibraltar.

Team members, who currently include WO2 Mark Harrison and Sgt Kate Dickens, have regular attachments to UK civil police forces to ensure their skill levels are of the highest standard. They also keep a database on domestic violence in BFG and are the focal point for victim support.

SSgt Clapperson said the Child at Risk Register in Germany was reviewed constantly and information was exchanged with authorities in the UK when families were posted to Germany or returning home.

Next time an "incident" in Germany makes news, you can be sure SIB's specialists will be there to pick up the pieces.

DID you know that if you have taken just one day's pay in any of the three Services you are entitled to a lifetime of help from SSAFA Forces Help?

The support it offers soldiers and their dependants in Germany can be crucial.

Anne Moore-Bick, chairman of the Western Europe fund-raising committee, said: "There are no SSAFA health staff in the UK because all health provision is through the NHS.

"But we have staff in Cyprus, Gibraltar, Brunei, Kathmandu and BATUS (Canada) and the largest number is in Germany."

They include health visitors, nurses, psychiatric nurses, pharmacists and regional managers.

Kate Burgess, assistant controller for services support, said that while most of the posts were UK-based civilian positions, some were filled by dependants living locally.

"We try to employ dependants where we can because they bring a lot of good value to the work," she added.

Victim support scheme co-ordinator Janice Lightowler has 21 volunteers throughout Germany. "We attempt to replicate the service available to victims of crime in the UK," she explained. As well as emotional support, her team offers advice on court procedures and criminal injuries compensation.

"Research in the UK shows that most of those assaulted by people they don't know are 18- to 24-year-old males," said Janice. "Given our large population of that age, it has got to be replicated here. Yet that is also the part of the population least likely to ask for help."

"If you are a young, single soldier and you get assaulted on a Friday night, you are not going to find it easy to say 'I am not coping with this very well'."

● If you need help – or would like to volunteer to become an adviser – telephone Rheindahlen (94872) 3116.



Motor men: WO1 Chris Menear, left, and WO2 Ian Beggs from the Rhine Garrison transport office. Drivers Thomas Szalpska and Heinz Behr are behind them

Fleet manoeuvres

Managing 2,500 vehicles takes a bit of doing, especially when they belong to someone else

AS the UK-based Army switches ownership of its "white fleet" and moves to contract vehicles, British Forces Germany transport managers can reflect that they have used the scheme for the past six years.

White fleet (anything that isn't painted green) is the name given to civilian vehicles used by the military. It ranges from motor cycles, including those used by the RMP, to cars, trucks, buses and roadsweepers.

WO1 Chris Menear RLC, a transport manager based at UKSC(G) at Rheindahlen, where they manage the German contract, said that until six years ago the Army had purchased its own white-fleet vehicles and maintained them.

"Then it was decided to put it out to contract and to let someone else carry the risk and maintain the vehicles," he said.

He warned that abuse of vehicles had become a real concern in Germany and was the subject of a crackdown. "Some

people used white-fleet military vehicles for non-military purposes, such as going shopping," he said. "That is not only contrary to Army regulations, it is illegal.

"The problem is that they are not insured. Saving a few marks on fuel by making unauthorised use of the transport means the driver could be held personally

responsible for damage to the vehicle, any third party they hit in an accident and personal liability claims.

"This is career-busting stuff," he added. "We have caught a number of individuals and we are working closely with the military police."

BFG's 2,500-vehicle white fleet is in the sixth year of a seven-year contract. Each of the five German garrisons has a transport officer who looks after its own pool of vehicles.

One of the effects of leasing vehicles is that REME support is no longer needed. Ryder, the contractor in Germany, also maintains the fleet.

'Abuse of vehicles has become a real concern'



Leading the team: Maj Kevin Bell-Walker

Printed or Embroidered

Leisurewear to your own Design

poloshirts

- Plain Colours
- Contrast Styles
- Short or Long Sleeves
- Up to 20 Colours



PREMIUM WEIGHT T-SHIRTS

Printed 1 colour from £4.40 each
Embroidered from £5.45 each

t-shirts

- Standard Weight
- Premium Weight
- Short or Long Sleeves
- Up to 20 Colours

sweatshirts

- Raglan Sleeved
- Drop Shoulder
- Hooded
- Up to 20 Colours

rugby shirts

- Single Colour
- Quartered
- Hooped
- Specials-to order



Credit Terms Available to H.M. Forces On Request

For a FREE colour brochure and H.M. Forces Price List including details of our FREE Sample garment offer contact:

TEES TOTAL
153 High Street,
Wootton Bassett,
Swindon,
Wiltshire SN4 7AB
England

Tel +44 (0)1793 849888
Fax +44 (0)1793 849890



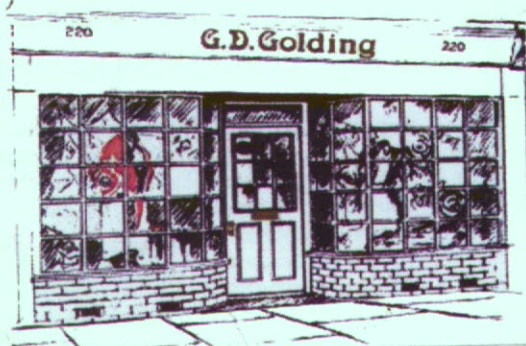
Ranked No. 1



G.D. Golding

(Tailors) Ltd

The Military Tailors



Civil Livery and Military Tailors

Mess kits . No 1 Dress . Service Dress . Accoutrements .
Suits . Sports Jackets . Blazers . Trousers . Evening Tails .
Morning Suits . Dinner suits . Breeches . Hunt Coats . etc.

Service

Visiting service . (UK & Germany) . Account facilities .
Customer satisfaction guarantee

220 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4LW
and 183 London Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JS

Telephone: 01727 841321 Facsimile: 01727 831462

website: www.tailors.co.uk

email: tailors@goldings.co.uk

New cars at low prices

...and a name you can trust



For a great deal on the car you want,
phone us now on: **0800 085 6190**

Look out for our special Car of the Month offers
in NAAFI Stores and NAAFI Financial Branches
or visit: www.naafi-financial.com

Only available in the UK



Putting jobs in focus: A 1 RHA soldier at work in an observation post. Analysts from the Joint Service Job Evaluation Team interview representative jobholders as part of a long and involved process which culminates in the all-important trade score

Picture: Steve Dock

What's my score?

HOW are pay levels set, and by whom? Those questions have been asked many times since the introduction of Pay 2000 earlier this year, **writes Anthony Stone.**

The process starts when the Joint Service Job Evaluation Team (JSJET) meets members of the regiment or corps being assessed to agree how many soldiers should be interviewed to ensure each trade at each rank is represented.

Individual soldiers or jobholders are then nominated by the corps and sent an 11-page questionnaire. It takes about half a day to complete.

Soldiers are interviewed by analysts from the London-based JSJET, which includes officers, warrant officers (from all three Services) and civil servants. They see where the troops work and the equipment they operate.

As an example, JSJET's Dr Alan Robinson explained the case of Bdr Dylan Butcher, serving with the 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery at Tidworth. Bdr Butcher is an observation post (OP) assistant who works in a converted Warrior.

His interview took about three hours and covered all aspects of his work, starting with **the knowledge and experience needed to do the job.** In Bdr Butcher's case, as an artillery observation post assistant, he must have spent 55 weeks training and have four years' service behind him.

To be fair to everyone, explained Dr Robinson, the key issue was how much training and experience was needed to do the job, not the amount of experience the particular jobholder had.

To show how pay levels are set, we followed the evaluation of Bdr Dylan Butcher, 1 RHA

Next stage involved fitting the jobholder into the unit "wiring diagram" to determine **who and what he was responsible for.** Bdr Butcher, who is supervised by a forward observation officer (who is a captain), himself supervises a lance bombardier and three gunners on his observation post team.

The interviewer then looked at **how complicated and mentally challenging** Bdr Butcher's work is. Bdr Butcher told him the equipment he uses includes radios, observation kit and radar. The Battlefield Artillery Target Engagement System (BATES) he operates is complicated and needs careful maintenance.

After two hours the interview moved on to **impact.** In his subsequent report, Dr Robinson wrote: *"The observation post is with a company or squadron to allow them to draw on artillery fire to support their mission. The jobholder makes an important contribution to this. An observation post is a small team but a valuable asset. In the worst case, mistakes by the jobholder could result in blue-on-blue firing."*

Then came **the amount and importance of communications involving the jobholder.** This is key to OP work as comms are the vital link between the infantry or armour they are supporting and the artillery. The OP not only uses the AS90 guns from its own battery; it can also also draw on divisional guns.

The final factor was **health and safety and the areas the soldier operates in.** It was clear that the most gruelling part of the job was working in a dismounted OP in winter.

Interview over, Dr Robinson wrote a comprehensive job description and sent copies to Bdr Butcher and Lt Col David Pritchard, who represents the Royal Artillery and liaises with JSJET, for them both to check that it was fair and accurate.

Next stop for the job description was a tri-Service judging panel which scored and added up the six factors to produce a trade score for Bdr Butcher's rank.

Panellist Col John Kirkwood said: "We work hard to ensure job evaluation is fair, independent and has integrity." His colleagues were a Royal Navy captain and a Royal Air Force group captain.

The trade score was used to decide whether the job should be placed in the higher or lower pay band. Bdr Butcher's was assessed to be in the higher.

Dr Robinson summed up: "We need to be sure that soldiers are getting paid what they deserve by comparing them with civvy street. Our system is adjusted to allow for the unusual and different aspects of military life."

Step into a new career

Our distance learning programmes can help you develop a well paid, rewarding career in IT. Thousands have changed their lives for the better. Why not you?

With complete career development programmes ranging from website design, networking, programming, database management to systems analysis, there's something for everyone.

Success is just a phone call away

Freephone 0800 657 657

Quote reference: SOLD 101/09/STP1



Computeach
International

Microsoft
CERTIFIED
Partner

A PREFERRED
SUPPLIER TO THE
CAREER TRANSITION
PARTNERSHIP



universal

**RIDE AWAY WITH 60%
OFF UNIVERSAL CYCLES**

NEW BIKES ON OFFER TO SOLDIER READERS



Extreme Gents, black,
age 14+



Aggressor Gents,
red, age 14+



Hammerhead,
Freestyle BMX,
chrome/purple age 9+

Universal Cycles has one of the UK's largest ranges, including men's, women's and junior cycles, as well as children's trikes and scooters.

Universal Cycles is offering **SOLDIER** readers savings of up to 60% off the recommended retail price of their top 25 models.

Simply call **0870 241 1460** quoting **ARMY 01** and ask for a free colour brochure detailing the complete range

**FULL
OR
PART-
TIME**



SECURITY OFFICERS

The Corps is one of the UK's premier security organisations with a reputation as a quality employer.

We are currently seeking both men and women aged 22 to 55 who have a mature outlook to join our professional team of Security Officers, working with some of the UK's most prestigious organisations at locations throughout the country.

Reliability, a smart appearance, the confidence to deal with people efficiently, the ability to write brief reports and a 10 year checkable background are essential.

We are particularly interested in those willing to work shifts.

First class training is provided together with attractive salaries, free uniform, secure employment, opportunities for advancement and full holiday pay. Sickness pay is provided after probation.

We would also like to hear from mature people willing to work part-time, some evenings or at special events.

To arrange an immediate interview, phone Peter Quill on **020 7566 0629** or Mike Pepper on **020 7566 0630**.

Ansaphone 24 hours.

THE CORPS

SECURITY & FACILITIES SERVICES FROM
THE CORPS OF COMMISSIONAIRES®

BODYGUARDS

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

For an information pack
send a large SAE to:

Professional Bodyguard Association

The White House, 24 Cumberland Tce,
Willington, Co Durham, DL15 0PB

No telephone enquiries

**Such is the reputation of the
PBA that in 1997 we acted
as Close Protection advisers
to the Chiefs of Staff at the
Pentagon.**

'British expertise at work through the PBA'

Torch-bearer ignites hope

Cadet thanks Army pals for helping him through

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Steve Dock

STEPHEN Menary, the 15-year-old Army cadet maimed when an explosive device went off at the TA centre where his unit meets, will be the torch-bearer at next month's Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Accompanied by two cadets, Stephen will carry the torch into the Royal Albert Hall arena at the start of the ceremony.

It will be a proud day for the Army cadet who has shown indomitable spirit in overcoming his injuries. It is eight months since the blast in which he lost his left hand, his hearing was damaged and he suffered severe impairment in his left eye. He was already blind in his right eye through cancer as a baby.

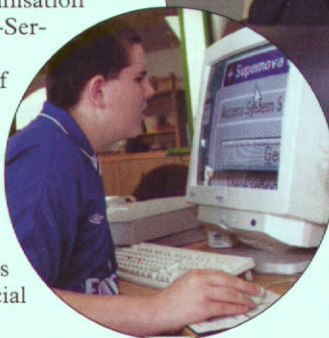
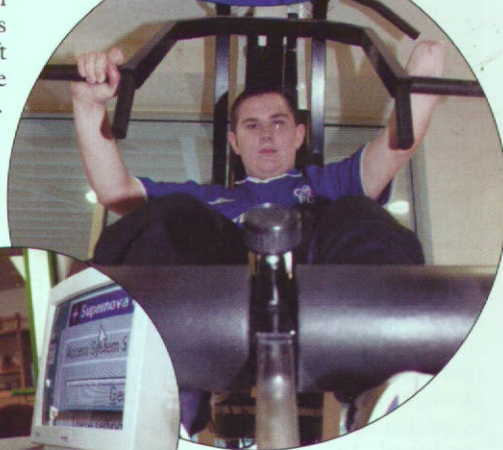
In the months since, Stephen has adjusted to his new life with the help of St Dunstan's, the organisation which cares for blind ex-Servicemen and women.

Through the efforts of dedicated professionals at St Dunstan's purpose-built centre at Ovingdean, just outside Brighton, Stephen has learnt new life-skills, foremost among which is the ability to use special computer software.

This combination of a voice-recognition program and a high-magnification scanner enables Stephen to read, write and work on texts. The training has gone so well that he has returned to school in South London.

Ovingdean also has excellent gym facilities, and Stephen became something of a regular, often to be seen going through his exercise routine in his Chelsea strip.

Thursday however was Stephen's favourite day at the centre. That was when he went to the acoustic shooting gallery and he keeps a collection of his best score-



Stephen with his mother, Carol, top; in the St Dunstan's gymnasium, above; and learning IT skills, left

cards as souvenirs of his accuracy. As he continues to make adjustments to his changed circumstances, his mates have rallied round. He remains in the Army Cadet Force and has been welcomed back to his old unit.

Stephen's mother Carol said: "Through *Soldier* I'd like to thank everybody who has helped Stephen. So many people throughout the Army have been very supportive. He has put up with this bravely; it has not fazed him. Stephen has just kept going and got on with it."

FEED back

WHEN the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team visited units in UK and Germany during its summer tour the troops were not slow to voice their concerns, which were included in a report for consideration by CGS. As ever he is keen that where responses can be given now, they should be – and here are two of the more frequently asked questions, with the answers.

Home benefit

Q Why are there no benefits for house-owners who are single?

A This is not entirely true and there is a package for such individuals called Get You Home (stability assistance). This is not available to soldiers, single or married, who either own a house and do not wish to rent it out, or who pay a long-term rent for a house which they wish to maintain.

The allowance enables soldiers to visit the house for whatever reason and it is mainly single soldiers who have the uptake.

Legal expenses for house purchase are available both to single and married soldiers, and RILOR (recompense in lieu of relocation) is also paid irrespective of whether a soldier is married or single.

LSAP

Q I want to buy a house but have been told that I can't have Long Service Advance of Pay until I am 35; how can the Royal Navy get it at 23?

A LSAP for assisted house purchase is available to all Regular personnel aged 35 or over in the Army and RAF, and 23 or over in naval service on pensionable engagements or commissions. The advance can be up to £8,500 repayable over ten years.

The reason why the Navy adopts a different policy is to reflect its unique circumstances – the fact that much of its personnel's time is spent on board ship, and to encourage them to settle in one place. Because Army policy is to encourage accompanied service, the advance is available only to those who have reached 35. LSAP is one of several currently under review.

The team has now embarked on its latest tour, which includes visits to Kosovo, Germany and several units in the UK. Be sure to have your say!

Cheques and postal orders can be sent to the ACFA Cadet Stephen Menary Appeal, E Block, Duke of York's HQ, Turk's Row, London SW3 4 RR. Payments can also be made into the Cadet Stephen Menary Appeal Account (No 1360872, Sort Code 30-98-97) at Lloyd's TSB.

From turret to pulpit

Bishop Jim, one of the most senior clerics in the Anglican Church, was once in the Army, but not as a chaplain. He commanded a Conqueror tank

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

SITTING in the quiet serenity of Bishop Jim Thompson's study at the Palace in Wells, with the sound of croquet being played genteelly on the lawns outside and a copy of the clerical novel *Barchester Towers* lying on the table, it's hard to imagine him as anything other than a man of the Church.

Yet this genial man, known to everyone as Bishop Jim, one of the most senior prelates in England, a regular on Radio Four's *Thought for the Day* and a member of the House of Lords, was once a National Service tank commander with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment.

And he is the first to admit he wasn't very good at it.

"I was originally studying to be a chartered accountant so I deferred National Service for five years," he smiled, his rich sense of humour already warming to the interview.

"I think I was an astonishingly bad chartered accountant so when I was asked where I would like to serve during National Service, I wrote on the form 'averse to the Pay Corps' in big letters.

"I am sure they were very good, though," he was quick to add.

Some may have been expecting to read that, in the nature of things, he was duly sent to that very organisation. On the contrary, he found himself training at Catterick with 5 RTR.

He didn't enjoy it, however, finding it demanding. But his experiences as a public schoolboy at Dean Close in Cheltenham paid dividends.

"It was often quite tough at school so in a way I was better prepared than many of the other recruits who had never been away from home before," he recalled. "I had been through the stage of crying myself to sleep.

Bishop Jim on Radio Four

"When I was about to become Bishop of Stepney in 1978 I was invited to take part on *Thought for the Day* and I have been there ever since. They are all broadcast live. I even did one from a phone box.

"I was talking about the peace and tranquillity of Somerset and they couldn't hear me because of the wind and rain, the lorries going past... and a BT man who was trying to clean the phone box."



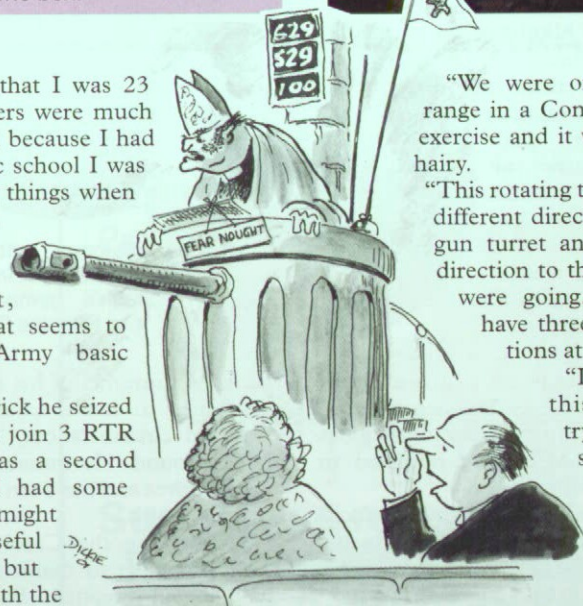
"I don't think I would have been much good in the real thing. I have often wondered whether the best thing might have been for my sergeant to shoot me in the back"

"Added to that I was 23 and most others were much younger. And because I had been to public school I was used to doing things when ordered to, even if you can't see the point of it, something that seems to happen in Army basic training."

After Catterick he seized the chance to join 3 RTR at Detmold as a second lieutenant. "I had some qualities that might have been useful as an officer but was useless with the technology," he confessed.

This unsuitability was recognised by his crew, who preferred him to leave the technical side to them.

The unusual design of the Conqueror meant the tank had a fully rotating commander's cupola with a range-finder independent of the gunner's.



"I gather he was in tanks in his younger days"

"We were once out on the range in a Conqueror doing an exercise and it was getting a bit hairy.

"This rotating turret moved in a different direction to the main gun turret and in a different direction to the way the tracks were going. So you could have three different directions at once.

"In the middle of this chaos I was trying to sort myself out because we were under nuclear attack. Suddenly my gunner came over the air and said:

"Sir, you're not touching anything, are you?" "This indicated that there wasn't a huge amount of confidence in my technical abilities and I had none in myself.

"The irony was that I was quite good on the range but I don't think I would have been much good in the real thing. I have

often wondered whether the best thing might have been for my sergeant to shoot me in the back."

Bishop Jim remembered the Conqueror with some affection and amusement.

"One of the entertaining things was that if the windscreen wipers didn't work you couldn't do anything because you couldn't see anything.

"You felt the thing was going to be useless if it rained. Sixty-odd tons of complex technology depended on the windscreen wipers."

He is disappointed that he hasn't seen his troop in years.

"I haven't managed to keep in touch," he said. "I would love to meet them all again."

Despite now being one of the most senior members of the clergy, Bishop Jim said that as a youngster he wasn't a regular churchgoer. It was not until just before he joined the Army that he "heard the call". He passed a selection board for the ministry during his training at Catterick.

But a career with the clergy still had to wait. On leaving the Army he went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge and

gained an MA before finally going on to the Church.

He felt his calling was to work in east London, where he spent 25 years, moving up from the post of deacon to Bishop of Stepney.

It was a tough patch and he acknowledges the sacrifices made by his wife and family.

"Sally and the children went through considerable difficulties in Thamesmead and Stepney," he said. "We had 15 burglaries and I used to know the Autoglass car windscreen repair man by name."

He reflected that his experiences both at public school and in the Army were ideal training for the *EastEnders* area he called home.

"Knocking around with the lads and colleagues in the mess and experiencing occupied Germany, I learned a lot about getting on with people who hadn't had my background," he said. "I think the Army experience toughened me up."

But a career in uniform was not for him. Asked if he had ever contemplated one, he said he was too compassionate.

"I was not a born soldier," he admitted. "But I did love the company."

Explosive character

The latest in our series looking at the civilian jobs TA soldiers do

YOU might think anyone involved in the world of EOD would want to do something quiet when not on duty, writes Ray Routledge.

Not so Capt Mark Lancaster, 2IC of 221 Field Squadron (EOD) RE, part of 101 Engineer Regiment. When he is not disposing of explosives, he's making them.

Mark is a director of Kimbolton Fireworks in Cambridgeshire, a company founded by his father, the Rev Ron Lancaster.

"My father made his own fireworks. After he became chaplain at a small public school at Kimbolton he began making them for local shows," Mark said.

With 26 staff the Kimbolton firm is the largest firework manufacturer in Britain and enjoys a reputation for large public shows such as the VJ celebrations on the Thames and the Hong Kong handover.

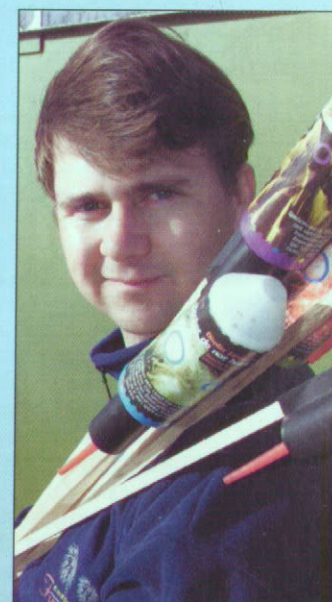
When Mark left school he completed a Short Service Limited Commission with the Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong. After leaving the Army in 1990 to join the flourishing family business he signed up for the Territorial Army.

He served as a staff officer in Brigade HQ in Pristina last year with 32 Engineer Regiment.

"The joy about the TA is that, providing you can get time off work, you can go and do some serious soldiering. Yet I still get to do the job I love, which is my fireworks."

An attempt to enter Parliament at the last election failed when Mark polled 15,042 votes for the Conservatives at Nuneaton and finished in second place. But the defeat hasn't turned his TA life into a damp squib. His ambition is to be a squadron commander in the TA and, in politics, Secretary of State for Defence. The latter may have to wait a while longer yet.

● If you are in the TA and have an unusual job, contact Ray Routledge at *Soldier* or by e-mail to: rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Rocket scientist?: Mark Lancaster

Diehards still battling, 50 years on

It's half a century since the Suez Canal Zone emergency, which cost the lives of more than 50 British soldiers. Yet it is the only active service campaign since 1945 not to be recognised with a medal

Report: Ray Routledge

WHY? That is the question from Charles Golder and an ever-shrinking band of former Servicemen whenever the subject of a clasp recognising the Suez Canal emergency of the early 1950s is raised.

"Why haven't we got a medal?"

Charles was among British forces stationed in Egypt in 1951 under a treaty to ensure the free movement of shipping through the strategically vital Canal.

A Royal Engineers WO2, he was used to the Middle East, having served in Eritre and Aden and then at GHQ Fayid on the Canal. It was while he was in Egypt that he met and married his wife, Doris, the daughter of an Army doctor.

"Postings were normally for three years but I did just over four," he recalled at his home in Bolton, Lancashire. "Even before the troubles the Canal Zone could be a bit rough, and because we had no permanent building – most people lived in tents. Doris and I had a quarter on a housing estate a few miles away."

In September 1951 their peace was shattered by riots. Students rampaged through the district and Doris, by now pregnant, was evacuated with other families when the couple's flat was set on fire. In October things turned even uglier.

"We were armed, usually ready to fire," Charles recalled. "I had to go to work in a three-tonner every day, driving through an almost deserted housing estate. There was constant gunfire, with bullets ricocheting around the houses."

Doris went into hospital to have her baby as the deterioration continued. For the next three months everyone was on a high state of alert. Soldiers slept with their weapons; even padres carried side-arms.

Two men from the Royal Berkshire Regiment were murdered in Ismailia and others were attacked in Port Said.

"More than 1,000 terrorist incidents were recorded, including arson, bomb attacks and cold-blooded murder," said Charles

"There was even a battle in January 1952 at the Egyptian police barracks in Ismailia, where the Lancashire Fusiliers lost five men and had 13 wounded. Sgt



We'll fight on: Doris and Charles Golder are determined not to give up

Distinguished supporters

THESE are just a few examples of the prominent backing the Suez medal campaign has received:

Fd Marshal Lord Bramall wrote to Andrew Bennett MP in 1998 that the Canal Zone "was tense at the time and there were frequent acts of terrorism and sabotage, camps were behind barbed wire, sentries in pill boxes and vehicles had to move in protected convoys. It was like Northern Ireland but on much more of a war footing".

Gen Sir Michael Rose wrote in March 2000: "All active service should be recognised by the issue

of a campaign medal. Since the Suez campaign constituted active service, it would seem fair that those who took part in the campaign should be awarded a medal."

Brig Stuart Ryder wrote in January last year: "The minutes of the Army Board contain no reference to consideration of a GSM for the Canal Zone."

"This fact seems to undermine the Ministry of Defence view that a proper review was held and a decision on not allowing a medal taken at the highest level."

Henry Foster was awarded the George Medal for gallantry.

"The Egyptians called this a war and gave their freedom fighters a medal, but we have never been recognised."

Responsibility for defending the Canal eventually passed from Britain to Egypt in 1955 and the last British combatant troops left on March 31, 1956. Later, nationalisation of the Canal by Egypt's President Nasser triggered events which led to the Anglo-French airborne invasion of Suez on October 31, 1956.

The Canal Zone veterans' campaign for recognition (they want a Suez clasp to the General Service Medal) has been chronicled in *Soldier* over many years, but, half a century on they are no farther forward.

It is on record that Gen Sir Brian Robertson asked the War Office for a medal for the troops in January 1952, by which time 33 Servicemen had been killed and 69 wounded. Campaigners believe the request was vetoed by the Foreign Office to appease the Egyptian Government of the day.



Can you help: Members of the 1st Battalion, the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), interview locals, above, during a weapons search at Abu Gamus, scene of attacks on British vehicles in November 1951

Safe haven: Sgt Alan Alfred, with his wife and baby, left, were among families evacuated from Ismailia to a rest camp during the emergency



them high-ranking Service personnel and public figures, disagree. The latest effort to win a clasp for the veterans of the Canal Zone culminated in a brief debate in the House of Commons in March this year.

Andrew Bennett, MP for Denton and Reddish, told Parliament he felt recognition should be given. "People who served in the Suez Canal Zone have nothing to show they did so," he said.

Although the then Armed Forces Minister, John Spellar, declined to have the matter investigated again, he did say: "We are ready to examine further evidence and we understand the strength of feeling about the case. We acknowledge the service that was given by the veterans in the Suez Canal Zone in that period."

But in April Veterans' Minister Dr Lewis Moonie told Kettering MP Philip Sawford there were no plans for a medal, adding: "The then Under-Secretary of State for Defence reviewed the matter in 1998 and found no evidence that he believed would enable him to persuade the Committee on the Grant of Honours,

From *Soldier* letters pages over the years:

H J Cain: "I have never understood why the GSM was not awarded for Suez Canal Zone service."

B J Blancharde: "Egypt was in diplomatic terms a friendly country. Diplomatic delicacy dictated that troops on active service in the Canal Zone would be unhonoured if not unsung."

B A Cumming: "The heroic actions of that period, and there were many, appear to have disappeared from record as if the whole event had never taken place."

Malcolm Hobson: "Will there ever be a medal issued for service in the Suez Canal Zone, where we were being shot, stabbed, poisoned and blown up by terrorists?"

Pete Newton: "Members of England's soccer World Cup-winning side were honoured 34 years on, but the MoD refuses retrospective recognition for British Servicemen who served in the Suez Canal Zone."

Decorations and Medals to overturn their policy of non-retrospection, or to revoke any of the decisions made at the time or following various Departmental reviews since 1990. No such evidence has subsequently come to light."

Up to 80,000 personnel were serving in Egypt at a time and, although the figures are disputed, more than 300 people lost their lives to violence or accidents.

Charles Golder reckons 54 deaths and 70 wounded were the direct result of terrorist attacks and he intends to fight on.

"Our situation is remarkably similar to activities in Palestine, Malaya, even Kenya, and Cyprus where medals were awarded," he said. "It is a part of our history. We were doing our duty, doing our best. I am proud to have been a British soldier; it was certainly no disgrace."

"I know that with medals we are not so flamboyant as the Americans. The only time we can really wear them is Remembrance Day. But then we have the chance to remember the times, the colleagues and friends."

Unbeatable deals
for HMF's serving in
the UK and overseas.



"What's got 2 wheels, style, power, reliability and a sense of adventure" – The Peugeot Scooter Range at **RANGERS**

Click On - www.peugeotmilitarysales.co.uk

or call UK 01980 653434 for more information

To advertise in *Soldier's* **Web Watch** contact::

advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk or telephone **01252 347352**

FREE NOKIA 3310

AUTOMATIC ACCEPTANCE HM FORCES PERSONNEL

CALLS FROM 2p PER MIN.
LINE RENTAL FROM £15 PER MONTH

FREE 600 MINS
OFF-PEAK CALLS

FREE CONNECTION
WORTH £35

FREE text messages
on selected tariffs

FREE HANDS-FREE KIT
LEATHER CASE IN-CAR CHARGER

FREE DELIVERY

*SMALL AND LIGHT *VOICE DIALLING
*VIBRATING ALERT

one 2 one *CHAT MESSAGES *4 GREAT GAMES

SPECIAL CALL DISCOUNTS FOR JUNE

TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS

CALL FREE 0800 731 7811

SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS



Snugpak

Sleeping Bags | Rucksacks | Clothing



Softie Sleeping bag

Softie Sleeping bag



Sleeka Jacket

Sleeka Jacket



Sleeka Force 35

Sleeka Force 35



Sleeka 2000 Jacket

BE THE BEST – WEAR THE BEST

At Snugpak we have spent 20 years designing and developing our range to meet the toughest conditions, giving you added protection where and when you need it.

BROCHURE HOTLINE 01535 654 479

Snugpak, Waterloo Mills, Howden Road, Silsden, West Yorkshire
www.snugpak.com



Face-to-face on front line of hate

Holding the line: Soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment deploy along the Ardoyne Road to support the RUC at the height of angry scenes centred on the Holy Cross Primary School. Minutes after this photograph was taken a blast-bomb was thrown, injuring two RUC officers

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

HE didn't see it coming, so there was no time to react. The pipe-bomb landed behind Lt Calum Barclay and the explosion blew him off his feet.

"I felt a force going into my back which knocked me forward and I knew immediately it was a pipe bomb," said the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders officer.

"I was a bit dazed and my ears were ringing as I looked around to see if anyone else was hit. It was a hell of a bang, but apart from a sore back there was no damage to myself."

About ten minutes later, one of Lt Barclay's men saw the state of the weapon that had been slung around his back. The butt of his SA80 looked as if it had been through a car-crusher. It had taken the

When simmering sectarian hatred burst into ugly violence on the streets of north Belfast, the Army stepped in to support the Royal Ulster Constabulary

full blast and saved Lt Barclay from serious injury.

The Army has been in the thick of it in north Belfast, an area covered by 39

Infantry Brigade. In the Ardoyne, where Lt Barclay was hit, Catholics live cheek-by-jowl with their Protestant neighbours, and civil disturbances have been a regular feature of the area's nightlife.

Troops have found themselves caught in the middle as they protect both communities from each other. In recent months soldiers, particularly the Argylls, have been on constant patrol, policing the interfaces and peace-lines.

An already tense situation was ratcheted up extra notches at the start of the new school year.

A dispute that had been simmering all summer rapidly escalated into violence. It centred on the Roman Catholic Holy Cross Primary School and the route the children took to get to the classrooms.

The direct route took the children

● *Turn to next page*



Lucky man: Lt Calum Barclay, above, escaped serious injury. The butt of his rifle, below, took the full impact of the blast-bomb

Soccer rivalries remain on pitch

OVER recent months The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Scots Guards have made a real contribution to the peace process through the sensitivity they have shown in dealing with both communities.

The Argylls, for instance, who recruit from the West Coast of Scotland and a swathe through the central belt, comprise about 25 per cent Roman Catholic and 75 Protestant.

Almost all members of the battalion have allegiance to either Celtic or Rangers, but the rivalry remains on the football pitch.

"As a Scottish battalion we have a reasonably good reception from both sectors of the community," said Lt Col Russell. "I am a firm believer that the Glengarry we wear sets us off at 15-love up with both sectors of the community."



Back to school: Children, above, make their way to Holy Cross school, watched by soldiers and RUC. It was taken seconds before a blast bomb was thrown

Cooling the cauldron

Changing the guard

AS the rear-based Northern Ireland Battalion, the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards has been seamlessly switching between public duties in London and public order in Belfast.

This unique situation can see the same soldiers guarding Buckingham Palace, St James's and the Tower of London one day and within two days trying to dampen down a riot situation on the streets of the Ardoyne.

Maj Giles Taylor, officer commanding Right Flank Company, Scots Guards, in Belfast said: "We finished the Trooping the Colour, put down our wet bearskins and tunics, and then we were out to Belfast. The pace of life does not let up."

Mob rule: A hostile crowd of about 200 people gather in front of an A and SH position to hurl missiles and insults

Working together

UNDER the command of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, soldiers from the following regiments have been supporting the Royal Ulster Constabulary: Coldstream Guards, The Royal Irish Regiment, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Scots Guards, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the RAF Regiment.

As darkness falls: An A and SH static patrol, left, prepares for another night

From Page 39

through a Protestant enclave in a largely nationalist area. Once the new term got under way, the short walk to school meant the children and parents faced an ugly barrage of insults.

To help protect them from intimidation, soldiers and RUC officers established a corridor of men and vehicles on both sides of the Ardoyne Road.

Girls, some as young as four, were holding their parents' hands on their way to school when a blast bomb was thrown in their direction. The blast injured two

RUC officers and the shock waves were felt around the world. Army medics were quickly on the scene to administer first aid.

It was a low point in community relations and at times the Army bore the brunt of both sides' anger.

The 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, under the command of Lt Col Bruce Russell, took over as the resident battalion from The Royal Green Jackets in March.

A total of 22 companies have operated under the battalion's command, includ-

ing four companies of Argylls. "We thought we would be in for a relatively quiet tour," said Lt Col Russell. "In fact it has turned out to be quite the opposite. Since we have been here we have had everything from mild verbal abuse to petrol bombs and shots fired at us."

Lt Barclay and the rest of Delta Company hardly had time to catch their breath before they were back on the streets to deal with more civil unrest. His men had snatched only a few hours' shut-eye in the previous three days. Sleep in barracks was as rare as peace on the streets.

The nightly ritual of riotous assembly appears choreographed. Like well-rehearsed old troupers, everyone in the crowd knows their part, their entrances and exits.

Act One usually begins about 9pm when the ensemble cast emerges from side streets, some tanked up on booze. The dress code, which is strictly adhered to, comprises baseball caps, hooded jackets and trainers.

Act Two commences with a barrage of bottles, stones, ball-bearings, fireworks, paint-bombs, acid bombs and golf balls -

Belfast rain. Then the mob surges forward to within spitting distance of the baseline and, after a considered time, withdraws as if responding to some pre-arranged cue. That's when the blast-bombs usually get thrown.

Another favoured tactic is to set a car alight and steer it at the troops.

Unless they feel up for an encore, the final act sees the crowd melt away into the shadows, until tomorrow night's equally sinister performance.

Lt Col Russell said: "When you consider that the majority of soldiers on the

streets are 18, 19 or 20 years old it vindicates the training we do. The fortitude, steadfastness and professionalism of the troops is remarkable in the face of severe verbal and physical provocation.

"Whenever a soldier puts a rifle over his shoulder and goes out on patrol in Northern Ireland, there is always the threat that he might not come back."

These daily disturbances are punishing too for the Army's fleet of vehicles. It is the job of SSgt Gav Graham and the men of the Light Aid Detachment REME,

Turn to Page 43

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

UK/Europe Surface mail

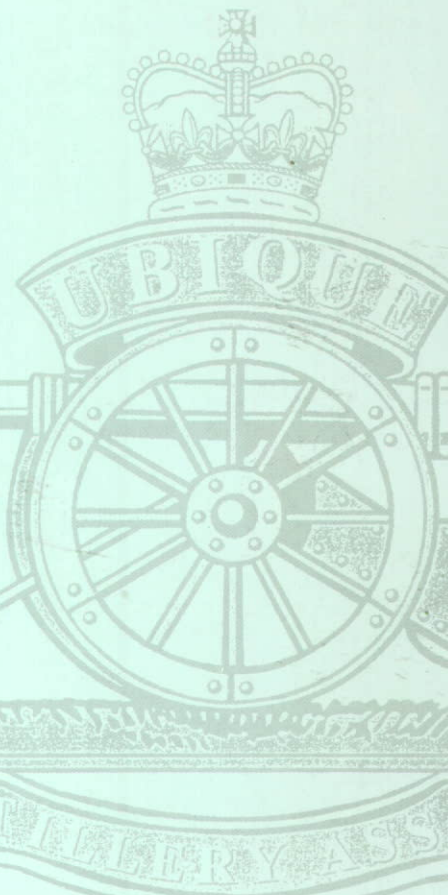
FOR HIM

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 238197

UK/Europe Surface mail

BELTS	
S99 Stable Belt. Small. Medium. Large	13.64
S101 Black/Brown reversible leather belt. RHA Gun Badge on buckle	14.50
S101A Black/Brown reversible leather belt. RHA Cypher on buckle	14.50
BLAZER BADGES - GOLD & SILVER WIRE	
Selection of Blazer Badges RA, RAA & RA Cypher. Navy & Black	
BLAZER BUTTONS	
S35 Flat with Gun mounted (Large).	each 4.00
S36 Flat with Gun mounted (Small).	each 4.00
S37 Flat with engraved Cypher (Large).	each 3.50
S38 Flat with engraved Cypher (Small).	each 3.50
S76 Flat with die struck RA Badge (Large).	2.95
S77 Flat with die struck RA Badge (Small).	2.95
CAP BADGES	
S104 RA - Small (Brass).	3.25
S104A RA - Large (brass) cap badge. E11R revolving wheel.	4.50
S104B Brass helmet plate (Reproduction. Victorian c1878)	12.35
S104E GVV1 - Large (brass) cap badge. Revolving wheel (Re-strike).	4.50
CAR BADGES	
S112 Gold RA Cypher on blue background.	4.70
CHINA MUG	
S73 Dark Blue china mug with RA Gun Badge in yellow.	4.90
COFFEE MUG	
S74 Coffee Mug - stoneware pottery. RA Badge relief.	6.60
COMB IN CASE	
S31 Comb in leather effect case. RA Gun badge and Cypher relief.	2.50
CUFF LINKS	
S44 Large, round, gilt metal with engraved RA Badge. Torpedo fitting.	18.95
S44A Gilt oval cuff links. Regimental colours. Zig zag design. Swivel link fitting.	10.55
S46 Oval, silver hallmarked cuff links with gilt RA Gun Badge. Chain link.	39.00
S48 Red enamel shield RA Gun Badge in gold.	7.75
Matching tie slides available for S44 and S48 Cuff links.	
CUMMERBUND	
S67 Silk. Zig zag - Regimental colours.	19.50
DIARY	
P61 Pocket Diary - hardback. Maroon/navy blue with embossed RA Gun Badge in Gold.	2.80
One week to view - useful information includes map of London Underground.	
P62 Notelets - RA drum emblazon. 10 notelets in blue card wallet.	5.15
FLASKS	
S10 Pewter hip flask. Mounted RA Gun Badge. In presentation box with funnel for easy filling.	22.00
S10A Hip flask 6oz. Blue leather RA Gun Badge.	14.50
S10D Polished pewter 6oz. Engraved RA Gun Badge.	13.25
S10C Countryman 'Chunky' 6oz Pewter Flask. Drinking cup incorporated in stopper. Engraved RA Gun Badge.	16.30
KEY RINGS	
S51 RA Badge on tan leather tab.	2.00
S52 Hand-embroidered gold & silver RA Badge inserted in tan leather tab.	3.65
MEDAL HOLDER	
S66 Medal holder - saves damaging your suit, etc.	2.30
MODEL FIGURES	
S131 Gunner carrying 155 shell, height approx 13". Includes plinth.	66.50
S132 Gunner carrying 155 shell, height 10" includes plinth.	45.90
S133 Northern Ireland Urban Patrol SA80.	52.29
S134 RA Trumpeter pewter figurine, height approx 7". Includes 1/2 wooden base.	41.44
S134D RHA figurine c1840. Antique silver finish. Height approx 43/4". Includes 1/2" black base.	27.90
MODEL FIGURES - BRONZE	
S138 Bronze figure Officer RHA.	76.73
S139 Bronze figure Officer RA.	76.73
S140 Bronze figure Bombay Horse Artillery.	76.73
S141 Bronze figure Northern Ireland RA (SLR).	76.73
S142 Bronze figure Northern Ireland RHA (SLR).	76.73
S143 Bronze figure RHA driver.	76.73
S145 Bronze Gunner RSA Larkhill.	76.73
S146 RHA Gunner c1809. Includes framed details of Regt. 9" x 1/2 plinth.	51.50
S147 RHA Gunner c1809. Includes framed details of Regt.	64.86
MODEL FIGURES - HAND-PAINTED	
S137 RHA Officer.	125.00
S144 RHA driver.	125.00
MODEL GUNS - PAINTED	
S91 18 Pdr. Olive drab mounted on wooden base (Scale 1/48)	29.65
PAPER KNIVES	
S70 Solid Brass dagger paperknife - RA Badge relief on handle.	6.00
PENS	
P4 Kingston biro pen. Once a Gunner always a Gunner, RAA	3.15
PENSION BOOK CASE	
S65 Bonded leather pension book case. Embossed Gold RA badge. Black.	4.85
SCARVES & CRAVAT	
S41 RA Regimental zig zag pattern scarf. 60" x 12". Zig zag front, plain reverse. Polyester.	15.60
S41A RA Regimental zig zag pattern cravat. Zig zag design both sides. Polyester.	14.00
SHIELDS & BANNERETTE	
S18 Shield - Gun Badge raised on curved wooden background.	15.00
S19 Shield - Gun Badge raised on heraldic type shield.	15.00
S84A RA Gun Badge Banner. Embroidered gold & silver wire on navy blue background with gold edging & tassels. 91/2" x 12".	26.00
S84B RA Cypher bannerette. Embroidered gold & silver wire on navy blue background with gold edging & tassels. 91/2" x 12".	26.00
S84C Heraldic RA Badge on red painted wooden shield. 7" x 6" with Royal Regiment of Artillery scroll.	21.75
S84D Superb Wooden Shield. 8" x 10". Hand painted RA Crest. Special order.	39.75
S88 Wooden Shield. 51/2" x 71/2". RA Cypher in Pewter with Scroll. RAA or Royal Regiment of Artillery. SUITABLE FOR PRESENTATION.	16.60
SPECTACLE CASE	
S43 Leather effect case in brown. RA Badge & Cypher.	2.90
SWEATSHIRTS/SWEATERS/PULLOVERS	
S22 Polo Shirt - two button pique with knitted collar - navy blue. RA Gun Badge motif. Sizes: Sml, Med, Lge, X-Lge, XX-Lge. (Please add extra 50p for XXL.)	13.50
S22W Polo Shirt - two button pique with knitted collar - white. RA Gun Badge motif. Sizes: Sml, Med, Lge, X-Lge, XX-Lge. (Please add extra 50p for XXL.)	13.50
S24 Long Sleeved Sweatshirt - Navy Blue - RA Gun Badge Motif. 70% Cotton/30% Polyester. Med - Lge - Ex Lge.	19.70
S26 50% Wool/50% Acrylic - Long Sleeved Sweater - Navy Blue - V-neck. RA Gun Badge embroidered. Sizes 38"-48".	22.50
SWORD - ROYAL ARTILLERY	
Exquisitely crafted miniature sword. Like their full size counterparts the hilts are fitted with steel blades etched with a specially created filigree pattern according to the type of sword. Actual size 8". Blue presentation box.	
TANKARDS	
S72 1pt stoneware pottery tankard - RA Badge relief.	13.50
S119 Lidded heavy gauge tankard with mounted RA Gun Badge.	47.80
S120 RA Cypher etched superior quality 1pt pewter.	31.00
S120A Superior quality 1pt pewter tankard - mounted RA Gun Badge.	31.00

CHRISTMAS GIFTS SUGGESTIONS



TANKARDS CONTINUED

S121 RA Gun Badge etched standard quality 1pt pewter.	15.70
S121A Standard 1pt pewter tankard - mounted RA Gun Badge.	17.50
S171 Crystal - Hand-cut 1pt tankard RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	29.32

TIES

S62 RAA - RA Cypher on blue - 4" blade.	6.70
S63 RAA - RA Cypher on blue - 3" blade.	8.50
S64 RA - Regimental zig zag - 3" blade. Smooth finish.	7.50
S64A RA - Regimental zig zag - 4" blade. Smooth finish.	7.50
S64B Ready-made bow tie. zig zag Regimental colours.	7.50
S64C RA - Regimental zig zag - 3" blade. Smooth finish.	8.05
S64CC Clip-on - RA Regimental zig zag - 3" blade. Smooth finish.	16.95
S64D RA Regimental zig zag - 3" blade. Silk.	12.40
S64E Silk, self-tie bow tie. zig zag Regimental colours.	5.80

TIE SLIDE

S48A Red enamel shield tie slide. RA Gun Badge in Gold.	13.45
S114 Large round gilt metal - engraved RA Badge. (Compatible with S44 cuff links).	

TIE TACKS

S29 RAA Badge/stick pin.	2.20
S29C RA tie tack/lapel badge. Gilt enamel squeeze pin. Individually boxed.	2.65
S30 Desert Army - lapel badge. Gilt enamel squeeze pin. Individually boxed.	3.00
ATS, WRAC, Women's Land Army, QARANC WAAPS.	3.00
S49 Red Enamel Shield Lapel badge - RA Gun badge in gold.	2.65
S113 RA Badge/stick pin. Individually boxed.	5.00
S159 Gilt enamel RA Badge tie tack and chain.	

TRAY PURSE

S102A Black leather tray purse. Embossed RA Badge. Small.	3.35
---	------

WALLETS

S105B Black leather notecase. Gilt corner mounted. RA Gun Badge in gold.	12.95
S105C Durable brown leatherette notecase. RA Gun Badge in gold.	4.35

MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICE - FULL SIZE OR MINIATURE
REPLACEMENT MEDALS CAN BE OBTAINED - DETAILS ON REQUEST.

ZIPPO LIGHTER

S13 Zippo lighter - RA Badge	12.95
------------------------------	-------

FOR HER

BROOCHES

S6 Sweetheart brooch - gilt. Small RA Gun Badge on bar.	4.50
S79 RA Badge. Sterling silver with marcasite laurel surround.	39.50
S80 RA Badge. Sterling silver and marcasite.	40.36
S80A RHA Cypher. Sterling silver and marcasite.	31.00
S125 Silver cap badge brooch fit.	23.00
S127 RA Cypher - hallmarked silver.	28.00
S128 RA Grenade. Sterling silver and marcasite.	31.00
S111 RA Badge. Gilt brooch fitting.	2.65

COMPACTS

S140A STRATTON 'Sandstorm' pattern compact. Loose or solid powder. Engraved RA Cypher.	20.00
S110B STRATTON 'Sandstorm' pattern compact. Loose or solid powder. Engraved RA Gun Badge.	20.00
S164 Small silver plated compact - RA Cypher	14.50
S165 Small silver plated compact - Gun Badge	14.50

EARRINGS

S126 RA Grenade earrings. Silver and marcasite. Pierced fitting. Compliments S128 Brooch.	29.50
---	-------

HANDBAG/MIRROR-DAISY

S162 Silver plated handbag mirror - RA Gun Badge	13.50
S163 Silver plated handbag mirror - RA Cypher	13.50

PERFUME BOTTLE

S173 Executive crystal pyramid Perfume Bottle. Fuchsia design with engraved RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	20.20
---	-------

PILL BOX

S109 STRATTON gilt 'Athena' pattern mini Pill Box. Engraved RA Cypher.	15.50
S109A STRATTON gilt 'Athena' pattern mini Pill Box. Engraved RA Gun Badge.	15.50
S160 Silver plated pill box. Oblong - RA Gun Badge	13.50
S161 Silver plated pill box. Oblong - RA Cypher	13.50

SPOONS

S55 Polished silver plated Coffee Spoon. RA Gun Badge design. Supplied in clear top display box.	5.90
--	------

TRINKET BOX

S95 White porcelain. Cobalt blue band with gold keyline and RA Cypher in gold on lid. In tasteful presentation box.	12.50
---	-------

FOR THE HOME

ADDRESS/TELEPHONE BOOK

S108 Blue - embossed RA Cypher in gold. 81/4" x 6".	9.80
---	------

ASHTRAYS

S97 China ashtray. Oblong. Cobalt blue band with gold keyline and RA Cypher in gold.	9.35
S98 China ashtray. Square. Cobalt blue band with gold keyline and RA Cypher in gold.	8.75

BRANDY BOWLS

S64D 'Claudius' plain crystal brandy bowl. RA Cypher.	9.60
S168 Executive crystal hand cut brandy bowl. Large 20oz.	24.60

CRYSTAL CLOCK

S174 Small clock. Lead crystal. RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	33.35
---	-------

CRYSTAL DECANTERS

S166 Executive crystal hand cut square Decanter. RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	57.50
--	-------

MINIATURE DECANTER SETS

S150 Boxed set. Miniature decanter and 2 tot glasses. Plain crystal - RA Gun Badge engraved on each item.	25.00
S151 Boxed set. Miniature decanter and 2 tot glasses. Plain crystal - RA Cypher engraved on each item.	25.00
S152 Boxed set. Miniature decanter and 2 tot glasses. Crystal cut and polished - RA Gun Badge engraved on each item.	37.00
S152 Boxed set. Miniature decanter and 2 tot glasses. Crystal cut and polished - RA Cypher engraved on each item.	37.00

HORSE BRASSES

S86 RA Gun Badge on black leather martingale.	5.90
S86B D-Day Normandy Campaign on black leather martingale.	7.10
S86C VE brass on black leather martingale. 1945-1995.	5.50

ICE BUCKET

S92 Regimental Drum replica Ice Bucket.	27.95
---	-------

MATS - TABLE

S93 Lacquered table mats - blue. RA Cypher in gold. 113/4" x 83/4". Heat resistant to 650C (1490F).	6.45
S93B Lacquered table mats - red. Round. 9" circumference. RA Cypher in gold. Heat resistant to 650C.	6.45

PAPER NAPKINS

S65 White Paper napkins. 151/2" x 151/2". (If collected)	5.00
RA Cypher in one corner in red or blue, per 100. (If posted)	8.00

DINNER CARDS

P63 Menu cards. Gold RA Cypher. per 50	8.70
P20 Place cards. Gold RA Cypher. Flat. per 100	7.15

TEA TOWEL

S85C Gunner animals.	2.70
----------------------	------

WHISKY GLASS

S167 Executive hand cut crystal Whisky glass. Large. Engraved RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	13.50
---	-------

WINE GLASSES

S169 Executive crystal hand cut Goblet.	17.20
---	-------

ZIG ZAG RIBBON

S8 Panama Hat Ribbon per metre.	3.65
S9 1/2" zig zig Ribbon - suitable as trimming for stationery, per metre.	1.25

CHRISTMAS CARDS 2001

This year we are offering a fourth card which is to be sold in aid of the Royal Artillery Association CARD 'E' Santa calls in at the RAA Assembly £4.90 for a pack of ten cards
Other cards are available-please telephone or write for order form
Quote Ref: Sol 2001

Orders with remittance to:
ARTILLERY HOUSE,

Front Parade,
Royal Artillery Barracks,
Woolwich,
London SE18 4BH

Tel: 020 8781 3022/3735

Fax: 020 8854 3617

gensec.rhgra@army.mod.uk.net

EXECUTIVE CRYSTAL. RA GUN BADGE OR RA CYPHER
ENGRAVED. ATTRACTIVE SELECTION OF HAND
DECORATED LEAD CRYSTAL GIFTS.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to: The Royal Artillery Association. Overseas cheques should be drawn on a British Bank in sterling. Money orders and postal orders should be sent in sterling.

Foreign cheques attract a substantial handling charge. Visitors to our Shop at Artillery House will save postage on the above home prices.

Prices include VAT and UK postage. BFPO orders are not subject to VAT. However, postage costs normally compensate for the VAT except in cases of large orders. Savings, often considerable, will result when a number of items are sent together.

QUOTED PRICES REFER TO EXISTING STOCK AND CHANGES MAY BE NECESSARY WHEN FRESH STOCKS ARE PURCHASED.



Road show: From the left, REME mechanics LCpl Keron Davison, LCpl John Dell, Cfn Brian Clarke and LCpl Damien Richards repair a Land Rover damaged in civil disturbances

Cooling the cauldron

● From Page 41

usually based at Palace Barracks, to make sure the battered vehicles are in a fit state to go out. They have their work cut out. Windscreens and wing-mirrors are favourite targets for baseball bat-wielding yobs. Some enterprising souls use crow-bars to pull up the vehicles' bonnets and petrol-bomb the engines.

Other help is provided by the Emergency Platoon of 46 Workshop Company REME, Combat Service Support Regiment at Kinnegar Barracks. These specialists give second-line support to "green" vehicles, as well as operating recovery sections. An important part of their work involves repairing the remote-controlled wheelbarrows used for Explosive Ordnance Disposal when they get blown up.

Back at Girdwood Barracks, the whine of vehicle engines drowns out the sound of the passing Gazelle as the men prepare for another night on the streets. Nobody knows what the night will bring, but few expect much sleep before dawn.

As he walks through the battered streets of the Ardoyne, with glass crunching



School's out: Cpl Davie Gardiner on duty on the Ardoyne Road, close to Holy Cross

under his boots, Cpl Davie Gardiner, A and SH, picks up a small object thrown in anger.

"Northern Ireland has some simply beautiful golf courses," he says wistfully, as he examines the ball.

It remains unclear if Cpl Gardiner will get the opportunity to improve his handi-cap on this tour.

Manage your money



David Mapes is Assistant Director of Credit Action and will be pleased to answer specific questions addressed to the Editor. These will be treated in confidence.

Talking is so good

LAST month we looked at how it feels to come back from holiday and face credit and store card statements and bills. They always seem to arrive together, don't they?

Open ALL the post and take stock. Ignoring bills doesn't make them go away. We still owe the money for what we've bought.

Hopefully, you've started a budget and know if you have enough money to make it through the month, with priorities, formal commitments and expenses all covered.

But you don't have enough to pay all your creditors the full amount and you're fed up with the effort of moving credit around from card to card. Maybe creditors are starting to get tough and threatening to take stronger action (court, or informing your CO).

Maybe you're beginning to get anxious about what will happen.

First step is to TALK to someone. Call the helpline and talk it through. This can be the hardest thing to do, but you can do it. At least you will know what the creditors can do and the options open to you.

A loan to cover it all

You see lots of adverts for loans to pay off other debts (which is what they are). It can seem an ideal solution when you're feeling stressed. There are disadvantages, however, to consolidating; that's what it's called when you borrow to pay off several debts.

It costs money to borrow – interest. Also, a loan usually includes interest and charges in each monthly payment. So, if you want to pay it off early you'll still end up paying most of the interest and charges. At least with a credit or store card or overdraft you only pay interest on the outstanding balance.

We can often enter into a loan under pressure and not calculate the real cost. We look at the monthly repayment and focus on the size of the cheque. Do a simple sum (even if you already have a loan): multiply the monthly repayment by the number of months you'll be paying it and compare it with the amount you got when you signed up. It's often a nasty shock.

Once you've taken the loan indulge in "plastic surgery" – cut up the cards. The temptation is to keep spending, leading to a second or third consolidation loan.

Think seriously hard

Last month we encouraged you to sit down and draw up a budget. It's boring, but it is the answer. Think twice about replacing credit with more credit. Seriously think about doing "plastic surgery" and start to use cash when you want to buy something.

And don't feel alone with your stress. Call the helpline below and a counsellor will spend time with you and get you started.

0800 591084

Master of the art

Taekwondo expert kicks Army martial arts into shape

Interview: Andy Simms

Picture: Steve Dock

NEVER hit a guy wearing glasses – sound advice if your bespectacled target is Wayne Brown.

Polite, mild-mannered and well-spoken, Wayne cuts a conservative figure, but anyone stupid enough to chance their luck is likely to receive a telling blow to the rib cage.

Because at the sprightly age of 42, Wayne is a recognised master of his chosen martial art – taekwondo.

One of only a handful of people in England to have been awarded the grade of seventh dan by the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF), Wayne is a man at the very top of his field.

His reputation attracted the attention of the Army Martial Arts Association, who enlisted the services of the fully qualified instructor to help nurture the Army taekwondo team.

"I jumped at the chance to work with the British Army," Wayne explained. "I enjoy it immensely and it is a great honour to have even been asked."

And having practiced the Korean art



for almost a quarter of a century, Wayne has a wealth of expertise to share.

"I was never really sports-minded when I was at school and found taekwondo more through luck than design," he said. "I was about 16, a little bit shy, not very sure of myself and it was the Bruce Lee era."

His quest to emulate the screen hero took him to a karate club ten miles from his childhood home in Hillingdon, Middlesex. But karate and Wayne Brown were to prove incompatible.

"My relationship with karate lasted just five weeks. I found the club to be undisciplined, with people talking out of line and arriving late for class," he said.

"I'm from a big family and was used to doing what I was told. So I joined a taekwondo club instead and was immediately impressed by the way that everyone paid absolute attention to the instructor."

Investing endless hours of study and training, Wayne quickly climbed through the grades.

But despite several stints with the national squad and an abundance of talent, Wayne made a conscious decision to steer away from national and international competition.

"I have never wanted to be a European or world champion – I just want to be

good at taekwondo," he said. "I could have specialised in one area of the art but I am more interested in developing my all-round skills."

His drive to do just that should see Wayne achieve his ambition of becoming a grand master by 2012 – an honorary title held only by three other people within the ITF.

A more immediate goal will be helping the Army to continue their reign of dominance in the Inter-Services championships.

"I am really impressed by the dedication shown by the guys. Martial arts and sol-

diering lend themselves to each other. They both encourage discipline and control."

And Wayne believes that the

art can also help improve individual soldiers' combat effectiveness.

"You train your body to do things that some people think are not even possible," he told *Soldier*.

"I have only ever had to use my art in a real-life situation on one occasion and it was very effective. I hit the person once and he was not going to do anything after that. His friend did not want to pursue the matter either. End of story."

♦ Anyone interested in training with the Army taekwondo squad should contact Maj Robert Howells on 94381 2459.



"I have never wanted to be a European or world champion – I just want to be good at taekwondo"



Back to work: Gdsm Alfred Vakacokovanua (SG) on stag at Musgrave Park Barracks, Belfast

Knock-on effect

A SOLDIER'S life is nothing if not varied. One moment Gdsm Alfred Vakacokovanua (SG) was basking in the glory of playing a pivotal role in helping the Army lift the Middlesex Sevens trophy at Twickenham, and the next he was back on stag at Musgrave Park Barracks.

"After the game on Saturday I spent the night with all the boys, but on Monday it was straight back to Belfast," he said.

The guardsman's life has been full of contrasts. Born in a village with a population of just 200, Gdsm Vakacokovanua, or "Vaki" as he is known, joined the Fijian Army and learned to play the trombone.

It was his musical skill, which earned him a place in the Fijian Army band at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo three years ago. He was so inspired by the sight and sound of the pipes and drums of the Scot-

tish regiments that he put in for a transfer to the British Army.

While Vaki's military and trombone abilities were greatly appreciated, it was his blistering pace and deft handling on the rugby pitch which set him apart and earned him a place in Army rugby folklore.

Vaki was already something of a hero back home, having played sevens for the national side. "My wife phoned me and told me everybody was watching the replay of the final in Fiji and they were very proud," he said.

"Rugby is the sport. When you see little boys in a village they are all playing touch-rugby; you hardly ever see a soccer ball."

The knock-on effect looks like being more conversions to British regiments. "It'll boost recruitment for the British Army," Vaki said. "I believe there are a lot of letters to the High Commissioner in Fiji already."

Squash-ed itinerary

MEMBERS of the Army Squash Association have spent the close-season putting their talents to the test across the globe.

As part of a Combined Services team, Lt Col Robbie Robertson, Capt Tim Slater, Capt Gary Clarke and SSgt Nigel Hissey took in a tour of South Africa.

The adventurers then joined the Army team at the Geneva Open. Competing against world-standard

opposition, the team failed to record any individual successes but did manage to collect the Berner Trophy for displaying outstanding commitment and spirit.

Tours of Hong Kong and Gibraltar were also completed.

♦ Anyone interested in joining the Army Squash Association should contact WO2 Dave Smith on 94661 2469 or WO2 Michelle Quiafe on 94246 2010.

SHORTS

Rough riders rewarded

A TEAM of four Army cyclists finished the Red Bull-sponsored 24-hour mountain bike endurance race at Sandwell Park, Birmingham in 12th place.

Competing against more than 350 teams – many of them professional – Cpl Martin Smith (22 Engr Regt), LCpl Jason Cayvill (59 Cdo Sqn Wksps), and Cpl Mark Thompson and LCpl Sandy Segundo (both 11 Sig Regt) completed the event just seven minutes behind the overall winners.

League back on track

THE 2001/2002 4 Div aggregate cross-country league kicks-off this month. Any unit or individual within the 4 Div catchment area who wishes to enter the league should contact WO2 Dot Larmour on 94661 2361.

Posh ladies humbled

PETERBOROUGH Ladies FC were beaten 4-1 by the Army women's football team in a pre-season friendly match at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham.

TABLES

MASSEY TROPHY: FOOTBALL

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
AAC	1	0	1	0	1	1
RLC	1	0	1	0	1	1
AGC	0	0	0	0	0	0
AMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
APTC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Int Corps	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infantry	0	0	0	0	0	0
RA	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAC	0	0	0	0	0	0
RE	0	0	0	0	0	0
REME	0	0	0	0	0	0
RS	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Results up to and including September 20

GROUSE INTER CORPS CRICKET

	P	W	D	L	A*	Pts
REME**	8	7	0	1	0	108
RE	8	6	0	2	0	98
R Signals	7	6	0	1	1	94
Infantry	8	5	0	3	0	83
RLC	8	4	0	4	0	73
RA	7	3	0	4	1	58
AGC	8	2	0	6	0	49
AMS	8	2	0	6	0	41
RAC	5	0	0	5	3	9

* Abandoned/conceded/rained off

** Winners of the 2001 Grouse inter-corps championship

SHORTS

Whistle while you work

THE chairman of Army Rugby Union, Brig Andrew Meek, has pledged his support to the Protect Your Neck Campaign (PYNC).

The initiative's main aims are to establish a worldwide database accessible to surgeons dealing with rugby injuries, particularly to necks; generate scientific data regarding stresses and strains on the body; and produce a safety video.

Funds for the scheme are being raised through the sale of serial-numbered pink whistles, which can be purchased for £1 from all corps rugby secretaries.

A prize draw will take place at the inter-corps 15-a-side tournament in December and the owner of the winning whistle will receive £1,000. Four runners-up will win an autographed New Zealand, British Lions, England or Wales rugby shirt.

Tall order for trekkers

CHILDHOOD First, a charity which cares for abused children, is looking for soldiers to join a nine-day trek in Morocco's spectacular High Atlas mountains.

The trek, which is to be held from June 1-9 next year, will culminate in an ascent of Mount Toubkal. Known locally as the "mountain of mountains", Toubkal is North Africa's highest peak and stands at an imposing 4,167 metres.

Anyone interested in taking part must pay a £200 registration fee and raise a minimum sponsorship of £2,000. Contact Rachel Small on 0207 9287288 for more details.

Army's catch of the day

THE Army shore-fishing championships, comprising night and day matches, will be held in Dover on November 4-6. Beaches will be pegged and competitors must use a single rod with a maximum of three hooks.

For an entry form and details write to WO2 Steve Davis, Sergeants' Mess, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH or ring Mil 94371 2862.

DLO's peak performance

A TEAM of staff officers at DLO Andover completed the Three Peaks mountain challenge in 5hr 40min – the second fastest time recorded by a field of more than 130 teams.

The physically-demanding challenge involves climbing the highest peaks in Scotland (Ben Nevis), England (Scafell Pike) and Wales (Snowdon).

The triumphant team were Maj Richard Parkinson (RLC), Maj Phil Stone (RLC), Maj Phil Barber (RLC), Capt Paul Ogden (RLC), Maj Chris Ince (RE), Maj Ian Stugres (RLC) and Meg Crowther.

Siblings share treble triumph



Brothers-in-arms: Sgt Steve Cornhill, one of 1 PWRR's sporting siblings, in full swing

Cup double denied

Loggies' captain marvel thwarts trophy favourites

THOSE who backed the pre-tournament favourites will have left the final of the Army Minor Unit cricket championships in Aldershot with lighter pockets.

Having already scooped the British Army (Germany) title, 14 GEO Sqn RE looked odds on to secure their second piece of silverware of the season with a victory over 47 AD Sqn RLC.

But the loggies, who reserved their place in the final with a win against former champions 42 Engr Regt, had clearly not read the script.

Batting first, the underdogs tormented the sapper bowlers, who struggled to recreate the decisive form they had shown on synthetic wickets in Germany.

Leading by example, 47 AD Sqn's captain, Pte Ioan Roberts, posted 57, and ably assisted by LCpl Lee Davies (35), helped guide his side to a 211-9 total off the allotted 40 overs.

Already a hero with the bat, Roberts then turned his hand to bowling and all but condemned the sappers to defeat with a haul of five wickets at a cost of just ten runs.

After his side had lost two quick wickets in the second and third overs, Cpl Dave Brown (44) threatened to stage a recovery but, with his batting partners falling at regular intervals, the 14 Sqn skipper could do little to curtail the collapse of his side.

Restricted by some excellent fielding the sappers' tail-enders failed to make an impression on the scoreboard and were dismissed for 146 – 65 runs behind the triumphant loggies.

1 PWRR cashes in on family fortunes

SPORTING history suggests that "keeping it in the family" breeds success, writes Andy Simms.

Selecting the Charlton brothers for the 1966 World Cup certainly paid dividends for Alf Ramsey, and Sir Alex Ferguson cannot complain about the fortunes of his side since the Nevilles arrived at Old Trafford.

Family ties have also proved fruitful in the cricketing world, no more obviously than at Surrey where Adam and Ben Holioake share the same dressing room.

So it should come as no surprise that 1 PWRR, sporting three brothers in their line-up, beat 1 RSME in the final of the Major Unit cricket championships – a victory that completed a hat-trick of titles.

Siblings WO2 Darren Cornhill, Sgt Steve Cornhill and Cpl Richard Cornhill have been an integral part of a strong 1 PWRR side that had already lifted the 5 Div regional trophy and Infantry Cup.

And the Cornhill family were again in the thick of the action against 1 RSME in the Aldershot final.

Batting first, 1 PWRR looked every bit a treble-winning side, with opener Capt Dale Wright smashing 29 runs in just 13 minutes.

However, two run outs in the ninth and 13th overs, coupled with a further two cheap wickets, left the champions-elect reeling on 68 for four.

Cue the arrival at the crease of Steve Cornhill (66 not out) and Pte Justin Scott (36). The pair's 110-run partnership rejuvenated the PWRR attack and led the side to a respectable 192-7 off 40 overs.

In reply, SSgt Steve Bunn (17) and Spr Gec Gillis (18) began brightly for 1 RSME, who looked capable of reaching their opponents' total at a canter until the Cornhill clan struck again – Richard claiming the wicket of Gillis.

The breakthrough proved telling and prompted a mini-collapse of the RSME batting. Darren Cornhill pitched in with two wickets for 34 runs.

Former Leicester under-18s star Spr Carl Hamilton threatened to spoil the PWRR party with a brisk 41 runs that included a number of boundaries off Army opening bowler Steve Cornhill (2-29).

But Steve had the last laugh, bowling Hamilton in the 36th over and leaving the RSME lower-order batsmen struggling to meet a run-rate of nine an over.

Stringent bowling prevented the unlikely and, despite conceding 35 extras, PWRR were crowned Army champions – albeit by a slender 19-run margin.

The battalion will be reluctant to cut these family ties.



Line and length: LCpl Jim Nolan (47 AD Sqn) attempts to skittle 14 GEO Sqn's Cpl Dave Brown

SHORTS

Board with skiing?

THE 2002 Army snowboarding championships will be held between January 21 and 26 at Neustift, Austria. Open to boarders of all abilities, the competition will feature slalom, giant slalom and border cross events.

For more information contact Lt Alex Benn by post at 21 Engineer Regiment, Quebec Barracks, BFPO 36 or by calling 94866 2338.

Front runner rewarded

TOP orienteer WO1 Dave Rollins has been awarded the coveted title of RLC sportsman of the year.

The accolade crowns a successful season for Rollins who represented England home and abroad, and took first place in the Inter-Services individual championships. It also recognises his work coaching and promoting orienteering at unit, corps, Army and national levels.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to October...

ATHLETICS: 3 – 4 Div cross-country league race (Canterbury); 21 – Amsterdam Marathon (Amsterdam).

FOOTBALL: 3 – Army six-a-side finals (Aldershot); 5 – Infantry v APTC (Pirbright); AAC v RA (Middle Wallop); AMS v RE (Keogh Barracks, Mytchett); 7 – TA trials (London); 8 – Army v HM Prison Service (Aldershot); 12 – R Signals v RLC (Blandford); AMS women v R Signals women (Keogh Barracks, Mytchett); 14 – TA trials (Northern Ireland); 15 – REME v RAF Strike Command (Arborfield); 16 – Army development team v Dorset (Aldershot); 19 – AGC v AAC (Worthy Down); R Signals v RAF PTC (Blandford); RAC v Infantry (Tidworth); APTC v RE (Denison Barracks, Hermitage); Int Corps women v RLC (Chicksands); 21 – TA trials (Wales); 22 – Metropolitan Police v Army (Imber Court); 26 – REME v Int Corps (Arborfield); 28 – Army Crusaders v TA (Aldershot); 31 – Amateur Football Alliance v Army (TBA).

HOCKEY: 24-25 – Inter-corps indoor championships (Larkhill).

MARTIAL ARTS: 22-26 – Training courses (Bulford).

ORIENTEERING: 31 – Race meeting (Joint Service Command and Staff College, Shrivenham).

ROUNDERS: 1-7 – Army tour of Cyprus.

SPORTS DAY: 17 – GOC London District inter-unit championships (various).

SWIMMING: 13 – ACF national championships (RMAS).

**NO WIN
NO FEE**

* This scheme is available for all accident except claims against the MoD

INJURED? Compensation?

ToPaS CAN HELP!

ToPaS, is a new 'no win, no fee' legal service providing a personal injury accident claims facility, at no expense, to MoD personnel nationwide.

For decades our caring professional team has recovered millions of pounds annually for victims of every type of accident.

We handle minor to catastrophic injuries.

CONTACT THE SOLICITORS WHO SPECIALISE
IN PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENT CLAIMS



0161 832 6131

E-mail ToPaS@beteshfox.co.uk

Websites www.ToPaS.org.uk

www.beteshfox.co.uk

Members of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel
and the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers



OFFICIAL MoD
SCHEME
(DCI GEN 273)

NISSAN

Nissan Export



**Primera Activ 1.8
16V 5 door**

£8995
tax free OTR

- climate control
- alloys
- driver & passenger airbags
- remote central locking



**Almera Activ 1.5
16V 3 door**

£6995
tax free OTR

- air conditioning
- central locking
- CD player
- electric front windows
- drivers/passenger airbags
- power steering

Europe's Official Supplier of
Tax Free Nissan to HM Forces

call **01257 240617**

Zippo Lighters with your crest Minimum order 50



For full details complete the coupon below and send to:

**ZIPPO UK LTD. UNIT 27,
Grand Union Centre, 336B Ladbrooke Grove, London W10 5AS**
Tel: 020 8964 0666 Fax: 020 8968 0400

Please send me full details about how to obtain Zippo lighters
with my Regimental crest

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Your friendly, affordable London Club



- FREE MEMBERSHIP to serving personnel
- Close by Marble Arch & Oxford Street
- Affordable room rates • Choice of restaurants & bars
- Concessionary NCP Car Park rates • Function rooms for dinners, receptions, reunions & private parties

For information & reservations contact us at:
THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB
63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF

Tel 020 7723 4474

Fax 020 7402 9496

For Enquiries email: info@vsc.co.uk



*The friendliest
welcome in the armed
forces world*

Ringling the changes

Switch in personnel at Maida Gymnasium

AFTER three years of unrivalled success, SSgt Neil McCallum's tenure as Army boxing coach has come to an end, **writes Andy Simms.**

McCallum, who leaves behind a job he describes as "the best in the British Army" to further his military career, will be a tough act to follow.

During his reign at Aldershot's Maida Gymnasium he rejuvenated an ageing squad, replacing senior internationals with an influx of promising youngsters.

"When I took over the team in 1998 from WO2 Eddy Edwards (APTC) I inherited a dead team," said McCallum.

"Having a team full of old internationals is all well and good but what happens when their time comes to hang up their gloves?"

"I wanted to develop the younger boxers, the future champions."

His "investment in the future" has paid dividends, harvesting three Combined Services championships and producing seven new international squad members and 14 ABA champions.

One established international who sur-

vived and continued to flourish under McCallum's new regime was Commonwealth Games gold medallist Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC).

And McCallum cites working alongside the six-times ABA champion as one of the many highlights of his time as Army coach.

"Coaching Chris Bessey has been a real pleasure. He is phenomenal, absolutely phenomenal – a one in a million sportsman," he said.

"Even though he has achieved so much in boxing he still puts complete trust in his coach. It gives you a great feeling inside knowing that someone of his stature is willing to listen and act on your advice."

And despite relinquishing responsibility of the Army team there will still be plenty of other fighters turning to the former England international for direction.

McCallum is set to remain as Combined Services coach and will continue to assist England boss Ian Irwin in training the national squad.

"My ultimate aim is to become a national coach. And that is not a pipe dream, I think it can become a reality," he told *Soldier*.

But whatever the future holds McCallum already has much to be proud of. A sentiment not lost on the outgoing Army coach.

"The team I am leaving behind is the best amateur club in this country," he said. "That is something we proved last season when we won 28 of the 31 team shows we fought in."

The responsibility of continuing this rich vein of form now rests on the shoulders of Sgt Vinny Powell.

And the Welshman – who was recommended for the post by his predecessor – has all the credentials to do exactly that.

Powell is from good boxing stock. The son of a professional fighter, he spent the majority of his childhood in and around boxing gyms familiarising himself with the noble art and entering the ring for the first time at the tender age of 11.

But despite winning a handful of youth and schoolboy championships Powell chose not to follow in the footsteps of his father and resisted the temptation to turn pro.

"I was offered a professional contract at the age of 17 but I thought that I was too smart to become a boxer and joined the Army instead," explained the 31-year-old. "I sometimes wonder whether I could have made a name for myself in the professional ranks but boxers have a



Out: SSgt Neil McCallum stands down as coach

short shelf-life and it's a tough old business."

Determined that Powell would at least make a name for himself on the amateur circuit, former Army coach Micky Gannon invited the quick-footed lightweight to train with the Army team in Aldershot in 1992. It was a residency that lasted six years.

In the ring Powell amassed three Welsh ABA titles and represented Great Britain at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur before hanging up his gloves in 1999 at the age of 28.

"I retired because I knew that I had reached my potential," he said. "But I still love being involved with the sport and welcomed the opportunity to come back to Aldershot as Army coach."

And if Powell's unbridled enthusiasm is anything to go by he will have few problems emulating the fortunes of the outgoing coach.

"My main concern is to keep the Combined Services title under wraps and with what I've already seen from the squad we are going to do that," he proclaimed. "After that I want people in the ABA finals, I want people with their national vests on and I want people winning the four nations championships."



In: The new man at the helm, Sgt Vinny Powell

ARRESTED? ON A CHARGE?

As a soldier you will know who you want stood by you if the going gets tough.

But what happens when you are charged with an offence, colleagues distance themselves and you feel on your own against the might of the military machine?

PHONE FARLEYS SOLICITORS AND WE WILL STAND BY YOU

Farleys have considerable experience in all aspects of criminal law.

24 hour emergency line
01254 52552

Telephone: 01254 606060
Facsimile: 01254 693941

Email: info@farleys.com
Website: www.farleys.com



SPECIAL SOLDIER OFFER!

Now you can give to
your friends,
as well as to the ABF.

Attention! If you've ever been stuck for a gift idea, ABF Despatches is for you. Inside our catalogue you'll find everything from map cases and waterproof socks to hobby horses and hampers. Every gift you buy also helps the ABF – so, look out for it or contact us for your own free copy.

First ten to respond will receive a Cuddly Combat Teddy worth £12.50!



**ARMY
BENEVOLENT
FUND**

SUPPORTING THE BEST

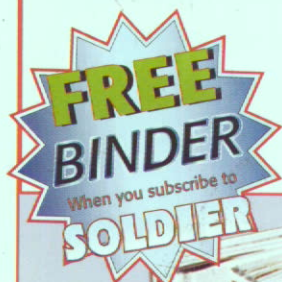
Tel: 01285 713466

e-mail: amandag.abf@rafbfe.co.uk

ABF Despatches, Douglas Bader House, Royal Air Force, Fairford, Gloucestershire, GL7 4DL

The ABF is the Army's national charity and is committed to the welfare of Army and ex-Army personnel and their families. (Registered Charity No. 211645)

Subscribe and save!



- Save cash when you subscribe today
- **FREE** postage
- **FREE** binder



UK:	
(12 issues)	£23.00
(24 issues)	£40.00
Overseas:	
(12 issues)	£32.20
(24 issues)	£60.00
BFPO:	
(12 issues)	£13.80

I would like to subscribe to **SOLDIER** for: ☐ One year ☐ Two years

Please start my subscription with the issue.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

I enclose a cheque/PO payable to **SOLDIER** for:
Return to Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU



Credit card hotline: 01252 347353
Now order on www.soldiermagazine.co.uk



Walking with giants

Mick transfers from RMP to Pompey

HE MAY have been out of the Army for only a few years, but already Mick Coleman has enjoyed second and third careers rubbing shoulders with royalty, film stars and top footballers, **writes Chris Horrocks.**

Since leaving the Royal Military Police he has worked as a bodyguard for the Brunei royal family – followed by stints “looking after” Tom Cruise and Leonardo Di Caprio.

Now, after a successful civilian career-switch to join the security staff at Chelsea Football Club, he has passed another career milestone by moving to Portsmouth, a club he supported as a boy when his father was based there with the Royal Navy.

And at the age of 36 he believes he is the youngest football stadium manager in the League, working at a Division One club he describes as a “sleeping giant”.

Talking of giants, when he left the Army as a sergeant in 1996 after serving in the Falklands, Germany and Northern Ireland, 6ft 3in, 15st Mick (“I’m now a few stone heavier”) was, like many ex-RMPs, well suited to close-protection work.

However, nothing in his RMP career could have prepared him for the challenge of keeping voracious fans at bay when Leonardo Di Caprio was filming *The Man in the Iron Mask* in Paris.

“That was interesting – I spent some time on the film set and then wandering around Paris with him at night-time, seeing just how popular he was.

“I also looked after Tom Cruise for a few weeks when he was making a film in this country.”

But these were freelance jobs – and the uncertainty of that work after the stability of the Army and three years as a bodyguard for a member of the Brunei royal



Park life: Former RMP Mick Coleman at Portsmouth FC's Fratton Park

Picture: Mike Weston

family did not suit Mick. A more steady career beckoned.

As a former schoolboy and RMP unit footballer and Tottenham fan he relished the chance to join a big London club (albeit Chelsea) as a security supervisor in 1998. He was soon promoted to assistant security manager and four months later became head of security.

In June this year he stepped down a division – but up the career ladder – to become stadium manager and safety officer at Portsmouth FC, whose ambitious plans include a new state-of-the-art stadium. While that is being built, one of his jobs is to keep the present century-old Fratton Park, in his words, “in one piece”.

Other duties include liaising with the police, training all the stewards to Football League standard and generally making sure everything runs smoothly on match-days in the 19,216-capacity ground.

Despite having worked alongside celebrities and football heroes, Mick looks back on his years in the Army as the

most important time of his career – but he nearly didn't make it.

After enlisting at 17 direct into the RMP he headed for Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, for his initial training.

“It was the worst eight or nine months of my life,” he recalls. “I absolutely hated it. I found it very, very tough being away from home and physically and mentally demanding.

“Every day I asked myself if I really wanted to be doing this. But my dad would tell me on the phone: ‘For God's sake, just stick it out – if you leave, what are you going to do? You'll be known as an Army reject.’ I passed out as a lance-corporal.”

Now Mick would thoroughly recommend military life to anyone. “I owe everything to the Army for preparing me for my future career,” he said. “It gave me confidence, as well as useful background qualifications.”

And he echoed his father when he said: “It can be tough when you first come out, but my advice is – just stick at it.”

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

CRICKET: Bath CC (145-9) lost to Army (146-6) by four wickets; Driffield (110) lost to Army (114-0) by ten wickets; Kent 2nd XI (240-7) beat Army (196-6) by 44 runs; Army (274-6) beat NPI select XI (120) by four wickets; Army (329-3) beat GOC 2 Div XI (182) by six wickets; Combined Services (116-9) lost to Australian Crusaders (121-3) by eight wickets.

FENCING: Inter-Services championships, men's sabre champion – Spr Martin Baldwin (39 Engr Regt). Men's epee

champion – LCpl Andy MacKenzie (HCMR). Men's foil champion – Col Iain Campbell (HQ 1 UK Armd Div).

Team championship – 1, RAF; 2 Army; 3, Navy. **Three-man trophy** – 1, HCMR (11pts); 2, RNAS Cold Rose (6pts); 3, RAF Odiham (5pts). **Six-man trophy** – 1, HMS Sultan (13pts); 2, HCMR (12pts); 3, RAF Odiham (11pts).

PARACHUTING: Joint Services parachute championships, team winners included – Hungarian Air Force

(HAF); RLC; RE; Rhine Army Parachute Association; Joint Services Parachute Centre (JSPC); REME and the Red Devils.

Individual award winners included – Capt Molnar (HAF); WO1 Antalicz (HAF), LBdr Jackson (JSPC); Pte Miller-Hall (RGBW); Pte Rooney (JSPC); Capt McPhee (RE); LCpl Ballard (AAC); Capt Orr (RE); Cpl Hoskins (RLC); Pte Montgomery (RGBW); Capt Harrison (AGC); Capt Macartney (RLC) and Sgt Paddock (RLC).

**POOL
AUTOS**
BARRY GREGORY

mazda Tax Free Sales

POOL AUTOS, 7020 Mons, Belgium
Tel: (0032) 065 728836 Fax: (0032) 065 724467

**EXCLUSIVE EXPORT AGENT FOR BFG
AND BENELUX ON BEHALF OF MAZDA**

SERVING THE FORCES SINCE 1968

- Immediate delivery on most models
- Full UK spec ● Low/no deposit finance
- Part exchange ● Continental/UK delivery

2001 TAX FREE PRICES:

- Demio from £5900 ● Premacy from £9900
- MX5 from £10595 ● 626 from £10000 ● 323 from £7900 ● MPV £12950 ● B Series from £8799

**For an information pack call Pool Autos
direct or complete the form below:**

323 ☐ 626 ☐ MX5 ☐ Demio ☐ MPV ☐
Premacy ☐ B Series ☐ Other makes ☐

Name: Rank:

Address:

.....Tel:

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE
LATEST NEWS OF THE ARMY**
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

STAND BY! STAND BY! **FREE CATALOGUE**

**WHEN YOUR JOB DEMANDS MORE!
WILL YOUR KIT MEET THE
CHALLENGE?**

**The SASS Catalogue
No 15, is **NOT** just
another kit list.**



It offers you exclusive innovative items and selected issue equipment.
Optional extras, after sales, repair service...

For your **FREE** colour catalogue, write, telephone or fax to the
following address, or send the coupon below to:

SPECIAL AIR-SEA SERVICES
St. George's Works, St. George's Quay,
Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 5QJ
Tel: 01524 64204 - Fax: 01524 844239
Email: info@sass-kit.fsbusiness.co.uk
Website: www.sass-kit.fsbusiness.co.uk

Please send me your latest catalogue:

Name:

Address:

.....Postcode: **S**

TROPHIES & AWARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION

(Golfing awards a speciality)

- Presentation awards
- Trophies & Incentives
- Plaques & Shields
- Salvers & Figurines
- Hand cut crystal
- Hole in one awards
- Engraving

Large range to suit any budget.
Discounts available.

For free 2001 colour brochure contact:

ASTER DESIGNS

P.O. Box 5755, Dept. S.M. Chelmsford, CM2 9UW

Tel: 01245 260036 Fax: 01245 260069

Email: aster.designs@dial.pipex.co.uk

Export orders welcome



DEBT PROBLEMS?

Are your outgoings more than your income?



Are your creditors threatening you with:

Court summons, **Solicitors**, Bankruptcy, **Bailiffs**,

Debt collectors, **Disconnection**, Attachment of earnings?

If you can answer yes to any of the above, then contact us
now. We provide realistic solutions for all debt problems
without the need to borrow more money.

Telephone (0044) 01329 515532

for a **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** consultation.

Or visit our website: www.wellbeingservices.co.uk

WELLBEING SERVICES

PROVIDING DEBT SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

RANGERS



PEUGEOT

MILITARY SALES



For your free information pack on how to purchase a
new Peugeot at special concession tax free and tax paid prices.

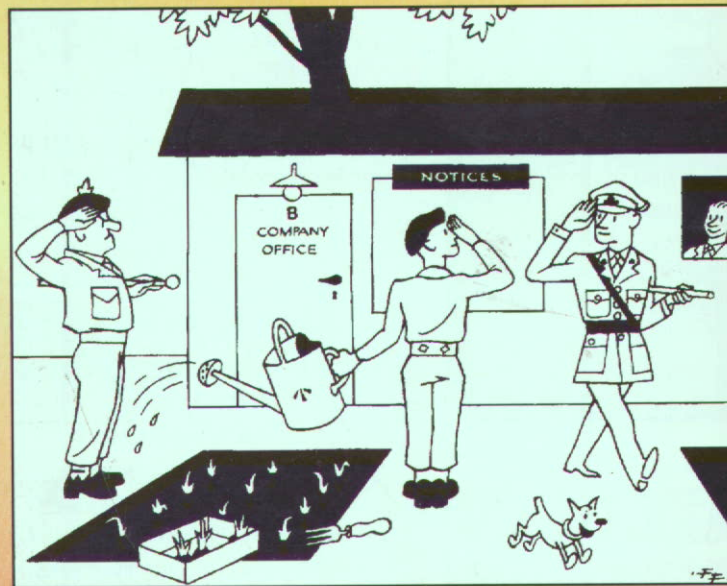
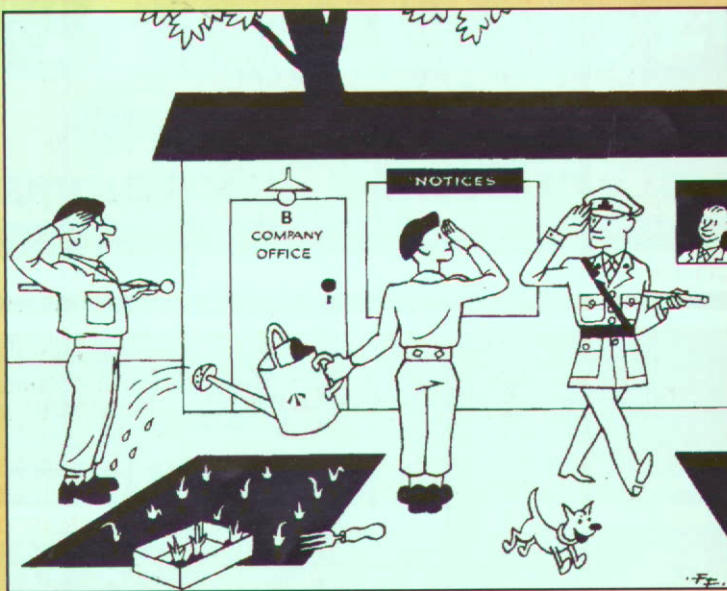
Call Colin Clubley:

Sales Hotline: 01980 653434

Fax: 01980 654256

www.peugeotmilitarysales.co.uk

No 719



How observant are you?

WIN £100!

Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 719, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by October 28.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

August competition (No 717): First correct entry drawn was from WO2 A Samuel, of HQ BFC, Episkopi, who wins £100. Runners-up LCpl Indra, Brunei Signal Troop. Medicina Lines, Brunei Garrison and LCpl M C Ashley, Medical Centre, 2 Royal Anglian, Beachley Barracks, Chepstow, receive a £10 gift voucher each. The ten differences were: rope (left); girl's flower; sergeant's hand and ribbons; commissioner's epaulette; soldier's hair, cuff, thigh pocket; D and hat on poster.



Freeze frame

"1945 chart-toppers Dreary Spice, Weary Spice and Hairy Spice step out for a photocall opportunity."

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in May 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 October 31.



FUNNIEST caption in a large and exceptionally funny entry for the August competition (left) was, in our opinion, "There was only enough fuel to rescue either the Colonel or his trusty hound from certain death . . . gosh, we're going to miss the Colonel!" from Cpl Natalie Tisdell, 174 Pro Coy RMP, Donnington.

Dog biscuits all round to SSgt D Lochrie, HQ AMF(L) for "What do you mean, you've caught a dog! We're supposed to be fly fishing";



Sgt R Bell, 721 Sy Det, Emblem, for "The Royal Navy would stop at nothing to win the Inter-Service shark fishing contest"; M Harrison, Course Design, SEME, for "No, Loadmaster, I said 'after the Ferret scout car, lift the German Leopard . . .';" Andre Chissel, Norwich, for "If he says 'cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war' one

more time, I'm jumping"; WO2 Tracey Wilkinson, J2 CCIRM, PJHQ, for "And you can stay out there until you stop messing on my floor"; Rev Neil Allison, KRH, for "No one told him about the pets' passport scheme" and Charles Golder, Bolton, for "Stand by to receive fresh meat for the Korean contingent".

SOLDIER WEB WATCH

 SERVICES
  MEDALS
  BOOKS
  CLOTHING
  MOTORING
  OPPORTUNITIES
  BUSINESS
  MUSEUMS
  HELPING HAND

Address: @ <http://www.soldiermagazine.co.uk>

>> go

SERVICES

www.armedforces.co.uk

The website for UK Defence information -
For everything you need to know about
the UK's Navy, Army & Air Force

www.jobs4you2.co.uk

PRS Computer Services - IT Solutions

www.friends.royal-engineers.co.uk

Dedicated Royal Engineers searchline

www.vimart.co.uk

The place to store your personal
history and search for lost pals

www.the-ex-forces-network.co.uk

For ex-Service personnel to maintain
contact with former friends

www.britforces.com

More fun than a CFT

www.vsc.co.uk

Victory Services Club

www.forceslaw.com

Forces Legal Network - confidential
advice

www.forcesdiscount.com

Travel, motoring, holidays, insurance,
leisure, solicitors, financial services

www.wellbeingservices.co.uk

Confidential debt advice

www.servi-tel.com

Telecoms for Service people

www.rac.co.uk

For your motoring needs

THE ESSENTIAL JOB
SEARCH & BUSINESS
DIRECTORY

THE LIST™
www.thelistuk.com

MEDALS

www.worcmedals.com

Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd

www.kanddmedals.com

Full-size and miniature medals service

BOOKS

www.empiremilitarybooks.co.uk

Specialist Military, Naval and
Aviation mail order booksellers

www.firstbookshop.com

First for book tokens online. New,
post free global service

www.helion.co.uk

14,500 military books and more!

To advertise in Soldier's
Web Directory contact:
advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk or
telephone **01252 347352**

Order Online @ WWW.
MILITARY.CO.UK
SILVERMANS

EUR LENS www.eurolenscontactlenses.com

CONTACT LENSES disposable contact lenses - on-line

Acuvue®... Focus®... Soflens®... Freshlook®... and more

FREE
SHIPPING
TO BFPO
ADDRESSES

MARKET PLACE

www.expatesentials.co.uk

The British supermarket on the web.
Free delivery to BFPO addresses for
orders over £75.00

www.ukartistsdirectory.co.uk

Artists, art holidays, art materials,
exhibitions and events

www.traser-uk.com

Traser Watches - the best for night vision

www.1stclassballoons.co.uk

Greetings for all occasions with a
'Balloon in a Box'

www.flowerssay.co.uk

Flowers say... thinking of you

www.winemessenger.co.uk

Your message in a bottle

www.eurolenscontactlenses.com

Contact lenses by mail, worldwide
delivery

www.militarymarketing.co.uk

Plaques, clocks, presentation
pieces etc

www.alix-baker-militaryart.com

Military calendar 2001, postcards,

prints, paintings, caricatures,
commissions

www.regimentalbrooches.co.uk

J M Bickerton Manufacturing Jewellers.

High class regimental brooches

www.charitycards.co.uk

Choose a card - nominate a charity

www.celebrations-4u.com

Greetings cards to UK from £1.25

www.clothingembroidered.co.uk

e-mail: enquiries@hargreaves-promotions.co.uk

tel: 023 9282 2436

Free carriage on orders over £500 exc vat for UK & BFPO

10 working day despatch service - allow 3-5 days for new designs

GUARANTEED ARMED FORCES DISCOUNT PRICES on all orders greater than 12

CLOTHING & KIT

www.militarykit.com

Military clothing, footwear and
equipment for the professionals

www.sass-kit.fsbusiness.co.uk

Not just another kit list!

www.jenkins-wear.co.uk

Tees, polos, sweatshirts & more

www.goldings.co.uk

Military tailoring

www.ensignmotifs.co.uk

Embroidered and printed goods

www.bananamoon.co.uk

Embroidered leisurewear

www.armexlimited.co.uk

Armex Direct Surplus Limited

www.armyandoutdoor.co.uk

Premier kit shop in the north west for

Cadets/TA/Servicemen extras

www.stringtownsupplies.co.uk

Military, survival and replica weaponry
catalogues

REGIMENTAL SITES

www.farmerboys.com

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal
Regimental information site

www.fog.uk.com

The affinity group for officers and
senior NCOs

www.dfor.co.uk

The online home of the British Forces

www.army-rlc.co.uk

Website for the Royal Logistic Corps

www.61sqn.co.uk

The website for ex or serving members
of 61 Field Support Squadron RE

www.recc.org.uk

The website for the Royal Engineers
Canoe Club

www.army-medic.org.uk

Current issues, up-to-date news and
keep in touch with serving and ex
AMS members

OPPORTUNITIES & BUSINESS

www.armycadets.com

ACF leaders wanted

www.milcvts.co.uk

CV company run by former Army officer

www.world-challenge.co.uk

Qualified and experienced expedition
leaders required

MOTORING

www.natocars.co.uk

For people who drive a great deal!

www.emctaxfree.com

Europe's largest tax-free specialist

www.endex-spain.com

RETIRING? RETIRED?

Find a new and better life in the sun
with specialist home finders Kev & Sue Butler
kev@endex-spain.com

HELPING HANDS

www.wrvs.org.uk

Supporting thousands of young single
soldiers in the British Army. Offering a
listening ear & practical help 24 hrs a day

www.blesma.org

National charity for limbless and ex-
Service men and women, their
dependants and widows

traser
Watches
www.traser-uk.com

The best for night vision
Don't be left in the dark!
Come and see our
military products at...
www.traser-uk.com

WORLDWIDE SUPPLIERS OF
GUARANTEED USED
MOTORCYCLE SPARES

121
A 121 SERVICE TO
MEET ALL YOUR
REQUIREMENTS
www.121motorcyclespares.com

LOST OR NEW MEDALS

Full size & miniature supplied
Professionally mounted
Hand-sewn ... not glued

K&D Medals

33 The Crescent, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0HB
Tel: 020 8777 2428
kanddmedals@aol.com

don't send flowers...

SEND r*fur

...and your message will last forever

love you, miss you, happy birthday, happy anniversary, congratulations...
let r*fur deliver your personal message, tucked safely inside his rucksack,
with massive style and impact, whatever the occasion...

TO SEND R*FUR (secure online ordering)
www.sendrfur.com

OR CALL (lines open 24 hours)
0870 755 7387

ONLY
£35*



*Includes Royal Mail First Class Post. Special Delivery & overseas destinations available at extra cost.

approx 20cm tall ** © Be Bear Designs 2001 - all rights reserved.

FORCES DISCOUNT.COM

Save £'s £'s £'s £'s

Travel * Motoring
Holidays * Insurance
Leisure * Solicitors
Financial Services
FREE MOBILE PHONE
OFFER
Click on
www.forcesdiscount.com



Gorkha Treks UK

NEPAL - TIBET - BUTAN

Planning a Unit expedition or just
an adventure holiday in NEPAL.
Gorkha treks can offer you
a full trekking package
12 years experience with trekking
groups from the MOD(A).
We provide an excellent service with
discount prices to the Forces.
TREKS, CLIMBING, RAFTING,
MOUNTAIN BIKING, JUNGLE SAFARIS
For details and full brochure Tel: 01782 257914 or
email: gorkhatreks@unitiedkingdom99.fs.business.co.uk
Visit our website: www.gorkha-treks.com

EMBROIDERED

SWEATERS SWEATSHIRTS
POLO SHIRTS BADGES

PRINTED

TEESHIRTS SWEATSHIRTS
BADGES COFFEE MUGS

AND LOTS MORE! ALL FROM ONE SUPPLIER
No artwork or setting-up costs on the majority of
our goods. High quality, competitive prices and
prompt delivery. BFPO tax-free service.
Send for our new price list:
REYNOLDS SPORTS
51/52 HIGH STREET, LINCOLN LN5 8AP
Tel: 01522 513333 Fax: 01522 530383

CARICATURES

by Rick

Singles, doubles groups or the
whole Mess.
Ask for samples and prices



Also
ON-THE-SPOT
Quick fun caricatures
at your event

Over 60 Mess Cartoons to date
GET THE BEST
01707 658 853

email: rick@caricature.co.uk website: www.caricature.co.uk

THE GOLD WIRE BADGE COMPANY

GOLD WIRE BLAZER BADGE	£11.00
FAIRBAIRN-SYKES COMMANDO KNIVES (Black)	
WITH LEG/BELT SHEATH	£23.50
BERETS: RED, GREEN, NAVY, BLACK, SAS, LIGHT	
INFANTRY DRAWCORD LEATHER HEADBAND	£7.00
GOLD DRESS CORDS FOR STD	£15.00
REGIMENTAL TIES & BOWS	£10.50
WHITE LEATHER GAUNTLETS	£22.00
WHITE COTTON GLOVES	£4.00
WHITE COTTON MASONIC GLOVES	£5.50
LEATHER STANDARD CARRIERS	£25.00
LEATHER STANDARD CARRIERS (made to measure)	£30.00
STANDARD CARRYING CASE	£30.00
PARACHUTE REGT STANDARD CARRIERS WITH ALL ELEVEN BATTLE HONOURS	£35.00
PARA REGT BLAZER BUTTONS ENGRAVED CAP BADGE	SMALL £1.50 LARGE £1.60
PACE STICKS	£60.00
SWAGGER STICKS, CHROME & BLACK	£11.00
LAPEL BADGES: AIRBORNE ARTILLERY	£2.00
RA GREEN BERET	£2.00
PARA RED BERET	£2.00
PARA CAP BADGE	£1.30
PEGASUS 1942-1999 COMMEMORATIVE LAPEL BADGE	£2.00
YOUR CAR NUMBER PLATE WITH AIRBORNE OR ROYAL MARINES BADGE	£20.30
CAR GRILLE BADGE PARA REGIMENT OR ROYAL MARINES	£12.00

One off BLAZER BADGES a speciality at no extra charge. SEND FOR FREE LISTS
11 Dalehead Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs OL2 8JT.
Telephone/Fax: 01706 846648
E-Mail: sales@thegoldwirebadge.co.uk
www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk

TIES, BADGES & PLAQUES

by Mail Order

REGIMENTS,
SHIPS,
SQUADRONS
Clubs & Reunion Associations.
Blazer buttons, medals, ribbons, etc.
SAE appreciated

The Heraldic Co (GB), Dept S
Overbriar, Beechwell Lane, Edge
End, Coleford, Glos GL16 7HA
Tel/Fax: 01594 832200 (8am/10pm)

Name Tapes £3.95 for 72

Woven up to 30 letters/spaces - Choice of BLACK RED or NAVY lettering on White 100% Polyester

www.able-labels.co.uk

1000 self-stick labels	Black on White	£4.75
Name, Address, ☎ or any words up to 6 lines	Black on Yellow Orange, Red Blue, Green	
Gold or Silver	Black on Clear	
£5.25	£6.45	£6.30

PERSONALISED PRODUCTS SINCE 1954
Luggage Strap £6.95 (2 or more £6 each)
100 Correspondence Cards £10.95
240 Piece Stationery Set £14.95
Self-Inking Printer only £7.95
100 Personalised Golf Tees £8.75

UK prices include Post/VAT. Delivery Payment with order please. 14 days

Able-Direct Centre Ltd - Dept SO
Earls Barton - Northampton NN6 0LS
☎ 0870 444 2733 - Fax 0870 444 2766

EPAULETTE SLIDES

For officers or other ranks.
With or without unit designation.
also

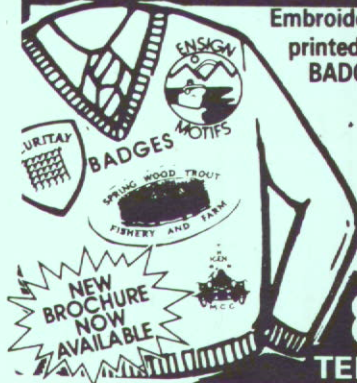
DRAB NAME TAPES (in sets of six)

Any quantity supplied
S.A.E. for price list

Lancashire
Embroidery
& Insignia Ltd
Knowsley Industrial
Park North, Kirkby,
Liverpool L33 7SA.
Phone: 0151-546 5161
Fax: 0151-549 1128

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR & BADGES Plus PRINTED T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

Embroidered garments - Free original 24+ printed sweats and T-shirts, min. qty. 36
BADGES-EMBROIDERED - min. qty. 25
ENAMELLED - min. 100
BLAZER BADGES - min. 5
TIES - Woven - min. 50
Printed - min. 36
Also - BASEBALL CAPS - min. 50
SPORTS BAGS - min. 50
GOLF UMBRELLAS - min. 25



Ensign
MOTIFS

WRITE, PHONE or FAX for colour brochure
to Kilcreggan, Dunbartonshire G84 0JN
www.ensignmotifs.co.uk

TEL: 0143684 2581/2716; FAX: 0143684 2854

WORCESTERSHIRE MEDAL SERVICE LTD
56 Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove B61 8LL
Tel: (01527) 835375 or Fax (01527) 576798

Specialists in Ribbons, Full Size & Miniature Medals
and Medal Mounting either for wear or display.

Medals professionally mounted to the highest standards
Two day service on most mounting work
We have over 20 years experience and pride ourselves
on the quality and efficiency of our service

Send SAE, phone or email us for a copy of our comprehensive sales catalogue
See our website for full details of all our services.

"Secure on-line ordering on our website"

www.worcmedals.com Email: wms@worcmedals.com

Credit card orders accepted



VISTA SPORTS

Suppliers of Sweatshirts, Polo Shirts, T/Shirts Hooded Sweatshirts, Rugby Jerseys, Baseball Caps and many other items. All can be printed or embroidered. Send for a free colour catalogue and price list.



VISTA SPORTS LTD
28 HIGH STREET
MERSTHAM
SURREY RH1 3EA
Tel: 01737 645113
Fax: 01737 645892

EPAULETTE SLIDES

(All ranks)

With/without sub-titles.
Most units available

Trade Badges,
Formation Patches,
Wings, D/Z Flashes.

SEND SAE FOR PRICE LIST TO:



PO BOX 12, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT PO30 4QL



DIAMOND
SUN RESORTS

Buy your own ideal holiday
or retirement home
in the sun

on the Costa Blanca, Costa
del Sol, the Algarve & Cyprus

Choice of new and resale freehold
apartments, villas & bungalows.
Individual visits arranged

Buy NOW while the £ is strong!

Call 01625 613 681

Marlborough Court, Pickford St,
Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6JD
e-mail: properties@diamondsunresorts.com
agents for ATOL Holders

SUPPLIER OF ALL INCLUSIVE EMBROIDERY
AND PRINTING



Tee-Shirts- Sweatshirts-Polos
Hooded Sweatshirts-Fleece Jackets
Base Ball Hats

Details from
Nottingham Screen Prints, 10, Park Road,
Woodthorpe, Nottingham. NG5 4HR

Tel: 0115 9678262 Fax: 0115 9263599

E Mail: nottmstp@tesco.net

MICHAEL JAY
Exclusive HAND CUT
TAILORING

Our unbeatable
MESS DRESS
offer

INCLUDES

- ✓ 14 day Make or
- ✓ 48 hr EXPRESS
- ✓ Lowest prices
- ✓ Best fit
- ✓ Highest quality
- ✓ Best payment terms



Local agent to measure in most areas

Tel: 01449 614602 Fax: 01449 614604

As our customers say
The service is simply unbeatable

5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK IP14 5AY

Notice to Investors

The following rate of interest applied from midnight Thursday 9th August 2001.

CLOSED ISSUE

Skipton Services Home Savings Scheme	PREVIOUS GROSS P.A./AER	NEW GROSS P.A./AER	NEW NET P.A.
	5.50%	5.25%	4.20%

Interest will be paid or credited after deduction of income tax at the lower rate of 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross. AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and added each year.

Principal Office, The Bailey, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1DN
Telephone: 01756 705034 www.skipton.co.uk

A member of the Building Societies Association



EMBROIDERED & PRINTED SPORTS & LEISURE WEAR

TEES POLOS SWEATSHIRTS SWEATERS TIES



RUGBY JERSEYS CAPS.....& MUCH MORE

FULL DESIGN AND PERSONALISED SERVICE
FOR QUALITY WEAR - SEND FOR OUR PRICE LIST

JENKINS KNITWEAR

57 Woodbank Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2QW

Tel or Fax 0115 928 3628

E-mail: sales@jenkins-wear.co.uk

www.jenkins-wear.co.uk

BEST NEW-CAR DISCOUNTS
Advanced Car Exports
Established 1979

www.advancedcarexports.com

12 Whitehall, Lidlinton, Beds. MK43 0RS



For the very best deals
Call: (UK) 01525 406 206
Fax: 01525 403 999

PHOENIX WORLD

A full range of pewter and
"cold cast bronze" figurines to
suit your needs.

COMMISSIONS ACCEPTED

Send crossed Cheque/P.O. with order
or S.A.E. for Brochure.



"Cold cast bronze"
MR115
(approx 25cm)
£58.75 incl.

PHOENIX WORLD REPRODUCTIONS

437 Valley Drive, Gravesend,
Kent DA12 5UE.

Tel: Gravesend (01474) 365511.
Fax: (01474) 537166.

TAX FREE

* BIG SAVINGS UK TAX PAID TOO!

ALL
POPULAR
MAKES
SUPPLIED

To get the very best all-round package
just call the SCE Information line - now!

(UK) 01367 - 710333

OR WRITE TO US AT: SCE LTD, PO BOX 177,
FARINGDON, OXON, UK, SN7 7EW

SCE
auto international

www.messdress.com

MAIL ORDER OFFER



* RE, R Sig, RAMC, REME, RA, Guards Div, Paras,
Kings, Queens, AAC, Cheshire, KORBR

£365 (inc VAT, rank, shirt & tie) + p&p

£294 (excl VAT, inc rank, shirt & tie) + p&p

* RLC/AGC, D&D, Staffords

£345 (inc VAT & rank) + p&p

£311 (excl VAT, inc rank) + p&p

* George boots £75 inc p&p

* GSM NI, Gulf, KFOR, ACSM, IFOR, UN Bosnia

loose medals £6 or £10 (court mounted) + p&p

* RMP Collar Badges £7 (a pair) incl p&p

* AGC Collar Badges £8.50 (a pair) incl p&p

MADE-TO-MEASURE TAILORING

85 STEWART ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH BH8 8NZ

Tel: 01202 302846 Fax: 01202 383874

Email: sales@messdress.com

Visit our website for secure online shopping

MOFFATS SCHOOL

for BOYS & GIRLS 4 to 13

A happy family school in beautiful countryside
on the SHROPSHIRE/WORCESTERSHIRE border
proud of our long association with Service families

- Most of our pupils are full boarders
- Small classes; high all-round achievement without stress
- Expert help and support for dyslexia and other special needs
- Classwork balanced by many activities incl. music, art & drama
- All games and riding taught in our 100-acre grounds
- Our own escorts to and from major stations and all UK airports
- Hospitality and fun for children in half-terms and exeat
- Affordable fees for Service personnel

Kinlet Hall
Nr Bewdley
Worcs DY12 3AY

Tel: (01299) 841230



COSTELLO

Civil & Military Bespoke Tailors



LADIES & GENTS MESS KIT SPECIALISTS

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

For All Your Uniform, Suit, Blazer and Accessories Contact:

UK: 020 8478 2780 GERMANY: 05252 4631

UK: 284-294 Ley Street, Ilford Essex IG1 4BS

BODYGUARD TRAINING

For 15 years we have been at the forefront of the Close Protection Industry. We need men & women to train for a new and exciting career. Apply for our free information pack today.

01372 726252

www.excelsecurity.co.uk

The Coach House West Street Epsom KT18 7RL

REGIMENTAL BROOCHES

DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS



Light Infantry
9ct gold £140

Many regiments' gold brooches in stock
Commissions for that special item undertaken
SUPERB DIAMOND-SET BROOCHES MADE TO ORDER

J.M.BICKERTON

Manufacturing Jewellers

23 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LE

For List & Quote Tel/Fax:- 0121 551 7366

Callers at our showroom welcome

HIGH QUALITY ASSURED

E-mail jmb@regimentalbrooches.co.uk

Visit our website www.regimentalbrooches.co.uk

LOST YOUR MEDALS?

**WE CAN REPLACE THEM
FULL SIZE & MINIATURES
PROFESSIONALLY SEWN**

IN COURT OR SWING STYLE. SAE OR PHONE FOR QUOTE

TOAD HALL MEDALS, NEWTON FERRERS, Nr PLYMOUTH, DEVON PL8 1DH

Tel: 01752 872672 Fax: 01752 872723

E-mail: chrissy@toadhallmedals.com www.toadhallmedals.com

Joy's Roses & Flowers A GIFT OF LOVE

Flowers for all occasions. Not just Christmas/Valentines day/Mother's day.
But for anniversaries, congratulations, births and birthdays
Flowers sent to any address in the UK & NI

SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IS WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU

BOUQUET - RED ROSES or PINK or YELLOW or WHITE or MIXED + GYPS (12 Blooms)	£13.85
BOUQUET - RED ROSES or PINK or YELLOW or WHITE or MIXED + GYPS (24 Blooms)	£18.50
BOUQUET - FREESIA & FERNS (40 Blooms)	£14.75
BOUQUET - DE LUXE MIXED FLOWERS (50 Blooms)	£20.00
BOUQUET - DE LUXE MIXED FLOWERS + FERNS + GYPS (30 Blooms)	£17.50
BOUQUET - CARNATIONS MIXED or RED/YELLOW/PINK/WHITE + GYPS (30 Blooms)	£17.50
BOUQUETS - MIXED FLOWERS RANGE FROM £11.50 to £20.00	

HOTLINE: 01481 246708

ALL C/Cs ACCEPTED (Please include start date, exp date, issue number).
CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO:

Joy's Roses & Flowers, Flamingo,
St Sampsons, Guernsey, C.I. GY2 4WB
Telephone: (01481) 246708 Fax: (01481) 243406




UNIFORMAL
MESS KITS

*The Highest Quality and Value for Money
in Military Tailoring for Over 30 Years'*

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

UK: TEL: 0113 282 6102 FAX: 0113 282 1457

VAN DUNGIE HOUSE
MEYNELL AVENUE, ROTHWELL, LEEDS LS26 0NU

FREEPHONE: 0800 9803551

Forces and Ex-Service Personnel WOUNDS? DISEASES? INJURIES? CAUSED BY SERVICE

**ALSO INDUSTRIAL INJURIES, DISEASE
AND PERSONAL ACCIDENT CLAIMS**

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO

COMPENSATION

CALL THE CLAIMS SPECIALISTS!

FREEPHONE

0500 22 20 22 NOW!

THORN COMPENSATION SERVICES LTD MARSH HOUSE, 92A
MARSHLAND ROAD, MOORENDS, DONCASTER, DN8 4SZ.

The Eastern Service Medal



This superb die-struck commemorative medal is available in full size and miniature to all who served in Near, Middle and Far East.
Send s.a.e. for your application form today.
DPS Awards, P. O. Box 6961, Bromsgrove B61 8LA

Commemorative medals are not official but may be obtained as a souvenir/keepsake. They should not be worn by serving personnel with/alongside British official decorations/ medals/honours.

COLD WAR VICTORY MEDAL



For application form, send a S.A.E to:
SERVICE COMMEMORATIVES
P.O.Box 4, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3ZT

MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICES

Miniature medals supplied and mounted from £10.00 + p&p
Full size medals mounted from £3.50 each + p&p
ALL MEDALS MOUNTED PROFESSIONALLY NOT GLUED

TEL: 07786073060
7 NICHOLLS WALK, WINDSOR SL4 4YA

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR

Wide range of quality garments. Low minimum order.
Full colour brochure. Caps & Printed garments supplied
Free embroidery proof. No origination charge.
Embroidered Polos from £6.00ea, Sweats £8.00ea, T-shirts £4.50ea.

Banana Moon Workshop

48, Old Lane, Birkenshaw, Bradford BD11 2JX Tel: 01274 688103 Fax: 01274 652524
www.bananamoon.co.uk

WORK FROM HOME
IN ANY OF 51 COUNTRIES
FULL OR PART TIME
VISIT THIS WEBSITE

www.gprmarketing.com

OR RING +44 (0) 207 6649082

YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID

To advertise in
Soldier's Web
Watch contact:

advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk

or telephone

01252 347352



UNIFORMS

MADE TO MEASURE

OR's and Officers Mess Dress
OR's and Officers No. 2 Dress
OR's and Officers No.1 Dress
British Warm Overcoats
S.B. Blazers
Regimental D.B. Blazers
Sports Jackets and Trousers
Dinner Suits
Lounge Suits

48Hr. or 2Week Make up

Michael Jay Tailoring

5 TOMO BUSINESS PARK, STOWMARKET
SUFFOLK IP14 5AY
TEL:01449 614602 FAX:01449 614604

VISTA TIES

are Tie Manufacturers and can supply your existing tie or design you a new one.
Please send us a picture of your badge or cypher and we will post a free coloured visual with a quotation.....OVER 300 DIFFERENT REGIMENTAL TIES IN STOCK



Tel:01737 645113 Fax:01737 645892

Military Marketing International

Suppliers of Plaques, Clocks and other presentation pieces
Also T-shirts, sweatshirts, baseball caps, etc.

In good company with most Regiments and Corps of the British Army, we made your Shields for the Falklands, the Gulf and now Bosnia and Croatia and most other UN locations.
Let us design you Regiments and Operational Shields.

Write for a full colour brochure:

74-77 STEWARD STREET,
SPRING HILL,
LADYWOOD, BIRMINGHAM
B18 7AF

Telephone/fax : 0121 454 5393

Email: mmisales@militarymarketing.co.uk

Website: militarymarketing.co.uk

Minimum order 25 shields - £11.95.

No VAT outside the UK. Shieldclocks - £19.00



BODYGUARDS

HIGH-RISK TRAINING



for the Real World of Close Protection requires a Serious Commitment but offers Substantial Rewards!

All Courses are taught and overseen by Specialist Instructors, are Fully Certified, require NO previous experience and will provide all Students with the Specialist Skills and Knowledge demanded and required to successfully enter the CP Industry.

For a FREE Information Pack Tel: 0207-644-3075 (24 hrs) or Write to:
The Elite Dept (S), P.O. Box 2112, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 1QY U.K.



OLD ALBION
PO BOX 24189
LONDON SW18 4WY
TEL: 07957 151706

OLD ALBION, 71 Knowles House, 7 Neville Gill Close, Wandsworth, SW18 4BP

Old Albion proudly presents 5 new bath towel designs. 100% cotton, 28 x 50 inches (bath towel size) and are

woven not printed

Simply phone for more information or send a cheque or postal order to our address, making it payable to:

OLD ALBION

£10

+£2 p&p (UK) each

Email: saintgeorge@cwcom.net
Website: stgeorge.cwc.net

PEN PALS

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL

Please send for details enclosing a stamped, SAE to:

Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

Or visit **Soldier Magazine** online at:
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Email: **hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk**
All pen pal adverts must be prepaid

PEN PAL REPLIES:

To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to address below:

Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

* The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies.

* Replies should consist only of letter and photograph if requested.

* Replies received more than three months after the cover date, large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

Website: **www.soldiermagazine.co.uk**
Email: **hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk**

Donna, 36-year-old, 5'1" brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys music, reading, meeting people and children. Seeking Paras or Remes, 30-45 P941

Mike, 21-year-old, 5'10" brown hair and blue eyes. Interests include motorbikes but also enjoys football, going to pubs, clubs, playing rugby and using weights in the gym. Seeking pen pals, 18-30, photos if possible. P942

Louise, 33 in dog years, feel older, look younger probably act about 20. Enjoy Scuba diving, playing guitar, reading, swimming, travel and motorbikes. Single, seeking new friends male or female to share life's ups and downs, 25-40. P943

Bev, 35-year-old, 5'8" slim with short blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys music, pubs, eating out, sport, reading, cinema and writing letters. Single mum seeking genuine replies only, 30+. P944

Catherine, 29-year-old, 5'4" long blonde hair and blue eyes. Single mum of two. Good sense of humour and down to earth. Enjoys pubs, nights out, videos, cinema, family life and having a laugh. Seeking pen pals over 25 with similar interests, location irrelevant. P945

Heather, 19-year-old, 5'10" long brown hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys clubbing, rugby, music, keeping fit and having fun. Seeking pen pals 19-35. P946

Aimy, 5'3", said to be attractive with long dark blonde hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys outdoor activities, keeping fit, travelling, motor bikes and all types of socialising. Would love to have friends in the Army to write to, any age group. P947

Anna, 5'3", pretty with hazel eyes. Enjoys socialising, going to the gym, motor bikes and just having fun. Recently been working with soldiers and would like to make friends with some more, any age group. P948

Trish, 36-year-old, 5'9", blonde hair and turquoise eyes. Enjoys socialising, music, reading, history, cooking and DIY. Single with 5-year-old son. Would like to write to similar fun loving guys with good sense of humour and outgoing, 30-40. P949

Kay, 37-year-old, 5'2", slim build with blonde shoulder length hair and green eyes. Enjoys socialising, travelling, driving (on or off road), music, mad impulsive life, concerts and the cinema. Seeking pen pals 25-35 who live life to the full and enjoy the wild things in life. P950

Wildfire, 34-year-old going on 18, voluptuous blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys holidays abroad, pubs, clubs, aromatherapy and massages. Game for a laugh, living life to the full and looking to try new experiences. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P951

Margaret, 40-year-old, white, brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys going on walks with her little dog, visiting stately homes and caves. Seeking a responsible and genuine pen pal, 43-44. P952

Jeannette, 40-year-old, 5'8", long hair. Enjoys cosmetic modelling, music, country walks, dining out and visiting places of interest. Seeking honest NCO pen pals of any age group. P953

Mark, 38-year-old, 5'11", fit, non-smoker with a medium build, brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys quiet nights in, fun nights out, camping, hill walking, travelling, keeping fit, socialising, good conversation, good food at home or eating out. Would love to hear from genuine, like-minded ladies, please enclose photo. P954

Catherine, 37-year-old, 5'4", slim/medium build with shoulder length curls and sexy blue eyes. Enjoys keeping fit, quiet times in, socialising, entertaining, DIY, disco diva, travel and sharing an open fire with good company. Seeking male pen pals with their heart still in the right place, looks and age unimportant. P955

Angela, 24-year-old, 5'4" fair hair and blue eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs, having fun, travel and music. Seeking pen pals 24-34 with a good sense of humour. P956

Gale, 31-year-old, 5'3" brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys socialising, pub quizzes, nights out with friends, Formula 1 and theatre. Seeking pen pals, 35+. P957

BOOKS

Be in step, get yourself a **SOLDIER'S POCKET BOOK**. Second to none - a valuable asset in your kit. Price £7.50. Visit **www.milpkbk.co.uk** or email: **sales@milpkbk.co.uk** From Military Pocket Books, P O Box 28, Beverley HU17 5LA. Tel/fax 01964 5428. 12/01

"Head-dress Badges of the British Army"

by Kipling & King.

3000 Illustrations

The Collector's Bible.

"These are all you need"

Volume One: (1800-1920) £65.

Volume Two: (1920-1998) £45.

Post free

H. L. & P. King, 3 Saxon Croft, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QB.

Tel: 01252 716303

BUSINESS OPPS

The List - The Tri-Service (including Reserve Forces) **all rank**, international job search and business directory. **www.thelistuk.com** for **FREE** registration, hot jobs, vacancies and the Job Generator. Tel: 01483-200863. 05/02

GOT A COMPUTER? Earn £150-£500 per week P/T or much more F/T. Visit **www.hbin.com**. Quote Code: CC3323. 01/02

Beat any slot machine. 100% legal. SAE for information or £19.99 for book with full details. S. Blarsky, 6 Greenlees Gardens, Glasgow, G72 8QR. 10/01

MAGNETIC THERAPY - Magnetic relief for aches and pains in people and animals improving energy levels. Distributors required all areas F/P time. Tel: 01978861598. 10/01

FOR SALE

Low volume - low price - your Design. Keyrings, magnets, drink Coasters, etc. Hand-made wall clocks. Website/email: **www.xarim.co.uk** Tel: 01843 851956. 11/01

British and overseas military badges, collars, titles, formation signs. Regular comprehensive stock lists £2.00. Castle Armoury Dept. 10, PO Box 312, Dover CT16 3QP. 12/01

Military Fine Arts. Britain's leading British military art dealer. Access to all British publishers, artists and dealers. Send £4 for Edition 8, 2,500-item catalogue (incl 35+ SAS). Cheques payable to G Jennings-Bramly. 5 Faversham Road, Salisbury SP1 3PP. Phone: 01722 328523. Visit **www.militaryfinearts.com** 12/01

Army Cap Badges and military cigarette cards. Send SAE plus 80p for lists. Clans and Regiments, 14 Elm Grove, Aldbrough, East Yorkshire HU11 4RQ. 12/01

Peter Hicks Associates, comprehensive range of military figurines available in resin bronze and silver. Commissions always considered. Ring for information/brochure. Tel/fax: 01380 828382. Website **www.peterhicks.com** and email: **sales@peterhicks.com** 2/01

Free 2001 catalogue for those in the Forces. **Dragon supplies** offers essential military kit at superb prices! Telephone: 01473 822495. 04/01

Squaddie Gnomes, 21 Bulford Road, Durrington, Wilts, SP4 8DL, 01980-655099. Phone for order form or visit: **www.cannonmilitaria.co.uk**. 05/01

Regimental Shields, Plaques and Shieldclocks. In good company with most regiments and corps of the British Army we made your shields for the Falklands, the Gulf and now Bosnia and Croatia and most other UN locations. Let us design your regimental and operational shields. Write for a full colour brochure to: Military Marketing International, 74-77 Steward Street, Ladywood, Birmingham BA18 7AF. Tel/fax: 0121-4545393. Minimum order 25 Shields. £11.95, no VAT outside the UK. Shieldclocks £19.00. Website address: **www.militarymarketing.co.uk** Email: **mmisales@military** 12/01

WANTED

LEFT HAND DRIVE VEHICLES

MINI BUSES/VANS

Any condition

Cash buyer

Tel: 020 8 534 4016

(10am to 10.30pm seven days)

BADGES, BUTTONS, HACKLES, HATS...

Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, Fire, Ambulance



No-quibble money-back guarantee
Original collectable insignia
bought & sold world-wide
Send £3 (or US \$5) for 64-
page illustrated mail-order
Master Catalogue with around
4000 items including Irish insignia

http://www.KellyBadge.com/

Ian Kelly (Militaria)

P.O. Box 289, HOYLAND,
BARNSELY S74 9YT

BRITISH ARMY CAP BADGES.

3 x 1st stamps for list. Many scarce. Anthony Webb, 84, Merritt Road, Greatstone, New Romney, Kent TN288SZ 12/01

Cap badges, regimental ties, blazer

Badges, medals, insignia. Send £2.00 For list to: Cairncross (Dept S), 31 Belle Vue Street, Filey, North Yorkshire. Website address **www.cairnson.freemove.co.uk** 12/01

Good quality jumpers in regimental

colours and other military gifts. For further information please call 020 7924 5007 or email: **inf@smartturnout.co.uk** or **www.smartturnout.co.uk** 02/02

Black and brown brogues, loafers,

cavalry boots and chukka boots in leather and suede. For further information please call 020 7924 5007 or email: **inf@smartturnout.co.uk** or **www.smartturnout.co.uk** 02/02

Quality makers of pipe band & uniform accessories

hand embroidered badges Irish & Scottish family crest pipe banners, sashes, regimental banners & standards in bullion wire at rock bottom prices. ISO 9002 certified. Topflyz Industries 21/414 Majid Pura, Sialkot 51310/Pakistan. Tel: +92 432 580913 Fax: +92 432 588547 email: **topflyz@skt.comsats.net.pk** 02/02

Complete bagpipe band instruments

and uniform needs, embroidered badges, etc. Send your enquiries to GEOFFREY ENTERPRISES, Railway Road, SIALKOT, (PAKISTAN). Catalogue on request E-mail: **info@geoffrey.com.pk** 09/10/12-01/01-02

Epson compatible inkjet cartridges.

Save £££s on shop prices. Example - 4 x colour + 4 x black, bargain at only £40. Interested? Call 07092235233. 10/01

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

SERVICES

Post Box Pals pen pal service. For more information send a SAE to Post Box Pals PO Box 8469 Birmingham B33 9BW UK. 09/01

SOLUTIONS FOR DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES Solutions for difficult circumstances is an intensive 5-day (40hrs) one-to-one armed and unarmed combat course and is not for the faint-hearted. It will suit cpo/bodyguards, covert operatives and military personnel. For details send SAE to: S.F.D.C., PO Box 83, Prescot L35 3XY www.Solutions-FDC.com 01/02

PEN PALS

Linkline is a British Registered Charity committed to bringing people together as pen-friends.

Get to know a companion or partner, like yourself, as penfriends. Just exchange letters until you feel comfortable with your new friend.

DETAILS: SAE, LINKLINE(S), BOX 7358, LONDON N1-5QF

HOLIDAYS

Florida, Westridge, Davenport. Five-bedroom, three-bathroom villa with pool. Private gated community, tennis, golf, volleyball. Sleeps up to 12. 15 minutes from Disney. From £450 pw. Visit www.powellvilla.cwc.net or call 020 8519 6854. 10/01

FLORIDA, Kissimmee, Orlando, three-bedroom, two bathroom, villa with own private heated pool. Sleeps up to eight, 15 mins Disney. From £325 per week. Call 01440-707176 06/01

CYPRUS: Limassol Bungalow - Larnaca Flat. Sleeps four, near beach/town, from £125.00 per week. Tel: 02085056855 e-mail: dmc28peel@tiscali.co.uk 07/02

Florida/Kissimmee Luxury four bedroom private villa, sleeps 8/10. Large pool, ten mins. From Disney, shops and restaurants. From £575 p/w. Contact Andy/Kath on 01446-734101/07747-180894. 09/01

Gulf coast Florida (Bradenton Sarasota) condo for rent. Sleeps 4, pool, tennis court and golf 2 min. from mall. £175 per week. Tel. 01292-265005. 11/01

Costa Blanca winter sun and golf. Fully equipped, two bedroomed properties. Walking distance to beach, five minutes drive from three championship golf courses. From £150 per week. Tel: 01527-450483. 11/01

FLORIDA/Florida Pines - ten minutes from Disney/shops & restaurants. A luxury private villa 4 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, large living area, sleeps 8/10. Own heated pool. From £450 p.w. special rates Jan/Feb. 2002. Contact Sue 020 8863 366. 11/01

To advertise in Soldier's Web Watch guide (page 58-59) contact: advertising@soldiermagazine.co.uk or telephone 01252 347352

NOTICES

CHY-1161D

Charity Commission

Reference: 249900/190614

Certain Charities Administered in Connection with the Scots Guards

The Charity Commission has made a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy can be seen for next month at: RHQ Scots Guards Wellington Barracks London SW1E 6HQ.

Or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL quoting the above reference number.

York and Lancaster Regimental Museum

Charity Commission

Reference: 272267/176907

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

The Information Services Desk, First floor, Central Library, Walker Place, Rotherham. Or Clifton Park Museum, Clifton Lane, Rotherham.

Or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHY - 1161C

Charity Commission

Reference: HH/205780/CD(T)

South Wales Borderers and Monmouthshire Regimental Museum Trust (273858). The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

South Wales Borderers Museum, The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EB.

Or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

NOTICE TO READERS

The publishers of *Soldier Magazine* cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any advertisement or for any losses suffered as a result. Readers are strongly recommended to make their own enquiries and seek appropriate commercial, legal and financial advice before sending any money or entering into any legally binding agreement.

SPORTS

Freefall Adventures Florida SKYDIVING COURSES IN FLORIDA

FREEFALL ADVENTURES, FLORIDA are happy to offer skydiving courses for beginner to advanced students in beautiful Lake Wales, Florida. Our skydiving school is British owned and operated. Located on the east coast of Florida, this tropical paradise is a great place for your skydiving vacation. Come join us for some extreme fun in the sun. CONTACT US FOR FURTHER DETAILS: FREEFALL ADVENTURES, FLORIDA 400 W. AIRPORT DRIVE, SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA 32958, USA TEL: (561) 388 0550 - FAX: (561) 581 4468 Email: skydivemik@aol.com www.ffadventures.com

£££

ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

£££

04 Aug 2001

1st (596 runs, £5,000): LCpl C Fox, 2 R Anglian
2nd (594 runs, £2,500): WO2 CC Johnson, 3 CS Med Regt, Catterick
3rd (575 runs, £2,000): Pte NJ Mullins, 1 RRW, Paderborn
4th (562 runs, £1,500): Tpr RT Llewellyn, The Armour Centre, Bovington
5th (554 runs, £1,100): Lt Col WAN Mellows, HQBF Gibraltar
6th=544 runs, £700: LCpl M Goncalves, 30 Sig Regt LAD REME, Bramcote
6th=544 runs, £700: SSgt MA Partridge, 132 Avn Sup Sqn RLC, Wat-tisham
8th (543 runs, £400): 2Lt SWM Chandler, 1 RGR, Brunei
9th (538 runs, £300): Sgt JW Courtney, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford
10th (536 runs, £200): LCpl MW Robertson, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbostal

11 August 2001

1st (685 runs, £5,000): Cpl C Byrne, RDG, Münster
2nd (655 runs, £2,500): Bdr BJ Howarth, Army Foundation College, Harrogate
3rd (645 runs, £2,000): LCpl ST Pender, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney
4th (633 runs, £1,500): Maj MH Wenham, RMCS, Shrivenham
5th (628 runs, £1,100): WO1 DR Hayward, 2 MI Bn, Netheravon
6th (623 runs, £800): Cpl PMJ Woods, JSSU Ayios Nikolaos
7th (616 runs, £600): Maj RI Haugh, AFCC Inverness
8th (605 runs, £400): SSgt SA Collis, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippingham
9th (603 runs, £300): Cpl AS Collison, Army Dog Unit NI, Ballykelly
10th (591 runs, £200): SSgt PAJ

Yates, 205 Fd Hosp (V), Glasgow

18 August 2001

1st (547 runs, £5,000): Sgt RJ Turner, 19 Regt RA, Colchester
2nd (526 runs, £2,500): Pte D Gibbons, Army Foundation College, Harrogate
3rd (518 runs, £2,000): Capt T O'Hagan, 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt, Colchester
4th (517 runs, £1,500): SSgt CS Owt-trim, SEME, Bordon
5th (515 runs, £1,100): LCpl TTD Frew, 4 GS Med Regt, Aldershot
6th= (511 runs, £700): LCpl KM Erratt, 2 R Anglian, Chepstow
6th= (511 runs, £700): Sgt GD Painter, ATR Pirbright
8th (510 runs, £400): Sgt SM Shirley, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln
9th (508 runs, £300): Sgt SA Roberts, ATR Winchester
10th (507 runs, £200): LCpl IJ Faloon, 7 R IRISH, Belfast

25 August 2001

1st (548 runs, £5,000): Capt A Russell, Mil Trg Wing RLC (G), Bielefeld
2nd (532 runs, £2,500): Sgt AP Smith, QDG, Catterick
3rd (528 runs, £2,000): Sgt AI Graham, 5 Regt RA, Catterick
4th= (522 runs, £1,133.33): Cpl P Conroy, Gibraltar Regt
4th= (522 runs, £1,133.33): Maj NA Jouques, JSCSC, Shrivenham
4th= (522 runs, £1,133.33): Spr KI Litter, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone
7th (510 runs, £600): LCpl CR Williams, 2 RTR, Fallingbostal
8th (508 runs, £400): Sgt RJ Morgan, Cyprus Log Unit, Akrotiri
9th= (502 runs, £250): Sgt MD Fox, 1 RGBW, Ballykinler
9th= (502 runs, £250): Tpr SM Richardson, 2 RTR, Fallingbostal

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

If you have a credit card and access to the internet then you can submit your advert online www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

All classified advertisements are accepted on a pre-paid basis only and are subject to the following conditions. The Publishers reserve the right to decline any copy material of which they may not approve whether an order shall have been accepted or not. All advertisements are accepted subject to approval and conditionally upon space being available. The Publishers reserve the right to make any alteration they consider necessary or desirable in an advertisement to meet their approval. The Publishers also reserve the right to cancel or suspend any advertisement without stating a reason. While every endeavour will be made to meet the wishes of advertisers, the Publishers do not guarantee the insertions of any particular advertisement. The Publishers shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. The Publishers shall not be liable for errors occurring after the first insertion of an advertisement in a series. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to inform the Publishers of any such error in sufficient time to allow the amendment. A voucher copy will not be supplied. Advertisements will be placed under the following headings: Accommodation, Business Opportunities, Cars, Cars Wanted, Entertainment, Exhibitions, For Sale, Gift Services, Holidays, House Lets, Notices, Property for Sale, Reunions, Services, Situations Vacant, Situations Wanted, Training, Wanted. Other headings will be applied if deemed acceptable by the Publishers. The placing of an order for the insertion of an advertisement shall amount to an acceptance of the above conditions and any conditions stipulated by an agency or advertiser shall be void insofar as they are in conflict with them.

SEARCHLINE

Ex-King's Own Border Regiment living in Northern Ireland should be aware that there is a new branch of the regimental association. Contact Chris Findley on 07710 879962 or Steve Whitfield on 07803 892227.

Havel School Berlin, reunion, Easter 2002, Berlin. Details on www.havelschool.com

Willie McLay ex-R Signals is seeking Carl and Angie Hire, formerly with I RRF, 1980. wm.mclay@btinternet.com

Cpl John Barnes RMP (ex-AAC), Lisburn 1990 is sought by old comrade ex-RMP Cpl Philip Carter on philipcarter@lineone.net

Ex-Spr Paul Palmer nostalgic for the old days would like to hear from old mates, especially **ex-Spr Vince Green** and **ex-Cpl Mark Leslie**

REUNIONS

Somerset Light Infantry (Germany, Malta, Cyprus, UK): Reunion on Oct 6, Ladymead School, Cheddon Road, Taunton. Attached personnel and reservists welcome. Tickets from David Williams on 01278 683022.

Junior Leaders' Regiment RE: Reunion of JL Branch REA, Oct 6-7, Dover. Contact Tom Graham on 01256 420335 or WO1(SMI) Andy Nixon RE on mil (94661) 2827 or www.homestead.com/juniorleadersre/home

RD/MTI RAOC/RLC: Reunion on Oct 19-21 at Hullavington Barracks. Details from Nooky 01666 508839 or www.rdandmti.cjb.net

Household Cavalry Remount Riders: Reunion dinner, Oct 20. Ring Nigel Peers on 07967 133684 or npeers@fsnet.co.uk

J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery RHA: 60th anniversary, Caen Barracks, Hohnne, Nov 2-4. Details from WO2 (BSM) R Booth on 0049 5051 962485 or dickbooth38@hotmail.com

Command Pay Office UKLF: Reunion for former staff, Nov 9, Worthy Down. Ring Elsa Bond 01962 887421 (mil 94271 2421).

South Notts Hussars Association: Annual Remembrance dinner, Nov 10, TA Centre, Bulwell, Nottingham. Contact Capt G E Aldridge, 6 Goodwood Drive, Toton, Nottingham NG6 6HX or phone 0115 9135708.

2002

National Service Veterans Alliance reunion: Britannia Hotel, Coventry, Mar 16-17 (new dates). Ring Ken Wakeman 020 8850 2246.

Münster, West Germany: Reunion party for anyone who has served in Münster area, including families, staff and pupils of Edinburgh School, Mar 23. E-mail Tracy Cooper at martin@henristudio.co.uk

260 Sig Sqn (SAM), 654 Sig Tp (SAM) and 655 Sig Tp (SAM): Reunion Apr 12-14, Javis Loughborough Hotel. Go to www.260sqnsam.abelgratis.co.uk, contact R Andrews, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable CT5 3HJ or e-mail royapat.andrews@ic24

AMS rugby dinner: Aldershot on May 24. Details from Maj Shaun Knott, Browning Barracks, Aldershot or 01252 349534 (mil 94222 4534) or e-mail oldboyknott5603@aol.com

Rogers. E-mail phpalmer@aol.com

News of **Dennis Ramshaw AAC, DERR Berlin 1973-76**, sought by **Bryan Nokes**, now living in Mandurah, W Australia. Please e-mail bryan@hgtwa.com.au

Simon O'Hagan from Bath, may be serving in BFG. Plymouth diving buddy **Senga Caldwell** has lost touch. E-mail senga@sunguru.com

Lindsay (Andy) Anderson sought by Paul Luckwell, ex-Black Watch 1987-92. Reply to paul.luckwell@btinternet.com

Sarah Spalding is searching for old friends from Detmold 1990, particularly keen to find **Marie McFarlane QA, Astrid Sawyer and Angie Campbell**; both 200 Signals. sarah_spalding@europe.mccann.com

Ox & Bucks, KRRC or Rifle Brigade, Royal Green Jackets? Visit regimental association website www.rgjassociation.ndirect.co.uk

3 Sqn RE, 22 Engr Regt 1987-90: Steve Williams wants to hear from lads from Perham Down, Belize and the Falklands, especially **Charlie Brown, Billy Kilby and Stevie Davidson**. steve_williams@stannah.co.uk

Ex-Deincourt pupils seeking others for reunion in 2002, **Noel Lynch and Nick Cuthbertson** contact jbramley10@aol.com

Princess Marina College 81C Intake. Reunion planned for 2002. Initial planning meeting to be held Nov 24, Union Jack Club Bar, London at 1800. If you wish to attend contact Capt M Parrott, Brize Norton 6166, WO2(AQMS) J Cawkill, Middle Wallop 4530, WO2 (AQMS) T Smith, Middle Wallop 4492, SSgt A LLOYD Middle Wallop 4026.

Vinny Fall, ex-ACC, att 5 Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, Paderborn 1990-92 is keen to acquire a copy of **regimental photo** (taken on cricket pitch) before amalgamation to Royal Dragoon Guards. Also would like to hear from other ACC personnel from BMH Hannover, 5th Skins and Op Granby. V Fall, 9a

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: J C W Brooks to be Dir B Div JSCSC, Aug 6; W T Browne to be Adviser Command and Staff College HQ RAO, Aug 10; C Hannon to be Regional Clinical Dir BFG, Aug 18;

Lieutenant Colonels: D A Barley PWO to HQ NI, Sep 24; N G Borwell DWR to JSCSC, Apr 4; D R Bottomley RRF to HQ KFOR, Aug 23; D W Brown RGJ to HQ Land, Jan 7; A D H Budd RA to SHAPE, Aug 13; R N Clapp, R Signals to D/Bowman DPA, Oct 22; M J Clements, R Irish to HQ MNB(C), Feb 6; A M Cliffe RE to DMO, Sep 3.

P R Cobley, Para to CJPS SHAPE, Aug 6; D J Collins RLC to HQ BRITFOR, Sep 17; J N A Cray RDG to JSCSC, Sep 3; C Davis AGC(ETS) to DJW, Jan 28; J A Ensor REME to KPO, Nov 27; R F P Felton AAC to DOC, Aug 6; A C Ford WG to LWTC, Feb 4; P J Francis RE to HQ Land, Sep 17.

J H Gibbon RA to CGS, Oct 14; N W Gill, R Signals to D/Bowman DPA, Aug 28; S A Hammond, Kings to BMATT SA, Sep 22; G F Hislop, R Irish to HQ Land, Jun 5; P M Holme,

Station St, Aberclare, Mid-Glamorgan, CF44 7DT, S Wales.

H Tp, 2nd (Oban) Airlanding Anti-Tank Battery RA (Arnhem), Op Market Garden, 18-26 Sep 1944. Researcher into 156 Para and attached units requires information and is particularly keen to obtain complete roll for Lt F W Ellis's H Troop. Contact Peter Silk, 6 Beaulieu Gardens, Hastings TN37 7QE or e-mail him at petersilk@ntlworld.com

UK regimental war memorials, any conflict, however obscure are the subject of a project to record them on film. Vic Potter welcomes location details. 102a Wickham Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 6QH, tel 0208658 5740 or e-mail vic@thepottery102.freemove.co.uk

Former Para Bob Lewis, served as "House Sergeant" for **Gen Sir Geoffrey Hewlett**. Last known location Ammanford, S Wales, sought by Parachute Regiment Association (Wales). Contact W A Lloyd, 73 Baywood Ave, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5LW or e-mail lwallyd@aol.com

Ron Jeffery, ex-ACC att Royal Leicestershire Regiment 1957-58, would like to contact Tony Hubbard, regimental cook to Leics Regt, possibly living in Braunston area. E-mail deanog734.aol.com

Jordan Fisher is keen to contact anyone who was at **Milton Bridge Training Camp 1992-94**, in particular SSgt Harry Harrison (H). E-mail jordan_69@hotmail.com

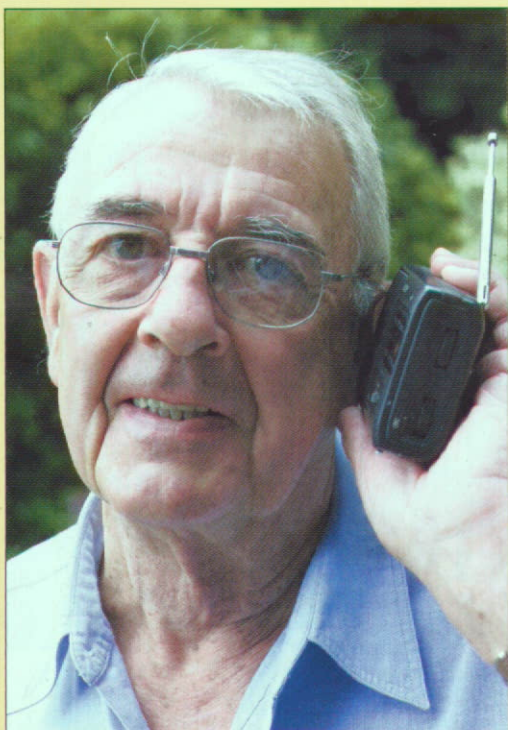
Gulf War Military researcher requires staff lists for HQ 1 Armd Div HQ and 7 Armd Bde HQ. Also orbat of all units. Reply to Ron Hartill, 30 Bishops Close, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9ED or 01789 205031.

Johnny Peppin, 664 Tank Regiment, 8th Army North Africa and Italy 1940-45, would love to hear from old comrades, especially **Fred Scanlon, Roy Godwin, Jack Brignall and Philip Hearne**. Ring him on 01784 885856 or e-mail to myersannie@aol.com or annder@eth.net

R Anglian to Adv Trg Gp (G), Feb 25; S M M Hughes RWF to HQ KFOR, Sep 17; T C Jarvis-Bicknell KORBR to BMM SANG, Dec 3. R J Knight PWRR to MS(B) APC, Sep 10; P A Lamb AGC(SPS) to HQ ATRA, Jan 28; W D M Levack, Int Corps to ATE Scotland, Aug 1; P M Lewis DWR to DPAYD, Aug 1; F G S Lukas RHG/D to DOMD, Jul 23; P M Longley RRF to HQ MND(SW), Sep 3; C P G Martin RWF to RMAS, Sep 3; R J D Metcalfe QRH, to HQ Land, Sep 24; P G R Nell RE to DCIS(A), Aug 20; C A Newell PWRR to HQ AG, Sep 24.

C W Owen, Kings to APC, Oct 1; M S Perkin KORBR to HQ AMD, Sep 7; R M Ridgell BW to APC, Sep 3; N M A Ridley LG to DOMA, Nov 14; C N Robinson RA to HQ MND(SW), Aug 22; P W E Smith WFR to ATE SPP, Nov 26; I W H Stafford, R Irish to BMATT SL, Oct 4; A J Trevis, D and D to Romanian Trg Centre, Nov 10; R J Wakefield RA to HQ LISA, Nov 5; R S D Ward RLC to HQ ATRA, Aug 20; A K Welsh REME to CBW(POL), Nov 12; J F G Wilberforce RLC to PJHQ(UK), Nov 5; A P Williams RGBW to JSCSC, Sep 3; M A Wood RE to DGES(L), Dec 6.

Return to Wolfsburg



FORMER British Forces Network broadcaster Gordon Savage, left, took the long way round when he and his wife, Iris, drove to Berlin for the opening of an Allied Museum exhibition on forces radio.

Gordon, a National Serviceman in the RAOC, was posted to the VW factory at Wolfsburg at the end of 1946. His job was to register vehicles built for British, American or French military use.

Several months later he moved to Rhine Army HQ where he spotted an advertisement for broadcasters in the very young *Soldier* magazine. Auditioned by Raymond Baxter in Hamburg, he got the job and worked for BFN, the forerunner of BFBS, until he was demobbed in March 1949.

Gordon, now 73, worked with many people who went on to become stars of screen and radio. He shared a room with Nigel Davenport and a microphone with, among others, Tom Singleton (who, with his wife, accompanied Gordon to Berlin), Cliff Michelmore and Chris Howland, sub-

sequently one of the biggest names in radio, TV and music in Germany.

While they remained in broadcasting, Gordon chose not to and started his own company in the retail industry.

After a three-day stay at his old stamping ground in Hamburg, he and his wife were fêted by VW at Wolfsburg, where they handed over a copy of our September issue. The "Legends of the regiments and corps" column featured the REME Museum of Technology's valuable VW model car presented by the late Maj Ivan Hirst, the British officer who hauled the Wolfsburg factory out of the rubble of war.

Their next stop was Berlin for the opening of a special exhibition on the radio stations of the Western Powers, 1945-94. It will be open until the end of the year at Berlin's Allerten Museum in Clayallee, which is dedicated to the Allied support to the city during the years in which it was in the front line against communism. The exhibition is entitled "The Link with Home - And the Germans Listened Too".

Picture: Graeme Main

Painting a grim picture of life in Kosovo

THE grim reality of life in post-war Kosovo has been captured by Canadian artist John Dowling, right.

He visited the Balkans earlier this year and several of the resulting acrylic-on-card paintings depict soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, then deployed in Pristina.

One, entitled "Pristina Patrol", has been bought by the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

John, who showed 51 paintings in his "Kosovo 2000: Year One" exhibition at the



Picture: Steve Dock

Dissenters' Chapel Gallery near Kensal Green Cemetery, W10, last month, has been based in London since 1990. His work is held in collections in Britain, Europe, Canada and the USA.

If you missed the show, you can see the paintings by visiting John's website at www.laingdowling.fsnet.co.uk

All-ranks pension society is fighting on your behalf

ALL ranks are being encouraged to join the **Forces Pension Society**, which fights for ex-Service personnel and their widows and dependants.

Even though it worked for the benefit of all, only officers had been eligible to join as members until recently. All that changed on July 1 when the old Officers' Pension Society changed its name and opened its doors to everyone.

The FPS provides a personal advisory service, guiding its members through a minefield of complex rules. For example, following the MoD's recent review of pensions, serving soldiers unsure about whether to stay with the old scheme or switch to the new can get expert and independent advice.

It also offers members access to all benefits available through the Forces discount brochure.

Membership is £1.75 a month or £20 a year (£9 to widows), and application forms may be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Forces Pension Society, 68 South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, London SW8 1RL, tel 020 7820 9988 or e-mail memsec@forpen.co.uk

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565

Army Families Federation 01980 615525

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's

Association 020 8590 1124

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink

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

RBL Industries 01622 717202/718484

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); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

WRVS 01235 442940

DATES

OCTOBER

2: Horse of the Year Show Inter-Services tournament, Wembley Arena. For 30 per cent Services' discount ring 020 8900 9282 (0930-1730 weekdays) and quote reference code "SM".

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).

10: Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall.

11: Remembrance Day service and parade at the Cenotaph.

17-18: Army Arts Society exhibition, Medieval Hall in the Close, Salisbury, 1000-1600. Free entry and all exhibits may be purchased.

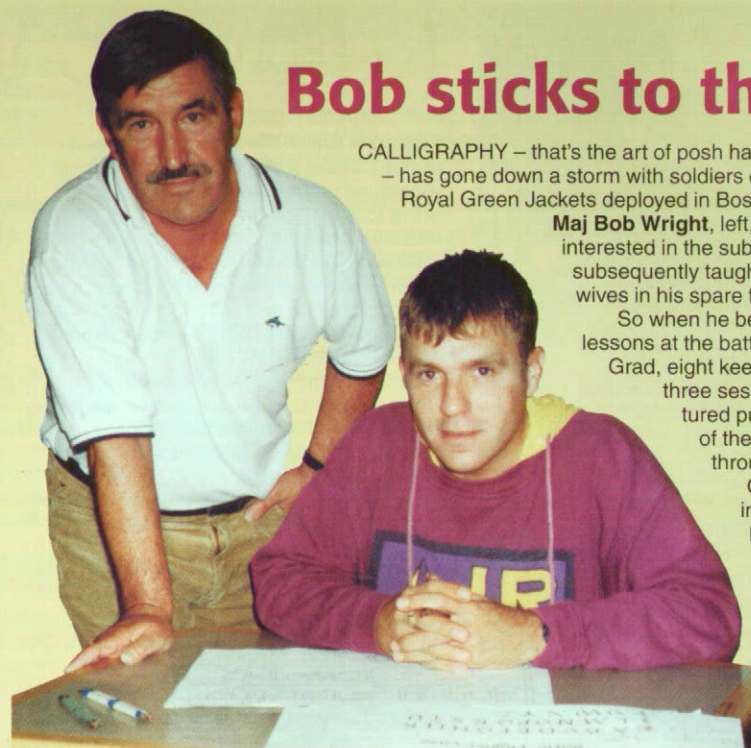
TWELVE soldiers from 11 Field Squadron, RE found time in Kosovo to complete a 40km night marathon from Slim Lines in Pristina to their base at Waterloo Lines near Podujevo. The squadron, now back at Ripon in Yorkshire, raised £230 for Child Leukaemia.

A sponsored 250-mile jog by soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment raised £2,500 for the Army Benevolent Fund and the Wooden Spoon Society, a rugby charity which helps disadvantaged youngsters. The lads ran back to Chepstow at the end of their six-month tour in West Belfast.

Alpha Troop, 101 Log Bde HQ and Signal Sqn (261) spruced up metal railings and playground equipment at a Portsmouth school for children with physical disabilities. Breaktime five-a-side football games between the soldiers and the kids, many of them in wheelchairs, were a highlight of the two-day project.

Eight soldiers from the Light Aid Detachment REME from Support Battalion, HQ ARRC pedalled their mountain bikes along the beautiful banks of the middle Rhine to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund. They took in Bonn, Köln and Düsseldorf on their way to raising DM1,500 (about £500).

PTIs Martin Payne and Paul Harrison, both based at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport, are planning to cycle through Egypt, across the Sinai Desert to the Red Sea to raise funds for Regain, the charity which supports men and women paralysed in sporting accidents.



Bob sticks to the script

CALLIGRAPHY – that's the art of posh handwriting to the rest of us – has gone down a storm with soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets deployed in Bosnia.

Maj Bob Wright, left, o/c HQ Coy, became interested in the subject 12 years ago and has subsequently taught classes of soldiers and wives in his spare time.

So when he began a series of evening lessons at the battalion's base in Mrkonjic Grad, eight keen beginners signed up for three sessions a week. Bob is pictured putting Cpl Joe Alexander of the QM's Department through his paces.

Other students have included Lt Emma Hunter, LCpl Jimmy Cullen and LCpl Paul Biggen.

Emma, who told us about the lessons, used a word processor to file her story. Pity, a calligraphed manuscript would have been a bit of a first in this office.

Brig Holmes goes walkabout

BRIG Richard Holmes's latest series of battlefield walkabouts has begun on BBC 2. Following his acclaimed *War Walks* and *Western Front* productions, he will focus on four turning points of the Second World War in *Battlefields*. The first episode went out on September 25.

Brig Holmes, who is Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, analyses the critical events which took place at El Alamein, Monte Cassino and Arnhem. The series, which weaves personal testimony with dramatic reconstruction, also examines Bomber Command's campaign against civilian Germany.

● STILL on the subject of TV, look out next spring for Jeremy "Airport" Spake's documentary on British soldiers preparing for and taking part in Exercise Saif Sareea 2.

Jeremy, pictured, whose "performances" in the BBC's fly-on-the-wall documentary of everyday life at Heathrow earned him a new career in front of the cameras, flew to Oman to join 187 (Tancred) Squadron, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC. He was put to work helping the squadron build a camp in the south of the country.



Army awards press officer Paul a commendation

MOD press officer Paul Beard, left, has been given a commendation by Maj Gen John Holmes, GOC 4 Division, for his round-the-clock support of the media during last

year's hostage crisis in Sierra Leone. Paul, the information officer at HQ 2 (South East) Brigade based at Sir John Moore Barracks in Folkestone, found him-

self the focal point for press, radio and television reporters covering the capture, and subsequent rescue, of Royal Irish Regiment soldiers based in Canterbury.



Apprentices' driving ambition

TWO Bielefeld-based soldiers have become the first in Germany to be awarded the driver trade Modern Apprenticeship (MA). Pte Taff Evans, top right, and LCpl Gary Pink, below, both serving with 7 Transport Regiment RLC, were presented with their certificates by Col Tony Smith, the Gutersloh Garrison deputy commander.

The MA qualification requires a soldier to achieve two National Vocational Qualifications at levels two and three, plus five key skills, before the age of 25. The NVQs cover transporting goods by road, road haulage and distribution operations.



Kevin says it all – in verse

FORMER REME staff sergeant Kevin Answer has a unique and personal record of his military service... a book of poetry written by himself. His wife, Elaine, and daughters Emma and Samantha, collected ten examples of his verse, covering topics ranging from day one of his basic training to exercises, guard duty and the Naafi, and "published" a one-off special edition.

Kevin, who lives near Chesterfield, was so chuffed he sent it to us to look at. The precious, ring-bound volume is now safely back in Derbyshire.

● WO2 Dave Inman, RQMS of 8 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, is to receive the prestigious British Safety Council Diploma in Safety Management at a ceremony in London. The council said WO2 Inman had shown a big commitment to improving health and safety in the workplace.



It might look like the Himalayas... but it's not. Five Gurkha soldiers, accompanied by ex-Royal Hampshire Neil Griffiths of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, marched 200 miles across the heart of the Highlands, from Mallaig in the west to Stonehaven on the North Sea. They are pictured at Knoydart in the far north-west. The party finished the trek – almost all of it off-road – in under eight days, to raise more than £40,000 for the trust. From left to right are Cpl Dil Rai, Rfn Chandra Limbu, Rfn Surendra Tamang (all 2 RGR), Sgt Dhal Sahi and SSgt Gyan Tamang (both Queen's Gurkha Signals). Taking a rare opportunity to sit down is Neil, who reckoned he needed the rest.



We have lift-off, Hounslow

● Police in Hounslow teamed up with 562 Transport Squadron RLC and borough officials to clear nearly 50 burnt-out cars from a stretch of wasteland in Feltham.

The area, known locally as "Bedfont Pits", has attracted stolen vehicles for years and had become a serious eyesore for local residents. Beat officer PC Tom Onions, who is a member of the Territorial Army's Catering Support Regiment at Grantham, decided the Army offered the best solution, so called on the expertise of 562 Sqn.

Capt Alan Young, who sent in two fork-lift vehicles to do the job, said: "We were delighted to help. Our vehicles are normally for carrying pallets of ammunition so it was a pleasure to put them to use in a civic project. Local TA soldiers assisted us."



A Company's on the case

FARNHAM-based A Company, 3 PWRR came up with the solution to former soldier Billy Burdis's "drinking problem". The TA unit presented him with a highly polished 105mm shell case. Billy, right, who fought at Dunkirk, walks with the aid of crutches, which kept getting knocked over when he visited his local, The Nelson Arms, in Farnham.

Now the shell case is doing sterling service as a stand for Billy's crutches.

Owen wants to put a smile on face of Nepalese villagers

FORMER Regular soldier Owen Blackwell, pictured, from Heanor in Derbyshire, plans to build an extension to a small school in a remote Nepalese village.

While trekking in the mountain kingdom, Smiler (as he is known to his mates) was struck down by a particularly severe bout of dysentery and nursed back to health by villagers at Bamti. He met his wife, Sita, a local woman, during that episode.

As a mark of gratitude for saving his life, Smiler, who spent 27 years with the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment before joining Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force as a staff

sergeant, decided to do something for the village. With the support of Nottinghamshire Army cadets, he is raising £1,000 to fund the project. An experienced builder, he plans to do much of the work himself. Once finished, the school will be renamed the Foresters School.

To reach Bamti, you need to take a 14-hour bus ride from Kathmandu, then walk for several hours. Building materials will have to be carried in by porters.

● If you want to find out more about the project, write to The Foresters Project, RHQ WFR, Foresters House, Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 5HA.



Legends of the regiments and corps

28 The Light Infantry Museum



So close: The Crossmaglen helmet with its jagged holes. Picture: Steve Dock

One that got away

CPL Neil Hartshorne of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry was leading a patrol up Blayney Road, Crossmaglen in 1990 when the sniper struck.

It was late morning on a market day Friday in March and, as usual, the square and adjoining streets were crowded. When the round struck Neil's helmet, his soldiers, seeing it momentarily on fire, thought he had been hit by an explosive device.

Despite severe whiplash injuries and a deep gash in his head, he remained in control, sending accurate radio reports back to base.

EMBEDDED IN CAR SEAT

Subsequent investigations by the Royal Ulster Constabulary revealed that the gunman had fired from outside the South Armagh town. The bullet had passed through Neil's helmet, creasing the top of his head before embedding itself in the seat of a car 50m away. It missed the driver, a woman, by three inches.

Neil's helmet is displayed in The Light Infantry Museum in Winchester's Peninsula Barracks. The collection tells the story of the modern regiment, including the Gulf War.

Neil himself left the Army several years ago and lives in West Yorkshire. The whiplash injuries he sustained at Crossmaglen still affect him.

The Light Infantry Museum in Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester (01962 828550) is open Tue to Sat 1000-1600 and Sun noon-1600. Admission is free. Peninsula Barracks, whose military tenure dates back to the Romans, is also home to the museums of The King's Royal Hussars, The Royal Green Jackets and the Gurkhas. The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum is in nearby Serle's House.

Dream on . . .



① mStation pocket jukebox £369; mStation in-car jukebox £549; mStation home £129, from www.innovations.co.uk (0870 9087002).

MOBILE MUSIC

THE *mStation* in-car and pocket jukeboxes store hundreds of hours of digitally-recorded music in incredibly small and easy-to-carry units.

Both players contain miniature 10Gb hard drives that store music downloaded in MP3 format from your PC or via a USB port.

The in-car jukebox, which features an FM modulator, dashboard control panel and infra-red remote control, can store up to 3,000 songs and allows users to access any track at the touch of a button. With the *mStation home*, the portable jukebox can also be linked to your home stereo (see picture below).

The pocket *mStation*, pictured left, fits in the palm of a hand and has exactly the same capacity as its in-car sister.

Each player is supplied with computer software that enables users to record a whole CD in under seven minutes.



Switched on . . .



MORNING CALL

GADGETSHOP'S new-look E-Clock allows you to tailor your wake-up call.

Suitable for PCs running Windows 95 or 98, the E-Clock comes with a CD Rom that allows you to download anything from music to film audio clips from the internet.

① £9.95, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).

CLOCK YOUR TICKER

POLAR'S S810 heart-rate monitor is designed to enhance personal training through precision testing, measuring and analysis.

With all the features of a run-of-the-mill monitor, the SA810 also offers sophisticated extras such as an overtraining test, relaxation rate and pre-programmable training routines.

① £255.31 (ex. VAT), from www.bodycare.co.uk (01926 811600).



RINGING RODENT

THE Internet Alert mouse is designed for internet users who share a single line for their internet and home telephone. It alerts surfers if someone is trying to contact them by bleeping and flashing.

To take the call, simply pick up the phone handset and talk. Internet Alert instantly ends your web connection – and when the call is completed you can reconnect at the same page by simply pressing "refresh" on your browser.

① £29.99, from www.innovations.co.uk (0870 9087002).

Game on . . .

SHEEP, DOG 'N' WOLF, PSX

FORGET shoot-em-ups and beat-em-ups, Infogrames are set to revolutionise the gaming market with a new genre – the steal-em-up.

Based on the original Chuck Jones cartoon from the 1950s, *Sheep, Dog 'n' Wolf* puts gamers in control of Ralph Wolf, the cousin of Wile E Coyote, who stars in a TV contest – hosted by Daffy Duck – to become the ultimate sheep rustler.

Combining mature, tactical gameplay with pure Looney Tunes anarchy and twisted humour, Infogrames' latest offering boasts some unorthodox but nevertheless addictive gameplay.

The challenge of *Sheep, Dog 'n' Wolf* is to use various methods of stealth and cunning to steal sheep from under the ever-watchful and all-seeing eye of Sam Sheepdog.

To assist players in this heist there are up to 30 unique gizmos that can be utilised to help snare the woolen prey. As you would expect from the Looney Tunes designers the gadgets are bizarre and wacky, ranging from classic ACME rockets and robots to aromatic wafts of sheep perfume and sheep disguises.

These aids are a definite must although gamers will soon discover that the sheep are not the most intellectually gifted and will only offer ignorant resistance in being snatched.

There are certain times when the arsenal of



gadgetry will prove redundant and players must rely on stealth and covert manoeuvres, such as hiding in portable bushes and tip-toeing around.

The game features 18 fully interactive levels, each with its own unique environment.

From deserts to forest, and castles to swamps, players must make full use of the surrounding objects, such as rope bridges, see-saws and rocks, if a sheep is to be snatched undetected.

OUT NOW

VERDICT: With guest appearances from Porky Pig, and Road Runner, *Sheep, Dog 'n' Wolf* is worth buying for the nostalgia factor alone.

The game's main appeal lies in the problem-solving aspect of its gameplay. Although unlikely to keep you puzzled for long, it is an amusing alternative to the norm.

7/10

SHEEP, DOG 'N' WOLF

SOLDIER has joined forces with Infogrames to offer readers the steal of the century.

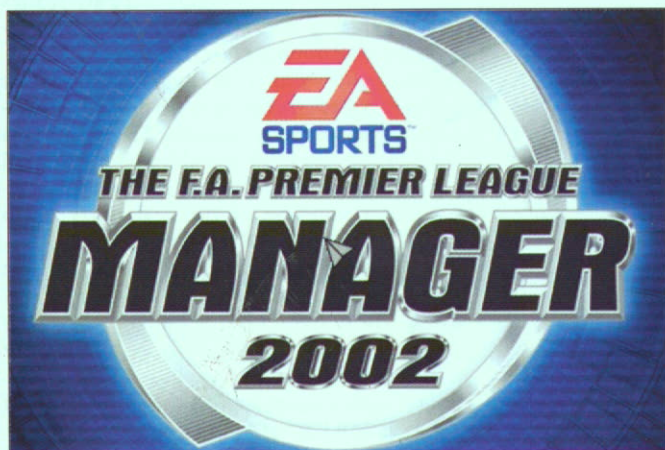
For your chance to win one of ten copies of *Sheep, Dog 'n' Wolf*, simply answer the following question:

Who is Ralph Wolf's cousin?

- a) Snoopy Doggy Dog
- b) Wile E Coyote
- c) Scooby Doo

Send your answers on a postcard to Infogrames competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by November 1. Usual rules apply.



PREMIER LEAGUE MANAGER, PC OUT NOW

MANAGE your way to European and Premiership glory with EA Sports' excellent *FA Premier Manager 2002*.

Players must use their footballing savvy to make decisions that are reflected both on and off the field in one of the world's greatest leagues.

Assuming the role of the manager of any one of England's top flight clubs, gamers are responsible for everything from keeping their squad fit to building training grounds and centres of excellence.

More importantly, managers

must deliver the results on matchday or face the wrath of their chairmen, who are never shy in displacing those lacking the tactical nous to deliver silverware.

The game's transfer market has been updated in accordance with the Bosman ruling.

VERDICT: Whether helping Southampton to cheat relegation or guiding Liverpool to a second consecutive treble, *FA Premier Manager 2002* is one of the most detailed and involving management games available. In a league of its own.

9/10

FROM DUSK TILL DAWN, PC

OUT NOW

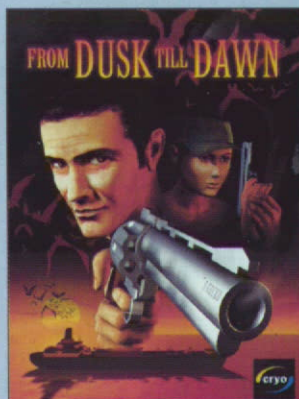
BASED on Robert Rodriguez's 1996 cult vampire-slayer film, Cryo Interactive's *From Dusk Till Dawn* will have even the bravest of souls diving behind the sofa for cover.

This horror/action adventure puts gamers in control of Seth Gecko, a thief who has been incarcerated on a prison-ship teeming with vampires.

With 20 levels of first- or third-person action and 30 different vampire tribes to blast through, the aim of the game is simple . . . stay alive.

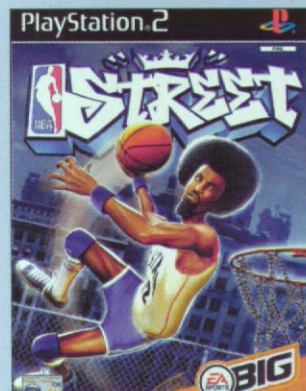
VERDICT: Frighteningly good.

7/10



NBA STREET, PS2

OUT NOW



VERDICT: *NBA Street* is the undisputed king of the court.

8/10

WHAT a refreshing change. Forget having to negotiate your way through the lengthy and needlessly taxing option screens that plague most sports titles, *NBA Street* is pure arcade-action.

Without doubt the best basketball game on PlayStation 2, Electronic Arts' latest offering gives players the chance to challenge the greatest hoopsters never to have played in the NBA on real-life courts like New York's Rucker Park and The Cage.

The motion-captured animation is slick and the gameplay is fast and highly addictive.

Legion's peace envoys met Hitler

WE all know how powerful the voice of the Royal British Legion can be in lobbying on behalf of Service-related causes such as the compensation campaign for Far East prisoners-of-war.

But how many of us were aware that the organisation petitioned for peace in the 1930s by controversially sending a "hand of friendship" delegation, backed by Edward, Prince of Wales, for talks with Hitler? From our perspective such supping with the devil seems bizarre and futile, but that particular road to hell was paved with good intentions.

For today's sensation-seeking palates the incident will add spice to the bread-and-butter record of routine events that were the inevitable staple for Brig Brian Harding during his three-and-a-half-year journey to complete the exhaustive (and possibly exhausting) Legion history, *Keeping Faith* (Leo Cooper, £25).

By delving into its 480 pages the detached reader can start to comprehend the diversity of the Legion's activities and the enormity of its role in safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who have served in the Armed Forces.

The charity has almost 700,000 members around the world but a yet more staggering statistic is that 15 million people are eligible to seek its help.

Brig Harding fully deserves the plaudits he has received for this fact-packed book, which is available to *Soldier* readers for the special price of £19.50, inc p&p.

Cheques (payable to The Royal British Legion Trading Company) to Janet Loze, RBL (Keeping Faith), 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY; card payments via Janet on 020 7973 7270. — CH

SOE's box of dirty tricks

Agents used itching powder, exploding rats and 'Bonzos'

THOSE of us who did not have the experience, either through lack of qualification, courage, opportunity, or simply not being born at the right time, must have sometimes wondered how Special Operations Executive (SOE) agents were trained for activities in enemy-occupied territories in the Second World War.

Now, following the release of top-secret dossiers, the Public Record Office has published what amounts to a manual for budding James Bonds without the benefit of Q's toys. In those days the agents' devices were rather less sophisticated: itching powder to be applied to enemy underclothing and the inside of contraceptives; incendiary cigarettes and briefcases; dead rats stuffed with explosives. These were some of the less offensive items in SOE's box of dirty tricks, many lethal and all very ungentlemanly.

The SOE was created in 1940 from elements of the Secret Intelligence Service, Foreign Office and War Office, as part of Churchill's plan to "set Europe on fire".

Fifty training schools for its field operatives were set up in Britain, some in the more remote parts of Scotland, with one accessible only by boat.

Several more were established overseas, including in 1941 Camp X in Canada, which gave invaluable help six months later to American Col William J (Big Bill) Donovan when he was setting up the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner of the CIA.

This book consists mostly of Camp X's

SOE Syllabus: Lessons in Ungentlemanly Warfare, World War II introduced by Denis Rigden (Public Record Office Secret History Files series, £19.99).

Review: Brian Jewell

course syllabus for SOE operatives. The agents had to absorb so much, including new identities, that it is amazing they remembered it all when they went on dangerous

and traumatic missions.

The syllabus covers everything from self-protection, through codes, ciphers and secret inks, knowledge of German military and civil administration, to close-combat and killing methods.

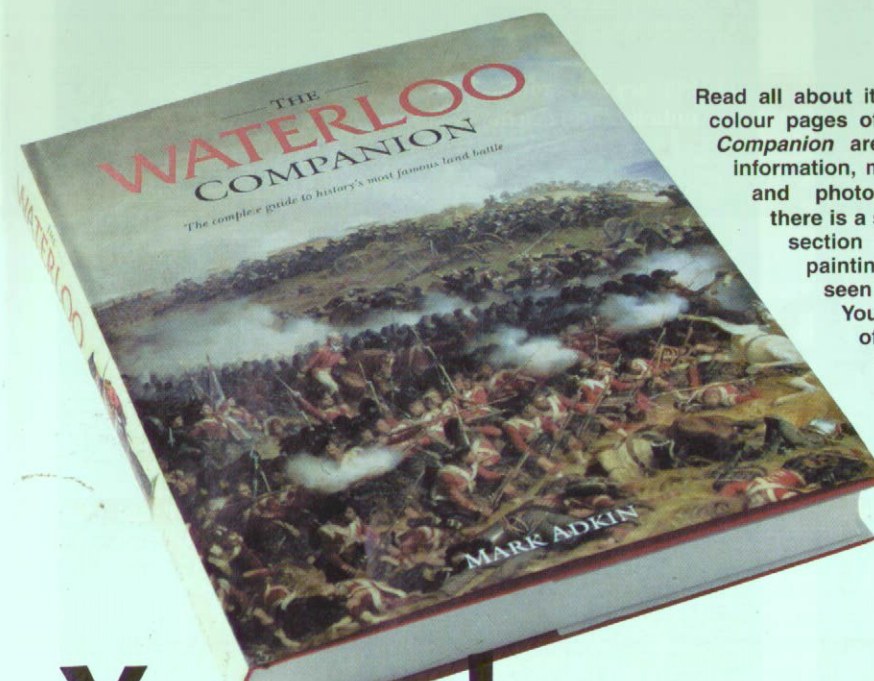
In the introductory chapter we find a tantalising reference to "Bonzos". These, it seems, were German prisoners-of-war who were selected from June 1944 (after D-Day) for their hatred of the Nazis.

No details are given of any "Bonzo" missions to aid our war effort. If there are stories to be told, they would certainly make another intriguing book.

Men and women of many nationalities were recruited, but what were their qualifications? Denis Rigden explains: "SOE's agents were drawn from all social and professional backgrounds. They belonged to any non-Nazi and non-Fascist political party or to none. They were any religion or none."

"They might be of any age, as shown by the two teenage French sisters sabotaging railway stock. Even hardened criminals, especially those with useful skills such as burglary or safe-breaking, were not excluded."

The organisation had all the ingredients of legends, and legends — both fact and fiction — there have been in plenty, living on to this day in the persona of 007.



Read all about it: The 400-plus colour pages of *The Waterloo Companion* are packed with information, maps, diagrams and photographs — and there is a superb 16-page section devoted to paintings of uniforms seen in the battle. You could be one of the lucky readers to win a copy in our contest. See below for entry details

Your chance to 'win' Waterloo

WE have TWO copies of this magnificent book to award as competition prizes in association with the publishers, Aurum Press.

The Waterloo Companion, written by former Army officer Mark Adkin and published by Aurum at £40, will be much sought-after by admirers of well-produced military history books, particularly those fascinated by the Napoleonic era.

Its 432 colourful, large-format pages con-

tain much more than just a well-written narrative of the events of June 18, 1815.

In addition to an enormous amount of detailed background information on personalities, strategies, terrain and the make-up of the armies, there is an intriguing section devoted to demolishing some of the long-held myths surrounding the battle.

The text is illustrated by many photographs, diagrams and specially-commissioned, full-colour maps, plus 16 pages of original paintings of uniforms.

Answer the following question on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope and send it to "Waterloo Competition" at *Soldier* by October 31. First two correct entries selected at random will win a copy of the book. Our usual competition rules apply.

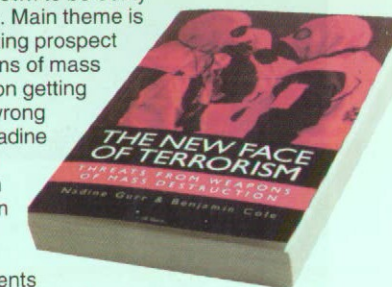
Question: From which island did Napoleon Bonaparte escape in 1815?

Bone-us award

THERE is a bonus prize in the August "Dogs at War" competition — thanks to publishers Carlton we now have two copies of the book, instead of one, to give away. The winners, drawn at random from correct entries, were Cpl B J L Griffiths, 110 Pro Coy, 1 RMP, BFPO 16 (Sennelager) and F Buckley, RAO, 12 Regt RA, Op Tosca, UNFICYP, BFPO 567 (Cyprus).

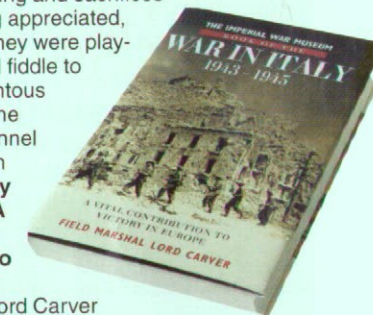
Chilling prophecies of terrorist menace

WRITTEN before the September 11 atrocities in America, *The New Face of Terrorism* (I B Tauris, paperback) is now shown to be eerily prophetic. Main theme is the haunting prospect of weapons of mass destruction getting into the wrong hands. Nadine Gurr and Benjamin Cole warn that "it is vital for governments and security agencies to maintain extreme vigilance". The trends and threats are analysed soberly and academically, but this timely treatise is a must-read for all those seeking authoritative background information on current events.



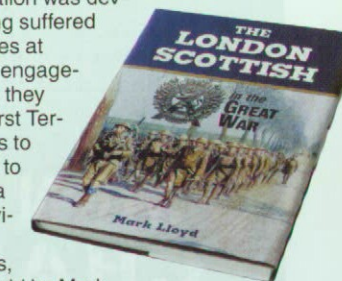
Italian campaign was vital to Allied victory

DURING the dark days of the Second World War, Allied soldiers in Italy were demoralised, wondering if their suffering and sacrifices were being appreciated, believing they were playing second fiddle to the momentous events of the cross-Channel invasion. In *War in Italy 1943-45: A Vital Contribution to Victory in Europe*, Lord Carver makes the case that had the Germans been able to deploy their forces in Italy against the D-Day landings and subsequent offensive, there would have been a very different situation in Northern Europe in 1944.



Volunteers who paid ultimate price saluted

IN late 1914, the 1st Battalion, The London Scottish prepared peacefully for summer camp. Just 12 months later, the battalion was devastated, having suffered one-third losses at Messines, an engagement in which they became the first Territorial soldiers to be committed to battle. Using a wealth of previously unpublished sources, their story is told by Mark Lloyd in *The London Scottish in the Great War* (Leo Cooper, £19.95). By November 1918, only three survivors from the original battle remained.



IN BRIEF

Their Darkest Hour: The hidden history of the Home Front, 1939-45 by Stuart Hylton. Author questions the authorities' decisions to evacuate civilians into the countryside, the rise of crime during the blackout, internment, press control and lack of equality for women doing men's jobs. (Sutton, £19.99.)

Commando Despatch Rider: From D-Day to Deutschland 1944-45 by Raymond Mitchell.

One man and his motorbike, delivering vital messages to forward units. His "right to roam" gave him a unique perspective. (Pen & Sword, £19.95.)

The War Within World War II: Tales from The King's African

Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Struggle for Supremacy by Thomas Fleming. The title says it all. (Perseus Press, £24.99.)

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free book-search; 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 4075). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: http://www.helion.co.uk

Rifles by John Nunneley. The author was a 19-year-old officer when he joined the famous colonial regiment in Kenya, going on to lead his askari troops against the Japanese in Burma. (Cassell, paperback, £6.99.)

The Inniskilling Diaries 1899-1903 by Martin Cassidy. The story of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at war against the Boers in South Africa, drawn from first-hand records by the

soldiers who endured harsh conditions and fought at Lady-smith and Inniskilling Hill. (Pen & Sword, £19.95.)

Three new paperback titles from Pen & Sword's Battle-ground Europe series are **Battle of the Bulge: Bastogne** by Michael Tolhurst; **Somme: Bazentin Ridge** by Edward Hancock; and **Normandy: Utah Beach St Mère Eglise** by Carl Shilleto. Each is priced £9.95.

The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte: Vol 2, The Fall by Robert Asprey. Nearly 500 pages in the second volume of Asprey's monumental biography. (Little, Brown, £25.) **Vol 1, The Rise** is now available in paperback (Abacus, £10.)

Recollections of an old 52nd man by Capt John Dobbs. Reproduction of the Peninsular War memories of a 52nd Light Infantry officer, first published in 1863. (Spellmount, £19.95.)



Full Time Reserve Service

Flexible Service with the Regular Army

Are you a TA officer or soldier looking for additional service with the Regular Army?

Are you a Regular Reservist wanting to return to the Army to do further service?

From 6 to 42 months in length

If YES

For a Response Pack call
FREephone 0800 028 5533

For further information visit:
www.army.mod.uk/ftres

Or Speak to your Unit Admin Officer

SIGN UP FOR A CHALLENGE

Buy the Best direct from Soldier

Military personnel can now buy traser watches at unbelievable discounts direct from Soldier magazine!

Chosen by many of the world's elite military units, traser watches have proven themselves on active duty throughout the globe. Features include a precision Swiss movement, rugged case construction and an array of traser lights that enable you to see the time quickly and accurately under any conditions, anytime - day or night!

Every watch in the range is guaranteed for two years (light source for ten). All have a one-direction rotating bezel and feature a double O-ring seal, with a screw-down crown making them water-resistant to 200 metres.



S3101V

Stainless steel case. Carbon bezel. Velcro strap. traser lights on all three hands. 40-month battery.
Civilian price: £179.95
Soldier price: £139.95



S3601V

Titanium case. Velcro strap. Screw-down crown. Hardened sapphire glass. 40-month battery.
Civilian price: £199.99
Soldier price: £159.95



S3401B

PVD-coated stainless steel case & strap. Screw-down crown. Hardened sapphire glass. eight-year lithium battery.
Civilian price: £249.99
Soldier price: £199.95



S3001P

All polymer case and strap (ultra-light). traser lights on all three hands. Push-in crown. 40-month battery.
Civilian price: £129
Soldier price: £99.95

traser

Whatever you do - do it longer!

Remember - For the best prices buy direct from Soldier!

To order: Complete and post this coupon today, together with a cheque made payable to **Soldier** OR - For a 'rapid-reaction' have your credit card details to hand and phone us on our hotline: **01252 34 73 53**

Name..... **S3001P** Qty..... Total: £

ID Number..... **S3601V** Qty..... Total: £

Address..... **S3101V** Qty..... Total: £

..... **S3401B** Qty..... Total: £

.....Postcode..... Expiry Date.....

Contact Tel No..... Issue No (switch only).....

Credit card No

Please add £4.95 for P&P (Watches will be despatched within 24 hours of receipt of order)

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to **Soldier** for: £.....

Return to: **Soldier**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

Other traser products also available online at: www.traser-uk.com

SOLDIER to soldier

Here we go again

WAR against international terrorism has been declared by President Bush and the wider implications for our Armed Forces are obvious, if rather vague at this moment.

What is certain is that young Americans are streaming into recruiting offices across the United States in response to the President's call to arms, and that our Prime Minister has promised that Britain will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them.

How quickly the so-called peace dividend seems to have evaporated. Soldiers deployed to Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia, East Timor and Sierra Leone, the Falklands and the Gulf may be forgiven for wondering if it was a post-Cold War illusion.

◆ ◆ ◆

So it is timely that new welfare packages are being brought on line, and that a study into how the Army supports its families when their soldiers are away on operations is due in the near future.

However, even in this age of technological miracles, the updated operational welfare package (see Page 9) comes with a health warning: "Those deployed to remote locations within a given theatre may find it more difficult to get access to some of the facilities", is how HQ Land puts it.

◆ ◆ ◆

In other words, a soldier manning an observation post on a bleak mountainside in Macedonia (or Afghanistan, for that matter), is unlikely to be a short walk from the nearest shops. Neither is he likely to have instant access to 20 minutes of free calls in a conveniently-sited phone booth, or a computer terminal wired up so he can e-mail home.

Front-line soldiering has always been a tough and uncompromising trade, and it remains so today. Whatever lies ahead, the British Army's declared priority is to be prepared for the nation's call to go to war.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Never had it so good? Rubbish!

I'm with Oliver Twist on this one. More please, Sir

IT IS good to get letters that make you stop and think. I've had a couple from *Journal* readers recently telling me it's time we – Army spouses, that is – realised how lucky we are.

They were prompted to write after reading letters on our Post-bag pages which highlighted some of the problems encountered by other spouses. Enough of this asking for more, they said. You don't appreciate how lucky you are.

I was surprised by their reaction and began to wonder if they were right. Are we lucky? Do we really have it so good that there's no need to protest about difficulties which are affecting us solely because we are married to someone in the Army? Difficulties not generally encountered by any other section of the population?

I do feel lucky to be part of the Army community, full of good friends everywhere and neighbours who help out because they might need help themselves tomorrow.

We might even consider ourselves lucky to be posted to a variety of different places – marry the Army, see the world (well, a bit of it).

But I'm not sure moving house every two years or less and disrupting children's education, spouse careers and life in general could be described as lucky. Character-building, possibly.

Look at education and health, two vital issues for any family. There is an oft-quoted policy that Service families should expect the same state services and benefits as their civilian counterparts – no more and no less.

The problem is that our mobility gets in the way of that equal treatment, particularly in the United Kingdom.

We so often have to leave the queue before we reach the counter. Take school places, National Health Service waiting lists, NHS dentists, special needs statements. There's no doubt these are also a



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

problem for everyone else in the UK. But they are even more of a problem for mobile Army families who move on every two years or so.

Each posting means finding another doctor, another NHS dentist, new schools, new jobs – and if you have any particular or special needs, the difficulties multiply.

If places in the queue are rare for civilian families, they are an endangered species for us. And despite the very best efforts of

the Army and the Service Families' Task Force, not much has happened to change this state of affairs.

So why not just stop moving? For one thing, the Army doesn't want us to. Accompanied service is all about keeping soldiers and families together in the interests of operational effectiveness, not to mention retention. For another, most of us prefer to stay together as a family, and support our soldiers.

Only eight per cent of respondents to the Army Families Federation's Changing Attitudes survey wanted to stay put in one place.

And it's not just the moving. Although we have not actually signed up – as our soldiers have done – to risk life and limb in defence of the state, their risk is also ours. We risk losing our home and our way of life, as well as our soldier.

How many civilians can say the same?

Isn't that risk and support worth a little

extra? Service families are capable and resourceful and used to coping, but we are currently being asked to deal with some of the most significant difficulties of mobility on our own.

Shouldn't those difficulties be recognised and addressed, even if that does mean giving us priority when it comes to school places and NHS waiting lists?

So, on consideration and despite my correspondents' views, I think you could say I'm with Oliver Twist on this one. More please, Sir.

'Do we really have it so good that there's no need to protest about difficulties which are affecting us solely because we are married to someone in the Army?'



WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU
● E-mail: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Some Kosovo units to get more post-tour leave than us

I AM currently serving a four-month tour of Kosovo, due to end in early November. We've been told that we are only getting two weeks' leave at the end of the tour. However, on speaking to other units I have discovered a disparity in post-tour leave, with one unit getting a month off.

On top of that, my home unit in Germany will, as usual, be given a choice of having either Christmas or New Year off, while other units are stood down in mid-December and return in early January.

I would be interested to know what the rules are concerning post-tour leave.

Incidentally, four months away is a happy medium and does not create major problems with regard to families. Long tours create welfare problems but nobody can complain about four months.

I know some don't mind being away for six months at a time but I have a life outside the Army and enjoy spending time with my family.

It seems from Vox pop (August) that it's mainly singles that think six months away is acceptable. Well done to Cpl Mark Taylor of 39 Engineer Regiment for a well-balanced opinion. Obviously a future welfare officer. – **Cpl X (name supplied), minor unit, Pristina, Kosovo.**

▲ DPS(A) Upavon responds:

To answer your correspondent's question on why some units are getting more post-tour leave than his, personnel on roulement operational tours of six months are granted post-tour leave of 20 working days.

Where tours are for more or less than six months, post-operational tour leave (POTL) is granted in proportion to the length of the tour (one working day's leave for each nine calendar days served).

Commanding officers have discretion to increase the period of leave by allowing individuals to add some of their annual allowance to POTL. Full details are contained in Chapter 2 of the Army Leave Manual 2000.

I AM not the fittest soldier in the Army. I am not a PT instructor, nor do I wish to be, but I am able to get a satisfactory level on my basic fitness tests.

My gripe is about the many soldiers who fail to meet this very basic level of fitness time and time again and yet receive no punishment or incentive to do so. I'm sure individual units and regiments have their own methods of getting

It's time to link fitness and salary

I'm barred from my husband's mess

MY husband has recently been promoted to the rank of sergeant and obviously this involves functions in the sergeants' mess. He has been told that because I am only a corporal, I cannot attend any of these with him.

I believe this to be wrong.

I understand that I am not entitled to mess facilities but surely going to a mess function would harm no one? I am not even in his unit.

Prize letter

A member of the mess could go down to the local pub and pick up anyone and take them to a function, but I cannot go and I am the wife of a mess member.

Every time he gets ready to attend a function I am upset that I cannot accompany him.

Couldn't the Army – or its RSMs – get up to date as this is not good for morale? – **Cpl AGC(PS) (name and address supplied) Germany.**

Wife's affair puts MQ rules on spot

I WRITE in regard to a situation which I find myself. It involves my married quarter and soon-to-be ex-wife. I discovered that she was having an affair with a civilian and so I moved into single accommodation.

No sooner had I left my married quarter than the third party moved in. I can just about live with my wife's adulterous antics, but what angers me is that she is now cohabiting in a quarter for which I pay the rent.

In pursuit of her affair, she is using the house in which my children live. I have my nose well and truly rubbed in it by work colleagues.

I approached the local Defence Housing Executive (DHE) office with a view to making my wife directly responsible for the rent, but was informed that the licence could not be transferred for 93 days. So, for 93 days I have to pay the rent while my wife lives with another man.

Although the DHE sympathises, it says their hands are tied. This is unacceptable. The rules on cohabitation are in need of clarification.

How can two civilians, my wife being one, stake a claim to an MQ at someone else's expense and blatantly flaunt not just the quarter rules but the rules of decency?

people through these assessments – remedial training/confined to camp until passed, that sort of thing – but why is there no Army-wide policy?

Would it not be a stronger statement to the over-weight and the unfit

(who are required by the nature of their employment to be fit), that if they continually fail to meet the basic standards, they will have to take a cut in pay.

They are like the cats that got the cream and I am being made to pay twice for my wife's affair, both emotionally and financially. The DHE needs to review its rules. I understand that they cannot make people homeless, but in these circumstances there should be an element of protection for the licensee. – **Name and address supplied.**

▲ The DHE responds:

As the sender has asked to remain anonymous, the DHE has not been able to investigate the full circumstances of the case, so our response deals with this subject in very broad terms.

It is a reasonable provision that, where a spouse remains in a quarter following a marriage breakdown, he or she is given a dignified period to find a new home before the licence lapses.

That period is 93 days. It would not be proper to issue a new licence to the spouse, thereby creating the right to occupy property intended exclusively for married serving personnel.

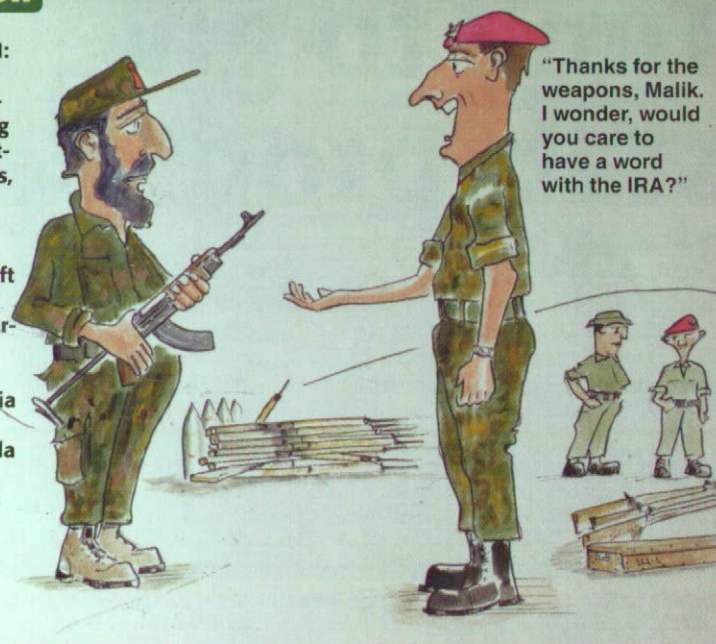
It is a condition of the licence that the licensee retains responsibility for paying the accommodation charge during this period. This ensures a clear line of financial responsibility during a very emotive period in which it would be inappropriate for DHE staff to become involved in determining the moral rights and wrongs of the situation.

This would need looking at carefully for all those who have a genuine excuse through, for example, injury or illness. Perhaps there could be a period of time or number of attempts before a cut was made, but in my opinion something needs to be done.

People who have a low level of physical fitness are not able to fulfil their operational requirements so should not be paid the full wage. Does anyone else feel as strongly as me? – **Cpl Lee Lawson, 11 EOD, Edinburgh.**

PISCATOR

COMING SOON: ABF Despatches. A new catalogue, featuring specially selected military gifts, including a range for children, at great prices. Every gift you buy helps our central charity – the ABF. For your own copy, call Marcia on 020 7591 2058 or Amanda on 01285 713 466 or write to ABF Despatches, Douglas Bader House, Fairford, Glos GL7 4DL.



ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
SUPPORTING THE BEST



Call 020 7591 2000 or visit www.armybenevolentfund.com

Short-changed by this Robin Hood syndrome

I WRITE on behalf of all victims of Robin Hood syndrome (sorry, I meant the A/R payment system in use in theatre) in Sierra Leone.

To get 250,000 leones you are deducted £106.39 (or Le2350 to £1). If, however, you go to a bank or official foreign exchange facility (never mind the unofficial ones), you will receive an extra Le550 to £1. This means that to buy Le250,000 officially would cost between £86.20 and £20.19 less.

This is daylight robbery under any other name. How can anyone justify a commission rate of 20 per cent plus?

In simple English, for every £50 you think you have earned while in Sierra Leone, you get £40. Do loan sharks charge as much?

As of August 1, the FFR was increased to Le2700 to £1. Although this is an improvement, at the same time the

exchange rate available through local official sources is now Le3100 to £1, still a 13 per cent discrepancy. What's going on? – **Name and address supplied.**

▲ G1 Land Command responds:

Public accounts in Sierra Leone operate using the General Accounting rate (GAR), a practice in line with MoD policy for such overseas stations. The GAR is reviewed at the end of each month and fixed for the following month.

The monthly GAR is referenced against the World Currency Rate (WCR) indices published by the major financial institutions.

Locally, the currency exchange rate may rise or fall on a daily basis against the stabilised GAR. Inevitably at times the WCR will be higher than the GAR, at other times lower. It is understood that the recent GARs compare favourably with the Sterling buy rates offered by major banks in Sierra Leone.

It must be added that the MoD does not levy or conceal any handling charge or commission on local currency transactions.

OFFICER or other rank; serving or civvy... Soldier welcomes your letters. Please keep them brief and to the point. If not e-mailed, 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 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...

Infantry's vital role

I AM writing in response to the letter from SSgt Vincent RE ("Men we command will soon be paid more than us", June). While I strongly agree that command, control and communication is a vital key to modern warfare, I would point out that without an infantry soldier confronting the enemy no battle will be fully won.

We have learned the hard way that teeth arms are the *raison d'être* of warfare. It takes an infantry soldier to hold and defend ground. I would suggest disgruntled corpsmen decide what upsets them more, a rightly acknowledged infantry or mess banter. Alternatively we could make Brecon's battle courses all-arms before discussing the merits of rewarding the infantry. – **Fus J P Strickland, 1 RRF.**

Stop the moaning

I'M fed up with all the whining about Pay 2000. Yes, we know it was a cost-cutting exercise and the MoD must be pleased about that. But what about the fact that we are all volunteers?

We do not have to be here if we don't want to be. It's not the money that attracts us but the adventure. No other company in the world can offer you what the Army has to offer... a hard, short lesson on life.

We are overworked due to the manpower shortages. At the end of the day we get on with it and produce the goods. We are adaptable in any situation thrown at us. That is what makes us "The Best".

I know they say that if soldiers are not moaning there must be something wrong, but Pay 2000 has had enough for the time being. Let's moan about something else. For starters, how about Army tentage being outdated and bulky. We've had SFOR, IFOR, KFOR and now we have MFOR (Money For Old Rope). – **SSgt P O'Brien, 15 Signal Regt, Northern Ireland.**

Capital expenses

IF a local overseas allowance (LOA) is paid to soldiers stationed overseas to help with the cost of living why is the London allowance so far out of touch with the cost of living in England? It is, after all, the 12th most expensive city in the world.

How can someone in Cyprus be paid more than someone living in London when things here are so much more expensive? You should try to get car insurance at a rate equal to the rest of Britain, let alone Germany. One British company charges as much as 50 per cent more for living in London.

Companies in London pay rates that retain their workforce. The London Retention Allowance is an allowance like LOA, so can someone please adjust it to reflect this. – **SSgt A McLaughlan, 16 Regiment RA, London.**



WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU
● E-mail: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Under Pay 2000 I'm now being out-earned by a subordinate crew member

I WAS a corporal crew commander in the Royal Armoured Corps awaiting promotion to sergeant. Under Pay 2000 I fell into level 5 in the higher range.

On promotion in May I moved to level 5 in the lower range. Sergeants in the RAC cannot move into the higher range, although they continue to have responsibilities as crew commanders as well as new responsibilities associated with the rank.

A corporal who works with me and who is an RAC crew commander has followed the same career structure as I have. He moved to level 5 in the higher range and then received an increase taking him to level 6, which means I earn less than he does although I outrank him in my trade.

In May 2002 he will move to level 7 in his pay band and in June I will move to level 6 in my band – and still earn less than him. A year later I will move to level 7 and finally out-earn him.

The irony of the situation is that if I had refused promotion I would earn more than I presently do until 2003.

It is unacceptable that corporals in the RAC will be better off by refusing promotion. I appreciate that Pay 2000 will take some time to work out its peculiarities, but this situation will persist for a number of years during which it will have a serious effect on moral.

There should be an urgent review of Pay 2000, followed by remedial action. There can be no justification for paying corporals more than sergeants within the same trade. – **Sgt George Rodgers, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.**

▲ *The Pay 2000 themes raised by Sgt Rodgers were covered in a response by Maj Gen Peter Currie, the Deputy Adjutant General, to several letters on a similar theme published in the August issue.*

In that response, Maj Gen Currie wrote: "... the letters we have seen reflect above all a degree of anger that the transitional arrangements have created situations where people with greater seniority can find themselves earning less than their juniors in the same trade."

"There is a real problem here and can I just say that the message has been heard loud and clear. We are on the case and will follow up specific instances we have received as well as the more general issue they have exposed."

Sgt Rodgers's views, and those of others who have written in similar terms, will be passed on to Upavon. – **Editor**

Time to give us stab-proof vests

I AM a serving military police NCO in Catterick and as such am at the forefront of policing the largest garrison in the UK.

We work alongside our civilian police colleagues to the best of our ability. Faced with ever-increasing forms of violence, we were issued with extendable batons and rigid cuffs, just like the civil police.

But while they are issued stab-proof vests, we stand alongside them wearing our No 2 dress shirts. We've had it on good authority that we will not be issued with stab vests.

This, we have been told, is because of

▲ **Col S F Boyd, COS Provost Marshal (Army), Upavon, responds:**

I can assure your correspondent that cost is not the primary concern when considering the provision of necessary equipment to enable our soldiers to carry out their role. Indeed, we have had much recent success in securing funding for a range of essential equipment, comparable to that provided for our civil police colleagues.

Examples include IT equipment, new patrol cars, personal issue patrol belts and attachments, auto-lock batons, and the latest rigid handcuff – all either on issue or about to come into service. We are also carrying out trials of a new patrol jacket made of high-quality breathable material.

Provision of protective body armour has been under consideration for some time as

the expense. Must we wait for an NCO to be killed or badly injured on duty before the vests are issued?

After a serious public order incident involving about 40 soldiers fighting, the CCTV coverage of which contrasted the North Yorkshire Police in their vests with us in shirts, we were told we could have just ten vests to draw on.

There is a duty of care here as well as of our health. All NCOs who police this garrison would willingly wear stab-proof vests for personal safety. – **Name and address supplied.**

part of our equipment programme. Covert "stab vests" are available commercially, for wear under a uniform shirt. These are not generally provided by civil police forces, though officers are at liberty to purchase and wear their own. Most forces provide a form of overt body armour, normally worn when attending incidents of an anti-social nature, or at the discretion of the individual officer.

The wearing of body armour can, however, itself present an aggressive policing message, particularly when the level of violent crime in some garrison areas is, if anything, reducing (by about 10 per cent in North Yorkshire last year). But of course we fully recognise the need to provide for the safety of our NCOs, so we are taking steps to procure and issue body armour to those at risk on a similar basis to the Ministry of Defence Police.

This relocation allowance puts home-owners at disadvantage

THIS isn't a complaint, just a request for clarification. I understand that, on posting, a soldier driving to work daily from his own home in his own car is entitled to apply for the Recompense in Lieu of Relocation (RILOR) allowance while a soldier posted to the same unit who wishes to retain his military accommodation and commute daily may apply for Residence to Place of Duty (RESPOD).

Thus, two soldiers happen to live a few miles apart and travel approximately 90 miles a day to the same new unit. But, due to the differences in entitlements, the soldier who chooses to retain his married quarter is better off by about £5 a day, £150 a month or £1,800 a year.

As both fill their cars with fuel that costs the same an explanation to the differences in allowances would be much appreciated.

If the MoD is keen to encourage people to purchase their own homes to provide their families with a stable environment, this case proves that doing so is a bad move financially. – **Sgt Gibson, HQ Land, Wilton.**

▲ **DPS(A) Upavon responds:**

Part of the difference in payment between RESPOD and RILOR is due to the contribution that is made by the individual.

For RESPOD the first three miles (six miles a day) is not paid for by the MoD. For RILOR it is the first nine miles (18 miles a day) that is not paid for by the MoD. The nine miles each way equates to a civilian counterpart who chooses where he lives and therefore how far he travels to work (the national average being nine miles from place of work) and is linked to relocation costs.

The rates for each allowance are provided with the contribution already taken into account leading to a disparity between them.

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1976: Army pensions have been increased by an average of £3 for soldiers and officers up to mid-incremental colonels. The income policy froze salaries at £8,500 a year, which means that people earning more than that did not get a pay rise or a pension increase. A major retiring with 30 years' service would get £2,792.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1951: Rifle, carbine, machine-gun ... Britain's new .280 or 7mm weapon, pictured above, is all three. Nato is considering the weapon although the calibre is not used by any other member countries. At present Britain is the nation out of step. The rifle – the EM2 (Experimental Model 2) has been devised from scratch by Enfield.

Unmarried ... but we'll need a quarter for baby

MY girlfriend and I are both serving soldiers and have been in a serious relationship for a number of years.

We were recently overjoyed to learn we are expecting a baby. When my partner asked the families' office if she was entitled to a married quarter, she was informed that she was.

However, she was told she would be able to take up occupancy only a few weeks before the birth and there is a good chance I will be serving away from our unit by then. It seems to make no sense to expect a heavily pregnant woman to move into a quarter on her own.

I have been told, to my disbelief, that I will not be able to live with my family when the child is born, as we are not married.

This seems draconian to me and while my families office and superiors have been sympathetic, they have no choice but to enforce this policy.

We appreciate this is the current regulation. However, given attitudes in civilian life, is it not time the Army reconsidered its stance on this issue, as a growing

number of unmarried Service personnel are in long-term relationships. We are surely not the first and will definitely not be the last to find ourselves in this position.

While I am sure many readers will say "get married and you won't have a problem", we feel that we are not ready to marry and could make better use of our saving to give our child a good start in life.

Because of this we are both considering leaving the Service, as we can see no way round this problem. Neither of us really wants to leave, nor do we want to be pushed into marriage simply to meet the criteria for a quarter. – **LCpl C V Lewin, C Squadron, QRL, Imphal Barracks, Osnabruck.**

▲ *The advice you received from your families' office reflects exactly the current regulations. Entitlement to a married quarter is dependent on you being married. The tricky area of housing and benefits for unwed soldiers in long-term relationships is under review in the MoD.*

If you want to know what other soldiers think about it, look out for a forthcoming Vox pop feature in the magazine. – Editor

PS...

No help for dogs

I WILL be posted to Cyprus at the end of this year. I am a married soldier and there is only myself and my wife and pet dog as we are unable to have children. The dog is our child. I will be getting disturbance allowance, which is around £800, but my question is, why is there no allowance for help in taking out your dog? – **Cpl A P West AGC(APS), RMTTC, Nottingham.**

So now you know

Trying to puzzle out some of the military jargon in *Soldier* brought to mind a unit I came across in the Egyptian Canal Zone in 1942. It was known as, wait for it, 1PTFOCRASCMEFL. It stood for 1 Petrol Tin Factory Operating Company, Royal Army Service Corps, Middle East Land Forces. – **Alan W Gittins, Shrewsbury.**

Trivial sideburns

THE JNCO from 16 Air Assault Brigade is correct that SNCOs have more important things to worry about than the trivia he writes about (Sideburns, Aug). Human rights, health and safety and under-manning to name a few.

As an SNCO I rely on JNCOs to assist with the heavy workload imposed by under-manning and heavy commitments, and I would question the mindset of a JNCO who concentrates on such trivial issues. There's a lot more going on in the Army of today and it is a case of "all hands to the pumps" to maintain the professionalism of the Armed Forces.

If the most important thing is your facial hair and your headgear, I suggest you are focusing on the wrong issues. – **SSgt J Howdle, REME, Warminster.**

DISCIPLINE remains at the core of all our activities. Being well turned out is a part of the great military system that sets us apart from all other armies. If we lower our traditional standards of excellence then we are eating into the whole esprit de corps of the British Army. – **C Broadfoot, WO1 (RASM), Salisbury.**

A nice day out?

I READ in the media that the Army is short of strength and the intake is down. Could some blame be laid at the Army's door? Recently I saw a recruiting team from a prestige regiment set up a presentation trailer in a city centre. It consisted of posters and photos ... no hardware to stop people and get their attention.

Besides, interested parties would have had a hard time breaking into the conversation between those manning the stand. One youth did stop, but, with no attention paid to him, drifted away. A nice day out of the office for those on the team? – **D M White, Cheltenham.**

▲ *Mr White's experience may be the exception rather than the rule if your report on Page 17 is anything to go by. – Editor*

Online
Ordering

SILVERMAN'S

www.military.co.uk

All
NEW
Website

British Army Navigators
+ Date Avail with
Blk, Grn or Sand dial
NEW £110.00
Stock Code 80035



R.M. Special Boat
Service 300mtr
NEW £299.00
Stock Code 80029



Royal Naval Divers
Issue Silver No Date
NEW £250.00
Stock Code 80032



CWC

Automatic GS
1970's Issue
Limited stocks
NEW £185.00
Stock Code 13412



CWC

Quartz 2001
General Service with
No Battery hatch.
Luminous not Tritium
NEW £110.00 Stock Code 33073



CWC

Arctic
Wired
hood



SAS Windproof Smock
£90.00 Stock Code 22001
SAS Arctic Smock £95.00
Dpm Para smocks
£69.99 Stock Code 22005



DPM Lightweight
Tropical trousers
- sold '95 kit
NEW £32.99
40+ NEW £39.99
Stock Code 03012



OFFICERS Sand Shirt
Cotton soft &
comfortable to wear,
Superior quality
NEW £35.00
Stock Code 02100
General Service Shirt
Olive Green cotton
NEW £25.00 Stock Code 02001



PLCE Set
Webbing
6 part,
Green or DPM
£120.00



Soldier '95 PLCE DPM
Tactical Assault vest.
£125.00. Stock Code 55013
Genuine Norge shirt
shown under tac vest.
£25.00 Stock Code 02002

Soldier '95 Kit
PLCE Cmmdo
Chest Rig
DPM or O.G.
NEW £55.00
Stock Code 49002



N.I. Combat Gloves
Black leather, £25.00
Stock Code 26001
Old pattern gloves
+ padded fingers
£29.99 Stock Code 70399
Soldier '95 G-Tex
Gloves NEW £45.00



British Army Pro Boot
from £120.00
Stock Code 04125
See full view @ military.co.uk



USA ALPHA N2B
Sage or Black NEW from
£120.00 Stock Code 15003
N3B Parka
NEW from £130.00



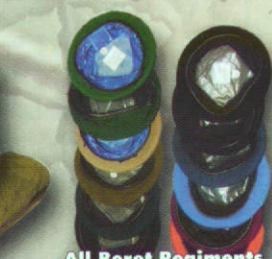
Buffalo
Special 6 shirt
Olive or Black
£89.99
Stock Code 01138



SNUGPAK SLEEKA PADDED
JACKET Military Green
(Black also avail). NEW £69.99
Blk/Grn Rvrsble £85.00
Stock Code 01137



Snugpak Softie
Merlin3 5Deg
£59.99
Stock Code 28046
Hawk -5deg
£84.99
Stock Code 28047



All Beret Regiments
& Sizes Available
Phone or See Website
for details.



USA & British Jungle Hats
Avail: Green, Cammo, Tiger,
Sand, Desert, Rhodesian, Black
£15.99, size 59+ £17.99
Stock Code 18060



Shemagh £6.99
Stock Code 18101



PLCE BERGEN 125ltr.
Green, DPM or Black
£175.00 Stock Code 32001

1000
MILE

SUPPLIERS TO THE MILITARY

Thorlo

See Website for More
Gerber, Leatherman-swiss
& Sogg Tools



GERBER
multi lock £59.99
Stock Code 70331



SUREFIRE 6P LITHIUM
FLASHLIGHT Battle proven
performance
NEW £59.99
Stock Code 11440



M5 Suunto NATO
Compass £29.99
Stock Code 45004
SILVA NATO COMPASS
£39.99 Stock Code 45004SILVA



MINI RUBBER BINOS NATO
GRATICULE & StadiaMetric
rangerfinder.
wt.330grms size 8x21
£135.00 Stock Code 14280



COMBAT
SURVIVAL TIN.
£12.99
Stock Code 28009

2 Harford Street Mile End London E1 4PS
Tel:0207 7 900 900 Fax:0207 7 910 008
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 09:00 - 17:30
Sat CLOSED, Sun 10:00 - 13:00
E - mail: soldier@silvermans.co.uk

Prices subject to current cat. Standard UK p&p £3.99

Contact for FREE Catalogue quoting Soldier

Full
Range
www.
military.
co.uk



Clerks' trade is so undervalued

THERE is little wonder we are failing to recruit and retain clerks. It has to be one of the most undervalued trades in the Army.

As well as normal soldierly duties, we are expected to carry out administration in support of every soldier and officer in the unit. This often entails working long after everyone else has been stood down.

Technical expertise and depth of knowledge go unrecognised, particularly among junior and senior NCOs. It is taken for granted.

There are currently no civilian qualifications apportioned to the clerical trade other than National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), which for the more senior clerks do not apply. And they have to be paid for by the individual.

Like chefs, we are part of the infrastructure and are suffered by the host unit. In the absence of these two trades, I wonder how long a unit would last before it became operationally infunctual.

Pay 2000, which ignored the value of clerks, was the final insult. It's time the Army started looking after those who look after them; pretty soon there won't be anyone wanting to do the job. – SSgt T S Lee AGC(SPS), Command Support Development Centre, Blandford.

Does gay support group conceal a hidden agenda?

DESPITE the fact that I have no concerns about anyone's sexual preferences, I was annoyed by your article "Gays launch support group" (Update, August).

I was under the impression that gay and lesbian relationships within the Armed Forces would be tolerated provided their sexual views were not promoted. Does the launch of such a group representing gay views not conflict with this tolerance?

We were ordered to treat them equally, so why do they feel the need to promote equal treatment? Or is "promote" the key word in some hidden agenda?

All this is conducted through a confidential advice line. I feel this is a threat to the impartiality of the Army and amounts to no more than a secret society, and it could easily be exploited (under the guise of confidentiality) as a gay union. I think the Army and *Soldier* should consider this issue more carefully before sanctioning such a group. – WO2 W McLean, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, Marchwood.

Let's give the Jubilee Medal to all soldiers

IF Service personnel can be tasked to clear livestock infected by foot-and-mouth, fight fires and go wherever the country sends them – even go to war – they should ALL be entitled to receive the Queen's Jubilee Medal. I do not believe it should be limited to those with five years' of service.

Well done and thanks to Sue Bonney (Home Truths, Aug) and WO2 (SSM) Washbrook (Mail, Aug). I hope their pens will influence those who have made a wrong decision over the allocation of this

once-in-a-lifetime medal. – WO1 D L Dove, LSL/REME.

WITH all the recent hype regarding the allocation of the Queen's Jubilee Medal, it has recently come to my attention that the Army Cadet Force allocation will be for officers only.

If this is true it will be a huge slap in the face to the warrant officers and sergeants who put just as much time and effort into making the ACF a success. – ACF officer (name and address supplied).

Complain at the time

I READ with keen interest the letter from Cpl Trask (Aug) regarding his views on military catering staff and (most relevantly to me as the RCWO) his recent experiences during his time spent at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut and at St Omer Barracks in Aldershot.

I was concerned by his comments regarding the catering services provided at Princess Royal Barracks. First, I would like to echo the comment made by HQ DRLC, that if there is cause for complaint it should be registered immediately to the head caterer, orderly officer and/or to the senior military caterer.

Senior military caterers in contracted

units encourage feedback and rely upon timely, constructive comments in order to investigate complaints on behalf of soldiers. It also enables the unit to work with the supplier in improving services.

In an effort to provide a belated answer to his comments, I can assure him that I have never witnessed the practices that he describes.

I would also like to assure all personnel using the facility that had I witnessed such bad practice, the response in dealing with it would be unequivocal, swift and severe. – WO1 A P Palin, RCWO, Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey.

You don't always have to take no for an answer

SEVERAL times in my career I have been told I was not entitled to this or could only expect that. Not being one to take no for an answer I usually do my homework and go back armed with the facts.

Cpl McKendry's letter ("MFO leaves room for improvement", Sept) reminded me of just such an incident while I was on a residential tour in Northern Ireland.

I bought a double bed for my room in the sergeants' mess. The only problem would be moving it on posting as I was under the impression that as a "single" I would have to fit all my worldly possessions into a cornflakes box.

My next posting was to a careers office where there was no military barracks. First obstacle was arranging for my MFO to be delivered to my home, which was at the same location as my posting.

I was told my MFO could only be delivered to a military address and I would be responsible for the onward journey. I was also told I would not be entitled to send my bed back with my MFO as it was outside my quota.

I knew the Army had moved with the times so did some homework.

My new admin unit told me I was not only entitled to movement of the bed, but as I was being posted to a unit outside a military location, I was entitled to have my MFO shipped to any UK address.

The moral of this is that if you are in a position to offer advice, ensure you are up to speed on the latest policies. I was fortunate enough to have consulted an RAO who was prepared to research the subject and tell me exactly what I was entitled to. – Sgt I Ross, Recruiter, Ipswich.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Home comforts

We asked soldiers serving in Bosnia and Northern Ireland their views on single living accommodation

Cpl Brian Young, KRH, Sarajevo

At home, the cash raised on something like a new gymnasium should be spent on upgrading single accommodation. The accommodation is a soldier's home. Sometimes they are spending the money on the wrong things.



LCpl Iain Monaghan, QRL, Sarajevo

In my experience, the accommodation has been quite decent. In Osnabruck, where my unit is, I have a single-man room. Here I am in a two-man room and there is plenty of space but we are not living in Corimec. Accommodation on exercises, where we are living in huts, is unpleasant.



Sig Daniel Unwin, 16 Sig Regt, Banja Luka

I have always had a single room so it's not been too bad for me, but I've seen people sharing six to a room and nowadays there is no need for that. Type Z is a move in the right direction with more privacy.



Maj Ivan Jones, 168 Pioneer Regt, RLC (TA), Sarajevo

Some are still a bit dodgy, but it takes time to improve all the accommodation. Over the years there has been an improvement. It is much better than when I first joined up

with the large barrack blocks, 12 or 14 to a room. From what I have seen, they are on the right road.

Sgt John Fyfe, 4 RTR (Reservist), Banja Luka

It has improved over the years but I think here there is not much that they could do. We are in two-man Corimec; I would not like to be in three- or four-man. The accommodation I had in the old days wasn't too bad.



Gdsm David Dickson, 1 SG

It's fairly good but not maintained properly, in places it's just falling to bits. Also there could be more privacy. There's more bed space at Catterick than London. Wellington



Barracks is a good location, but the buildings are poor.

Sgt Scott Baird, LI, Sarajevo

The accommodation in Sarajevo it is certainly better than on other tours I've been on. In the UK, it depends on where you are; some have good, some bad. At the moment I am in Dregghorn Barracks, Edinburgh and it is not the best in the world. We are about to move out and, typically, that is now being improved.



Maj Len Read, RLC, Balkans

It has improved but I think more still needs to be done. Progress is slow but money spent is an investment in the soldiers of the future. People are not prepared, as we were when I was recruited, to live in a room with 20 guys in it as we did as young soldiers in Bulford.



Pte Greg Docherty, 1 A and SH

Out here in Belfast it is pretty bad because they have not done much to fix it up or anything but over in Edinburgh it was good accommodation. If repairs needed doing they would come in and fix things quickly.



Founded 1945
Incorporating the
Territorial Army Magazine



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU
Distribution and enquiries: 01252 347353 (or Aldershot mil (94222) 2353)

Fax 347358 (2358)

E-mail:
mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit our website on
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit the Army website on
www.army.mod.uk

Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 01252 347355
(Aldershot military (9)4222) 2355)

Editor John Elliott 347356 (Aldershot mil 2356)

Assistant Editors Anthony Stone 340462 (5462),
Ray Routledge 340753 (5753),

Andy Simms (Sport) 347362 (2362)

Art Editor Les Gwyer 347169 (2169)

Chief Photographer Mike Weston 347357 (2357)

Photographer Graeme Main 347357 (2357)

Librarian Stuart Robinson 347351 (2351)

Marketing Manager Andy Clarkson 347352 (2352)

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by St Ives (Andover) Ltd. Crown Copyright 2001.

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.



SERVICE PEOPLE LOOK

OUT FOR EACH OTHER.

SHOULDN'T SOMEONE BE

LOOKING OUT FOR YOU?

S01

Sometimes you get a tough reception from the world outside. Anything from getting reasonably priced insurance to finding a new career can be hampered by the job you do. We know, because we've served in the Armed Forces ourselves.

So we've set up Affinitas, to help you get essential products and services on better terms. Like insurance that doesn't penalise you because of your way of life – and sometimes even turns it to your advantage. Our Home cover, for example, recognises that your

possessions are at less risk when they're secure in a patrolled area – and reflects it in the price.

But we offer much more than that. Like a service dedicated to preparing you for a new career. And another to put you in touch with companies that value skills like yours. We're adding new ways to help you all the time. (You can probably help us think of more.)

So call us on the number below – and let someone look out for you, for a change.

0800 316 1 317
+44 1206 393 777

www.affinitas.com


affinitas
looking out for you

E.M.C TAX FREE

NOBODY BEATS OUR PRICES...



**Officially
Europe's
Largest Tax Free
Specialists**

Audi
BMW
Citroen
Chrysler
Ford
Hyundai
Jeep
MG Rover
Mercedes Benz
Mini
Peugeot
Renault
Seat
Vauxhall
Volkswagen

... AND NOBODY BEATS OUR SERVICE

IF YOU'RE NOT BUYING YOUR NEXT NEW CAR FROM EMC YOU'LL PROBABLY BE PAYING TOO MUCH!

www.emctaxfree.com

For more details and to order call
Wayne, Simon, Sam and Scott

UK PHONE
01323 739675
UK FAX
01323 734560

UK FREEPOST (BR 1394)
CAVENDISH BRIDGE,
EASTBOURNE BN21 5TD

E.M.C
TAX FREE

GERMAN FREEPHONE 08001 860183 • 08001 827633



Ford

Seat