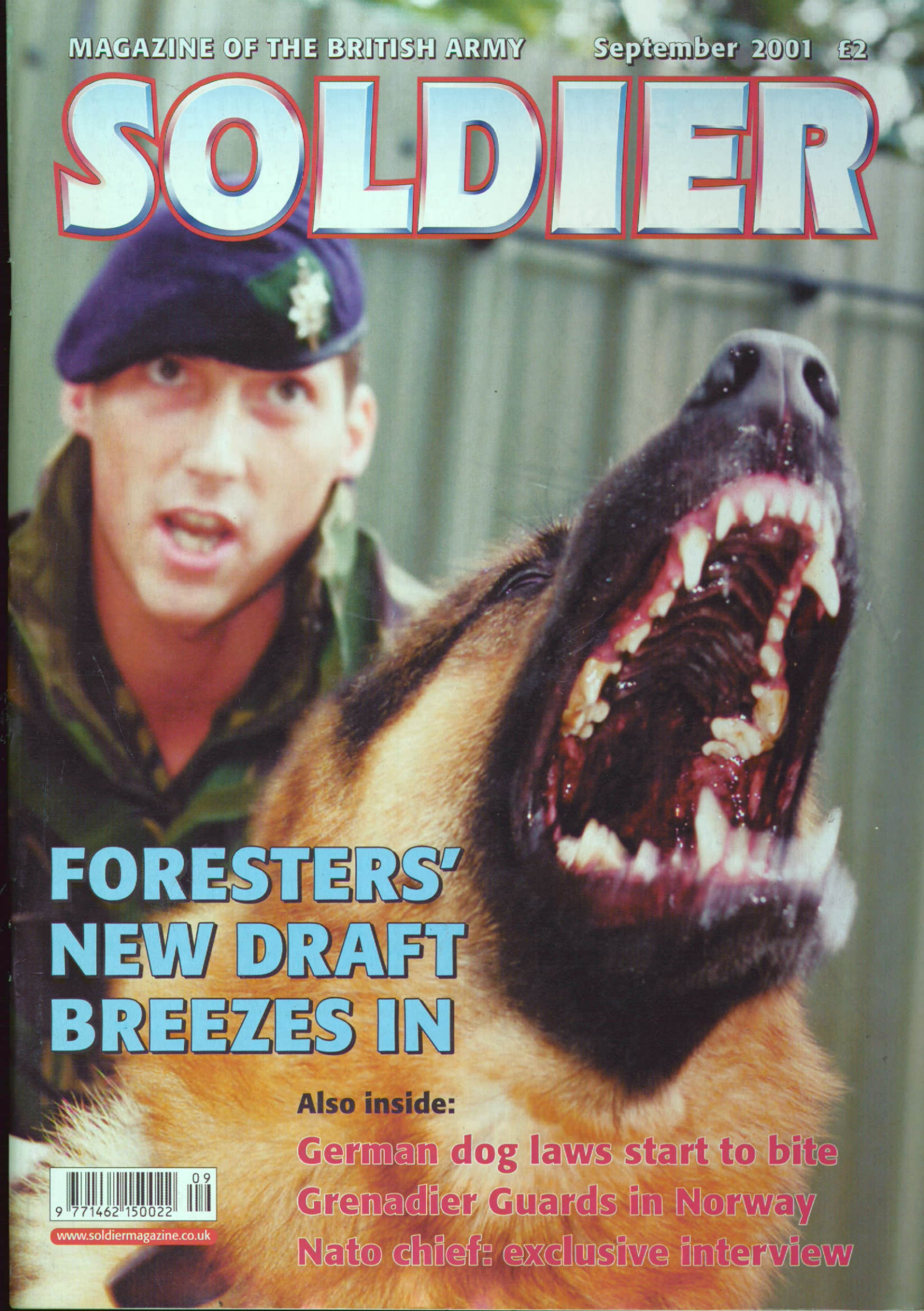


MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

September 2001 £2

SOLDIER



FORESTERS' NEW DRAFT BREEZES IN

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Vol 57/9



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● Service community in Germany braces itself for the imminent introduction of the euro – Page 18-19

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



Former Finnish artilleryman Jonatan Johansson, pictured, now fires missiles of a different sort. One of last season's leading Premiership marksmen talks to us about Army life. – **Pages 44-45**

24-25 Cover

His bite is definitely worse than his bark: Our snapper put his fingers on the line to photograph guard dog Jack with LCpl Dave Stapleton of 1 WFR at Omagh, Northern Ireland.

Picture: Graeme Main

New combat radio will change the way soldiers communicate on battlefield

– **Page 31**

Now you see them ... now you don't. REME's TA specialists reduce fuel tankers to spares

– **Page 43**

● More female soldiers than ever are serving in Bosnia

● Green Jackets dig up a bitter legacy – **Pages 32-33**

Iceland sets great store by its small team at Sipovo's military hospital – **Page 39**

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Grenadiers go back to basics on exercise in Norway

78 Vox pop

Should under-18s be allowed to deploy on operations?

Deadly game of hide-and-seek

Snipers are the most feared men on the battlefield, invisible and deadly, capable of changing the course of an operation with a single round. But the shooting is the easy part. *Soldier* puts the cross-hairs on the sniper's world

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Steve Dock
and Mike Weston

EVEN on exercises, snipers are given a hard time if they are captured. Let's just say interrogation is carried out enthusiastically. These elite infantrymen aren't under any illusions about what happens if they are taken in battle. The prize for coming second is torture, probably death.

To some the word sniper conjures up images of a psychopath with a telescopic sight, hell-bent on killing as many people as possible.

In an effort to redress the balance WO2 Mark Spicer, a sergeant major with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and one of the Army's most senior oper-

ational snipers and instructors, decided to write a book to set the record straight. *Sniper - The techniques and equipment of the deadly marksman* has already caused controversy among anti-gun lobbyists, but their fire is misdirected, said WO2 Spicer.

"The public slates us and gives us a hard time and says we have an unhealthy interest in guns. But in reality what people have volunteered to do is to lay down their lives so people like them can write to the press and have opinions without being shot or put in prison."

Each infantry battalion in the British Army should have 16 qualified snipers. They are known in the jargon as force multipliers because they add substantial capability for very little manpower. Usually working in pairs, the marksmen can slow down a multi-million pound armoured advance with a £1 round. They can also covertly gather intelligence and destroy the will of the enemy to fight, but their primary function is to remove targets that threaten friendly forces or civilians.

One of the principles of sniper deployment is that they must be controlled at the top level. "Sniping is soldiering taken to a very high level. There are no secrets involved in it and very little technology," said WO2 Spicer. "It is probably one of the very last areas where it's man against man. If you out-think your enemy, you are going to outlive him."

Snipers are experts at watching how people react to each other. Soldiers don't wear rank in the field but watching facial expressions can give away hierarchy as clearly as a crown and three stars. Like professional poker players, snipers look for tell-tale signs in mannerisms and

behaviour. Special forces are the easiest to spot on the battlefield because they invariably carry different weapon systems to Regular troops.

It is not hard to imagine how these invisible killers strike fear into an enemy and destroy the will to fight. Sometimes this is done by removing the person the enemy see as their top soldier, the one

weapon in the sniper's armoury. With the general infantry there is always that element of doubt over who actually fired the shot that killed the enemy.

"The optics mean he may well relive the moment he took that shot," said WO2 Spicer. "He will see the round hit and that person die. Most infantrymen will not see that. A sniper knows who killed that man. He did."

Snipers work to very strict rules of engagement. "If there are reasons for me to put cross-hairs on them they have met those criteria and they are going to get shot," said WO2 Spicer. "To shoot outside those guidelines means I am going to prison and I am no longer a professional soldier but a murderer."

Part of a sniper's fieldcraft training is to study animals and their reactions to humans. Sheep move away, but cows move closer and rabbits' ears point to the direction of the threat.

Being able to shoot straight is taken as read. The real skill in sniping is in observation, concealment and the mental ability to out-think the other man. It is like a deadly game of hide-and-seek.

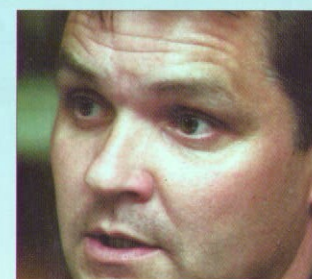
"It's the last thing I can think of on the battlefield that is man against man, especially if it is sniper on sniper," said WO1 Spicer. "The man who walks away is the better soldier, the last warrior."

● See Books - Pages 68-69

● Soldiers who have what it takes and want to take it further must have completed the basic sniper's course within their battalion. They must then complete the section commander's battlefield course, which makes them eligible for the elite sniper's section commander's course.

"It is probably one of the very last areas where it's man against man"

- WO2 Mark Spicer

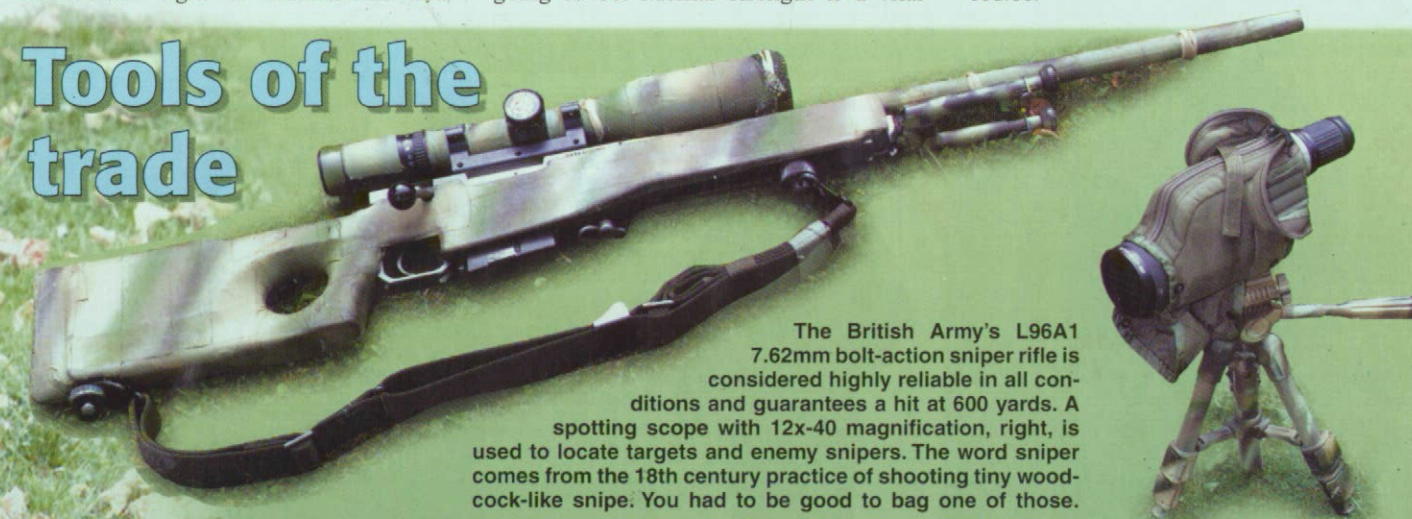


everyone looks up to, the one considered flame-proof.

WO2 Spicer gives another scenario. "Say you have been watching a camp for a few days from a defensive position. You know the enemy has not had hot food for days. You spot the man who is bringing it, allow him to get close enough so they know it's coming, and then remove him. To get the food is to risk being shot themselves. You are playing with their minds, destroying their morale."

Psychologically, knowing a sniper is out there has a devastating effect on the enemy. Command and control breaks down. You can't bodyguard someone against a sniper. The only way to remove a sniper is by deploying another one. They know where he is likely to hide, how he is going to camouflage himself, and where his escape and infiltration routes are going to be. Mental strength is a vital

Tools of the trade



The British Army's L96A1 7.62mm bolt-action sniper rifle is considered highly reliable in all conditions and guarantees a hit at 600 yards. A spotting scope with 12x-40 magnification, right, is used to locate targets and enemy snipers. The word sniper comes from the 18th century practice of shooting tiny woodcock-like snipe. You had to be good to bag one of those.



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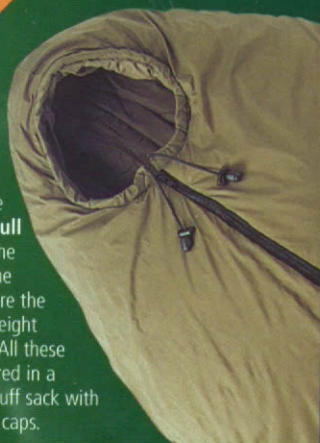
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On the ground: LCpl Scott Waring, left, and WO2 Graham Wardle of 16 Bde's Pathfinder Platoon drive a weapon-mounted Land Rover off a C-130 Hercules at Skopje airport

Paras reap the harvest

TROOPS from Colchester-based 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment have deployed to Macedonia to take part in a British-led Nato mission to collect weapons surrendered by Albanian nationalists.

Lt Col Chip Chapman, CO 2 Para, had flown to the Macedonian capital, Skopje, earlier to prepare the way for the arrival of his 680-strong battalion, which is reinforced by a company of Gurkhas.

The battalion makes up the nucleus of Britain's contribution to the force of 3,500 from 13 Allied nations carrying out Operation Essential Harvest.

Headquarters and signals personnel from 16 Air Assault Brigade, also based in Colchester and led by Brig Barney White-Spunner, formed the bulk of a 400-strong advance party paving the way for the main force.

They were supported by specialists including medics, air movement experts, and a team from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment commanded by Lt Col Mark Poffley. About 70 Czech



Lt Gen John Reith, Chief of Joint Operations, and Brig Barney White-Spunner at Skopje airport

infantry protected the headquarters. The Nato mission is to seal off sites where the nationalists are being encouraged to surrender their weapons. The multi-national force will then move in to pick up the arms for destruction.

It was estimated that the mission, once started, would last about 30 days.

An MoD spokesman said: "Some misconceptions have appeared in the media. The mission is not to seize rebel weapons or to provide a peacekeeping force, but only to collect weapons voluntarily surrendered."



Deadly harvest: Cpl Jimmy Adams, of 1 BW, with an AK47 and 800 rounds of ammunition recovered from a Pristina suburb last month

Black Watch on Pristina's thin red line

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch are taking the initiative in combating organised crime and national extremism in Pristina, Kosovo's troubled first city.

The 600-strong battalion, now well into its four-month tour as part of Nato's KFOR, has been making its presence felt on the streets with a series of intensive searches.

Busiest of all has been A Company, nicknamed The Grenadiers, which has been on short notice to deploy anywhere in the British-led Multi-national Brigade (Centre).

"It's been a hectic first few weeks and the pace of life has been really fast," said 2nd Lt Rob Hedderwick, an A Coy platoon commander. "Over a recent weekend we reinforced another battalion in the brigade and then redeployed to disrupt a cigarette smuggling operation on the outskirts of Pristina."

In a carefully-planned mission, the company cordoned off the city's landmark Grand Hotel before trained search teams moved in to look for signs of organised crime and ethnic extremism. They recovered a quantity of IT and communications equipment used, it is suspected, to plan criminal and extremist activities. The troops succeeded in treading a fine line between doing their job and upsetting law-abiding citizens.

So far the men of A Company have recovered more than 3.5 million smuggled or counterfeit cigarettes.

Pte Michael Donnelly said: "Our operations are designed to make life harder for the criminals, and if that makes the city a safer place, that must be a good thing."

Hundreds trained to edit pages on the web

EDITOR number 350 has been trained on the Army Content Management System to produce internet pages in what is seen as a significant develop-

ment in empowering soldiers and their families to create a quality web presence for their units.

To join the revolution, go to the Army's website

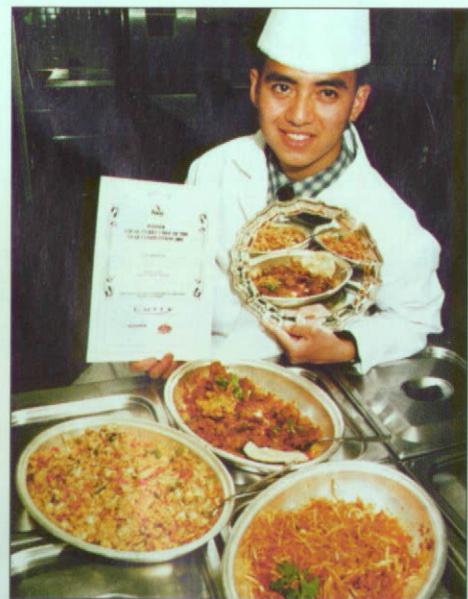
at www.army.mod.uk and click on the quick-link banner, or ring SSgt Griffiths or Sgt Jefferies on 020 7218 5960 or (mil) 9621 85960.

Becky's a top dog



On the scent: Seven-year-old Labrador cross **Becky** and handler **Cpl Cheryle Garratt** are one of the Army's most successful sniffer teams. They work for the RAVC Dog Section in Bosnia and are in constant demand. "On our best day we found weapons, mines, grenades and four boxes of Semtex," said Cheryle, who is near the end of her tour. "We find something nearly every time we go out." More Bosnia stories, Pages 32-33

Chef is hot stuff



Spiceman: **LCpl Man Kumar Rana**, above, a Gurkha chef serving at the Infantry Training Centre, Dering Lines, at Brecon, has been named the Powys curry chef of the year. His pork curry with fried chapati and cabbage went down a storm with a panel of judges which included Powys's top health, catering and hospitality officials and councillors.

Picture: Powys Council



Eye eye: Officer cadets on the 136th Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst last month. The Queen was represented by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Mike Walker. Of 691 cadets on parade, 232 were commissioned into the British Army while 21 from 17 foreign nations also passed out. The Sword of Honour was won by **JUO Jon Wilson**, who joins The Parachute Regiment.

Picture: Mike Weston

Sword's honour is forged in adversity

SOLDIERS who helped save lives and rebuild shattered communities in Belize and the Balkans have won for their units – 7 Company, Coldstream Guards and 22 Field Hospital RAMC – Wilkinson Sword of Peace awards.

The prestigious annual honours recognise military contributions made to establish good relations with communities at home and overseas.

In September last year, 7 Coy was on Exercise Native Trail in Belize when Hurricane Keith battered the coastline. As reported in *Soldier* (Nov 2000), troops were deployed to help the worst-hit areas, centred on the islands of Caye Caulker and San Pedro.

Damage to the islands was widespread, and in some areas chronic, as communities were left with no running water or electricity. Hundreds were left

homeless, many injured and some killed.

A special award has gone to 22 Field Hospital, which took over the management of British medical facilities in Bosnia and Kosovo in January 2000.

In the UK this involved the co-ordination, operational training and deployment of personnel from all three Services, Regular and Reserve, to these facilities throughout the year.

Medics were deployed to either the Role 3 Multi-national Integrated Medical Unit in Sipovo, Bosnia or the Reynolds Hospital in Pristina, Kosovo. The Sipovo and Pristina units provided hospital facilities for Servicemen and women, UN forces, non-governmental organisations and local people.

Tasks ranged from life-saving surgical treatment to medical aid and education programmes.

IN BRIEF

● Horse-racing, a fish-and-chip stall, strawberries and cream and the Band of the Royal Signals provided the highlights at **7 Signal Regiment's** annual Ascot Day in Krefeld. The event is an important social occasion on the Anglo-German calendar.



● Seven-year-old **Matt-hew Aston**, left, who is receiving radiotherapy for a brain tumour, was given a day to remember at Middle Wallop by the Army Air Corps. He toured the Museum of Army Flying,

Sweet desert dates

Top stars to entertain Saif Sareea soldiers

TROOPS could be forgiven for thinking they are seeing a mirage next month when two of the biggest names in pop perform in the desert for British Forces.

Geri Halliwell and Steps will share star billing at the concerts which take place in Oman during Exercise Saif Sareea 2.

"It's simply the biggest concert we have ever done," said Renate Foster, general manager of Combined Services Entertainment.

Signing up megastars is a huge coup for the Forces charity, CSE, which until now has mostly booked tribute bands and groups a tad past their glory days.

The change is possible because CSE has been offered a five-year, multi-million pound deal with the MoD to stage bigger shows for troops stationed around the world. It's all part of an improved operational welfare package which will see soldiers benefit from more videos, DVDs television and radio services.

The desert concerts, which will be seen by 20,000 troops, will be hosted by TV funnyman Bobby Davro, and could pave the way for other big names to go to operational theatres.

"The military are some of the most fantastic audiences in the world," said Renate Foster. "They are very appreciative and artists have a great time and are looked after extremely well. Hopefully this will be the start of something big."



Super troopers: Geri (right) and Steps will be part of the CSE's most spectacular concerts

A misconception about CSE shows is that artists work for nothing out of a sense of patriotism. But while they may well be loyal to the flag, they still have to pay the bills, so any proposal has to make good business sense.

Staging concerts in Oman presents major logistic challenges. The venues are hundreds of miles apart and specialist crews will be brought in to build the stages and set-up lighting and sound.

"We have planned for every contingency," said Renate. "One of the big

problems will be the sand, which gets everywhere, and to ensure people are prepared for the heat and exhaustion."

● Troops in the Balkans have been enjoying summer blockbusters thanks to a tour of the Screen Machine. The Tardis-like vehicle, which opens up into an air-conditioned 100-seat cinema, has been hired for another tour of Bosnia.

Negotiations are continuing for the SSVF Operational Welfare Fund to purchase its own Screen Machine for British troops deployed in the Balkans.

Heavy metal puts to sea for Oman

A **MASS** movement of Germany-based heavy equipment for Saif Sareea 2 in Oman was under way as this issue went to press. More than 7,000 soldiers from 1 (UK) Armoured Division, most of them from 4 Armoured Brigade based at Osnabrück, are due to follow.

The ro-ro ship *Takmine* was due to take two weeks to complete the voyage from Emden to Salalah in Oman with a cargo which included 65 Challenger 2 main battle tanks, eight Challenger armoured repair and recovery vehicles, 12 AS90 guns and more than 250 armoured vehicles.

The equipment belongs to The Royal Dragoon Guards and 1st Battalion, Irish Guards (Münster); The Queen's Royal Lancers (Osnabrück); 35 Engineer Regiment (Paderborn); 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Bergen-Hohne); and 16 Signal Regiment and 14 Geographic Squadron (Mönchengladbach).

They will be joining loggiers, signallers, sappers, medics and other support services who have been preparing the ground for weeks. Saif Sareea will also involve the Joint Helicopter Command, Royal Artillery Air Defence, EOD, REME, transport units and Royal Military Police.

Return to Academia

MORE than 60 former officers who were in the last intake to pass through the Academy before the death of King George VI returned to RMA Sandhurst last month for a reunion. They posed for a photograph on the steps of Old College, the same steps they marched up after passing out in 1951.

flew in a Lynx helicopter, and was shown over an Apache. Matthew's father, Graham, is a civil servant with the Defence Logistic Organisation at Andover.

● **Kgm Paul McKenna**,



pictured, does a dry-loading drill on the L16 mortar during the largest mortar concentration for several years. Six platoons were put through their paces on Salisbury Plain. Picture: Steve Dock

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Troubled times: Petrol bombs explode and rocks fly as an angry mob threatens KFOR soldiers deployed behind shields and with batons at the ready. But this riot is self-inflicted and the baddies were provided by other KFOR units. This is public order training for the Scots Dragoon Guards in Kosovo. The training is regarded as very

important for troops deployed in pressure points such as Pristina and Podujevo.

Realistic training to give soldiers experience of petrol bombs and stone-throwing is said to be easy to arrange, with troops apparently happy to lob projectiles at their colleagues. The spectators came from the Norwegian battalion and Italian Carabinieri.

E-blueys to offer fax version and flowers

A CHANGE in welfare policy means that free e-blueys and air letters will be available in locations where there are exercises lasting more than 60 days.

The measure will allow soldiers serving at Wainwright and Suffield in Canada and in Kenya, and families and friends, to take advantage of the speed and convenience of the e-mail version of the bluey.

Improvements to the system, provided by BFPO, will allow letter-writers to compose and make changes off-line. Letters can be saved on a floppy disc and uploaded once an internet connection is made. The facility will save on telephone bills and allow personnel without immediate access to the internet to use any PC before finding

an internet connection to send the letter. BFPO is also extending its flower delivery service, run in conjunction with Bunches, to e-bluey address books.

Another development in the pipeline is the fax bluey, which will allow users to write a one-page letter on a specially designed sheet of paper. This will be uploaded to the server as a graphic file, printed as a handwritten facsimile and folded and inserted into an envelope in the same way as a typewritten bluey.

When it is brought in, users will need only a fax machine to communicate with loved ones deployed anywhere in the world.

To send an e-bluey, log on to the BFPO website at www.bfpo.org.uk

Bright and breezy

A SHORT, user-friendly guide to the Army's terms and conditions of service is being prepared by the Adjutant General for publication in the autumn. It will give all Regular and TA personnel broad details of their entitlements and tell them where to go for further information.

Pension plan provider

SCOTTISH Widows has been selected by the MoD to provide its stakeholder pension and additional voluntary contribution scheme for the Armed Services. The plan will be made available to more than 200,000 Regular personnel and 50,000 reservists. The scheme allows for top-up payments to be made to occupational pension schemes.

Changing FEAT

NORTHERN Ireland's Families Employment Advisory Team has a new telephone number. FEAT, which helps spouses and dependent school leavers, can be reached on 028 9226 6705 or (mil) 9491 66705.

Musical interlude

THE Catterick-based Normandy Band of the Queen's Division is on a concert tour of Canada. It was due to give performances at venues in Calgary, Medicine Hat and Wainwright before taking part in the Spruce Meadows Masters competition in Calgary.

Tigers in the money

SOLDIERS serving with A Company Group of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment raised more than £3,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust while on their recent six-month operational tour of Bosnia.

Ninety-one soldiers braved heat and rugged terrain to complete a marathon and half-marathon.

OC Maj Hamish Bell said: "Considering that there was only limited time available for training, this was a fantastic achievement." The soldiers chose the charity because a member of the battalion has two children who suffer from cystic fibrosis.

● Soldiers from 12 Regiment Royal Artillery Group completed the Dheke-lia mile swim to raise money for local cancer charities. Capt Nicola Swindell finished in second place and Sgt Lou Bunch in third.

Homely touch



In the money: Sgt Stuart Trainor of The Queen's Royal Hussars handed over a cheque for £2,000 to the PHAB charity's day nursery at Cavehill Road in Belfast. The cash was raised by Stuart and his B Squadron colleagues, currently based at Sennelager in Germany, during a six-month deployment in Kosovo. Many soldiers in the squadron come from North Belfast, home to many of the disabled children attending the nursery. Sharing Stuart's limelight are Clodagh Poots, left, and Lorcan Speier, both aged two, who attend the day nursery.

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Mind the gap: Sappers, above, constructing the 130ft Bailey bridge at Dabar; and, inset, grateful colleagues assist the project leader, SSgt John Buckley, to celebrate the end of the daunting task

Bailey brigade bridges divide

Sappers cement relationships with Bosnians

SAPPERS from 3 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, have been building bridges across rivers and communities on their tour of Bosnia.

They put their skills to good use in Dabar, south of Sanski Most, by constructing a 130ft Bailey bridge to replace a crossing destroyed by Serbs as they fled their homes in 1995.

Capt Peter Quaite, the squadron 2ic, said: "The bridge itself was quite a daunting task as no one in the squadron had experience of constructing a Bailey bridge on that scale."

"That said, the troop senior, SSgt John Buckley, commanded a very smooth build

and no problems were encountered that a sledgehammer could not fix."

The construction force included a section of Canadian engineers, New Zealand sappers and a South African, and the project was aptly named the Commonwealth Bridge.

The squadron, usually based in Perham Down on the edge of Salisbury Plain, also completed a variety of other tasks during its four-month tour.

These ranged from an operation to seize illegal funds from a bank in Mostar to the refurbishment of a primary school and the construction of a six-kilometre track to help refugees return to their homes.

Re-roled sappers in Kosovo

SINCE changing its role from a field park squadron, 65 Field Support Squadron RE has relocated from Bindon Barracks to Gordon Barracks in Hameln and deployed to Kosovo to support 32 Engineer Regiment Group. Based in Gundolph Lines, 87 members of the squadron have taken over tasks including responsibility for the quarry at Caravica.

Harrogate on parade

HUNDREDS of junior soldiers took part in the largest parade ever held at the **Army Foundation College** in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, last month. In all, 643 male and female students took part in the graduation ceremony. Inspecting officer **Gen Sir Alex Harley**, the Master Gunner St James's Park, was escorted by top student **JRSM Len Sanders** (17).



Chiefs give support to international criminal court

BRITISH Service personnel will not be put at risk by the UK's decision to support an International Criminal Court, the Chiefs of Staff believe.

They were consulted and gave special attention to the possibility of risks to Servicemen and women arising from the creation of the court, and to the possible development of "risk aversion" within the Armed Forces.

But the Service chiefs have directed that training should be reviewed to ensure that international humanitarian law is covered, given its increasing relevance to the sort of humanitarian and policing operations British troops have increasingly become involved in.

While the UK will take part in establishing the court and drafting its procedures, it is understood that no new offences will be created and that the UK's own courts and prosecuting authorities, not the new ICC, will have primary jurisdiction if allegations are levelled against personnel.

There is no realistic prospect of UK personnel being brought before the new court as defendants.

UK Servicemen and women must, as now, be aware of their position under the law, but the court's creation is no reason for any additional caution or concern, the Chiefs of Staff concluded.

Underlying the Britain's support for the court is the belief that there is considerable advantage in supporting a system of international justice capable of holding to account those who flagrantly offend against international humanitarian law.

Dragoons go free

SOLDIERS serving with 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards – known as the Welsh Cavalry – exercised their Freedom of Cardiff with a parade through the city centre. They were led by the Band of The Dragoon Guards.

Attacking option: One of three Apache helicopters takes part in Exercise Eagle Strike on Salisbury Plain. It was the first time the Army Air Corps' new attack aircraft had been seen in a full military exercise. Three were deployed by 16 Air Assault Brigade alongside Chinook and Puma helicopters and Hercules heavy-lift aircraft. Picture: Chris Fletcher

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Consigned to history: The famous 25-pounder ceremonial saluting guns at the Tower of London were fired for the last time on August 4 by the Honourable Artillery Company. The occasion was a 62-gun salute to mark the Queen Mother's 101st birthday. Brought into service in 1939 and replaced in 1975 by the 105mm light gun, the 25-pounders, beloved of artillerymen everywhere, earned a reputation as one of the finest all-round guns of its time. Two are to be handed over to the Constable of the Tower. More than 2,000 HAC veterans, many of whom had fired 25-pounders in action, turned out for the gun salute and ceremony.

Stop swanning around, you lot

SAPPERS from 25 Engineer Regiment deployed in rigid raider craft to shepherd to safety a flock of swans contaminated by an oil spillage in a river in Northern Ireland.

Two raiders were used after an SOS - Save Our Swans - plea from the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Soldiers used the boats to usher the stricken birds off Six Mile Water, which flows into Loch Neagh near Antrim, before other troops and USPCA helpers captured them on land and took them to be cleaned.

● A 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders patrol thwarted an attempt to burn down a Catholic church in the Ardoyne, north Belfast.



Swanning off: Northern Ireland-based sappers herd the oil-threatened birds

Picture: Sge Dave Berkon RLC

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Servicemen and women in long-term homosexual relationships may be given married quarters. Their partners may also qualify for pension rights as a result of European human rights legislation. Defence chiefs have launched a full review of entitlements for unmarried couples in the Armed Forces to reflect the fact that many now choose not to marry. — *Daily Mail*

▲ Sue Bonney comments — Page 71

● Britain's top military commander has backed *The Mirror's* fight for a full pension for the partner of Tpr Brad Tinnion, killed in a hostage rescue in Sierra Leone last September. Chief of the Defence Staff Admiral Sir Michael Boyce said: "Anna Homs's situation is clearly not very satisfactory. My personal instinct in terms of recognising unmarried couples for pension and other benefits is that it would be a good thing." — *Daily Mirror*

● The last survivor of the First World War Christmas Day truces between British and German troops has died aged 106. Bertie Felstead was a private in The Royal Welch Fusiliers on Christmas Day 1915 when some soldiers from both sides laid down their arms and held an impromptu football match in no-man's-land. Mr Felstead died at his Gloucester home ten months after becoming Britain's oldest man. — *The Times*

● The last known British veteran of the Gallipoli campaign, Royal Engineer Percy Goring, has died in an Australian nursing home. He was 106. — *Daily Telegraph*

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Footsore (1): British servicemen and women near the end of day two and another 40 kilometres. Footsore (2): Pte Jamie Ferguson RAMC, inset, tackles blisters in the medical tent

Keeping time at Nijmegen

Driving rain was the depressing weather for the 85th Nijmegen marches in Holland. And British Servicemen and women were at the forefront – again

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

MORE THAN 1,200 British Servicemen and women and 400 cadets braved downpours and blisters during four days marching around Nijmegen in the annual 100-mile endurance event that attracts volunteers from around the world.

Despite the awful weather, 5,500 military personnel and more than 30,000 civilians ensured the *Vierdaagse*, as the Dutch call it, to the eastern Netherlands was another success.

Backed up by a 90-strong admin staff and medical cover from A(29) CS Medical Sqn, 1 CS Medical Regiment from Munster, the British contingent showed

once again that their levels of fitness were among the best.

The medics, who also offered support to the Canadian contingent, treated 1,100 injuries, mostly blisters, a higher number than usual because of the British contingent's training restrictions as a result of the foot-and-mouth outbreak.

Military marchers from 23 nations were present at the 91-year-old event.

Sgt Inga van Megen from the Dutch Army told *Soldier*: "It began with an officer who thought that we should train a little more because the soldiers had trouble with their feet every time they had a march.

"So he had the idea to walk from base-to-base and in 1925 it came to its permanent home at Nijmegen."

Soldiers have to march every day for four days in military kit over 40km or 50km, wearing 10-kilo packs over the shorter distance.

Up to 8,000 soldiers stay at Camp Heumensoord, a huge temporary barracks which takes six weeks to build in a wooded area just outside Nijmegen.

And before you think that taking part is for the young, the fit or the daft, spare a thought for one civilian. Local celebrity Annie Berkhout was taking part in her 65th march, including nine made before the Second World War.

Dog law begins to



German dangerous dog legislation introduced last year is confusing for Service families

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

DANGEROUS dog laws introduced throughout Germany last year have caused confusion, and some dismay, among Service families with pets.

Because of the German legal system, a dog considered dangerous in one part of the country may be listed as harmless in another. As reported in *Soldier* last October, the 16 state authorities – the Länder – each brought in different laws following an incident in which a child in Hamburg was savaged to death by an American Staffordshire bull terrier.

A public outcry provoked federal authorities into instructing the Länder to bring in dangerous dog laws. They acted swiftly.

Maj Dougie Douglas, RAMC, SO2 Medical in UKSC(G) at Rheindahlen, told *Soldier* new laws were in place in North Rhine-Westphalia in just eight days and Lower Saxony in nine.

"They are the two major Länder we live in and the law is wide, varied, confusing and different between the two," he said.

He described the new rules in North Rhine-Westphalia as "very detailed and in some ways draconian" as they encompassed 80 per cent of all breeds. Four cat-

● Turn to next page



Maj Dougie Douglas

Dog law

● From Page 17

egories were created, with the most dangerous dogs – those in category one – prevented from breeding. Aimed at a group which includes bull terriers and pitbulls, the legislation is designed to eradicate certain breeds altogether.

Category two canines, which include Rottweilers and Dobermans, may breed but are subject to strict controls. Dogs listed in the first two groups must be kept on a lead and muzzled in public places.

Category three includes any breeds, including smaller ones, that have shown a tendency to bite or be aggressive, while category four lumps together other dogs over 20kg in weight or 40cm height.

Animals in the first three categories have to be kept in secure, escape-proof accommodation and owners must have permits for them.

And just to make sure the message was rammed home, owners of all listed dogs in North Rhine-Westphalia had to be registered and take an expertise test. An exception was made in the case of category four dogs whose owners could prove they had had a dog of similar size for three years before January 1 last year.

CHARACTER

"There was a lot of confusion about that at first," said Maj Douglas. "It's not the dog being tested, but the owner. It is to ensure they have the competence to own a particular breed of dog."

"The legislation also demands that the character of the owner is checked, including criminal records. We immediately have a problem because the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and the Data Protection Act mean that that information isn't readily available. That's one reason why we had to run our own system for the test."

British families posted to Germany must check with their station staff officer if they want to take a dog with them. If it is classified as dangerous, registration forms have to be filled out and a permit obtained from the German authorities.

Owners of Staffordshire bull terriers, a popular breed in the UK, may be understandably confused. Federal law bans the import of the dog, while those already in Germany are treated as category one and forbidden from breeding – except in Lower Saxony, where the Staffordshire is listed in category two.

"Everyone thinks we are being awkward," said Maj Douglas. "But all we are doing is implementing German law as easily and as painlessly as possible."

There are about 1,000 Service family dogs in Germany. Failure to register can result in a DM2,000 (about £670) fine.

Deutsche marks time for euro

The imminent introduction of the euro is set to have a major impact on the lives of British soldiers and their families serving in Germany

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

WHILE the political debate about whether Britain should join the euro continues to rage in the United Kingdom, for thousands of British soldiers and their families, the currency is to become a reality next January.

Lt Col Paul Thompson, SO1 Staff and Personnel Support Branch at UKSC(G) Rheindahlen, explained what impact the new currency would have, and what arrangements are already in place.

"People have been able to open euro bank accounts since 1999 and some will be familiar with the currency," he said.

While Army personnel can be found in almost every country in Europe, the vast majority are in Germany, have German bank accounts and will be affected. Many of their banks have been sending out information packs, in English, about the euro for some time.

"Soldiers are presently paid in Deutschmarks and their salary is cur-

rently calculated on the Forces Fixed Rate of Exchange (FFR), which occasionally changes. From January 1 payment will be in euros, although we don't have the FFR against the euro just yet."

Since January 1999, Euroland (those countries introducing the euro next year) currencies have been fixed against each other.

"They are linked through the banking system and there is no way they can change. The pound, meanwhile, has been floating and is worth about 1.61 to 1.63 euros."

The first chance soldiers will have to get euro banknotes is on January 1 when it goes live, although

the public can buy coins through their bank accounts (up to an individual limit of DM20) from December 17. It represents an opportunity to become familiar with the coins.

"The banks have been very pragmatic," added Lt Col Thompson. "Legally the only tender which should be used from January next year is the euro and the banks have gone to great efforts to front-load all the retailers who have requested it to ensure they will be in a position to have the euro

from day one. Officially there isn't a cross-over time, but the banks recognise that there will be a short period for customers to go in shops, pay for items in DMs and get their change in euros."

What about the Balkans, where the DM is the accepted currency?

"That is something we just don't know yet. It is an issue that will have to be resolved at a political level."



Assessing the impact:
Lt Col Paul Thompson



"Not only does it seem to cost more in euros... but the beer doesn't taste the same!"

So just how will all this affect you in Germany?

We try to answer your questions. If you need to know more, contact your regimental administrative officer

€ What is the euro?

It was introduced as banking currency in January 1999 and will be available as hard currency (notes and coins) from January 1, 2002.

€ Which countries are affected?

The euro will replace the national currencies of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain. So the coins and notes you use in Germany will be acceptable in any of those countries.

€ When will the currencies of those countries cease to be legal tender?

It varies from December 31, 2001 to February 28, 2002. In Germany it's December 31, although it is expected that some retailers will continue to accept Deutschmarks during January 2002.

€ What denominations are the notes and coins?

They will be in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 euro notes. Larger denomination coins will be in 2 and 1 euros. Smaller coins known as euro cents will be issued as 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cent coins.

€ How will DMs be withdrawn from circulation and over what period?

The public may take their DMs to their bank in

Germany at any time up to February 28, 2002 and receive an immediate exchange of the euro at the rate of one to DM1.95583. Although some banks may offer the facility, the official policy is that you may not receive credit for your DMs after that date until your own bank has received a credit from the Bundesbank. So don't wait until the last minute.

€ Suppose I want to buy petrol coupons in January, but don't have any euros?

Planning is under way to ensure that RAOs can be authorised to operate a "dual currency" system for a limited period.

€ How will it affect my salary?

Your pay will be calculated in sterling and shown on your pay statement. At present,

They're cheque-ing out

GERMANY is on the point of saying farewell to old-fashioned chequebooks.

"Allied to the introduction of the euro, and in an effort to promote electronic banking, German banks will routinely not offer cheque facilities to their customers in future," said Lt Col Thompson.

Although cheques will still be available to customers who need them, cheque guarantee cards will not. That means that most suppliers, it is believed, will not be prepared to accept payment by cheque.

"Personnel deploying on operations will continue to be funded by cashing cheques because the MoD has its own identification system endorsed on the reverse of all cheques encashed through an imprest account," he added.

that salary is paid into your German bank account after conversion into DMs at the FFR. The same system will apply with the introduction of the new currency except that the account will be paid in euros.

€ What about LOA and COLA?

They are expressed as a daily rate in sterling so there will be no change.

€ What allowances will change?

Where countries have allowances expressed in the current national currency, these will change. Examples include subsistence and motor mileage allowances.

€ What else will change?

Vending and gaming machines will have to be altered to accept the new coins.



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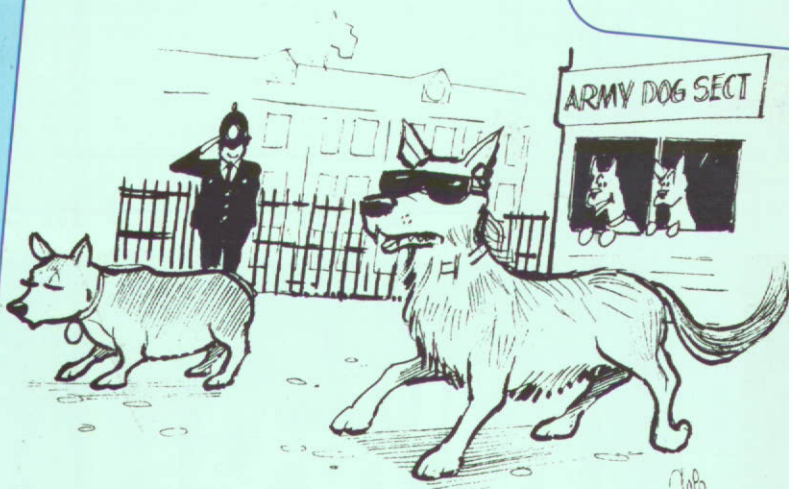
Chuckle with Chip



"This shamrock is so beautifully fresh, it still has dew on it!"



"He was a sheepdog in civvy street."



"There's no talking to him since he got that job with the Royal Protection Squad."



"And this is my Rex, who's with the SAS."



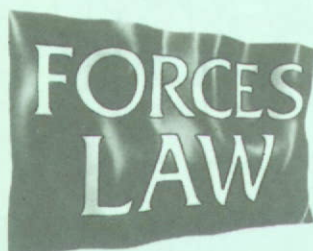
"Would you say that's a strong indication there's something nasty under there?"

Every dog has his day

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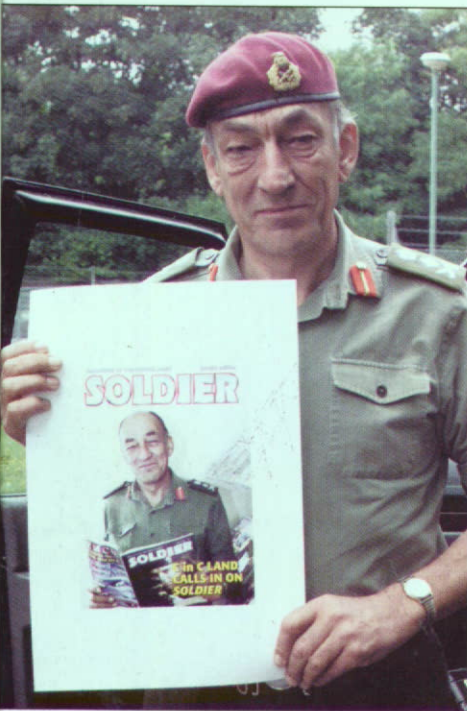
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Roses of Minden



Heaven scent: **LCpl Darren Blenkinsop** of HQ Company, 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment receives his Minden Day rose from **Mrs Karen Taylor**, wife of **OCC Coy, Maj Rob Taylor**, at Tidworth Barracks, Wilts. The tradition of wives and girlfriends presenting PWRR soldiers with red roses dates from August 1, 1759 when a forebear regiment helped to turn defeat into victory at the Battle of Minden in Germany. Its soldiers celebrated by picking roses from the hedgerows of Minden Heath. Picture: Steve Dock

C-in-C's house call



Cover story: **Gen Sir Mike Jackson**, above, dropped in on *Soldier* last month during a brief visit to Aldershot... and left with a record of the moment. Photographer **Steve Dock** took a picture of the Commander-in-Chief Land Command as he arrived at our offices in Parsons House, printed it out as a front cover and presented Gen Jackson with his own copy when he left the building an hour later.

The C-in-C, who has been a loyal *Soldier* reader for nearly 40 years, met staff members and saw how the magazine is put together.

See your photo in SOLDIER

Calling all amateur photographers. How would you like to see your work in this magazine – **AND** stand the chance of winning a prize worth £250?

WE are inviting you to send us your best recent work depicting any aspect of Army life.

Each month our judges 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 winners will go forward to be judged for the *Soldier* Magazine Award in the 2001/2 Army Photographic Competition. This category carries with it a prize valued at £250.

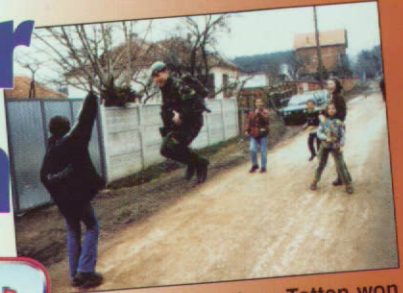
The *Soldier* Amateur Photo Contest rules are simple. The competition is open to any *Soldier* reader who is not a professional photographer.

Entries, preferably prints up to 10x8in, should be sent to the Chief Photographer, *Soldier*, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU. Please include a suitable self-addressed envelope if you would like your entries back.

Alternatively they may be e-mailed to mweston@soldiermagazine.co.uk indicating "Soldier Photo Comp" in the subject box.

Time is short. In order to be judged for the October issue entries must be with us by **Thursday, September 13**. Those missing that date will be considered for the November issue as long as they are with us by Thursday, October 11. We will advise you of subsequent deadlines nearer the time. If you have any queries, phone 01252 347357 or Ald mil 2357.

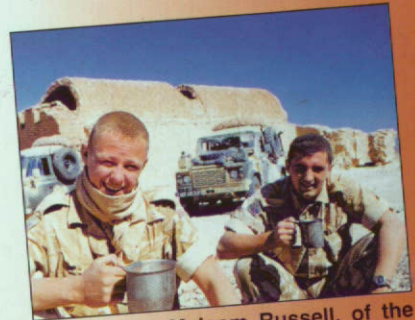
Details of how to enter other categories of the Army Photographic Competition are available from unit admin offices; local media ops staffs; DCI Army 80/1, dated July 27 2001; the Army Website (www.army.mod.uk/apc2001.htm); or Army Photographic Competition, DCC(A) Room 171, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP (tel 020 7218 1508; fax 020 7218 4920; ATN 9621 81508).



He did: **Padre Andrew Totten** won a special award in last year's Army competition with this photograph



He did: **WO2 Gerry McFarlane's** entry was a colourful winner in 2000



He did: **Maj Malcom Russell**, of the Royal Defence Medical College, took the amateur title with his portfolio, including this relaxed photograph



He did: **Cpl Ian Woods**, Cheshire, of HQ Northern Ireland, showed the way with this monochrome entry last year

Omagh's new draft breezes in

Recruits joining the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment are on a steep learning curve

HAVING spent the day on patrol in the sun and the rain, Pte Dave Penney was ready for some scoff, a brew and bed. By the time his head hit the pillow, he was spark out, writes **Anthony Stone**.

Life for the new draft in the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, currently three-quarters of the way through a two-year posting in Omagh, Northern Ireland, is a full-on, 24/7 experience.

The lads work shifts, rotating through guard duties, patrols, deployments as the quick reaction force and rest periods.

They learn fast; the streets are the finest finishing school.

Lt Col Fred Chedham,

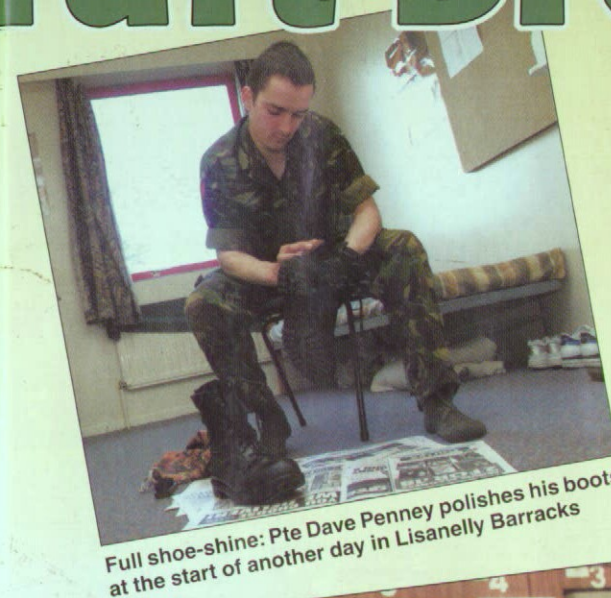
the CO, said: "We take great care in the introduction cadre to prepare them, not just for entering the battalion, but also to take stock of the security environment they are going into."

"They gradually come to terms with where they are, and although there are security implications, it is by no means socially a closed shop to young soldiers. There are things they can do. It just takes more effort on our part to facilitate some of those social arrangements."

Nobody pretends it's easy, but the tour has its compensations. Financially, the men are better off by about £300 a month. All soldiers in the battalion have single living accommodation – which, in an operational theatre, they don't pay for.

They also benefit from relatively frequent travel home, good welfare provisions and adventurous training packages.

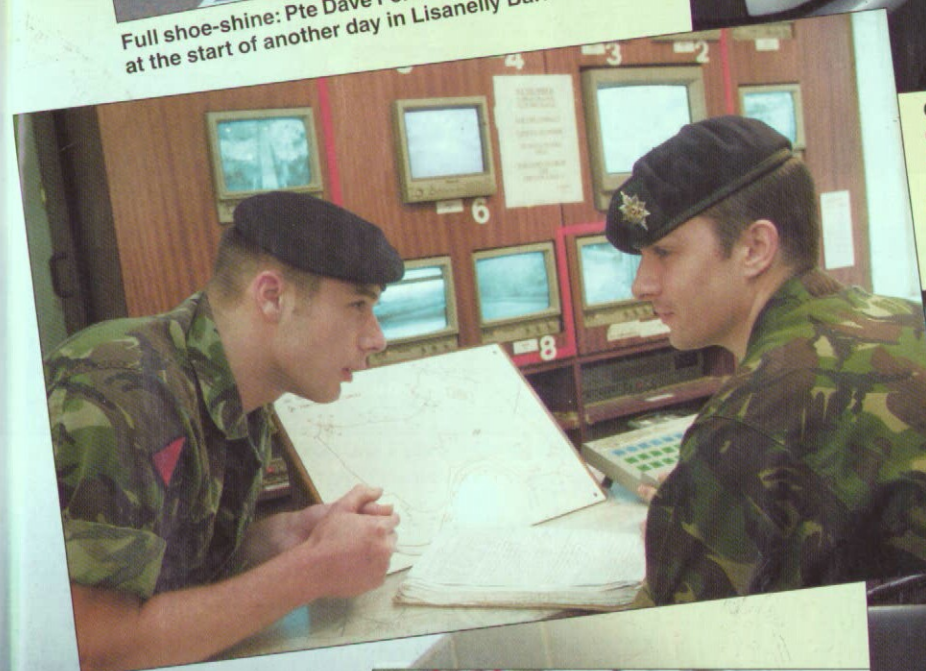
All in all, there's a lot to take on board for the new boys. "It was strange at first, but that soon changes," admits Pte Penney. "You're always meeting new people."



Full shoe-shine: Pte Dave Penney polishes his boots at the start of another day in Lisanelly Barracks



Continually cautious: Pte Penney carries out a vehicle check, above, at the gates of Lisanelly Barracks



The eyes have it: Pte Penney and Pte Wesley Green check the log in the closed circuit TV room, left



Ever vigilant: Pte Penney, above, deploys on patrol in a Saxon to monitor a potential trouble-spot



Military assistance: Pte Penney accompanies a Royal Ulster Constabulary policeman on foot patrol, left, as they make their way down the streets of Omagh

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Mesmerising!



In a twirl: Russian State Song and Dance Ensemble



Jazz man: CSgt Graham Wright, IG, plays a sizzling solo



Entrancing: Makai Savage from the Cook Islands National Youth team

Pictures: Mark Owens and Colin White

EDINBURGH Castle Esplanade was transformed into an exotic South Sea Island, the Russian steppes and the frozen Arctic by performers at this year's Military Tattoo.

Superbly choreographed and dramatically lit, this was the fastest-selling

show in its 52-year history, with all 250,000 tickets for the 25 shows sold out by the fourth day of the run.

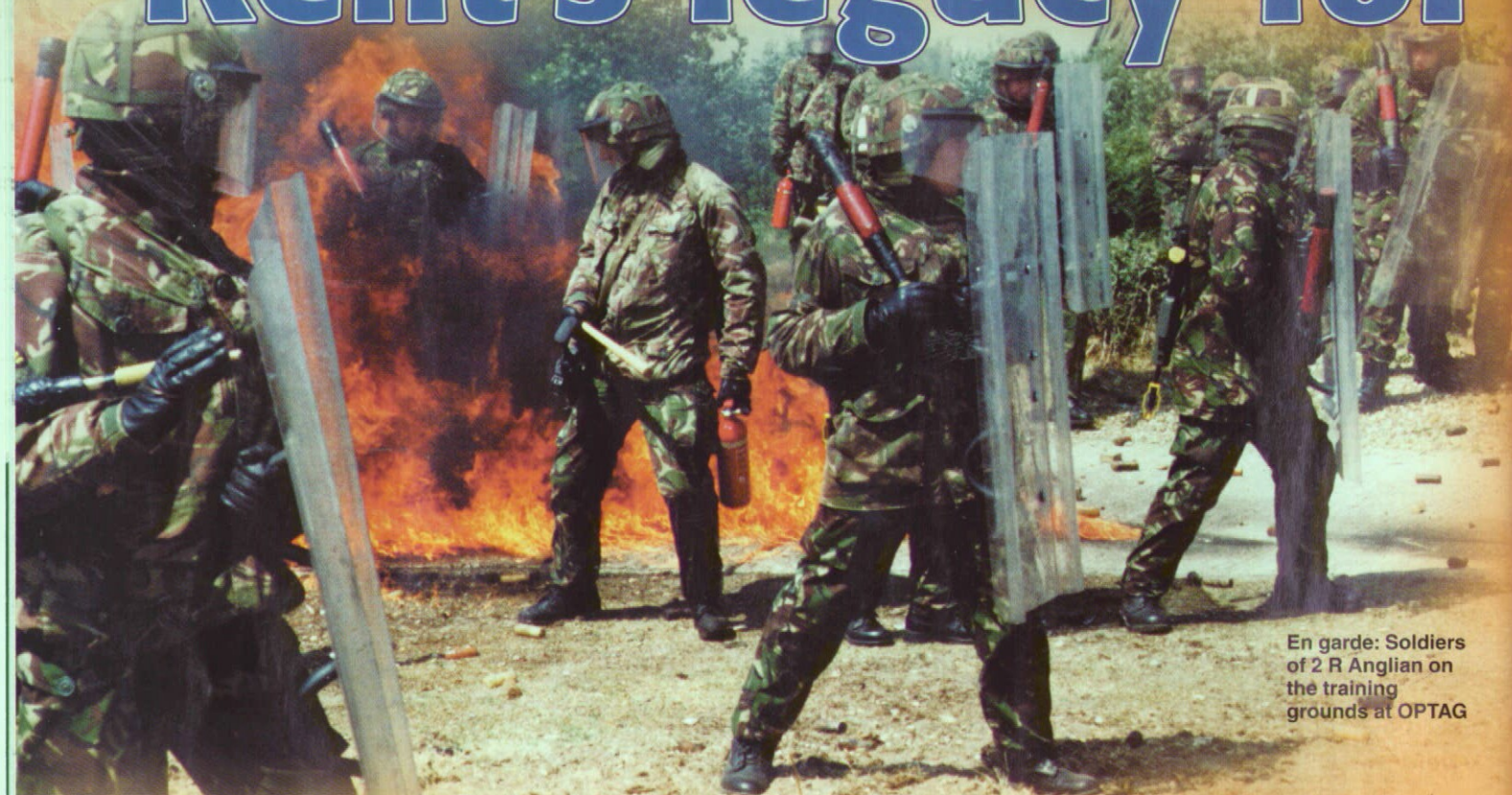
More than 1,000 cast members from Scotland, Russia, Norway, the South Pacific, Australia and Ireland took part.

Highlights included The Cook Islands National Youth Dance team from Rarotonga who performed to the unique sound of coconut-palm drums, a drill

display by the Guard of the King of Norway, who were making their sixth appearance, and the Russian Cossack State Song and Dance Ensemble, who were making their first visit to the United Kingdom.

Other staples included the mesmerising Massed Pipes and Drums and the Lone Piper standing on the battlements playing *Off in the Stilly Night*.

Kent's legacy for peace



En garde: Soldiers of 2 R Anglian on the training grounds at OPTAG

All soldiers deploying on peacekeeping operations will go through a new training regime. Welcome to OPTAG

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Sgt Simon Scott and Graeme Main

THE acclaimed preparation British soldiers receive before deploying on peacekeeping operations is to be fine-tuned.

From this month, training is to become the responsibility of the newly-formed Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG).

All soldiers, sailors and airmen, Regular and reserve, about to deploy on operations other than war will get the OPTAG treatment. As many as 30,000 a year are bound for the Balkans, Sierra Leone and other UN missions.

Based at Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe in Kent, OPTAG has been created by merging the Warminster-based United Nations Advisory Team (UNTAT), (also known as OPTAG (W)), OPTAG Ger-

many from Sennelager and OPTAG Kent. It will make extensive use of facilities at Hythe and Lydd, as well as training grounds at Thetford in Norfolk.

While centred in Kent, some training will continue in Germany. A by-product will be the freeing-up of Copehill Down fighting village on Salisbury Plain. It will become increasingly available for high-intensity exercises.

"We will be looking to improve training quality," said Lt Col Richard Kemp, R Anglian, the group's first commander.

He said that while UNTAT had been a co-ordinator of training, OPTAG will be a fully resourced, dedicated training organisation with professional instructors.

"We will provide training by instructors who have had experience in theatre in command positions." Mostly captains and NCOs, they will be expected to visit operation areas to keep themselves up-to-date with what is going on.

The OPTAG package will provide soldiers with training tailored to specific deployments, with the focus on units and individuals.

A specialist team will run command training, while other elements include EOD, search skills, dogs, rules of engagement, special weapons, communications

and medical skills. On average, soldiers bound for the Balkans will spend ten days with OPTAG.

Force protection, mines and unexploded ordnance awareness, conduct after capture, base and vehicle safety, tactical initiative, patrolling skills and stress management are also on the agenda.

A key element of the package is the urban training unit at Lydd, where Capt Tim Hutchison, SG, showed *Soldier* a box of tricks which can simulate anything from explosives and gunfire to ricochets and mortar attacks.

A camera system covers the training village during exercises while an instructor armed with a camcorder films soldiers on the ground. Debriefings make full use of the video footage. "It is edited down for a

'hot' debrief within an hour of the end of an exercise," said Capt Hutchison.

OPTAG works on the principle of training for the worst and scaling down from there. It aims to make it as generic as possible, ensuring tactics and terminology are as common as possible so that skills can be transferred between theatres.

It recognises that different units require different packages. Infantry, armoured corps and artillery about to take responsibility for an area will be given training specific to that task while engineers, for example, will concentrate on mine awareness, use of interpreters and so on.

"The content of our training depends on the nature of operations, theatre orientation, historical background, political mandate, the current situation and current operations", said Lt Col Kemp. "It is important for the troops and critically important for the commanders to understand all those elements."

The formation of OPTAG has stimulated interest among foreign forces, which widely regard British training techniques for peace support missions as the best available. OPTAG aims to be accepted as an internationally recognised centre, running multi-national courses for the UN.

Non-military organisations are not excluded and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has undertaken two training cadres.

OPTAG is also investigating courses for journalists and others entering combat zones. They would learn essentials such as survival skills and mines awareness.

Shorncliffe could be about to have a dynamic impact on the world's most troubled regions.



In charge: Lt Col Richard Kemp



Ready: OPTAG training prepares soldiers for deployment

Peer with street cred

The latest in our series on TA soldiers' jobs looks at a major in the House of Lords with a far from minor role

TO soldiers in the REME his face may seem familiar, writes Ray Routledge.

And to students of modern British politics, his name will certainly ring a bell.

Soldiers know him as Maj John Attlee, a TA man through-and-through and proud of it. To politicians he is Earl Attlee, Conservative spokesman on defence and transport and grandson of Labour Prime Minister Clement Attlee.

Attlee the soldier joined the Territorial Army in 1974, signing on with the 2nd Wessex at Bletchley. A spell with 240 Tank Transporter Squadron at Barnet was followed by the REME in 1980 as a driver in recovery and repair. He loved getting his hands dirty.

A commission followed in 1991, with spells in workshop companies and tours to Bosnia in 1993 and Rwanda in 1995. He now serves with the all-arms pool of watchkeepers with the Royal Artillery.

Attlee the politician succeeded his father to the title in 1991 and entered the House of Lords the following year.

"Until you have made a maiden speech you can't ask a parliamentary question," he told *Soldier* from the Lords' regal surroundings. "It is bad form to do anything except listen. So I drafted a speech about late payment of commercial debts. I had detailed notes in my hand and a spare in my back pocket."

"I had no experience of public speaking, I just had to get on and do it." Even with experience, he admits his pulse still races when he makes a speech.

"Asking a supplementary question at Question Time is stressful, especially if you are on the front bench as I am. The whole House is there and if you make a mistake, say the wrong thing or ask a stupid question, it can be embarrassing."

An integral part of the House of Lords is the ceremonial aspect that goes with it. "I'm a traditionalist and I think ceremony is important. But the business of the House and what we do is more important."

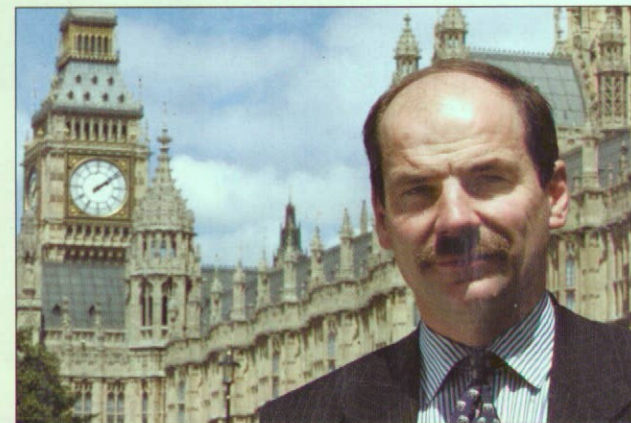
Lord Attlee's work with the TA gives him an insight into defence issues that other peers don't have. "I am much better informed about what is happening at the coalface and it gives me street credibility in the House."

"I have to be very careful not to try and

sort out problems for my own unit. In my position I could do something that affects the whole Army or the whole of the TA, but if it only affects my unit, it would be bad form."

As the grandson of a former Prime Minister, he has a tough act to follow, although there is one significant difference. While Clement Attlee was a Labour leader, Earl Attlee is a Tory peer.

How does he reconcile his politics with those of his grandfather? "I started on the cross benches with no party allegiance," he



Second home: Earl Attlee, now a seasoned member of the House of Lords. Picture: Mike Weston

explained. "I joined the Conservatives immediately before the 1997 General Election."

"Both the Conservatives and Labour have changed and the problems the country faces are very different from those Clement Attlee experienced in the run-up to the First World War, so I don't have a difficulty about being in a different party."

He recalled meeting his grandfather. "I was very young and had a squeaky voice, and he was very old and had poor hearing. I knew I was in the presence of a great man."

"I am aware of my grandfather's achievements but one wants to be one's own man."

"I admired my grandfather's career. People ask what would he think of me being a Conservative spokesman. I think if he looked at the things I've done, I don't believe he'd have any difficulty at all."

● Are you in the TA and have a day job with an interesting twist? If so we'd like to hear from you. Write to Ray Routledge *Soldier* or e-mail: rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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Quietly does it

'Hand signals and shouted orders on the battlefield will become thing of the past as new system means troops can attack in virtual silence'



Radio silence: The headset, above, fits neatly under the combat helmet, left, while the Bowman personal-role radio is designed to be clipped to webbing straps

New personal lightweight radio signals a revolution in the way soldiers communicate on the battlefield

COMBAT troops are about to be issued with a lightweight personal radio system which will change for ever the way they go about their business, **writes John Elliott.**

A headset, which fits under the combat helmet and is linked to a radio the size of a personal stereo, will allow troops to pass orders and information among themselves during combat missions.

The radio can be clipped to webbing and is designed to work even in thick woodland and among buildings.

Described as a "world-beater", the new Bowman personal-role radio is set to transform the tactical control of front-line troops, providing individuals with the means to communicate rapidly and reliably with each other in combat at distances up to half a kilometre.

Hand signals and shouted orders will

be consigned to military history as the radios come on stream. Part of the much wider Bowman system, the personal-role radio was ordered under a separate £20 million contract placed with Marconi in February. Deliveries of 45,000 of the kits began in July and they are expected to be in service by March next year.

In addition to the infantry, sapper and artillery units are expected to be early recipients, as are the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force Regiment.

During a trial on Salisbury Plain, Marine Tim Elliott said: "The personal-role radio is excellent. It will make a real difference at section level, particularly at night when you can't use hand signals and you don't want to shout for fear of giving your position away. These radios mean you can attack in virtual silence."

FEED back

THE Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team recently completed its summer tour, visiting units in UK and Germany. As usual the troops were not slow to voice their concerns during feedback sessions. The team's report will be considered by CGS this month, but he is keen that where responses can be given now, they should be. Here are two of the questions most often asked, and the answers.

Warrants

Q Why, when I reached the age of 25, did I lose my entitlement to travel warrants?

A It's not quite as simple as that. You are referring to the allowance which is now known as Get You Home (early years), designed to compensate soldiers for their requirement to serve away from home, but related to their length of service and their ability to pay.

A basic assumption is that the longer a soldier has served, the more likely he is to be married or the less likely he is to regard his parents' home as his base. So, the policy is that soldiers who have served for less than three years are entitled to three warrants a year. Those who have served for between three and nine years and are a corporal or below are entitled to one, and officers, SNCOs and those who have served more than nine years are entitled to none. The policy is not related to age.

LSSA

Q I have just returned from six months in Kosovo; next year I shall complete two exercises in BATUS, Canada, and one in Poland. I am confused about my entitlement to Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA).

A Provided you have served for 18 months or more you will have been receiving £4.72 a day while in Kosovo. When you complete 300 days away from your duty station, in blocks of at least ten days, your daily rate will increase to £7.38. When eventually you exceed 600 days your daily rate will increase to £10.05.

However, if, in a rolling two-year period, you exceed a total of 280 days away, you will receive the accumulated turbulence (AT) allowance of £1,000; if you exceed 360 days, you will receive a further £1,000. All of these figures are subject to tax, but they apply equally to married or single soldiers.

The team's next tour begins at the end of this month and will include visits to Kosovo, Germany and several units in the UK. Be sure to have your say!

Reports: Lt Col Robin Hodges Pictures: Cpl Paul Rowland (Vrbanjci) and Cpl Pete Mobbs (Banja Luka)

A world of women

More female soldiers than ever are serving in Bosnia. We caught up with some of them at Banja Luka

NICKNAMES are commonplace in the Army but a few new ones – “Combat Barbie” and “Xena” to list two – emerging in Bosnia reflect the increasing number of women deployed on operations.

Among them are 30 officers based at the Banja Luka Metal Factory, where British, Czech, Dutch and New Zealand women make up a sizeable proportion of the eight-nation officer corps.

The Brits fill command and staff posts in HQ Multi-national Division (South West) (MND(SW)) as well as the national headquarters, BRITFOR, which has its own signals, logistic and RMP units.

Strategic comms are the responsibility of the BRITFOR Signal Troop, commanded by Capt Bee Bryan. Her husband, an instructor back at Warminster, is holding the fort at home.

Two couples among the officers at Banja Luka are engaged.

The RMP detachment is led by Capt Ele Roynance, Provost Marshal BRITFOR, whose company is split between Kosovo, Hohna and Bosnia.

“It’s probably the only time I will be a provost marshal,” she said.

Her unit’s routine task is to search all boxes leaving Bosnia under Op Plunder, which ensures that illegal items are not smuggled home.

Military police report to Maj “PJ” Price Jones, whose last appointment was that of Army personnel officer – “a sort of adjutant” – at RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland. Now she is involved with welfare.

“At the moment I’m negotiating for TV channels for British bases,” she said. “Sky has started broadcasting digital signals, which has changed their footprint in Europe. TV is important to the troops and we’re trying to make sure that they have the best possible choice of sport, news and film channels.”

Twelve female officers with pan-Balkan responsibilities have to travel between



Top dog: Toby, the most successful sniffer dog in the British Army, with TA locum veterinary officer Capt Sophie Arculus



In charge: Maj Sally Turnbull oversees an exercise for the medics with the Division surgeon, Canadian Commander Ron Wojcik



Head of Psy Ops: Maj Trudi Bailey, right, with Canadian Capt Erik Esselaar, the editor of SFOR’s *Mostovi* magazine

Force to be reckoned with: From left are Maj “PJ” Price Jones, Maj Trudi Bailey, Capt Ele Roynance, Capt Andrea Luck, Capt Bee Bryan, Maj Sally Turnbull and Capt Sophie Arculus at Banja Luka



Banja Luka and Pristina every couple of weeks. TA veterinary officer Maj Sophie Arculus is one of them. A locum, she usually stands in for vets on holiday.

Her last deployment was to Kenya, where she vaccinated cattle... and children. Now she looks after 28 BRITFOR dogs in Bosnia and 18 in Kosovo, used mainly for patrolling bases and searching for weapons and explosives.

Everyone’s favourite in Bosnia is Toby, a three-year-old Springer spaniel. In just 18 months he has become the most successful sniffer dog in the Army, with a record 92 finds in April alone.

Former TA officer Maj Sally Turnbull is on a short-service commission as SO2

Medical Operations in HQ MND(SW), where she deals with clinical matters. Her last post, in the full-time TA, was mostly administrative. “Here I am doing something I enjoy,” she said. Her next posting is to Sandhurst.

The multi-national Psy Ops team is commanded by Maj Trudi Bailey, a recent arrival in Bosnia. “We have a very successful radio station and lifestyle magazine,

both aimed at the 16-24-year-olds, who are the future of this country,” she said.

A major task facing MND(SW) is the redeployment of the Canadian, British and Netherlands battle-groups after the Czech battle-group withdrawal.

Capt Andrea Luck, ops officer with 27 GS Regiment RLC, deployed to oversee the reduction of the UK Combat Service Support Battalion to a squadron.

Unexpectedly, along with the CO, she has been co-opted into HQ MND(SW) to plan for the Czech withdrawal.

Male soldiers serving at Banja Luka seem to think the number of women there has made life more normal for everyone.



Secure: Rfn Dean Lawrence provides a reassuring presence to investigators searching for a buried body at Vrbanjci

Green Jackets dig up Bosnia’s bitter legacy

British soldiers help the grim task of recovering Bosnian massacre remains

VRBANJCI is a ruin of a village of no consequence, about 4km south of Kotor Varo in Bosnia. Yet soldiers of R Company, the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets will not easily forget it.

Tasked to provide support to an International Committee for Missing Persons (ICMP) investigation, they were told to meet a team of lawyers, forensic scientists and police at an isolated ruin. Neither their task nor its location were revealed.

A convoy took them to Vrbanjci, where the soldiers were told that their task was to identify and exhume human remains from three sites around the village. The secrecy surrounding the location was so that evidence would not be disturbed.

On day one, the Royal Green Jackets recovered the skeletal remains of four Bosnians killed defending their village. Then they found the partly mummified body of a Serb soldier, bullet holes still clearly visible across his chest.

It had been alleged that he had been killed by his best friend in an argument over a litre of petrol in 1992, but later buried by an old man who had carefully included evidence of identity with the

body which may help legal proceedings.

R Coy’s second day at Vrbanjci began with the hunt for the remains of a 35-year-old woman beaten to death by Serbs attacking her village. Although she was believed to have been buried in her own garden, the Green Jackets could find no trace of the grave.

They were remarkably sanguine about the task. “It’s something we must get on with if we are to return this country to normality,” said Sgt Lee Roberts. “We must find the graves and bring the murderers to justice before this country can move forward.”

In 1992, as a Serb force swept through the area, Bosnian women, children and the elderly took refuge in a church while their menfolk prepared to defend the community. When the Serbs reached the church they dragged out those hiding inside, shot and flayed them. When the men returned they found only piles of corpses, mutilated beyond identification.

The ICMP team, supported by the Green Jackets, set about the grim task of recovering the remains of 270 villagers reported as missing.

“SFOR’s presence is crucial for the legitimacy of this operation,” said Goran Peca of the ICMP. “The municipality is responsible for the team’s security but this is a highly-charged undertaking and there are people here who would rather that the past was not uncovered.”

“The SFOR soldiers ensure that no one reacts rashly.”

See Page 39 – Sipovo Hospital



Site update: ICMP’s Goran Peca briefs Sgt Lee Roberts

Europe's supercop

Born in a humble police station on Islay off the west coast of Scotland, Lord Robertson is now Secretary General of Nato. But he remembers his roots, and retains his sense of humour

Interview: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

TO give him his formal title, he is Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, the Secretary General of Nato.

Yet despite scaling these lofty political and diplomatic heights, this former Defence Secretary remembered that his father was initially disappointed that he chose the world of politics rather than following him to become a copper.

And underneath the grand title beats the heart of a man with a keen sense of humour, who understands his father's disappointment.

"Father was a police officer, my grandfather was a policeman, my brother is retired from the Met, my son is with the police, as is my brother's son," he explained in his office in the Nato headquarters building in Brussels.

"So there is a tradition. I was tempted for a while but I was really too engaged in politics to go down that disciplined route."

The seeds of political interest grew when the family moved from Islay to Dunoon, and Robertson senior grew embarrassed when his schoolboy son became involved in the "Ban-the-Bomb" movement after an

American submarine base was installed. "I was about 14 at the time and thought it was exciting," he said.

After attending Dunoon Grammar School, which counted Labour leader John Smith and Lord McKay among its former pupils, young George headed for Dundee University and controversy.

"I organised the first ever sit-in at a Scottish University," he recalled with a grin. "It was so successful that the university principal came in at half-past-three in the morning to see if his library was being broken up. Most of the students decided that since they were there, they might as well do some work. When he saw everyone working, he said: 'Mr Robertson, this is most impressive. Could you arrange this every Wednesday?'"

"That taught me the power of a low-key put-down."

He left university collecting a degree, but significantly leaving his CND policies behind. "A lot of people got engaged in the subject and the more they read into it, the less convincing the slogans were."

Ten years as a trade union official with the GMBU followed before election to Parliament for Hamilton in 1978. And there was more controversy as he became

involved in changing Labour Party policy and culture.

In 1981 he enjoyed his first taste of Defence when Michael Foot appointed him shadow minister for the Navy but at the end of that year Foot sacked the whole defence team because they weren't unilateralists.

"It was quite a spectacular dismissal," he laughed. "We were questioning the rationality of the party line and caused quiet lot of waves."

"In the Labour Party everything was wrong at that time. Unilateralism was one of the battles we had to win and when Neil Kinnock changed the policy, it vindicated a lot of what we had argued for during some of the dark days of Labour's collective nervous breakdown."

Eleven years as a spokesman on Foreign and Commonwealth affairs was followed by an appointment as Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland.

"It was a great thrill to get it and it took me back into domestic issues and politics at a critical time. It was the toughest four



Man at the top: "A lot of people regard the British Armed Forces with enormous respect and they are seen in many areas as role models."

years of my life. I've been through conflict with Saddam and through the Kosovo air campaign, but nothing compares with the ferocity of Scottish politics."

Then came May 1997 and the landslide Labour election victory and appointment, not to the Scottish Office – but to the Ministry of Defence. As Secretary of State, he was popular with the Armed forces.

"I liked and admired the people who worked there," he said. "Life in the services can sometimes be dangerous, you prepare all the time for the worst, but largely you do mundane jobs. In May, 1997, I didn't realise how many times I would be putting people into danger, but you have that potential all the time."

"But if you have respect for people and get on with people, you can motivate people. And when you like and admire what people are doing it gives you a great boost."

He also acknowledged the MoD civil

servants, whom he referred to as "The Fourth Service".

He clearly made his mark in international circles and in 1999 he received a life peerage and was selected as Secretary

I've been through conflict with Saddam and through the Kosovo air campaign, but nothing compares with the ferocity of Scottish politics

General of Nato, succeeding Javier Solana.

Now he is in a position to compare British forces with those of Nato allies, but the diplomat in him ensured that he would not go public with his views.

"I know the contribution that is made by the British Armed Forces. A lot of people regard them with enormous respect and they are seen in many areas as role models," he said.

In his Nato role, he is justifiably proud of the many countries working together to promote peace and believes history

ROBERTSON ON...

Macedonia

"MAINTAINING the cease-fire in Macedonia is of prime importance. Nato has made plain that there can only be a political solution to this crisis. It cannot be resolved militarily."

"The EU and Nato, with the US, are engaged in seeking an urgent political resolution, which preserves the sovereignty, territorial integrity and democratic institutions of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."

"The political dialogue must be taken forward to a conclusion speedily. An opportunity for a solution exists – and must be grasped."

has been changed beyond all recognition.

"Who would have thought 15 years ago that I would address a seminar in Kiev?" he mused, adding with a note of warning: "The world has changed very much for the better, although there are still dangers."

Turning to the Balkans, he said every effort should be made to ensure we are not there for ever and that progress was continuing.

"It's not ideal. But when you consider the killing fields of 1993-95 you begin to realise they may be small steps, but they are in the right direction."

"In Kosovo we have about 40,000 troops from 36 nations including Russia, the Ukraine and smaller countries like the UAE, all able to work together."

"Kosovo is not an easy operation; things happen there every day, yet it knits together in a remarkable way and that is a great tribute to the success of Partnership for Peace that allows soldiers to go in quickly and safely to carry out peace-keeping operations."

Despite his Nato position, he hasn't lost all his British Army connections.

"I am an Honorary Colonel in the British Army with the London Regiment. And given that I modernised, controversially, the Territorial Army, to be asked to be the Honorary Colonel of a TA regiment is quite good."

And now the wheel has come full circle. When President Vladimir Putin of Russia described him as a "super policeman", Lord Robertson accepted the compliment. "That's quite good coming from an ex-KGB man," he laughed.

The man who turned his back on a career in the police force has become a supercop. So is his father proud of him now?

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You can hide, but you can't park

YOU can hide your average sophisticated, hi-tech weapons platform from most prying eyes... but not an on-the-ball London traffic warden. QinetiQ (formerly DERA) found its "stealth"-enhanced plastic tank – the world's first – was no match for a man in a cap anxious to keep his yellow lines free of offending vehicles.

QinetiQ's Advanced Composite Armoured Vehicle Platform (ACAVP) demonstrator, developed in partnership with Vickers Defence Systems and first featured in *Soldier* in April

last year, has since completed a 12-month evaluation which included all the standard tests used by the Army to assess conventional armoured fighting vehicles.

The composite materials used in the ACAVP's construction mean that it is lighter than conventional AFVs, has increased stealth capability and improved crew protection because there is less "behind armour damage" if the vehicle is hit. QinetiQ has announced that it is to build more advanced demonstrators.

Hot 'n light

When Snugpak asked us to 'road-test' their latest pile shirts, we sent them climbing up mountains in South America

WEST Yorkshire-based insulated clothing and sleeping bag manufacturers Snugpak launch their new softie and pile shirts this month. As the garments cost about £100 and £80 respectively, we wanted to find out if they were worth the investment.

So we asked Cpl Ian Smith REME and LCpl Ceri-Anne Brown RAMC, both serving with E(13) Evacuation Squadron, 4 General Service Medical Regiment RAMC at Aldershot, to test the shirts on an expedition to Peru. Their objectives included ascents of Pisco (4,800m) and Ishinca (5,530m) and a trek to the fabled Inca city of Machu Picchu.

The shirts, intended to be worn against the skin, incorporate Pertex and pile technology. Shaggy pile interior and smooth nylon outer give a bulky look, but the garments are functional, durable and intended to keep the wearer warm and dry in the worst weather. The softie shirts feature the same filling used in Snugpak sleeping bags and are lighter and more luxurious.

Here's what Ian and Ceri-Anne thought:

Cpl Ian Smith, REME

NOT one to turn down a freebie, I eagerly accepted the chance to test the new Snugpak softie "buffalo"-style shirt. Our expedition to Peru promised extreme conditions – two mountains to climb and the Inca Trail to walk.

I packed the softie as my warm kit (I also took a fleece as back-up) and discovered the first bonus was the fact that the shirt is very light and folds into its own small pouch, crucial when travelling as light as possible. The shirt proved to be more than warm enough on Pisco, which is good considering the highest peak we climbed was over 19,000ft.

Zippered side vents offered adequate cooling when opened and the two large pockets in the front of the shirt, one of which has access from either side, are more than up to



High-tech: Ceri-Anne and Ian on Mt Pisco

storing small items of kit such as maps, compass, sunscreen and the odd energy bar.

The pullover design posed no problems and the thumb-hole loops in the sleeves were handy when climbing, as was the crotch strap.

The collar is quite high, which was an aid to wind-proofing, but the piece of fabric covering the top inch of the zip was irritating as it kept getting caught, often requiring another pair of hands to free it. I think the sizes of the shirts could also be looked at again. They are designed to be worn next to the skin or with, at most, a thin layer underneath. My shirt was classed as large, but for someone with a 42in chest it was actually a little on the snug side.

Overall a good piece of kit, which would be a worthy inclusion in anyone's bergen.



Model attire: Ceri-Anne wears Snugpak's pile shirt while Ian displays the softie version

LCpl Ceri-Anne Brown, RAMC

MY jacket was fleece-lined and meant to be worn with no garments underneath. You do get hot very quickly. These jackets are ideal for cold conditions, especially on the mountains. They are very lightweight and compress easily to fit into luggage.

● As a result of the feedback from Peru, Snugpak tell us they have put in two-way zips on the side vents as a further improvement; removed the crotch strap from standard garments (but may supply it as an optional extra) and are looking again at the sizing with a view to making each a little more generous (although the shirts will still be "snug" to work with maximum efficiency).

Ian's point about the irritating zip fabric (it's called a comfort fold and is designed to stop the zip touching skin around the chin, mouth and neck when in very cold climates) has also been taken on board.

Find out more at www.snugpak.com

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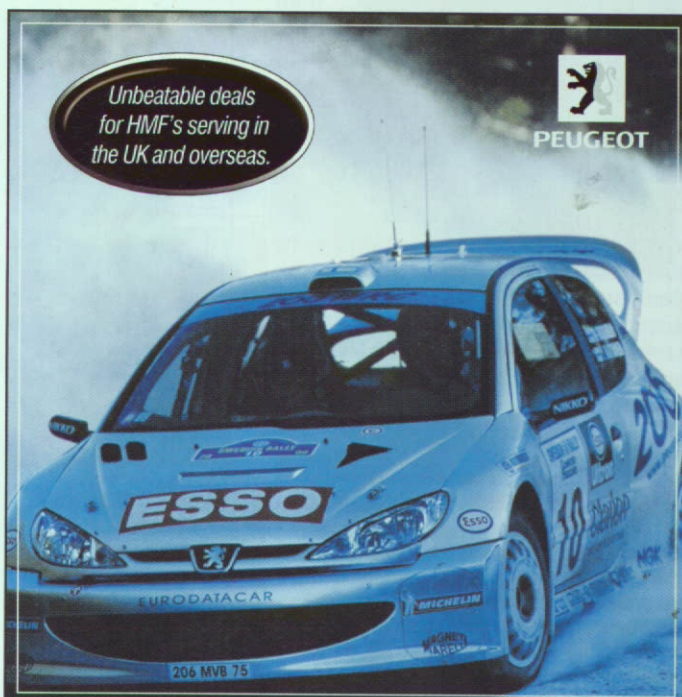
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Multi-national: From left are interpreter Branka Adzaip, Capt Debbie Bradburn, Netherlands WO Hans Hoenis, Iceland's Maj Hildur Sigurdardothir, Canadian Lt Marie-Christian Lamontague, Pte Stephanie Hennigan, Maj Kristin Agnarsdottir from Iceland and Czech WO Ivana Zdarkova. In bed is Mrs Janja Suknjaja, recovering from the bite of a poisonous snake. Right: The entrance to Sipovo's military hospital

Yes, Minister!

Iceland sets great store by its small team at Sipovo's military hospital

Report: Lt Col Robin Hodges
Pictures: Cpl Pete Mobbs

ICELAND is one of the smallest contributors to SFOR and the two nurses from that country serving in Bosnia regularly receive calls from officials at home asking how things are going.

They are based with the British contingent at R3MIMU, the unlovely title of the military hospital in Sipovo.

"Everyone asks what R3MIMU stands for," said Capt Peter Martin QARANC, 2iC of the Role 3 Multi-national Integrated Medical Unit. Unsurprisingly, most people call it "Sipovo Hospital".

In addition to its Icelandic contingent, R3MIMU has British, Canadian, Czech and Netherlands staff. The calls from Iceland, sometimes from high-ranking ministers, have come as a surprise to those used to shorter chains-of-command.

The unit set up shop in 1999 in a disused factory used as an HVO ammo priming point during the war in Bosnia. The town's only real income still comes from the factory, but now it is earned by civilians who work for SFOR.

While the outside is uninspiring, a glance inside reveals a modern, efficient accident and emergency unit and small hospital.

Forty-seven military staff are divided into five troops under a Dutch major. His team can include colonels and even the occasional brigadier. These senior officers,

consultants leading specialist teams, are usually surgeons and physicians.

The hospital's main task is to treat SFOR casualties, of which fortunately there are few. It may also take up to three civilians a day as its contribution to the local community and to maintain skills.

Most of the Brits are on short tours. Capt Kerry Wigglesworth, a specialist nurse who spent four months with the unit

Pride of Warrington:
TA SSgt Les Hannah
deploys by Cougar



Masked men: Cpl Mark Gatenby (left) and Lt Serge Plante, RCN, in theatre

over Christmas, is back in Sipovo for four weeks before redeploying to Kosovo.

Tele-medicine has helped to cut staff numbers. Hi-tech equipment installed by the Netherlands military allows radiographer CPO Tim Relf, RN, to refer patients by transmitting x-rays to Utrecht. A consultant there faxes back his medical opinion.

On the second anniversary of the unit, the only patient on the ten-bed ward was a woman who had been bitten by a snake.

Senior nurse Capt Debbie Bradburn's ward can be expanded to 25 beds in an emergency. "The unit can cope with two seriously wounded casualties requiring immediate life-saving surgery, two other seriously wounded and 17 less badly wounded casualties in a day," she said.

First to deal with serious cases is Capt Claire Edwards, QARANC, the resuscitation nurse in Surgical Troop.

In the absence of the real thing, HQ Multi-national Division (South West) organises exercises to keep the battle-groups and the Sipovo-based immediate response team (IRT) on the ball. SSgt Les Hannah, a senior operating department practitioner at Warrington General Hospital and a TA soldier with 374 Head and Neck Surgical Team, is often the first IRT member on the scene of an incident, real or exercise. He deploys in a Cougar helicopter of the Netherlands Air Force.

"Warrington NHS was not sure about letting me volunteer for three months, but helicopter evacuation is becoming more common in the UK and what I am learning will be of value at home," he said.

Much of the outpatient work ends up in the pathology laboratory, where RAF Sgt Stephen Simpson recently cleared a military kitchen of blame by tracing a salmonella outbreak at Brac adventurous training centre to a meal soldiers had bought in the local village.

Fiord focus drives guardsmen

Grenadiers get back to basics on Operation Viking Odyssey in Norway



Ship to shore: After cross-boarding, the recce platoon disembark at Granvin and secure the harbour ready for the arrival of RFA Sir Bedivere



Stepping out: Gdsm Hayden Taylor heads out from Granvin on the start of the 35km tab

BEING ordered to march 35km while carrying in excess of 35kgs sounds like an all-too-common, albeit very tiring, aspect of Army life.

However, when that route features



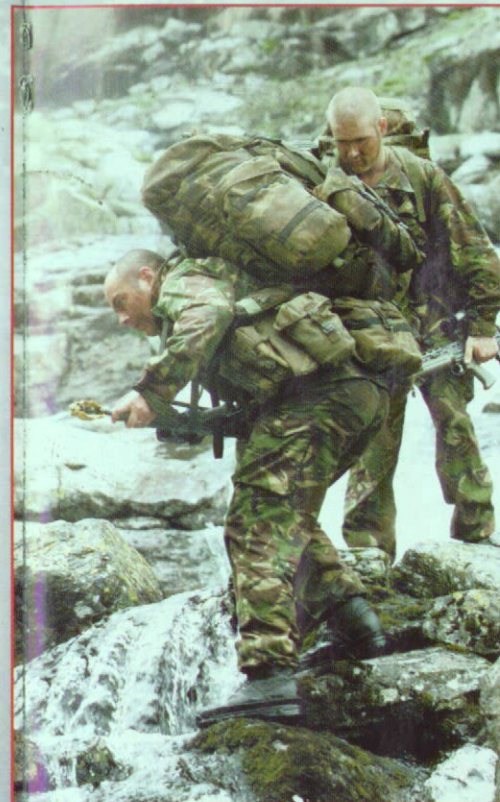
two significant mountain ranges and is concluded by a mock battalion attack, then the command sounds somewhat less familiar and more demanding than the norm.

Such a task greeted the soldiers of The 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards on Exercise Viking Odyssey in Norway.

No sooner had RFA Sir Bedivere arrived in Granvin – a small harbour town at the head of Handanger Fiord – the Guards were deployed on an infiltration exercise into the Nordic hills.

The three-day route, which was the equivalent of climbing Mount Snowdon from sea level twice, often entailed crossing large rock deposits left by ice floes. Water supplies were replenished en-route from fresh-water streams and rivers.

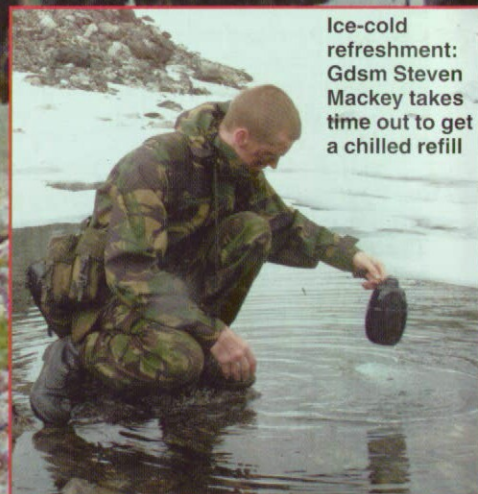
Maj Martin David, o/c the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, said: "As light role infantry it is our job to be able to move long distances on foot and still be able to fight at the other end – and this exercise has proved that the battalion is able to achieve this core task."



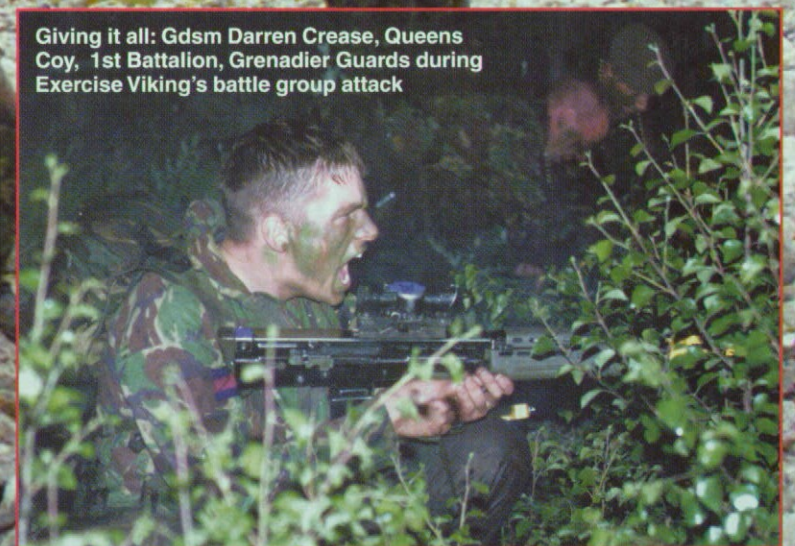
In full flow: Sgt Martin Munro, above, tackles a river crossing during the arduous hike



Last orders: Sgt Darren Westlake delivers a briefing to his platoon before the battalion attack



Ice-cold refreshment: Gdsm Steven Mackey takes time out to get a chilled refill



Giving it all: Gdsm Darren Crease, Queens Coy, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards during Exercise Viking's battle group attack

Snugpak Photo Competition.....

Many thanks to all those of you who sent in photographs of yourselves with Snugpak products as part of our photo competition promoting the soon-to-arrive Outdoor "Pertex and Pile" shirt and the "Snugpak Softie" shirt.

.... the shocking results



The winning photo is of LCpl N Collins from Nuneaton, pictured above in the fire trench at the Macedonian border. We also have a friendlier photo of him cooking breakfast, inset, in what looks like "Café Baltic". LCpl Collins wins a Snugpak rucksack, a jacket and a sleeping bag of his choice.

Well done to everyone who entered - it's amazing just what lengths you will go to get your photos published, but we have to keep the competition decent! We had a good laugh choosing the winner, though. Thanks again and sorry we couldn't print any more. By now you should have received your free Snugpak compass key ring - if not, please bear with us; it will arrive shortly.

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Now you see it, now you don't

WHEN 80 specialists from Bordon-based 104 Battalion REME (V) were let loose on some Army fuel tankers (that's a Truck Tank Fuel or TTF) it really was a case of TTFN (Ta Ta For Now).

Their four-day mission at the Land Vehicle Holding Unit at Ludgershall was to strip vehicles classified as beyond economical repair and reclaim the various bits and pieces for spares. With the current tanker fleet running on longer than expected, there is a lack of major assemblies and other critical components not readily available from trade.

The specialists – made up of vehicle mechanics, vehicle electricians, metal-smiths and armourers – divided themselves into ten-man teams to work on the tankers in a “production line”, each concentrating on one part of the vehicle.



Breakers: Taking it apart are, left to right, Cpl Mark Hayes, Cfn Duncan Squires, SSgt Stephen Gillespie, Cfn David Davies and LCpl John Griffiths

First the fuel tank and cab went, followed by the engine and gearbox. The wheel stations were cut away before the chassis could be cut into three bits and thrown into the scrap bin.

By close of play, the REME team had stripped six complete vehicles, three half vehicles . . . and repaired two.

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.

Holiday horrors

Did we really spend that much on holiday?

When the statements start to arrive after holidays do you dread opening the envelope? It's easy to spend on holiday. Especially when the children seem to want things all the time – ice creams, drinks, rides at the fair. And eating out can be expensive, not to mention the costs of drinks – they can really hit the pocket or the plastic.

And then the bills (electricity, gas, council tax and car tax) always seem to come at the same time and after holidays, too.

Borrow, dig into savings or ignore it (they'll go away)

These are three possible options. Borrowing generally costs money (family and friends tend to charge low interest). You can consider a loan or leave it on the credit card. Either way it will cost money.

Maybe you have several cards and you can switch around from one to another for a while longer. This “robbing Peter to pay Paul” can work for a while but it usually costs interest and a lot of anxiety. You have to keep ahead of the game.

You may have savings to fall back on. If you do it may hurt a bit (especially if you've been saving for that something special – like a new car). But the cost is the loss of interest and, maybe, a bit of pride.

Many try to ignore it, hoping that it will all go away. Unfortunately the creditors don't forget. They expect payment for what they've loaned you – with interest.

Life is a series of decisions and consequences. We have to make decisions about what we do and there are always consequences.

Stop. Face it head-on

If you feel that your finances are out of control, stop! Look at what's happening to your money. Sit down and draw up a budget. Yes, it's the answer. Make a decision to do something. Someone once told me that 80 per cent is “getting there”. The biggest step is to make a start to do something (like jogging or going to the gym). Once you've decided to make a start, it's usually a lot easier than you think.

You can call for help if you want support. Call the HelpLine and a counsellor will talk you through the process. Get a copy of *A Self-help Guide to Dealing With Personal Debt*, work through the steps and you'll be surprised how good it can feel to be getting in control of your money.

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Finland's sharp shooter

Charlton Athletic striker Jonatan Johansson talks to *Soldier* about guns, goals and Giggs

Interview: Andy Simms

"If I'm honest with myself, I'm terrible at hitting the target," Jonatan Johansson revealed sheepishly. "I enjoy shooting but I'm just no good at it."

Hardly the sort of admission that you would expect to hear from the lips of a player who finished among the Premiership's leading marksmen last season.

Fortunately for Charlton Athletic the Finnish international was not referring to his ability to find the back of the net, but his skill-at-arms, a passion he discovered – and failed to master – during his eight-month spell in the Finnish Army.

And shooting was about the only thing that Pte Johansson did enjoy about his brief encounter with life in the Army.

"I hated it at the time," he said. "National Service is not compulsory in Finland but is something that you do because it is traditional to do so."

When Johansson turned up for basic training at the age of 20 he was already a household name in Finland having been a regular in the national squad from the age of 18. But being a celebrity among the ranks proved a double-edged sword.

"I chose to hang around with those who followed football because they were always willing to help me out," he said. "However, there was some jealousy and

people who tried to make things harder for me because of who I was."

After three months of square-bashing and "running about everywhere" Johansson completed the remainder of his National Service with the Finnish equivalent of the Royal Artillery.

And despite his disdain towards pursuing a career in the military, he concedes that life as a soldier was not all bad.

"I remember a similar bonding to the kind you experience in a football team – I still have a lot of good friends from that time."

"I grew up a lot in the Army," he added. "I was just 20 when I joined up, still a wee boy who had never lived away from home, it cooled me down and prepared me for the ordeal of moving abroad and looking after myself."

Experience that stood him in good stead back in civvy street when he moved from his home-club of TPS Turku to play for Flora Tallinn in Estonia, and then in 1997 when he signed for Glasgow Rangers.

"We had such a great team at Rangers. Gazza was in his prime and Brian Laudrup, Marco Negri and Jonas Thern were all there," he said. "Just playing alongside those names in training makes you grow in confidence and I learned a lot as a player during that time."

But it was Dick Advocaat's arrival in the Ibrox hot-seat in 1998 that proved to be a turning point for the 26-year-old who began his footballing career as a winger.

In the six-foot Finn, the former Dutch and PSV Eindhoven manager saw all the necessary attributes of a traditional centre-forward. And, as something of a super-sub, Johansson hit 17 goals that season, helping Rangers to win the domestic treble and reach the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.

His goalscoring exploits caught the eye of Charlton boss Alan Curbishley, who at the second time of asking, and for a transfer fee of £3.75m, managed to sign the man he describes as a "natural-born scorer" in the summer of 2000.

It was a price tag and accolade that Johansson duly justified by netting 14 times for the Addicks during the London club's first season back in the Premier-



ship. "Ever since I was a kid I have enjoyed scoring goals and have never given a second thought about it. So I guess that it does come naturally to me," he said. "But I was lucky that I got off to a good start at Charlton and that the rest of the team were playing so well."

In terms of stature, Charlton may not be of the same standing as Rangers but

Johansson believes that his decision to move to The Valley and the Premiership was the right one.

"You play a better standard of football in England," he said. "You pass the ball more and the game is played at a lot quicker pace than in Scotland."

"You cannot get away with making mistakes in the Premiership – if you play badly you will lose. In Scotland you could have a bad game and still win comfortably."

Leading the Charlton attack also gives Johansson the chance to take on the club he supported as a boy.

"I have always been a big Manchester United fan and Ryan Giggs was my big idol. He is class and is playing in one of the best teams in the world."

"You can't not pick United as the favourites for the title again this year, although I think Liverpool will have another good season."



Goal addick: Jonatan Johansson lobbs Derby County's Mart Poom to give last season's Premiership newcomers a 2-2 draw at Pride Park

RESULTS SERVICE ... RESULTS SERVICE ... RESULTS SERVICE ... RESULTS SERVICE ... RESULTS SERVICE ...

CRICKET: Dorset (179-4) beat Army (176-8) by six wickets; Wiltshire development XI (152-9) lost to Army (245-4) by 93 runs; Army U25 XI (192-9) lost to Royal Signals CC (193-6) by three wickets; Herefordshire U25 XI (220-10) lost to Army U25 XI (226-10) by six runs; Combined Services U25 XI (134-5) beat Arshad Ayub Cricket Academy (130) by five wickets; Army (188-5) beat Free Foresters (106) by 82 runs; Combined Services (177-5) beat ECB Schools (176-9) by five wickets; Army (210-2) beat British Fire Service (208-9) by eight wickets.

GOLF: BFG Inter-corps champions – Royal Engineers (Cpl Craig Nairn, Capt Mark Richardson, Sgt Steve West, Sgt Steve Hutton and SSgt Tony Laslett).

RUGBY LEAGUE: Yeoman Cup, 1st round – SEME v 1 RSME (12-36); 7 RHA v 30 Sig Regt (60-16); 38 Engr Regt v 3 RSME (66-0); LD v 11 Sig Regt (52-8); 36 Engr Regt v

SEAE (8-66); 47 AD Sqn RLC v 2 Sig Regt (12-24). **Quarter final** – 38 Engr Regt v LD (58-10); 1 QLR v 47 Regt RA (68-0); 1 RSME v 7 RHA (44-18); SEAE v 2 Sig Regt (54-36).

SWIMMING: Army individual championships, 800 freestyle (men) – 1, Cpl Stuart Burke (REME); 2, Capt Chris Stuart (RLC); 3, SSgt John Scott (SEAE). **200 freestyle (women)** – 1, Lt Liz Tarr (REME); 2, Pte Jayne Grey (RA); 3, OCdt Jo Kelsey (RMAS). **200 freestyle (men)** – 1, Cpl Burke; 2, Spr Carl Bryant (3 RSME); 3, OCdt Paul Joyce (RMAS). **200 breaststroke (women)** – 1, OCdt Charlotte Argent (RMAS); 2, OCdt Katy Philip (RMAS); 3, OCdt Emma Smith (RMAS). **200 breaststroke (men)** – 1, Capt Iain Brown (3 RSME); 2, OCdt Simon Puxley (RMAS); 3, Pte Lee Newman (4 GS Med Regt). **100 backstroke (women)** – 1, OCdt Claire Pitts (RMAS); 2, Sig Sara Parker (RS); 3, OCdt

Mandy Hinks (RMAS). **100 backstroke (men)** – 1, Sig Kyle Lovell (RS); 2, Cfn Danny Baker (SEAE); 3, Cpl Karl Simons (160 Pro Coy). **100 butterfly (women)** – 1, OCdt Katy O'Brien (RMAS); 2, Lt Tarr; 3, Capt Ros Hayes (ATR Pirbright). **100 butterfly (men)** – 1, OCdt John Coulthard (RMAS); 2, Spr Mark Britton (3 RSME); 3, Sig Tony Davies (RS). **100 breaststroke (women)** – 1, Pte Grey; 2, Capt Claire Watermouth (RMP); 3, OCdt Philip. **100 breaststroke (men)** – 1, Sig Carl Renshaw (1 ADSR); 2, LCpl Paul Angelidi (RS); 3, Sig Sean Peart (RS). **100 freestyle (women)** – 1, LCpl Claire Syme (RA); 2, OCdt Susanna Peckett (RMAS); 3, Lt Fiona Johnson (RA). **100 freestyle (men)** – 1, Capt Brown; 2, OCdt Coulthard; 3, Cpl Neill Graham (SEAE). **4 x 25 medley (women)** – 1, OCdt O'Brien; 2, Lt Tarr; 3, Pte Grey. **4 x 50 medley (men)** – 1, Capt Stuart; 2, OCdt Steve Roberts (RMAS); 3, Cfn Baker. **400 freestyle (men)** – 1, Cpl Burke; 2, SSgt

Scott; 3, Sgt John Sreenan (RMP). **50 short sprint (women)** – 1, OCdt O'Brien; 2, Lt Tarr; 3, LCpl Syme.

TUG OF WAR: Inter-corps championship finals: 600 kilos – RA B beat RA A; **680 kilos** – RA A beat RE; **560 kilos (women)** – RLC beat R Signals; **560 kilos** – RA A beat RA B; **640 kilos** – RA A beat RA B.

Inter-Services championship finals: 680 kilos – Army A beat Army B; **600 kilos** – Army B beat Army A; **720 kilos** – Army B beat Army A; **560 kilos** – Army A beat Army B; **640 kilos** – Army A beat Army B.

Tri-Services championship finals: 600 kilos – Civil Service A beat Combined Services (CS) A; **680 kilos** – CS A beat Police A; **640 kilos** – CS A beat Civil Service A; **640 kilos (open)** – Sheen Farmers beat CS A; **Catch** – Police A beat CS A.

Title hopes skittled

RAF break through Army's defence to take championship

ANY hopes that the Army cricket team harboured of being crowned Inter-Services champions were single-handedly extinguished by the Royal Air Force's Flt Lt Paul Singleton on the first day of play at the Royal Navy's Burnaby Road headquarters in Portsmouth.

Batting first on a damp wicket, the Army managed to post only 27 runs before Singleton claimed his first casualty of the match – Sgt Steve Hole (6) being dismissed lbw.

Maj David O'Kelly (49) and LCpl Keith Ford (7) appeared to have settled the Army innings until Singleton (4-21) returned to the fray, and in the space of two overs took three wickets at a cost of just three runs.

Resolute performances from SSgt Tony Pick (36) and Maj Jim Cotterill (45 not out) helped save Army blushes and were instrumental in guiding the team to a final total of 176 for seven.

The RAF's experienced openers, JT Mark Bray (53) and FS Glyn Lumb (43), all but condemned the Army to defeat with a match-winning partnership before the airmen eased their way to a comfortable eight-wicket victory.

However, a slender three-wicket victory over the Royal Navy on the final day of the tournament will have gone a long way to restoring pride in the Army ranks.



Picture: Graeme Main

In the swing of things: Maj Jim Cotterill (RA) leads the Army's fightback against the RAF

Lt Alex Senneck showed no sign of a confidence problem when faced by the Navy bowlers, hitting an unbeaten 115 that powered the Army to 263 for six and a deserved man-of-the-match award.

In reply, the Navy's chase for the target

was thwarted by the bowling of Hole (3-21) and Cotterill (3-63), and the home side finished on 239 for eight.

♦ **The RAF (181-9) beat the RN (92) by 89 runs to claim the Inter-Services title.**



Picture: Graeme Main

Usual suspects triumph

A FAMILIAR list of names paraded the silverware during the Thales-sponsored Army tennis championships at the Aldershot Tennis Centre.

Much to the expectations of the seeding committee, the men's final was a carbon-copy of last year's tournament, with Capt Austin Coventry (RE), pictured left, finishing as runner-up to Maj Nigel Watts (AAC), who celebrated his 14th championship title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory.

Coventry exacted his revenge in the final of the open doubles competition, where, alongside Capt Olly Gardner (R Signals), he beat defending champions Watts and Capt Ally Mills (REME) 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

The star of the women's singles was

2nd Lt Nell Mead (RAMC), who took the title in her first appearance at the championships, beating Maj Lorna Wood (AGC (ETS)) 7-6, 6-2 in the final.

Coupled with a mixed doubles win alongside WO2 Eric Simpson (APTC), Mead enjoyed a dream debut and was justifiably awarded the title of "most promising newcomer".

Other results: Women's doubles – OCdt Sasha Macey (REME) and Sgt Fiona Stapley (RLC) beat Maj Susie Greenwood (QARANC) and SSgt Hilary Grieg (AGC) 6-1, 6-4.

Men's veterans – Brig Barry Reeves (Retd) beat Maj Clyde Aylin.

Inter-arms and corps doubles – AAC (Maj Watts and Maj Bill Herlihy) beat RLC (Maj Daryl Amison and LCpl Jamie Friend) 6-3, 6-2.

Army beat the best

Reds rock rugby's professional ranks at Twickenham

Report: Roger Thompson
Pictures: Graeme Main

IN rugby terms, lifting a major trophy at the home of rugby is as hard as it gets.

Winning the Safari Sevens in Nairobi and the Welsh Cwmtawe Saithiau in Swansea was no preparation for the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham.

Drawn from six regiments, the Army team came face-to-face with rugby giants Wasps, Bath, Saracens and Newcastle Falcons, and the chance to prove that "be the best" was a fair accolade was not lost on the individuals involved.

Competition for places in the starting line-up was bow-string tight yet all knew that success in any measure required a team effort because the path ahead lay via the London Wasps and Bath – probably the best England has to offer.

In the Army's opening match the fusion of Fijian and English styles was apparent and the ball flowed sweetly through ten different pairs of hands without the Wasps getting within yards of a red shirt. Pte Saula Roko (RGBW) touched down the winning try leaving former gunner Josh Lewsey (Wasps and England) looking crestfallen.



Partners in crime: Pte Epeli Qolikibua (RS) and Pte Saula Roko (RGBW) sprint towards the Newcastle try-line during the Army's historic 45-21 win in the final of the Middlesex Sevens

Against Bath the Army played tantalising rugby and at the end of a 22-12 victory the Army manager was summoned to the press box. Disbelieving, cynical eyes stared into space as it was recounted, slowly for the second time, that the Army team were ordinary soldiers from Northern Ireland, Kosovo and Belize.

In the semi-finals the Army continued to shock the gathered sporting press. Up

against a Saracens team brimming with quality, the Army, led by Pte Apolesi Satala and Pte Bul Bulumakau (both RS), were well-marshalled at the back and from a secure defensive platform scored three superb tries to seal a 21-12 win.

The ultimate dream suddenly looked like becoming a reality. Army coach Maj Andy Hickling asked his willing troops for one final effort and they delivered. The final against Newcastle Falcons, a gruelling ten minutes each way in teeming rain, provided the reds with an opportunity to display flair, speed and stamina.

With the Twickenham crowd behind them, the Army's troops cut down the Falcons, running in seven tries, five of which were converted by team captain and man-of-the-tournament Capt Howard Graham (AGC).

This was a triumph for skill, personal commitment and sheer spirit, and the champagne moments will be remembered for years to come. Graham's 70m sprint to the Saracens try-line; Bulumakau and Gnr Andy Dawling's (7 Para RHA) skill at turning the art of defence into attack; Apolesi's manic tackling; Pte Mathew Raikoso (RS) scoring the final try of the day; Roko's ability to outwit and outspurt professional defences and Gdsm Alfred Vakacakavanua's (SG) two tries in the grandstand final will all go down in Army rugby folklore.

It had taken a year to mould together an Army team capable of being crowned champions of England at Twickenham. That really is as good as it gets.



Tricky customer: Gdsm Alfred Vakacakavanua's (SG) name caused the BBC commentary team almost as much trouble as his surging runs caused the Bath defence at Twickenham

SHORTS

Victory in the valleys

FRESH from winning the Safari Sevens in Nairobi, the British Army rugby sevens squad collected the Welsh Sevens trophy at Cwmtawe.

In the final of the high-profile tournament, which was contested by 24 teams, the Army came face-to-face with Samurai Ecosse and ran home 22-14 winners.

RLC's triathlon treble

THE Royal Logistic Corps monopolised the winner's podium at the Army triathlon championships in Bournemouth with Capt Chris Stuart, Capt Richard Brady and WO2 Stuart Dinwoodie finishing first, second and third respectively.

Plain sailing for sappers

NEAR perfect weather conditions greeted the 65 competitors who contested the Army windsurfing championships on the waters of Portland Harbour.

Taking full advantage of the driving wind, the Royal Engineers sailed to their first inter-corps championship trophy.

MoD's Channel hoppers

A TEAM consisting of four soldiers, a Royal Marine and a member of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) swam from Dover to Cap Griz-Nez in France in aid of the National Blood Service, SSAFA and Macmillan Cancer Relief.

MoD staff Lucy Whitman, Maj John Whitman, Maj Richard Brent, Maj Bryan Hemmings, Maj Felix Gedney and Maj Justin Holt completed the 21-mile crossing of the English Channel in 15 hours and 56 minutes.

The team received pledges of more than 100 gallons of blood for the National Blood Service. All financial donations will be divided between the other two charities.

Paddlers at the ready

THE 2001 Army canoe slalom championships will be held between September 24 and 29 at Llandysul, South Wales, and are open to all Army paddlers. Contact 2nd Lt Alex Burt on 94251 2473 for more details.

The ice camp cometh

THIS year's Banner Business Supplies-sponsored ice camp will be held over two one-week courses (November 3-11 and 10-18) in Igls, near Innsbruck, in Austria. The camp is designed to allow soldiers to experience the thrills and spills of driving a bobsleigh, skeleton or luge.

The cost, including travel and full board, will be in the region of £325. Anyone interested should contact Maj Pete McClellan by fax on 94674 8714 or 01449 728714.

Loggies cruise to title



That winning feeling: Pte Natasha Campbell (7 Para RHA) sprints over the finish line in the women's 4 x 100 metre relay race and into the arms of an Aldershot Garrison team-mate

RLC athletes scoop inter-unit honours

Pictures: Steve Dock

MONTHS of arduous training and preparation finally paid dividends for 3 (CS) Regiment RLC in the Army Inter-Unit athletics championships held at Aldershot's military stadium.

The loggies dominated proceedings from the opening race of the *Answers 4 U* and *Account@nt Online*-sponsored event, and finished the day sporting the Major Units title, the women's team title, the 1,500 metres team cup, and both the field and track event trophies.

Among the champions' star performers was Sgt John Porter, who won the 3,000m steeplechase in a time of 9min 47sec - 12.99sec ahead of the chasing pack.

The Minor Units competition was a much closer affair with only four points separating eventual champions ATR Bassingbourn and runners-up ATR Lichfield.

Full results: Major Units (after 19 events) - 1, 3 (CS) Regt RLC (281.5pts); 2, 1 Cheshire (234pts); 3, 11 Sig Regt (182pts); 4, 21 Sig Regt (173pts); 5, 35 Engr Regt (167pts); 6, 3 RSME (146pts); 7, 3 (UK) Div & Sig Regt (144.5pts).

Minor Units (after 18 events) - 1, ATR Bassingbourn (126pts); 2, ATR Lichfield (122pts); 3, 280 Sig Sqn (107pts); 4, 14 Geo Sqn RE (103pts).

Women's (after 15 events) - 1, 3 (CS) Regt RLC (99pts); 2, 3 (UK) Div & Sig Regt (90pts); 3, Aldershot Garrison (82pts); 4, 11 Sig Regt (82pts); 5, 21 Sig Regt (75pts); 6, 280 Sig Sqn (50pts); 7, ATR Bassingbourn (41pts).

♦ **THE Army recorded a slender victory over their rivals in the Inter-Services decathlon championships at RAF Cosford.**

Strong performances from LCpl Chad Chaddock, Pte Gez Manville, Sgt Chris Oakes and Sgt Neil Rutherford steered the Army to a 16,580 points total - just 24 points ahead of the Royal Air Force in second - and the title. The RAF exacted their revenge in the heptathlon championships, beating the Army by 1,771 points and the Royal Navy by 2,434.

In the 10,000m championships, SSgt Rod Leach finished first with a time of 31min 34.9sec - just 1.8sec shy of the record he set last year.



On the home straight: Sgt John Porter (3 CS Regt RLC), above, charges for the finish line in the men's 3,000m steeplechase

Stone's throw from victory: Cpl Seiriol Hughes (ATR Litchfield) takes second place in the men's shot with a 10.83m throw



FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to September...

ATHLETICS: 2 - World duathlon championships (Rimini, Italy); Brighton Olympic-distance (Brighton); 23 - Army marathon championships (Manchester); REME triathlon championships (Sunbury Leisure Centre).

BOXING: 28 - RLC v Southern Counties (ATR Winchester).

CANOEING: 7-9 - Inter-Services sprint and marathon championships (River Trent, Nottingham); 15-16 - Army surf canoeing championships (Newgale, Pembrokeshire); 24-29 - Army slalom championships (Llandysul, South Wales).

CLIMBING: 12 - Inter-Services championships (The Foundry, Sheffield).

COARSE FISHING: 22 - Division two national championships (Grand Union Canal, Milton Keynes); 26 - Army team championships (TBC).

CRICKET: 6 - Minor Units final (Aldershot); 7 - Major Units final (Aldershot).

CYCLING: 16 - National ten-mile championships (Northants); 22-23 - Inter-Services championships (Andover).

FOOTBALL: 17 - Army v Camberley Town (Aldershot); 24 - Carshalton Athletic v Army (Carshalton).

GAME FISHING: 6 - Army v EFA (Chew); 18 - Inter-Services championships (Rutland).

GOLF: 1 - Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club v Army (Pyle & Kenfig GC); 2-5 - Women's Inter-Services championships (Cumberwell Park).

MODERN PENTATHLON: 8-9 - Open (Millfield).

ROUNDERS: 5-7 - Festival of rounders (Worthy Down).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 7 - Inter-Services challenge cup, Army v RAF (York); 21 - Inter-Services challenge cup, RN v Army (Portsmouth); 26 - Yeoman cup final (Aldershot).

SAILING: 8-9 - Individual dinghy championships (Netley).

SEA FISHING: 1 - Wessex challenge (Chesil Beach).

SHOOTING: 1 - Target shooting open (Bisley); 4 - Inter-Services and inter-corps clay target championships (Shugborough shooting ground, Stafford).

TENNIS: 6-7 - 4 Div championships (Army Tennis Centre, Aldershot).

TRIATHLON: 9 - National and Inter-Services middle-distance championships (Llanberis, Wales); sprint championships (Cotswold).

TUG OF WAR: 1 - Braemar games (Scotland); 19-24 - European championships (Switzerland).

VOLLEYBALL: 24-25 - Inter-division and inter-corps championships (Larkhill).

■ Got a date for the diary? E-mail the details to fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk

REME kick-start season

THE British Army (Germany) and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (Germany) motor-cycle championships were held at Achmer Ranges near Osnabrück.

Dubbed Exercise First Ride, the competition attracted competitors from both Germany and the UK, and included a guest team of Bundeswehr riders from Panzerlehrbrigade 9, a tank training unit based at Münster.

The championships comprised two 23km cross-country circuits and a challenging motocross section against the clock.

All riders used standard Army issue 350cc Harley Davidsons or Bundeswehr 185cc two-stroke Hercules bikes.

LCpl Darren Hesleton (1 AAC Wksp) booked his place in next month's Army championships by winning both the BA(G) and REME(G) titles.

Sgt Gaz Paterson (16 Sig Regt, LAD), pictured right, finished as runner-up in both competitions.



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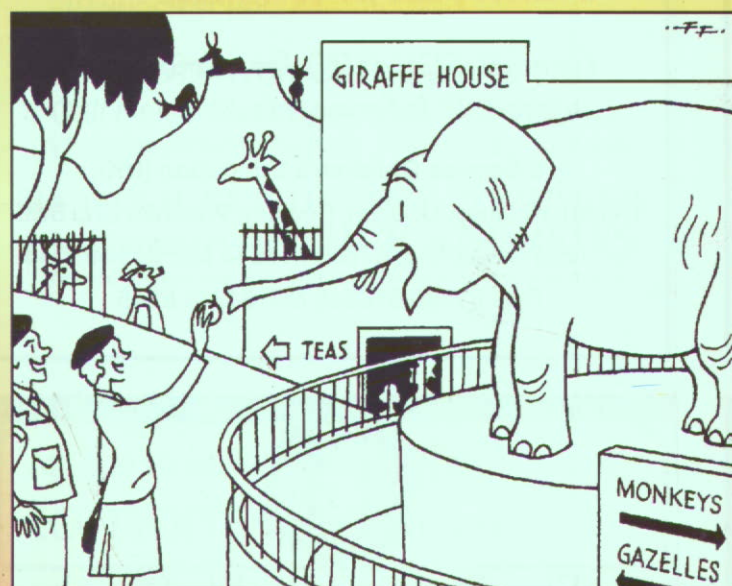
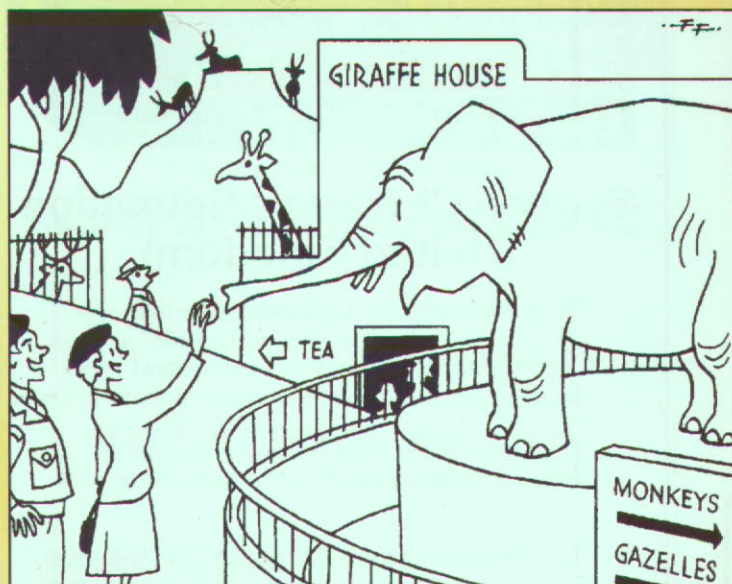
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No 718



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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 November issue.

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

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July issue (No 716): First correct entry drawn was from LCpl K Rowden, of 76 Bde Sp Sqn, 2CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh, who wins £100. Runners-up Mrs D Hewitt, of 24 (Irish) Bty, 15 Regt RA, Larkhill and Mr R York, of St Thomas, Exeter, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: Smaller cloud; bird's crest; baby giraffe's markings; mother giraffe's tail; small tree; left-hand hackle; windscreen and headlamp; mountain peak; vegetation.



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FUNNIEST caption, in our opinion, for the July image (left) was "Bed checks for recruit training just aren't the same any more" from Sgt A Wanbon, DNBCC, Winterbourne Gunner, Wilts. There were plenty more on the same theme, including "The Army's latest recruiting drive was still in its early stages" from Pte Gall, AGC(SPS), 1 RHF, Inverness; "This cloning recruitment scheme will save the Government millions" from



LCpl Esty, HQ Brunei Garrison; "Sgt Smith pondered the new 'softly-softly' approach to recruits"; and "The need for Army recruits had reached a dire stage" from Lucinda Hutchinson of Shaftesbury, Dorset. LCpl P White of Launceston, Cornwall suggested "The new

Type-Z accommodation softened up new recruits"; M Burgess of Bentley, South Yorks, came up with "Typical. The pads always get the big-screen TVs first"; and D Clarke, of Kelly, Fife, reckoned "I knew I should have taken my mates with me". Whatever can he mean?

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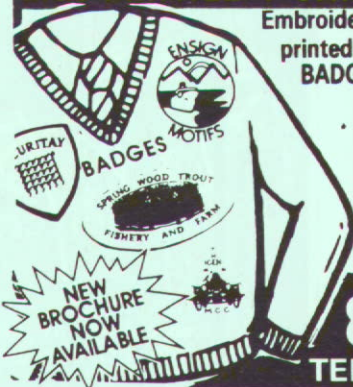
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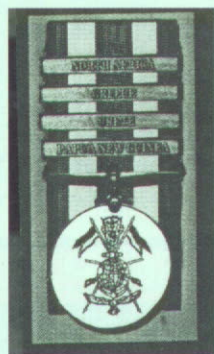
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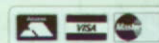
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.soldiermagazine.co.uk

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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.

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DETAILS: SAE, LINKLINE(S), BOX 7358, LONDON N1-5QF

To advertise in Soldier's Web Watch guide

(page 58-59) contact:

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

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

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

£££

30 June 2001

1st (535 runs, £4,900): Sgt MK Abraham, 16 Signal Regt, Rheindahlen
2nd (506 runs, £2,500): WO2 IT Dodd, UKSU SHAPE
3rd (500 runs, £1,900): Pte JM Crowie, 23 Pnr Regt RLC
4th (495 runs, £1,500): Pte P Tylor, 1 RGJ, Preston
5th (482 runs, £1,100): Pte KM Smith, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gütersloh
6th (481 runs, £800): (Name withheld), PATA, Hereford
7th (477 runs, £600): Pte L Wilson, Army Foundation College, Harrogate
8th (475 runs, £400): WO1 MM Hopson, ABRO, Bovington
9th (474 runs, £200): Pte AJ Kirk, 2 R Anglian, Chesham
10th= (470 runs, £50): CSgt J Mackinnon, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford
10th= (470 runs, £50): LCpl A O'Brien, BATU, Suffield
PRIZE MONEY UP AGAIN!
Owing to increased ticket sales, prize money with effect from 7 July 2001 will increase to £14,400 per week, with top prize of £5,000.

7 July 2001

1st (330 runs, £5,000): SSgt TI Archer, RAC Centre, Bovington
2nd (321 runs, £2,500): LCpl BW Woods, JSSU Ayios Nikolaos
3rd (320 runs, £2,000): Cpl SH Foster, HQ NI, Lisburn
4th (313 runs, £1,500): Cpl DR Williams, 1 RWF, Tern Hill
5th (312 runs, £1,100): WO1 TJ Arundel, HQ Tidworth & Bulford Garrison
6th (311 runs, £800): Sgt P Ceaser, HQ NI, Lisburn
7th (310 runs, £600): LCpl D Jackson, 642 Signal Tp, Gibraltar
8th (309 runs, £400): Pte BW Walker, Army Foundation College, Harrogate
9th (308 runs, £300): Sgt CR Allan, AMF (L) CSS Bn, Bulford
10th (306 runs, £200): Capt FJ Bell, MOD AMD, Ash Vale

14 July 2001

1st (305 runs, £5,000): WO1 KP Lea, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford
2nd (304 runs, £2,500): WO1 PD Blinkhorn, 7 MI Coy, Rheindahlen
3rd (300 runs, £2,000): WO2 CJ Knight, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gütersloh
4th (297 runs, £1,500): Sgt AG

Quinn-Williams, 1 RRW, Paderborn
5th= (295 runs, £950): Lt MR Evans, 1 R ANGLIAN, Pirbright
5th= (295 runs, £950): WO2 D Oldham, HQ 160 (Wales) Bde, Brecon
7th (291 runs, £600): CSjt AJ Nutter, 2 LI, Bulford
8th= (290 runs, £300): Spr NR Black, 35 Engr Regt, Paderborn
8th= (290 runs, £300): Maj SH Bull, 2 RGJ, Paderborn
8th= (290 runs, £300): SSgt AF O'Brien, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gütersloh

21 July 2001

1st (543 runs, £5,000): Maj PG Smith, DERA, Chertsey
2nd (534 runs, £2,500): Cpl G Besenyi, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne
3rd (533 runs, £2,000): Sgt PS Mullen, 228 Signal Sqn, Aldershot
4th (522 runs, £1,500): SSgt J Millard, AFCE Preston
5th (519 runs, £1,100): Cpl MP Whitaker, 15 Fd Wksp REME, Catterick
6th (515 runs, £800): Cpl S Dobinson, Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow
7th (514 runs, £600): WO1 CA Riddle, Insp of Engr Res, Hameln

8th= (505 runs, £350): SSgt SJ Haire, AGC Depot, Worthy Down
8th= (505 runs, £350): Sgt JC Langridge, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester
10th (504 runs, £200): Cpl PMJ Woods, JSSU, Ayios Nikolaos

28 July 2001

1st (748 runs, £5,000): WO2 MW Robertson, BVO, Ashchurch
2nd (746 runs, £2,500): LCpl ME Thompson, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford
3rd (740 runs, £2,000): Sgt N Russell, 521 STRE (WD), Chilwell
4th (737 runs, £1,500): WO2 SL Standaft, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbowl
5th= (717 runs, £950): Fus Booth, 2 RRF
5th= (717 runs, £950): Cpl LP Knight, QRH, Sennelager
7th= (711 runs, £500): Sgt RA Bromley, BATU Suffield
7th= (711 runs, £500): LCpl MJ McWalter, ATR Glencorse
9th (709 runs, £300): CSgt SM Barnett, RMA Sandhurst
10th= (702 runs, £100): Lt CD Coats, 25 Engr Regt
10th= (702 runs, £100): Sgt SA Gill, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford

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NOTICES

On 30 September 2001

The 7th (City of Belfast) Battalion and The 9th (County Antrim) Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment will disband to form The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment on 01 October 2001.

Anyone who has presented items to either the 7th or 9th Battalion or associated Messes, and would like those items returned, should contact the Battalions on the telephone number stated below within 28 days of this notice.

7th Battalion:

Officers' Mess: Belfast (02890) 420320

Sergeants' Mess: Belfast (02890) 420365

9th Battalion

Officers' Mess: Antrim (02894) 482496

Sergeants' Mess: Lisburn (02892) 624939

SPORTS

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440 W. AIRPORT DRIVE, SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA 32958, USA
TEL: (561) 388 0550 - FAX: (561) 581 4468
Email: skydivemik@aol.com www.fadventures.com

All enquiries to: The Photographic Department. Tel: 01252 347351 Fax: 01252 347351 E-mail: srobinson@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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REUNIONS

Middlesex Regt (DCO) Korean Club: Annual reunion on Sept 15, Victory Services Club. Details from J A Loftis on 020 8467 4014.

RN Secondary School Tal Handaq, Malta: Reunion, Colerne, Wilts, Sept 22. Ring Viv Daly on 07966 549397 or vivdaly@bigfoot.com

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.

Band of The Parachute Regiment: Reunion, Colchester, Oct 6. Phone 01206 782402, visit website www.paraband.org.uk or e-mail reunion@paraband.org.uk

Junior Leaders' Regiment RE: Reunion of JL Branch REA, Oct 6-7, Dover. Contact Tom Graham 01256 420335 or WO1(SMI) Andy Nixon RE 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@npeers.fsnet.co.uk

National Service Veterans Alliance: Reunion, Britannia Hotel, Coventry, Oct 20-21. Contact Ken Wakeman on 020 8850 2246.

J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery RHA: 60th anniversary reunion, Caen Barracks, Hohna, 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 on 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.

B Battery, RHA/1 RHA Sahagun Day 2001: Nov 30-Dec 1. Ex-members encouraged to attend. Details from WO2 (BSM) M Toy, B Bty RHA/1 RHA, Assaye Barracks, Tidworth, Hants, SP9 7AB (01989 602802).

2002

Münster, Germany: Reunion party for anyone who has served in Münster area, including families, staff, pupils of Edinburgh School, March 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 at Jarvis Loughborough Hotel. Contact R Andrews, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable CT5 3HJ or archie.cairns@cablenet.co.uk

30 Signal Regiment (South Atlantic 82): Reunion on June 15 at Blandford Camp, Dorset, for anyone serving with 30 Sig Regt in 1982. Contact Mick Nevill or Alf Thomas, RAO, 11 Sig Regt, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH, tel 01258 482202 or 485651 or e-mail nipper@mneville.freemove.co.uk or garnet_thomas@hotmail.com



On line: Colchester Naafi celebrated the opening of the Army's first internet webcam café when Garrison Commander **Col Julian Lacey**, left, Mayor **Mike Hogg**, centre, and **Lt Col Chip Chapman**, CO of the 2nd Battalion,

The Parachute Regiment called in to set the ball rolling. Col Lacey chatted to former Colchester Garrison soldier **Capt Harry Lomas**, now serving in Cyprus, in a live link-up to the Mediterranean island.

Picture: Chris Fletcher

Have you got a Porton Down common cold notice in loft?

POLICE investigating the Service volunteer programme at Porton Down during the 1950s and 1960s are trying to locate a copy of an advertisement concerning research into the common cold at Porton Down.

It is believed the advertisement was displayed on establishment notice boards and circulated on station orders at the time.

Wiltshire Constabulary's Operation Antler team, who for the past two years have been interviewing witnesses and Porton Down veterans, have so far been unable to trace a copy. Now they are appealing to ex-Servicemen and women who may have filed one away in their archives and forgotten about it.

Alternatively, someone may have come

across memorabilia from an ex-Service relative which may contain a copy of the notice. Anyone who has a copy, or who

helped to publish the notices – or distribute them – is asked to contact the Operation Antler team on 01380 735020. If your only recollection is of having seen a Porton Down common cold

notice, there is no need to contact the police as sufficient witnesses have already come forward.

The team is aware that appeals were made by the establishment for volunteers to trial common cold vaccines between 1948 and 1955, and thousands of Service personnel were used during a severe 'flu outbreak in 1962. Other common cold programmes were carried out during the Seventies.



APPOINTMENTS

Brigadiers: J J Keeling to be Ass Defence and Military Attaché, Washington, July 9; L P Lillywhite to be Dir BFG Health Services, July 23; C D Lunn to be Dir Service Liaison DHE, Jul 30; R I Talbot to be Comd BMM SANG Saudi Arabia, Aug 8;

Colonels: M H H Brooke to be Mil Ass to Force Comdr/COMBRITCON, July 3; M Blatherwick to be Ass Dir Defence Munitions (OP&C), July 2; H M Fletcher to be COS HQ UN Forces Cyprus, July 14; P M Gibson to be DACOS J5(B), July 13; K N A Millar to be Comd Med 2 Div, July 9; I A Pretsell to be Ass Dir Reserves Training Pol, Surgeon General's Dept, July 9;

M A Staunton to be BLO (Medical) USA, July 13; J S B Frere to be DA Budapest, July 9; N A C Baverstock to be AD Joint Exercises and Command Battlefield Management Evaluation, July 16.

M K Stretch to be DA Manila, July 16; R F C Andrew to be Comd BMATT (East Africa), July 23; G G Davies to be VP Reg C Board, July 23; P A Duncan to be Chief G3 HQ MND(C), July 23; P H Tomlinson to be COS HQ DRA, July 23; J S M Edwards to be Chief Spec Ops SHAPE, Jul 31; R H Howard-Gash to be Comdt School of Inf, Jul 31; I M Tait to be Col Eng Logs, Jul 31; A S Warde to be Dir Army Veterinary and Remount Services, Aug 1.

● SEVEN teams from **Southampton University Officers' Training Corps** flew the flag for the UK at the international Lombard military patrol competition in Italy, winning the military schools' category and taking second place. A female team from Southampton was the first to complete the course in its 15-year history.

The competition is based on a long-range reconnaissance patrol in the hills around Lunio and to the east of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy.

● Many who served in Singapore will recall the old **Britannia Club** in Beach Road (across the way from the legendary Raffles Hotel), now the home of the Singapore Armed Forces, Warrant Officers and Specialist Club. It is due to close at the end of this month and open in the second week of Octo-

Southampton OTC team first home in Lombardia patrol

ber as The Chevrons. But any ex-members or former British Forces personnel who are passing through and want to have a last look around or use the bar are welcome to do so.

● Winners of the six *Soldier* family tickets to the International **Festival of the Sea** at Portsmouth last month were: Thomas Woods, Littlemore, Oxford; Cpl I Johnston, 7 Signal Regt, BFPO 35; LCpl P Rendall, 39 Signal Regt, Bristol; Sylv Lucas, Bordon, Hants; Sgt Chris Gardener, Stockport, Cheshire; and F Cooper, Amesbury, Wilts. Answers: HMS *Victory*, Lord Nelson, French fleet.

● The **British Model Soldier Society** is holding its Bugle Call 2001 show at The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath on

November 15. Doors open at 1000 and admission is £1.50, with concessions for families, children and OAPs.

● Cranfield University at the **Royal Military College of Science** is offering a new Masters-level course in digitised battlespace and information warfare. The modular course can be tackled as a full- or part-time project and leads to an MSc, post-graduate diploma and post-graduate certificate. Find out more from Professor Mike Moulding at RMCS Shrivenham, Swindon on 01793 785688 or pa.moulding@dial.pipex.com

● Closing date for the prestigious annual **Young Woman Engineer of the Year**, run by the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, is October 8. Entry forms for the competition, which carries a top prize of £1,000, are available from the IIE, Savoy Hill House, London WC2R 0BS, tel 020 7836 3357 or by e-mail to info@iie.org.uk

SEARCHLINE

History researcher requires information and photos of **Hohne Camp**, Bergen-Belsen, Germany. Ring Keith Williams on 01634 582136 or e-mail searchtopdog@hotmail.com

John Charles Marshall, ex-RE and 50A Gp, Cheshaw, may now be in Oxford area, sought by Ron Wright (01803 323094).

Gary Crawling, Belize 1981: Please contact Steve Pashley on 07947610219 or at steph.pashley@amserv.net

Ex-15/5 Queen's Royal Lancers, 17/21 Lancers, all serving and ex-QRL: Join the Northern Branch of the QRL Association. Contact Alan Gatenby, 46 Brough Meadows, Catterick Village, Richmond, N Yorks, DL10 7NX or ring 01748 818049.

Beachley Old Boys 53A and 53B Groups: reunion for 2003. Contact Chris Irish (53A) e-mail cdvirish@netscapeonline.co.uk or ring 01952 415774 or Alec Beach (53B) on 01923 247283, e-mail ajb@somat.com

Cpl Raymond Tustin, ex-Seaforth Highlanders/ Queen's Own Highlanders, RAOC (1952-65), served in BAOR, received GSM with clasp Brunei and Borneo. Later emigrated to Australia. Any information on units or contact by old comrades welcomed by his family. Contact Sonny Tustin, PO Box 689, Randwick NSW 2031, Australia.

Ex-301 Field Security Section, Int Corps, Judenburg/Leoben Austria 1948-50: Ex-Sgt

Peter Leeming would be delighted to hear from you at j.leeming@ntlworld.com

6013402 Pte L J Futter, 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regt, killed in action on Gold Beach, Normandy, June 6, 1944. Information on unit or comrades sought by M Pepper, 10 Toward Road, Wemyss Bay, Renfrewshire, PA18 6EE or corlarach@pepper22.fsnet.co.uk

Q Bty RA/436 LAA RA TA 1959-65: Ex-Bdr Arthur Rigby, F Tp, seeks old pals from Q Bty based in Wigan, St Helens or Leigh Lincs. Contact arthur@arthurrigby.fsnet.co.uk

James Clifford Rothwell, Gunner, 52 Fd Regt RA, died Italy Dec 4, 1944, buried Faenze War Cemetery. Chris Clarke, son of Gnr Rothwell's first wife, has artifacts to pass on to any surviving family. Ring 01772 744618 or e-mail cjclarke@lineone.nets

Laura Edwards (née Mackenzie) seeks WRAC friends from Guildford/Leconsfield 1985-86 and 22 Sqn RCT, Bulford 1986-89. Contact EdwardsSphinx@aol.com

Brian Carl, from Sunderland, possibly with QRL in Germany is asked to contact old mate Jim Hopper, ex-ACC, on 01302 817051 or e-mail jimandrehopper@aol.com

Middle East Land Force veteran Robert Joicey, ex-RE 1952-55, would like to hear from anyone who served with him from 1 or 4 Training Regiment RE, 'A' RE Depot, 25 Fjeld Engr Regt and 37 Fd Engr Regt. Con-

tact him through Tim Joicey on 0121 3848679.

Chris Lund and any former **50 Missile Regt RA 1982-85** are asked to contact ex-Cpl Tim Joicey on 0121 3848679 or ATN 94421 2042.

16 Sig Regt Krefeld 1982: Gail and Martina are seeking Diane (Taff) Walters and Jo Godfrey. Phone or text 078101 40831.

Relatives of **10750 Pte M Fischer, Pioneer Corps,** killed in action on May 13, 1941 in Eritrea. Buried Keren Cemetery. SA Army veteran Teddy Cohen has photo he would like to give to Pte Fischer's family. Contact him by e-mail at michaelcohen1@bigpond.com

Peter (Dutch) Denmark would like to hear from former mates from **ACC 1968-78, 26 Regt RE, 1 Trg Regt RE (Cove), 23 Gp RPC Bicester or 15/19 KRH.** Particularly Andy Bentley and Alec Kirkpatrick. E-mail please to edie-denmark@lineone.net

Ex-Sgt Mick Irwin, Cambodia 1992 wants to trace (then Cpl) **Stephen Lapsley** (could still be serving) via michael.irwin@ntlworld.com

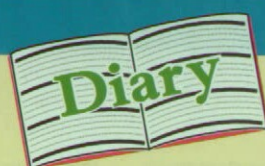
Mickey Rooney, now Mrs Celia M Bass, ex-WRAC 1952-55, (stationed at WRAC School of Instruction, Huron Camp, between Hindhead and Liphook), seeks friends from those days. Her husband, Bill (Taffy) Bass, ex-REME, would also like to hear from old mates. Replies to 118 Banksbarn, Digmaor, Skelmersdale, Lancs WN8 9EX or tel 01695 51325.

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

SEPTEMBER

8-9: Duxford 2001 Air Show.
9: Winchester and District Militaria Society annual exhibition and fair, Winchester Guildhall, 1000-1500.

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.

● DD Video is releasing **The Edinburgh Military Tattoo** on August 6. A feast of pipes and drums, the video draws on 40 years of BBC archives as well as Movietone newsreel footage. Copies at £14.99 should be available from all good stockists or by mail order from DD Video, Unit 1, Pool Bank Business Park, High Street, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8JH (include £1.75 p&p); or ring the 24-hour credit card hotline on 01829 741490.

● A record 91,000 visited the five-day **Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society's War and Peace Show** at Beltring, Kent in July. They saw 3,600 historic military vehicles – another record – gathered on one site.

● One hundred and six members with 3,028 years of service between them attended the annual Long Service List Germany dinner in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess at Sennelager Training Centre. There are 611 active LSL men and women, serving on after the 22-year point, worldwide. The dinner was organised by WO1 Jim Tyrer (GSO Paderborn) and WO2 (SQMS) Ron Holmes HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div.

● Forty-two members of **Epsom Branch of the Burma Star Association** toured Normandy cemeteries, battlefields and museums to pay their respects to those who fell during the Allied invasion of Europe.

● Former Chief Royal Engineer **Gen Sir John Stibbon** has been awarded a honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Greenwich.



Top read: OK... so it's a corny idea, but we liked it. Illustrating what every self-respecting mountaineer should have in his back pocket, **Maj Steve Marsh**, left, checks out our April issue during an expedition to Mount Everest base camp.

He was a member of a 12-man tri-Services team from the Joint Helicopter Command Headquarters at Wilton, Salisbury who were introduced to the rigours of sustained high-altitude trekking during a 14-day expedition. Twelve of the climbers made it to 4,000m and eight to 5,000m.

An eight-minute video is available to anyone organising a similar expedition from Steve on 94331 2981 at Joint Helicopter Command HQ.

Do you know who this is?

If you recognise the lad (circled and inset right) in the bottom left hand corner of our photograph, the Army would be delighted to hear from you. He was among spectators at the rain-soaked Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards on June 16.

The picture was published on the Army's website to mark its first webcast, enjoyed by hundreds of enthusiasts who logged on to www.army.mod.uk to hear military experts

answer questions about the annual parade.

The youngster was highlighted on the website and encouraged to claim a prize (and if he enjoyed the Trooping the Colour ceremony, he will really love this). Alas, despite help from London's *Evening Standard*, no one has yet owned up. If you know him, contact Sarah Wright at sarah.wright@rowlandcomms.co.uk or write to her at Rowland Communications, 83-89 Whitfield Street, London W1A 4XA.



Army barmy Birmingham

A WIDE range of military equipment, including Challenger 2 tanks, armoured vehicles and weaponry rolled into Birmingham for its annual Discovery Day, a celebration of the city and its people.

Visitors to the International Convention Centre were able to view a massive range of Army hardware. Maj Paul Meldon, Deputy Chief of Staff at HQ 143 (West Midlands) Brigade, who co-ordinated the display, said: "The aim of the exhibition at Discovery Day is to demonstrate the modern Army's equipment and capabilities to the public."

Big guns on show included an AS90 and a Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS). A mock field hospital was put up by 202 Field Hospital.

● TWELVE young Belorussians sampled life with the Army during a visit to St George's Barracks, North Luffenham, as guests of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. The trip was organised by the Friends of Chernobyl charity. The visitors, aged ten to 12, from Mogileve in Belarus, have reduced immune levels.

Oman wives in the desert

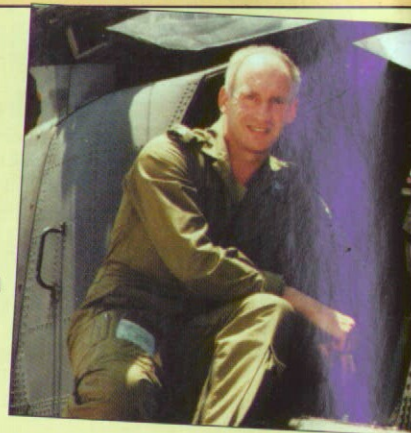
MAJ Andy Nye, R Irish, took 30 women from the expat community, mainly drawn from the Tri-Services Wives Club, teachers and embassy staff, on a 24-hour exercise into the Omani desert. The night phase (it rained!) included recce patrolling against an enemy, ending with an assault course competition the following morning.

Fortunately the exercise, dubbed Grazed Knee, did not live up to its name.

There's a playground at the end of Sir John Moore rainbow

SIX months of fund-raising at Sir John Moore Barracks, home of the Army Training Regiment, Winchester, resulted in a new playground for the base's Rainbow End playgroup. The project was led by unit welfare officer Capt Robert Wiles and the playground was opened by Lt Col Huw Morgan, commanding ATR(W). Volunteers

Bill clocks up his 4,000th flying hour while on Apache duty in USA



CAPT Bill McPhee AAC, who is on exchange with D Company, 1-14 Aviation Regiment at Fort Rucker, Alabama, USA, celebrates completing 4,000 flying hours. Bill, pictured above, who commands 3rd Platoon, has been instructing on the Apache helicopter gunship. In the past year his seven-man instructor team has logged up 2,543 flight hours, fired 22,400 rounds of 30mm ammunition and 2,240 rockets, completed 1,428 simulator hours and graduated 56 Apache pilots.

David gets marching orders

A lifetime in the Services came to an end for Capt David McSweeney, admin officer of 225 (Highland) Field Ambulance RAMC(V), when he was "escorted" off the premises on his last night at Oliver Barracks in Dundee. David completed 17 years with the unit after a 22-year "stretch" in the Royal Marines.

from A Squadron, who adopted the project from the start, built a boundary fence, storage shed, climbing frames and path in their spare time.

Sgt Gary O'Fee donated and erected the storage shed, Sgt Pete Fyfe ran non-stop for six hours to raise funds and Cpl Wayne Kennan led the construction teams as site foreman.

AN oil painting depicting 2 Signal Regiment personnel sandbagging a York street against the rapidly rising River Ouse has been presented by the regiment to the city. Commissioned from local artist Mark Braithwaite, the painting was handed over to the Lord Mayor by Lt Col Ian Cameron-Mowat, CO 2 Signal Regt. The signallers, who are based at Imphal Barracks in Fulford and have close ties with the city, were heavily involved in the fight to save the city from serious flooding last November.

Legends of the regiments and corps

27 REME Museum of Technology



Fine detail: Hirst's model of the VW
Picture: Graeme Main

Beetle mania

TINY handles that open the doors, a cushion on the back seat, a steering wheel that turns... the astonishing details in the model pictured above give few hints of the incredible story behind it.

One of five made by apprentices working at the "People's Car" factory at Wolfsburg, northern Germany before the Second World War (one was given to Hitler), it is worth an estimated £40,000 – far more than the real thing.

It was bequeathed to the REME Museum of Technology at Arborfield by the late Maj Ivan Hirst, a British officer who virtually hauled the German car industry out of the rubble of the Second World War.

MILITARY GREEN

Hirst, who died last year aged 84, was a young REME officer when he was posted from a tank repair shop in Brussels to the Wolfsburg factory, much of which had been destroyed during the war.

In the absence of orders, he and his CO, Col Michael McEvoy, rigged a prototype, painted it military green and won an order for 20,000 from Allied commanders.

The rest is history. By 1947 production was up to 2,500 a month and the seeds of Germany's economic miracle had been sown. Eventually, 22 million of the cultish, hump-backed cars were on the road. Hirst left Wolfsburg in 1949, a month before VW was handed over to West German management.

The REME Museum of Technology in Isaac Newton Road, Arborfield, Berks, is open 0900 to 1630 Mon-Fri; 0900 to 1600 Fri; 1100 to 1600 Sun. There is an admission charge. Tel 0118 976 3375; website www.rememuseum.org gtnet.gov.uk

Royal Irish set the pace in Vietnam

Maj Steve McGrory, left, top, and LCpl John Boyd experience the claustrophobic NVA tunnel complex at Cu Chi, north-west of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in the Mekong Delta.

Maj McGrory led an eight-man team from 4 R Irish on an expedition to Vietnam, believed to be the first by the British Army, and is keen to promote the region as a fascinating and challenging venue for adventurous training trips.

The Northern Ireland-based party flew to Hanoi and climbed the highest peak in Indochina, Mount Fan Si Pan (10,309ft), in the Hoang Lien range, before spending eight days trekking in the spectacular Sa Pa region.

In the south of the country, they visited many Vietnam battlefield sites, including tunnel complexes, US Army bases and the B-52 ravaged banks of the Dong Ba River.

Tourist industry accolade

BRIG Alex Birtwistle, pictured, who led the Army's widely-praised response to the foot-and-mouth crisis in Cumbria earlier this year, has been given the British Hospitality Award 2001. The new national award for outstanding service to the tourism and hospitality industry, was presented by travel writer and TV personality Judith Chalmers at a lunch at the Savoy Hotel.



Brig Birtwistle, then commander of 42 (North West) Brigade, which took over operational responsibility for the massive culling operation in Cumbria, retired days after the military mission had been accomplished.

Well done, the LADS

THE Light Aid Detachment REME of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales has been awarded a commendation by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Army), Brig Rod Croucher, for its high-quality support during 2000. It is the first time the commendation has been given to a complete sub-unit.

● A PLAQUE in memory of Father Frederick Freeley CF MC has been unveiled in the Armed Forces Careers Office in Portsmouth. It marks the 60th anniversary of his death. Fr Freeley ministered to hundreds of naval and military personnel in Portsmouth between the First and Second World Wars.

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Ride on the wild side

Rock on, Tommy – from flash to bang, this is one big, bad bike . . .

THE Lightning's stubby exhaust trailed out black noise and the scent of hot iron permeated the air, writes Syd Taylor.

In the Sixties a roar like this would have brought them running out of the coffee bars, but the café cult is cold in its grave. Today, this was a ride on the wild side into rural Shropshire.

Some people – quite rightly – would shake their fists in outrage at the sound of the XI Lightning, but one grisly old Rocker beamed from ear to ear at the cobby silhouette of this big bad "sickle" as I pulled onto the car park at the local pub.

Like me he loved fiery, snorty beasts with good old-fashioned power fabricated from simple unburstable muscle.

A non-standard Lightning like this one – with its free-flowing exhaust, race mapped ignition and lightweight carbon fibre mudguards, tank cover, flyscreen, belly-pan and more – is the kind of bike that will give you freedom away from your dog-day existence. It's a bike for those who don't like rules, a creature that bites back unless you get to grips with it.

There is, of course, a street warrior in everyone and that's where the XI Lightning's appeal lies. The reason behind its prowess rests within the design principles of race engineer and racer Erik Buell, who has experienced how ideas that work on the race-track are valid on the road.

First, the centralisation of mass sharpens steering and quickens responses, so shock absorber and silencer are tucked tight under the engine. Secondly, the frame is particularly rigid thanks to Buell's unique "Uniplanar" engine mounting system, which not only adds stiffness to the frame but isolates vibration from the rider. Thirdly, unsprung weight is kept to a minimum and last but not least there's that animal of an engine giving simple raw and unsophisticated

Buell Lightning XI

Tech Spec

Engine: 45-degree, fuel-injected V-twin, dry sump. 95 bhp standard, 110 bhp as tested, 86 lb ft of torque at 5600 rpm.

Transmission: Five-speed, final drive by Kevlar belt.

Frame: Tubular perimeter.

Suspension: Front, Showa

inverted forks, adjustable; rear, aluminium swingarm, Showa extension type damper, adjustable.

Wheels: Spun polished aluminium (on test bike) 17in front and rear.

Brakes: Front, six-piston

calliper, 340mm disc; rear, single piston calliper, 230mm disc.

Weight: 440lb.

Performance: Top speed about 145 mph.

Fuel Consumption: Around 50 mpg overall.

Price: £7,495 (basic).

power – a 1200cc 45-degree air-cooled, fuel-injected Vec twin Thunderstorm, based on the Harley Davidson 1200 Sportster.

The Buell motor delivers enough torque to give all the acceleration a sane body desires.

Once under way there's no discernible powerband – just progressive and powerful punch with no step-up on the cam: no kick-in-the-pants – just an unrelenting earth-tugging pull that'll leave your viscera back where you started.

At low speeds the torque is massive and yet it's well modulated so you can't help but feel a mix of awe and glee at piloting such a charismatic beast. In built-up areas you have to take care to keep the noise down if you've any sort of conscience.

Gearing is as tall as a mountain. First will take you to 70 mph-plus. This helps at times, though, because the mighty torque lets you stay in one gear longer than you would on a multi-cylinder machine. Around town you rarely need to go higher than first or second – just as well, because clutch action is rather heavy.

Gear-changing is solid and precise, reinforcing the tough quality feel of this virtually indestructible machine. Overkill, of course, is an American principle and that's why old Harleys never die – the same will hold good for a Buell.

Complementing performance is sharp handling. Thanks to Erik Buell bending those frame tubes, the Lightning is tight, taut, steers well, rides firmly and handles like a real sportster. Braking performance is reassuringly good, too.

A Buell Lightning kitted out in this way is a mean piece of machinery. Rugged and butch, it's challenging yet fun to throw about, bringing a smile to your face – just like it did to that grisly old Rocker on the car park.

'There's a street warrior in everyone'



Dream on . . .



SPECS APPEAL

THIS latest model in the Olympus Eye-Trek series has been tailored to enhance the PlayStation 2 gaming experience.

The Eye-Trek FMD-20P gives the viewer big-screen impact with the light and easy feel of wearing a pair of sunglasses.

The multi-media glasses' rich stereo sound and large-format screen make games and DVDs more gripping and exciting, providing users with an amazing level of intensity and immediacy.

① £299.99, for stockist information call 0800 0720070.

Switched on . . .



PUNCH HIS LIGHTS OUT

SLAMMAN allows its users to experience the aerobic benefits of boxing without fear of sustaining a broken nose.

Designed to sharpen your reflexes and co-ordination, SlamMan tells you exactly when and where to hit him via eight target LEDs. Adjustable strike sensors determine how hard you have to hit each target to make the light go out.

And because SlamMan's striking surfaces are made from ultra-dense moulded foam, you can punch him as hard as you can and he always retains his shape.

① £299, from www.innovations.co.uk (0870 9087002).

DON'T TELL TALES

THE pocket-sized Truster Emotion Reader enables users to put their friends' honesty to the test – whether face-to-face or over the telephone.

When people lie their voice carries a unique sonic stress pattern that the speaker can't control, and lie detectors work by sensing these waves.

The Truster does this with state-of-the-art voice recognition technology that uses algorithms to analyse excitement, tension and emotion.

After a 10-15 second calibration to adjust itself to the subject's voice, the detector works in real-time, indicating stress levels and results.

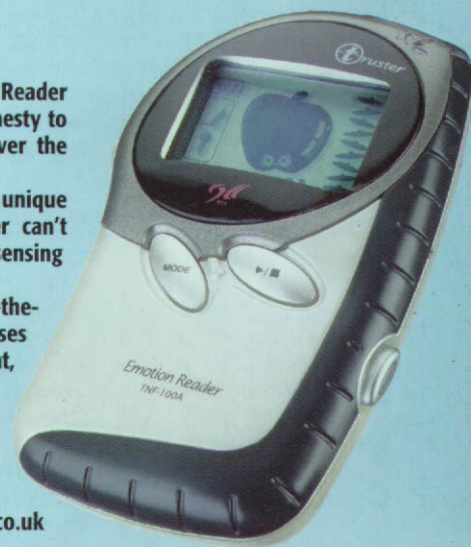
① £89.99, from www.innovations.co.uk (0870 9087002).

ON THE SMALL SCREEN

ROADSTAR'S pocket television is testament to the theory that all good things come in small packages.

Its high resolution LCD screen boasts outstanding colour, contrast and brightness and measures just 10cm by 10cm. But what the Roadstar lacks in size it more than makes up for in features with autotuning, an A/V input socket, detachable battery pack and even its own remote control.

① £299, from www.innovations.co.uk (0870 9087002).



Vision on . . .

ENEMY AT THE GATES, VHS/DVD OUT NOW

BRITISH actors Jude Law and Joseph Fiennes lead the cast in this epic thriller based on the story of real-life hero Vassili Zaitsev, whose exploits at Stalingrad form one of the most famous sagas to emerge from the Second World War.

Set in 1942, *Enemy at the Gates* personalises the fierce fight between Russian and German forces for the city of Stalingrad, which claimed the lives of approximately 1,100,000 Soviet soldiers.

The film begins when Danilov (Fiennes), a Soviet political officer, encounters Zaitsev (Law), a simple soldier from the Urals who is a crack shot.

Zaitsev joins a sniper unit and his dangerous missions are chronicled and embellished upon by Danilov and before long Russia have a much-needed hero.

But while Zaitsev's glory rejuvenates the battle-tired troops, Danilov becomes jealous of the legend he has created when they

both fall in love with fellow soldier Tania (Rachel Weisz).

Eager to break the Russians' new found resistance, the Germans draft in their own celebrated sniper, Major König (Ed Harris), and the two sharpshooters become embroiled in a personal deadly dual, stalking each other through the rubble of Stalingrad.

VERDICT: Do not dismiss *Enemy at the Gates* as just another love story. Unlike recent box-office flop *Pearl Harbor*, romance does not come at the cost of action.

With the vendetta between Zaitsev and König taking centre stage, the action is explicit and unrelenting, and as with *Saving Private Ryan*, scenes of the wider conflict in Stalingrad are portrayed in graphic fashion.

There is little to criticise about director Jean-Jacques Annaud's portrayal of Zaitsev's story, although his wisdom in allowing the cast to use their own natural accents is questionable.

If you missed it at the cinema then don't make the same mistake again. 8/10



From Russia with love: Screen lovers Jude Law and Rachel Weisz

Win... win... win... win... win... win... win... win...

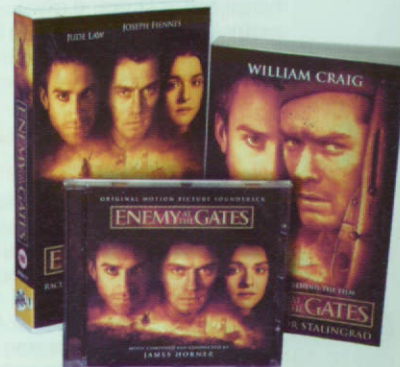
SOLDIER has joined forces with Fox Pathé Home Entertainment to offer readers a fantastic multi-media giveaway.

For your chance to win one of five *Enemy at the Gates* video, book and CD sets, simply answer the following question:

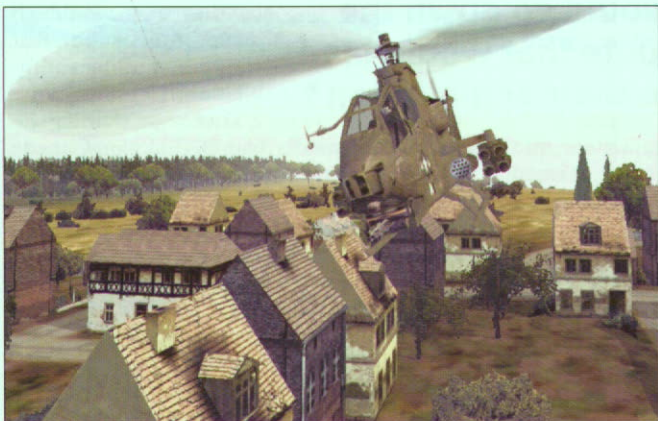
Who is Jude Law's real-life love interest?

a) Rachel Weisz; b) Sadie Frost; c) Madonna

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



Game on . . .



OP FLASHPOINT UPDATE, PC OUT NOW

CODEMASTERS has released an interim update for its best-selling Cold War military simulator, *Operation Flashpoint*.

The free download is available from the game's website, www.codemasters.com/flashpoint, and offers a number of enhancements including accurate shadow casting for weapons and improved aircraft handling. The download also allows players to place their own face on their in-game character.

◆ A content upgrade pack, featuring brand new weapons

and missions for the game, will follow shortly.

COMPETITION: SECOND SHOT

CODEMASTERS are offering readers another chance to win a copy of their hit-game *Operation Flashpoint*. All you have to do to win one of five copies of the game is answer the following question: In which month did *Soldier* first review *Operation Flashpoint*?

Send your answers on a postcard to Codemasters competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. Competition closes October 1.

GANGSTERS 2, PC

OUT NOW

SET in the fictional state of Temperance during the early years of prohibition, *Gangsters 2* immerses players into a shady world where violence solves everything.

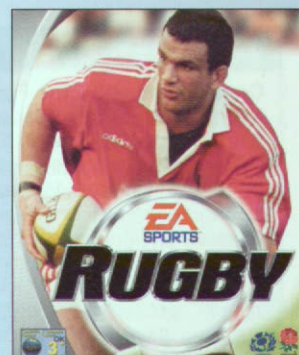
The game follows the story of one man's quest to avenge the mob-killing of his father. Players must become entangled in a life of organised crime, building a family of arsonists, explosives experts, hit-men and card-sharks, to ensure that gangster-style justice is served.

VERDICT: The don of gangster sims. 7/10



RUGBY, PS2

OUT NOW



VERDICT: Prepare to experience the big-hitting and fast-paced world of international rugby. 9/10

AS always with an Electronic Arts sports title, the attention to detail featured in *Rugby* is explicit.

To even stand a chance of winning the Six Nations, Tri-Nations series or world championships, gamers will have to become intimately familiar with their squad of players and the types of set-plays that work against different opposition.

The game also features 23 faithful modelled international stadiums, including Twickenham, Murrayfield and Ellis Park, along with expert play-by-play commentary by the voice of rugby, Bill McLaren.

Execution shots echo down through history

BETWEEN September 1914 and November 1920, 346 men were executed by British firing squads.

Blindfold and Alone: British Military Executions in the Great War (Cassell's, £25) is a complete history of this emotive subject.

Authors Cathryn Corns and John Hughes-Wilson, a retired colonel, have produced a highly readable account which examines in detail the transcripts of the most contentious court martials. The book's achievement is to set events in the context of time and place, avoiding the pitfalls of judging the executions with 21st century consciences.

Wartime story of an SAS original

SGT Jim Almonds of the Guards Commandos sailed for the Middle East in January 1941 with David Stirling and others destined to become Special Air Service originals. After intensive training in the desert, Almonds was captured and shipped to a PoW camp in Italy from which he escaped twice. After 32 days on the run behind enemy lines, and mapping an enemy minefield, he reached US forces at the front line. His remarkable story is told stylishly by his daughter, former WRAC officer Lorna Almonds Windmill, in **Gentleman Jim** (Constable, £18.99).

Celebrating the life of a cartoonist genius

IN "Old Bill", Capt Bruce Bairnsfather of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment created one of the best-loved characters of the First World War – a pipe-smoking, mustachioed old trooper. But his masterpiece was the Better 'Ole cartoon, first published in 1915 (see cover, left). It was a phenomenal success and has been plagiarised more or less continuously ever since. The story of Bairnsfather's life is told in **Tonie and Valmai Holt's In Search of the Better 'Ole** (Leo Cooper, £19.95), which includes a listing of his works and collectables.

Memories seared by desert fire

Diaries form the basis for the first, and so far the only, gunner account of the Gulf War from a British angle

Interview: Anthony Stone
Picture: Steve Dock

HISTORIES of the Gulf War can be as dry as the desert and about as intelligible as Iraqi battle plans written in Arabic. It is refreshing, then, to read a first-person account that combines anecdote with context to produce a vividly readable story.

From the beginning of *Desert Fire – The Diary of a Gulf War Gunner* (Pen and Sword, £19.95*) the reader is treated to the unique perspective of Andrew Gillespie, officer commanding O Battery (The Rocket Troop) in 2nd Field Regiment.

"As a career officer in the British Army it is strange to relate that I never ever expected to go to war," he writes. The subsequent pages tell the story of what happened when he did.

During the war, Maj Gillespie, as he then was, kept records of his experiences through diary entries, letters and photographs. It eventually took five years to piece together the wealth of material into a book.

"The fact that it is written in a 'what I did in my summer holidays' style is what makes it interesting," he told *Soldier* at his office at Larkhill, where he is now the chief instructor of tactics at the School of Gunnery.

Throughout the campaign Maj Gillespie took photographs with his trusty old Pentax. "It was steam-driven and about the size of a

breeze block, but it was wonderful and never went wrong. Sometimes the camera was so hot you could barely pick it up. Tape recorders and razors ceased to work, but the camera carried on, battered and worn."

A decade has passed since those pivotal events, but the thing that sticks in his mind was the huge scale of the operation.

"It was a time of bonding," Lt Col Gillespie recalled. "It was equal misery for all. When it rained, it rained on the highest and the lowest. We all went to war together, so whatever happens from now on, we will always have that one bond."

"Right up until the time we headed for the breach a lot of us thought it was not going to happen. We thought at the last moment the Iraqis would back down. It seemed incredible to us that they would go down the route that would lead to their annihilation."

Thorough training on exercises in places like BATUS in Canada had prepared the gunners well for the task in hand. The main difference between training and operations was to be found in scale and tempo.

"Our drills and procedures stood the test of time and war," he said. "There is not a lot that I would have done differently. The kit stood up extremely well."

This news might disappoint those in the media who delight in finding fault in British-made hardware. But the guns, simple and

'It seemed incredible to us that the Iraqis would go down the route that would lead to their annihilation'

IN BRIEF

Commando: The Elite Fighting Forces of the Second World War by Sally Dugan. The delights of tinned cheese and going unwashed for 11 weeks in the desert are two memorable personal glimpses from this gripping narrative accompanying the TV series. The survivors' recollections help to make their extraordinary exploits come alive again. (Channel 4 Books, £15.99.)

Battle by Kenneth Macksey.

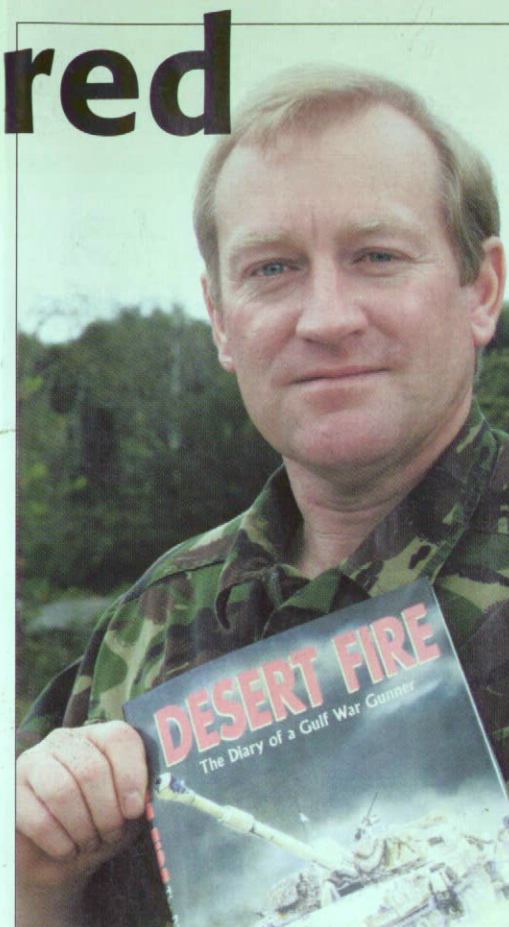
Originally published in 1974 under the title *Anatomy of a Battle*, this account of an infantry, tank and artillery battle outside Caen, Normandy, in 1944 is vividly real – understandably, because the author,

a former RTR officer and holder of the Military Cross, took part. (Grub Street, £15.99.)

Rommel and Caporetto by John Wilks and Eileen Wilks. Young Lt Erwin Rommel served

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 1315). E-mail: books@helion.co.uk Website: http://www.helion.co.uk



Lt Col Andrew Gillespie: Never expected to go to war, but drills and procedures stood the test

effective, performed well and Warrior was outstanding.

"I had the first prototype of the artillery battery commander's Warrior," Lt Col Gillespie said. "The vehicle went all the way from Saudi Arabia across Iraq to Kuwait City without a hiccup. I did not have a breakdown with any of my fleet."

Andrew Gillespie never thought he would go to war, or write a book for that matter. But he has accomplished both with flair and distinction.

★ Copies are available from the Royal Artillery Institution at a special discount price of £15 plus p&p. Details available from RAI, Artillery House, Front Parade, RA Barracks, Woolwich, London SE18 4BH. Telephone 020 8781 3733.

Track down that train!

A Guide to Military Museums and other Places of Military Interest by Terence and Shirley Wise (published by the authors, distributed by Imperial Press, Garth Lane, Knighton, Powys LD7 1HH; ring-bound, board covers, £5).

Review: Brian Jewell

WHERE in Britain can the following be found?

- First World War Ambulance Train
- Army schoolroom of about 1860
- Second World War German U-boat
- Reproduction of a frieze on Trojan's Column
- The only surviving wooden frigate.

Don't write in. The answers are below, but for much more information, all you have to do is spend £5 on the tenth edition of *A Guide to Military Museums and other Places of Military Interest*, which first appeared in 1969.

More than 370 museums, sites and collections are listed and the layout has been simplified so the entries appear under the names of the towns or nearest towns.

Each entry includes a brief summary of what can be seen on display, the facilities offered, admission prices and opening hours, phone and fax numbers, website addresses and directions on how to get there for the more rural locations.

A comprehensive index lists the many Army units, naval ships and establishments, and RAF stations (squadrons appear under individual entries) covered by the museums.

Really good value for a fiver.

Answers to opening questions:

- Army Medical Services Museum, Aldershot
- The Barracks, Berwick-on-Tweed
- Historic Warships at Birkenhead
- Lunt Roman Fort, Coventry
- HMS Unicorn, Dundee

Putting cross-hairs on the sniper's world

WO1 Mark Spicer, one of the Army's most experienced operational snipers and instructors, has distilled his 18 years of experience into

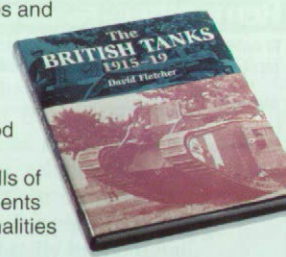
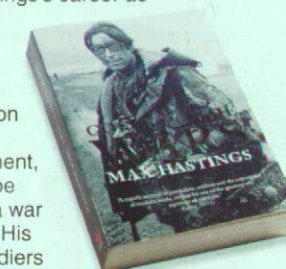
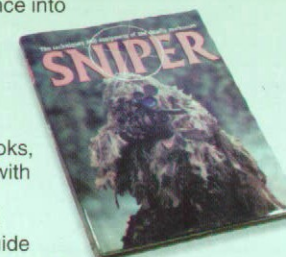
Sniper: The techniques and equipment of a deadly marksman (Salamander Books, £20). Illustrated with many colour photographs and diagrams, this guide covers technical training, camouflage, concealment and shooting techniques and how snipers operate in all terrains and weather conditions. A lesson from the book is that the sniper who believes he knows best at all times will quickly die. It is always possible to learn from others, be they more or less experienced than himself.

Writing details life among the warriors

RECENTLY published in paperback, **Going to the Wars** (Pan, £7.99) follows Max Hastings's career as a correspondent through some of the bloodiest action of modern times. His ambition was to join The Parachute Regiment, but it was not to be and he became a war reporter instead. His knowledge of soldiers and his empathy with their profession sets his writing apart. Arguably his greatest scoop was when he walked into Port Stanley ahead of the British landing force in 1982. This is boys' own adventure of the highest order from a master of his craft.

Heavy metal sound began on Somme

MORE than 50 years before the Battle of the Somme, engineers sketched out ideas for armoured fighting vehicles. They were not built because the steam engines and armour of the time weren't up to it. In **The British Tanks 1915-19** (Crowood Press, £19.95), David Fletcher tells of the early experiments and of the personalities who shaped this devastating weapon. He details the design and production of the early tanks and their use in the battlefield. The book, an addition to Crowood's armour series, makes extensive use of photographs from Bovington Tank Museum's archives.



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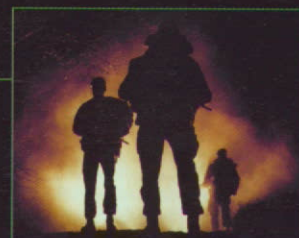
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SOLDIER to soldier

Hail to our conquering sportsmen

A SIZEABLE chunk of Britain's sport-loving couch potatoes were treated last month to the sight of our boys in red trouncing the country's finest rugby players.

With the help of the BBC's *Grandstand* programme, the nation (admittedly deprived of Test cricket on Channel 4 by a timely downpour at Headingley) tuned in to watch the British Army hammer Newcastle Falcons in the final of the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham.

It was very much a case of David slaying the giants of professional rugby. And having seen off the cream of the country's high-earning club sides, the soldiers dispersed to do what they are paid to do. Be soldiers.

♦ ♦ ♦

Soon after parading their slick handling and elusive running skills in the world's most prestigious club sevens competition, half of the Army's squad were winging their way back to duty in places such as Ballykinler, Ballykelly and Belfast. A soldier of The Black Watch returned to his post on the Macedonian border.

Nice to know that in this age of sporting specialisation (underwritten, of course, by large salaries), a bunch of guys can still turn up at rugby headquarters, do the biz, and march off to defend Queen and country.

♦ ♦ ♦

● PJHQ's response to your letters (see Mail) on the welfare package offered to soldiers on Saif Sareea 2 in Oman includes a positive message.

While it offers no immediate comfort to soldiers and families separated for many months without benefit of R&R, it states unequivocally that a "widespread review" of policy is under way. It also tells us that next year's review of operational welfare will focus specifically on the support provided to dependants.

Of one thing we can be sure: your views have reached the ears of those who can improve the system.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

What's wrong with M-word?

IT IS a funny thing about the M-word. Marriage, that is. To many people these days it implies loss of independence and identity, rather than a joint commitment.

And if you looked from outside at the attitudes to spouses within the Army, phrases like "dependant", "wife-of" and "headless family" would do nothing to change that view.

So perhaps it's not surprising that some soldiers and their partners prefer not to formalise their relationship in the eyes of the Army by getting married.

I met an NCO earlier this year who told me that he kept his partner and the Army well away from each other, and believed this attitude to be shared by many of his contemporaries. He was based in Tidworth and his partner lived in the Midlands, where she held down a good career.

They saw each other at weekends. He had no intention of asking her to give up her job to become an Army wife and follow him around. I have a feeling he thought she would say no if he did.

Perhaps this was the situation in the recent well-publicised case of a deceased soldier's partner left with a baby. The couple concerned were committed to each other, and were expecting a child. But they hadn't got married – despite knowing that marriage was the criterion by which the Armed Forces allocates vital things such as housing, pensions and widows' benefits... and despite the soldier being involved in a highly dangerous section of a dangerous profession.

No one can say they didn't know the rules, but the surviving partner still felt able to take the MoD to court, and to the European Court if necessary, for not allowing her the widow's pension to which she felt entitled on the basis of the relationship.

The implication was that marriage itself was unnecessary and immaterial, required only by an old-fashioned system. In response, the MoD, unusually, did not remain behind a closed door marked "No". Instead, it announced it would look "sympathetically" at her claim.

The acceptance of partners in civilian



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

society and the effects of human rights legislation mean the MoD is having to consider how it deals with soldiers' non-married partners and their rights, if any, to such things as pensions. It is a very difficult and complex issue – not least because any changes made may affect more than one aspect of welfare provision, such as entitlement to housing.

Allowing soldiers the right to nominate their unmarried partner as next-of-kin and recipient

of any gratuity, death-in-service payment or surviving pension seems fair and reasonable. But the other side to this is accompanied service. What if a partner wishes to accompany their soldier on a posting? Does the MoD then provide housing?

Does it have enough housing available to do so? And if not, is it prepared to increase its costs and the number of hirings? And what if the posting is overseas – can non-married partners qualify for dependant status, with all the implied entitlements?

So, do we want the system to change? And if so, how much? In the AFF's Changing Attitudes survey, 53 per cent of the spouses we asked were in favour of acknowledging partners, with 32 per cent against.

Non-married couples are an accepted part of society and it isn't surprising that

a small majority felt it reasonable for the Army to acknowledge them. But a great deal depends on what you mean by "acknowledging", and I suspect much also depends on your definition of "partner".

If the current criterion of marriage is abandoned, it would have to be replaced by some other definition of a long-term partnership. But what? Something along the lines of a common-law spouse? Or length of relationship? Or existence of children? Or even some kind of formal declaration of commitment?

The devil is undoubtedly in the detail. It makes me wonder what is so wrong with the M-word – a simple answer to a complicated question. Perhaps it's time to think the unthinkable and just leave things as they are.

Now, that would make a change.

**‘Perhaps it's
time to think
the unthinkable
and just
leave things
as they are’**



One shower has to do for 22 of us

THE accommodation I'm expected to live in at Bulford is a disgrace. We've been told the budget will not cover basic faults, only emergencies. Examples include a leaking sink (we empty a strategically-placed bucket once a day) and one working shower (out of four) for 22 soldiers.

Yet we are still charged for the privilege of living here. We've been told that unless the block is going to fall down faults won't be repaired, and the advice we've been given is to do repairs at our own expense.

A civvy tenant wouldn't put up with what we live in – the place would be shut down. – **Corporal (name supplied), Picton Bks, 3 (UK) Div HQ, Bulford.**

▲ Col Nigel Josling, for DAEO, responds:

I have been assured that funds in the order of £11,000 were allocated to the routine maintenance of Blocks 14B, C and D at Picton Barracks during the period April 2000 to March 2001. In addition, £90,000 was spent on redecoration. Picton Barracks will be considered for inclusion in the second phase of Project Reader next year. It is too early to say what would be done, but similar projects have covered the refurbishment of toilets, ablutions, drying rooms, stairs and corridors.

I appreciate that this is all "jam tomorrow" and that in the eyes of many the Army has done too little to maintain or improve living accommodation. However, we are where we are and I and my staff – many of us in post for a year or less – have put SLA at the top of our agenda for improving the estate as a whole.

What comes after quick-fix Reader?

AFTER reading "Between the lines with Project Reader", "Corimec it ain't" and "Single soldier disturbed by unfair allowance" (July issue), I write for the sake of all singlies.

One of my concerns is that after the quick-fix Reader has been tried, little or no modification or rebuilds will take place for several years.

"Corimec it ain't" has potential, but can you explain why lockers (sorry, wardrobes) and furniture have to be fitted? If they were free-standing the occupant could move the stuff around to his or her liking.

While the modification work is taking place, will the drainage systems be overhauled at the same time? In JHQ this is not just restricted to SLA (single living accommodation) but is widespread. If the system can't cope now, how is it going to handle additional demands?

Regarding "Single soldier disturbed by unfair allowance" and Cpl Batty's reference to owning furniture, we singlies do buy items to make our rooms more homely. But we can't ship them to our next posting without incurring charges so have to sell at a loss and buy new furniture at the next location.

The article failed to say that when married personnel move into a quarter they know it will be in good repair. My last three postings have meant me going to a DIY store and buying filler and paint (not reclaimable) to patch up my quarter. This

expense gets many singlies' backs up. This should, of course, be actioned by the quartermaster, but we are either told the

work will be carried out, which rarely happens, or that if the previous occupant had looked after

it, it wouldn't be in that state. Either way the current individual losses out.

Why is that? Are you sure singlies are not treated as second-class citizens? – **Cpl W Addy, AGC (SPS), HQ UKSC(G), JHQ Rheindahlen.**

▲ Roger Eustis of the Army Estate Organisation responds:

Although Cpl Addy covers a number of issues, I will focus on the future plans beyond Project Reader in Germany. Reader is very much a limited quick-fix, aimed at addressing some of the worst shortcomings in the near term. Starting in 2003, an extensive programme of works to both SLA and Service families accommodation (SFA) will start to deliver improved conditions at a number of locations across Germany under a separate initiative called Project Puma (Programme to Upgrade and Modernise Accommodation).

I hope Soldier will carry more details on Puma in the future, but for now it is in the strategic planning stage. Expenditure of such large sums has to be carefully planned to ensure the right areas are targeted and that we fulfil the expectations of the occupants. Puma will address shortcomings right across the Germany theatre. Works are expected to start in early 2003. More than £300 million has been ring-fenced for Puma, to be spent over the next ten years.

Kinnegar pong leaves a bad taste

MY comments reflect the general feeling at Kinnegar Station, home of the Northern Ireland Combat Service Support Regiment.

Lack of privacy is a common complaint, with most men in four-man rooms, which is unacceptable in this day and age. The booking-out system is medieval. It would be nice to be treated the same as married personnel who live in Palace Barracks across the road – abandon or extend the curfew. There are few facilities on camp so this would be a great benefit.

Finally, the camp is plagued by the stench of sewage from a treatment plant near the camp gate. Surely something could be done about this. – **LCpl Tony Rothero, 26 Sqn, NICSS Regt, BFPO 806.**

▲ Lt Col Alistair Duncan, CO NICSS Regiment responds:

Accommodation: Single living accommodation (SLA) in Kinnegar is of a Grade 1 standard and is only five-to-eight years old. It was, however, built before the concept of all soldiers having their own rooms with en-suite facilities (Type Z).

Consequently, the majority of the accommodation comprises four-man rooms and it is acknowledged that these lack a degree of privacy. The Army is committed to progressively upgrading all SLA to Grade 1 Z+ (single rooms with en-suite facility).

The accommodation in Kinnegar is relatively new, however, so it is unlikely that SLA will be addressed in the first tranche. It should be noted that single soldiers do not pay for accommodation in Northern Ireland.

Booking-out system: Restrictions placed on movement might be seen to be irksome but are there to protect personnel from the very real threat of terrorist attack. The booking-out process adopted at Kinnegar Station is a tried

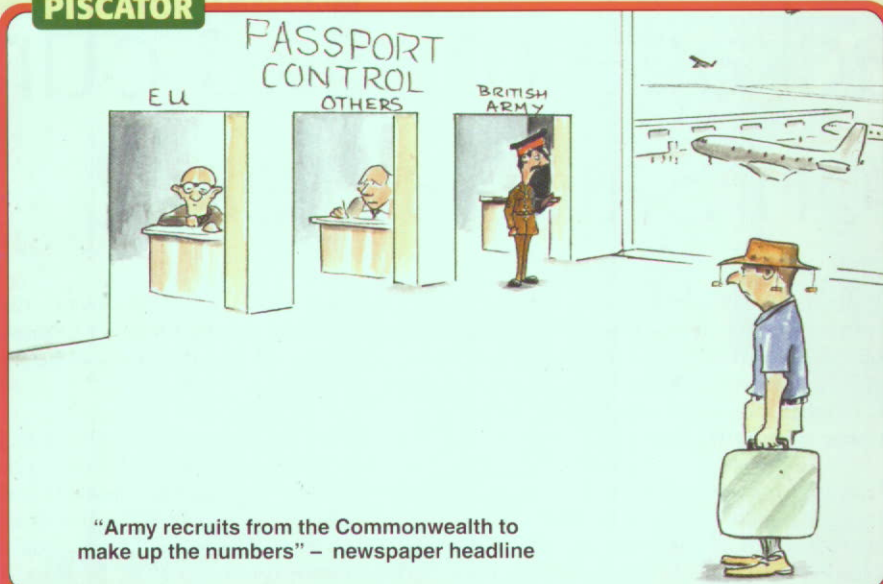
and tested one adapted to ensure the safety of those individuals for which the Army has a duty of care. G2 HQNI and unit operations staff constantly monitor the security situation to ensure best security practice is adopted.

Sewage smell: I can only concur with the writer that the smell of sewage emanating from the treatment plant adjacent to camp is often most unpleasant. This is not a new issue as the station, formerly AO Depot, occupied the site in 1937 and the treatment plant has been here since 1955.

In recent years the local council raised the issue of the methane emissions from the plant to Welsh Water who control the plant. Welsh Water have spent several million pounds to ensure that methane emissions are within the prescribed five parts per billion to conform to legislation. Clearly this is a matter which is of concern to all residents in the Holywood/Kinnegar area and it is being examined by the local authority.

Hopefully with the new plant now in operation things will improve. Indeed it is considerably better now than it was a year ago.

PISCATOR



"Army recruits from the Commonwealth to make up the numbers" – newspaper headline

A new gift catalogue, *ABF Despatches*, is to be launched soon. If you are stuck for a gift idea, *Despatches* is for you – specially-selected military kit at SPECIAL prices and a great range for families, particularly children. Plus the exclusive Piscator collection and our extended range of Christmas cards. Every gift you buy helps our national charity – the ABF. For your own copy, call Marcia on 020 7591 2058 or Amanda on 01285 713466 or write to us at *ABF Despatches*, Douglas Bader House, Fairford, Glos GL7 4DL.



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MFO leaves room for improvement

YOU printed a picture (July, Page 3) of what a living-in single soldier can achieve by buying his own furniture and personalising his room/bed space. I spent close to £2,000 on a king-size bed, bookcases and TV cabinets to provide a more homely atmosphere in my own room.

However, on approaching my Quartermaster's Department about what would happen on a posting back to the United Kingdom, I was told that I would be limited to 4.7 cu m of MFO (Military Freight Organisation).

I could barely fit my personal possessions into that, let alone my furniture. So the only solution is to sell my furniture (at

a loss) or to pay for a civilian company (out of my own pocket) to move it back to the UK.

This wouldn't be such a kick in the teeth were it not for the fact that single soldiers still do not receive the same benefits or allowances as married personnel in terms of disturbance and removals. I am aware that a review is currently taking place to re-evaluate disturbance allowance, but surely with the emphasis on retention and the millions to be spent over the next few years on single accommodation, the rules should be changed as soon as possible. – Cpl McKendry, 1(UK) ADSR, Herford.

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

Mail
us!

PS...

Not the first

I THINK you were right in your article to be wary of claiming a first for SSgt Georgina Smith as the first female artificer in REME. SSgt Smith may very well be the first female artificer of her trade, but to claim her to be the first female artificer in REME is, I am fairly sure, incorrect. Shortly after completion of my artificer course in 1991, SSgt Jane Clay completed her Art Tels Course and it was claimed then that she was the first.

Records showed that someone else completed her course in the 1960s. You also state that those in the photo were the first to gain an HND through the Army artificer system. I received mine in 1991 and there were loads before me (and quite a few since). – Keith Alderton, WO1(ASM), Tracer LSA Manager.

SSgt Georgina Smith wasn't the first female artificer in the REME. That claim is held by SSgt Liz Hollingsworth (Art Tels 37, I think) in 1966-68. She was on course at Arborfield ahead of me. – Glynn Winterbottom, Houghton Regis, Beds.

Better off inside

I HAVE followed your correspondence on TV licences with interest. May I suggest that all single personnel write to their MP asking why they have to purchase a licence while individuals currently occupying accommodation in HM Prisons do not have to do so. – Lt Col (Ret'd) Tom Frizell OBE, Newcastle Emllyn.

Open-door policy?

ON the issue of accommodation, there are eight of us sharing a Detention Cell in MCTC Colchester and personally I think that the cells here are better than eight-man rooms in battalions. Eight-man room, en-suite, if the room were carpeted and the door open it would be perfect.

Why don't soldiers take what they have and make the best of it? – D Holmes, 1 R Anglian.

Just get on with it

I WAS one of the first into Kosovo and some of the comments on welfare (Vox pop, July) made me angry. We had a job to do and just got on with it. For those complaining about the poor state of the football pitch, we had no time for football because most of us were working 20-hour days. We had shower bags and washed our clothes by hand. As for TV, what TV? We could only make a phone call when we had time and were located where phones were set up. I must say the BFPO system was good for getting our blueys home and getting mail to us.

Stop having a go at the welfare provision and be happy for what you have got – that is what being in the Army is all about. That's why the British Army is the best. – LCpl Gavin Martin, 1 R Irish.

Welfare package missed our squadron on Saif Sareea 2

MY husband is serving with 45 Field Support Squadron RE, 28 Engineer Regiment on Exercise Saif Sareea 2 in Oman. As an Army wife of nearly six years I feel I have had good experience of Army ways and knew when I married a soldier that separation was inevitable.

However, we are faced with an unusual situation. The unit deployed for an exercise (not a tour) at the beginning of June and is not due to return until December.

Yet the welfare package we received is virtually non-existent. We have been granted flights back to the UK (for which I am grateful) but there is no rest and recuperation (R&R). We have been told the squadron will get four days of in-theatre R&R, which doesn't help anyone.

R&R boosts morale and gives families and soldiers something to look forward to.

The answers we are getting do not add up. Why are soldiers from other regiments out there flying home on R&R to be with their families when our men are not? The rest of 28 Engr Regt was due on Saif Sareea in August, by which time our

husbands/wives/partners had been away for three months. It wouldn't be so bad if the squadron didn't go away so often, but they are due to go to Kosovo next May for yet another six-month tour. — **Army wife (name supplied), Hameln.**

THE answer given to the letter "This welfare package has a sting in the tail" (July) was that all tours over two months (for example, Saif Sareea 2) qualified for operational welfare support.

I'm one of the lucky ones taking part, but unlucky enough to be here for six months and am not receiving the full package. I am expected not to see my wife for six months and only speak to her for 20 minutes a week (less if I need to phone my bank or sort out other problems).

Some RLC units here are getting the full package – ten days of R&R at home with two days' travelling either side. This strikes me as unfair or double standards.

I do enjoy tours, but I won't see my wife for six months and next year I am away again (to Kosovo for six months). Let's

hope we don't have to go through the divorce courts for the Army to realise their mistake. — **LCpl RJ Page, 45 Fd Sp Sqn RE, Oman.**

I QUESTION whether the reply to Maj Waites's letter (July) about the new welfare package was promulgated at unit level. Those I have spoken to here were not aware that our six-month tour would come with a two-week R&R package. I am assuming those units who are presently serving six-month tours in the Balkans still receive two weeks of R&R. Perhaps under the "coherence and levelling of the playing field" they are now only entitled to the five days' R&R in-theatre we have been promised.

My wife reads *Soldier* and, having waited patiently through previous Balkans tours, she will now assume I am coming home for two weeks. Could you explain to her why we are either not eligible, or not informed that we are eligible? — **Cpl B J Lee REME, 28 Engr Regt, Oman.**

THE ARMY REPLIES

Exercises not eligible for R&R

▲ **Group Capt D G Barton of PJHQ responds:** I have sympathy for the families of those deploying for extended periods on Saif Sareea 2 and can understand the concerns of the soldiers. However, the policy for granting rest and recuperation (R&R) is based on guidelines issued by the Treasury.

Exercises have never been eligible for publicly-funded R&R. This has been reconsidered and, in the case of Saif Sareea, it was acknowledged that soldiers are working in tough conditions over a protracted period and, therefore, should have a break of some sort.

Local Exercise Leave (LEL) within Oman was introduced in recognition of this but still had to meet the strict eligibility criteria as for R&R on operations (ie the individual needs to have completed more than four months in theatre).

Where tasking is light and there is sufficient capacity on the busy RAF transport fleet, as part of the normal management of personnel, units may also surge individuals in and out of theatre, as I believe may be the case with some RLC

enablers. Some people will therefore be moved back to the UK or Germany when they are not needed. This is not R&R or LEL but simply the sensible on-going local management of personnel by commanding officers in theatre.

Perhaps I can also clarify the policy on the granting of R&R in some of our operational theatres. Wherever R&R is authorised, we are obliged to arrange the break within or as close to the theatre as possible, unless there are compelling reasons not to. Those in Sierra Leone take R&R in the Gambia. The Balkans are a special case where, because of security concerns, we grant special dispensation for troops to return home for their R&R periods.

I appreciate the importance that individuals place on R&R and every effort is being made to improve terms and conditions of service for soldiers and families. As a result, a widespread review of R&R policy is underway. The next stage of the Review of Operational Welfare, which will take place during 2002, will focus on the support provided to dependants.

Why haven't we got desert boots?

MY husband was due to deploy on Saif Sareea 2 this month. His dates were confirmed after he returned from Canada after completing Exercise Med Man 3.

There is now a mad rush to issue equipment necessary for survival in a desert environment. Items such as sun cream, suitable headgear and extra water bottles have been issued promptly and without fuss. However, one item of clothing which most would think a priority seems to be not only non-issue, but also extremely difficult to obtain – desert boots.

It is obvious to all that standard issue, combat boots will

THE ARMY REPLIES

Combat boots will be appropriate for Oman's cooler autumn months

▲ **Brig Max Kerley, ACOS J1/J4, PJHQ, responds:** Given my overall responsibility for the provision of support to all of our personnel taking part on Saif Sareea 2, I am grateful for the opportunity to put the record straight over the provision of boots for those deploying to Oman.

Throughout the long planning process for Saif Sareea 2, we have been particularly concerned to ensure that the necessary equipment is provided to allow personnel to handle the desert environment. Nearly 1,500 personnel are already deployed preparing for the exercise and, following a review of the conditions faced by those working over the hotter summer months in Oman, we have issued all such personnel with desert boots.

However, we specifically planned that the main body of UK

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1976: **Gunnery from 1 Battery RA (The Blazers) have fired Lance, the Army's new tactical surface-to-surface missile, for the first time in the United Kingdom. In a successful test on the Hebrides ranges, a missile with an inert warhead travelling at twice the speed of sound, hit the intended target out in the Atlantic.**

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1951: **Scrap from 22 Heavy Workshop REME bound for Britain's steel mills is loaded into a barge on the Elbe, above. Germany is one of the few places where there is still scrap metal to be won. The British Army of the Rhine is helping to haul in a much-needed harvest. Britain needs a further 1,800,000 tons of scrap iron this year to re-arm.**

be inappropriate for the desert. This opinion is shared by junior ranks and senior officers alike and the only explanation offered for this oversight is lack of money.

Saif Sareea 2 has been years in the making and the money spent so far must run into millions. It is a disgrace that soldiers have to purchase this very basic but essential piece of kit... if they can get a

pair. Most PRI shops here have sold out.

Should it be necessary in the future for the MoD to plan Saif Sareea 3, let's hope they listen to the advice of experienced soldiers on the ground.

If desert boots aren't forthcoming, we could have some major feet problems. Have we not learned from previous conflicts? — **Concerned wife (name supplied), Osnabruck.**

forces will deploy to the Oman during the cooler autumn months. This allows personnel taking part in the exercise to wear their regular black combat assault boots, which are entirely appropriate for the temperatures in Oman at that time of the year.

We will, of course, keep these arrangements under review, but we always aim to issue the most appropriate equipment for any particular environment and there should therefore be no need for additional individual purchases of equipment.

Notwithstanding the efforts that we have

made to ensure that our personnel are properly equipped to face the challenging environment, conditions in Oman can indeed be difficult. Safety will be of paramount importance and we will need to monitor the heat conditions carefully, ensuring that we acclimatise properly and drink enough water and ensure that appropriate use is made of the air-conditioned areas available in each camp.

The ability of our people to cope with these tough conditions, and to make such a valuable contribution to an essential exercise, is something of which we can all justifiably be proud.

We were let down by trade group

I WAS posted to Blandford and expected to complete my 22 years' service here. When I found out there were going to be opportunities for soldiers in my position to apply for extended service I was keen to take that route.

However, I will not be applying for extended service after all. I know you're thinking "another letter complaining about Pay 2000". Well, you're wrong, it's a letter complaining about whingeing.

No soldier took a pay cut under Pay 2000, everybody got a pay rise, the new system is much fairer than the old one and every major change in history has benefited some more than others.

All corps were given an opportunity to represent the trade groups and some, including mine (R Signals), let their soldiers down. But the rates are decided now and no amount of whingeing is going to change them. I say get on with the job and think about how well off you are, not how well off Joe Bloggs is. — **Name and address supplied, Blandford.**

Forget Pay 2000, my gripe is LSSA

THE way to look at Pay 2000 is that we all got a pay rise. There will be those in every rank affected when junior colleagues get a rise before them due to the date of promotion.

Although it is unfortunate for senior soldiers in each rank, it will work itself out in the long run.

It is another aspect of our pay and conditions that annoys me more – the rules for LSSA (Longer Separated Service Allowance). Any separation less than ten days does not count towards the allowance.

I think that even if we don't get paid for less than ten days, it should count towards our accumulated LSSA. That way it would give an accurate account of days separated. It would also give most of us a better chance to reach our bounty point and soldiers would be entitled to a higher rate of LSSA sooner.

Over the last few years my LSSA would be almost double if all the four-, five- and as much as nine-day exercises were counted. — **Name, address supplied.**

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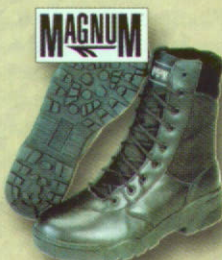
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MoD has answer to 'undervalued' Service people

WO2 H Carter's letter stating that Service voters are undervalued by politicians (Aug) highlights the problems politicians have when trying to contact the Service vote.

I am a county councillor with an Army camp in my division. I deliver leaflets and canvass on the camp when campaigning. This is not easy.

Problems include getting past the armed soldiers on the gate; finding that many houses are empty and that no soldier in barrack-room accommodation is on the electoral role; and that many married quarters have occupants different from those listed on the electoral role.

Although I found it quite impossible to get names and regimental numbers through the proper channels, the Service electoral registration index told me they would forward election mail only if I could give them names and regimental numbers!

While canvassing I also encountered an attitude problem with a small minority of soldiers – to paraphrase: "I am a soldier and I am not allowed to be political so why don't you 'go away'".

WO2 Carter's perception that soldiers are undervalued by politicians is understandable but the solution lies with the MoD. – **Cllr David Booth, Harbury Division, Warwickshire County Council.**

Help me stay loyal to daughter and Army

WHY can't divorced men in the Army get a quarter so they can look after their children during holidays or weekends? And why, when forced to rent, do they get no petrol allowance?

Last year my marriage broke down because of separation so I bought a house which my wife moved into while I went into single accommodation. I signed off to try to save the marriage but that didn't work so signed on again. I was told I would get all the help I needed to see my daughter.

I could not look after her in my room (a kennel is bigger) so asked the pay office if I could get a married quarter. I was told: "No chance, no custody, no quarter". So I asked about private renting and was told

▲ The following response has been received from PS10A:

MOST divorced soldiers with parental responsibility are entitled to MQs. A divorced soldier with parental responsibility within the terms of The Children Act 1989 and who fulfils the criteria laid down in Tri-Service Accommodation Regulations Chapter 1, Appendix 1 to Annex B would be classed as MCat 2 and would therefore be entitled to an MQ.

Even if Cpl Lewis does not fulfil these criteria it may be possible for him to occupy a surplus MQ if available on the understanding that he may have to move back to SLA if required.

The local Army Welfare Service will help with information about contact houses that exist specifically for parents in this situation. These are managed by the AWS, fully-fur-

I could claim for fuel. I got permission to live out and paid my bond and rent. Two months later, no fuel money. When I asked why I was told that I had voluntarily moved out of the block and it wasn't less than six months since I had been taken on strength.

Had I known I wouldn't get a fuel allowance I would not have rented. I live only 30 miles away yet some get fuel money from Mansfield and Bradford, so why not me?

Please try to make someone explain why the Army won't help out and why this ridiculous six-month rule exists. Incidentally, if I was posted next week I could claim fuel allowance. – Cpl G R Lewis, QLR LAD, Catterick.

nished and can be hired for the specific purpose of family visits.

It seems the advice given to Cpl Lewis about claiming fuel for travelling to work was misleading. There are two forms of assistance for travel to work; RPOD (Residence to Place of Duty) and RILOR (Recompense in Lieu of Relocation). Anyone who moves to a private residence for personal reasons during a tour is not entitled to relocation costs and therefore not to RLOR. When soldiers are posted they may experience difficulty when either selling, buying or renting accommodation and are allowed up to six months to claim travel to duty at the new unit.

PS10 cannot comment on individual cases or the comparisons mentioned without the full facts and suggest Cpl Lewis speaks to his regimental admin officer.

Healthy reasons for breast surgery

I WAS surprised Sgt Owens was given a prize for his closeted view on breast enlargements and reductions ("Army full of big-breasted women and tattooed, bald men", Aug).

He chose to go under the needle of a tattoo artist but fails to understand that those who require reductions do not choose oversized breasts, which can cause chronic back pain, rounded shoulders and bruises to the collar bones.

It surprises me that a reputable magazine has supported his point of view. I support the money invested to make female soldiers' lives more comfortable because the £3,000 spent on a breast reduction makes that soldier capable of competing with her peers . . . and that soldier becomes a happy soldier. – **Capt V J Bland RLC, 101 Log Bde, Aldershot.**

I AM an ex-QARANC officer and spent time nursing at our last (now extinct) Role 4 military hospital in the UK, Royal Hôpital Haslar. Serving women and the wives of men from all three Services could get any plastic surgery job they wanted (breast enlargement/reduction, eye tucks, tummy tucks, reconstructive surgery on scars, liposuction on thighs and tummies), and so could men.

Why? So military surgeons could maintain their skills on civilian non-emergency jobs in order to be able to cope with real emergencies (soldiers with burns, serious deformity following accidents and so on) and they proved their worth over and over again, even while I was there.

As to getting money to fund these operations, I never heard of anyone getting cash courtesy of the Army, which doesn't mean to say it doesn't go on, but use of

the plastic surgeons was available to anyone. Tattoo removal, on the other hand, does not involve a plastic surgeon or facilities already established in the Army, so has to be contracted from outside. There is no budget for it.

I never nursed a female soldier having a breast enlargement, only reductions in order to make her able to do her job in a more efficient and comfortable manner. And as for bald, tattooed men, there are loads of them still in the Army. Perhaps they should ask for hair transplants from the plastic surgeons. – **Mrs Sarah Johnson (née Longworth), Registered Nurse and ex Lt QARANC.**

▲ Our choice of Sgt Owens's letter as the prize-winner was slightly mischievous to promote debate. It was also to reward him for putting his head over the parapet on the emotive topic of unwanted tattoos. – **Editor**

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Youth on tour

Should under-18s be allowed on operational tours and patrols? *Soldier* asked troops from the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, who are nearing the end of their two-year posting to Northern Ireland, what they thought

Pte Mark Watson, B Coy

Yes, they should be able to patrol. They get paid as a soldier for a start. If the authorities believe they shouldn't work they shouldn't let them out of training. If they are here they might as well do the work they are paid to do. If they want to go on patrol they should have the choice.



Pte Andrew Price, B Coy

I was 17 when I first came to Northern Ireland and understand why you might feel a bit vulnerable on the streets. But on the other hand, if you have done the training I don't see why you shouldn't be allowed to. Everybody trains to do the same job.



Pte Graham Bowen, C Coy

I don't agree with 17-year-olds patrolling operationally. I think it would be bad PR if one were killed in action. It would be bad for civilians back home reading it in newspapers and it wouldn't look good for the Army. I have no problem with them being in battalions at that age but I don't think they should be in operational theatres.



Pte Alan Price, B Coy

I think the limit should be 18. The younger you are the more scared you are. When you get out there they are just going to pick on you. Under-18s should be back in training doing more



work. As soon as you turn 18 you can come out here. I think they have got it about right at the moment.

Pte James Fowler, C Coy

Yes. When I joined I was 17 and when I first got to the battalion all I was really doing was being a company runner doing odd jobs. When the others are out on patrol you feel left out, almost like you are letting them



down. It feels like they are doing all the work, which can make you feel less valued.

Pte David Hales, B Coy

Yes and no. Yes, because that is what we are paid for. And no, because at 17 they could still be immature. I wouldn't mind going out on patrol with a 17-year-old if he knew what he was doing.



Pte Trevor Sutcliffe, C Coy

I think they should. The team that is around them is good, they all know what they are doing and they get looked after. If you have the attitude to join the Army in the first place you have a reasonable idea of what you are getting into. The training equips you so you know what to do when you get to your battalion.



Pte Jody Smith, B Coy

Yes, definitely. We all sat the same tests, so we should be allowed to do the same jobs. You can't judge a person's maturity by their age. You might get a 25-year-old who is immature and a 17-year-old who is very mature.



Pte Daniel Matthews, C Coy

When I joined the battalion I was 17 and I wanted to go straight out on patrol. But looking back on it you probably need to be more experienced and need to know what's going on in Northern Ireland. Sierra Leone is a different kettle of



fish. It is conventional. But Northern Ireland isn't, so I would say you are better off waiting until you are 18.

Interviews: Anthony Stone Pictures: Graeme Main



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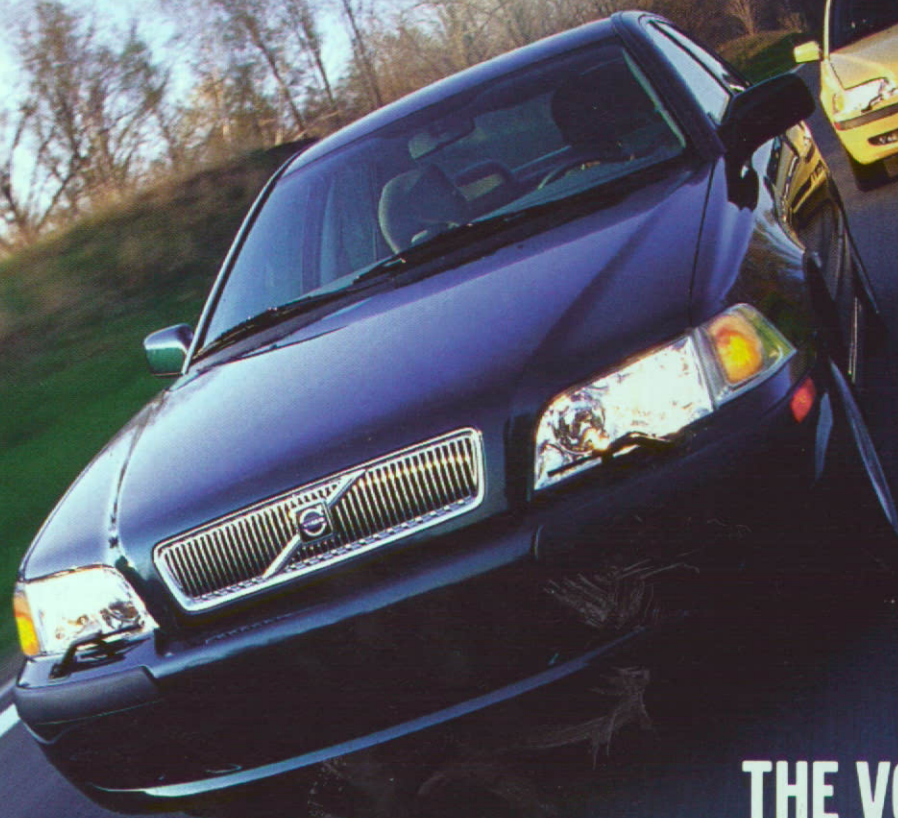
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