

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

January 1998 £1.60

# SOLDIER

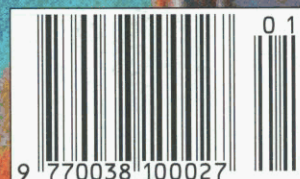
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**Sara Jones**  
interview

**RGBW** goes  
skirmishing

**Who dares**  
bobsleigh?







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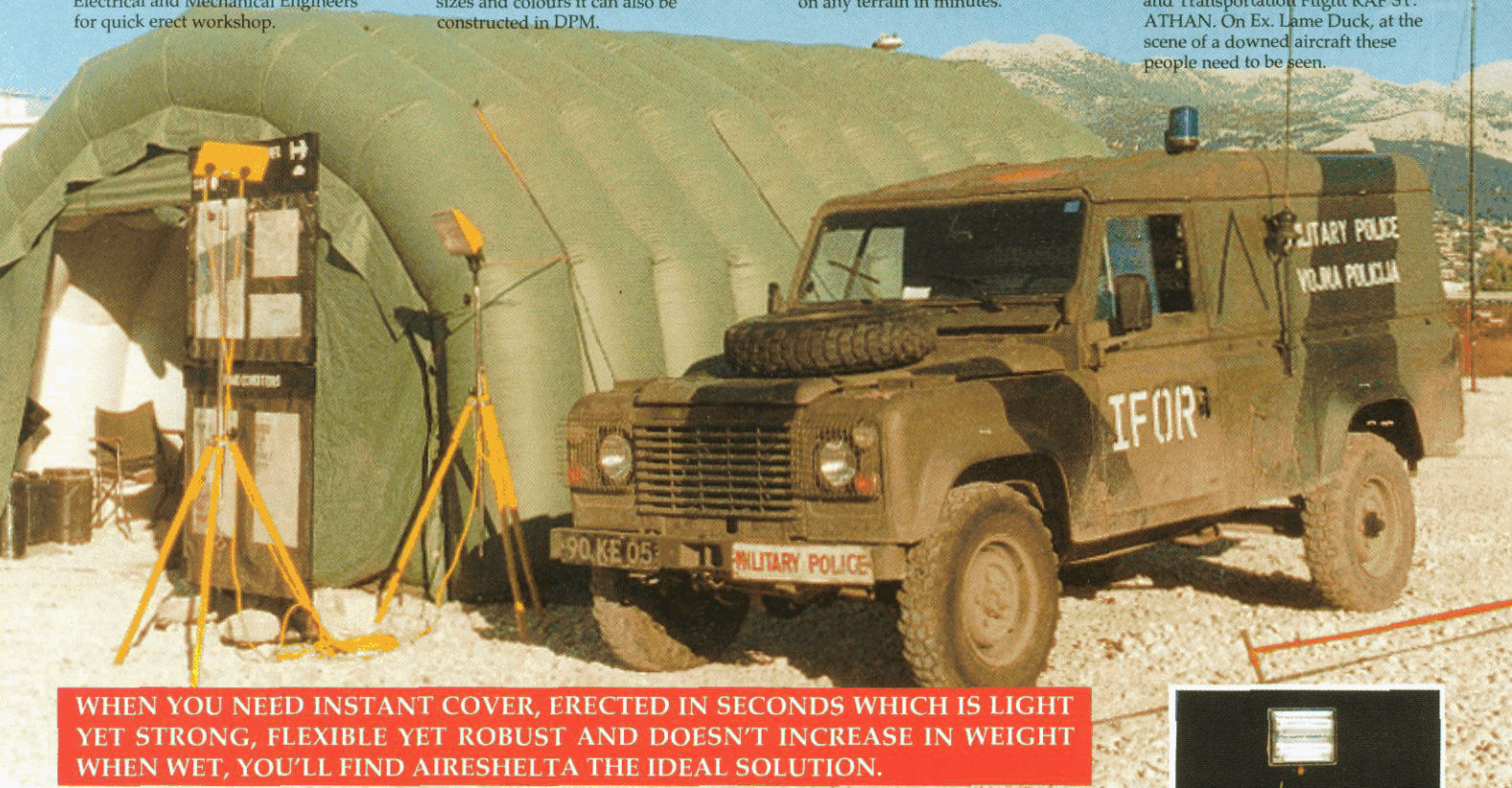
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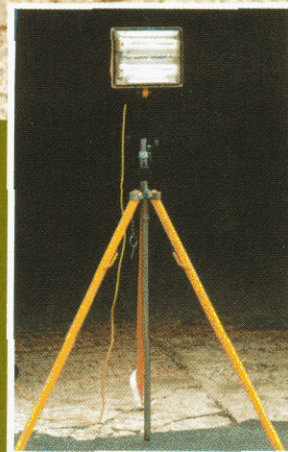
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## SOLDIER to soldier

### A lifeline for our families

The Services Cotswold Centre is unique. The help it provides to soldiers, sailors and airmen and their families is incalculable, but there is a danger it might close.

Lt Col Peter Druitt, the commandant, is in no doubt about the effect this would have. "It would be a desperate mistake to do away with this place," he said. "It offers something that is not even available to civilians and is the only one of its kind in all the three Services."

Beverley Burton and her husband do not think they could have coped without it. Two years ago Cpl Keith Burton was diagnosed as suffering from post traumatic stress disorder – bought on initially by the Falklands War and then service in Northern Ireland. After 16 months in hospital he and his wife moved to the centre.

#### SLEPT IN TENT

Before then Cpl Burton, unable to sleep indoors, stayed in a tent outside. The peace and tranquillity of the centre, combined with the sense of security afforded by a stout perimeter fence and 24-hour guard, meant that for the first time in years he was able to move his bed indoors.

He was discharged from the Army at the beginning of December and because of his condition needs somewhere quiet to live – the sound of a car backfiring can cause him problems. Experienced staff at the Cotswold Centre made it their business to find him such a house. (See Pages 30-31.)



# People, places, events

## If it's in the Army, it's registered

THE Ministry of Defence owns a church in Biggin Hill but no castles. It has more horses than tanks, many valuable antiques (including the Duke of Wellington's desk), a number of working farms and 847 items of railway rolling stock and locomotives.

This information is contained in the MoD section of the 550-page National Asset Register published on November 24 by the Government.

Nicknamed the "Domesday Book", the register will "bring greater knowledge of assets owned by the state and improve openness and accountability," said Defence Secretary George Robertson.

"Knowing what assets there are will enable the Government to take more informed decisions on what it should do with them."

Mr Robertson said he was determined to ensure every pound paid out on defence was well spent. "The asset register will be used to make sure that we only retain in MoD ownership what we need for the country's defence."

MoD's 75-page entry gives a snapshot of the department in September 1997. Values of assets are not yet given but will be provided during the early part of this year. "For the first time ever we will have a complete picture of all the assets the department owns," said Mr Robertson.

### TRIAL RUN

MoD's asset register forms part of the information needed for the introduction of resource accounting and budgeting (RAB), which will have a trial run in 1998-99. These accounts and those for 1999-2000, the first to be published, will be audited by the National Audit Office.

The register includes top-level budgets (TLBs), agencies, trading funds and executive non-departmental public bodies such as museums.

Mr Robertson said information contained in the directory would enable the MoD to concentrate on core functions and to wage war on waste. This information, under RAB, would be used to bring home to people the full cost of what they were doing and the assets they employed in meeting their objectives.

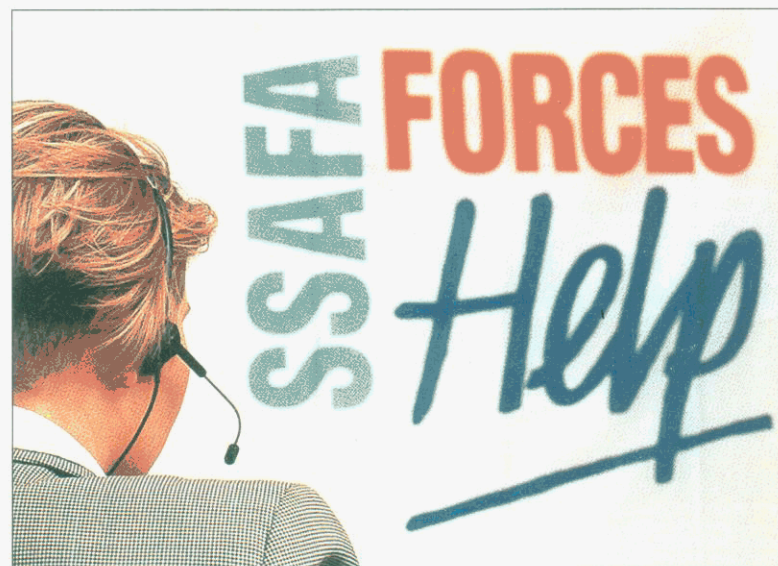
Values of assets are being compiled on an existing-use basis and not market value for disposal. In the case of land and buildings within the Defence Estate, a firm of chartered surveyors has been engaged to carry out the valuation.

In the case of fighting equipment, an exercise is under way to ascertain the gross replacement price for each equipment type, from which the current value of each specific item will be derived.

● The church, St George's, in Biggin Hill, is the only one owned by the MoD in a town. It has many churches on military bases. The Duke of Wellington's desk in Horse Guards, Whitehall, is in the office of the GOC London District. He uses it every day.

●● The farms, run by tenants, are used for training.

●●● The Army sends a train once a fortnight through the Channel Tunnel to Germany.



Support line: a volunteer in training at Upavon

## Help at end of the line

A CONFIDENTIAL freephone telephone support line has been set up for soldiers who want help outside their chain of command. It is one of the Army's equal opportunities initiatives designed to root out harassment and discrimination.

It can also be used by soldiers and their families for advice about other emotional problems.

Launching it last month, Gen Sir Alex Harvey, the Adjutant General, said: "There is a communication problem within the Army. Everyone is so busy these days and soldiers find themselves being moved from one place to another, which in itself causes problems."

"Discrimination, in whatever form it takes, is unacceptable. Our Servicemen and women must be able to enjoy equality of opportunity in an environment free from any harassment. The confidential support line is just one of the initiatives which we promised and which will help to bring these about."

Operated by SSAFA Forces Help, the initial two lines will be manned on a rota basis by 14 specially-chosen civilian advisers. Many have experience with the Samaritans and Relate and in equal opportunities.

Civilian lines from the UK, Germany and Cyprus will be open for 12 hours from noon until midnight (UK time) every day. Callers will be dealt with in confidence and do not

have to give their names. An anonymous civilian postal box number will also be available.

As well as providing someone to talk to, the service can give practical advice on where to go for help. A log will be kept on types of enquiry so the team can supply the Army with information on any obvious trends.

The support line, set up as a trial, will be reviewed after a year.

"We do not know what to expect at the moment," said Maj Mike Smart, the military project officer. "A number of calls were received in the first two days, none of them on harassment. We will adjust or extend as the need arises. We have the capability for up to 16 lines and could keep it open 24 hours a day if necessary."

The support line will cost the Army £250,000 to run and will operate from the Adjutant General's headquarters at Upavon, Wilts.

● Helpline numbers – Page 66

### IN BRIEF

GUTERSLOH-based 26 Regiment RA is due to deploy on January 8 to Bosnia for a six-month tour of duty with the Stabilisation Force (SFOR).

● A demolition training bridge, built by 22 Engr Regt and opened at Tidworth last month, has been named in honour of the 1,153ft-long Kalewa Bridge, constructed by sappers across

## Compensation rules for soldiers to be simplified

IT IS possible under current rules for soldiers injured in Northern Ireland by a terrorist to receive compensation, but the same soldiers would get nothing if they were hurt in Bosnia because they are operating in a war environment.

In the light of this and other anomalies, the whole question of paying compensation to Service personnel and their dependants is to be looked at in a wide-ranging review.

Armed Forces Minister Dr John Reid said the Government was concerned at the complexity of the existing system, and the differing circumstances in the ways compensation is paid.

"I want a modern, fair and simplified scheme which would apply to all Service personnel injured or killed on peacetime duties, whether they are on training or operations," said Dr Reid.

Injury claims are dealt with by two administrations at present: the MoD, which provides pensions for people invalided out of the Services, and the Department of Social Security, which is responsible for war pensions.

The level of benefits paid out to Servicemen and women falls short of those awarded to civilians for injuries at work. Within the Army, if the cause of death or injury is attributable to service, the compensation is calculated as one-and-a-half times the person's annual salary. The general level of compensation for a civilian can be two or three times the salary.

Injury claims may be lodged through the Criminal Injuries Board and there is an arrangement under which soldiers can make claims to the board if they are injured overseas. These claims are presently only successful if the claimants can prove themselves to be victims of criminal activity. An injury in Northern Ireland may be compensated under the Criminal Injuries Act by the Northern Ireland Office. A soldier shot in Bosnia, and not invalided out, is unable to make a claim as there is no organisation in Bosnia to pay up.

The results of the review, which will not affect war pensions, are likely to be published in a consultation document in the summer.

## Troops rescue sheep stranded by flood

AN Army boat section helped RUC officers rescue sheep stranded by flooding on farmland at Sixmilewater, Templepatrick, Co Antrim.

The soldiers, members of 25 Engineer Regiment based at Masserene Barracks, Antrim, rushed to the scene after the alarm was raised by local people who believed 30 animals were in danger of drowning.

A four-man team with an inflat-

able dinghy were called to the incident as weather men warned that more heavy rain was on the way.

As water levels rose, some of the sheep were moved to safety by boat while the rest were herded to high ground. Section leader Sgt Buzz Wolstenholme said: "It took us about an hour-and-a-half in water that was waist-deep. With the forecast for more bad weather, we're glad all the sheep are safe."

## Red Paws day at Ballykelly



The first Red Paw shoulder flash for members of the Army Dog Unit in Northern Ireland was presented to Cpl Jason Rowlinson (left) by Col Trevor White at Ballykelly, watched by specialist dog Myrtle. Since 1974 the only way to recognise dog-handlers has been by the tiny Red Paw badge next to the corps or regimental cap badge.

GOC Northern Ireland has agreed that the flash, worn on the left shoulder of combat clothing, will be a battlefield recognition symbol. It will be worn only in the Province.

## New king of the Castle

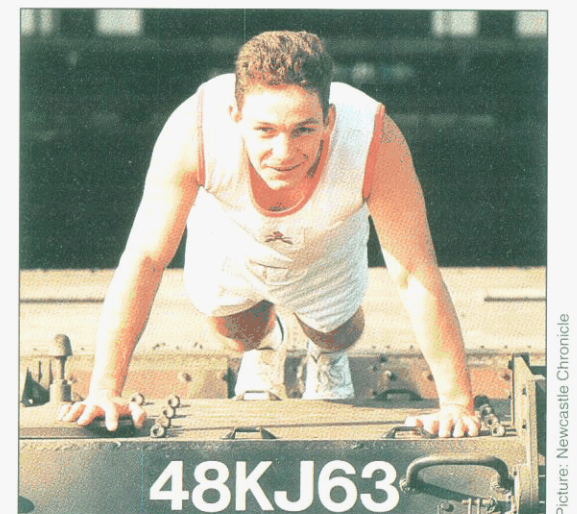
Maj Gen Mark Strudwick (right), late Royal Scots, is the new GOC Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle. He has taken over from Maj Gen Jonathan Hall, who has retired to become Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Gen Strudwick's previous post was Director of Infantry at Warminster.

● Appointments – Page 66



## Hard-pressed for charity



SSgt Steve Grey pressed up... and up... and up... a staggering 1,783 times in an hour to raise £750 for a young people's club in the North East. "They were full press-ups where you put your chest to the floor, fully extending the arms in true corps tradition," said Steve, an APTC instructor with 39 Regiment RA, in Newcastle. And it was good training in his bid to retain his British powerlifting title.



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# People, places, events

## Soldiers honoured for service in Northern Ireland and abroad

BRIG Gordon Hughes has been appointed CBE for outstanding leadership of the multi-national signals force in Bosnia.

A citation says his performance was the major contributory factor to the overall success of the Stabilisation Force (SFOR).

Also appointed CBE is Brig David Leakey, who commanded a multi-national brigade and became chief of staff on the Multi-National Division.

Among other awards in the latest list of operational honours is an MBE to LCpl Heidi Dunne for her "outstanding contribution" to civil affairs in Banja Luka where, as a member of 156 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, she was responsible for patrolling the city.

The citation says her persistence, determination and professionalism were instrumental in improving the lives of many underprivileged people for whom she worked unstintingly.

Maj Lincoln Jopp is awarded the Military Cross for his gallant actions in Sierra Leone following an attempted rebel coup against the government. In June 1997 he was advising a Nigerian force when it was attacked by mortar, small arms and missile fire.

He stayed at his post, advising the Nigerian commander and saving the lives of many civilians.

Lt Col Andrew Gale, who defused a tense and dangerous situation at Lungi airport following the coup, is awarded the QMG. Following threats of execution he persuaded rebels to release unarmed civilians who had been taken captive.

### For service in Northern Ireland

**CBE** – Col T W Hambrook OBE, late D and D.

**OBE** – Lt Col D G Benest MBE, Para; Lt Col I R Liles MBE, R Irish.

**MBE** – Maj M E Daubney RE; Maj R C Davies QGM, RLC; Maj R Davis RRW; Maj M J Haywood Smith RA; Capt C A St J James PWRR; WO2 K M Lane RE; CSgt V N Magee, R Irish; Maj N P Matcalfe QGM, R Signals; Lt Col D N Yates AGC(ALS).

**QGM** – WO1 C Munro, Para; SSgt R V Price APTC.

**Mid** – Cpl J Burtney, R Irish; LCpl D J Clarke RLC; Bdr M P Fountain RA; Cpl R E John RLC; LCpl R McKnight SG; Cpl T R Newton, R Anglian.

**QCB** – CSgt G B Homan, Para; WO1 I Mapp QGM, RLC; Cpl C Patterson AGC(RMP); Lt D Poole RLC; WO2 I D Swan RLC.

**QCVS** – Bdr M Ahddoud RA; WO2 R G Atkinson, R Irish; Lt Col R H Bounsall RA; Capt J Burke RE; Sgt D Bushell PWRR; Sgt S Cameron SG; Sgt G F Cusack RE; Pte W Faulkner, R Irish; Cpl S J Gillespie, Para; CSgt D M Hammond, Gren Gds; Maj S G Hayes AGC(RMP); Sgt Ben Huxley, Para; Sgt P Markham, R Anglian.

Cpl P P Marsh RAMC; Sgt T McKee, Hldrs; Lt Col A J Miller-Bakewell SG; WO1 S P Milsom BEM, Gren Gds; Cpl M Mitchell RE; Lt Col P R Newton PWRR; WO1 P G Pinchard REME; Sgt R Simpson, R Irish; WO2 N Stenton SG; Lt Col D N F Stewart, Hldrs; Lt M J Turnbull LI; CSgt K Vickers PWRR; Maj the Hon M A F Vincent MBE, RA.

### For service in former Yugoslavia

**CBE** – Brig S G Hughes, late R Signals; Brig A D Leakey, late RTR.

**OBE** – Col M A C Hughes, late RE; Lt Col R L Kirkland GH.

**MBE** – Maj R G Burns, R Anglian (TA); LCpl H M Dunne AGC(RMP).

**QCB** – Maj K S Logan RA (TA).

**QCVS** – LCpl A J Belton, Int Corps (TA); SSgt D G N Best RE; Lt Col M R Lanham MBE, RLC; Maj G E Lowder RS; Lt C P Macdonald LG; Lt Col R A Martin REME; Capt A Parvez RA; Lt Col R A B Ramsden, Scots DG; Capt I R Rand, Int Corps; Lt Z R Stenning GH; Maj Gen E J Webb-Carter OBE, late Gren Gds.

### Miscellaneous

**MC** – Maj L P M Jopp SG.

**QGM** – Lt Col A R Gale MBE, R Signals.

**QCB** – Maj N J B Slinger RA.

**QCVS** – Maj M R Hanscomb PWRR; WO2 C A Riley RGBW.

## TA training 'subject to SDR study'

FUTURE training of TA units will depend on the outcome of a Strategic Defence Review study into the size and shape of the Regular and Reserve Forces, the Armed Forces Minister said in the Commons.

He was replying to Canterbury MP Julian Brazier, holder of the Territorial Decoration, who had asked

what steps were being taken to ensure TA units could continue unit-level exercises and formation-level training, both of which "attracted and retained the best-quality people in the TA". The minister said four formation-level exercises were planned for the TA in 1998, the same number as in 1997.



A summary of Defence topics from Westminster

### Other points from Parliament:

□ Armed Forces Minister John Reid has set up a team to implement recommendations on the operational capability of the Defence Medical Services, ordered a review of the work of the Defence Secondary Care Agency in the UK, and called for proposals to improve morale and retention among DMS personnel.

□ A shortlist of consortia for the complete modernisation of Colchester Garrison under a major private finance initiative project is expected to be drawn up shortly, with the aim of placing a contract by mid-1999.

□ Vickers Defence Systems is expected to deliver the first Challenger 2 tanks to the Army in June this year, as planned.

□ Between May 1 and October 1 1997, 5,000 personnel left the Army and 6,000 were recruited.

□ Latest figures show that 45 per cent of those entering the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, were educated at State schools.

□ In the 12 months to September 1, 1997, 14 per cent of new recruits to the Armed Forces were women. As already announced, from April 1 the proportion of posts in the Army open to women will increase to 70 per cent.

□ Electronic Data Systems (Defence) Ltd won the £30m, 12-year contract to deliver most services at the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency, launched on April 1, 1997. About 900 civilians are moving move permanently to EDS, plus 100 military personnel initially.

□ On October 1 1997 45,867 men and 8,386 women were serving in the TA. The figures do not include 1,394 male and 11 female Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS).



Cpl Dunne, MBE





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## ALL ROUND PROTECTION

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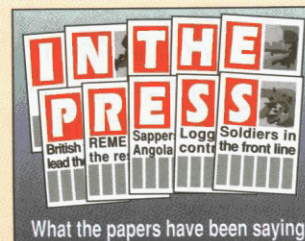
# People, places, events



## That's cracked it . . .

A 20-year-old Anglo-military partnership was renewed at Artlenburg – site of Montgomery's crossing of the Elbe 52 years ago – when 28 Engineer Regiment and a German sapper unit spanned the 240m-wide river with 21 M3 amphibious rigs.

They are the only units to operate the advance M3 bridging system, which entered service just over a year ago.



## Back-off on hunting ban

THE Government has backed off banning hunting on land owned by the MoD. Junior Defence Minister John Spellar confirmed that the MoD has renewed licences for fox-hunting on defence land. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ A threat by some Gulf War veterans to hand back their campaign medals on the steps of the MoD on January 17 because of lack of government compensation for so-called Gulf War Syndrome risks angering other campaigners. The Royal British Legion issued a statement distancing itself from the row. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Hundreds of soldiers executed for desertion or cowardice during the First World War are to be granted posthumous pardons by the Government. – *Sunday Times*

□ The ban on lesbians and gays in the military is expected to be lifted in the New Year by a reluctant Government anxious to head off a potential billion-pound judgment against it in the European courts. – *Observer*

□ Defence chiefs insist that the ban on gays in the military will stay despite the threat of a compensation payout of hundreds of millions of pounds. – *Daily Mail*

□ Two British former Servicemen who claim they were subjected to radiation during nuclear tests in the Pacific 40 years ago took their complaints to the Court of Human Rights in the long-running attempt to win compensation from the Government. The British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association is seeking up to £100,000 for each of the survivors of the tests. – *Guardian*

□ British soldiers, including the SAS, protected war crimes investigators in the hard-line Serb nationalist town of Prijedor. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ The design for a chapel to honour the 257 British Servicemen killed in the Falklands War has been unveiled. The first in Britain to be dedicated to those who lost their lives in the conflict 15 years ago, it will stand in the grounds of Pangbourne College. – *Daily Telegraph*

□ Scientists in America are working on a top secret "magic fog" which would render dozens of troops invisible yet allow them to retain a clear sight of their foe. – *Daily Mail*

# Paras pulled out

TROOP levels in Northern Ireland have been reduced in a move seen as a significant sign of reduced tension in the Province.

About 250 troops, comprising two companies and the headquarters of the Urban Reinforcement Battalion – currently the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment – left Northern Ireland in late November and returned to their Dover base.

The Ministry of Defence said the move had been made on the advice of the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland. It was made possible by the continuing reduction in the level of support need by the police since the IRA ceasefire in July.

According to the MoD statement: "It

reflects the improved security situation and is a further step towards normality."

The MoD has, however, stressed that the withdrawn troops remain ready to return to the Province at short notice should the security situation require it. The level of threat is kept under constant review.

More than 1,000 petrol bombs were thrown during rioting in Londonderry over the weekend of December 13-14. But the trouble, sparked by the annual Apprentice Boys' parade through the city, was contained by the RUC.

And in a further measure announced by the RUC, daylight foot patrols by the Army in Belfast in support of the police have ceased.

● 3 Para soldier's world walk – Page 12



# People, places, events

## Lancers gopher it in Canada

UNITS of The Queen's Royal Lancers have returned to Imphal Barracks at Osnabruck after eight months in Canada serving as opposition forces (OPFOR) at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS).

Working with the BATUS permanent staff and smaller support units also on temporary deployment, the Lancers disguised their lightly-armoured tracked recce vehicles and Land Rovers to simulate ex-Eastern bloc armour.

Fitted with laser detectors, the hybrid vehicles tested the fighting skills of battle-groups in five successive exercises. Each consisted of 11 days of live firing, followed by 11 days of simulated engagements.

Fortunately for the Lancers, there was time to enjoy the great Canadian wilderness. During periods of R and R, the soldiers went mountaineering, horse riding, skiing, white water rafting, and freefall parachuting.

Among the visitors to the prairie were Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C HQ Land, and members of the Army Forces Pay Review Body, led by Sir Gordon Hourston.

The Lancers' camp also prove attractive to some of the wild local residents, including prairie dogs or gophers. The little animals seemed to have a fascination for shiny objects and on at least on occasion made an attempt to steal the regiment's famous "death's head" cap badge.



Picture: ORL

**Caught in the act:** this prairie dog, found stealing a Lancers' cap badge, was sent on his way with a stomach full of cake



**Remember to drive on the right:** a visiting Stafford familiarises himself with a Humvee

## Americans given lesson in cricket

A FORCE of Territorial Army soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment gained valuable hands-on experience with American weapons systems and kit during Exercise Rattlesnake, a two-week training deployment to Indiana.

As guests of the 2nd 152nd (Mechanised) Infantry Battalion, the British soldiers were able to work with American armoured vehicles and become familiar with their hosts' weapons, including venerable .5in Browning machine-guns.

In an opportunity rarely given to TA soldiers, the company's command team directed US Air Force ground attack aircraft on to targets. The F16 pilots, operating from a nearby base, were surprised to hear the distinctive British regional accents crackling over their radios but apparently coped well with the challenge.

Less conventional training was undertaken at a centre for search and rescue training. In probably the most testing phase of their deployment, the Staffords practised rescue techniques in a purpose-built complex of tunnels and rubble-strewn ruins.

The learning process was not, however, one-sided. While the soldiers from England were enjoying the pleasant temperatures and mid-west American outdoor lifestyle, a similar number of American reservists were experiencing hospitality and training around Burton-on-Trent.

Even those Americans who had not been able to cross the Atlantic learned something from their British counterparts. During the R and R period, an important element of the exercise, some Indiana troops became dab hands with a cricket bat.

## Challenge group on look-out for leaders

AN organisation which arranges educational and adventurous opportunities for 15 to 18-year-olds is looking for military personnel to act as team leaders.

World Challenge Expeditions, whose president is Lt Col (Retd) Tony Streater, a former sports and estates officer at Sandhurst, has in the past ten years sent more than 4,000 British students to 30 countries, including Nepal, Bolivia, Zimbabwe and Indonesia.

The four-week expeditions involve a physical adventure – such as climbing a mountain, surviving in jungle, crossing a desert – and most include a community aid project.

### EXPENSES PAID

Leaders, who should have appropriate mountain leader training, a first aid qualification and some travel knowledge, receive an all-expenses paid trip. Experience of working with young people can be an advantage.

A recent expedition to Uganda by 14 pupils from Dame Allan's School in Newcastle climbed Mount Elgon and assisted in a building project for the Ugandan Society for Disabled Children. It was led by Capt Ian Reeves of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, a veteran of more than one WCE trip and one of more than 40 Army officers and NCOs to have led expeditions.

More details in DCI JS 96/97 (Sept 6, 97) or call 0181 961 1122.





## Taking stock of 8 R Irish

"No fluff on that bayonet". Nothing but the best will do at the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment drill competition in Armagh.

Capt Andy Nye inspects the award-winning team of part-timers from A Company.

But H Company emerged as the best full-time team on the parade ground.

Ten soldiers from 60 HQ and Support Sqn, 39 Engr Regt based at Waterbeach, built two 10m-long footbridges in Monmouthshire as part of the Military Aid to the Civil Community scheme.

## Round and about

SIX soldiers from the Durham Light Infantry found their sea legs on board the aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible*. During routine exercises off the Spanish coast, which also involved Royal Air Force crews operating Harrier ground attack aircraft from the carrier, the soldiers worked as seamen.

TA and Regular Army chefs scooped two gold medals, four silvers and a bronze at the tri-Service *salon culinaire* cookery championships at HMS *Nelson*, Portsmouth. It was the first time the Catering Support Regiment RLC had entered a team in the event.

*Challenger 2* has passed a series of rigorous reliability tests imposed by the MoD on the manufacturers, Vickers. Deliveries to the Army are scheduled to begin in early 1998, although the tank is already in service with the Oman Army, which ordered 20 more tanks in November.

The machine-gun platoon of the 6th (Northumberland) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers overcame nine other teams to win the 2nd Division's annual competition for machine-gunners. Shooting over 1,100 metres, and occasionally using controllers to bring fire on to targets that were out of sight, the fusiliers achieved a score of 855 points out of a possible 1,200.

Col Nick Richards has taken over as commandant of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, from Col Tim Hoggarth. Col Hoggarth, originally a gunner, is retiring from the Army after 38 years' service, the last three at Kneller Hall as Director Corps of Army Music, Inspector of Army Music and commandant.



Richards



Hoggarth

## Worthy partnership over NVQs

THE School of Employment Training, part of the Adjutant General's Corps Training Group at Worthy Down near Salisbury, has forged formal links with Salisbury College for National Vocational Qualifications training.

A partnership agreement was signed by commanding officer Lt Col Alan Brown and Dr Mike Halle, deputy principal of

the college. The function of the School of Employment Training is to train all military clerks for service in units worldwide as administrators.

During basic training junior military clerks work towards NVQs level 2, leading to a level 3 award when they return to Worthy Down after 18 months for additional military qualifications.

## New members drop in on the Pathfinders



THE Parachute Regiment's elite Pathfinder Platoon has five new members. Of the 30 aspiring Pathfinders who began a gruelling selection cadre in October, the five were the only ones to win the maroon-and-green arrow shoulder flashes.

Platoon commander Capt Jon Allum said: "Selection is competitive and hard but offers many rewards. Few units can offer more satisfaction."

The new Pathfinders (holding their

shoulder flashes) are pictured above with some of their trainers. Left to right: LCpl Kevin O'Connor, LCpl Neil Swinton, Capt Allum, Brig Graeme Lamb, Pte Robert Hall (best student), WO2 Jack Raepier, Cpl Brendan Byrnes and LCpl Darren Brazier.

Pathfinder selection cadres are held twice a year, in February and March, and October and November. Information packs are available from CSM Raepier on Alder-shot Mil (722) 4419.

Friendly rivalry was the order of the day when 27 teams from eight countries took part in the eighth Reserve Forces Association skill-at-arms meeting on the Bisley-Pirbright range complex. Guest teams of NATO reserve officers and NCOs flew in from Antwerp, Arkansas, Oslo and Geneva to take part.

Belgian, Dutch and German units were involved and there was a strong contingent from Denmark and Norway. TA honour was upheld by Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps, and the event was co-ordinated by Maj Martin Farnan, R Irish, with help from 3rd Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment and 207 Field Hospital RAMC.



# People, places, events



The parish window (above left) commemorates post-World War conflicts from the Palestine to the Gulf. The Royal Army Chaplains' Department window (above right) commemorates Roman Catholic chaplains who died in the two World Wars. It is dedicated to Fr Gerry Weston, killed by a terrorist bomb in Aldershot in 1972

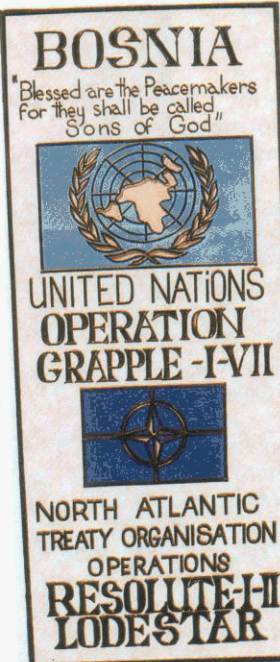
## Windows for Millennium

THREE stained-glass windows have been made for Tidworth Garrison Catholic Church, each commemorating a period in the garrison's military history. The "millennium windows" were blessed and inaugurated during a concelebrated mass led by the Rt Rev Francis Walmsley, the Catholic Military Bishop of the Forces.

One is dedicated to Father Gerry Weston, killed in the Aldershot terrorist bombing 25 years ago. His sister and representatives from The Parachute Regiment attended the mass.

The church celebrated its 85th anniversary last year. The windows were the idea of Fr Ian Evans, chaplain to 1 Mechanised Brigade. He said: "The windows are not museum pieces. They are witness to our past and our present and it is most appropriate they are placed here in a military church."

This window commemorates the service given by regimental units resident in Tidworth and recalls peacekeeping operations in former Yugoslavia



## PM calls on Banja Luka

PRIME MINISTER Tony Blair called on troops serving in Banja Luka, Bosnia at the beginning of December. He was briefed on operations and shown weaponry during a visit to the headquarters of the British-led Multi-National Division (South West).

Mr Blair (pictured with a soldier) told Servicemen deployed with the Stabilisation Force (SFOR): "We are enormously proud of British troops who are out here, not just engaged in the normal duties of being a soldier, but at the forefront of measures to rebuild the local communities, things you probably didn't expect to be doing when you joined the Army."



Pin-up girl Melinda Messenger ensured Christmas came early for lucky soldiers of the 9th/12th Lancers when she visited them at freezing Banja Luka in Bosnia to deliver a kit bag of Caley's Marching Chocolate on behalf of *The Sun* newspaper. She also called on 40th Regiment gunners based at Sanski Most.

## Around the world – in 36,000 miles

PARATROOPER Cpl Karl Bushby is planning a unbroken, solo world walk – an expedition of 36,000 miles.

His trip will start next October and take him through 25 countries, across four continents, a frozen sea, six deserts and seven mountain ranges.

Cpl Bushby, based with the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment in Dover, has been in the Army for 11 years. He will remain a soldier for the first year of his walk, code-named "Goliath – The Challenge", which take him from the southern tip of South America to Mexico, the United States, Canada and Alaska.

The frozen Arctic waters of the Chukchi Sea north of the Bering Straits will act as a bridge to Siberia.



Cpl Karl Bushby

Cpl Bushby will head south-west down the eastern coast of Russia into Asia and then cross Europe, reaching the UK via the Tunnel.

"This challenge is frightening, but I know I will cope," he said. "As a soldier, particularly in The Parachute Regiment, you are exposed to the environment and everything the Army has taught me will stand me in good stead."

Cpl Bushby's ability to use towns and villages for food supplies will determine his route. He intends to pull equipment rather than carry it.

He was invited by 10 Downing Street to the lunch held at Mansion House, London, to mark the golden wedding anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip.

### IN BRIEF

TROOPS from 24 Airmobile Brigade won the field battle – and the PR initiative – during a week-long exercise in the West Country. Speaking as his NATO Rapid Reaction Corps soldiers regrouped, Brig Mark Elcomb said: "The South West proved an excellent location for Exercise Gryphon's Eye and we thank everyone in this lovely part of the country for their co-operation."

Russian inspectors visited Aldergrove and Kinnegar under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty last month. It was the first such inspection carried out in Northern Ireland.

AAC chef LCpl Leslie Hitchcock won the title of Young Army Chef of the Year with a smoked chicken dish. LCpl Hitchcock, based with 2 Regiment AAC

## Do you trust the Vetting Agency?

DO YOU think of the Defence Vetting Agency as a confidential service providing the necessary reassurance that the people who have access to sensitive information are trustworthy? Or does it conjure up images of men in raincoats asking embarrassing questions? Whatever you think, the DVA would like your views.

Since its formation in April the DVA has been looking at ways of providing a better, quicker, more efficient service and has commissioned a confidential survey to help identify areas where improvements are needed and to provide a baseline for future evaluations.

The survey will cover a representative sample of DVA customers and

recently-vetted subjects. If you receive a form the DVA ask you to spare the time to fill it in since your views are important.

If you are not a regular customer of the DVA's services or have not been vetted recently, but still wish to make your views known, contact the agency on 0171 218 6804.

### Gift wrapped

BOMB-disposal experts from 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) at Wimbish have presented the casing of a 250kg German bomb to the town of Rainham, Essex. Soldiers from 21 Fd Sqn (EOD) had made the bomb safe after it was found in the town.

at Wattisham, fought off strong competition in the 17-24 age section at the Services culinary cookery competition.

For the third year running, Durham-based 205 Battery received the Queen's Cup, the Territorial Army field gunners' top award, at the National Artillery Association prizegiving at the Guildhall, London. Winners of the

major air defence prize, the BP Trophy, were 209 Battery from Manchester.

A 110-year-old silver chalice has been presented on behalf of the Director General Army Medical Service, Maj Gen Robin Short, to the head of the Pakistan Army Medical Corps to mark 50 years of independence and the affiliation between the RAMC and PAMC.

## Cooking up a new career



Territorial army chef Tracy Cockersole developed such a taste for soldiering she decided to join up permanently. Camp cuisine for 350 Field Squadron, 73 Engineer Regiment, became ambrosial when Tracy joined them two years ago. The former professional chef, pictured trying the taste test on Sgt Dave Baker, has joined the RLC.

## Images of war



Sgt Scott Lister will never forget war-torn Bosnia. The paintings he has done during his six-month posting in Sarajevo provide a lasting reminder of the sights he has seen. The Royal Logistic Corps Postal and Courier operator paints for colleagues and friends in the evenings after dealing with hundreds of letters at the busy Sarajevo British Forces Post Office. He has been painting in acrylics for the past five years.

"My mother paints miniatures and my brother is an artist – but I actually failed art at school," he said.

## Ian's ultimate munro...



Climbing Bheinn Sghrithall was the last munro for WO2 Ian McLeod, of B (KOSB) Company, The Lowland Volunteers. He set himself the challenge of "bagging" all 284 munros – Scottish mountains of 3,000ft and over – and Bheinn Sghrithall completed his quest during his unit's annual camp at Inverness. Accompanied by his brother and a piper from the battalion, he celebrated his feat with a glass of champagne on the summit.



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Laura Snook, Editor of Training & Education, describes Cerco as "the UK's leading computer hardware maintenance training and human resource organisation with an unparalleled record of success in the provision of vocational training and subsequent job placement ....., and a graduate destination list that reads like the roll of honour at a computer festival. Cerco can truly claim to host the most vocational course available on the market to date, and will continue to be heralded as the prime source of new blood for the ever-expanding computer maintenance industry."

Cerco offers far more than just training; this is a company which provides a unique combination of practical, vocational training targeted at producing highly capable customer and installation engineers, coupled with a job placement programme which is virtually 100% successful. In fact, more installation and maintenance engineers enter the UK computer industry through Cerco's Customer Engineering Training Scheme than through all other sources put together.

**So confident is Cerco in its ability to find suitable jobs for its course graduates, that it provides a no-catches money-back guarantee of employment at the end of its programme.**

The company's ability to find jobs for those taking part in its programme is due in no small part to its high profile within the computer industry, where it has provided training for many leading organisations.

A high proportion of students taking part in the Scheme are from the Armed Forces. So, what do they think of the programme?

**"Attending the Cerco Training Course was the best decision I made since leaving the Royal Marines" - David Reid, Musician**

**"Only one word 'Excellent' " - Lee Ward, Sgt. RAF**

**"I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have had no problem finding employment since completing the course in early 1995" - Gerald O'Connell, W.O. Royal Navy**

**Cerco Training Limited was my final resettlement course after 22 years in the RAF. They took me with no prior knowledge, trained me, and found me employment. 18 months and 2 promotions later I am very secure within a growing industry. Highly Recommended, it makes that final step into civvy street so much easier."**  
- Ex C/T Armourer, RAF

At £2,981 including VAT and Tax Relief at Source, and with a guaranteed job at the end of it, the programme really does provide excellent value. Also, Resettlement Grants can be used to offset the cost.

Courses, which have now been running for over seven years, are full-time for seven weeks and lead to a City & Guilds, Level III Certificate in Micro Computer Installation & Maintenance. With almost a 100% pass rate Cerco is in a league of its own in computer maintenance vocational training.

Candidates are accepted for training with no previous experience or technical knowledge being required. Selection is based on aptitude tests which are accompanied by a presentation on careers

in computing. Tests are free, and there is absolutely no obligation to accept training which may be offered. Candidates are not asked to make any commitment at aptitude tests, but are given an Enrolment Form which they can return after due consideration.

Courses, which are run at Cerco's well equipped training centre in Cheshire, have a strong practical bias, are founded upon many years of providing training for the computer maintenance industry and cover all the skills and knowledge necessary for effective customer engineering.

An impressive list of organisations who employ Cerco trained customer engineers includes most of the leading computer companies operating in the UK: Bull, Digital Equipment, ICL, IBM, Mastercare, NCR, Unisys and very many more.

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# On exercise

## Bright future for 'little and large' tanks



HCR panache: flying the flag at Bright Star

**Report: Graham Bound**  
**Pictures: WO2 Pete Bristo**

IT WAS a flamboyant gesture, but the Americans loved it. The tiny Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicle of the Household Cavalry Regiment, a mini-tank in all but name, gunned its Jaguar engine and swooped into a tight turn, jamming on its breaks and bouncing to a halt in a cloud of desert dust alongside the huge Abrams tank.

The Scimitar's 30mm cannon poking cheekily at its giant cousin was a mere bee-sting compared to the American battle tank's 120mm weapon. Hatches swung open and grinning Americans

## British troops 'find, fix and strike' in Western Desert

peered down on their British allies. What the Brits lacked in firepower in Egypt's Western Desert, they made up for in panache and sheer cheek.

The little and large tanks summed-up the British and American presence on Bright Star '97. The American forces, led by Middle East experts the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart in Georgia,

had a formidable presence, reaching, at its height, 9,000 soldiers equipped with main battle tanks, attack helicopters, a radio station and (incredible, but true) a McDonald's restaurant.

Britain's force, led by two squadrons of the Household Cavalry and including the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry and B

● *Turn to next page*



# On exercise

## Find, fix and strike

● From Page 15

Coy, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, numbered just 750 men and women. But, as battle-group commander Lt Col Barney White-Spunner explained, size did not matter.

"Dealing with the Americans has been remarkably easy. They are very interested in our methods of reconnaissance and we are just as interested in the way they do business. In reality, should there be another war like the Gulf, we may need to do the reconnaissance for an American armoured division. This is our chance to practise it."

The HCR soldiers call such operations "find, fix and strike" while the Americans use the term "track and trigger". They amount to the same thing: when the lightly-armoured vehicles have scouted far ahead, "finding and fixing", the main battle-tanks move ahead to strike. It was a technique that was well tested during the final and principal phase of Bright Star.

Feeling their way cautiously forward some 70 kilometres into the desert, the HCR tracked the Egyptian armour that was the main "enemy" force in the simulated battle. The swift little recce vehicles and giant tanks made a winning team.

Bright Star's large-scale battle simulation phase brought together not only the Egyptian and American forces, but also smaller contingents from France, Italy, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The result was a simulated desert war not dissimilar in some essential ways to the battles that Montgomery and the Desert Rats waged across the same terrain 55 years ago. The common denominator was sand and heat.

Scimitar commander CoH Neville Bonner spoke with awe of the vicious sandstorms: "One minute you can see for miles; the next you can't see your own hand. Our cam nets were ripped away and every nook and cranny was filled with sand."

Ironically, there was also a risk from sudden torrential rain. Water is a scarce commodity in the desert (British soldiers were recommended to drink at least three litres of bottled water a day), but when it does rain, brief and dangerous flash floods can result. The old French Foreign Legion adage "never camp in a wadi" was recognised as very wise advice indeed.

For some soldiers, such as Tpr Chris Docherty, the desert was not a new experience. He had crewed a Challenger tank during the Gulf War, but Bright Star was, he said, excellent training for any future conflict.



Men of B Coy 2 Para take on the real enemy: the desert sands

# Unsavoury survival lessons for Paras

PARACHUTE Regiment soldiers began their Egyptian deployment by leaping from the cargo door of a low-flying RAF Hercules, and then "tabbing" 40km to rendezvous with a Pathfinder patrol and attack a designated target.

It was an excellent opportunity to learn desert survival and the NCO instructors gave grim instructions on finding food. The desert is not exactly an abundant larder, but, as one old desert hand said: "Snakes are good . . . and if you find any ground lice, just chuck them into your mess tin. Don't bother with dung beetles, though. They taste like, well, just that."

And there was a delightful tip for conjuring up water. "When the last drop is drained from your water bottle," said the instructor, "re-cycle your urine." Although every bit as unpleasant as it sounds, it is apparently relatively easy to

do: just stretch a piece of plastic sheeting across a hole in the sand containing a container of the precious liquid. As the heat evaporates it, pure (well, pure-ish) water drips from the plastic to be collected in a cup.

No one actually said it, but one or two paras were probably thinking that a tab to the American camp for a burger and cola at McDonald's (they flew in their own branch) was a more attractive option.

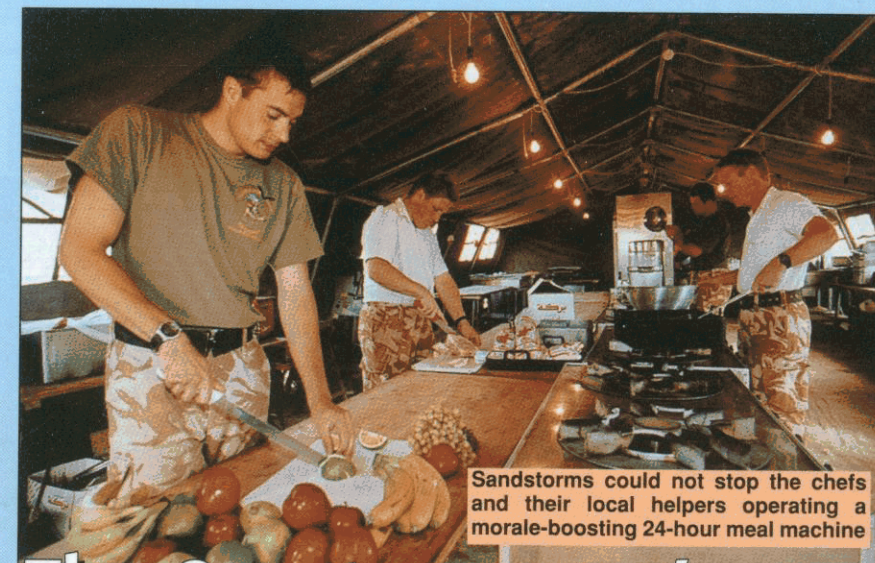
Realism became the first casualty for 2 Para as troops were met on the drop zone by a squad of Egyptian immigration officials armed with rubber stamps. It was an early introduction to the delaying power of local bureaucracy, which remained irksome throughout Bright Star.

Nevertheless, the main exercise phase

went smoothly and they captured a key point in an airborne assault before linking up with a force of US Marines.

Deploying from their base in Cyprus, men of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry were rather more accustomed to the heat of the Mediterranean. They conducted their own live firing and escape and evasion exercises before acting as an enemy unit for Egyptian and American special forces during Bright Star's main phase.

Maj Tim Evans of 1 LI said that working with the Egyptians had opened his eyes to some very different methods. "They use Soviet tactics so in some ways we are poles apart. But they are good troops considering the economies they are under. At the end of the day we can say that the exercise worked and we learned a hell of a lot."



Sandstorms could not stop the chefs and their local helpers operating a morale-boosting 24-hour meal machine

## The Quartermaster's story

"NOW I know why the Egyptians say 'Insha Allah' (God willing) so often."

With the voice of someone who had seen it all and was now ready for whatever fate and the desert could throw at him, Capt Mike Harding, the Household Cavalry's long-suffering quartermaster, reflected on the huge challenge of preparing for the British presence at Bright Star.

Capt Harding and his team had begun planning for the exercise seven months earlier, travelling to Egypt several times to negotiate service and food contracts with local suppliers. All had seemed

fine until days before the main force was due to arrive, when the authorities told the QM that he had to re-negotiate many of the agreements.

Then, just days before the battle-group was due to arrive, what Mike Harding described as "the mother of all sandstorms" hit the camp. Mess tents, kitchens and half of the 120 accommodation tents were blown to the ground or ripped. Only day and night work ensured that the base was re-built before the first members of the battle-group arrived.

From then on, the systems operated well. Under WO2

Mark Humphries, 23 chefs and their local staff prepared 2,250 hot meals a day, operating in 24-hour shifts.

Both the senior chef and the quartermaster were full of praise for the Egyptians who worked with them, often doing unpleasant jobs. "They've been a great asset," said WO2 Humphries. "They're hard workers, honest and above all, they've got a sense of humour. They are always smiling, and we are very grateful to them."

At times in the desert it seemed as if a sense of humour was the only thing that could not be blown away.



Capt Gavin Hatcher (left) and Spr Glen Wilson prepare a grenade for demolition

## Sappers face desert dangers

EGYPT'S Western Desert holds dangerous reminders of previous wars and years of use as an exercise area. Fortunately for those involved in Bright Star, the still dangerous minefields laid during the Second World War were many kilometres to the west of the exercise area. But more recent explosive detritus from exercises did pose a danger.

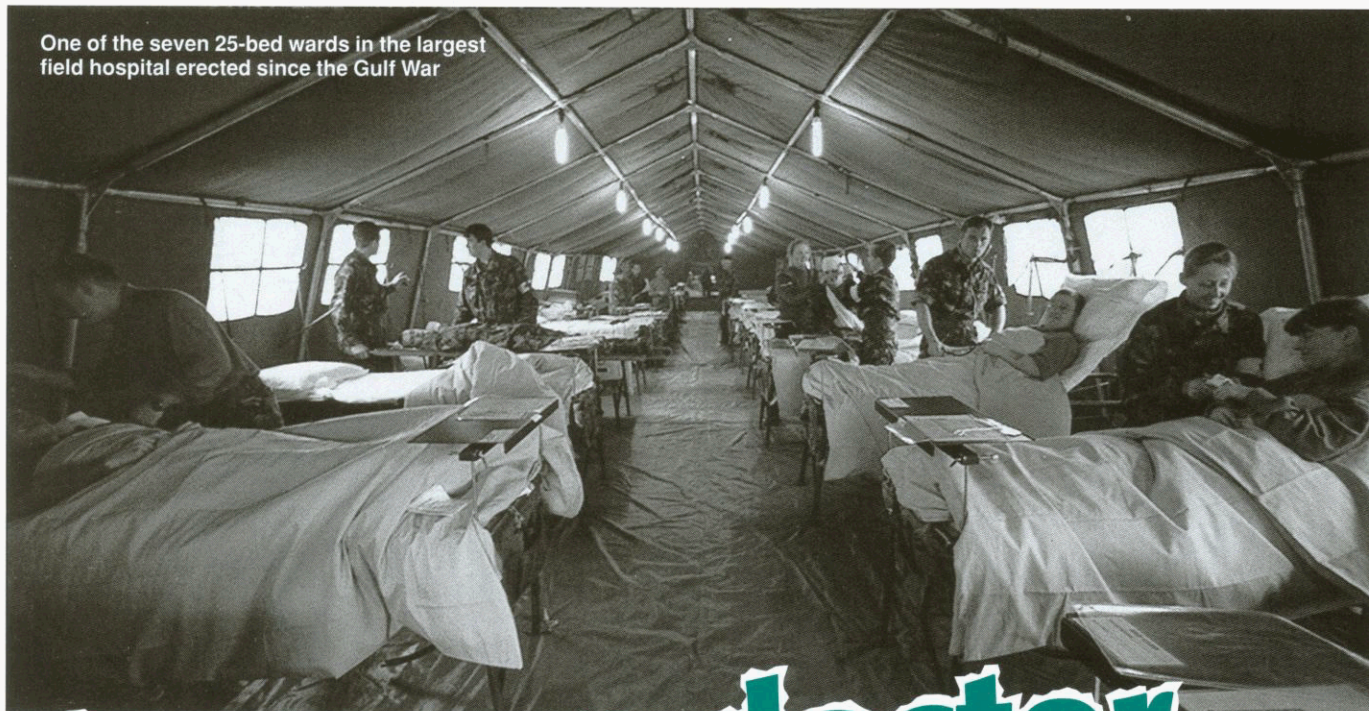
A small team of Royal Engineers was tasked to handle any suspicious objects. The sappers disposed of rocket-propelled grenades and shells, the largest of which was a 105mm tank round.

Led by Capt Gavin Hatcher, the team had less dangerous but even more challenging tasks. They arrived weeks earlier and were fully occupied preparing for the arrival of the main force.

"We've been frantically swinging between camp construction, provision of water supplies and bomb disposal," said Capt Hatcher. "This has been quite a challenge: not normal sapping at all."



One of the seven 25-bed wards in the largest field hospital erected since the Gulf War



## Carry on doctor...

Report: Karen Moseley  
Pictures: Mike Weston

## only 200 beds to check

THE YOUNG female soldier stared up at the canvas ceiling as a team of medical officers worked on the remains of her leg.

"This lady needs to be moved to the pre-operative ward for her stump to be tidied up," one of them called, and two medics immediately appeared and began preparations to wheel her out.

Her terrible wound was actually a field dressing soaked in red dye and water, arranged realistically around the knee with Vaseline and Plasticine, and the spurting "blood" came from a valve in a small plastic tube. The bottom half of the leg, thankfully still in one piece, protruded through a hole cut in the stretcher bed.

The 106-strong team of medics, nurses, doctors and surgeons from 33 Field Hospital RAMC were practising their casualty simulation skills during a two-week exercise at Bordon Camp in Hampshire. For the first time since the Gulf War, a 200-bed tented field hospital, built entirely of canvas, was erected as part of the exercise.

Lt Col Chris Baines, CO 33 Fd Hosp, explained that the unit would join the Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF) roster on January 1 and the exercise was being held primarily as a clinical audit to ensure it had all the equipment it would need.

"There is no other way to do it, this is

### Field hospital discovers if it is ready to join Britain's rapid deployment force

essential," he said. "We have learned a few procedural lessons to make ourselves more efficient, but it has been a great success and we are certainly ready. It is also an ideal opportunity to bring the whole of the unit together; 51 of them have recently returned from Bosnia."



Lt Col Chris Baines, CO 33 Field Hospital

More than 150 pieces of medical equipment were moved in 58 ISO containers from the unit's base at HMS *Dolphin*, Gosport. The seven 25-bed wards, intensive care unit, laboratory, X-ray and medical stores, were housed under 350 pieces of canvas and powered by seven generators.

During one nine-hour period 32 "casualties" passed through the system.

Casualties were stabilised in resuscitation before being sent to the operating theatre. Capt Sally Hayes, one of the medical officers, said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity to treat people in emergency conditions. You do get a feeling of stress seeing overwhelming casualties coming in one after another and

people are playing in real time. It is also an opportunity to see whether our equipment works properly."

In the operating theatre Lt Col Timothy Burge, the plastic and burns surgeon, was supervising the procedure for dealing with a chest wound. "You will need a larger needle holder than that," he told a medic sewing up pieces of red sodden gauze that looked like a gunshot injury. "When you tie it up put your finger there . . . it's like tying up your parcels at Christmas."

Lt Col Burge, whose war role would be that of a general surgeon, said: "The aim of the exercise is to prove we have got the tentage and can get casualties through. We need to keep ourselves busy practising in peacetime so our skills are kept up to speed in war."

Comfort has come a long way since the days of hard beds and scratchy blankets in field hospitals. Now an American design enables a patient to have his or her head or feet raised, and there are cotton-covered duvets.

During the exercise a new machine was being tested which would enable digital images of X-rays to be beamed back to radiologists at the Royal Hospital Haslar for diagnosis.

The Gosport-based unit is one of three Regular field hospitals providing surgical and nursing support to the Army. It is able to send eight surgical teams and up to 200 beds anywhere in the world.

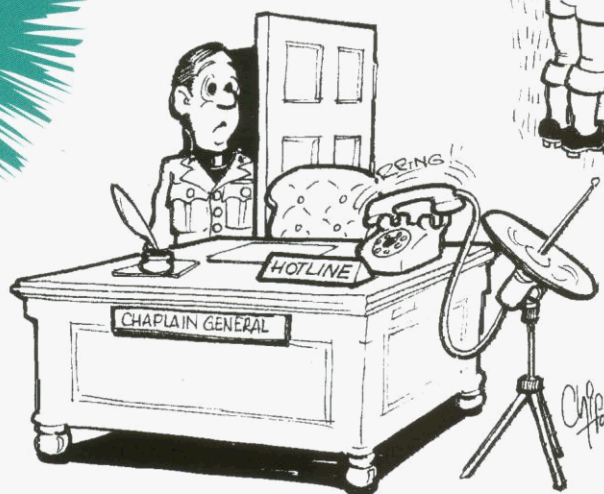


# Chuckle with Chip



"Cleanliness being next to Godliness . . . could you park next to the Bath Unit, Padre?"

## Pray up Padre



"Well, I thought his burning bush was good, but the Padre has really excelled this time!"



"Actually it might be more prudent to forgive our enemies after they've surrendered!"



## Unit spotlight

# Turning and burning

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne  
Pictures: Terry Champion

IMAGINE a situation where, from 8km away, you can programme 16 missiles with different co-ordinates, launch them, and be heading home before they hit their individual targets.

Three years from now that situation could very easily become a reality. In less than 36 months both the Americans and the British Army will take delivery of the AH-64 Delta Longbow Apache attack helicopter, and tactics and doctrine are already being developed for the Army Air Corps.

One thing is certain: the introduction of Apache will have considerable impact on the job presently carried out by Lynx.

Gütersloh-based 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps had taken to the fields and skies of central Germany on exercise with their squadrons of Gazelle and Lynx aircraft.

"With Apache the corps will be able to do the same things – but far more effectively," said Capt Tim Peake, Gazelle flight commander of 652 Squadron.

Aircraft were lined up on the ground and several had their rotors turning, waiting for the signal to take off. His voice rose as engines whined and rotors increased their work-rate. He leaned forward and cupped his hands to be heard above the noise.

"We expect AH to be involved in the close battle, working with the forward recce elements of the battle group. However, it will be able to do so and stand off, out of range of an enemy air defence threat. There is also the deep-strike capability."

The deep-strike, or deep-ops, would

## Army's pilots have Apache on their minds as delivery date draws near

take the aircraft 200km beyond the front line. It is a high-risk option – but it can be done with Apache provided there is a pre-recce area, a route in and a route out. The severe damage that can be done to the resupply and morale of an enemy sitting deep in his "safe" rear echelons can only be guessed at.

Aviation can also be used within the all-arms plan as a screen or blocking task force, to delay the enemy advance.

"We could be used as flank protection," added Capt Peake, "working with formation recce or the close recce element in the all arms battle group. We may be called to put in a major offensive Joint Air Attack Team (JAAT) but that would be co-ordinated by Division." He was describing aviation, air and artillery working on a designated target, a pre-prepared killing area.

Aircraft took to the sky, buffeting rain and grass in a halo on the ground.

Wind pumps crop up in Germany with alarming regularity, their huge propeller-like vanes swooping around with rhythmic precision. In low visibility the sudden presence of an uncharted pump can cause the pulse to quicken in even the most experienced pilot.

Having built up more than 250 hours flying Gazelles, Cpl Julie Wiles was preparing for that evening's work. As part of a six-aircraft mission, night vision goggles and maps for killing area recce and maps for killing area recce and maps for killing area recce (ARP) were checked . . . and checked again.

Cpl Wiles always wanted to fly. Joining 1 AAC a few months ago was, for her, the end of one journey and the start of another.

The unmistakable sound of a Gazelle filled the air. Crossing in front, the pilot hovered easily beside the forward air refuelling point



Cpl Julie Wiles, Army nurse turned front-line pilot

before allowing the skids on the aircraft to touch the ground and bringing the rotors to a halt.

The glistening surface of the River Weser was fading to black. Clouds that had blocked the sun all day now produced a fine haze of rain. Dampness permeated every corner of the 1 AAC location. Cpl Wiles had watched the approach, hover and landing with a professional eye.

"My father was a pilot, so this seemed to be a natural thing for me to do. I have been nursing with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps for the past 9½ years but as soon as the opportunity arose to train to fly, I applied. Ideally, I would like to transfer into the Army Air Corps from QARANC and then instruct," said the 28-year-old pilot. She looked up towards the clouds, hanging menacingly low.

"You really have to keep your wits about you. Visibility can drop very quickly out here. And watch out for the wind-pumps." The Lynx rose into the sky behind her, its fuel tanks full. Cpl Wiles turned, clutching her green helmet in her left hand, the night vision goggles at sharp right-angles to the smooth surface, and made her way to the waiting Gazelle.

REME SSgt Reg Shaw and his young



Lt Col Gary Coward  
CO 1AAC

team of avionics and aircraft engineers were working around the clock. Climbing over the seemingly fragile aircraft bodies, they ensured that the general and daily servicing work was completed. Experience with 1 AAC in Bosnia had taught SSgt Shaw several lessons. Exercises were treated as if they were on operation.

"We work a 24-hour crew system, 24-on and 24-off. We adapt to cope with whatever situation comes. We stay as pro-active as we can make it, but," he added with a wry smile, "exercises tend to be reactive."

Dealing with the avionics on the Apache is a prospect he knows his team is relishing. "An avionics technician in the Army Air Corps is a career I would recommend to any young person."

Exercise regimental headquarters was situated on the banks of the Weser. Two 432 APCs, back-to-back, with a nine-by-nine tent in the middle. As with any RHQ, it was a busy place.

"Practising our role in a high-intensity conflict is always time well spent," explained commanding officer Lt Col Gary Coward.

"We try to link that to a live-firing exercise in unison with the offensive support group (OSG) of the division whenever possible. The OSG has artillery, aviation, air support and our formation recce, the Light Dragoons. Right now we are doing manoeuvre training to lead up to that.

"For 1 Regiment there is a good possibility that we will not get Apache, instead we will have 24 light utility helicopters (LUH), basically a Lynx without the TOW missile system. The training that we are doing now is vital should we go to war between now and the time AH is fully introduced.

"In Bosnia, we learned many lessons in the peace support arena as well as in aviation. We would have liked to take a more pro-active role in the surveillance side. We did to a limited extent with the kit we had there but you do need better optics and recording devices to do the job.

"We encountered turbulence in that part of the world that you don't find in the mountains of Wales or Scotland. We are better aviators for having been in Bosnia.

"We will all be involved in AH. Because we trickle-post, two-thirds of 1 Regiment will be directly involved in AH operations, either flying them or supporting them."

A pilot walked into the RHQ and spoke to the clerk. He pointed to a new symbol on his map. It was a very small wind-pump.

One thing is certain: the introduction of Apache will have considerable impact on the job presently carried out by Lynx



A Lynx from 1 Regt AAC hovers above the German countryside



REME avionics and engineering technicians at work on a Gazelle: experience in Bosnia has taught several lessons



# A YEAR OF FAREWELLS

Princess of Wales  
Hong Kong  
The Chipmunk

## JANUARY

BRITISH Service personnel who helped the new **South Africa** to weld together seven separate armed bodies into a national defence force receive the country's **Unitas Medal** in recognition of their impartiality and integrity. The Queen approves the wearing of the medal. Army bomb disposal experts from **321 EOD Squadron RLC** make safe a 1,000lb bomb in the grounds of Belfast Castle. The second anniversary of **Compulsory Drug Testing** in the Army is marked by the release of figures which indicate the scheme has been a major success.

Whimsy becomes fact as the Aldershot-based **Combat Service Support Group** adopts the black adder as its emblem. The serpent, from the television *Blackadder* series, was first used as a shoulder flash by Royal Logistic Corps troops during the Gulf War. The **Hong Kong Military Service Corps** is formally disbanded at Stonecutters Island.

## FEBRUARY

**Naafi** loses the MoD's £400 million contract to supply food to the Armed Forces in the UK and Germany. A new five-year contract is awarded to Booker Food-service Group.

Units which served during the **Gulf War** are ordered to search for nominal rolls used to record the names of troops who received inoculations in the desert. Gen Sir Roger Wheeler takes up his appointment as **Chief of the General Staff**. It is announced that NHS hospitals are to treat **military patients** in a drive to cut waiting times at Service hospitals. Lack of funds force the **Museum of Army Transport** at Beverley, North Humberside, to close.

The **Army Winter Sports Association** celebrates its 50th anniversary with a jubilee meeting at the Swiss resort of St Moritz. The **Pathfinders** reconnaissance of 5 Airborne Brigade is to be formally established and two **Parachute Regiment** battalions are to be strengthened as changes that will enhance the Army's capability to deploy rapidly are announced. An **MLRS** regiment is to be switched to the Territorial Army, and the fourth batteries of Regular Army AS90 regiments in the UK are to be placed "in storage".

A blueprint for military career structures and pay and pensions - "The Armed Forces of the Future - A Personnel Strategy" is unveiled. It recognises the need for



"Great news AG... I have some encouraging predictions for 1998."

a fairer deal for single Servicemen and women, who will benefit for the first time from separation allowances while on operational duties. Following the drawdown in Hong Kong, **Gurkhas** will be allowed to bring their wives and children to the UK on accompanied service.

## MARCH

In a judgement against the Ministry of Defence, the European Court of Human Rights rules that Britain's **court martial** system does not ensure a fair trial. The Strasbourg court held that the present system violates Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to trial before an independent and impartial tribunal.

In a hard-hitting report, the House of Commons Defence Select Committee identifies low morale and a chronic shortage of staff as key issues affecting **Defence Medical Services**. The De Havilland **Chipmunk** retires from service after generations of military pilots had learned to fly in the 50-year-old aircraft.

## APRIL

A 67-strong team of British Army technicians, medics and planners joins the Royal Marines in Brazzaville, Congo, to take charge in the event of an evacuation of the 260 British expatriates in **Zaire**, where a state of emergency has been declared. The

MoD is given a further year to make progress on improving **racial equality** within the Army following a report by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Five hundred troops from Colchester-based **24 Airmobile Brigade** are put on standby with Green Goddesses as the Essex county fire brigade threatens strike action. The **Royal Navy** withdraws from Hong Kong, its last base in Asia, and Maj Gen Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces, welcomes the first advance party of the Chinese People's Liberation Army to arrive in Hong Kong.

The tri-Service **Defence Helicopter Flying School** is officially opened at RAF Shawbury. It is 15 years since the outbreak of the **Falklands War**.

## MAY

The **Army Sports Lottery**, founded less than 3½ years ago, pays out its millionth pound in prize money. Serving and retired soldiers are asked to fill in questionnaires in major new research into **Gulf War-related illnesses**. Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment return from Africa as relative calm returns to **Zaire** when the Mobutu government stands down. British troops have been deployed in neighbouring Congo and Gabon on **Operation Determinant** to prepare for any further deterioration in the situation.

Defence Secretary George Robertson



June: Black Watch ceremonial as Britain's sovereignty over Hong Kong ends

announces a wide-ranging **strategic review** of Britain's defence into the next century. Two Army officers, Maj Rob Wainwright RAMC and Capt Tim Rodber, Green Howards, help the **British Lions** rugby team to a historic series win in South Africa.

## JUNE

The Black Watch and other regiments



September: the world watched as eight young Welsh Guardsmen carried the flower-covered coffin of the Diana, Princess of Wales, into Westminster Abbey

play a part in the military pageantry in the withdrawal from **Hong Kong**. A worldwide television audience watches the final British parade, commanded by Lt Col Alasdair Loudon, CO 1 BW, take place in torrential rain. Troops all over the world take part in the SSAFA Forces Help **Big Brew Up** in an attempt to set a record for the largest tea party and raise funds for the Services' welfare organisation. The Queen's Colour trooped by **F Company, 1st Battalion, Scots Guards** on the Queen's Birthday Parade is adorned with a wreath in memory of members of the regiment who fell during the battle for Mt Tumbledown in the Falklands 15 years ago.

## JULY

Four hundred soldiers of the **1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment**, the UK Standby Battalion, are flown to Northern Ireland to give the Royal Ulster Constabulary additional support during the marching season following civil disorder in the wake of a march at Drumcree, Portadown. It brings to 17,500 the number of troops in the Province. The IRA announce an "unequivocal" **cease-fire** from midday on July 20.

British troops, widely reported to be from a **Special Air Service** squadron, take part in an action to detain men indicted for war crimes in former Yugoslavia. One soldier is hurt and an alleged war criminal is shot dead when he opens fire on the approaching troops. The **Army Air Corps** celebrates its 40th anniversary

and one of its Lynx helicopter stars in a new video released by supergroup **Oasis**.

**RMA Sandhurst** marks its 50th birthday. The Government announces a "fresh start" in its approach to illnesses suffered by veterans of the Gulf War. Sgt **Kelly Holmes**, the Army's Olympic middle distance runner, announces that she is to quit the Service to concentrate on her athletics career.

## AUGUST

The future of the Guards' tradition **bearskin** ceremonial head-dress is called into question by appeals for more research into a synthetic alternative to the pelt of the Canadian brown bear.

Nineteen soldiers dismissed the Service for failing a **compulsory drug test** bring to 332 the number dismissed so far this year. More than 50,000 random tests have been carried out since January 1. **Czech** soldiers exercise with British troops at Sennybridge and at Glamoc ranges in Bosnia for the first time since NATO's newest member nation was admitted.

## SEPTEMBER

Six horses of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery pull the gun carriage bearing the coffin of **Diana, Princess of Wales** from Kensington Palace to Westminster in a funeral watched by the world's biggest television audience. The

gun carriage is escorted by eight soldiers of the Welsh Guards who act as pallbearers at the Abbey. Soldiers from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment are invited by Earl Spencer, the Princess's brother, to carry her coffin during the private burial at Althorp, the family estate in Northamptonshire.

## OCTOBER

A major new initiative on stamping out **racism** in the Army and measures to encourage **ethnic recruiting** is announced by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler. He says: "If you aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem." Significant numbers of troops deploy to Poland, the Ukraine and Scotland as the field training **exercise season** gets under way.

## NOVEMBER

Many more posts will open to **women in the Army** from April 1 following moves which will increase from 47 per cent to 70 per cent the number of jobs available to them. Only front-line posts capbadged to the Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry will be denied to women because the Government does not believe society is ready to see them in close-combat roles.

British Army expertise in **land mine clearance**, training and awareness is harnessed to set up the United Kingdom Mine Information and Training Centre (UK MITC) at Minley, Surrey. The MITC aims to be a "one-stop shop" for guidance and information on counter-mine measures.

MoD assets, listed in the Government's **National Assets Register**, include fighting equipment, horses, land, antiques... and a church in Biggin Hill.

With help from a former squaddie who now owns a timber business, the **Museum of Army Transport** at Beverley, which closed in February because of lack of funds, announces that it is back in business

## DECEMBER

Confidential **harassment support lines** open on December 1 under measures introduced to end racism in the Army. Changesto military **educational allowances** raise from five to seven the age at which boarding school allowance may be claimed.



February: AWSA's 50th birthday party



November: more women in the front line although some, like Cpl Jule Wiles, 1 AAC, are already there



Who dares . . .

# A lifetime in 60 seconds

Report: Chris Kinsville-Heyne  
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE SET-UP was wrong . . . seriously wrong. I had come out of the never-ending turn 12 at about 70mph, glanced off the right-hand wall, and was facing the infamous turn 13 on the wrong side of the track, approaching at the wrong angle.

I was on my fifth "lauf", or run, from the men's start at the Olympic bobsleigh run in Lillehammer, Norway. The Army Ice Sports Training Camp was in its final minutes and I was in trouble.

Was The Widow-Maker, as turn 13 had been dubbed, about to claim another victim? For my sake, and the sake of my brake-man, LCpl Ivor Camblin, bent double behind me, I really hoped not.

The words of our two-man bobsleigh instructor, WO2 Pete Gunn, were ringing in my ears: "Allow the runners up on to the wall, take the pressure, ease off, take the second pressure, look for the exit, one steer and off." As manager and coach of the GB Europa Cup team, he made it sound so simple.

We had started the week from the "damen", or women's, start, further down the track, near turn four. There were 12 of us, paired into six bobs. The first lauf was awesome. No other word to describe it. Simply awesome. The speed took my breath away and the adrenalin rush left me shaking and grinning insanely. Simply to have survived was a miracle.

At one point on turn 10, Ivor, my brake-man, seemed to be hitting me on

## The G-forces had pressed him flat. Then things went rather quiet . . .

### Bobslang

**Sliding** – racing down the track

**Lauf** – a run down the track

**Spritz** – a fine spray of water on the ice prior to sliding

**Balls** – front and rear lumps on the bob that take the knocks

**Runners** – four steel blades under the bobsleigh

**Dresden** – top-of-the-range German bobsleigh

**Podah** – next best Italian bobsleigh

**Damenitis** – fear of moving from women's start up to men's start

**The Widow-Maker** – turn 13, Lillehammer Olympic bobsleigh run

**Fillet** – the ice that leads you into and out of a turn

**Spikes** – needle-fine pins set into flat training shoes for walking on the ice

**Kissing the ice** – falling over or crashing on the track

the head. Seconds later I realised it was the G-force slamming my crash helmet against the inner rim of our bob.

Now the best word to describe the inside of a bobsleigh is "functional". It weighs about 185kg and is made of fibreglass. You control – the word is used advisedly – the direction of the bob by pulling on D-rings suspended inside the

cockpit by bungees. The D-rings are attached to the front axle by lengths of rope and a tug in either direction will alter the lay of the runners on the ice. All pretty straightforward.

The brake-man, or woman, is responsible for bringing the whole thing to a dignified halt. However, the brake can only be applied at the very end of the lauf. Its use at any other time can lead to disqualification from a competition or ejection from the track. Brake is rather a generous title for this mechanism, a metal handle which, when lifted, drives a serrated metal edge into the ice. Hi-tech it's not, but it does the trick.

Two teams had already turned their bobs over on the exit of 13. We had watched the video of Capt Mike Boyne's aerobatics several times and the stitches along the left side of Cpl Andy Beattie's jaw were a constant reminder to us all. Two confident drivers had been bitten by this turn.

We spoke to Mike and his brake-man, Maj Stuart Cattermull, about the crash. Every one of us. To glean the slightest bit of information that would allow us to avoid a repeat performance.

"I came out of 12 and it was wrong. And it got worse," he said simply. He closed his eyes and "drove the track" in his mind, body swaying to the turns, voice giving a running commentary and hands pulling imaginary D-rings. It's a bit like playing an air-guitar and it was something we all did, especially before starting a lauf.

His hands stopped moving when he reached 13. His eyes opened and he broke into a broad smile. He joked that the only thing bruised was their egos.

"She just went," he said. "Nothing I could do about it."

We were looking at the track in front of us. Drivers and brakes alike nodded in understanding, although none of us really wanted to find out first-hand what it felt like to be holding a set of unresponsive D-rings.

Lt Chris Palmer was Andy's brake when their runners parted company with Planet Earth at 13. The G-forces had pressed him flat when things went "rather quiet".

We had all experienced being brake, so

we understood. However, bobsleighs are not quiet machines and the words were strangely out of place.

"The next thing I knew was I was upside-down with my body-weight on my shoulder and crash-helmet and things were very noisy again. A rather unusual experience," said Chris philosophically.

Apart from some scratches he was fine, although Andy was able to experience personally the Norwegian medical system. Sixteen expert butterfly stitches later he was ready to get back into a bob but had to wait until the swelling went down so he could get his crash-helmet on again.

Cpl Annette Holden and 19-year-old Pte Vikki Tweddle from 3 Royal Irish were making mental notes. They were due to take their first lauf from the top of the Olympic run that afternoon. They had nicknamed their bob "Girl Power" and we all hoped it lived up to its name.

Meanwhile, I just wanted to get us through this corner, approaching at nearly 80mph, without going into free-fall.

I knew we were on the wrong side of the track for a clean entry. I hung on, going in low and fast, trying to take up the pressure on the runners by pulling the left D-ring back, but the bob wanted to rise up the wall. Somehow I managed to hold it half-way. The turn was more severe than I remembered and the G-forces were crushing Ivor behind me.

I could hear his strangled cry of "Nnnnnnnnnnnnn" over the roar of the bobsleigh on the ice. He was suffering.

The first pressure was off. We were half-way around. If we were going to survive, this was where it had to come together. The pressure came back on like a fist. The bob started to move further up the ice.

The end of the turn was in less than half



### Lillehammer Olympic two-man bobsleigh; distance: 1.365km – the driver's view

Sprint start

Turn 1 – gentle left; 15 mph

Turn 2 – short right, no sweat; 25 mph

Turn 3 – short covered right; 30 mph

Turn 4 – long left, this is getting serious; 40mph, pulling 2G

Turn 5 – short left

Turn 6 – long right

Turns 7, 8 and 9 – the Labyrinth

Turn 10 – long left, this one hurts; 60 mph/3G

Turn 11 – short left

Turn 12 – long covered right, painful; 70 mph/3.5G

Turn 13 – the Widow-Maker, a long vicious left; 80 mph/4.5G

Turn 14 – short right; 75 mph/2G

Turn 15 – long tight left. Two pressures; 60 mph/2G

Turn 16 – long covered left. Uphill

Total time: less than 60 seconds

### Okay. So you want to experience two-man bobsleigh for yourself.

Here's how:

Contact Lt Col Stephen Rowland-Jones on Mil: 732 8230 and ask for the details of the next Army Ice Sports Training Camp.

through. Three more turns – 14, 15, and 16 – were a blur and I was pretty much on auto-pilot. Ivor hit the brake at the top of the home straight – and we had made it. We looked up at the digital timer and listened for the track announcement.

A voice cut cleanly through the cold air. "Kinsville-Heyne and Camblin . . . 59 seconds." Our fastest time that week. We were ecstatic. The most incredible adrenalin rush in my life was over. For now.

We have agreed to meet again at Igls in Austria for the two-man bob novice championships. Maybe we will see you there.

a second and I was very close to going airborne. I looked left. The wall leading out of the run was parallel. The exit was exactly where Pete said to steer off. I yanked hard on the left D-ring and was rewarded with the bob dipping towards the exit. With a roar and a clatter, we were



The Army ice sports training camp Bobbers, Lugers and Skeletons unite in Lillehammer



## Call for action follows Gulf veteran's death

### Trust can help make MQ patch ideas come true

A NEW fund to help activities and projects of benefit to Service families living on married quarter patches has been approved by the Charity Commission.

The Annington Trust was established with a £50,000-donation from the company which bought the MoD's MQ estate. Trustees include Col Sir Tommy Macpherson and Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Hunter, chairman and deputy chairman of Annington Homes; Cherry Milne, chairman of the Army Families Federation; and other representatives of families' organisations.

First donations are expected to be made in the spring by the trustees, who will use income from investments of around £30,000 a year to fund local MQ projects and activities.

They are likely to favour smaller schemes so that support is spread to as many Service communities as possible. Grants will not be made where other sources of funding are available.

● **Applicants should write, describing the background to their request and the purpose and size of the grant, to Cherry Milne, Army Families Federation, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 6BE, or to The Annington Trust, Annington Homes Ltd, Colechurch House, London Bridge Walk, London SE1 2SX.**

THE death aged 30 of Gulf War veteran Paul Carr has "underlined the need for urgent action," said Tony Flint, regional organiser for the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association.

Paul Carr, who served with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers during Operation Desert Storm, had been an outspoken member of the association. He had a brain tumour, bloated joints and liver problems. His two daughters, born after his return from the Gulf, have rare heart disorders. There is no family history of heart disease.

Tony Flint told *News and Views*, the quarterly magazine of SSAFA Forces Help, that Paul's death emphasised the need for action to save lives. A solicitor acting for the veterans told the magazine: "Paul is the 27th client to die since we started on this case."

SSAFA Forces Help is a source of help to those who think they may be ill because of experiences in the Gulf or who are suffering hardship through inability to work. It can advise on War Disability Pension entitlement, how to get on the MoD's medical assessment programme and refer people to Gulf veterans' support groups.

Along with the Royal British Legion, the Army Benevolent Fund and MPs from all political parties, SSAFA Forces Help is represented on the national, independent Gulf War Group, which exists to highlight and pursue Gulf veterans' concerns. It works closely with the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association.

About 1,300 Gulf veterans are currently receiving war pensions, 300 of them for post traumatic stress disorder.

## You don't have to live with abuse

### Ask Cari...

Cari's column looks at domestic violence and the measures that can be taken to stop it. If you think Cari can help you, write to her in confidence, at BFBS, BFPO 786 or c/o *Soldier*.

**Dear Cari,** I LOVE my husband and he's a good father but I can't cope with his moods any more. He's drinking more and more and when he's drunk he scares me. The other night he hit me. He didn't mean to and he was very sorry but it really frightened me. If anyone at church found out it would be awful. — **Mrs A (UK).**

**Dear Cari,** MY wife is all right most of the time but when she gets PMT she's awful. She's said some very hurtful things and sometimes she throws things. She wants a baby but I'm worried that she won't be a good mother. I hate going home when she's like that. — **Tpr F (UK).**

**Dear Cari,** MY husband is very jealous. I suppose he has good reason because I had an affair years ago. If I so much as speak to another man I suffer for it when we get home. I've had enough and I don't want the kids seeing me like this any more. I want to leave but I've got nowhere to go. I'm so mixed up but I daren't talk to anyone in case my husband finds out. I'm sure my friends know but they're scared of him. — **Mrs R (BFG).**



**Cari Roberts**

### Cari replies:

Alcohol abuse can cause mood swings and make existing problems worse, so it needs to be addressed first. Your doctor can suggest agencies to which you can talk in confidence.

Once someone has succumbed to a violent act — and which of us hasn't been

tempted to hit out? — it makes it easier to give in again to the impulse, so it has to be addressed immediately. It won't go away.

Call the Army Families Advice Bureau, which can refer you to a range of agencies which can help you in complete confidence and put you in touch with a padre. The number is 01722 436 460 or you can write to AFAB, HQ Land, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Wilts SP2 0AG. If you call out of office hours you'll get an answerphone message giving the number of a person on duty to speak to you.

Trying to cope with regular changes of mood and violent behaviour in your partner is a nightmare and your doctor is best placed to advise on the cause.

There are many books on coping with PMT, Tpr F. If you'd like a few titles do write to me. Your doctor will also be able

**DOMESTIC violence has many forms. It ranges from physical abuse to the kind of verbal cruelty which can make life a living hell for everyone in the family. It is made worse by alcohol and drug abuse and it has no place in modern society. Those who abuse — and both men and women are capable of it — often do so because they have physical, mental or social problems of their own. Bullies were often bullied themselves.**

### Cari comments:

Many find it difficult to understand why otherwise sensible people stay with abusive partners but such relationships are incredibly complicated. Friends who know someone is being hurt badly and on a regular basis feel frustrated and useless. Some are tempted to "shop" the abusive partner.

The only way in which the situation

to refer you to sources of help if the problem is judged to be a psychological one. Before deciding to have a baby I think you and your wife should address the problem. Bringing a third person into the relationship may just make matters worse.

If you have reached the end of your tether and need somewhere to catch your breath, SSAFA Forces Help runs a wonderful project called Stepping Stones. It has discreet homes in the United Kingdom where you (and your children) can go while you sort out how you are going to manage your life.

Caring staff are on hand with specialist advice about everything from housing possibilities to benefits.

Find out about Stepping Stones from your SSAFA Forces Help office or your families officer. Or contact your local branch of the Army Families Federation, who will be supportive. If you're unsure where to find your nearest rep, call the helpline on (UK) 01980 615 525.

can be resolved is if the people involved admit there's a problem — and there is a lot that can be done, including anger management courses; medical solutions; and agencies which offer protection and help rebuild lives. Whether you are the person being hurt or the one inflicting pain, find someone to confide in. And prepare for a big commitment of time and energy. There are no quick fixes.

● Cari Roberts presents *Counterpoint* on BFBS radio.

## All you need to know about revised BSA

IN the light of media confusion over changes to education allowances in the Army which became effective on December 1, the MoD has issued clarification.

Day School Allowance has been renamed Guardians Allowance but is otherwise unchanged. This is the allowance paid to enable a child attending a day school to continue at that school under

the care of a guardian when the parents have to move away on posting. It is intended to cover extra costs of postage, stationery and telephone calls to the child, but not to cover or contribute to day school fees.

The major changes to the regulations are the ones governing Boarding School Allowance (BSA), and the one which has attracted the most comment is the decision to increase from **five** to **seven** the minimum age at which the allowance may be claimed for a child.

That decision was taken because the normal starting age at prep schools is seven. Parents already claiming BSA for a child below that age will remain entitled to the allowance provided they continue to serve accompanied.

In addition, the MoD has confirmed it will treat any application for a child to start boarding at five or six with great sympathy, particularly where, for example, there are welfare reasons, where the child has special educational needs, or where the family is posted to an overseas station which has no suitable schooling.

The requirement for a parent to serve accompanied in order to claim BSA, which has always existed, is being reinforced by the requirement for a certificate from the individual's posting authority (his MCM Division at the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow) certifying that he may be required to move within five years.

For the vast majority of Army personnel, this will be no problem. Claimants will still have to certify, as they do now, that they will continue to serve accompanied whenever possible.

**Anyone in any doubt about this or other aspects of the changes must talk to unit administration office staff.**

The other major change is the introduction of a new allowance, BSA (Day), which allows Service personnel already claiming BSA for a child to convert the child to day pupil attendance at the same school if the family is posted close enough to the school to allow daily travel.

The allowance is a reduced rate of BSA and will contribute to the day fees at the school. It is not a subsidy for Service parents to send their children to local fee-

paying schools. Each child for whom it is claimed must have spent at least three terms as a boarder at the school.

The same rules about serving accompanied and being certified as having a liability to move within five years apply to BSA (Day) as apply to BSA.

BSA, seen by some outside the military community as an expensive perk, is regarded by the MoD as an essential means of giving Army children the continuity of education which civilian children regard as an automatic right. But because of the amount of taxpayers' money involved it is essential that rules governing the allowance are strictly enforced.

Parents considering sending a child to boarding school should seek guidance from the Service Children's Education agency, part of the Adjutant General's Headquarters. It deals exclusively with the educational requirements of Service children and can be contacted at HQ SCE (UK), Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 6BE (tel 01980 618244, Upavon Mil 8244) or E-mail mod.sce.uk@gtmet.gov.uk.

### Other issues

St Andrews, a four-bedroom, self-catering home set up by the **Army Welfare Service Highlands** in a quarter in Inverness, is available for single soldier parents who have contact rights to their children. It is also available to all soldiers, single or married, for use by close relatives. The home was officially opened in November by Brig Charles Grant, Commander 51 Highland Brigade.

**Naafi's** first refurbished pub in Germany has been opened by Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle. Called *Archies*, it has been revamped as a high street pub with large TV screens, a game zone and a pool area. It also boasts the new Tommy Tuckers food service.

Just three years after opening, the Royal British Legion Training Company's **Tidworth College** has achieved public recognition of practices far above the required national standard. In addition to the ISO 9001 Business Standard award, the college, which offers second-career training to Service personnel as well as their wives, husbands and dependants, has also achieved the Investors in People award.

A plea from the **Women's Royal Voluntary Service**, which supports soldiers in all sorts of ways: if you are planning a sponsored event and would be willing to help the WRVS, contact Mark Smith at WRVS Head Office,

Milton Hill House, Milton Hill, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX13 6AF (tel 01235 442900).

**Naafi Select's** second mail-order shopping catalogue has been expanded to 300 pages and now includes many brand names. Delivery is free anywhere in the world. Copies can be obtained from Naafi shops by calling 0345 023 753.

A healthy eating campaign was one of the many activities on offer at **Rheindahlen Library** during a week-long programme designed to encourage soldiers and their families to use facilities on offer at the 22 branch libraries in Germany.



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# C Company goes skirmishing

Report: Kevin Pilley  
Picture: Graham Trott

BRITISH soldiers used to smear boot polish on their faces for night manoeuvres. Now they wear after-shave.

Regulation military uniform for night skirmishes has changed . . . and so has the area of operations. Under the command of Maj Tim Kingsberry, OC C Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment, a small group of skirmishers are "on the pull".

They leave Colchester Barracks for a drop-off point outside the Sandar Palace, a curry house in Reading's London Road. There the six-man team is given its final briefing: "Tonight you will make contact with young people between the ages of 16 and 26. Your mission is to enhance operational effectiveness through maintaining high manning levels."

Bounty cards are distributed.

There is a price on every head in civvy street these days. Soldiers are on a £250 commission for every person they sign up who goes on to complete initial training. The Satisfied Soldier bounty card scheme is part of a recruitment initiative introduced two years ago to help the Army overcome manning shortfalls.

To get the message across squaddies are making incursions into pubs and clubs.

The Army is patrolling the high street looking for talent. It is called skirmishing.

In just two weeks, members of 1 RGBW have travelled 3,000 miles along the M4 corridor and dropped in on 145 venues. Skirmishes have taken place at Carios in Swindon, Churchill's in Salisbury and The Point in Bracknell.

Only casualty sustained by Maj Kingsberry's men was when a group of girls would not let go of one of his privates (a squaddie, that is). The unfortunate soldier was mistaken for a "Stripagram" when he stumbled in on a hen party and the women wouldn't release him until he produced his ID card.

Maj Kingsberry explains: "Skirmishing is not official Army policy. We are the only regiment doing it in nightclubs and it has been incredibly successful."

But he is quick to point out that C Coy's approach was inspired by the 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, which came



## RGBW recruiters target late-night action . . . in the nightclubs

up with the idea of sending uniformed soldiers into pubs in its recruiting areas.

"We've had 300 approaches and maybe 20 per cent of those will turn into committal cards. It is not a hard sell . . . we don't pursue people around the dance floor or press-gang them. They approach us."

Maj Kingsberry's driver, Pte Stuart Miller-Hall, says he has been trying to recruit the bloke in the bicycle shop near his barracks. "He looks bored. He needs a bit of action, excitement and adventure."

Potential recruits are told that the Army will give them a sense of self-pride and add to their confidence, maturity and knowledge of the world.

"On the way to a skirmish we even signed up an AA man," said Pte Miller-Hall, who, before he joined up, was a hairdresser in Wokingham.

It is kicking-out time at the Newt and Cucumber and more bounty cards are handed out. The convoy moves on to the Utopia nightclub. Bouncers break ranks to let the soldiers through. A military presence is welcome.

Cpl Steve Jones has made his stand and

In the line of duty: soldiers from 1 RGBW let clubbers play with their Milan in the Army's latest recruiting drive

is letting clubbers play with his 1mm mortar. They look through the sight as the floor shakes to blasts from The Chemical Brothers.

"Oh! What a whopper!" giggles a young lady called Claire, her night vision unimpaired by the odd bottle or two of lager. Nearby, Susan reads a leaflet in the flickering light, hopefully absorbing the fact that the Army now offers 170 different trades. Sgt Andy Morris presses his mouth to her ear to tell her he has 41 days of paid holiday a year.

In the gallery overlooking the dance floor, Pte Naz Kheliq asks a girl if she feels fulfilled. Pte Sean Lentell fires off his chat-up line about having £655 in hand every month and only having to spend £9 a week on food. Nineteen-year-old Jaimie adds her name to the list. She will be sent information through the post.

It's getting on for 0130 when the order is given to withdraw. Fifteen names have been taken and Naz has done well. But he is still a long way behind Pte Paul Garlick, whose silver tongue has already earned him more than £2,500 in bounties.

Maj Kingsberry is pleased. "It's like fishing," he says. "Sometimes you get a bite, sometimes not even a nibble. You don't have to train soldiers to go into bars and clubs to talk to people. Skirmishing works, despite the late nights."

"Last week we saw Leo Sayer live. The things you do for your country."



# Unique centre is lifeline for families

For some people the Services Cotswold Centre has meant the difference between success or disaster... yet few Servicemen and women know anything about it. *Soldier* investigates one of the Army's best-kept secrets.

**Report: Karen Moseley**  
**Pictures: Mike Weston**

WHAT does a soldier do with himself and his family when he has nowhere to stay in Britain in between postings or after being discharged? Where does an estranged Army wife go with her children when her marriage breaks up and she is waiting for housing?

Deep in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside there is a haven for Service families who, for one reason or another, need temporary accommodation.

The Services Cotswold Centre offers not just a comfortable roof over their heads, but is unique in that it also provides schooling for children, counselling, medical facilities and practical advice on benefits and housing. It could also be one of the best-kept secrets of the Army – to the intense frustration of the dedicated staff who run it.

The centre has dramatically changed from the days when, as the Lypiatt Families Centre, it resembled little better than a prisoner-of-war camp. Now 40 attractive chalet-type bungalows and 28 modernised flatlets, fully furnished and equipped with cooking utensils, fridge-freezer, cutlery, crockery, bedding and towels, are available for less than £2.50 a day.

## JUSTIFIABLY PROUD

Televisions can be hired for a small extra charge, and prams, pushchairs and bicycles of all sizes are on free loan. With just a suitcase and a box of food a family could walk in and pick up their normal routine of life within minutes.

Lt Col (Retd) Peter Druitt, the commandant, is justifiably proud of what has been achieved since the modernisation and rebuilding programme began in the late 1980s.

**He is also worried about Army cost-cutting measures which could mean the closure of what has literally been a lifeline for many families.**

"It would be a desperate mistake to do away with this place," he said. "It offers something that is not even available to civilians and is the only one of its kind in all the three Services. It also aids retention, people see it as a bolt-hole regardless of the circumstances they are in."

"We are keen to be seen as a caring employer and to close this place would be

sending the wrong message. We are responsible for our families right up until the moment they leave."

The centre offers accommodation to families who are in transit, on leave, being discharged, between postings, waiting for a quarter or wanting to be in the UK because illness or personal reasons. If a divorced soldier serving abroad wants to spend time with his children living in England he can take them to the centre for a holiday. Similarly, parents with children at boarding school can use it as a base for half-terms or weekends.

One of the greatest strengths of the centre, however, is the expertise of the staff in helping estranged wives through the first traumatic period of separation. Lt Col Druitt said that they were careful never to take a moral stand.

"If a wife does not want to see her husband, that is fine," he explained. "But we encourage men to see the children and we have a special room for that. On the other hand if she wants him to come and stay with her here for the weekend that is fine too – sometimes there have even been reconciliations."

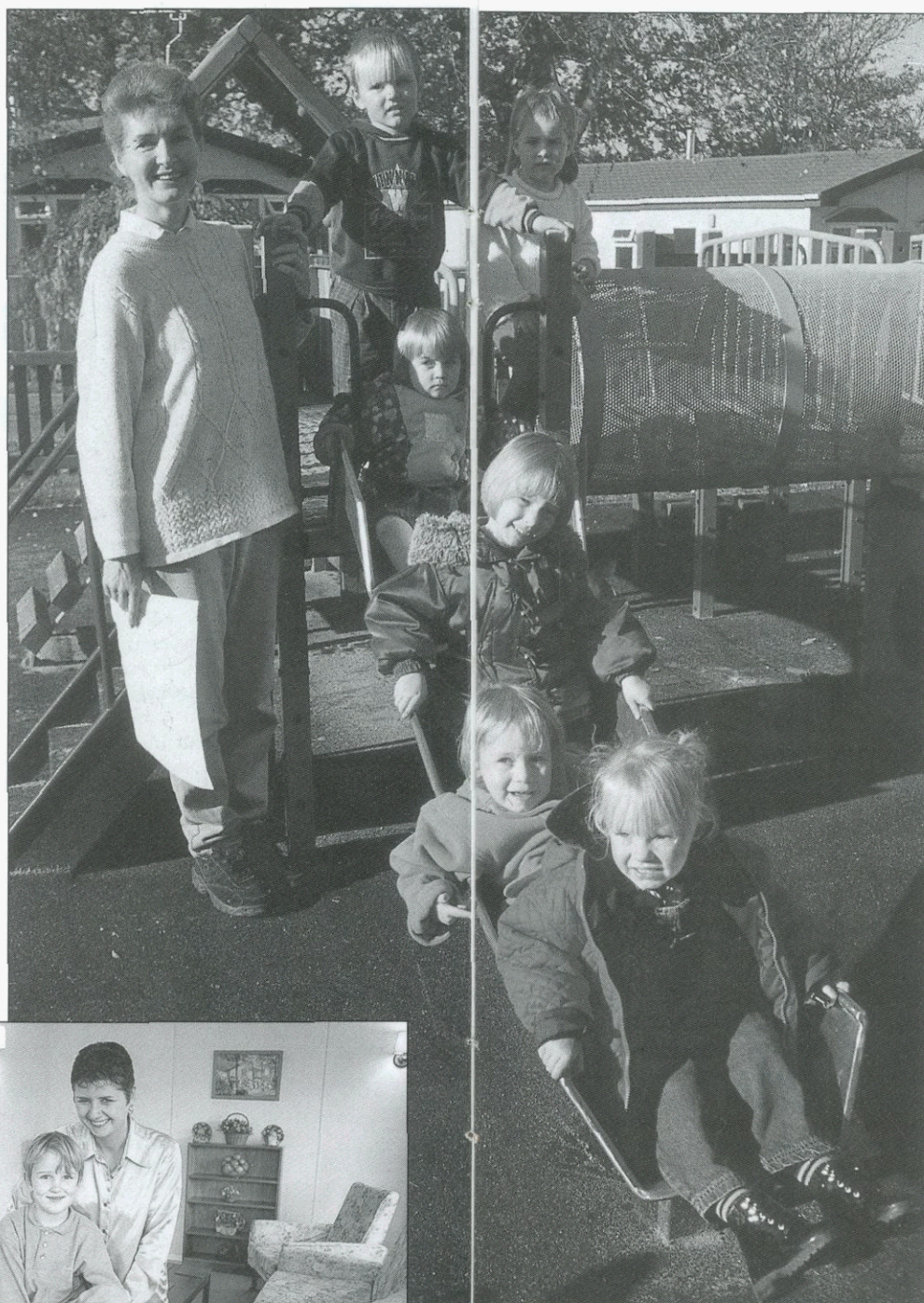
The main priority is to make sure that women and children are kept safe and healthy during their stay before being helped to move on in their lives.

Neither is there any pressure to make them leave. One woman and her children left after 11 months at the centre, others leave after just a few weeks.

The "hub of the wheel", as Lt Col Druitt describes her, is Chris Wray-Bliss, the families' officer. Chris's office is overflowing with thank-you letters from the many grateful people she has helped. She is one of those rare individuals who really

seems to love the human race, sees good in everyone and has a desire to help.

"I think our main object is to make sure everyone feels at home," she said. "Some of them have been through the most traumatic times and we have to deal with all



**Above – Wendy Ennis with children from her playgroup – some are there just a week**



**Left – Home-from-home: Lawrie Henderson and her son in one of the chalets**

sorts of people with a range of problems. We try to make everyone feel they are special."

It is Chris who contacts units beforehand to make sure that each wife has at least £100 spending money to see her

through the first few days. Through her network of contacts with local authorities and housing associations Chris finds housing for those who need it in the areas they want and, thanks to a good relationship with the Department of Social Secu-

rity, no one has to visit the local DSS office – she will do all the paperwork and sort out the benefits they need.

As soon as a "welfare category" arrives the Army Welfare worker arranges for a SSAFA interview to process the request for a grant for items such as furniture.

It is also thanks to Chris that many families are able to take advantage of the MoD nomination scheme. As a result, they are able to go to the top of the list in acquiring former MoD properties sold off to private housing associations.

But it is not just the practical side of Chris for which people are so grateful. Lawrie Henderson arrived at the centre from Gutersloh with three children after the breakdown of her 11-year marriage.

"I was terrified at moving from my home, and I was terrified when I came here," she said. "Chrissie came up and gave me a big cuddle and said 'you poor love' and I thought, 'I'm not on my own any more'."

Mrs Henderson, who had been at the centre for nearly three months, was thrilled at the way the school had helped her youngest son, who has learning difficulties. Chris was helping her to find a council house locally.

"This place gives you a chance to get your head together before going back into the world by yourself," said Lawrie. "And you know you'll get back-up after leaving."

## UNIQUE AND AMAZING

Many of the staff working at the Services Cotswold Centre have been there a long time, evidence of the belief they have in the place. Wendy Ennis has been the playgroup supervisor for 11 years.

"This is a unique and amazing place," she said. "It is the people and the facilities which make it so. It is also unusual in that in a civilian playgroup the children would stay until they are five. Here we have them sometimes for a day, sometimes for a few weeks or months. There is not a lot of continuity, but we keep them busy and cram lots into the sessions."

Children have often lost their father, home, friends and environment when they arrive, and so everything is kept as simple and relaxed as possible with minimal form-filling. Children suffering from cerebral palsy, Down's Syndrome and cancer have also come through the playgroup, but Wendy and her team carry on undaunted.

The centre's primary school for four to 12-year-olds is funded by North Wilts

District Council, an arrangement which suits both parties. This too is staffed by dedicated permanent and part-time staff, who were praised highly in the last Ofsted report for their ability to assess the children and plug any gaps there may be in the short time they are there.

At the medical centre a warm and motherly nursing sister, Sister Karen Reilley, looks after the needs of mothers and children, taking care of inoculations, medicines and dressings. A doctor and health visitor call once a week, and both Sister Reilley and the Army Welfare Worker hold certificates in counselling.

She admitted that many of the problems she has to deal with are psychological.

"I see my job as being part of the network of the support system," she said. "We deal with a lot of stress and hurt. The women are in limbo and we need to give quite a bit of support until they realise they can cope."

While never quite losing the feel of an Army camp – guards on the gate and razor-

wire on top of the fence see to that – there is an air of a self-catering holiday motel about the centre. It is situated in 25 acres of pasture land in beautiful countryside between Bath and Chippenham and within easy reach of Lynham and Brize Norton.

The many amenities include a hair-dressing salon, children's playgrounds, laundrette, games room, tennis courts, library and Naafi. The Tavern Bar sells snack lunches and a coffee centre known as "The Shed" is run by the residents for the residents.

A full-time community organiser oversees the Tavern Bar and youth club, lays on summer barbecues, and organises shopping trips to Chippenham, Trowbridge or Bath, and coach trips to Weston Super Mare and Weymouth.

There is a toy library and a well-stocked thrift shop supplies clothes on a self-generating basis with no money changing hands. This is especially useful for women and children arriving back from somewhere like Cyprus with no warm clothes.

The Services Cotswold Centre aims to be a home-from-home for people when they most need it. Everyone who works and visits there repeatedly uses the word "unique" to describe the place. For many it has made the difference between being able to cope and disintegrating.

Hundreds of cards and letters in Chris Wray-Bliss's office bear testament to that.



**The hub of the wheel: Chris Wray-Bliss**



# Life after 'H'

Interview: Karen Moseley

Main picture: Mike Weston

THE hand-written sign above Sara Jones's desk in her pretty Wiltshire home reads "Learn to say NO."

It was a stern reminder to herself to stem the ever-increasing flow of voluntary work she was being drawn into, but the sign is rarely seen. It is usually hidden by files, papers and letters from the bewildering number of organisations she has, for one reason or another, said "Yes" to when they have asked for her help.

A vibrant and attractive woman, Sara laughs at herself when she points this out, and ruefully says she does a lot of things not very well – a view few people would agree with. There is a boundless energy about her, an impression you get immediately when walking through her front door.

She is polishing a venerable pair of shoes, organising cups of coffee, directing the gardener and the cleaner and apologising for the dust because there is building going on in her dining-room.

The telephone rings frequently – first the BBC checking that she would be in London that evening, next a past chairman of the Falklands Families Association and then one of her adored sons with plans for the weekend.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Her many responsibilities range from being chairman of the Falklands Families Association and president of Hampshire County Women's Section of the Royal British Legion, to sitting as a magistrate on the Salisbury families panel.

Sara looks like a woman who thrives on keeping busy and not finding enough hours in the day. Although she says she would love to learn to paint and have more time to tend her garden and ride her 30-year-old horse, Scrumpy, she admits she would probably get bored.

"I think my generation is more geared towards giving something back," she said. "There is also a basic instinct of needing to be needed. But I think I have reached my limit . . . I just don't have time to do anything else, and the trouble is you can find you are doing so much you are not doing anything properly."

It was keeping busy that helped her 15 years ago during the terrible months

**It's very, very busy – 'But I think I have reached my limit . . . I just don't have time to do anything else, and you can find you are doing so much you are not doing anything properly'**

which followed the death of her husband, Lt Col "H" Jones, at Goose Green in the Falklands. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross when, as CO of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, he led his men from the front in one of the bloodiest attacks of the war.

Named Herbert Jones Junior after his American father, he was known to everyone as "H" – even his sons.

**A photograph of him, tanned and smiling, is in her study. It was the last photograph ever taken of him, just days before the battle for Goose Green. Poignantly, it was in a reel of film found in his camera after he was killed.**

They had been married for 18 years and had two sons, David and Rupert, now aged 31 and 28, who both followed their father into The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. She loved the life of an Army wife.

"I did not have a Service background – my father was in the Forestry Commission – and I found the life fascinating and actually, very romantic," she said. "Sadly it does not seem to be like that now and the girls find the life difficult to relate to. It was different then and although some friends went to university it was very unusual. We were all trained to do something to see us through – but we all thought we would get married."

Sara went to secretarial college in Oxford and then worked in the House of

Commons. She first met "H" through mutual friends when she was 16 and in love with someone else, but they eventually married in 1964.

She was grateful for the way the Army looked after her following her husband's death and realised then that she did not want to completely leave the life she had enjoyed so much.

"The Army is very encircling – maybe some people wouldn't have liked it – but they looked after me very well," she explained. "I think the Army is such a family, and after so many years you cannot drop them overnight."

"We were living in Army accommodation in Church Crookham during the Falklands War," she said. "Normally you are only allowed to stay in quarters for six months once you are on your own, but I stayed there for nine. Six months is not really long enough when you have had a trauma in your life."

She decided to move to the Wylve Valley, just west of Salisbury, an area she knew from her childhood growing up in the New Forest and conveniently close to Sherborne School, where her sons were. The house, with its gentle pastel colours, light airy rooms and beautifully-tended garden, is a reflection of the calm and direction she has found in her life.

## NEVER BITTER

"I don't think I was ever bitter," Sarah reflected. "Bitterness is a horrible emotion. If you are married to a career soldier the fact that he may be killed is something you must take as part of your life, but of course people are always optimistic and you certainly don't think about it. In the '80s we didn't think about the Falklands – we were far more worried about Northern Ireland – so it was terribly unexpected."

Extraordinarily, neither Sara or her husband realised he was going to war when she said goodbye to him for the last time. The battalion was due to sail for the Falklands and "H" flew to Ascension in advance to sort things out. It was planned that he would return in a few days.

"He never did," Sarah said. "So the staff car came to pick him up and off he went with me thinking I would see him shortly – which is probably just as well."

"I think I am quite phlegmatic, and continuity helped with the grieving process in



Sara Jones and her labrador, Jimmy IV, enjoy a rare quiet moment in the garden of her Wylve Valley home. Inset – Lt Col "H" Jones

that the life I lived was not taken away completely."

As well as her sons joining the D and D – Rupert is still serving – she has maintained links with the regiment by becoming a trustee for both it and its museum in Dorchester.

Although she still has friends in The Parachute Regiment, she is not so involved in the battalion her husband commanded. Many of their friends are now retired and she points out, almost with disbelief, that "H" would be 57 now.

She smiles when asked if she would consider marrying again and one imagines she has not been short of suitors.

"I suppose so, if the right person came along," she said. "But I have always thought it is better to be on your own than

being with the wrong person – and anyway, I would be awful to live with, I'm so bossy."

One of the best things Sara felt she did after being widowed was to visit the place where "H" died. She went on a trip organised by the Government in 1983 and has been back twice since then.

"The first trip was fascinating and very emotional," she remembered. "It is difficult to put into words what it was like, there was an unreality about it."

"It was important to go. The Falklanders are a special breed of people and I feel I have friends there, but it was also important to know **why** it happened; it put things in perspective. Some people were bitter until they went out and met the people who lived there and realised

we had fought for the right thing."

The Falklands Families Association was formed in 1983 when the families decided they wanted to keep in touch. Sara took over the chairmanship last April.

She is also chairman of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, president of the Salisbury district of St John Ambulance, a council member of the National Army Museum and Friends of the Imperial War Museum, and a governor of her old school. Until recently she found time to be a bell-ringer in her village church.

She still gives talks on the Poppy Factory and the Falklands, and regularly appears on radio and television. She wryly acknowledges that the memo she wrote herself, to say "No" more often, has not worked.



# Potty luck for the officers

## First BAOR families took the rough with the smooth

A RAGGED booklet among an assortment of dog-eared leaflets and out-of-date tourist guides in the corner of a Hampshire junk shop has thrown a light on the problems faced by wives and children who, 50 years ago, joined their soldier husbands serving in the British Army of the Rhine.

Titled *Pamphlet for the Guidance of BAOR Families 1947*, the publication was produced for Operation Union, under which families were reunited with soldiers in Germany, writes Laurie Manton.

In late August, 1946 the first of the main body of families set sail from Tilbury for their new homes in the British Zone. They were preceded by an advance party of 200 wives who prepared their reception and accommodation.

Together again after long months of separation, soldier and family were billeted, according to his rank and the size of the family, in flats or houses requisitioned from the Germans.

The pamphlet warned them that the war-ravaged country would take a very long time to return to normal and that shops were empty. Nearly every available commodity was rationed and sold only to the German people, so the Army had made arrangements to deal with all the needs of family life.

Wives were permitted to take with them a maximum of just £20 in sterling and this had to be changed into Allied currency or British Armed Forces special vouchers, which were the only form of money used in British-run clubs, shops and messes in BAOR.

No food was available from local sources. British families had to rely on Army rations and the very limited items the Ministry of Food allowed Naafi to stock.

Demobilisation had reduced manpower in BAOR to the point that neither the ration suppliers – the RASC – nor the unit



Above – On parade: the chinaware issued to Pte Smith and his family, a reminder of class distinction



Left – School's out: but schoolmaster Sgt John Fielding had his hands full at the Forces Study Centre in Lubeck, where he and his fellow Army Education Corps SNCOs taught children of BAOR families until teachers arrived to set up schools

frequent outbreaks of typhoid and paratyphoid, milk-borne in origin.

Clothing was a problem and wives were advised to take with them everything they needed. There were no civilian shops in Germany from which they could buy clothes. Naafis could not stock adult clothing, but tried to make clothes for infants and children available from time to time.

Naafi was the only source open to families who needed household items. The organisation had opened 21 general stores in the British Zone, but its stock was limited, reflecting the austerity of the post-war years.

Spirits could only be issued to officers, warrant officers and NCOs of the rank of sergeant and above. A wife was entitled to a half-bottle of gin a month, while her husband could have a similar ration of gin

quartermaster, who broke bulk supplies into individual rations, could cope with another ration scale.

As a result, wives and older children were issued with the ATS (female soldier) scale, equivalent to 3,100 calories a day, about 500 more than the ration in Britain.

They were permitted to use only tinned or dried milk. Consumption of fresh milk was forbidden because tuberculosis was endemic in Germany's herds. There were



Britain to this row of houses. In Austria the family reunion scheme was called "Operation Henpeck".

## THESE ARE THE HOMES

OPERATION "Union" – the plan for wives of soldiers serving in BAOR to join their husbands and bring their families with them – is nearly ready for launching. By the end of August the first of the main body of families will have set sail from Tilbury for their new homes in the British Zone.

When they arrive they will find that the Army has provided

homes which compare very favourably with those in England, and that an advance party of 200 wives has already prepared for their reception and accommodation.

The scheme falls into two main divisions: the provision of permanent homes in flats or houses, for which the bulk of the applications have been made, and temporary accommodation in hostels and flats for families on short visits lasting not more than two months.

Families qualifying for a permanent home will be billeted according to rank of the husband

of crockery, glassware, and cutlery has not yet been finally decided, but it will be liberal enough to ensure that the normal requirements of a family are satisfied.

Shortage of materials, especially linoleum, may result in the floors of some rooms being stained and polished, but normally the dining-room will have a six-foot square carpet on which will stand an oak-veneered extending table. A large sideboard, two arm-chairs, and four Windsor wooden chairs will tone with the silk-type curtains.

Where three bedrooms are provided, one will have a double or two single beds, a wardrobe, bedside mats, a table and lamp. The others will be similarly furnished, but with only one single bed in each room. All beds will have linen sheets and woollen blankets, including one complete change of bed linen. The acute shortage of textiles will probably not allow the issue of cushions.

Some items of furniture in the homes will have been made in Germany, others requisitioned or sent over from England.

Rations will be issued from Army sources, and wives and children over 12 will receive 5/6ths of the scale for Women's Services abroad, which is slightly higher than the civilian ration scale in Britain. Children between four and 12 will receive 3/4ths of this scale and those under four will get 1/2ths.

The housewife will be able to supplement her household equipment and purchase a few extra foodstuffs, soft drinks, toilet



Left: nothing old-fashioned about the bath-tub, which has a hand shower. Above: part of the hostel scheme for Private and Mrs. Smith will be the communal dining room.

How Soldier reported details of Operation Union. In Austria the family reunion scheme was called Operation Henpeck

plus one bottle of whisky. A few new Volkswagen cars were made available, at a cost of £160 each, to members of the Occupation Forces. Owners were allowed 270 miles' worth of petrol a month.

Army wives were not exactly treated as second-class citizens, but incoming mail had to be addressed to them care of their husbands, and, said the orders of the time, "Family personnel had to wear Union Jack badges at all times".

Furniture and household equipment issues reflected then as now a form of class distinction.

Officers could have champagne, claret, liqueur and port glasses; other ranks beer and port glasses. Officers could draw bookcases, card tables, clocks, pokers and electric irons (two each!); other ranks none.

But, unlike officers' wives, who had to pay 12 shillings a day while in hospital,

soldiers' wife and families were given free hospitalisation... unless the woman was giving birth. During confinement, she had to pay one shilling for every day she occupied a hospital bed.

A curious distinction between the two elements of the Army involved the humble chamber-pot. An officer and his wife were entitled to one each. A soldier and his wife had to share...



# Kevin's snap decision

KEVIN CAPON's last-minute decision to enter a portfolio in the revamped Army Photographic Competition paid off handsomely when he received the top prize from the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, at the National Army Museum in Chelsea.

Just hours after walking off with £500 as the Army Photographer of the Year, Kevin was on an aircraft bound for Bosnia to begin another assignment with Land Command's Mobile News Team, writes John Elliott.

This was the second time in three years that the former RLC warrant officer had won the top accolade and it came weeks after he had been made an associate of the Master Photographers Association.

"It came as a nice surprise and I was more than happy to receive the prize," he said.

Commenting on the format of the reinstated competition, Kevin said he hoped changes to the rules would be introduced to make it easier to enter.

"I'm lucky enough, through the Mobile News Team, to be able to cover all the categories, but that's not the case for every photographer in the Army. While the portfolio is still important, the Military Operations category, for one, is going to rule some people out of entering."

Capt George Griffin, who organised the competition for the Director of Public Relations (Army), responded: "We're flexible and there will be slight changes next year."

## VERY UPBEAT

Judges Martin Keene, Head of Pictures at the Press Association, and Ray Lowe, one of Britain's most highly-qualified photographers, were very upbeat about the standard achieved by the Army's professional and amateur snappers.

"Some of these images could have gone worldwide," said Lowe. "I was impressed by the skill and the enthusiasm evident in the photographs we saw."

The *Soldier*-sponsored monochrome category went to a shot of the adjutant's horse in Old College, RMA Sandhurst, taken by HQ 4th Division MoD photographer Chris Fletcher, whose work has often appeared in the pages of the magazine.

In fact, most of the prizewinners are names familiar to those who read the picture credits in *Soldier*. One of them, Cpl Paul Brownbridge, based with HQ British Forces in Cyprus, took the Image of the Year category with a colour-saturated picture of a soldier on exercise.

Brig Robert Gordon, DPR(A), who introduced the prizewinners, revealed that a photograph which won a valuable third place prize had been submitted without the photographer's knowledge. Not that WO2 Alan Joseph of 3 Cheshire was complaining as he won equipment worth £250 donated by Method Publishing. With details of the 1998 competition likely to be published in the spring, the message to all Army photographers, amateur and professional, is: start thinking about your entry now.



Above – Chris Fletcher's winning shot of the adjutant's horse at Sandhurst

Right – Cpl Paul Brownbridge's picture of a soldier on exercise in Cyprus will be used in Army promotional material during 1998

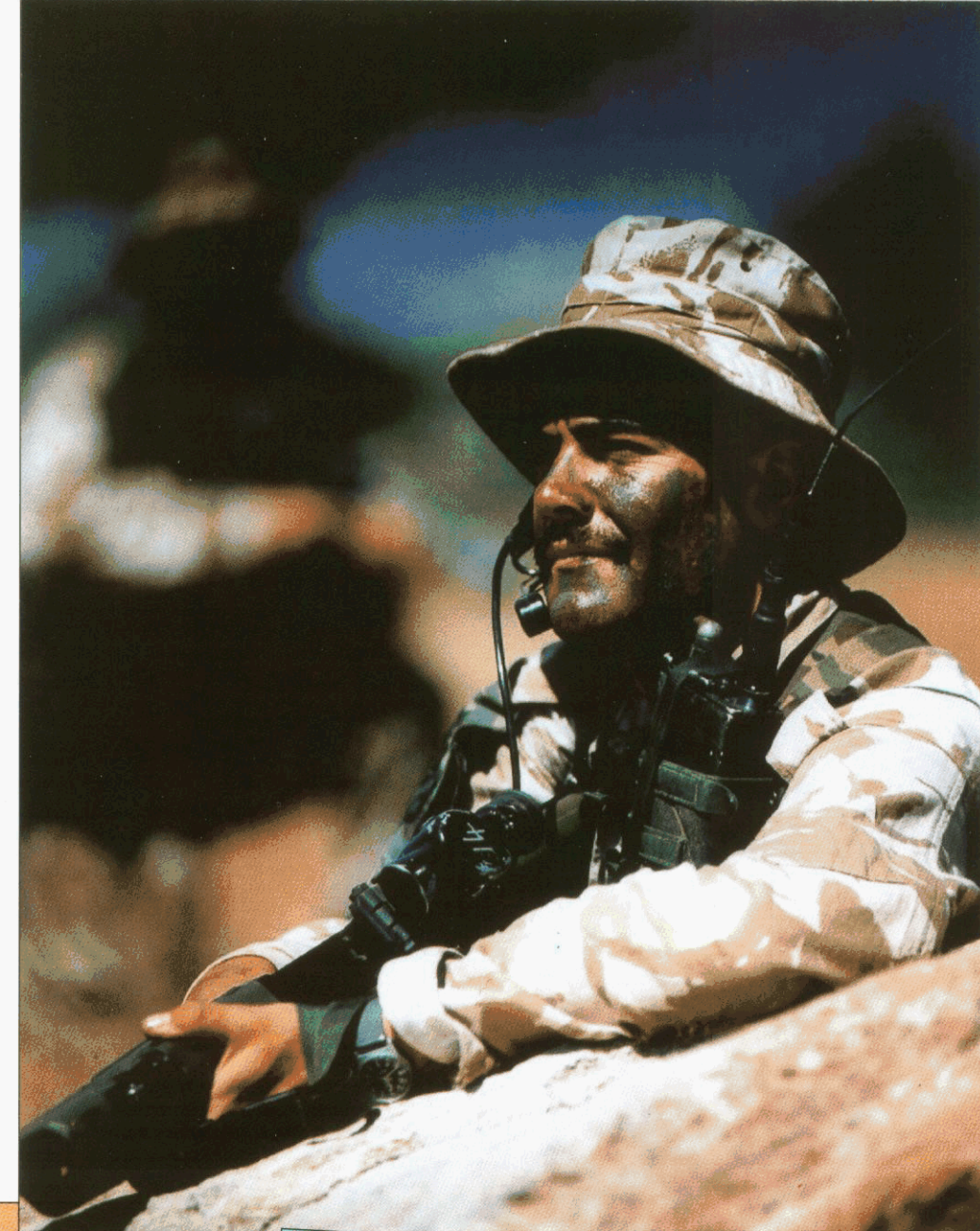


Above – The big picture: Kevin Capon, with his winning portfolio on a video screen at the National Army Museum

Left – PR picture of the year. Sgt Brian Gamble's delightful study of a Northern Ireland schoolgirl and her impromptu escort



Split-second timing was the key to the best overall photograph, taken by LCpl Bobby Nelson on Otterburn ranges



## Roll of honour

**Army professional photographer of the year (sponsored by Nikon UK Ltd):** K D Capon, Mobile News Team, HQ Land, £500; runner-up (Image Data Systems), Sgt B P Gamble, HQNI, £250; highly commended, Cpl P M Brownbridge, HQBF Cyprus.

Joseph, 3 Cheshire (V), £250 of equipment.

**Electronically-enhanced image (Gilroy Corporate Communications Ltd):** WO2 P S Bristo, Chief Photographer HQ Land, Minolta APS camera.

**Amateur photographer of the year (Fuji Photo Film (UK) Ltd and Vickers Defence Systems):** Lt Col S P Hodder, CO 32 Engr Regt, £500; runner-up, Cpl F G Proctor, 1 BW, £225; highly commended, Maj N I F Appleton, 150 (V) Tpt Regt, and Bdr R W Leyland, 40 Regt RA.

**Monochrome (Soldier):** C J Fletcher, 4 Div, £150 and annual subscription; highly commended, CSgt C W R Phillips, 10 Para (V).

**PR photographs (SSVC):** Sgt B P Gamble, HQNI, video camera; runner-up, Maj R W Bevan, Merseyside ACF, digital camera; highly commended, C J Fletcher, 4 Div.

**Army image for 1998 (Method Publishing Company Ltd):** Cpl P M Brownbridge, HQBF Cyprus, £500 of equipment; runner-up, WO2 A A

**Best overall photograph (Kodak Ltd):** LCpl R J Nelson, 1 Hldrs, £250.

Left – On the other side of the camera for a change, all the winners – (clockwise from top left) Chris Fletcher, WO2 Pete Bristo, Lt Col Steve Hodder, Kevin Capon, LCpl Paul Brownbridge and Sgt Brian Gamble



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*People who have already taken part and were unsuccessful in a Prison Officer Job Simulation Assessment Centre in the last two years need not apply.*

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# On course for cut-price GPS gismo

Reports: Graham Bound

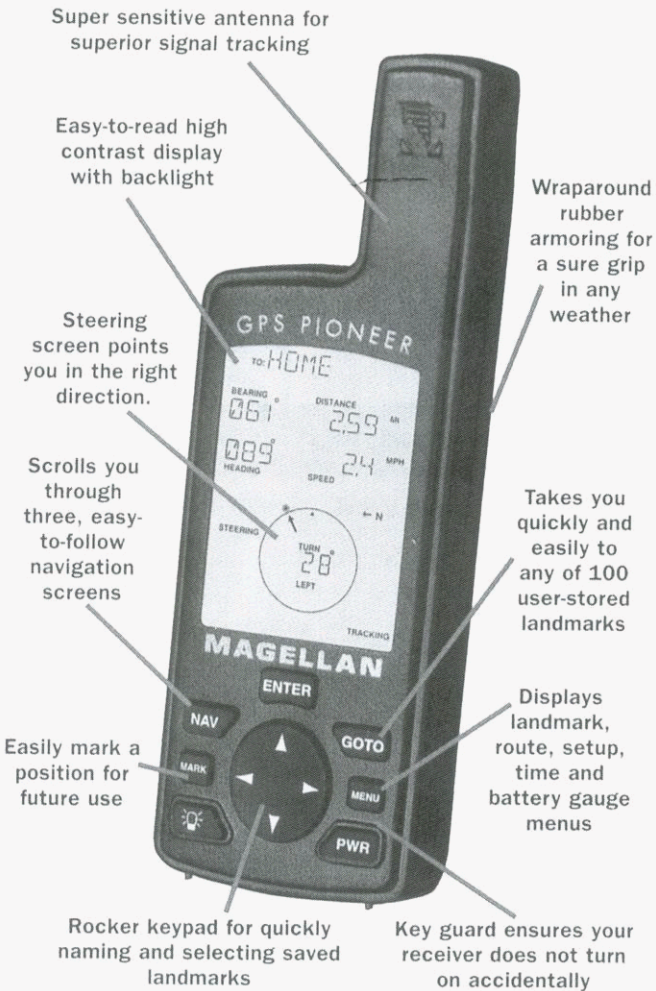
HAND-HELD global positioning systems (GPS) have been around for a while now and, although not on regular issue to any Army units (that we know of), some soldiers have splashed out the hitherto considerable amount of money needed to buy these amazing little boxes of tricks.

For those still struggling with compass and sextant (experts say we should continue to use the old methods as a back-up, because electronic kit can fail), GPS uses signals from American satellites orbiting 12,000 miles above the Earth to tell the user exactly where he/she is on the globe. They do other things as well, such as give an accurate course towards a given destination or record the position of something you may wish to return to (... no more wandering around the Sainsbury car park).

But the catch has been the cost. The little hand-held receivers and computers have varied in price between £600 and £150; beyond the pocket of most soldiers

and outdoor enthusiasts. Cue the latest GPS: the Magellan Pioneer. When it comes on the UK market in January or February the Pioneer will cost about £80, making it the cheapest GPS ever and bringing the technology well within the reach of most of us.

What makes this new kit even more exciting is that there has been no trade-off in sophistication and design. The liquid crystal display is simplicity itself to use and, weighing less than seven ounces, it is truly a palm-top unit. The Pioneer will run continuously for 24 hours on two AA batteries, while optional extras allow it to be mounted in a vehicle or used in conjunction with a computer hunting game which, presumably, hones the user's navigating skills.



The Magellan Pioneer GPS unit. All the features you need at an affordable price

Expect to see the Magellan Pioneer in the specialist shops soon. You can also call Magellan Systems International Ltd on 0131 6651186. They are offering a special discount to soldiers.

**We've got a Pioneer to give away. See Page 66**

## BRIDGE OF SIZE

THE ARMY'S new Close and General Support Bridge System, the Vickers-manufactured BR90, has entered service with the delivery of the massive mobile kit to three Royal Engineer regiments in Germany.

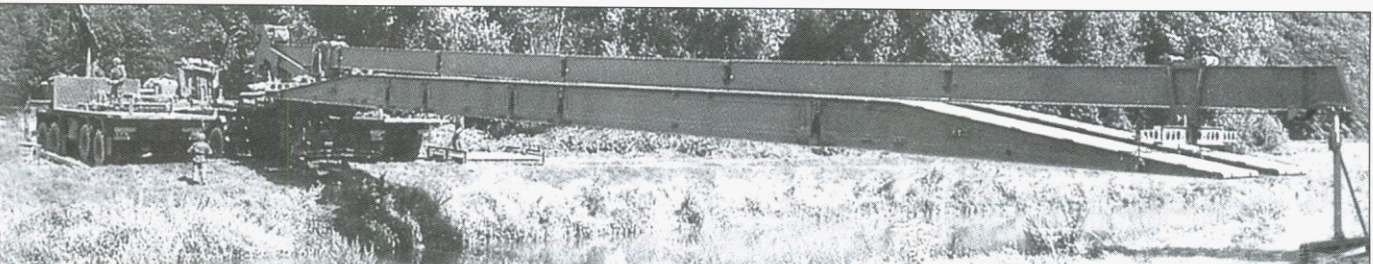
BR90 is effectively a mix-and-match system, carried on three tracked and wheeled vehicles. The sappers can call on bridge units capable of spanning 26, 14.5

and 12 metres, and if these still leave the tankies and truck drivers scratching their heads and gazing at a daunting gap, a combination of BR90 units can be used to span as much as 60 metres, more than the width of a football field.

The shorter elements of BR90 are of the folding "scissors" type, while the longer unit employs a telescopic girder-like rail. This is extended over an obstacle before

the sections of bridge are manoeuvred into place along it.

Thanks to the use of aluminium alloy panels, the system is surprisingly light, making it possible for just ten skilled men to deploy a bridge in under 30 minutes. But there has been no compromise in strength. Wheeled and tracked vehicles with a total weight of up to 70 tonnes can rumble confidently across the BR90 spans.



The largest variant of the BR90 bridge is manoeuvred into place along a massive girder. It can be put in place in under 30 minutes

Picture: Vickers Defence Systems



## FOOTBALL

# Navy scuppered ... at long last

Army 3, Royal Navy 2

A CHANGE of system allied to a superb all-round team performance helped the Army to settle old scores with the Royal Navy at Plymouth in the South West Counties Championship, writes **Derrick Bly**.

All too often in the past two seasons clashes between the two old adversaries have been won by the Navy. The performance was the best of the season and a triumph for LCpl David Hope, who went to the top of the goal-scorers' chart with his second hat-trick of the season.

LSgt Paul Fagin and Sgt Dyson formed a formidable partnership in the centre of the defence and there was some disappointment in the Army camp that they did not reach the interval more than a goal in front after reverting to a 4-2-4 system and dominating the first half.

## Massey Trophy

TOP spot in the Massey Trophy Inter-Corps football competition is held by the RLC, with the Infantry breathing down their necks. Recent results include: R Signals 5, RAC 0; RE 1, Infantry 2; R Sigs 3, AGC 2; AMS 3, AAC 5; RLC 3, AGC 1; APTC 0, RE 8; RAC 2, Infantry 3; RLC 8, RAC 1; APTC 0, RLC 11; AAC 1, RAC 9.

The latest Massey Trophy league table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RLC	5	5	0	0	35	3	15
Infantry	5	5	0	0	17	5	15
RE	4	3	0	1	20	4	9
RA	2	2	0	0	12	1	6
R Signals	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
AAC	5	2	0	3	12	27	6
AGC	5	1	0	4	13	13	3
REME	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
RAC	3	0	0	3	3	16	0
AMS	4	0	0	4	4	22	0
APTC	4	0	0	4	0	30	0

## SPORTS LOTTERY

### Prize fund boosted

ARMY Sports Lottery ticket sales have passed the 22,000 mark and prize money was increased to £8,000 a week with effect from December 6. First prize is unchanged at £3,000, second rises by £100 to £1,600 and prizes for third to eighth place go up by £100 or £200. A ninth prize of £100 has been added.

# Army drops in on world games

THE ARMY parachute team flew the flag for Britain during the first international air games held in Turkey.

Parachutists representing a cross-section of regiments and corps competed against teams from 45 other countries, achieving seventh place in the eight-man formation sky-diving event. The team broke the previous British record, which had stood since 1987.

As the event, billed as the Olympics of aviation sports, was open to civilian as well as military teams, Army skydivers faced stiff preliminary competition for the right to represent Britain. The soldiers clinched their place when they won the 1996 British national championships.

Thanks to TV coverage, international audiences, as well as the parachutists themselves, were able to enjoy the remarkable spectacle.

The British team made repeated jumps



Pictures: Bdr Bill Morris

## PARACHUTING

from Turkish Air Force CSA 235 aircraft, but suffered an early frustration when an aircraft door jammed. They had to return to earth with parachutes still packed. From then on competition went more smoothly and the skydivers were able to spend long and breathtaking seconds in freefall. Points were awarded according to the number of different formations that the team was able to build during ten jumps. First place went to the American team.

Army parachuting at an international level depends on commercial sponsorship and a major financial commitment from the skydivers themselves. Team leader Maj Andy Allman said that spon-

Members of the Army parachute team convene a meeting at 1,500 ft

sorship from Army Sport Control Board and the Army Parachuting Association had been vital, but he estimated that each team member had spent more than £12,000 on the sport during the past three years.

"Some of the soldiers have really struggled and I don't know if we can sustain this," said Maj Allman.

"If we are to compete at the 1998 World Parachute Cup and the 1999 World Parachute Championships, we will need a lot more sponsorship."

● Potential sponsors can contact Maj Allman on 01980 678245.



Safely back on the ground after a training jump are (left to right) Maj Mark Davis, Gnr Lee Love, Maj Andy Allman, Capt Sarah Laughton, Bdr Bill Morris, Sgt Andy Scoll, Sgt Chris Allen, WO2 Mark Whitehead and Sgt Karl Lester



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**THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND**



### PRION BOOKS READER OFFER

The December issue of *Soldier* featured a reader offer for **Prion Books**. Readers were requested to make their cheques/POs payable to 'Soldier Readers Offer'. They should be made payable to 'Prion Books Ltd'.

### Soldier competition results VIDEO RECORDER

Congratulations to Mr MacDougall of York, whose winning entry for the competition was the first drawn; he is the lucky recipient of a Nicam stereo video recorder.

The answer to the competition, conducted over three issues, was **ARTHUR**.

### THE CRIMEAN WAR

In our November issue we offered readers the chance to win a copy of Paul Kerr's book *The Crimean War*. The first five correct entries drawn were sent in by: R Harding, Evesham; M Burgess, Doncaster; A Price, Swansea; J Pheasant, Nottingham, and A Parker, Hove.

The answer was: 1853 to 1856 (from the outbreak of war to the peace agreement in 1856).

Thank you to all those who participated in both competitions. No correspondence can be entered into.



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## RUGBY

# Forwards run Easterns ragged

AFTER mixed fortunes in the run-up to their first county championship game, the Army Under-21 rugby side enjoyed a one-point victory over Eastern Counties at Aldershot, **writes Tom Wye.**

In their build-up matches, the young soldiers had lost to Sandhurst, the Welsh Exiles and Cambridge and beaten Norfolk.

As usual, there were severe difficulties getting a team together and just an hour before kick-off against Eastern Counties it was still not certain the Army would be able to field a side. A late arrival enabled the game to go ahead, albeit with only two of the permitted seven replacements on the bench.

Fortunately, technique and heart was in abundance and the Army dominated the first half against a much heavier pack. A fine display of kicking by Spr Mullany, who kicked four out of four penalties and linked with Spr Morgan to score a try, gave the home side a major advantage.

Eastern Counties responded with three

penalties to make the interval score 17-9 to the Army.

A try by the rampant ATpr Woodhouse, playing at No 8, was the reward for a period of play dominated by him and his fellow back row, Spr Tomlinson and Gnr Soper.

As the Army relaxed, the visitors scored two tries to pull the full-time score back to 22-21.

This well-deserved win was the first in the county championship by the Army U-21s for a couple of years.

Nine team changes later the Army youngsters took on a powerful Kent U-21 side at Chatham and conceded six tries in losing 32-3 to a team which had destroyed Hertfordshire by more than 50 points the previous week.

The county championship finished on a high note for the Army U-21s when they beat Hertfordshire 37-8 to end up second in the league, their best performance for years. The players take on the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in the New Year.

## CLAY TARGET CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Lumsden is the master

ALTHOUGH seven of the top ten places in the 100-target Down-the-Line shoot at the Army clay target championships were filled by the Royal Irish contingent, top spot went to WO1 Gordon Lumsden (RS).

Pte Davey Smyth took the honours in the English skeet competition after a shoot-off with WO2 Darrell White (LI). Fifteen of the 50-plus competitors scored more than 90 out of 100.

In a very close 100-bird English sporting competition, shot in misty rain, Sgt

Simon Arbuckle (RMP) won by a single clay.

Lumsden won the Olympic skeet event and Cpl Ian Caldwell the Olympic trap.

When scores were tallied to produce the Army's all-round champion, Gordon Lumsden emerged as the outright winner, ahead of runner-up White and SSgt Tony Masters (RA) in third place.

For more information about the Army Clay Target Shooting Association and its courses, ring Maj Tony Higham, HQ 4 Div on Aldershot Mil (722) 2454.

## SEA ANGLING

# Gus leads Service fishermen at Dover

ASSOCIATE member Colin Pack won the overall title at the Army angling championships fished over the Channel Tunnel infill site under the White Cliffs of Dover, with LCpl Gus Angus the best-placed serving soldier.

The weather was atrocious, as it was on the second day when the competition moved from Samphire Hoe, as the infill

area is known, to Walmer beach. Sgt Ian Lambert and WO1 Paul Curtice finished second and third in the serving category. Angus and Pack were the pairs champions.

The competition was used to prepare the Army's 15 top anglers for the Inter-Services match against the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

## IN BRIEF

# Irish win battle of Palace Barracks

BOXERS from 7 R Irish won a place in the Northern Ireland Grade 3 finals when they overcame 2 LI by five bouts to four. Both battalions are based at Palace Barracks, Belfast. Trailing 1-3 at one stage, 7 R Irish won the next four contests to make the final.



LCpl Paton (7 R Irish) scores against Pte Rufus (2 LI) at Palace Barracks in Belfast

## Minor boxing final

THE final of the Minor Units inter-team novice Grade 3 boxing championships will be between 9 Para Sqn RE and 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE at the Maida Gymnasium, Aldershot on March 19.

## Iwan's Bovington test

IWAN Thomas, Britain's 400m Olympic silver medal-winner, took part in a gruelling log race when he visited recruits in training at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington. He also drove a Challenger 2 tank over the centre's cross-country circuit. Iwan was there at the invitation of Sgt Martin Blade, a fellow Team Solent athlete.

## Marathon loggies

THREE loggies, Maj Peter Knoll (UKSC(G)), WO Sandy McAulay and Sgt Craig Forster (both BOD Bicester) completed the annual US Marine Corps Marathon in Washington DC. Run in heavy rain, the event attracted 18,000 athletes to a course which took in the Pentagon, the White House and the Lincoln Memorial.

## RLC badminton

PTE Natalie Jackson of 2 CS Regt RLC won the singles at the RLC badminton championships and teamed up with Pte Edele Turner to win the women's doubles.

## Squash champions

THE Royal Logistic Corps A team won the 1997 Inter-Corps squash championships contested by 20 teams and more than 140 players in Winchester. Second and third were RE and AAC, separated by a single point, with REME a further point behind. AGC were fifth in Division 1.



## CROSS-COUNTRY



Picture: Capt Jim Gallagher

SSgt Mandy Purves of Telford-based 123 Ammunition Squadron celebrates her victory in the women's section of the five-mile Donnington fun run. Organised by Cpl Donna Scaife, of 241 Signal Squadron, the event involved nearly 100 soldiers and their families and raised more than £500 for Birmingham Children's Hospital and a local school

## Relay runners get there in the end

RESULTS at the Army cross-country relay championships at Twesledown took a bit of working out after it was discovered that two units, each with more than one entry, split their vest numbers between their teams.

And to further complicate the issue,



Picture: Sgt Summerell, HQNI

Sgt Rod Finch crosses the finishing line to record the fastest individual lap

another unit ran their last-leg runner first, their third leg second and their first leg third. Race administrators burned the midnight oil to produce accurate results.

What was indisputable was the day's fastest lap. That went to British international SSgt Rod Finch (AGC), who lapped in 14min 19sec. OCdt James Mayo (RMAS) recorded 14:27 and Sgt Kenny Butler (5 AB Bde Log) 14:30.

Winners of the team race were 5 Airborne Brigade Log Bn, followed closely by Finch's 7 (Para) RHA quartet and BAD Kinton in third place. RMAS were fourth and 3 (UK) Div HQ fifth.

Minor unit honours went to 216 Para Sig Sqn, with HQ 4 Div second and Cdo Ord Sqn third. Central Engr Park were fourth, just ahead of the Gurkha Training Wing from Church Crookham.

The women's race was won by RMAS A team ahead of RMAS Permanent Staff and the RMAS B string. Fourth were 7 Tpt Regt. Pte M O'Connor (AGC Centre) ran the fastest leg, recording 16:49, with Sgt Sue Sharp RMAS (PS) second fastest with 17:13.

Church Crookham's Gurkha Trg Wing won the junior race ahead of AAC Arborfield and 1 Green Howards. AT K Shepherd from Arborfield was quickest in the race with 15:12.

## SPORTING PROFILE: Matthew Fleming, county cricketer

# Called to a different set of colours

CASUALLY-dressed in a polo shirt and track-suit bottoms and sitting at his kitchen table, 32-year-old Matthew Fleming, Kent and England all-rounder, president of the Professional Cricketers' Association, former Greenjacket officer and great-nephew of James Bond creator Ian Fleming, was having lunch.

He was surprisingly relaxed considering he had just been selected to play for England this winter.

"To be honest, I didn't expect to get into the side, it's just a huge bonus. I joined Kent in 1989 straight after leaving the Army and I've been in the first team for the past seven years," he explained.

After school at Eton, initial career advice came in the form of a paternal chat. As an ex-Grenadier Guardsman and someone "not to be messed with", his father advised a short service commission in the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. The experience left a lasting impression.

"I'm very proud to have been a Greenjacket. They are a serious regiment and the soldiers are very serious people.

"I was very naive when I went to Northern Ireland. It was a big first posting. Sink or swim. As Recce Platoon commander I had some of the best sol-

diers in the battalion... and the best Greenjackets are very good.

"While I was in the Army I was still turning out for Kent when the chance arose and I played against them in the Army and Combined Services matches.

"I'm married to the sister of a fellow officer and I keep in touch with all those with whom I joined. They are very good at keeping my feet on the ground."

He follows developments in the military with a keen eye and has firm opinions as to its future.

"I think we have a fantastic Army. The regimental history and tradition is fantastic and it is second to none. Joining the Army is like joining a family. Especially a regiment like The Royal Greenjackets, who are very good at making you feel welcome.

"But you never really leave, your involvement simply lessens. So you follow it with interest and a great deal of concern in times of trouble."

His own career took an interesting turn recently when he was called to another set of colours... England's for the winter tournament in Sharjah against India, Pakistan and the West Indies. "It will be



Matthew Fleming... the Army, Kent and England

Interview: Chris Kinsville-Heyne  
Picture: Mike Weston

the end of their tether just don't know how much they have left. I know when push comes to shove there is more left in the tank because I have had to dig deeper than most of the guys will ever have a chance to, and that's thanks to the Army. It's thanks to combat fitness tests and running around the Brecon Beacons."

He explained his philosophy on life. "There are never any problems in life, just bigger challenges. You have to look at it that way. Challenges are easier to solve because they help focus the mind. In cricket, every ball is a challenge.

"I have three years left on my contract but by then I think I will be really knackered." He added with a smile: "I reckon I will still be able to pass my BFT."

● Fleming made a memorable debut for England against India in Sharjah. He was hailed as the hero of a remarkable seven-run win after taking four wickets in a nail-biting finish.

He kept his place in the team which went on to reach the Champions Cup final with victories over the West Indies and Pakistan.

## BOBSLEIGH

## Olsson medal sets pace on way to third Winter Olympics

CPL Sean Olsson (1 Para) celebrated his first World Cup medal when he drove the Great Britain four-man bobsleigh into third place at Winterberg, Germany.

Aldershot-based Olsson, Britain's number one driver, and crewmen Cpl Dean Ward (also 1 Para), Courtney Rumboult and Lt Paul Attwood (RM), picked up the bronze medal in the second World Cup race of the season.

Their Zanussi-sponsored bob was just 0.08 seconds slower than the winners, USA 1. This was an outstanding performance from the British racers who were driving hard to qualify for next month's Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

The result, which included two course record starts and the fastest *lauf* on the second run, puts Olsson into second place in the four-man bob World Cup rankings and firmly on the road to his third Winter Olympics. In the two-man



Cpl Sean Olsson (left) and Cpl Dean Ward

race, Olsson teamed up with ex-Royal Anglian Lenny Paul and did well to maintain their current world ranking of 12th.

## NETBALL

## Army trio tamed by Welsh dragon

THREE Army players were in action when the Combined Service netball team took on Wales in Cardiff. Lt Emily Perrett, SSgt Marie Marriner and Cpl Chris Ward found that the first fixture of the season could not have proved more challenging, but it provided them a rare opportunity of playing against a national side.

The players were put through their paces in Aldershot by Army coach Monica Vaughan before travelling to Cardiff.

The quality of the internationals was evident and the Combined Services tried hard to match them for sharpness, speed and accuracy. With the match being used as the final hurdle in team selection for the Commonwealth Games every Welsh player had a much at stake and made the Servicewomen work hard in every area of the court.

Best spell for the Services came in the second quarter, reflected in the 16-9 score. But the final scoreline of 72-18 told a more accurate story of the difference in class.



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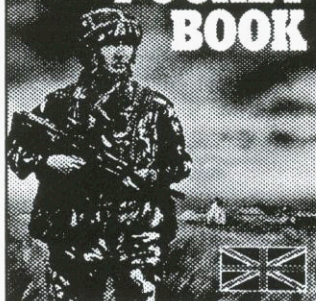


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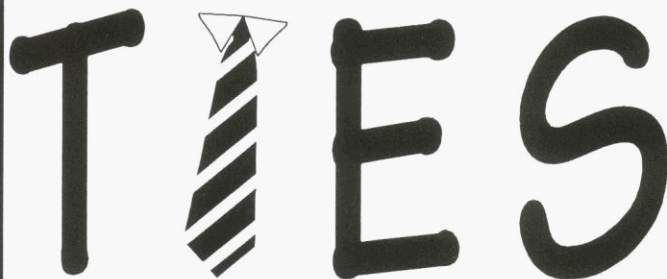
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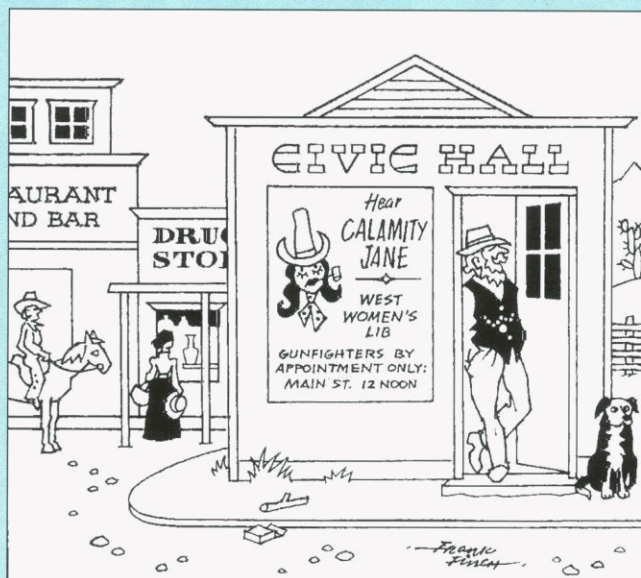
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Competition No 672 (November issue): First correct entry drawn was from Mr P Robinson, of Bramley, Leeds, W Yorks, who wins £100. Runners-up are R A Sutton, of Bexhill-on-Sea, E Sussex and Mr G W Stone, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, who each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: Extra leaf on right of tree; first R in NURSERY; assistant's sleeve; shape of centre poppy; size of newspaper; chairback; girl's left sock and shoe; woman's left show; walking stick.



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# A life of adventure **climb** every mountain (and ford every stream)

SOLDIERS are well known for their enjoyment of challenge, travel and excitement. Adventurous training is acknowledged in the Army as one of the best ways to test them to their limit in peacetime and give the opportunity to visit parts of the world definitely off the tourist routes.

British soldiers have been reaching for the skies with mountaineering expeditions to such remote places as Kyrgyzstan and the Bolivian Andes. Fast-moving water is another regular attraction and white-water canoeing in Norway and kayaking in Malaysia were just some of the training exercises carried out.



Maj Andrew Edington (right) celebrates on the summit of Lenin Peak, Kyrgyzstan, with a bemused German

## First on Lenin Peak

MAJ Andrew Edington RE and Sgt Rev Harding, Int Corps, were the first British military personnel to reach the summit of Lenin Peak (7,104m) in Kyrgyzstan in the former USSR.

The military expedition, led by Maj Mike Nott, Para, was the first to visit the little-known area for more than 50 years.

Permission for the six-man team from the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG) to go ahead with the expedition was initially refused because of the threat of "murder, assassination and abduction" in the bordering country of Tajikistan. In the event, altitude sickness, stomach problems and a fractured leg were the worst problems the team had to contend with.

Members sheltered in tents or snow holes during the ascent and had to be roped together for much of the time as the glacier became steeper and crevasses larger. The first summit attempt was abandoned because of strong winds, cold and fatigue, but Sgt Harding and Maj Edington reached the top on the second attempt.



The ATR Winchester team trekking alongside the mules in the Apolobamba

## ATR peaks in the Andes

AN ambitious expedition led by Capt Rosie Stone of the Army Training Regiment, Winchester, conquered three peaks in the Bolivian Andes.

Two members of the team – eight men and women from the ATR – managed to achieve the first British ascent of the 6,044m Chaupi Orco peak.

Breathtaking scenery and a tremendous sense of achievement compensated

for stomach cramps and nausea caused by altitude sickness experienced by most members during the trip. Much of the climbing involved glacier work and knife-edge ridges. The team included novices who were under constant supervision during the expedition.

Cpl Caroline Sutton managed to climb her first mountain – Paqueno Lucien – and reached the 5,400m summit.



The 1 RHF team on the Biafo Diamond trail: from left are Fus Chris Macleod, Lt Kevin Mathers, local guide, LCpl Davy Davis, LCpl Mark Bruce, LCpl Jason Stewart, LCpl Ross Watson

## Karakoram rescue

A GLACIAL trekking expedition in the Karakoram mountains of north Pakistan by six members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers had all the ingredients of an adventure: tortuous bus journeys, landslides, avalanches, altitude sickness, freshly-dug graves and deserting porters.

Despite these setbacks, all six expedition

members, led by Lt Kevin Mathers, walked more than 170km, safely completing the longest high-altitude glacial traverse on earth.

During the expedition they rescued a group of three travellers whose porters had deserted them. Lt Mathers said: "They were ill-prepared to go over the pass. Even the first day down the wet glacier could have caused them significant danger. It was agreed they could join our two rope teams as long as they stuck to our decisions and itinerary. This was a great success and it allowed them to safely achieve an otherwise impossible goal."

## Frontier Anglians

TWELVE Royal Anglians combined a trip to visit their sister regiment, the 5th Frontier Force Regiment (5 FF), in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, with a chance to trek in the foothills of the Himalayas and Hindu Kush.

They were led by Maj Mark Wenham, whose father served in the 5/13th Frontier Force Rifles before and during the Second World War and commanded the 9th Frontier Force Rifles at Partition.

"The hospitality and kindness shown by 5 FF was exceptional," said Maj Wenham. "It was also a particular honour to meet so many distinguished retired officers from the regiment." A two-day journey to the



Paddling on the "huge, inspiring and exhilarating Driva": LCpl Marton Canton, Spr Kev Drake, Maj Paul Hepworth and Capt David Hinsley

NORWAY, land of the midnight sun, Vikings and legends of trolls, also boasts the most spectacular white waters in Europe. It was for this reason that five novice and eight seasoned canoeists, mostly from 47 Regiment, Royal Artillery, travelled 1,300 miles across land and sea in cramped mini-buses.

Aim of the novice paddlers was to develop their skills to British Canoe Union four-star (intermediate) level. They tested themselves on the 6km white-water racing course of the Sjoa river, known as the "Valley of Death".

Experienced members were able to enjoy the challenge of more difficult and demanding rivers, the highlight being the Driva.

"The sheer volume of water ensured that for much of the time the paddler in front was out of sight to the man behind," explained WO1 (ASM) Andy Eaton. "Each paddler would appear and disappear in troughs, stoppers and down the back of huge waves. The Driva was by far the most memorable river of the trip and will be etched on the minds of those who paddled it for many years to come."

## Gunners ride Norway's rivers



Maj Mark Wenham presenting silver cup on behalf of 1 R Anglian to Lt Col Mohammad Nasir Ali Khan, CO of 5 FF

remote and isolated region of northern Pakistan followed the path of the Indus river and included a "white-knuckle" drive along a narrow track with an 800m drop to one side.

A potentially tragic situation developed when one team members developed a severe fever, but thanks to the medical knowledge and quick reactions of his colleagues his temperature was brought down

to a safe level. Five intravenous drips were used during one night.

The trekking took them to the base camp of Nanga Parbat, eighth highest mountain in the world, and over the Daintier pass (4,800m).

## Fall mars Kings climb

BASIC glacier and roping skills and the techniques for walking in crampons had to be learnt before a 12-strong team from Territorial Army unit 5/8 Kings climbed to the summit of a 3,552m mountain in the French Alps.

Exercise King's Dragon aimed to use Alpine mountaineering to develop self-reliance, team-building and leadership qualities. A demanding ascent of Aiguille de Tour near Chamoni was made more gruelling by high altitude.

The group's euphoria at reaching the summit was shortlived however when a women climber fell into a crevasse and, after being rescued, fell off a rock and had to be casevaced from the mountain.

## Adventure for the young

The Army Welfare Service and 122 Army Youth Team combined forces to give a week of adventure training in the Lake District to 18 young people from Catterick Garrison.

The aim was to integrate children of Service families and provide them with an opportunity to work as a team outdoors. Activities included hill-walking, rock-climbing, creek-walking, mountain-biking and canoeing.



Camped at the summit of Malaysia's highest mountain, Gunun Tahan. From left are Pte Sean Wardle, Capt Justin Featherstone, Cpl Gary Keep. See below

## Unforgettable Malaysia

EIGHT members of 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment travelled to Malaysia to complete an arduous white-water kayaking and trekking expedition.

During the 17-day trip they walked 77km over Gunun Tahan – at 2,187m the highest peak in mainland Malaysia – and kayaked 126km, so making a foot-and-kayak traverse of the Taman Negara rain forest. They also carried out the first British descent of the River Tembeling.

Humidity, heat, leeches and steep muddy climbs combined to make the going tough at times, but this was compensated by journeys down river during which large monitor lizards and other wildlife could be seen.

Team leader Capt Justin Featherstone said: "Rocks, rapids and the rain forest made a great impression on members of Exercise Sungai Tiger, giving us an experience never to be forgotten."

## Climbing on

□ Capt Steve Goodwin led a group from 16 Signal Regiment, Monchengladbach to Nevada to climb Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the USA.

□ A team from Rheindahlen-based 14 Independent Topographical Squadron RE climbed in the High Tatra mountains during an adventurous training expedition to Poland and Slovakia.



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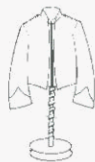
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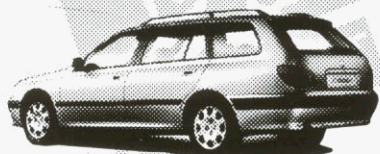
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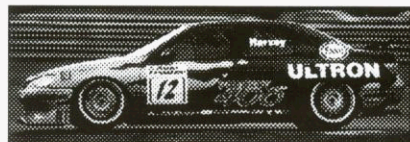
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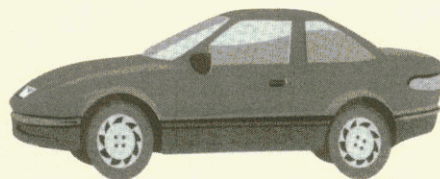


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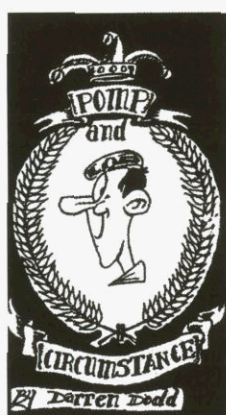
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**Nine-way tie for first prize (18 goals, £777.78 each):** SSgt MD Bairstow, SEME, Bordon; Cpl W Bramwell, 4 Armed Bde HQ & Signal Sqn, Osnabruck; Sgt A Cowan, PCD PLC, Mill Hill; Capt JJ de Quincey-Adams, CATC BG, Warminster; SSgt M Hardy, 115 Pro Coy RMP, Osnabruck; Sgt DP Haynes, 9 Cadet Trg Team, York; Sgt PW Tagg, BATSU, Belize; WO2 AE Tipping, D Mil Svy, Feltham; Cpl RS Wells, 160 Pro Coy RMP, Aldershot.

NOVEMBER 22, 1997

**Six-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £1,166.67 each):** Maj NJ Fenton, HQ 3 Cdo Bde, Plymouth; SSgt RK Naivalura, ATDU, Bovington; Pte CM Smith, 1GH, Osnabruck; WO1 K Topping, 1 R Irish, Catterick; Sgt AS Wheeler, 16 Regt RA, Woolwich; Tpr DAC Wright, KRH, Munster.  
**Note: Only six prizes this week. Rule nine applies.**

NOVEMBER 29, 1997

**Twenty-way tie for first prize (16 goals, £350 each):** Sgt RJ Atherton, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld; LCpl DS Bathe, 1 LI, Episkopi; Cpl P Bell, HQ TSU (G), Sennelager; Spr K Clatworthy-Lewis, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Cpl A Davis-Britter, 1 RSME Regt,

Chatham; Maj EJ Dawson, MAS (A), Guildford; Cpl SJ Donegan, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabruck; SSgt MJ Fodor, 2 LI, Paderborn; Capt AC Glasgow, 1 RSME Regt, Chatham; LCpl D Hewlett, 2 Armd Fd, Amb, Osnabruck; Capt R Holland, 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh; Maj CJM Judge, Duchess of Kent Hosp, Catterick; Sgt R Lees, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; WO2 R Mallon, Depot R Irish, Ballymena; WO2 J Reynolds, RE TDT, Chatham; Cpl M Schorah, 32 Regt RA, Larkhill; CSgt J Slater, ATR Pirbright; WO2 GW Vosper, Scottish Tpt Regt (V), Dunfermline; Capt RJW Williams, 1 WG, London; Cpl A Wing, QRH, Catterick.

DECEMBER 06, 1997

**First prize (21 goals, £3,000):** LCpl HR Williams, QDG, Sennelager.

**Four-way tie for second prize (20 goals, £1,000):** Sgt JM Chambers, 1 Regt AAC, Gutersloh, Cpl RW Dawes, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot; Capt KP Douglas, 24 Cadet Trg Team, Edinburgh; Sgt WI Willetts, 25 Int & Sy Coy (V), York;

**Thirteen-way tie for sixth prize (19 goals, £76.92 each):** SSgt N Blight, 110 Pro Coy RMP, Sennelager; Sgt SJ Bradley, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot; Capt

A Cotton, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; Cpl AT Cowburn, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; Lt Col N Dransfield, MOD London; LCpl LJ Holman, 39 Engr Regt, Waterbeach; Sgt CR Judge, 2 Trg Regt AAC, Middle Wallop; Major J Marsh, 1 RGBW, Colchester; Lt Col CS Pickles, HQ AG, Upavon; Cpl CP Ritson, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Sgt AP Sivy, ATR Pirbright; LCpl SP Trussler, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Maj TDR Turner, HQ BF Falkland Islands.

### PRIZE MONEY TO INCREASE

Ticket sales have continued to increase. They have now passed the 22,000 mark, so the prize money, as promised, has increased to £8,000 per week with effect from December 6. The new prize structure is as follows:

Place	New	Old
1st	£3,000	£3,000
2nd	£1,600	£1,500
3rd	£1,100	£900
4th	£800	£600
5th	£500	£400
6th	£400	£300
7th	£300	£200
8th	£200	£100
9th	£100	-

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If you need more space, or do not wish to cut the magazine, please write clearly on plain paper.

COST: 35p PER WORD, MINIMUM CHARGE £7.00. VAT AT 17.5% **MUST** BE ADDED

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# PRO-BOOTS H I - T E C M A G N U M B O O T



**GORE-TEX®**  
**£115**



**MAGNUM**  
**HI-TEC**

## Latest British Forces Issue

- \*SUPPLE LEATHER, NO BREAKING IN
- \*HARD WEARING
- \*COMFORT ALL DAY!
- \*SPECIAL OFFER
- \*LATEST BOOT TECHNOLOGY
- \*WEATHER PROTECTION (USUAL PRICE £150.00)

## Lightweight Tactical

**HI-TEC Magnum**  
lightweight combat boots.  
Ideal for tactical use.  
Available in half sizes.  
Cordura / Leather **£40.00**  
All Leather **£50.00**

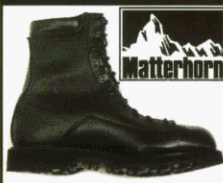
## DANNER



**Danner**

**Danner Acadia Leather**  
& cordura severe weather boot. Gore-tex lined, selected by L.A. Swat Team.  
Insulated **£170.00**  
Uninsulated **£165.00**  
Other Danners stocked

## MATTERHORN



**Matterhorn**

**Matterhorn Orion**  
Severe weather, all leather combat boots.  
**Gore-tex lined £160.00**  
Also in brown  
Fort Bragg, 10" high  
Gore-tex combat boot **£175.00**



**GORE-TEX**

**Gore-tex Boot liners**  
Genuine Army issue  
100% waterproof for use in any boot for warm dry feet.  
8" High only **£20.00**  
17" High **£35.00**

Green or DPM



**PLCE BERGEN 125ltr.** Side pouches make a 35ltr day pack. **£165.00** Medics Pouch **£75.00**



**SOLDIER 2000 ASSAULT PATROL PACK.** Solitr with side pouches. Only **£75.00**



Only available from Silverman's

**Soldier '95 PLCE DPM**  
Tactical Ops. Assault vest. 8 assorted pouches plus 2 large map/storage pockets. Holster attached inside. One size fully adjustable mesh vest with quick release fastening front. Built to last. **NEW £125.00**



**Soldier '95 PLCE Commando Chest Rig**  
Genuine Issue.  
Built to last. **NEW £49.99**  
Radio pouch - **NEW £14.99**



**PLCE Webbing Set**  
Latest issue  
Soldier '95 Kit.  
Consists of: Yoke, Belt, 2 x Ammo pouches, Utility pouch and Water bottle cover.  
**Green or DPM £120.00**



CWC are contractors to HM Forces and offer a two year guarantee. Beware of imitations. Available exclusively at Silverman's



**£75**

**General service**  
Including 18mm grey strap. Dated version **£89**



**£199**

**Special Boat Service 300m**  
Including 20mm black strap.



**£299**

**Mech Chrono**  
Including 20mm grey strap. Quartz version **£220**



**DPM Para Smock**  
4 press-stud bulgy pockets. Dressing pouch on sleeve. Knitted cuffs. Jump flap. Genuine issue  
From **£62.99**  
Other para kit avail.



**SAS Windproof Smock - DPM**  
4 bulgy pockets, hood, dries quickly. Genuine **£90.00**  
Arctic smocks also avail. **£95.00**



**1959 Pattern Denison smock - Wool lined collar. 4 press-stud pockets. Knitted cuffs. £85.00**  
Current genuine combat smocks avail.



Stay Warm and comfortable  
**Buffalo Special 6 shirts £84.99 - Olive or Black**  
All other Buffalo kit stocked



**Snuggpak Sleeka jacket.** Lined with Snuggpak sleeping bag filling. Warm and windproof. incl. stuff sac. L/weight. Black or Olive **£65.00**



**Merlin Softie 3 Sleeping Bag**  
750g, 0 deg. **£59.99**  
All softie sleeping bags stocked



**Soldier '95 Ripstop DPM Trousers** Drawstring waist, taped buttons, 5 pockets. Latest Issue **£39.99**



**Shemagh**  
Olive/black - Sand/black - Black/white - Blue/white - Red/white **£6.99**



**Genuine Norge Army Shirt** Warm and comfortable. 100% cotton. Green, Black or Navy **From £21.00**



**Green Gore-Tex Soldier '95 Gloves** Latest issue leather gloves. Special offer **£35.00**  
All sizes stocked.

TEL: 0171 7 900 900 FAX: 0171 791 0008 EMAIL: silmail@aol.com

**SILVERMAN'S LTD (s) 2 HARFORD STREET, MILE END, LONDON E1 4PS**

PHONE, FAX OR EMAIL FOR FREE CATALOGUE

★ P&P £3.50 ANY SIZE ORDER

★ OVER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



# World of wheels

## Just grand for maturity, security and intelligence

ONE GLANCE tells you that the V70 CD T5 is every inch a Volvo. Big in stature, perfectly honed, harmoniously balanced and suggestive of quality, there's the same tactile and visual excellence and ambience you'll find in any car of the marque, **writes Syd Taylor.**

Striking styling gains a powerful effect from the wide body and the eye-catching exterior encloses interior space of grand dimensions.

This latest generation of the acclaimed 850 is obviously related to the original, but it provides a perfect illustration of the way that Volvo update and refine their cars without making radical changes or altering the model's position in the market. This evolution keeps the car at the top of its class while leaving its identity as strong as ever – an advanced and versatile estate with a build quality second to none and bodywork guaranteed against corrosion for eight years.

The V70 is bred for the fast lane and with a visual slipperiness reflecting its aerodynamic efficiency – borne out by a drag coefficient of 0.32 – this slingshot T5-engined V70 looks the part. Body-coloured bumpers and protective side mouldings, alloy wheels and a rear spoiler heighten the impression of a car milled from a solid ingot of high-grade steel – bereft of squeaks and rattles, it certainly feels that way.

### SAFETY

All this quality is, of course, accompanied by high safety levels with the body shell designed to crumple progressively on impact while passengers sit within a robust safety cage. Volvo's Side Impact Protection System (SIPS) does its job too, with airbags to protect chest, hips and head.

There's a high-quality aura and functional efficiency to the spacious interior inviting you to come inside. The whole interior emphatically proves that estate-car practicality can go hand-in-hand with luxury car comfort, giving the V70 an ability to adapt to the varied imperatives of family and business use, thanks to the intelligent design. With the rear seats folded there's a useful 56 cu ft of load space and a low sill plus a wide-opening tailgate to make loading easy. Estates, of course, live or die by their practicality and as a load-lugger the V70 makes a great working estate with a well-shaped flat-load floor.

Comprehensive specification includes



Volvo V70 CD T5

### Tech Spec

**ENGINE** Transverse 5-cylinder, 20-valve, 2319 cc, 240 bhp at 5,100 rpm.

**TRANSMISSION** 5-speed manual FWD.

**STEERING** Power; 3.2 turns lock to lock.

**BRAKES** Front, ventilated discs 302 mm; rear, solid discs 295 mm.

**KERB WEIGHT** 1506kg.

**SIZE** (cm) Length, 472; width, 176; height, 145.

**LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT** 750 litres (26.5 cu ft); rear seats down, 1580 litres (56 cu ft).

**PERFORMANCE** Max speed 152 mph; acceleration 0-62 mph, 7.1 sec.

**MPG** Urban 17.4; out-of-town 34.4; combined 25.4.

**PRICE** Basic, £25,925; CD T5 version tested, with optional "winter pack" and "estate pack", £32,175.

tion centre and a top-quality sound system – with a graphic equaliser – for radio, CDs and tapes.

Anyone taking the wheel of this Volvo will find their way round the cockpit instantly. Everything is within reach and controls are located by completely natural movements. Although modest in capacity, the state-of-the-art 2.3 litre twin-cam engine is big on performance. Its turbocharger rams oxygen-rich air into five cylinders to give an output of 240 bhp, enabling the T5 to reach a scorching top speed of over 150 mph. Torque is of Herculean dimensions so you don't have to extend the machinery fully to tap into the mighty force of 249 ft lb, but if you do use the easy-changing gearbox to extract maximum performance then this 150 mph projectile whips up to speed very quickly.

### CORNERING

Off the fast track and on to the twisty B roads, you get a hint of the car's cornering powers, which are well beyond what normally circumspect drivers would consider possible, never mind prudent.

You're reassured, of course, by traction control and anti-lock brakes which offer prodigious stopping power. This Volvo imparts a great feeling of security – particularly on slippery surfaces. As the road ahead snaked into the shower-laden sky of a November evening I was reassured too by a chassis which permits liberties you would just not take in lesser vehicles.

Volvo's V70 CD T5 is a car that will be remembered not just for its scintillating speed, but for its comfort and total practicality too. There can be few cars that better fulfil the conflicting needs of the performance enthusiast, the family man and the businessman – but to appreciate fully its paradoxical nature which delivers such a range of different dynamic experiences, you need maturity and intelligence.



Driver's view inside the left-hand drive version

SIPS airbags, driver's airbag, ABS, anti-theft alarm, immobiliser and deadlocking, power steering, electric windows front and rear, and electric sunroof, leather-faced upholstery, heated front seats, electric driver's seat with memory, cruise control, traction control, front fog lights, informa-



## My thanks to Diana's pallbearers

I CAN but echo the praise of Capt Williams for the eight guardsmen, pallbearers for Diana, Princess of Wales (Oct).

I was so moved that on the evening of the funeral I rang Wellington Barracks and spoke to Sgt Morgan Edwards of the Welsh Guards and told him that I would be in London in late September and would like to take the eight soldiers to dinner.

I am a retired military officer and retired civil servant and to keep busy I

volunteer at a Community Police Centre run by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police – our local police force – and through the courtesy of the constable in charge of the centre I took eight caps with RCMP crest, pins with RCMP crest and pins provided by a friend in Canada Customs for each guardsman.

Unfortunately seven of the young men were on leave but I did meet Patrick

Dewaine, a fine young man and a credit to his regiment, took him to dinner and left the caps and pins with him to give to the others.

I usually visit London twice a year and hope to meet with Patrick and the others when I return in late March.

My congratulations to all the military personnel who took part in the funeral. – **Capt (Retd) C Fraser, Canadian Armed Forces (Air), North Vancouver, BC, Canada.**

### Prize letter

## If it doesn't fit, we'll make it to measure

WE AT the Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency (DCTA) at Bicester were extremely interested in your December Vox Pop feature on “kit that should be issued”.

We are always keen to receive feedback, whether it be through unit quartermasters, the pro forma in *Kit* magazine, or via *Soldier*.

In this case we were especially glad to see that the items we are currently working on are the ones the soldier wants!

Readers may be interested to know that as well as the boot and sock improvements which you coincidentally reported on in the Kitstop feature in the same issue, we are

intending to trial a new indoor training shoe in the spring.

We also hope to introduce female versions of lightweight trousers and OG shirts, which should go some way to solving Pte Andrea Bramall's complaint that everything is too big.

This is in line with our policy of making clothing in enough sizes to fit 95 per cent of soldiers. The remaining five per cent are entitled to have items made to measure.

There are many other improvements and updates we are working on which we hope to bring to light in a future issue of *Soldier*. – Maj Colin Langford, SO2 Ops & Plans, DCTA, Bicester, Oxon.

'Am I the oldest original REME ASM? – see Points in Question on Page 67

## Drum majors' badge rights

AS Drum Major of the oldest corps of drums in the Army (1537) may I add to the debate conducted in your columns.

CSgt Williams (Oct) misunderstands what being a drum major entails. All the All Arms Drum Major's Course does is to teach a standardised way of doing drum major **drill**. It does not, nor does it claim to, teach you to be a drum major.

This is learnt by coming up through the ranks of an infantry corps of drums, learning customs, traditions, history and duties and the special magic which belongs to corps of drums alone. Military drum-

and-life music is far older than military band music. Most drum majors on their crossbelts wear symbolic drumsticks. They do not wear symbolic trumpets!

I am not attempting to put down those who act as drum major, but that's the point – they **act** as drum majors. The badge should be the exclusive prerogative of those who stand in front of a corps of drums. Incidentally, we are looking for good recruits. If anyone is interested, please contact me. – **Drum Maj K Hingle, Corps of Drums, HAC, Armoury House, City Road, London EC1Y 2BQ.**

## Is TV regiment floating policy for the Army?

IN AN episode of the latest TV series of *Soldier*, *Soldier* a recruiting sergeant interviewed a company sergeant major's son who confessed to being gay.

The recruiting sergeant correctly stated MoD policy on homosexuality – namely that it is “incompatible with military service”. But he said so in such a way as to suggest to the viewer that members of the British Army, and senior NCOs in particular, do not hold that view and that Army policy may change soon.

Presumably such scenes are run past the military adviser to the series to ensure they reflect the Army accurately. I note that the programme displays no disclaimer that views given are not those of the MoD.

Surely the producers with their military adviser should take care to portray accurately life in the Army. Or, as well as being partly a recruiting vehicle, is the series being used to float intended changes in MoD policy to get us and the public used to the ideas before they are implemented?

Will we see, in future *Soldier*, *Soldier* episodes, female infantry platoon sergeants and section commanders, who are then seen a few months later in frontline posts? I have served 22 years and have never met anyone who would think this is a good idea and I believe that homosexuality is incompatible with military service. – **CSgt B E T Harris, HQ Northern Ireland.**

**Soldiers air their views in Vox Pop – Page 70**

**SOLDIER** welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection (see Page 28) will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing!

● 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.

### Write us a prize letter

● We are assured that there is no intention to “float” policy changes. The programme is a fictional drama and can say what it likes, but a military adviser is available to ensure that current Army life and policy are reflected accurately. Should there be another series of *Soldier*, *Soldier* and should Army policy have changed in the interim, the programme makers will be advised accordingly.



## BIRD'S EYE-VIEW



"OK lads, let your hair down, mingle, be unobtrusive . . . but GET RESULTS"

RGBW skirmishers – Page 29

# Please help, says Gulf illness unit

WE ARE writing from the Gulf War Illnesses Research Unit based at King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, where we are currently conducting one of the largest studies of military health ever to be undertaken in the United Kingdom.

Three groups of military personnel (both currently serving and discharged) have been selected at random and have been asked to complete and return a questionnaire about their general health and military experiences. So far several thousand have done so and we would like to thank them here.

However, there are still many people who have not yet returned the questionnaire. It is essential for these kinds of studies that everyone takes part, regardless of whether or not they served in the Gulf or whether or not they are ill.



May we ask those who have received a questionnaire, but have not yet returned it, please to find the time to do so.

**This research is independent of the MoD. The information will remain confidential, now and for ever.**

There is no compulsion to take part, but we would like to emphasise how important this information is to understanding the effects of military service on health. Those who have misplaced the form are welcome to telephone Catherine Unwin on 0171 737 5267, who will be happy to forward a new copy. – Prof Simon Wessely (Co-director), Prof Tony David (Co-director), Catherine Unwin (Study Co-ordinator), Gulf War Illnesses Research Unit, King's College London, Bessemer Road, London SE5 9PJ.

## Home Guard was carried away by bayonet drill

A COUPLE of mates have written to me to say they enjoyed my joke about the Home Guard on exercise (Letters, Oct) but could not understand why I put the bayonet bit in ("swish") as we were never short of them. True, we had those lovely long jobs, but our battalion was barred from fixing them on

our rifles during field drills due to the numerous accidents on previous occasions when both "attackers" and "defenders" got carried away. We lacked many things – but not enthusiasm. – C L Golder, Bolton, Lancs; ex-Pte, Home Guard, 9th Derbyshire (Ilkeston) Bn.

PS . . .

## Thank you all . . .

I WISH to express my sincere thanks on behalf of my family both in the UK and in Melbourne, Australia, for the overwhelming number of readers of your Searchline column (Sept 15) who made contact with me before their departure to Egypt on the El Alamein pilgrimage.

We were able to have a poppy wreath laid at the foot of the Australian Tablet, which records the names of those who have no known or honoured grave. Photographs that have been taken will long be treasured by the family. We are all deeply grateful. – Derek C Scholfield (Secretary, Exeter Branch, Royal Regiment of Artillery Association), Heavitree, Exeter, Devon.

## . . . so very much

I WOULD like to thank everyone who contacted me after you publicised my search for the graves of Balacava survivors (Sept 15). I had calls and letters from all parts of this country, as well as from Ireland and Canada, from a military policeman serving in Bosnia, and even from someone who had just served 33 years in the Royal Navy.

I have also been in touch with one ex-Blues and Royals man on Merseyside, and we have become good friends. – Les Swales (Secretary, The Victoria Cross and Balacava Survivors Society), Harrogate, N Yorks.

## Coltman's record

READING your item about Pte Henry Tandy VC, DCM, MM, the most decorated private soldier of the First World War (Dec) prompted me to write to you about LCpl Bill Coltman, a stretcher-bearer of the 1st/6th North Staffords, who was awarded the VC, DCM and Bar, MM and Bar, and a Mention in Dispatches in the same conflict. I'm not claiming he was the most decorated JNCO but I know of no other who has a higher award. He was commissioned during the Second World War. – Sgt C D G Cooper, Provost Section, 1 Staffords, Ternhill, Salop.

## History repeated

YOUR Images article on the Gurkhas at Church Crookham (Nov) said that for the first time soldiers are able to bring their wives and children with them to the UK.

In 1963-64, when I was serving in the Royal Engineers in Moolton Barracks, Tidworth, Gurkha officers were accompanied by their wives in the married quarters next to Jellalabad Barracks. – N L Jacques (ex-Sgt RE), Tamworth, Staffs.

## Great camp

I WOULD like to thank everyone who made our cadet unit's last summer camp in Devon so successful, including the 3\* cadre instructors and Cpl Gwillt.

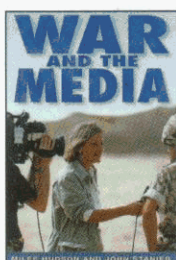
Maj Greenwood, of our unit, has a bet on with me that *Soldier* would not print a second letter from the same person (my first was in the May 27, 1997 issue). So please let me prove him wrong for once! – Sule Piacenti, Peacehaven, E Sussex.

● Sorry, Maj Greenwood!



## Learning to know and love the media

RELATIONS between the military and the media have come a long way since Kitchener's



famously succinct press briefing in the Sudan in 1897: "Out of my way, you drunken swabs!"

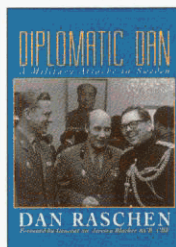
Indeed, in researching the absorbing and well-documented *War and the Media*

*Media* (Sutton Publishing, hardback, £19.99) Fd Marshal Sir John Stanier, former CGS, and Myles Hudson, also ex-Army, have gone to great pains to understand this motley crew and determine its considerable influence on the conduct of war.

For example, would the Gulf War have ended when it did had the world not been told of the turkey-shoot on the Basra road?

## Dan, Dan, the diplomatic man

IMAGINE the scene. You are a British Army officer who agrees to translate a Chinese military

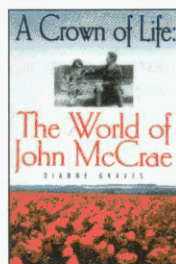


attaché's speech at a dinner party. The only problem is that you do not understand Chinese, so you ad-lib. The story is one of many entertaining anec-

dotes strung together seamlessly by former RE officer Dan Raschen in his memoir *Diplomatic Dan: A Military Attaché in Sweden* (The Book Guild, hardback, £16.95).

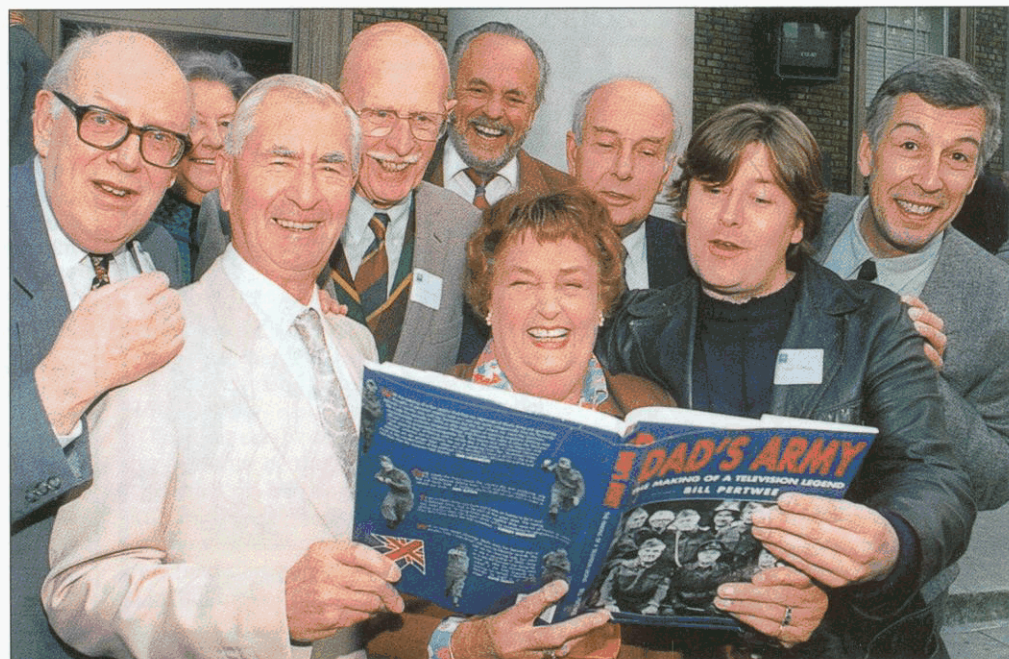
## Verse that inspired an author's quest

ONE summer evening six years ago Dianne Graves, visiting the site of Lt Col John McCrae's



dressing station near Ypres, heard his famous 1915 poem *In Flanders Fields* being recited and was moved to scour Europe and Canada to detail his life and times.

*A Crown of Life: The World of John McCrae* (Spellmount Publishers, hardback, £19.95) draws on letters, diaries, photographs and sketches to paint a vivid picture of the man who succumbed to pneumonia in 1918.



Picture: Terry Champion

Famous faces from one of TV's all-time great comedies paraded for *Soldier's* photographer when Warden Hodges (Bill Pertwee, second left foreground) launched the 30th anniversary edition of *Dad's Army: The Making of a Television Legend* at the Imperial War Museum. With Bill (from left) are Frank Williams (the vicar), Brenda

Cowling, partly obscured (guest actress), Eric Longworth (town clerk), Philip Madoc (U-boat commander), Pamela Cundell (Mrs Fox), Harold Snoad (production manager, who secured the use of Army land in Norfolk for location filming), Bill's son James and Jeffrey Holland (guest actor). The book is published by Pavilion at £14.99.

# Loneliest job in the world

EIGHT terrorists killed with 18 rounds of ammunition was the tally credited to a Royal Marine sniper just before the withdrawal from Aden in the 1960s.

In *Stalk and Kill - The Sniper Experience*, Adrian Gilbert has put together the personal accounts of British and American soldiers who excelled at pinpointing the face of the target - or victim - before gently squeezing the trigger.

Judging by these accounts it takes a special sort of person to become a sniper. The Royal Marine referred to was a one-time poacher and crackshot, with experience against EOKA guerrillas in Cyprus.

"The sniper is the loneliest bloke in the world," he said. "That's how I liked it. Others could smell it on you and they all wanted to get away. You didn't have any friends."

This book is made up of personal accounts like this from the 18th century through to former Yugoslavia.

Another book on a similar subject, *With British Snipers to the Reich* - more a practical guide to the sniper's art - has been reissued, half a century after it was written.

Its author, Capt Clifford Shore, was a member of the first RAF Regiment squadron

*Stalk and Kill* by Adrian Gilbert, Sidgwick & Jackson, £17.99.

*With British Snipers to the Reich* by Capt Clifford Shore, Greenhill Books, hardback, £25.

to go ashore on D-Day and fought through Normandy and Europe before being commissioned into the Army after the war. But what's it like to be

on the end of a sniper's bullet? Gilbert says quite a number of targets have survived to tell their tale, including the celebrated writer George Orwell.

He was shot in the neck while serving as a sniper with the Republican forces during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s. He forgot, for an instant, to keep his head down. - JM

*The SAS Encyclopedia* by Steve Crawford. Sub-titled *The Definitive Companion to the World's Crack Regiment*. Who can argue? Simon & Schuster, large-format paperback, £12.99.

*How a Merseyside Nonentity Helped to Defeat Hitler and Follow in Dick's Footsteps* by W F Harden. The title is almost as long as the book - 35 pages of rhyming couplets giving a wry view of the war by a soldier in the 6th Cheshires. Arthur H Stockwell Ltd, Ilfracombe, Devon, paperback, £2.75.

*The Armies of Rommel* by

## In brief

George Forty. New study by the former curator of Bovington's Tank Museum. Arms & Armour, hardback, £20.

*They Shall Not Grow Old: Irish Soldiers and the Great War* by Myles Dungan. More than a quarter of a million Irishmen, many of them nationalists, fought in the 1914-18 war. This book records their thoughts and emotions. Four Courts Press, Dublin, hardback, £17.95.

*The Second World War* by John

# Foot soldier at the gallop

MORE a literary gallop than a stroll through the pages of history, *War Walks 2* covers six major battles in British history from 1066 And All That to the Blitz in 1940-41.

And author Richard Holmes, the TA's senior serving officer who recently presented a TV series linked to this book, does it all in about 200 pages.

His choice of battles proved difficult, but he gives sound reasons for selecting Hastings, Bosworth, Naseby, The Boyne, Dunkirk and the Blitz.

While each of his accounts makes vivid reading, with historic turning-points explained, Dunkirk is a likely focal point for many *Soldier* readers.

Since the event is well within living memory and because so many involved are still around, his account of the Dunkirk withdrawal will, for them, evoke desperate times.

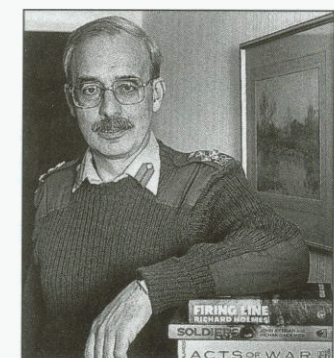
For the rest of us his direct style leaves us in little doubt about the whole sorry saga.

Misunderstandings over policies of the Allied governments involved an acute shortage of equipment, conflicting orders and, with each Service seemingly doing its own thing, the impression is clearly gained that the right hand and the left were somewhat uncoordinated.

It's not surprising that Gen

*War Walks 2* by Richard Holmes. BBC Worldwide, hardback, £16.99.

Lord Gort, the C-in-C, found it difficult, given the strength of the enemy and the ignorance of the Allied chain of command of the true situation the BEF faced, to make deci-



War walker: Brig Holmes

sions at least to slow down the retreat to Dunkirk.

The official history of the campaign, says Holmes, declares that Gort, who won the VC in 1918, "was not an intellectual man, nor had he the mind of an administrator; by temperament and training he was a fighting soldier..."

Commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1905, he was a guardsman through and through, with a respect for precision.

Brig Holmes, Professor of

Military and Security Studies at Cranfield and Shrivenham, and who recently became the MoD's Director Reserve Forces and Cadets, tells of this trait by describing how an early conference Gort called as C-in-C of the BEF was to discuss "from which shoulder the steel helmet should be slung when not worn..."

But all of that was irrelevant on the beaches of Dunkirk during the scramble for rescue by the "little ships".

One observer wrote of men queuing in the sea up to their necks: "Our only thoughts were to get on a boat. Not a word was spoken. The men just stood there staring into darkness... heads and shoulders only showing above the water. Fixed, immovable, as though chained there."

It was the end of the BEF and Churchill ordered Gort home on May 31. Two days later the last British soldier was evacuated.

Each of the chapters in this book has three parts: the political and military event concerning the battles; the description of the campaigns and battles and the best way to tour the battle areas.

This book provides a practical and exciting way of swotting up on British military history. - JM.

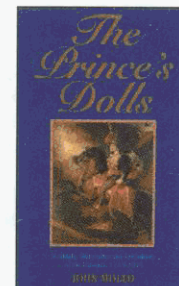
*Battleground Europe* series, *Passchendaele: The Fight for the Village* by Nigel Cave, and *Fricourt-Mametz, Somme* by Michael Stedman, both at £9.95.

*The World in Conflict: War Annual 8* by John Laffin. An update on worldwide flashpoints. Brassey's, Hardback, £25.

*Ferret* by Pat Ware. All you need to know about the British Army's FV700 Series. Large-format paperback available direct from Warehouse Publications, 5 Rathbone Square, Tanfield Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1BT at £16 (£18 overseas) inc p&p.

## Sharply-observed Hussars' history

JOHN Mollo, whose film credits as costume designer and military adviser include *The Charge of the Light*



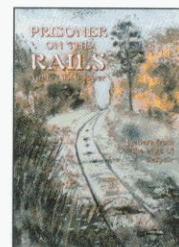
*Brigade, Star Wars, Gandhi, and Sharpe's Rifles*, has delved into the early history of the first British regiments of Hussars to write

*The Prince's Dolls* (Leo Cooper, hardback, £21.95). This detailed and entertaining account of these by-products of the Prince Regent's penchant for military finery and dandyism follows their story through to the Peninsular War.

## Literary therapy eased PoW trauma

FIFTY years on, former Royal Signals conscript Aubrey E Cooper found a novel way to

come to terms with the traumatic legacy of three-and-a-half years as a Japanese PoW. He described his horrific experiences in the form of imaginary let-

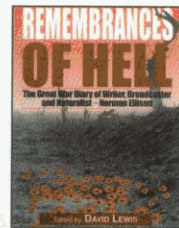


ters to Megan, the girl he was later to marry (they celebrated their golden wedding last year). Her drawings illustrate the resulting 123-page paperback, *Prisoner on the Rails: Letters from the Edge of Despair* (Lane Publishers). It is available from the author at Cwm Bychan, 1 Rhodfa Sian, Dyserth, Denbighshire LL18 6BJ, priced £9.99 plus £1.20 p&p.

## Modesty forbids no longer...

WRITER, broadcaster and naturalist Norman Ellison (Nomad of the BBC) was too modest to

publish his deliberately understated First World War diary. On his death in 1976 it was bequeathed, with letters and memoirs, to the Liverpool



Libraries Record Office. The documents now form the basis of a book edited by David Lewis which forms a valuable contribution to the wealth of first-person accounts of this senseless conflict. *Remembrances of Hell* is published by Airlife in hardback at £19.95.



# Bulletin board

## REUNIONS

**Coldstream Guards drummers:** past and present reunion planned in near future. Date to be finalised. For details send sae to Peter Horsfall, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, London N14 6DS.

**17th Field Coy and 17th Field Sqn RE:** reunion planned for early 1998. Send stamped addressed envelope for details to Denis Stephenson, 16 Whitby Avenue, Eston, Middlesbrough TS6 9NH or tel 01642 469264).

**The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) Regimental Association:** Scottish branch annual dinner and dance at the Stakis Glasgow Airport Hotel, Feb 27. Former members and friends invited. Contact secretary J Gaughan, 49 Cartha Crescent,

Paisley (tel 0141 889 9120) or Lt Col (Retd) J M Lauder on 0141 884 8483 for further details. **Artillery Clerks:** 64th Artillery Clerks' reunion dinner in the WO's and Sgts' Mess, Woolwich on March 7. Contact WO1 J M Charlton, LSL/RA, tel (733) 2541 or 01722 436541.

**Queen's Regimental Association:** annual reunion and supper at the Victory Services Club, London, March 7. Tickets available from the Secretary, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY.

**Coldstream Guards:** 3rd Battalion, No 4 Company (1950-55) sixth reunion dinner in Birmingham, April 25. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

**1st/4th/7th Royal Tank Regiments:** annual reunion at St John's Swallow Hotel, Solihull, West Midlands, May 22-24. Details from G J Bourne, Lyneham Cottage, Lyneham House, Yealmpton, Plymouth PL8 2LG, or R T Rathmell, 19 Yeolland Lane, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 6YL.

**50 Missile Club, Royal Artillery:** reunion in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, May 30. Details from A J Todd, 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries DG1 1TN (tel 01387 262378).

**Royal Signals, Malta and Libya 1959-65:** Reunion planned Sept. Including National Service and WRAC. Further details from Roy Andrews, Moorings, 7 The Heath, South Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3HJ.

## SEARCHLINE

**Coldstream Guards:** Sgt Peacock's squad, 1950, where are you now? Nine members traced, but looking for D Mitchell, A Ryan, W Wright, R Gray, J Robson, A Gillette, R Wostear, G Brabander, F Douglas, G Peear, B Tinsley. Contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE (tel 01482 503649).

Did you serve with the **Cyprus Regiment** or the **Cyprus Volunteer Force**? Author Alan Grace would like to hear from you. Contact him at 7 Wellington Avenue, Fleet, Hants, GU13 9BJ (tel 01252 815873).

**Movement Control Historical Society,** recently formed by ex-RE and RCT personnel, would like to hear from those who served in movement control during or since the Second World War. Contact Ray Taylor, 2 Plumpton Close, Chippenham, Wilts SN14 0YS.

Bill Fleckney, 14 Buckland Path, Buckland, Portsmouth, Hants PO2 7DB, would like to hear from any Garrison RPs (RAC) at Bovington Camp or Chichester (Royal Sussex Regt) between 1945-48, also anyone from Fort Darland and the Pioneer dump at Corsham, Wilts.

Copies sought of service documents of Cpl **Richard Harding**, 2nd Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, died Nov 18, 1916 on the Somme. Contact Steven Reed, 27 Leechpool Lane, Roffey, Horsham, W Sussex RH13 6AG (tel 01403 255833).

News sought of **Jim Brown**, ex-R Sigs GHQ Cairo, who took part in a cycle race around Gezira Island, near Cairo, on April 30, 1944. Replies to Christopher Saunders, 14 Narrow Way, Wenhamston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9EJ.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Major General:** M J Strudwick, late Royal Scots - To be GOC Scotland, Dec 1.

**Brigadier:** I A Johnstone - To Commander BMM Kuwait, Dec 4; T M Macartney - To Director DLSS D Log Sp (A), Dec 8; J H T Short - To DRAC, Dec 7.

**Colonel:** A N Bellamy - To Chief HQ ARRC, Dec 9; R M Brunt - To Commander 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Dec 1; D R Burns - To Commandant HQ RSME, Dec 1; P C Cort - To Colonel (W) D Def Sys, Dec 1; N St J Hall - To Staff Officer UK Mil Rep and Staff Brussels, Dec 8; T W Hambrooke - To Colonel DM(A),

## USEFUL NUMBERS

**Army Benevolent Fund** 0171 581 8684  
**Army Families Federation** 01980 615525  
**Harassment confidential support line:**  
**UK** 0800 731 4880  
**Germany** 0800 1827 393  
**Cyprus** 080 91065  
**Samaritans** 0345 90 90 90  
**SSAFA Forces Help** 0171 403 8783  
**WRVS** 01235 442954

TV researcher looking for Brits who have settled abroad in British or ex-British territories and who have had lives full of interesting personal experiences as well as having an overview of the life of **expatriates** abroad. Contact David Vallance, 144 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4DJ.

**Simon Beckwith**, ex-Royal Horse Artillery, wishes to contact old mates. Replies to 11 Eastgate, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1EW.

Fred Wilson-Taylor has set up an Internet site designed as a **contact pool** for serving and retired Service personnel. The address is <http://www.wilsonsytaylor.clara.net>.

Kerry Cusack seeks news of her godparents, Mr and Mrs **Kenneth Daniels**, last seen with the RAOB at CAD Kineton, 1992. Replies to 4 Charlton Street, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2AA.

**5 Kings/2 T Force:** 1998 activities include reunions at Liverpool, London and Nottingham, a ten-day trip to Germany and civic

Dec 1; J N R Houghton - To Commander 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Dec 2; R M A Joy - To Colonel RHQ REME, Dec 8; H L A MacDonald - To Commander BATUS Main, Dec 7; D McDowall - To Colonel R Sigs/Int Div, Dec 12; M Nugent - To Commandant AGC Trg Gp, Dec 8; J H Thoyts - To Defence Attaché Svc Attaché Bangkok, Dec 3.

### Retirements

**Brigadier:** P G H Jepson, late RAVC, Dec 5; L A Wilkes, late RA, Dec 3.

**Colonel:** E H Sambell, late R Sigs, Dec 1; R D Vellacott, late LI, Dec 9.

receptions at Bad Nenndorf and Goslar. Details: K V G Moore, The Granary, Bacton NR12 0JP (tel 01692 651086).

Tracey Oliver, 2b Cranwell Drive, Burnage, Manchester M19 1WD (tel 04325 152955) seeks news of Scottish soldier **Jason Colvin**, with whom she lost touch several years ago.

Author researching impressions and experiences of British soldiers in **Northern Ireland** since 1969 for book intended to contribute towards building greater understanding between people involved in the conflict. Replies to John Linday, Guildhall Press Community Book Publishers, 41 Great James Street, Londonderry, N Ireland BT48 7DF.

Unexpurgated text sought of Second World War ballad **The Soldier's Farewell to Egypt**. Replies to Roy Lane, Daisy Cottage, 16 Thornton Meadow, Wisborough Green, Billingshurst, W Sussex RH14 0BW (tel 01403 700047).

Birmingham area branch of the **National Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Association** now based at Sutton Coldfield. Details from P Daley, 18 Monks Kirby Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B76 2UN (please send sae).

**Pam Jarvis**, 25 Alexandra Road, Grimsby DN31 1RD (tel 01472 362956) wants to hear from soldier **Alan**, with whom she was in contact during the Gulf War.

## Win a GPS

**Soldier** and Magellan Systems International have one Pioneer hand-held GPS (see Kitstop, Page 39) up for grabs. If you would like this state-of-the-art piece of kit (and what outdoor enthusiast would not?) just send in your answer to the following question:

*Even without satellite navigation, 16th century explorer Ferdinand Magellan was able to discover a route between two oceans. It still bears his name. What is it and which two oceans does it connect?*

Answers should be marked "GPS competition" and reach **Soldier** by February 1. Our address is on Page 70. Good luck!





Picture: Mike Weston

## Nation's tribute to the soldiers from Nepal

In tribute to the Nepalese warriors who have for nearly 200 years been loyal guardians of the Crown, a larger-than-life bronze Gurkha stands vigilant in Horse Guards Avenue near the Ministry of Defence.

The statue, by sculptor Philip Jackson, is based on a design for Gurkha war memorials erected in India 70 years ago.

Commissioned by the Gurkha Brigade Association, it was unveiled by the Queen, who was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Gurkha Rifles. A guard of honour was formed by 1 RGR.

## You can help stop the trade in war memorials

EX-SERVICE men and women are being asked to help the campaign to save our war memorials and roll of honour plaques after members of the Royal Family rallied to the cause.

Along with the Duke of Edinburgh and Duke of Kent, the Queen Mother has expressed interest in the aims of the organisation Friends of War Memorials, founded by ex-Royal Marine Ian Davidson.

In a letter to him, her private secretary wrote: "The Queen Mother . . . hopes

that with the help of the Royal British Legion you will be able to stop the practice of memorials and rolls of honour dedicated to those who lost their lives in action being sold as souvenirs or novelties."

Mr Davidson said: "It is a disgusting practice. People are starting to become aware of the problems and I welcome the support coming through now from the RBL.

"We need ex-Service people and Legion branches to help us."

## Am I the oldest original REME ASM?

In a doctor's waiting-room I came across a February 1997 edition of *Soldier* – a magazine I had not seen since 1948 – and very excellent reading it was.

At the age of 88 I wonder if I am now the oldest surviving original REME ASM. Can anyone tell me, and does anyone remember me?

I joined up early in 1940 under a special enlistment scheme in the RAOC and by February 1942 had risen to the rank of WO1 (ASM), transferring to REME when it came into being in October, 1942.

I served in the UK, Italy and Greece (55th Inf Div and 4th Indian Div), either i/c brigade or anti-tank LADs. – **Frank Henderson, Christchurch, Dorset.**



## Questions of rank

## Authority and status

RANK and insignia give soldiers a visible authority and status. During the First World War officers' rank was displayed conspicuously on the cuffs for all except Scottish regiments. Unfortunately, this marked them out as targets for enemy snipers. A junior officer in a crack regiment at the front had a life expectancy of six weeks. Hence the rank insignia was subsequently made more discreet.

In the Second World War officers' rank badges were again to stand out proud. Although steel helmets were not supposed to be wilfully damaged, there were cases of rank badges being affixed by brazing, soldering and even by drilling holes in the metal. One military museum has an example of a steel helmet bearing a metal insignia of a field marshal.

Officers of the Royal Fusiliers had shapes of crowns and stars painted on their helmets in gold. Another unusual practice, which was officially promulgated by Army Council instruction 647 of 1943, was the printing of officers' rank badges in bituminous emulsion on each shoulder of the anti-gas capes, stencils being provided for the crown only!

### THROUGH THE RANKS

Army ranks are universal. Most rank titles come from French with some originating in Latin and the Roman legions.

**Field marshal** was first conferred in 1736 and remains the highest rank in the British Army, although today's generals can no longer be promoted to it in peacetime. A field marshal never retires and remains on the active list until he dies. However, his pay is reduced when he is no longer employed.

The rank also exists for example in German – *Feldmarschall* and French – *Marechal de France*. Two great rival field marshals of the Second World War were Viscount Montgomery of Alamein and Erwin Rommel. Today, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Kent both hold this rank, while the King of Nepal is an honorary field marshal in the British Army.

In the USA equivalent five-star rank is General of the Army. The most famous was Dwight D Eisenhower, later President.

**General** today can be commander of an army in wartime. The rank dates back to 1576. The current Chief of the Defence Staff is Gen Sir Charles Guthrie. Until recently CDS was five-star rank, shared in turn by a Field Marshal, Admiral of the Fleet and Marshal of the Royal Air Force. – **Hugh Howton**

● More ranks in the next issue



## Commission keeps pledge to the fallen

AN extraordinary picture of the care and effort which goes into honouring our war dead worldwide emerges from the columns of the 1996-97 annual report of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

It is work that never stops: the discovery of the remains of 27 men (see Finally . . .) near Monchy le Preux a year ago was the largest since 1982, when what remained of 51 British First World War soldiers were unearthed on the Somme.

In northern Burma a military expedition was specially trained to reach aircraft wreckage found deep in the jungle by a native hunter. It turned out to be a Canadian Air Force Squadron Dakota lost while delivering supplies to the British Army in June 1945. The remains of six Canadian crewmen were taken to Taukkayan War Cemetery and laid to rest in the presence of next-of-kin.

In Sierra Leone, work to improve the quality of cemeteries was disrupted by violent conflict, while Nigeria was still closed to Commission staff. Paradoxically Iraq – where the CWGC commemorates 54,000 mostly First World War casualties – allowed inspection visits for the first time since the Gulf War. Work began at Baghdad (North Gate) and Alwiyah Indian War cemeteries.

### DATES

#### FEBRUARY

21: Lecture on the war in Korea by Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, at Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot, £6.50 (01252 349619).

#### APRIL

27: Lecture by Mr J Woltman on working with Dutch Resistance, Airborne Forces Museum.

#### MAY

10: Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service, 1100 hours at Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park (details: 0171 414 5233).

#### JUNE

2: 41-gun royal salute by King's Troop RHA, Hyde Park, 1200 hours, and 62-gun royal salute by HAC, Tower of London, 1300, to mark anniversary of Queen's Coronation.

3-4: Floodlit Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of the Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, 2130 hours. Tickets on 0171 414 2271 from March 1.

9-11: Beating Retreat by Massed Bands of Royal Artillery, Horse Guards Parade. Details on 0181 781 3032.

13: Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour); Colonel's Review, **June 6**; Major General's Review, **May 30**. Ticket applications accepted Jan 1-Feb 28 (0891 505 453).

#### JULY

21-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Details: 0171 799 2323.

Cyprus experienced its first snow in 40 years, with a subsequent frost decimating cemetery plants. In northern Europe, more than 350,000 roses have been replanted in war cemeteries since 1990 as part of a long-term programme.

Young trees at Bedford House Cemetery in Belgium were kept alive by the Ieper Fire Brigade when heat and drought threatened to kill them off. Water, or the lack of it, is a worldwide problem for the Commission as it attempts to maintain the gardens for which it is justly famous.

Underground tanks, moisture-retaining agents and green, grass-like ground creepers have provided some of the answers in warmer parts of the globe.

Doing its bit for conservation, the Commission aims to recycle up to 90 per cent of its plant waste by 2005, leading to huge savings in compost purchases. In the UK, clippings from yew hedges are collected and used for the extraction of medicine claimed to retard some forms of cancer.

Computers have eased access to information on Commission records, leading to some surprising results. The annual report reveals that an enquirer sought the burial place of one 2nd Lt Horace Walpole Mann of the 6th Loyal North Lancashires.

All attempts to trace him failed, but revealed a Maj Horatio Gordon Mann who served with the same unit and died on the same day, August 10, 1915. At first it was thought the two casualties were the same man, but research indicated that they were brothers and that they had both fought and died at Gallipoli.

It was not until the advent of the computerised database that it became possible to commemorate Horace Mann on the Helles Memorial to the Missing on Gallipoli. Thanks to the Commission, now in its 80th year, and modern technology, its commitment to the fallen will be fulfilled. The name of 2nd Lt Horace Mann will "liveth for evermore".

## Light at end of Newhaven tunnels?

ARMY veterans are being sought through *Soldier* by a local historian to shine light on the shadowy story of a Second World War underground military headquarters at Newhaven in East Sussex.

Fortress Control, known by the Army as Combined Operations Headquarters, NOIC Newhaven, was part of the Royal Navy shore base HMS *Forward*, which maintained a plot of the Channel in a similar way to Dover Castle and Fort Southwick, Portsmouth.

Geoffrey Ellis, historian for the town's Local and Maritime Museum, wants to

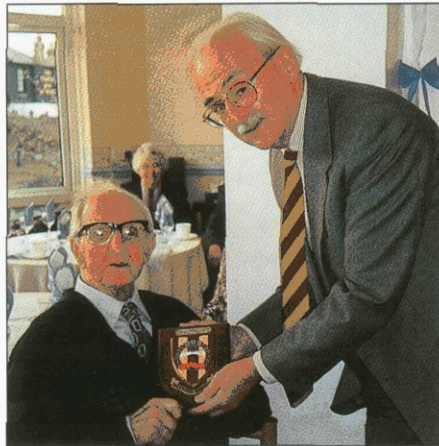
## Rome honours mentor, guide

COL Thomas Huggan, who settled in Rome after retiring from the Army in 1980 while serving there, has received a citation from British Ambassador Thomas Legh Richardson to mark his years of voluntary service to the embassy and the community.

He stayed on as a civilian, finally retiring in 1990, and for the past seven years has worked as a volunteer at the British Embassy, planning and organising official military visits, resolving military pension problems and running Italian language testing for British personnel in Italy.

Col Huggan, late RTR, is a mentor and guide to ex-PoWs and partisans, helps old friends – both British and Italian – to re-establish contact, and runs several small trusts, paying most of the expenses from his own pension.

His Army service began in 1943.



Bill Hatcher receives an inscribed Middlesex Regimental plaque from Maj (Retd) Ron Morris to mark his 100th birthday. Now a resident at St Mary's Home in Bexley, Bill was a pre-First World War Territorial Army soldier with the 8th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment. He went to France in 1914 and was wounded twice, once in the head and once in the foot.

"I was waiting for the one in the middle but fortunately it never arrived," he said.

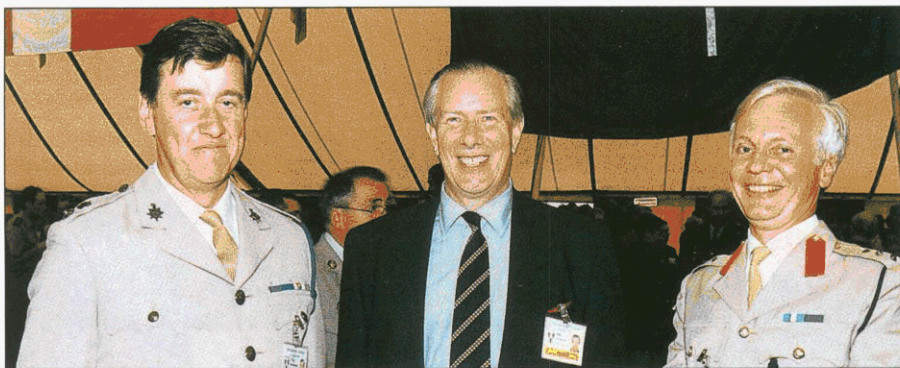
Family members and friends were joined by the Mayor of Bexley and regimental association representatives for Bill's birthday.

hear from veterans involved with tunnels deep beneath the Guinness Trust Holiday Home or in the Manor House at Denton, Newhaven. "I know that 172 Tunnelling Coy, Number 2 Section was involved in the excavation, and that 577 Army Fd Coy was employed for the fitting-out," he said.

Mr Ellis hopes to have the tunnels declared a heritage site and opened to the public. He has published a book and video, *The Secret Tunnels of South Heighton*, dedicated to those who served there.

Contact him at 11 Fairholme Road, Newhaven, E Sussex BN9 0NY.





**Name-dropping:** Enjoying a break at an international convention of reserve officers in Aalborg, Denmark are three men with the same name but different spellings. From left to right are Lt Col Rory Steevenson, CO 6/7 PWRR (V); Brig Peter Stevenson, secretary of East Midlands TAVRA; and Col Rex Stephenson, from Headquarters Land Command

## Another year in life of the Royal Berks . . .

READERS of two earlier books written by five mature students who make up the Kitchener Battalions project group at Reading University will be interested in their third offering, which covers the same battalions through the year of 1917.

*From Arras to Cambrai* by Colin Fox, Ian Cull, John Chapman, Martin McIntyre and Len Webb follows the fortunes of the three Kitchener Battalions (the 5th, 6th and 8th) of The Royal Berkshire Regiment. The foreword is by Prof Richard Holmes, whose own latest work is reviewed on Page 65.

With conscription, the Royal Berkshires recruited from a much-extended area, so this carefully-researched story is as much about men from Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Gloucestershire and Cornwall

as it is about soldiers from Berkshire. Priced at £7.95 (or £8.75 inc p and p), it is available in softback from the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Reading, London Road, Reading, Berks RG1 5AQ.

### . . . and 2nd Manchesters

LATEST publication from the Museum of the Manchesters is *Regimental Life in the British Army in India, 1921-1922*, a 26-page softback based on the 2nd Manchesters at their permanent station in India following active service in Mesopotamia.

The book costs £5.95 and is available from RHQ(I), The King's Regiment, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6HD (tel 0161 273 6191).

## Granite tribute

A MEMORIAL has been dedicated at Saint-Venant in France to men of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers who died delaying German forces advancing on Dunkirk in late May, 1940.

The battalion lost 98 officers and men, many of them buried at Saint-Venant and in neighbouring cemeteries, in a series of heroic rearguard actions.

Fittingly, the memorial, of granite with a Welsh slate tablet, was designed by Col Jack Willes, who fought in the battles. It was unveiled by Brig David Ross, colonel of the regiment and Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, at the scene of the battalion's final stand against the Germans.

### Dr John Pimlott – memorial service

A memorial service for the late Dr John Pimlott, Head of the Department of War Studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, will be held at the Royal Memorial Chapel on February 6. Friends and colleagues who wish to attend may apply to the Director of Studies, RMAS on 01276 412382 or Camberley Mil 2382.

## Finally...

THE remains of 25 unknown British soldiers killed at the Battle of Arras in France in 1917 are to be buried alongside two who have been identified following painstaking detective work at University College London. Pte Frank King and Pte George Anderson, both of the 13th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers, died on April 11, 1917, and it is believed those found with them were also Royal Fusiliers. Unearthed a year ago during excavations for a new factory, their remains will be buried with full military honours at Monchy Arras, most probably in April on the 81st anniversary of the battle.

Good news from Beverley, Yorkshire, where the **Museum of Military Transport** has been saved. It went into provisional liquidation a year ago with "insurmountable financial problems" but has been revived by "community spirit". Former Household Cavalry driver Alan Bushell, co-founder of a £10m-a-year timber business and an avid collector of military vehicles, is the knight in shining armour. Curator Wally Dugan will continue to run the museum, working closely with Bushell's Baltic Pine Timber Corporation Ltd.

Look out for the **Imperial War Museum's** new exhibition on 1918 – the Year of Decision – which marks the 80th anniversary of the final 12 months of the First World War. Items on display include Fd Marshal Haig's uniform.

D-Day veteran John Lanes (68) was heart-broken to find only one citizen of Newark, Tpr Tony Howes, serving with his old home town Territorial Army unit. The **Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry** were raised in Newark in 1794 and Mr Lanes has urged its youngsters to "get fell in" to ensure 200 years of town and unit history does not wither away.



Tpr Howes

*Soldiers from 7 R Irish, based in Belfast, used their abseiling skills to carry out an environmental project in Scabo Quarry, near Newtownards in Co Down. They cleared gorse and blackthorn bush from the cliff face, exposing the fluted and layered rock structure.*

**Running assignment:** Tusk Force, the charity which protects endangered animals, has places in the 1998 Flora London Marathon in April. If you would like to compete and raise funds for Tusk Force, ring Emma as soon as possible on 0181 743 8855 (fax 0181 74 6655) for a form.

Gen Sir Edward Burgess, Honorary Colonel of 6/7 PWRR, breakfasted with the battalion "in the field" at Longmoor, Hampshire, to mark his retirement. A revered figure, he entertained soldiers with anecdotes acquired during almost 50 years of military service.

A Far East exhibition covering the years 1941-45 is being prepared at the **Imperial War Museum, Duxford** for opening in the spring. It will show what went on in the theatre, including the experiences of PoWs.

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1948

### MEN OF THE DESERT

In the explosive atmosphere which overhangs the Arab lands there is a good deal of conjecture about the ultimate fate of King Abdullah's Arab Legion, which is subsidised by Britain. Part of the Legion is lent to the British Army for guard duties in Palestine.

## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, January 1973

### ALL THINGS CONSIDERED . . .

The English officer is least of all an officer. He is a rich landowner, house-owner, capitalist or merchant. He knows nothing about the Services and is only seen on parade and reviews. His chief amusements are gambling, racing and sports. He goes to bed at dawn and gets up at midday. – From *Russian Odessa News*



# Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue of the moment

## Rations: do you relish them or rubbish them?

Tinned compo has been replaced by a supposedly improved diet of boil-in-the-bag meals. But do these meals for the millennium satisfy soldiers? We put this question to ten Catterick-based soldiers.

### WO2 Bob Walker, 1 Staffords

I've tested Egyptian rations in the Gulf and America, Belgian and French rations in Bosnia. Our ration pack is far superior to any of them. But the Americans do have a good idea in including a chemical heating element in the meals. If you haven't got much



time, then that would be an ideal thing. Also, I think our rations could have a bit more variety.

### Capt Tom Perkins, RS

A lot goes to waste, particularly things like soup. I'd like to see sausages and beans come back and a lot more chocolate. My best recipe tip is to add a bit of curry powder to the corned beef hash. You can't beat it.



### Pte Sharon Smith, RLC

Being a vegetarian, there's not much for me in the new rations. I take my own chocolate and Super Noodles that I have to buy for myself. Apparently they do



cater for vegetarians but they don't seem to be able to get the rations up here.

### Cpl Paul Charnock, 1 QLR

Rations are basically good, but certain things are just not palatable; for example "beef and bullets", as we call it, which is really beef and dumplings. You can boil them for 20 minutes but the dumplings still won't go soft. We find that soldiers just chuck a lot of rations away and supplement it with food they buy themselves, like Pot Noodles. I always take a bit of Tabasco or garlic sauce and salt with me, because some of the food is a bit bland.



### Capt Rupert Steptoe, 1 D and D

You can always criticise rations because after a while on exercise you are eating the same thing, day in day out. So anything that can be done to increase variety would be a good thing. I would like to see the rolled oats come back into the 24-hour packs. They were always hot and filling. The biscuits need to be softened. They're extremely hard and most dogs won't eat them. And get rid of butter-



scotch sauce and apple dumplings, which no one seems to eat.

### Cpl Martin McNally, 1 RHF

The boil-in-the-bags are very good but there are a few things in the packs that could be changed. For example, mixed fruit pudding. When we go on exercise that is one of the things that is always left uneaten. In the old days we had fudge bars and Yorkies but now they've changed that for plain chocolate. That's not so good.



### Maj Neil Hutchinson, PWRR

Boil-in-the-bag is far better than tinned food as a concept. But the quality of the stuff they've been putting in the bags has been going a bit downhill. The puddings for instance: last time we were on exercise, every one of my men left the pudding in butterscotch sauce. I tried it and it is vile. Also the brew kit has changed. We need lots of hot drinks but they've cut down on the amount of tea and coffee and on the amount of whitener.



ings for instance: last time we were on exercise, every one of my men left the pudding in butterscotch sauce. I tried it and it is vile. Also the brew kit has changed. We need lots of hot drinks but they've cut down on the amount of tea and coffee and on the amount of whitener.

### Cpl Mark Kretzschmar, 1 RRW

I think it is basically very good but they could get rid of some of the

menus or change them slightly. I don't like the biscuits. They should bring back the Garibaldi's. You're likely to break your teeth on the ones in the packs now.



### CSgt Steve Munroe, 2 R Anglian

Rations are very good. After living on pilchards and the like that we used to get in some of the old tinned ration packs, it seem to me that today's soldiers don't have too much to worry about. However, it would be good if they put some little perks in the packs, like tomato sauce sachets. I know they are worried about costs, but I'm a taxpayer, and I don't mind. Oh, and I'd like to find the guy who invented the butter-scotch.



like tomato sauce sachets. I know they are worried about costs, but I'm a taxpayer, and I don't mind. Oh, and I'd like to find the guy who invented the butter-scotch.

### Cpl Debbie Black, RLC

I think the rations we're issued with today are brilliant. They are easier to pack away and a lot lighter. I like the bacon and beans particularly. But they could include pasta in the meals.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Terry Champion

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**SOLDIER** is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed in the UK for The Stationery Office. Crown Copyright 1998.

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## COMING SOON

● Bulford, Bramley and battlebikes will be featuring in forthcoming issues of the magazine. A wide range of courses is offered by Bulford's **Land Command (UK) School of Physical and Recreational Training**. **Bramley Military Training Area** has exciting facilities on offer, including a confidence-building course available to units. You will meet the **Military Vehicle Trust's** two-wheel specialists, enthusiasts who find, rebuild and ride motor cycles which have given sterling service to the Army in peace and war.

● An interview with author Bernard Cornwell, creator of Richard Sharpe, will appear in the next issue.



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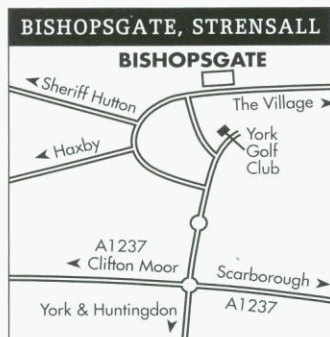
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