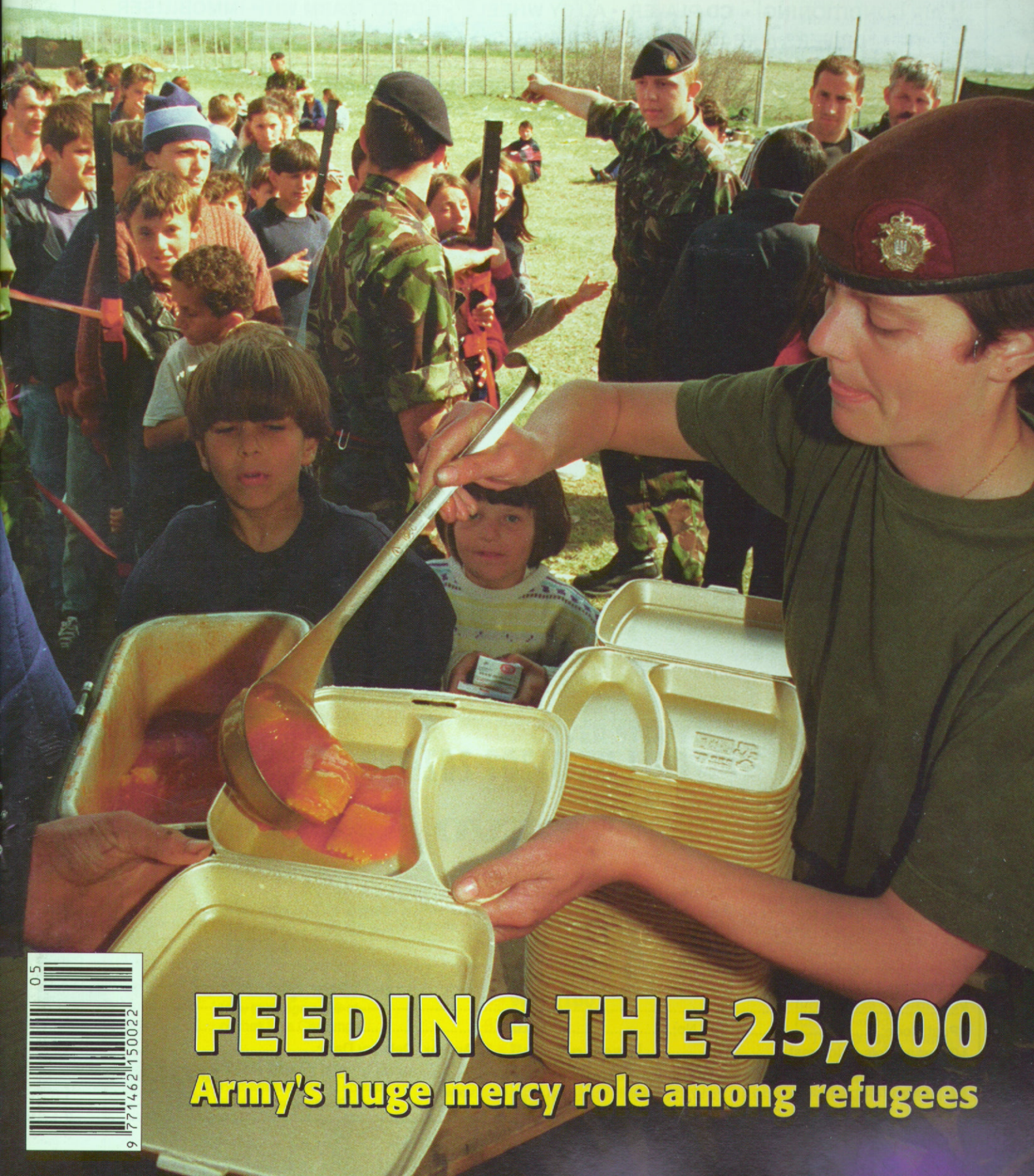


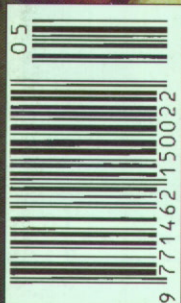
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SOLDIER



FEEDING THE 25,000
Army's huge mercy role among refugees



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**How to
contact
Soldier
— see
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"He found it in a car boot sale and had it adapted by the force workshops"

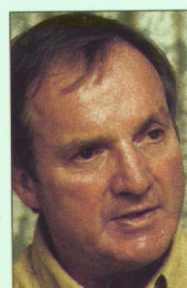
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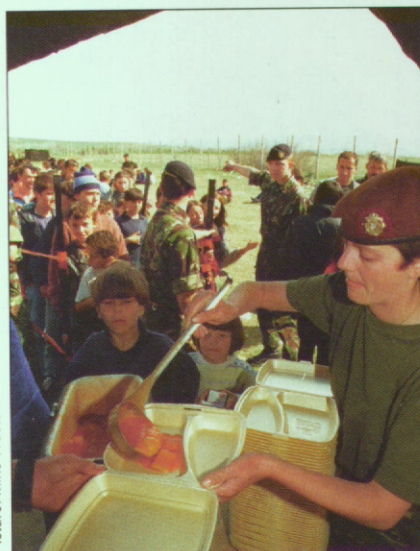
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Humanitarian work: should soldiers be involved?



Picture: Mike Weston

4-9 COVER STORY

Feeding the 25,000: Cpl Karen Miller, attached to The King's Royal Hussars, serves a special meal for Kosovar refugee children in a tent at Brazda. It was the high point of a remarkable humanitarian effort

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SOLDIER to soldier

Compassion in uniform

VOX POP, our regular sampling of opinion among the rank and file, is one of our most popular features.

We look for diversity of opinions ... and usually find it. But this month was different. We asked dozens of troops — ordinary soldiers, NCOs and officers — who were deeply involved in helping Kosovar refugees in Macedonia whether such humanitarian work was suitable for today's soldiers. As one, they answered "Yes".

Tough, tiring and often heart-breaking though the work in the refugee camps was, every soldier to whom we spoke said that he or she had enjoyed extreme job satisfaction. It may seem strange to speak of enjoyment in such circumstances, but there were lots of smiles among these impromptu aid workers. To traumatised refugees such warmth must have been almost as welcome as hot food.

FRIENDSHIP

We saw this for ourselves at Brazda camp (see Page 4), where soldiers of many cap-badges helped more than 25,000 Kosovars.

And we were not the only ones to be impressed. Some professional civilian aid workers, on whose behalf the soldiers (not just British) set up and ran the refugee camps, suggested that Nato should take on humanitarian work as a primary task.

But while the Army will always respond to an emergency, to give soldiers such a permanent role would be something else entirely. As Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson commented, we might just as well establish a separate, Army-like, organisation, specifically tasked to handle crises.

If anyone decides to develop the idea they need look no further than the British Army for a role model.

Turn to Page 70 for a glimpse of the spirit which has enabled the Army to do so much for the displaced people of Kosovo.

'Soldiers are human beings'

The British commander of ARRC talks exclusively to *Soldier* of the humanitarian, peace-implementation and military aspects of Nato's presence in Macedonia

NATO forces in Macedonia are under the control of the ARRC – Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps – the multinational body led by Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson (pictured) of the British Army.

As the general talked at his HQ in Skopje in early April, British soldiers were simultaneously caring for Kosovar refugees and maintaining a high state of alert against possible Serbian attacks.

Soldier: The sudden involvement in refugee work must have come as a great surprise and made huge demands on the assets at your disposal.

Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson: What you've got to understand is that when the force came here earlier in the year with the prospect of a peace agreement at Rambouillet, the British decided not only to send the first battle-group but also to send the logistics for the whole force.

The other nations have done similarly. So there was this spare logistics capacity and Brig Tim Cross (leading the National Support Element) was just in the right place at the right time. We rapidly got going and people worked enormously hard.

Had you seen anything like this operation before?

No. I have done a lot of things in my service, but one thing I have not done is to set out to run refugee camps. The airfield camp at Brazda (which is the biggest) started off as British-led but very multi-national. We got tents, soldiers to put them up, and rations from all over the place.

It was a remarkable demonstration that soldiers are human beings as well. They had been watching those dreadful pictures on TV of the thousands held up at the border, and their reaction speaks volumes.

But we've got a military job to do. Events may yet take us to the north. We won't leave anyone in the lurch, but it has distracted us from the basic reason we are here.

Brig Cross said it had been suggested to him that Nato had handled the refugee

crisis so well that they could be a force to do this kind of humanitarian work in the future. What do you think?

I'm not sure about that. Armies can help. We are structured, we have the command and control, we have good logistics, and we can react quickly. But whether we actually start to say that armies are now there to handle refugees is another matter. You may as well devise a civilian organisation to do that.

How did seeing the pictures of suffering in Kosovo make you feel, bearing in mind the job that you may have to do?

Knowing what was going on inside Kosovo, 15 miles away, was not pleasant. Equally, one's got to be very clear about what the art of the military possible is. Put these very light peace implementation forces together and we only have a light brigade, not a fighting brigade. It was not designed to be that. It was so frustrating – I'm afraid there was nothing sensible we could have done.

So you are not one of those who say we should march in there and conduct a land war.

I am not paid to take risks that I know will end in disaster. My mission hasn't changed. We are here on a peace implementation mission, should there be an agreement. As for the future, that is a quite different matter. People can take views on whether an agreement is now politically possible. Certainly it seems to me that the chances are going down every day. But that is the mission at the moment.

Having established that we are still talking about peace implementation, how quickly could the force here be doing that job?

What nations have done is put in here the first echelon of the 25,000-man force. We have about 11,000 here now. But they brought the full command and control and the full logistical support so that we could very quickly bring in the remainder of the forces.

Provided that circumstances would allow me to go in with that first echelon but without the second, which would take ten or 14 days to arrive, we could do it in a matter of days.

Obviously political decisions have to be made first, but are you planning for a changed role?

Absolutely. Any military commander makes prudent contingency plans for whatever he thinks might come his way. And that's about all you're getting on that one.



Macedonia miracle

When Kosovars were driven from their homes and country, it was Nato troops who came to the rescue. A *Soldier* team was in Macedonia as the remarkable exodus of refugees unfolded

Reports from Macedonia by **Graham Bound**, pictures by **Mike Weston**

IN THE Christian calendar Easter represents hope. But for a while this year, the message seemed to ring a little hollow.

Good Friday dawned on a massive impending humanitarian disaster as many thousands of Kosovar refugees were building up at squalid human bottlenecks on the country's borders. It was the result of "ethnic cleansing" on the most shocking scale.

Relief organisations, including the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, seemed woefully unprepared, and it became obvious that only Nato's KFOR, the Kosovo peace implementation force standing by in Macedonia, could do anything to help.

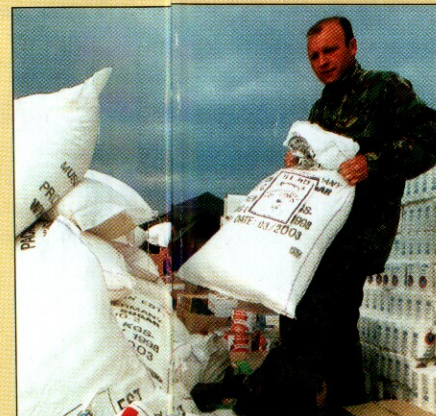
Nato had never embarked on such a mission before. It did, however, have the skills of planning, supply, medical care and organisation that were needed in battle and this situation resembled just that.

The troops waded in, setting up a hospital, water supplies, food distribution and shelter. Over the next week or so their remarkable improvised operation saved hundreds of lives and showed many thousands of refugees that not all soldiers are to be feared.

"We were flying by the seat of our pants," KFOR's commander, Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson, said later. As commander of the ARRC (Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps) he and his staff had practised a variety of simulated Nato deployments, but these had never included coping with a mass refugee problem while in a defensive posture against possible attack.



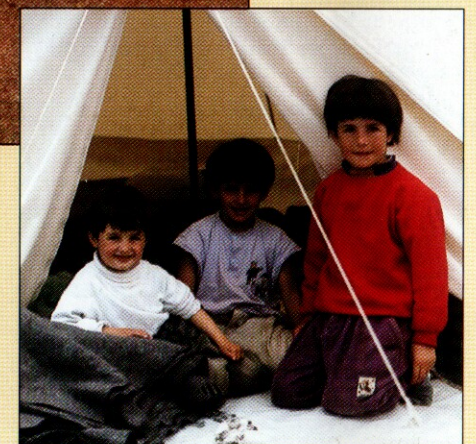
Queuing: A constant need for the refugees, above, as they wait patiently for food and water



Aid arrives: LCpl Shaun Studzinski, above, unloads sugar



Helping hand: Pte Sarah Price, right, leads an old woman to the hospital tent



Safe refuge: Kosovar children find shelter

been assigned the responsibility for what would become by far the biggest of four camps.

While the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) scrambled to locate tents and other vital supplies, the site began its transformation. Latrines were dug, water purification and distribution systems built, and food distribution points set up. As the tents came in, the soldiers erected a canvas city.

That night, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees staff at the border crossing phoned Brazda to say that the troops should expect the bulk of the refugees to arrive imminently. But the notorious Macedonian bureaucracy continued laboriously checking the refugees, maintaining the border misery.

However, with Britain's Overseas

● Turn to next page

Hospital on the front line

Forced across the border into Macedonia, desperate refugees at last found soldiers who cared

BRAZDA refugee camp's tented field hospital was woefully short of drugs. The treatment centre was equipped to handle battlefield trauma and the routine complaints of relatively fit young soldiers, but the demands from neglected, sick and injured refugees was far beyond anything that the multi-national staff had expected.

Many of the displaced Kosovars had chronic illnesses or had been turned out of other hospitals. Some had gaping wounds or needed catheters. After days trekking across mountains and hiding from Serbian soldiers, many had used or lost their specialist drugs.

But somehow, the multi-national staff of the little hospital with its half-dozen treatment bays attended to an estimated 120 patients an hour, around the clock, for a week.

Pressure was slightly relieved when Macedonian hospitals agreed to provide specialist drugs, but such was the crisis that even the British ambassador in

Skopje was pressed into service buying supplies locally. He wheeled a fleet of shopping trolleys around a supermarket, filling them with nappies for the infant patients, many of whom were suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting.

Nevertheless, there were times when the medics could offer their patients little more than a soothing cream, some paracetamol or a warm, sympathetic smile. Even a hug was better than nothing. Col Robert Alsema, a Dutch doctor, said: "Sometimes we know what we could do, but we simply don't have the medication."

Sgt Karen Jamieson, normally a staff nurse with 23 Para Field Ambulance in



First aid: Cpl Carl Beasley gives a young Kosovar the once over

Aldershot, spoke both of the frustration and the satisfaction. She had been forced to tell one small group of refugees that there was no shelter for them. All she

Macedonia miracle

● From Page 5

Development Minister Clare Short in Macedonia and demanding progress, the floodgates opened. An estimated 20,000 exhausted, weak and hungry Kosovars poured into Brazda, filling it to the brim and overwhelming the supply of tents.

For the uniformed men and women involved, the next few days were a blur. Few enjoyed more than two or three hours of sleep a night and there were countless unrecorded examples of selfless labour.

Struggling to catch up and eventually take over the camps, the civilian aid agencies, the professionals in this business, were profoundly impressed. With heavy irony one veteran humanitarian worker told Brig Tim Cross, who led the Brazda operation, that he wished the troops would go, "because every time I see a uniform I feel guilty".

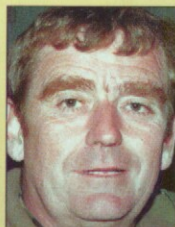
Apart from the logistics staff, medics, caterers, pioneers and engineers who shouldered most of the burden, tank

crews, gunners and infantry were also released from their normal duties to help. Brig Cross, a committed Christian, found it difficult to express adequately his admiration for the troops from almost all branches of the Army.

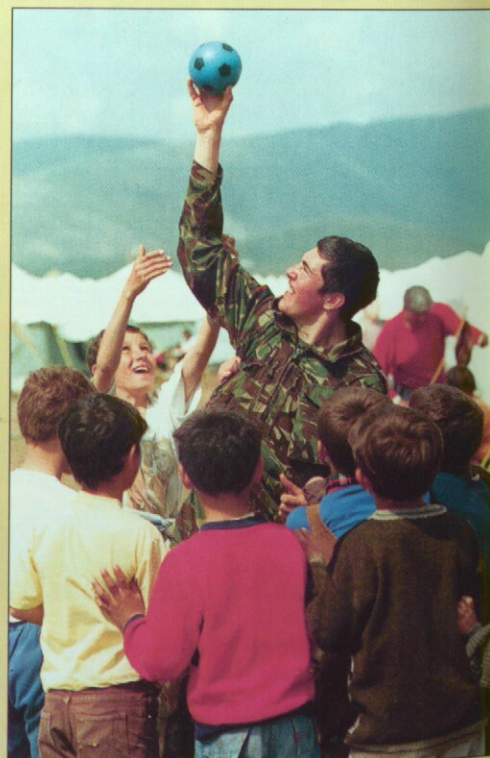
"I'm so very proud of being in the British Army," he said, his fatigue and emotions unconcealed. "Everyone has shown sacrifice, selflessness and a desire to serve. We have led these refugees by serving."

Like many of the soldiers, he was shocked by the horror that Serb troops had unleashed. "This is classic Schindler's List stuff," he said. "This is Europe in 1999 and it's not much different to 1939."

But looking towards the over-worked field hospital that had been set up in the middle of the camp he found a perfect Easter image to illustrate the success of the mission. Thoughtfully and quietly, he said: "We lost a baby on the night of the great influx. But 24 hours later, two more were born. *We have made a difference.*"



Tired but proud commander: Brig Tim Cross



Rediscovering fun and laughter: Gdm Colin Heaney of the Irish Guards plays ball with Kosovar children in the Brazda camp

could do was advise them to huddle closely together under their blankets and share their bodily warmth. "I'd have loved to have magicked up more tents, but I couldn't," she said.

Sometimes, though, physical contact was as good as a pill or potion. It did wonders for one elderly lady, one of a group of old people who had been brought in from the border crossing by a British and Norwegian ambulance team. They were exhausted and dehydrated, and it appeared they had been left to die.

"I sat next to her," Sgt Jamieson remembered. "She just grabbed my hand and my face and would not let go. It was as if she couldn't believe that we were being kind to her."

WORST CASE

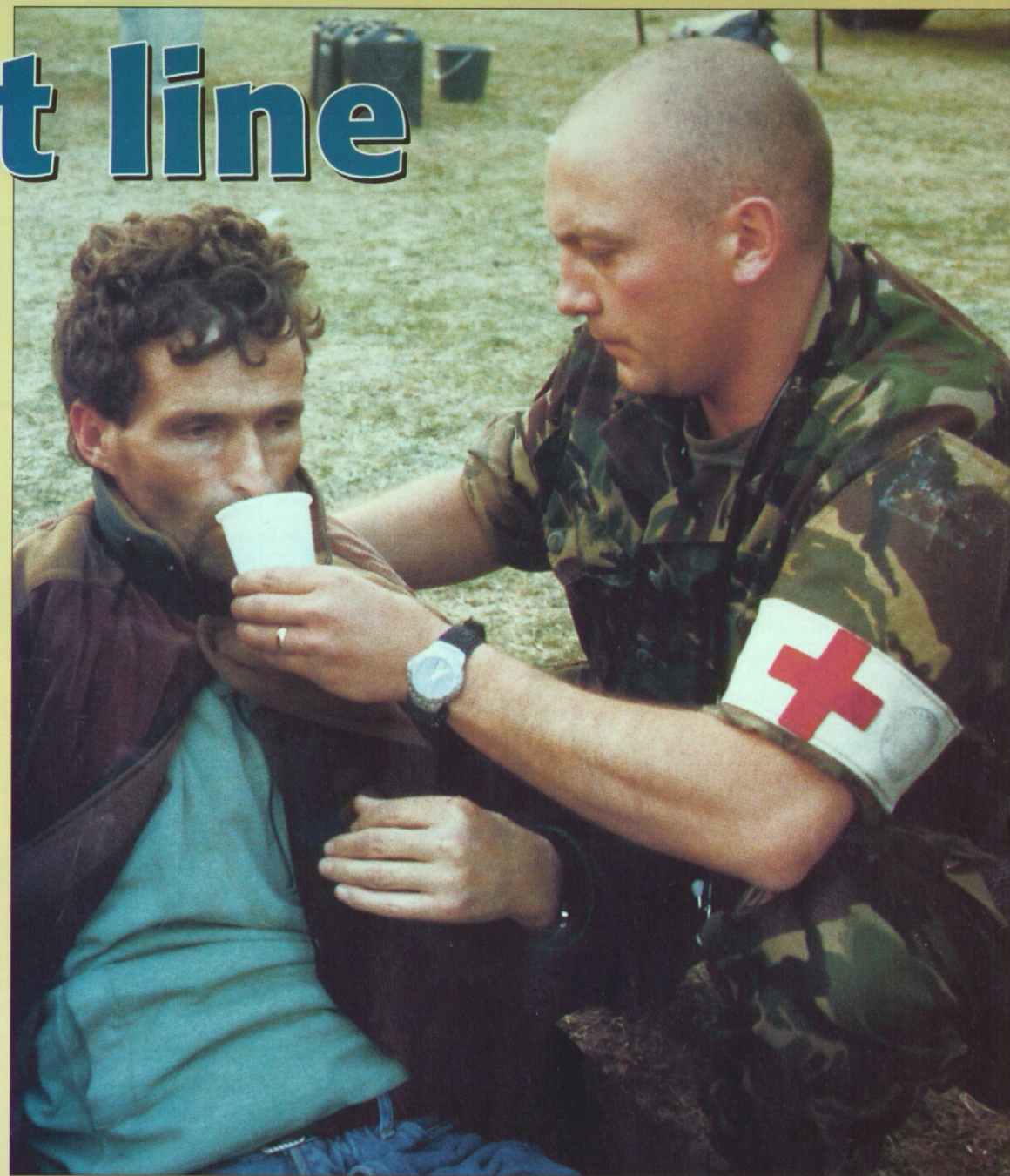
Karen's first case was her worst. "A soldier rushed into the treatment centre with a mother and a baby, but the baby had been dead for days. The mother wouldn't let go of it. The baby's father was still fighting in Kosovo and hadn't seen it. That made me realise what we had on our hands."

Core of the medical post was formed by 2 Armoured Field Ambulance from Münster, but the British team was joined by doctors, nurses and medics from the Italian, French, German, Norwegian and Dutch armies. Doctors and nurses were, however, in short supply, and combat medical technicians (CMTs) often had to handle procedures they had previously only read about.

Some of the refugees helped. Among the residents of Brazda camp were a few hospital staff and medical students. Other English-speaking Kosovars worked as interpreters.

Brazda took the brunt of the refugee influx, but there were three other camps, and the medics ran smaller treatment centres at two of these. Lt Col Jeremy Rowan, who headed the British team, made it clear that all three groups had shown remarkable dedication. "What pleases me most," said Lt Col Rowan, "is that there have been no complaints. The staff just work and work."

Certainly CMT Sgt Paul Henderson



"You're OK now": Cpl Liam Fitzgerald helps a diabetic refugee, one of tens of thousands of patients

did not seem to mind the workload. "This has been a good experience," he insisted.

But what of the emotional stress? "The training takes over and we don't have time to dwell on that. We may have time to think later."

Outside the tent, controlling a long queue of patients, stood Pte Sarah Price, an RLC ambulance driver. It was 5.30pm, and she had been there since 7.30 that morning, keeping order and helping patients into the treatment bays. She had slept for just four hours the night before.

"This is what I joined the Army for," she said.

By the fourth day of the crisis the queues were still long and the stress levels high. But more supplies were getting



Frustration and satisfaction: Sgt Karen Jamieson

EMOTIONAL SERVICE

There was a short religious service to mark the hand-over; thanksgiving for those lives that had been saved and remembrance for the few who were lost. It was the medics' cue to release the emotions that had been safely bottled up for too many days. The "time to think" had arrived and there was hardly a dry eye in the hospital.

Feeding the 25,000

High-energy food is the key to survival as RLC caterers dish out rations to refugees

THE LOGGIES of 27 Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps, formed a main pillar of the huge humanitarian effort at Brazda refugee camp.

Normally based at Aldershot, the 565 logisticians, drivers, caterers, ordnance specialists and other staff had deployed to Macedonia as part of the National Support Element for 4 Armoured Brigade's tanks, artillery and infantry. But their skills were ideally suited to the relief operation and about 150 men and women quickly became deeply involved.

As aid arrived from around the world, 18 of the regiment's DROPS trucks (capable of independently loading and unloading containers) and a handful of forklifts shuttled the food, blankets, tents and medical supplies from Skopje's international airport to depots in the camps.

From there vehicles belonging to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) took the supplies to distribution points within the camps, many of which were manned by sappers of 28 and 21 Engineer Regiments.

The RLC caterers at Brazda camp faced a particularly demanding task. They had to provide as much nourishment as possible for the estimated 25,000 refugees. No one supposed that the regiment's hurriedly-erected field kitchens would provide all the food required – cold rations from half-a-dozen nations remained the refugees' staple diet – but the blazing trailer-mounted cookers generated around 10,000 portions of food each night, ready for distribution in the morning. It was an apparently endless stream of carbohydrate-rich food that the weakened Kosovars could quickly convert into energy.

By day seven, the situation had stabilised sufficiently for the caterers to host a special lunch for 5,000 refugee children and 500 of their parents. It was the best thing the Kosovar kids had seen in many days.

The "party" was also something of a



Survival basics: Sappers and loggies unload bread and water for refugees at a food distribution point, above and left



reward for the cooks and kitchen staff. Until then most had been locked into a gruelling cycle of shifts, and the rare off-duty hours were spent in sleeping bags. This was a chance for them to see the smiles of the people they had helped keep alive.

Master Chef SSgt Chris Reay, who was in charge of the kitchens, looked back on one of the most remarkable weeks of his

life. He had received his orders to begin the emergency operation at 9pm on Good Friday, and had a field kitchen operating in the main camp four hours later. His team, with 22 chefs drawn in from all units in Macedonia, worked without sleep until late on Saturday night.

COOKING MARATHON

Over the next four days, the kitchens produced about 50,000 portions of roast chicken, 12,000 boiled eggs and 20,000 doughnuts and cakes. Within two days the team had run out of Army food and were ordering fresh supplies from Germany.

SSgt Reay was impressed both by the efforts of his colleagues and by the refugees themselves. "There are people just everywhere," he said. "Their dignity is amazing. They stand there queuing patiently."

"Sometimes, though, we feel so useless. One man just wanted some plastic sheeting to cover his family and we couldn't help him. It choked me up. But the kids smile and wave at us. It's humbling."



Clean water a priority: LCpl Gareth Evans and Spr Gavin Morns perform an essential task: keeping the precious liquid flowing



Bridging the gap: Sappers of 1 Fd Sqn, 21 Regt RE, ensure entry to the camp for vehicles

Building bridges and saving lives

BRAZDA'S transformation from a grass aerodrome to a canvas city was due in no small part to the work of about 350 men and women from two regiments of the Royal Engineers.

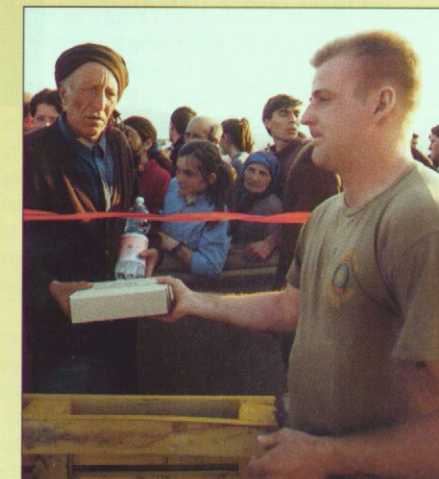
As the unit committed to the British National Support Element, 28 Regiment took on the brunt of the engineering work, but it was joined by 1 Field Squadron from 21 Regiment, (normally attached to the King's Own Hussars battle-group) and around 50 soldiers from 2 Battalion, REME.

Mobilised for the emergency on Easter Saturday, the sapper-based team immediately set about establishing a life-support system for Macedonia's main refugee camp.

The task at Brazda would have been enough to keep the team very busy, but on Easter Sunday some of the sappers were moved to the nearby French-controlled Stenkovac camp. While the Brits erected tents, the French dug latrines, and Stenkovac accepted its first residents that night.

At Brazda, the soldiers came under almost unbearable pressure when the frontier was opened on Sunday evening. They had erected channels to funnel the Kosovars through registration, medical and food distribution points. But the system was overwhelmed and the exhausted Kosovars were simply directed to the tents and their other needs catered for later.

RSM Kenneth Matheson described it as "back-of-a-fag-packet stuff". Maybe so, but some of the work was sophisticated, like the steel bridge erected by 1 Fd Sqn to allow access to the



Rations: LCpl Dave Wilson of 42 Fd Sqn, 28 Regiment RE distributes food to the hungry

Brazda camp for trucks packed with food, blankets and clothing.

Another team set up a water purification and distribution system, which Oxfam's man on the spot, Deputy Director John Whittaker, described as life-saving. He said: "Another 24 hours without clean water would have led to a catastrophe."

The sappers dispensed food to apparently endless queues. At one distribution point, Spr Matthew Lynch of 28 Regiment's 42 Fd Sqn had been hard at work for two days with virtually no sleep. In an attempt to ensure that the scant supplies were distributed fairly, he and his colleagues marked the hands of the refugees as they received cartons of milk, biscuits and tinned meat paste, the latest haphazard range of food to be unloaded from a UN relief lorry.

Spr Lynch was tired but clearly invigorated by the work. The ordinary engineer with the extraordinary job said: "It's hard – but things are much worse for them."

See also Pages 11, 23, 30-31 and 70



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Picture: Mike Weston
In safe hands: Five-year-old Kosovar refugee Jehona Aliu with Cpl Carl Newbrook

Little girl lost finds her sapper family

SEEING this little girl's face light up with a confident smile, it is hard to believe she has suffered such cruel misfortune, **writes Graham Bound.**

The bright and friendly five-year-old is now all alone in the world – apart, that is, from a squadron of Royal Engineers and a Kosovar interpreter who have “adopted” her.

Jehona Aliu lost her family somewhere along the trail of tears that led from her home in Ferizoy in southern Kosovo to Brazda refugee camp in Macedonia. She was able to tell the soldiers and their Kosovar interpreter Eli Krasniqi (herself a refugee), that she and her mother, father, brother and two sisters had left their home in the family car.

When armed men forced them from it, they transferred to a train, which was heading for the Macedonian border. In the packed carriages, she lost contact with her parents. Another refugee family cared for her, but with more than enough concerns of their own, they passed little Jehona to the Army when they reached the refugee camp.

Sappers from 1 Fd Sqn, 21 Regt RE had been working long days and nights preparing clean-water supplies and erecting tents at the camp, bringing hope to many thousands of displaced Kosovars. But this solitary little refugee captured their hearts more than any other. Soon Cpl Carl

Newbrook was her favourite temporary uncle.

The sapper, who put his mates to work finding toys for the youngster, and interpreter Eli said that the little girl had displayed remarkable strength. She played happily with the toys and felt-tip pens the soldier had conjured up, and loved to draw pictures. She drew one simple image time after time: a house, a tree and a person. She told interpreter Eli that this was her house, garden and father.

Jehona was by no means the only lost child in the massive camp, but most of the others were reunited with their families or, at least, taken in by relatives. Sounding mature beyond her tender years, Jehona would tell the other children not to cry. “I’ve lost my family too,” she said on more than one occasion, “but I’m not crying. I just feel a little sad.”

Everyone hopes that the Aliu family will soon be found, and that Jehona can be reunited with them.

The prospect of their returning to the home in the little girl's drawings seems more remote.

Got a TV? Get a licence

MILITARY bases are to be targeted after being found to have a high level of TV licence evasion. Offenders risk a £1,000 fine and a criminal record. Full story on Page 42.

More troops head for Macedonia

A SECOND battle-group, consisting of approximately 2,000 soldiers, has been deployed to Macedonia, where they will bring the British presence to more than 6,300 troops.

The latest addition to the Nato force awaiting a peace-enforcing mission in Kosovo will virtually duplicate the 4th Armoured Brigade battle-group which has been in theatre since early March.

Led by 1 Company, Irish Guards, deploying from Osnabrück, the new battle-group will include 14 Challenger 1 tanks of The King's Royal Hussars, one AS90 heavy artillery battery from 4 Regiment RA, and a reconnaissance squadron of the Household Cavalry equipped with 20 Scimitar tracked vehicles.

GREEN HOWARDS

In addition to the infantry of the Irish Guards, a company of men from the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards will also deploy. Between them the two infantry companies will have 40 Warriors in theatre.

The force will be supported by sappers from 21 Engineer Regiment RE equipped with bridging equipment, and other support will come from the national support element which deployed in early March with 4 Armd Bde.

Most heavy equipment was transported from Germany aboard Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships, and was expected to arrive in the Greek port of Thessaloniki at the end of April. Troops were expected to be air-lifted into Macedonia at about the same time.

MAIN CONTRIBUTOR

Under Operation Agricola, Britain is the main contributor of ground forces to Nato in Macedonia. British troops are also under other commands. Approximately 1,000 personnel are attached to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Force (ARRC) overseeing the Macedonia operation.

In addition, no more than a few dozen British troops are working with the predominantly Italian force conducting humanitarian work in Albania. This operation, known as Allied Harbour, is, however, under the command of Maj Gen John Reith of the British Army.

Bicester's bags of commitment

MILITARY and MoD civilian staff at the Defence Storage and Distribution Centre in Bicester, Oxfordshire have shipped 20,000 sleeping bags to Macedonia for use by Kosovar refugees. The bags would normally be sold as good-quality seconds. Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson visited the depot and praised the staff on the logistical support they have given British troops serving in Macedonia. “I would like to congratulate them on managing such a huge operation,” he said.

People, places, events

Attitude survey flags increase in job satisfaction

INCREASED levels of satisfaction in the areas of job satisfaction, workload, and fairness and discipline have been flagged by the latest attitude study carried out for the Army.

The responses were gleaned from the Army Continuous Attitude Survey (CAS), re-launched two years ago by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency's Centre for Human Sciences at Chertsey, Surrey to determine the attitudes of serving personnel and their families across a whole range of subjects.

The Adjutant General's headquarters receives quarterly reports which it uses to guide the formation and implementation of new policy and to address areas flagged up by the CAS. The continuous nature of the survey enables changes in attitude to be tracked over time and the impact of evolving policies to be assessed.

RED ALERT

Almost 1,000 serving personnel and 550 spouses are sent the questionnaires every month, while about 7,000 all ranks are sent the leavers' form to fill in. Responses are colour-coded on a five-point scale ranging from green for satisfactory to red alert.

In the latest CAS report, sport had changed from amber warning status to green, one of 13 indices in the green band. Eight areas registered an amber warning and one a red action value. Statistically significant increases in levels of satisfaction since the last report were detected in the areas of workload, fairness and discipline and job satisfaction while satisfaction levels on the effect of Army life on children's education had worsened.

FAMILY LIFE

The study also revealed that of soldiers leaving the Army, less than a third of those who responded said they would recommend the Service as a career to others. The three most significant causes for dissatisfaction were the effect the Army had on family life, morale, and career development and employment.

Among the more telling of the findings were the responses to the statement: "I would recommend the Army as a career to other." In response, 44 per cent disagreed and only 28 per cent agreed.

Career frustrations were summed up by a lance corporal who was quoted as saying: "I am fed up with getting turned down for courses and opportunities that I have been offered... because units can't afford the loss of manpower." A captain complained of a career and promotion structure based on promotion at the age of 37... "which is frustrating for someone who is ambitious and 29."

About a third of leavers responded to the survey, enough to show a trend but not sufficient for detailed analysis.

Airmen on rescue mission

TROOPS from Suffolk-based 3 Regiment AAC found themselves in a real rescue mission hours after arriving in Scotland for a training exercise. When a Royal Air Force search-and-rescue helicopter suffered mechanical failure, the RAF turned to the Army for help in finding a girl missing from her home in Aberdeen. A Lynx helicopter searched the coastline without success but the girl was later found safe and well.

Army welcomes pets' passports

GOVERNMENT measures to end the quarantine system for family pets have been welcomed by the Army. They will have a particular impact on Service families returning to the United Kingdom from Germany.

Under plans unveiled last month, the much-hated system of six-month quarantines will be replaced by a hi-tech pet movement scheme involving an electronic microchip. Cats and dogs from qualifying countries must be:

- Implanted with an electronic chip;
- Vaccinated against rabies and have regular booster jabs;
- Blood-tested at an approved laboratory to show they are fully protected against rabies, with tests carried out six months before entry to Britain;
- Issued with an official health certificate or "pet passport";
- Treated against "exotic" infections carried by cats and dogs in other countries but not yet present in the UK.

PILOT SCHEMES

Pilot schemes are to be introduced within 12 months and the system should be fully operational within two years.

Welcoming the news, Brig Andrew Roache, Director of the Veterinary and Remount Services at Aldershot, said: "The general principle is very good news for Service personnel with pets and we would hope any pilot schemes would include them. Certainly, Army families are a special case.

"Pets are immensely important to Army families. Their pets are known to give stability, especially to children, in times of upheaval and turmoil in the family. When they get moved away from their friends when father gets posted, pets can help them

through these emotional transitions.

"What we've been saying in the past is that the very time when Army families need their pets most is when they get taken away.

"Service families are responsible citizens who will abide by regulations and do the job properly, so I think they should have as much chance as anyone to take part in the pilot schemes."

The new regulations will include European Union nations and rabies-free countries such as Australia, New Zealand and the Falklands, but not immediately the United States and Canada. Pets from Africa and the Indian sub-continent will still be subject to quarantine.

Army veterinary staff overseas will advise and help with vaccines and implants.

Cyprus will be subject to existing quarantine laws for the foreseeable future because it cannot be certified as a rabies-free island until movement of animals from rabies-free countries is controlled and monitored. At present there may be free movement of animals from, for instance, Turkey.

Germany will be included in the new scheme and the MoD is lobbying for any pilot scheme to include Service families. When details are available it is expected that the RAVC unit in Germany (DASU Sennelager) will be able to provide a pre-export service, as well as advice.

Have your say on PAYD

THOUSANDS of military personnel are to be asked what they think about the Pay-As-You-Dine scheme in a confidential survey commissioned by the PAYD project team. The scheme will make a fundamental change to the way food is paid for in the Services. See Page 43.

IN BRIEF

DEMOLITION work on Gortmullan patrol base on the Fermanagh-Cavan border has begun. It is one of several bases to close under "de-escalatory" measures in Northern Ireland.

● All the ammunition used by Britain's Armed Forces is to be managed by a single tri-Service organisation formed on

April 1. Defence Munitions, which has its headquarters at Bath, will store and distribute all munitions and explosives and ensure they are available for action. The workforce of 2,500 includes personnel from all three Services and civilians.

● TA Cpl James Turner, an area sales manager with Canon (UK) Ltd, accompa-



Picture: Mike Weston

Me and my dog: Cpl Mark Sutor, 227 Armoured Engineer Squadron RE, and Montgomery, his Jack Russell terrier, called on the Army's veterinary unit at Aldershot before they left to join 28 Engineer Regiment on a posting to Hameln in Germany

Council tax element for livers-in to drop

LIVERS-IN are to be notified that their contributions in lieu of council tax (CILOCT) have been cut by 8.7 per cent for officers and 12.5 per cent for everyone else.

The new rates, effective from April 1, are 21p a day for officers, 14p a day for WOs and SNCOs and 7p a day for JNCOs and other ranks. The rates have been reduced following the revaluation for council tax purposes of a number of single accommodation blocks.

Annual changes to the CILOCT charges for family accommodation reflect increases in local authority

council tax charges and are to go up by an average of eight per cent.

● The daily rate of Transitional, Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA(T)) and the daily rate of Married Unaccompanied Service Allowance (MUSA) has been revised since the publication of the 1999 pay review (Soldier, April).

With effect from April 1 the daily rate for both allowances is £4.29.

LSSA(T) continues to apply only to those married personnel who, as at December 1, 1997, had less than three years' service and were therefore ineligible for the full rate of LSSA. Married personnel with more than three years' service qualify for LSSA.

nied general manager Richard Cove to 10 Downing Street to receive the 6,000th supportive employer certificate issued by the National Employers' Liaison Committee to companies which support Volunteer Reserve Forces. Cpl Turner serves with 5 PWRR.

● The Army's 160 (Wales) Brigade

was presented with the Investors in People Award by the chief executive of Powys Training and Enterprise Council during a ceremony at the brigade headquarters in Brecon. And at Shrewsbury, Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land Command, unveiled an Investors in People commemorative plaque awarded to Headquarters 5 Division.

Steep learning curve



On track: LCpl Rob Andrews, of Dhekelia-based 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE, surveys the track he and his colleagues have opened up to a remote church near Paphos. A team of five led by Cpl Paddy Riley spent a month working on the steep road from Kouklia village to Ayios Konstantinos church, which had become dangerous through erosion and lack of repair. WO2 Sean Headley, the Military Plant Foreman, said: "Local people often visit the site and have taken a great interest in seeing sappers doing work which they don't usually connect with soldiers."

When time and manpower has allowed, the squadron has helped with community projects including the building of football pitches and car parks.

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Zippo lighters have been with us for 66 years. The design classics went into combat in the breast pockets of American Servicemen during the Second World War and they are still the soldier's favourite today.

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Send your answer on a postcard marked "ZipLight" to Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU to reach us by May 31. Names of the six winners will be announced in the July issue.

Heart-rate monitor winner

FIRST name out of a hefty mailbag for the £109 Phase 4 HeartRate watch competition featured in the March issue was Gnr David Thompson, of Alanbrook Road, Larkhill. Congratulations to David... whose Phase 4 monitor will soon be on its way to Wiltshire. Happy exercising!



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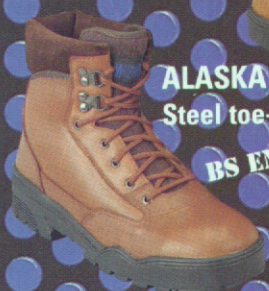
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People, places, events



Sovereign's choice: In a tradition begun by George V in 1918, the Queen presents a new Sovereign's Banner to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The guard of honour receiving the new banner in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace was found mainly from 10 and 12 Platoons of Alamein Company. The Queen has requested that the platoon bearing the

banner, which is lowered only to the Sovereign, should be known as the Sovereign's Platoon and this term, for the first time, two platoons were joint winners. The old banner, presented by the Queen in 1978, will be laid alongside King George V's banner in the Royal Memorial Chapel at Sandhurst. Pictured receiving the new banner is JUO Richard Rouse, kneeling.

Home comforts for Gornji Vakuf sappers

SOLDIERS of 36 Engineer Regiment Group based at Gornji Vakuf Precision Factory on Operation Palatine were presented with operational medals during a visit by Brig Albert Whitley, the Engineer-in-Chief (Army).

Representatives from 61 Field Support Squadron Troop, EOD Detachment, REME Workshops and 50 HQ Squadron, representing a wide range of cap badges from the Regular Army and TA, took part in the medal parade.

A new Expeditionary Force Institutes (EFI) shop constructed in the camp by 36 Engr Regt was officially opened by Brig Whitley, who joined sappers inside for tea and biscuits. Troops based in the factory can now watch satellite TV in a

comfortable rest room attached to the EFI shop or sit on a covered patio.

● A link with Warner Brothers has been put to good use by 669 Squadron AAC in Bosnia. The airmen, who wear the "Wile E Coyote" cartoon on their squadron t-shirts and rugby tops, persuaded the film distributors to part with more than 100 hats and 12 soft toys to give to children in Gornji Vakuf.

The gifts were handed out at a youth centre, which has also been given a table tennis kit paid for by the squadron. Local schools are very short of paper, according to the airmen. Donations of stationery of any sort may be forwarded to Capt J Etherington, 669 Squadron AAC, Op Palatine, BFPO 548.

Light Infantry returns home

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry have left their base of two years at Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus to return to the UK. Succeeded by the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, they will be based in Edinburgh.

One role for which 1 LI will be remembered is its part in tackling a major bush fire which destroyed 14 quarters, including the official residence of Maj Gen Angus Ramsay, Commander British Forces Cyprus.

As a result of their bravery and leadership during the incident, Cpl John Cogden and Bugle Maj Sjt Colin Davies were presented with CBF's Commendations.



Joint ops: Col Patricia Capin of the US Army, front, brushes up on procedures during a visit to Northampton-based 118 Recovery Company as the Territorial Army unit prepares to show off its tank-recovery skills to Poland, Nato's newest members, on an exercise in Germany. Col Capin, who will command the exercise, is pictured with, from left, LCpl Sean McGain-Harding, Maj Alfred Nolten of the Royal Netherlands Army, and Sgt Dave Marriott.

Picture: Gareth Griffiths

IN BRIEF

SOLDIERS from 2 (South East) Brigade are to display stickers on their vehicles inviting comments on the quality of their driving. The public will be able to criticise or praise on 0800 389 00 55. "Our aim is to contribute to road safety," said Master Driver WO Phil Linehan.

● Teams from 1 RGBW and 24 Airmobile Brigade's Combat Service Support Battalion were competing against 20 teams from Ger-

many, the Netherlands and Belgium in a military skills event at Vogelsang, Germany.

● More than 100 soldiers and Royal Air Force personnel serving with the Cyprus Logistics Unit brushed up on military skills during a series of four-day joint exercises.

● Soldiers from 280 (UK) Signal Squadron based at Krefeld, Germany provided the

switching capability in the first LANDCENT Signal Group exercise. Because of commitments in Bosnia, it was the first time they had worked alongside sister signals units from the German Army and US Army since 1994.

● The Defence Estates Agency, which will be responsible for all Defence land and property, has replaced the Defence Estates Organisation (DEO).

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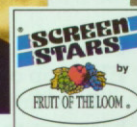
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Ranked
No. 1

People, places, events



Queen's guard: Soldiers of the Jamaican Defence Force prepare for their first experience of guard duties at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle last month. They were put through their paces by four Coldstream Guards drill instructors who flew to the West Indies to prepare the 120-strong contingent for public duties. The visit was part of an exchange which involved a company of 1 Coldm Gds training in Jamaica. Pictured with the JDF soldiers are, from left, LSgt Gary Howe, CSgt John Regan and Sgt Dave Clayden

Stepping stones to commissions

THE career structure for Army officers has been overhauled with the introduction of a new "stepping stone" policy. It is hoped the new procedure on commissioning will provide greater security and incentive for the majority of officers.

Until recently there was no formal policy on what type of commission an officer cadet leaving Sandhurst would be awarded. Most were offered an initial three-year Short Service Commission (SSC), which could be extended to eight years, the exceptions being University Cadetship Officers and Welbexians who were usually awarded Regular Commissions (Reg C, up to age 55). Others were awarded a Special Regular Commission (SRC, up to 16 years).

Now the majority of officers will progress naturally from an SSC, through an Intermediate Regular Commission (IRC) to a Reg C. Almost everyone will transit through an IRC to a Reg C, hence the term "Intermediate".

Officers will be eligible to convert after 24 months' SSC service with two consecutive reports recommending promotion. Terms of service associated with the old SRC will not change – the IRC will provide for 16 years' reckonable service to the immediate pension point.

It will mean there will be a "level playing field" at Sandhurst, with officer cadets applying for the unit they really want to join rather than the one offering the longest commission. It will also mean the end of formal letters to commanding officers every year asking for an extension.

These changes apply to mainstream officers only. Late Entry and professionally qualified officers, such as doctors, dentists, nurses, vets, lawyers and chaplains will not be affected.

● All details covering the changes and how the transitional period will be managed are contained in DCI Army 16/99 dated January 22, 1999. Copies should be available from Regimental Admin Offices.

Caver pulls hurt civilian to surface

CPL Steve Raetschus, an instructor at the Royal Irish Training Depot, put his training to good use when a civilian instructor broke his kneecap and wrist during a caving expedition in North Yorkshire.

Cpl Raetschus, who had recently completed a cave rescue course, put in place a plan of action that soon had the injured man hoisted up two 5m shafts and back on the surface. There he was put on a makeshift stretcher made from a wooden stile (since replaced) and carried to a nearby road to be met by the emergency services.

The caving team included members of Alanbrook Platoon of the R Irish Depot who were conducting adventurous training as part of the School Leavers Army Foundation Course.

Crash medics commended

FOUR members of 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital who tried to save two young people fatally injured in a burning vehicle have received commendations from their General Officer Commanding.

Sgt Gary Woodward, LCpl Paul Armstrong, LCpl Darren Smith and Pte Louise Nazarowicz saw the accident outside the unit headquarters in Stretford, Manchester in August 1997 and ignored the possibility of an explosion to give first aid to a man and woman hurt in the crash. The man died at the roadside and the woman died later in hospital.

Greater Manchester Police have also recorded their appreciation of the efforts of the four Territorial Army medics.

● Lt Col Graham Gibbs, CO 33 Engr Regt (EOD), and Lt Col Jon Gunns, CO of Catford-based 101 Engr Regt (EOD) (V), addressed the annual joint professional meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Royal Engineers on the history of and new developments in explosive ordnance disposal.

IN BRIEF

A NATIONAL campaign has been launched by the Army Cadet Force to raise its profile. The £400,000 recruiting campaign was unveiled on Horse Guards Parade by the Duke of Edinburgh in the presence of Gen Sir Peter de la Billière and personalities including England and Scotland rugby stars Capt Tim Rodber and Cpl Matt Stewart and former Army track star Kriss Akabusi.

● A new £2.5m Territorial Army centre has been opened in Hawkhead Road, Paisley by the Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire. It will be used by 102 (Clyde) Field Squadron (Air Support) and cadet detachments.

● Soldiers from 15 Fd Pk Sqn RE and 51 Fd Sqn (Airmob), part of 38 Engineer Squadron, completed the annual Exercise Salfish con-

struction exercise in Belize. They installed services in the REME workshop and RLC store in Airport Camp and constructed accommodation blocks at a jungle research centre.

● Twenty-one cadets from Monmouth Detachment, Gwent ACF and Monmouth School CCF were given a six-week course on combat engineering by R Mon RE(M).

Exercise report

Last Post for Trumpet Dance

Over the past 18 years more than 25,000 British soldiers have passed through Fort Lewis in Washington State. This spring, Welsh Guards took part in the final Exercise Trumpet Dance. *Soldier* joined them for the last waltz

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE ground shook as the grenade exploded and before the smoke had cleared 2nd Lt Nathan Marsh gave the order to advance through the trench.

Rounds from SA80s cracked into targets and the sound echoed off the mountains which enclose the Yakima ranges in Washington State. Soldiers from 4 Platoon, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards fixed bayonets and cleared the trench. This was a live-firing exercise and the blood was up. No one was taking prisoners.

After the command went out to cease firing, 2nd Lt Marsh took in the scene and started thinking about the many valuable lessons learned. "In many ways the environment here is better than England," he said. "The ranges are that much bigger and there is much freer use of firepower."

"Basically everything around you can be fired at. This makes it far more realistic for the guys. Yakima is just so big, it's great."

Up to 700 troops took part in the final exercise, including soldiers from 7 (Parachute) Royal Horse Artillery, the Royal Engineers, the Army Air Corps and the Welsh Guards Band.

The military installation known as Fort Lewis is massive. It is home to the US I Corps and contains 115 ranges spread over 86,000 acres. There is also another enormous group of ranges at the Yakima

Trench assault: Soldiers prepare to advance through the barbed-wire and into the trench system beyond

Training Centre up in the mountains.

But size is not everything and Trumpet Dance is being discontinued following a reassessment of training in the wake of the Strategic Defence Review. It was felt the exercise no longer fitted in with the Army's operational requirements. The Welsh Guards have plenty of other training opportunities.

DUAL ROLE

Maj Richard Williams-Bulkeley, officer commanding headquarters company, 1 WG, explained why exercising was important for his men.

"Although the battalion's main role is public duties, like all Foot Guards battalions we have a dual role – ceremonial troops and combat troops."

The 1st Battalion is currently stationed at Wellington Barracks in London. Duties include providing the guard for Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Windsor Castle and the Tower of London. But the battalion is still very much involved in traditional soldiering roles.

During the past 18 months it has taken on a six-month operational tour of Northern Ireland in South Armagh and exercises in Belize and Macedonia.

Fired up: Soldiers from 4 Platoon, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards prepare for a trench assault during Trumpet Dance at Seattle

It is important the battalion keeps a sharp edge. In April 2000, the 1 WG will move to Aldershot and convert to a mechanised role using Saxon and Sabre vehicles within 12 (Mechanised) Brigade. In this new role the battalion will be part of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

military skills are up to the standard required."

Over the years, responsibility for logistic support to British infantry battle groups taking part in Trumpet Dance has fallen to the British Army Training Support Unit.

BATSU's summer base is Camp Wainwright, a 240-square-mile training area on the prairies of central Alberta in Canada. During the winter months things tend to get a bit nippy, with temperatures dropping to minus 42 C, so the unit moves the show – lock stock and barrel – to Washington State for Trumpet Dance.

Maj Ben Bathurst, battalion 2iC, said: "Trumpet Dance has been an outstanding opportunity. It has been an interesting planning exercise because we have had to fit in with American planning rules, regulations and booking procedures. That really concentrated the mind. The guardsmen have certainly enjoyed the facilities here."

"If a situation arises which requires the deployment of British Army troops, either on request from Nato or the United Nations, the battalion is likely to be among some of the first troops deployed," said Maj Williams-Bulkeley.

"It is therefore essential the battalion's

There are other reasons why soldiers will be sorry to see the back of Trumpet Dance. 2nd Lt Marsh said: "It has been good being on the other side of the world and working with the Americans. It is a totally different culture and it is going to be a shame to see it go."

"There is also good adventurous training here. And the fact that you are abroad and are able to do all the stuff the guardsmen love, does wonders for them. When it goes it will be a sad moment but if we get a decent replacement, who knows?"

POSITIVE

American Lt Col Greg Edwards, deputy commander of personnel, training and management at Fort Lewis, said he would be sorry to see British troops pack up for the last time.

"All the comments from my staff have been that it has been a very positive relationship. We have always been impressed with the soldiers, particularly with the way they plan and execute their exercises."

"I have nothing but a high regard for the British. I regard them as nothing but professionals. As a military community and a community as a whole we are sorry to see this association come to an end and hopefully it is not permanent."

● Band of the Welsh Guards take the USA by storm – Page 27

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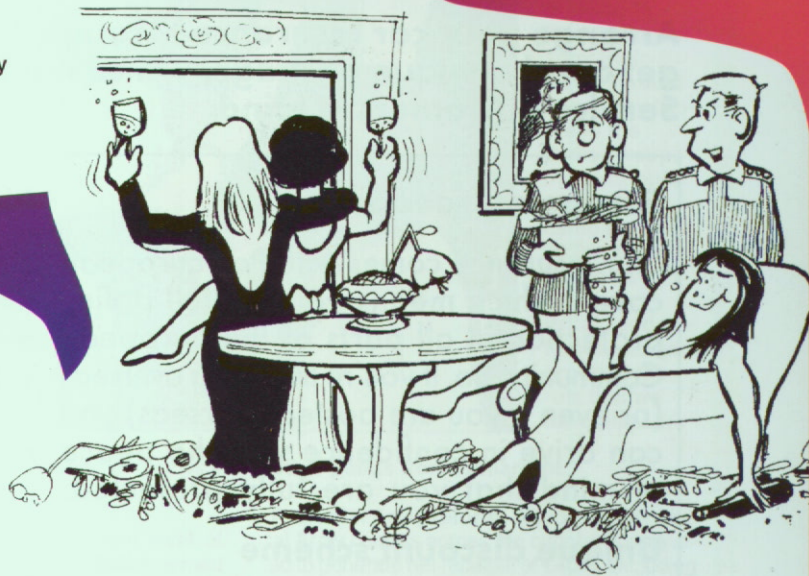
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From Westminster to Wapping

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

TA medals go to all ranks

TWO new service awards approved by the Queen will be available to all ranks of the Volunteer Reserve Forces.

The Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal (QVRM) will be awarded each year to a limited number of recipients who have given outstanding service.



Selection will be by citation and awards will be announced in the half-yearly lists, starting with the 1999 Birthday Honours. Recipients will be invested and entitled to the letters QVRM after their name.

The Volunteer Reserves Service Medal (VRSM) will replace, in the case of the TA, the Efficiency Decoration (Territorial) and the Efficiency Medal (Territorial).

The VRSM will be available after ten years' efficient service. Clasps will be awarded for subsequent periods of five years' efficient service. Unlike the QVRM, there will be no eligibility for post-nominal letters.

Transitional arrangements will allow those officers who have served at least half the qualifying time for an existing award to elect to continue to count their service towards that award.

For example, TA officers who have completed at least six years' efficient service can opt to continue to qualify for the the Efficiency Decoration and the right to post-nominal letters after a total of 12 years. Those officers who already have post-nominals will be entitled to keep them.

Other ranks will automatically transfer to the terms for the VRSM. Non-Regular permanent staff (NRPS) will not be eligible for the QVRM but will be eligible for the VRSM after 15 years' efficient service.

Previous Regular service of up to five years (which has not counted towards the LS and GC) will count towards qualifying time for the VRSM at half-rate, with five years' service equating to two-and-a-half years.

Announcing the medals in a written answer, Defence Secretary George Robertson said



Safe: A refugee child is treated by the British-led medical team in Brazda camp, Macedonia. There was praise at Westminster for Nato's mercy work, and especially the role of British troops.

Addressing the Commons on April 13, Prime Minister Tony Blair said: "I would like to pay tribute to the British troops in Macedonia who built a camp for some 30,000 people inside 48 hours... Britain and our forces can be proud of the role that we have played."

there would be no change in long-service awards for Regulars.

Recruitment: Although the current level of operational commitment of the British armed forces is high, recruitment remains buoyant, particularly in the Army, Defence Secretary George Robertson told the Commons.

Soldier recruitment, he said had increased by 17.6 per cent over the figure at the same time a year previously.

"However, retention remains a concern," he said, "although there does not appear to be a direct link between retention and commitment." Retention remained a key priority and important initiatives were being pursued to address the issue.

Other points from Parliament:

Territorial Army reform: Disposal of Territorial Army centres across the country is expected to generate net receipts of £40m, excluding the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea. Savings will also be achieved in running costs and refurbishments.

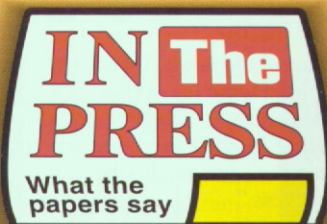
The TA changes are expected to result in an overall loss of about 900 civilian posts throughout the United Kingdom, subject to Trade Union consultation.

Buying British: In the past three years the Ministry of Defence has spent £159m on clothing, 76 per cent of which went to UK companies.

● The MoD's weapon-buying strategy has attracted repeated criticism. According to a National Audit Office report, the 25 most expensive projects in the year ending March 31, 1997, were on average three years late and cost the taxpayer £3bn more than the amounts originally approved. — *Financial Times*

● An Army major had to call the military police when his horse bolted and galloped down the main street in Larkhill after he had dismounted to relieve himself during a hunt. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● Seventy-six per cent of adults questioned in a MORI poll believed Britain was right to join the Nato bombing raids in Yugoslavia. But three to one do not believe



that protecting ethnic Albanians is worth losing a single British life. — *Mail on Sunday*

● A gun small enough to fit into a shoulder holster but so powerful it can stop an armoured tank in its tracks is being tested by the Army. The South African-made 27in

pump-action Neostead shotgun is being considered for the SAS and could one day be used by police marksmen. — *Daily Mail*

● Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, has asked the MoD to warn pilots on any bombing missions over Kosovo to avoid hitting four 13th and 14th century sites of "European historical importance." — *Times*

● The NHS could call in the military if a "worst case" millennium disaster stretches health services beyond their limit. Hospitals are expecting a rise in emergency admissions resulting from the festivities. — *Daily Telegraph*

● Readers are reminded that views expressed or reported in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

Horses on holiday

Before the gruelling ceremonial season began members of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and their horses took a country break in East Sussex

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

IT SEEMED as if Ondine, Sharjah, Opera, Venture and friends could hardly believe their big dark eyes. Used to endless buildings, roaring traffic and bustling crowds, here they were in open fields, heathland and shady forests.

Instead of thousands of tourists and clicking cameras, the most interest paid to them was by sleepy cows reflectively chewing the cud, wondering who these four-legged guests were in their farmyard.

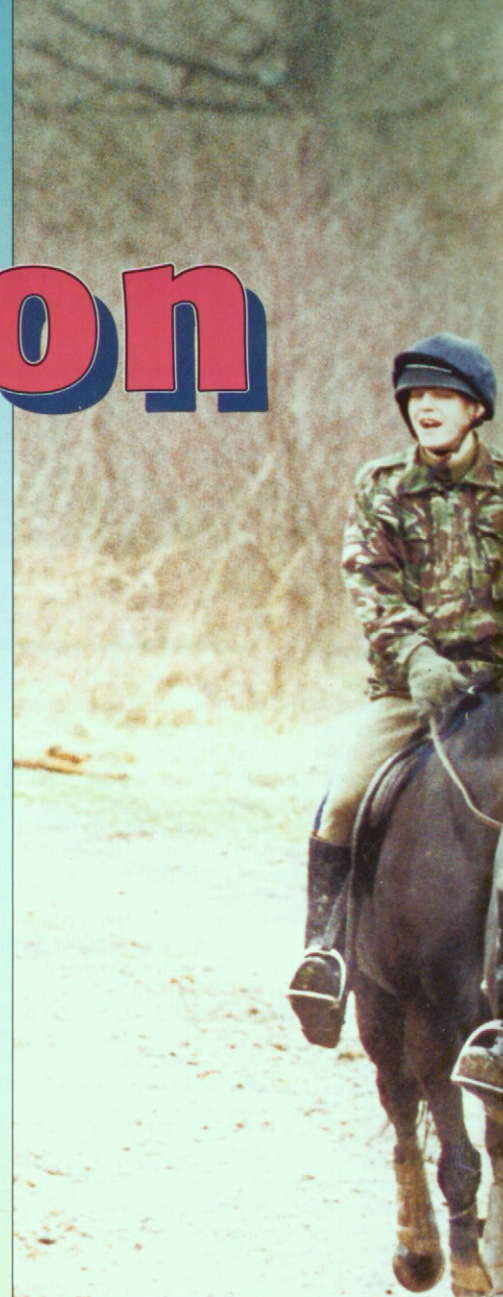
The stately black horses of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, known as the "Blacks", were taking time out from ceremonial duties in London to enjoy a three-week holiday at Crowborough Training Camp, East Sussex.

LOVED IT

"The horses have loved it," said Cpl of Horse Joe Weller, one of the organisers. "They've got a real spring in their step and are enjoying the change. It's been a great success."

It was even more important, he said, to give the soldiers a break before the start of the ceremonial season. Many of them, from inner cities and used to duties in London, had never had the opportunity to ride in open countryside.

Six troops from The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals, normally based at



Order of Merit: Tpr Wesley Brown with Tangiers

Knightsbridge Barracks, each had a week at the winter camp – the first to be held for four years. The soldiers had the chance to go hacking and to get some schooling in



Far from the madding crowds: Horses and riders make the most of the wide open spaces at Crowborough Training Camp, East Sussex

cross-country and show-jumping. Some were able to take part in the local drag-hunt. Much of the riding was done during the mornings, and after the horses had been tended to and kit cleaned, the soldiers were able to relax and enjoy their rural surroundings.

ORDER OF MERIT

Nineteen-year-old Tpr Wesley Brown was cleaning up after a morning of jumping when he was presented with a certificate award of a Medal of the Order of Merit for being the youngest trooper in the escort for the President of Germany at

Windsor. After two years driving Challenger tanks with the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, Tpr Brown decided he would like a change to the four-legged variety of transport.

He spent 18-weeks learning to ride and a further four weeks getting used to riding in full kit.

"It is a month of no sleeping," he recalled. "You spend your whole time cleaning and polishing your kit, but in the end I did win the



Holiday camp organiser: Cpl of Horse Joe Weller

award for being the cleanest man. This camp has really helped me with my riding, although riding in full kit is totally different."

A week after the camp ended the soldiers had scraped the country mud from their boots and were once again resplendent in their uniforms astride their gleaming horses on ceremonial duty on the streets of London. And the cows had their East Sussex farm to themselves again.



Up-and-over: Horse and rider go show-jumping

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the road from there...
to nowhere

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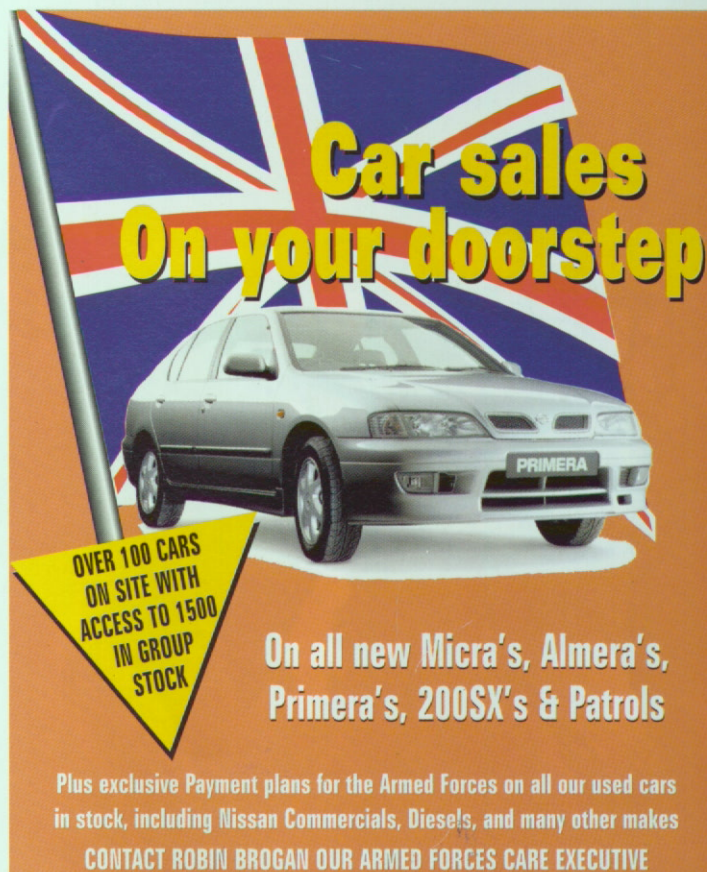
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Blowing their own trumpets

What were a bunch of Limeys wearing fancy dress doing in an American high school?

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Terry Champion

THE phrase "how to make friends and influence people" could have been invented for the Band of the Welsh Guards. Wherever they went in Seattle, USA they were given the kind of reception usually afforded to pop stars.

Take the teenagers from the Black Hills High School. Many of them had never been outside the state, let alone ventured to Wales. So to give the students an idea of what they were missing Capt Philip Shannon, Director of Music, gave them a few pointers.

A humorous combination of regimental history with out-and-out musical entertainment brought the house down. Capt Shannon has the deft touch of a born compère. The teenagers' initial puzzlement soon gave way to comprehension as they realised the guardsmen were not speaking that way as a gimmick.

This school visit fitted into a tightly-planned schedule. While the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards were going through an infantry training programme at Fort Lewis, the musicians were winning their own battle of hearts and minds. The programme took the band into high schools

and culminated in an international concert.

Each programme was tailor-made for the audience. At Black Hills High the music was especially selected to appeal to a younger crowd.

SIMPSONS

The teenagers knew they were in for something rather different when the band struck up the theme from *The Simpsons*. It went down a storm.

Similarly the *Post Horn Gallop* was sheer showmanship. Three players got right in among the students to let rip. But it was the *Toccata in D* duet played on the xylophone which proved the great surprise.

Not since Patrick Moore whipped out his little wooden hammers on prime-time television had there been such an unexpected musical revelation. What a performance!

The bright red uniforms of the guards left a vivid impression on the students. It was one of the those occasions when it became obvious that music truly is a universal language, cutting across not just culture but ages too.

When the band launched into the theme from *Mission Impossible*, you'd have thought Britney Spears had just walked in and invited the students to appear in her next video. They were mad for it.

Mission accomplished, Capt Shannon.



Blown away: Students from Black Hills High School had never heard anything quite like the band



You hum it: The band goes for it with help from one of the school's teachers, Frank Mineir, a former professional trumpeter

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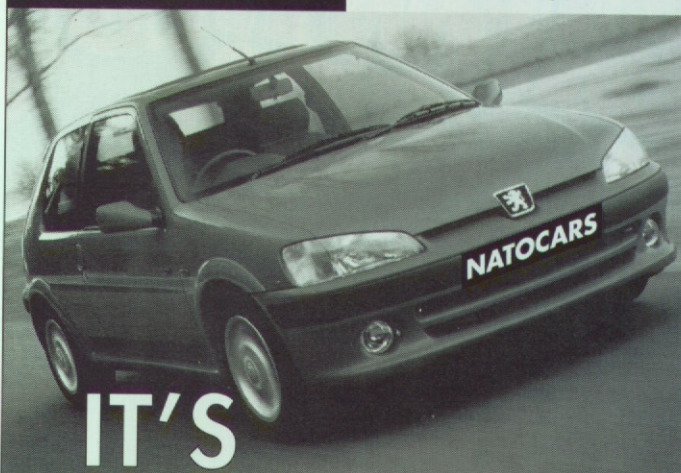
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Adventurous training



Wet, wet, wet: Soldiers from 6 Battalion REME wind down with some rafting on the Zambezi

Rhino patrol

Soldiers join fight against drought and poachers

TWENTY-two soldiers from 6 Battalion, REME have returned to their base at Tidworth after mounting an expedition to Zimbabwe to help save the black rhino and other endangered species.

With only about 260 remaining, the black rhino faces two major problems in its fight for survival – severe drought and poachers. The soldiers raised more than £20,000 to pay for their trip with the objective of repairing broken borehole pumps on which animals depend for their water supply.

WARDENS

They also worked on vehicles and equipment used by park wardens and conservation groups for use in anti-poachers patrol.

The soldiers came across some month-old lion cubs whose mother had been killed by poachers. On another occasion, several of the party got close enough to touch a two-year-old black rhino in the wild. While servicing diesel-powered pumping equipment, expedition members found themselves temporarily surrounded by a 70-strong herd of magnificent elephants.

In their spare time the soldiers discov-



Don't look now: Zimbabwe expedition leader Capt Nick Weller REME, with an elephant in the background



Lion king: SSgt Simeon Prowse with month-old cub

ered the local community had a clinic with a water standpipe but no storage facility. To overcome the lengthy periods when the clinic had no water, the REME party fabricated a tank from the pontoon section of an old fishing boat and connected it to the water supply.

The soldiers were told that on some nights patients had had to barricade themselves inside as a defence against wild animals and that only a few weeks before a lioness had killed a buffalo in the grounds of the clinic. In the same village they repaired classrooms and constructed an adventure playground.

The borehole repairs allowed water to be laid on to areas that had been cut off for months and dozens of vehicles were given long-overdue attention.

In brief

Maj David Johnson RAMC, based in York, and tree surgeon Glenn Morris are attempting an unsupported crossing of the Greenland icecap. Using skis and sledges to carry 400lb of equipment and food for the 300-mile trip, they expect to take up to 35 days.

Seven sappers from Gateshead-based **72 Engr Regt (V)** have returned home after a two-week camp on Mount Kenya.

Soldiers from **163 Movement Control Regt RLC (V)** completed a non-technical ascent of Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340ft) in Tanzania.

Eleven members of **7 Signal Regt** at Mönchengladbach completed the gruelling Annapurna Circuit up to Annapurna Base Camp in Nepal. Soldiers from **21 Engr Regt** also completed a trekking expedition in the Annapurna Himalayas.

Cpl Tim Moffat of **3 Para** provided communications for a Raleigh International field expedition based on the Chinese city of Jinan, 500km south of Beijing. Projects undertaken by the party included the building of schools and environmental tasks.

An eight-man team from **3 Staffords**, led by Capt Tim Hann, retraced the route of an epic wartime escape and evasion trek in the Arctic region of northern Scandinavia. They followed in the footsteps of Allied agent Jan Baalsrud and met villagers who had helped him escape the Nazis across 200km of ice-bound mountainous islands.

Sappers from **32 Engr Regt** completed a two-week sub-aqua diving expedition off Malta during which seven novices qualified as sport divers and two others earned their stripes as dive leaders.

Seven soldiers from **6 Supply Regt RLC** and one from **3 Armd Fd Amb RAMC** covered 400km on a four-week trekking expedition to the Indian Himalayas.

High there: Maj Alan Marshall, right, reaches new heights during an expedition by soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment and Int Corps to scale Argentina's Mount Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere. The 23,000ft peak in the Andes has been reached by only a handful of British climbers in the past, and ferocious storms and temperatures of minus 30C made a fearsome challenge of the latest attempt. Maj Marshall led the climb, getting five of the nine-strong party to the summit.

They came across the body of a Japanese climber near the top of the mountain.



Brigade at battle stations

Soon, 4th Armoured Brigade in Macedonia will be joined by another battle-group, but for more than two months it held the British fort alone. The vanguard group remains at a high state of readiness and prepares for a peace-enforcing role in Kosovo. No one knows when that order will come, but few doubt that it will. One unit is even running a sweepstake: not on whether the brigade group will head north, but when.

Soldier visited the battle-group, and found troops in helmets, body armour and with personal weapons never more than an arm's reach away. We report here on just a few of the main elements of this force at battle stations.

Tanks: force protection – force projection

ORDER of the day for the 4 Brigade battle-group is force protection, writes **Graham Bound**.

The phrase is on everyone's lips, and no wonder. As the Serbs continue to be pumelled by air attacks just 15 or 20km to the north, there is a serious risk that they will lash out with cross-border incursions. It has already happened in adjacent Albania.

Fourteen Challenger 1 main battle tanks of A Sqn, The King's Royal Hussars are the focal point of British force protection. The formidable weapons are camouflaged and dispersed, ready to respond quickly to any attack, as are eight Scimitar tracked recon vehicles.

The crews know that in the long term, the emphasis could change from force protection to force projection. They are at a few hours' notice to move.

"There is a slight feeling of helplessness as we listen to what is going on over the border," said the OC, Lt Col Jonathan Powe. "We feel we are not able to do much about it. But the boys understand that our mission is to implement a peace agreement and we are ready to do that."

The waiting game dominates their lives, although most of the soldiers believe that they and their tanks will be on the move eventually.

"I certainly expect us to be involved in peace implementation," said Sgt Daz Hendry. "It will occur; the challenge is preparing ourselves mentally for that."

If and when the move north occurs, it should be in what the politicians and senior comman-

ders like to call "a permissive environment". But what if some Serbian tanks are not that accommodating?

The prospect does not seem to concern Maj Richard Hannay of A Sqn. "We are more than adequately protected against Serb armour," he insisted. "They have a lot of older T55 tanks and some more advanced M84s, but we have greater speed, better protection, and greater range. Without doubt we are the biggest stick that Commander KFOR has."

Bombed up: Tpr Mark Pugsley, right, peers into a Challenger turret packed with ammunition



Pictures: Mike Weston

THERE are never enough helicopters. Nowhere is this old adage more true than in Macedonia, where a tiny flight of new Lynx Mk 9 machines has been put to intensive use.

"We'd like to have one more aircraft," said Maj Richard Leaky, OC of 659 Sqn, rather wistfully. "But there is no sign of one yet. We work until our eyes bleed."

The eight officer and NCO pilots, their air gunners (door-mounted GPMGs have belts of ammunition at the ready) and REME ground support staff maintain a gruelling daily flying regime. Although theoretically an ARRC asset, the helicopters work closely with the King's Royal Hussars battle-group.

Operations are conducted against the backdrop of a threat from the Serbs which forces the pilots to fly fast and low.

"Nap-of-the-earth flying is

Army Air Corps: Nap-of-the-earth flying



Stripped for action: REME technicians are under pressure to get the Lynx 9 helicopters back in the air as quickly as possible

what it is all about," explained the OC. "The closer to the ground you are, the harder it is for the enemy to pick you up."

This guarantees a thrilling ride for passengers, who regularly include the Commander of Nato ground forces, Lt Gen Sir Mike



Ready to respond: AS90 crew (left to right) Bdr Ady Knotts, Gnrs Mike Mills, Dave Amberley, Lee Ritchie, Lee Salaun and LBdr Eddie Bradley would have rounds away within a minute

Artillery: Multiple-role for gunners

ARTILLERY is not usually the most forward element of a fighting force, but then this is a conflict in which many military conventions are being re-defined.

The six AS90 guns of 88 (Arracan) Bty, 4 Regiment RA, are dug in well ahead of all other major British units, within range of Milosevic's artillery. The gunners are acutely aware of this, and the massive 155 mm barrels are trained northwards ready to respond if the Serbs lob shells across the frontier.

Bdr Ady Knotts, a gun-crew commander, said his unit could cope. "If shells start landing in the area that we're protecting, we could have our first round away within one minute, and put in three rounds a minute after that." Multiply that by six and it is clear that the effect would be devastating.

The battery does not work alone. It relies on intelligence from mobile observers working with French counterparts even nearer the border and from radar and acoustic direction-finding equipment. P Bty (Dragon Troop), normally part of 5 Regt based in Catterick, is equipped with veteran Cymbeline radars and more modern acoustic

kit. Working with Dutch colleagues, they can pinpoint the type of fire and its origins, and provide the gun commanders with precise co-ordinates.

Dragon Troop looks down into Serbia, and the gunners watched as Serbian army units were hit by jets and missiles. So close are the targets that the gunners have taken one or two extra precautions. "We've asked that if B52s are involved, could they give us the nod beforehand," said Maj Adam Neale.

The varied make-up of 4 Regt also includes an air defence battery borrowed from 12 Regt RA based in Senelager and armed with the new Stormer high-velocity tracked missile system. It is the weapon's first operational deployment. The men and women preparing to operate Stormer reflected the prevailing tension.

"If you take a five-second break," said SSgt Brian Moore, "that could be it. We are not going to get much warning."

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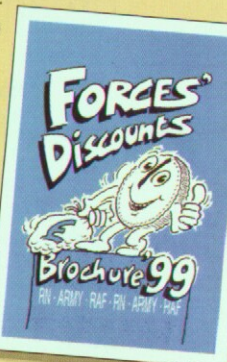
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Who dares

Get down and get dirty

Our mud-stained, exhausted reporter ticks off one childhood ambition... and dreams of another

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

AS a kid I loved motorbikes. The bigger, faster, noisier and smellier the better. In particular, I longed to kick into life one of those highly-sprung, powerful dirt racers that flew out of the pages of my dog-eared magazines and into my imagination.

That is not to say that I was only fascinated with bikes. Hey, that picture of Farrah Fawcett in strained swimsuit was on my bedroom wall, too. But the poster of a Kawasaki dirt bike was even bigger.

Sad to say, neither Farrah nor the bike and I got it together, but as I got older I did have a series of short-lived affairs with clapped-out British single cylinder plodders (make of that what you will) and gutless Japanese two-strokes.

Farrah, bless her, I pretty much got over, but the dirt bikes... well, I thought I'd got over them too, until recently the embers of my passion burst into flames again when that longed-for opportunity arrived: the chance to get down and get dirty on a real racing trials bike.

It was Lt Col (Retd) Bob Birrell, executive secretary of the Army Motor Cycle Association, who lit the touch-paper. "I know you like a good hands-on story," he told me over the phone. "How about a day or two of training with one of our star riders and then enter a three-stage trial?"

I stammered my acceptance without giving a thought to what I might be letting myself in for. "It's all lined up, then," said Bob. "Get yourself to Forward Combat Support Troop RLC in Aldershot and SSgt Paul Evans will show you the ropes." And he hung up.

Two days later Taff Evans and I were standing in front of two Army-green Honda XR250 trail bikes, high-performance vehicles, which, in the right hands, could take to the sky like a jump-jet.

The next three hours on the heathland training area near Aldershot swept by in a blur of spinning wheels. It was inebriating



Uphill struggle: Our man, inset, on his Honda XR250 tackles a steep section of the four-mile three-stage trial at Bordon, Hampshire. Water lot of fun for Sgt Peter Burke, main picture

stuff. Taff confided that there would not be many jumps during the competition the following Sunday, but we sped up ramps and took to the air to "instil confidence". Actually I think he jumped for the hell of it. And why not?

Taff had a few other words of advice for safe trials work. Most importantly, do not use the front brake. In the mud and gravel, a seized front wheel will slew the front around, making steering impossible. Instead, use the back brake to drag the bike to a halt. It was fine in theory but the acid test was to come at Bordon, 20 minutes' drive south of Aldershot. There we would see if I had the right stuff.

Race day was grey and drizzly, not ideal but at least the dampness would keep the dust down. It was to be a three-stage trial, organised by the Metropolitan Police and open to policemen, soldiers and civilians. The four-mile course was laid out over a rugged training area littered with some spectacularly hard targets.

I was there bright and early to help Taff and the other RLC riders get the bikes off the truck. Taff threw me a pair of gloves, a green helmet and a jazzy bright blue shirt. The side panels of the Honda 250 had been painted bright yellow and my number, 80, had been picked out on them. My own number! I could hardly wait.

"Just take it easy," said the expert as we

waited near the start line. We were to start in groups of three at one-minute intervals. "This is the slow stage," Taff went on, "so get used to the course. Get off the bike and have a close look at the judged sections before you go through them."

At the starter's signal we sped towards a massive sand pit and took a wide turn. Already losing ground to the other two bikes, I headed for a rise and leaned forward as I shot up it. Then into the trees, round a corner... and straight into a tank. Well, almost.

I turned away from the great lump of rusty metal just in time, caught a fleeting glimpse of a bike in the trees, and followed it. Ahead was the first judged sec-

So you want to give motor-cycle trials a go

The Army Motor Cycle Association is open to all soldiers. Most members are men, but a few women are proving their skills on the trials circuit.

Your first event is likely to be a three-stage novice event like the one described here. You might go as far as the international six-day enduro – the Olympics of motor-cycling.

Call Lt Col (Retd) Bob Birrell, executive secretary of the association, on 01904 665243 for more information.



the start line again. This time it was to be two laps in about 90 minutes, again with penalty points for dabs in the tricky bits.

This time I was faster and the feeling of achievement as I got around four of the ten judged bits without putting my feet down was all that I thought it would be. Once I looked over my shoulder at the judge for the sheer pleasure of seeing him nod his acknowledgement that I had got through.

By the final enduro stage – five hell-for-leather laps without any judging at the difficult points – I was exhilarated but tired, and I doubted my ability to handle much more.

The frantic start only confirmed this. A screaming two-stroke Yamaha at my side lifted off in a spray of stones and soil and disappeared into the trees. The sound of horns from behind urged me to either get out of the way or open the throttle. I tried to do both, but it wasn't working. I came off three times, once being thrown a good 10ft before my crash helmet came to a halt against a tree.

WORN OUT

I called it a day after one lap. Five hours in the saddle had left me worn out.

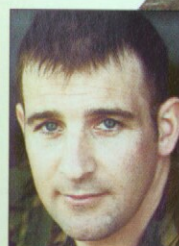
As I sat on a Land Rover tailboard and dragged off my sodden overalls, Taff drew up, grinning from ear to ear. He'd done his five laps in short order, coming second overall among the Army riders.

Bob Birrell had also arrived and was urging him to go for the advanced competitions. Taff said he wasn't so sure, but I could see the glint in his eye. I would like to think that, through my thick mud pack, it was also possible to see a glint in my eye. Bob Birrell saw something anyway. "See what I mean," he boomed in my direction. "Great fun, isn't it?"

I was too tired to talk much, but I nodded and grinned through the mud. Undeniably, it had been "great fun".

And it was funny to think that, after all those years, I had satisfied a boyhood dream. It was food for thought. Now only Farrah remained. Tick her off and that would be the last of my juvenile ambitions achieved.

I await the phone call.



Sound advice: SSgt Taff Evans

My Army: BRONCO LANE

Taking Everest by stealth

Interview: Anthony Stone
Main picture: Mike Weston

FROSTBITE was gnawing at their toes and beginning to take hold of their fingers. It seemed like the night would never end. The two SAS mountaineers sat shivering with cold 1,000ft below the summit of Everest. In terrible conditions, they waited for the dawn they thought would never come.

A few hours earlier Cpl Bronco Lane and Sgt Brummy Stokes had made history by reaching the roof of the world: only the third and fourth British climbers to do so. They should have been celebrating. Instead they were battling to stay alive.

"The night went by very slowly and it was very cold," Bronco told *Soldier*, remembering how 23 years ago this month they captured the nation's imagination.

They had spent only a few brief moments on the summit. A plaque was left on the top in memory of the three British officers and one Gurkha rifleman who were killed on Nuptse the previous year. Earlier in the Everest climb one of the party, Capt Terry Thompson, died when he fell into a crevasse at 22,000ft.

"That night, all I concentrated on was trying to keep warm. Brummy and I were shivering badly. As you get colder and colder you shiver more violently and then the shivering trails off and you go into a coma and die of hypothermia. Your body is shivering to try and produce warmth."

LOST TOES

They would pay a price for pushing their bodies to the limit. They lost all the toes from both feet and Bronco lost parts of several fingers as well.

They were saved by finding the two partly-used oxygen bottles they had stashed on the way up. "The oxygen lifted us from the un-shivering state of hypothermia to the heavy shivering state," recalled Bronco.

"The wind decreased that night and it was just a question of sitting it out. There was a false dawn. We thought, 'How long now?' How often have you laid down in an ambush and experienced that? For an hour I thought it was never going to end; that was the worst time. I couldn't believe it when it started getting light."

Lt Col Tony Streather, who led the 33-strong team, had asked the second pair in the group to go for the summit and told them: "If you see Bronco and Brummy and they are alive, bring them in." It was a

A British and Nepalese Army expedition achieved the ultimate mountaineering challenge 23 years ago this month. Soldier and adventurer Bronco Lane remembers how the team triumphed

close-run thing. Brummy had snow blindness and had to be led back down. The pair were exhausted, having lost about two stones each during the climb – normal for the Himalayas.

Bronco is a modest man with a ready laugh. He dismisses talk of "conquering" the mountain. He always maintains they just crept in "when nature turned her back".

The summer of 1976 was one of the hottest on record. Bronco spent it in his garden with frostbite. But despite the amputations, he was back at work after a short convalescence. His toes had one more nasty surprise, though.

Nine months later he was conducting training in Brunei. It had been raining all day and Bronco was saturated. "My stumps really hurt. I took off my boots and my stumps had turned green. I thought they were re-infected. I asked a medic to take a look at them and he burst out laughing."

"What colour are your socks, Bronco?" The green dye had run into his toes.

Bronco was bitten by the Army bug at an early age. At 15 he went on an Outward Bound course at Ullswater in the Lake District. In the evenings, around the camp-fire, one of the instructors, an old soldier, regaled the teenagers with tales of his Army days.

"He enthralled us with his stories about places he had been to," Bronco said. "It was straight out of Boy's Own. I thought 'I am going to join the Army if they are all like him.'"

The alternative was less exciting. He was destined to be a printer or a draughtsman as they were the popular trades for boys from his Manchester technical high school.

The way out was the Army. Bronco's



Making a point: Lane modestly claims he climbed Everest when "nature turned her back"

father had been a Royal Engineer and he had an uncle and cousin in the artillery. He joined the Junior Leaders' Regiment Royal Artillery at Nuneaton in 1961. And there was no looking back.

In a distinguished career he has been awarded the Military Medal, British Empire Medal, and General Service Medals for Radfan, South Arabia, Dhofar, Ulster and the Falklands.

NEW CHAPTER

In 1968 he joined the Army Mountaineering Association (AMA) and began a new chapter in his life of adventure. It was through the AMA that Bronco learned the correct techniques, honed on the Swiss Alps and Kula Himal, India. He also learned about plans to try for Everest in 1975-76.

In 1975 Bronco was part of an expedition on Nuptse in the Himalayas. Meant to be a warm-up for Everest, it was a tragic preparation.

"Fourteen of us went and only ten

came back," Bronco said. "We lost four guys on that expedition in two incidents, all high up on the mountain. Two were killed in an attempt on the summit."

"Brum and I said we were willing to go for it. We moved up with the other two in support. We were smashed by avalanches for four days. We were lucky to get out of it."

"The other two were roped and followed us down in our tracks. At about midday the weather clamped in and we did not see them again, except three days later on the face where they fell. We were very fortunate. To this day, I do not know how I survived it."

"What it meant was that for the following year we had been there and been through it. We knew what the mountain could throw at us. We had been exposed to high-altitude disaster and had come through it."

Brummy and Bronco were a good team. They were in the same troop and seemed to communicate telepathically. "A colleague commented that we didn't

seem to talk," Bronco said. "We didn't need to. We never had to have a big debate about what we were going to do, we just did it. We had been on countless operations together, we climbed together, we were best man at each other's wedding. A nod was as good as a wink."

And so to Everest and their greatest challenge. They set out their stall from the beginning by front-ending their team. Every morning they would be first up, packed and ready to move. They went out with the kitchen porter to get breakfast ready and make sure everything was ready. Then they would be off again, looking for the night stops.

NO DRAMAS

"We were operational soldiers. In the jungle we did it all the time, month after month. We would be up an hour before first light and move off at first light. We would just have a swig of water and then off we went. No great dramas, you just do it. By the end of the walking, people were used to us being at the front."

They reached the ice flow, the beginning of Everest, and this routine continued. The sense of anticipation heightened when they picked up Chris Bonington's track from the previous season.

"In those days not many teams went to Everest. It was a season and a team. Now it is like Piccadilly Circus," said Bronco.

He and Brummy were told by Lt Col Streather they would be the first summit pair.

"We were lifted into the top camp by four people. It was a heavy foursome, two colonels, a flight lieutenant and a major. We were the lowest rank but they carried our gear. You know, that is unusual. The weather became bad that day and we had to spend an extra day at altitude. Then it cleared up enough for us to go for the summit, but there was deep snow and we got there very late in the afternoon."

"By the time we retracted and withdrew we realised we weren't going to make our top camp in daylight. It was too dangerous to travel in darkness. As luck would have it we found an oxygen bottle just at last light. Another five minutes and we would not have seen it."

It is many years since Bronco sat around the camp-fire at Ullswater listening to tales of derring-do. The same thing is happening today of course, but the stories the boys hear now probably feature two old soldiers called Bronco and Brummy.



Scenes from Everest, 1976: Stokes and Lane at the entrance to the Western Cwm, top. Sgt Brummy Stokes, left, reflects on the expedition during a break from climbing. Cpl Bronco Lane, below, plants a pennant on the summit of Everest



Joint approach to defence

Three into one will go

At the heart of last summer's Strategic Defence Review were initiatives to co-ordinate the activities of the three Services more closely. The most important of these, the Joint Rapid Reaction Forces (JRRF), has just gone on stream and will spearhead Britain's modernised, rapidly deployable and better supported frontline

Report: Anthony Stone

"THINK of the JRRF as a golf bag from which you can select the most appropriate club for the job in hand."

That is how Brig David Richards, commander of Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) at Northwood in Middlesex, sees the UK's new frontline spearhead.

JRRF replaces the Joint Rapid Deployment Force. "Superficially, there may not appear to be that much difference between them," said Brig Richards. "But both conceptually, and in terms of what the JRRF contains and can do, there is a world of difference."

"Whatever the nature of future operations, the need for flexibility and adaptability in our force structures is becoming ever more significant and the JRRF will meet this need."

POOL

"Conceptually the JRRF will be the pool of combat and support forces from which the UK will meet all short notice military contingencies, of whatever kind. It will contain our best-trained units across the whole range of military capability – maritime, land and air, and, unlike the JRDF, Special Forces."

The JFHQ is a part of the Permanent Joint Headquarters and capable of de-

MoD procures new agency

A NEW agency which focuses on better ways of buying equipment for the Armed Forces has been launched. The Defence Procurement Agency (DPA), set up under the Strategic Defence Review, replaces the Procurement Executive and will have a slimmed and radically changed top management structure. Overall the Government spends some £9 billion a year on defence equipment, spares and stores.

Creation of the DPA will sharpen the distinction between the MoD's equipment procurement organisation and its customers. The DPA remains a part of MoD

but its functions will be distinct from those of the policy-orientated headquarters.

Aim of the agency is to procure new equipment in response to approved requirements. In brief, its objectives are:

- To acquire weapons systems and platforms and manage major upgrades within defined performance, time and cost bands;
- To provide certain procurement-related advice, services, guidance and standards;
- To participate in the UK's military nuclear programmes;
- To create, with allies, the best arrangements for successful international programmes.

there was not a great deal of joint doctrine. This has been addressed with another SDR initiative which will see the setting up of a joint doctrine and concept centre at Shrivenham scheduled to open this year.

It was also realised there was little point in all three Services having their own logistic support delivered to a theatre of operations. It made more sense to have a "purple tube".

"The JRRF has done much more than bring coherence to the organisation and preparation of the UK's high-readiness forces," Brig Richards said.

"A key requirement, without which the whole concept is flawed, is to be able to move them in an appropriate time frame. The MoD is therefore procuring six very

large roll-on, roll-off ships, to be flagged to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and has placed an invitation to tender for four out-sized aircraft – C-17 or their equivalent – to join our transport fleet. This will enable us to move our heaviest equipment quickly at the same time as the troops who man them."

Brig Richards said: "The real difference between the JRRF and the JRDF is the enablers. It is the Ro-Ro ships and the strategic aircraft. We are not lacking the kit or the soldiers but what we lack at the moment is the ability to move them quickly in quantity to wherever it may be and the ability at Joint Task Force level to exercise command and control over those forces effectively."

Joint Forces Headquarters has a staff of 55 and is able to give deployable command and control capability, complete with its own signals and life support. This is pro-

vided by a dedicated squadron within the Royal Signals Strategic Communications Regiment.

The JFHQ can deploy a Joint Task Force Headquarters as one of the elements of the JRRF that can be deployed at very short notice, leaving a small nucleus ready to be developed into a second JTFHQ at very high readiness. These command arrangements have been designed to cope with multinational operations.

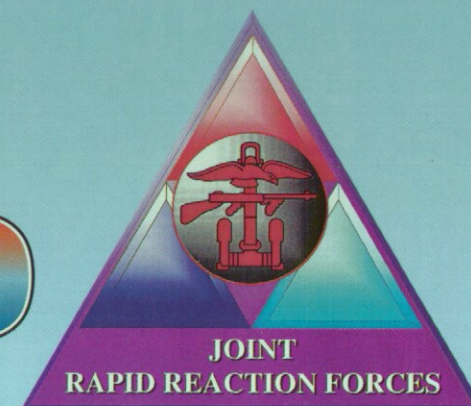
More than a third of JFHQ is staffed by Army officers and soldiers. The JFHQ structure means an Army brigadier is now the default one-star commander for all joint force operations at very short notice.

BUZZ

There is a buzz about the headquarters and clearly morale and motivation are not a problem. If you want adventure and travel and all the things you probably joined the Army for, JFHQ is the place to be.

"We have done nine operations so far," Brig Richards said. "I have just come back from Sierra Leone and before that I was in Albania doing a non-combatants evacua-

● Turn to Page 39



First wave

FIRST wave assets will be on very high readiness and will contain lead battle groups, with their parent brigades in the second wave. For example, the first wave of the Army's primary war-fighting organisation, 1st (UK) Armoured Division, will be a very robust lead armoured battle group containing a full mix of combat and support assets ranging from Challenger 2 tanks and AS90 guns through to a considerable logistic organisation.

This battlegroup will be held at very high readiness and aligned with the strategic lift required to move it. The second wave will be that battle group's parent armoured brigade, held at high readiness. The same system will apply across the Army's full range of likely JFFR tasks.

The Royal Navy will supply a maritime task group, centred on an aircraft carrier, with frigates and destroyers, attack submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, mine warfare protection forces and Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ships.

The aircraft carrier could have embarked a mixed air group of RN Sea Harrier FA2s and RAF Harrier GR7s from the new Joint Force 2000.

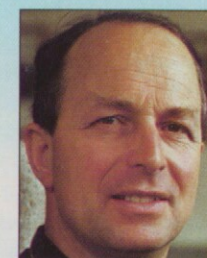
It will also include an amphibious task group, including the new landing platform helicopter "commando carrier" HMS Ocean.

RN, Army and RAF support and attack helicopters from the new Joint Helicopter Command could also be embarked in HMS Ocean.

The air component will include the full range of the RAF's most capable systems so that it carries maximum punch in the shortest time. The second wave will build on this.

Second wave

SECOND wave assets will be on high readiness and will include forces to form a larger, more capable task group. This may include enhanced frigate and destroyer, attack submarine, mine warfare and support capabilities, plus an amphibious task group capable of conducting a brigade-level landing. From early in the next century this increasingly robust amphibious force will include the two new landing platform "assault ships" HMS Albion and HMS Bulwark.



Brig David Richards

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| | £ |
|----------------------|---------------|
| AnyBank Loan | 5,000 |
| Finance Company Loan | 4,500 |
| Credit Cards (2) | 3,500 |
| Store Cards (4) | 3,000 |
| Other Creditors | 1,000 |
| Total | 17,000 |

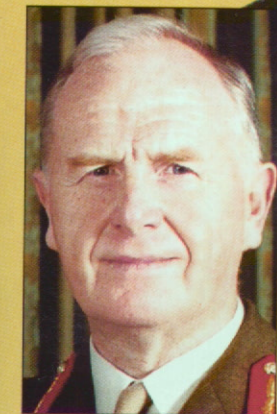
ACTION

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Joint approach to defence



CDL: Gen Sir Sam Cowan



Logical logistics

THE newly-formed Defence Logistics Organisation is now the largest joint grouping in the MoD.

Combining the former logistic support organisations from all three Services, it will have an estimated annual expenditure of £4.6 billion, assets of about £21 billion and a workforce of approximately 41,000 people at 90 locations.

Although much has been achieved in the areas of better rationalisation and co-operation between the three Services' logistic areas in recent years, there was still scope for improvement.

COMBINATION

It was therefore decided to combine the single-Service logistic support organisations (headed by the Chief of Fleet Support, the Quartermaster General and the Air Member for Logistics) into one organisation.

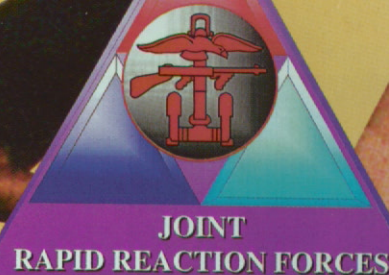
Heading up the new organisation is the Chief of Defence Logistics (CDL), Gen

Sir Sam Cowan, who will report directly to the Chief of the Defence Staff. His tasks are to:

- develop a unified logistics organisation;
- harmonise logistics systems and best practice;
- develop a common approach to supporting front line forces without diluting the diversity necessary to support operations at sea, on land and in the air;
- deliver the benefits of the Smart Procurement Initiative within the logistics area;
- ensure a common approach to industry in the support area.

Gen Cowan said: "The creation of a Chief of Defence Logistics and the launch of the Defence Logistics Organisation are changes of huge significance for defence.

"We have one huge incentive to succeed since the efficiencies we achieve will contribute directly to the modernisation plans of our forces."



Three into one will go

● From Page 37

tion operation. I have had people in the Congo, Indonesia and on Desert Fox. This is a very busy, vibrant headquarters which is on the up and up.

"If the MoD has a problem that needs solving with staff effort rather than bayonets and grenades, and wants an informed opinion of a situation, we are tailor-made for that job as well. It was not in the original job spec but if you want an organisation that can go off at 48 hours' notice and give that kind of service then we are available."

LITTLE IMPACT

However the establishment of the JRRF will cause minimal disruption to soldiers. Brig Richards said: "The fact that a brigade is in the pool of forces will have very little impact on their day-to-day lives. They will be aware they are on the shorter notice to deploy and that they have to do the business well on arrival, so there is a training implication.

"Other troops who are not in the pool would be at a lower state of readiness."

PURPLE PAST

Joint operations are nothing new. Indeed Britain's purple past goes back at least as far as 1759 when General Wolfe and Admiral Saunders captured Quebec. Military strategists have seen the future and the future is purple.

Lt Col Jeremy Thorn, who works at Northwood, said: "Permanent Joint Headquarters is really the focus for operational planning and a focus for jointery. It makes people realise there is more to jointery than saying 'Oh well, I went on an exercise with the Royal Navy three years ago'."

Fighting fibres

Bullet-proof fabrics... (well, almost)

INCREDIBLE but true: modern synthetic fabrics stop bullets and shell or bomb fragments more efficiently than steel. DCTA scientists are among the world leaders in developing lightweight and practical fabric-based ballistic protection, including vests and helmets.

They admit that a truly bullet-proof fabric is yet to be invented, but thanks to the remarkable strength of man-made fibres known as aramids, huge steps have been made in the field of personal protection.

When woven together and layered – sometimes with resins to make rigid surfaces – the fibres create a substance which is light enough to wear on operational duties and yet disperses the energy of bullets and shrapnel more efficiently than steel.

DCTA's Tony Marsden has been involved in ballistic protection for 20 years and has had the pleasure of knowing that his work and that of colleagues has saved many lives.

He tells the remarkable story of a soldier who was struck by a helicopter rotor blade and survived because he was wearing a fabric-based helmet designed by the DCTA.

Work to develop ever-more efficient armour continues, and the latest initiatives involve lightweight layered ceramic plates capable of stopping a large calibre bullet.

Meanwhile, the DCTA scientists are developing optical protection against lasers, a relative newcomer to the battlefield, and evidence, if it were needed, that the business of ballistic protection is never-ending.

The scientists know only too well that as soon as someone invents a new weapon, the search for counter-measures begins.

For the designers and scientists of the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency, there is more to life than creating the latest version of 'boots combat high'. Take for example their camouflage outfit for the Royal Armoured Corps' latest recruit

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THEY say those waif-like supermodels light up to keep their weight down, but when this "lady" smokes she is not a pretty sight. And a catwalk strong enough to support her has yet to be constructed.

Challenger 2 is not beautiful, but garbed in her new camouflaged turret cover, barrel sleeve and ground-brushing skirt, the Army's latest main battle tank is very appealing to the men who crew it.

Knowing that Quickcam, the tank's remarkable new tailored cam-

Fighting boots to tank suits. Challenger 2's new bubbly-surfaced camouflage outfit will shield it from infra red and thermal imaging equipment, as well as radar and the human eye

even radar. The Defence Clothing and Textile Agency's new tank suit is a product of its Science and Technology Division at Colchester. It is typical of the innovative work in fabric technology, ballistic protection, even small-scale metal engineering, that has already brought a clutch of commercially valuable patents and copyrights to the agency (DCTA).

Created in 1994 to bring a number of Services design and procurement bodies under one umbrella, DCTA's 450 staff work from an administrative complex at Caversfield, near Bicester in Oxfordshire and laboratories and design studios at Colchester. Its scientists and administrators have the task of designing and overseeing the manufacture of all clothing and textile-based products for the Armed Forces.

Most development projects are lengthy affairs, reflecting the need for advance planning, thorough research and careful testing. Planning of the Combat 95 range of clothing, for example, began in 1990, but the kit is still being introduced to some units even though some elements have already gone through two mid-life improvements.

But according to Nigel Gaspar, one of the Colchester division's senior man-

agers, the designers and testers can move very quickly if necessary. The Gulf War was one such occasion.

"There were between 30 and 40 projects done instantly, without any pre-planning at all," he said. "We enjoyed being able to break the rules."

Surprisingly, the Army had no desert-pattern camouflage combat clothing before Operation Desert Storm. Coming up with the sand-coloured design was relatively simple, but none of the standard military fabrics were appropriate for the hot desert climate. So the DCTA went to the civilian manufacturers, as they often do, to see what was available.

The answer was chino material, the lightweight cloth which is the fashion staple of most high street shops. First used by American troops in the Far East during the Second World War, the fabric was welcomed back to the military fold.

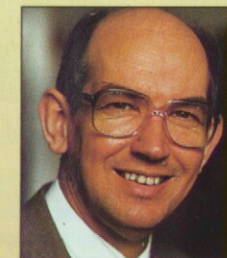
Resourceful, inventive and groundbreaking as the agency undoubtedly is, its products would be of little value if they were not tested carefully in the field and

the results not acted upon. Trials are routine and occasionally lead to a product being abandoned. More often, though,

kit will be "tweaked", improved here and there to make it soldier-proof while fitting the requirement exactly.

Colchester's trials section is headed by Phil Waterman. A retired REME officer, he regards himself and his staff as the interface between the theoretical work of the scientists and the soldier's practical application. "Soldiers," he pointed out, "have a dirty old job and while a lot of kit is perfectly well designed, some of it just can't stand the punishment. We try to bring a soldier's view to the agency."

Field trials are carefully structured and may involve any unit of the three Services.



DCTA's Nigel Gaspar: "We enjoyed breaking the rules"



Tested to destruction. Ballistic protection expert Tony Marsden with the aramid fabric and ceramic products which are giving British soldiers ever more protection from bullets and shrapnel

ouflage suit, can be donned and removed within five minutes is very reassuring indeed. Cut from a revolutionary new bubbly-surfaced fabric, Quickcam makes the tank much less visible to the naked eye, and almost invisible to thermal imaging equipment, infra-red cameras and



Users are asked to complete questionnaires about the kit and are often interviewed personally.

The process throws up information which had simply not crossed the minds of the boffins. Phil Waterman cites the example of a personal cooker trialled recently by the Royal Marines in Norway.

When he visited the Marines they told him the cooker heated their rations beautifully, but – and it was a big but – the roar of its flames could be heard a few hundred metres away; not a helpful feature if an enemy is in the area. The cookers went back to Colchester and the designers went back to their drawing boards.

● Next month: If you can't stand the heat... how the DCTA's realistic tests lead to clothing that protects soldiers from fire. The quest for mine-proof boots... and combat clothing that adjusts its insulating qualities according to the weather.

Issues

Got a TV? But have you got a licence?

MILITARY bases throughout the United Kingdom are to be targeted after being found to have a high level of TV licence evasion. Individuals caught risk fines of £1,000 and a criminal record.

Following a visit to barracks by a detection unit which called unannounced on officers' and sergeants' messes and other ranks' accommodation, a strong warning has been issued to all Service personnel living "behind the wire".

Many of those confronted told the detectors they believed a TV licence at their home address covered them for detached duty. Others said they thought they could not be caught simply because they lived within a secure compound on a military base.

PENALTIES

Now the TV licensing authority has spelled it out: if you live on a military base and have a TV... make sure you have a licence.

Penalties for being caught in possession of a TV, video or computer capable of receiving TV transmissions without a valid licence could result in a £1,000 fine as well as a criminal record.

Mick Hill, Director TV Licensing, said: "Our research has forced us to conclude that military bases have a high level of evasion and we are determined to root out these evaders. We will be conducting visits to Service units from the north of Scotland to Cornwall.

"There really is nowhere to hide. TV Licensing has the support of the MoD and the message is clear: if you are watching television without a licence you will be caught."

IN BRIEF

● For legal reasons a new charitable trust has been formed to carry on the work of the **National Gulf Veterans and Families Association** following removal of the old body from the registers at Companies House and the Charity Commission. There has been no change to the name, objectives or general structure of the organisation. Its hotline telephone number remains 01482 833812.

● The **Defence Housing Executive** was

launched as an agency of the MoD on April 1. Formed four years ago, it is responsible for managing all Service families accommodation in England, Scotland and Wales and raising all residential properties to Grade 1 condition.

● A year on from the start of the Army's five-year partnership agreement with the **Commission for Racial Equality**, the head of the organisation has said he is pleased with "the tangible progress to date". Sir Herman Ouse-

ley was speaking after a progress review with Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson.

● **Seria Service Children's School**, which serves HQ Brunei Garrison, is "particularly effective and successful", says a new report by the Office for Standards in Education. The inspector found that good teaching throughout the school made a major contribution to the standards achieved by the 110 pupils, aged from four to 11. The inspector also found that a

BFPO? No deal!

If you would like to share a problem, write to Cari c/o *Soldier*, or BFBS, BFPO 786

Dear Cari I refer to your reply to Capt R of Cyprus (*Soldier*, March). Many firms are unable to deal with BFPO addresses because their computer programs either cannot confirm the address in their database or refuse to accept as a valid format for a postcode four letters followed by two or three numbers. I queried this with the Army Post Office, which refused to format BFPO numbers into postcode at its inception. I was told: "The Forces are a large market and if firms want to trade with us they will change their computer programs. It is suggested that you deal with another trader." In the face of this disregard of economic and demographic fact and the cost of amending IT programs, further argument seemed pointless. You asked for instances of services being refused because of the use of a BFPO number so I am sending you a list. - Mr C (BFG).

Cari replies: Thanks for the list. One reaction from my financial experts was that there is obviously a gap in the market! I have some sympathy with the Army Post Office's reply. If you are failing to get the service you need from the providers you specifically want to use you might consider telling them so. If they are losing business to more flexible providers they might make changes to their system.

THE letter from Capt R about his problems with share dealings using a BFPO number provoked a big response which fell into two categories. The first concerned technical problems caused by the format of BFPO addresses and the difficulty some companies have with their computer systems. The only answer at the moment seems to be for clients to take their business elsewhere.

The second focused on the "UK resident" problem. I solved this for myself on the finance side by retaining a UK address and

Dear Cari When we moved here the bank wrote to my wife, a non-taxpayer, saying that it could not pay interest net of tax. The reason? She is not "UK resident". She was also told by two financial organisations that she could not purchase her PEP allowance for this year because the rule requires the purchaser to be "UK resident". I pay UK taxes and my wife considers herself a full UK national, albeit a second-class one. - WO2 E (BFG).

Cari replies: The matter of "UK resident" has long been a bone of contention. During 13 years of moving around various BFPO addresses I retained a UK address and bank account. My argument was always that my UK address was my permanent one. In the short term your wife could try this. For more expert advice I suggest you contact your local Inland Revenue office in the UK. The Army Families Advice Bureau is also very experienced with this kind of enquiry.

Dear Cari Should I protect my children from images of war on TV? They are old enough to understand and are starting to ask questions like: "Will my daddy be in danger?" - Mrs T (UK).

Cari replies: A psychiatrist tells me children cannot be protected from reality and parents should be honest. If Daddy is going somewhere dangerous then, according to the age and understanding of the child, the issues should be talked through. The child's worries shouldn't be dismissed out of hand. I don't know how I'd feel in your situation. Anyone who has been through this and has any advice, please share it with me.

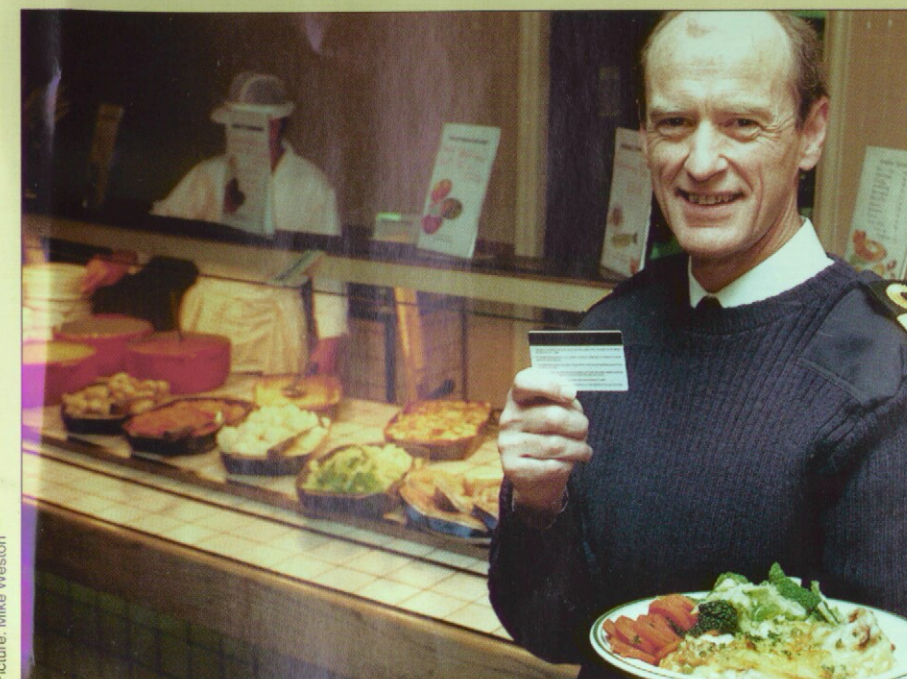
Cari comments

bank account throughout my 13 years in BFG, both as a married woman and single. However, regulations change and I urge everyone - particularly women - not to take one refusal as a generalisation.

● As a postscript to an answer I gave last month about depression, I've had a note from the Depression Alliance, which can offer support to anyone seeking information. There's a new address for the computer-literate wishing to make contact. It is as follows: www.depressionalliance.org



Cari Roberts



On a plate: Commodore Robert Bradshaw wants to know your opinions on the PAYD concept

You and your leave

ALL ranks of the Services now qualify for 30 working days of annual leave. The new arrangements, which came into effect last month, mean that every soldier is entitled to six calendar weeks a year, calculated on the basis of five working days and two rest days a week.

But the annual leave allowance (ALA), implemented under the Strategic Defence Review, comes with qualifications which allow for the Army's unique operating circumstances. For example, personnel who have to work during their two rest days - be they a weekend or not - do not have an automatic entitlement to time off in lieu.

And soldiers on operations or extended exercises cannot expect a normal working week to apply. The need of the Service will always take precedence.

Commanding officers will have the responsibility of applying the new regulations in a manner that respects the need to embrace the inherent fairness of the system and the overriding demands of Service life.

Although personnel have a right to

expect a fair working regime, they have also been asked to understand that military life makes greater and different calls on their time than would be the case in a civilian organisation. The situation is in part recognised by the X-factor in the military salary.

Leave not taken because of the "exigencies of the Service" may be carried forward to the next leave year, up to a maximum of 15 working days. If there are strong enough Service reasons, commanding officers may apply to higher authority for permission to grant an increased carry-over of untaken leave.

To those not required for duty, public holidays are in addition to ALA and leave in lieu may be granted. The eight admissible public holidays are New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, early spring bank holiday, late spring bank holiday, August bank holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Commanders have been told to ensure personnel take their full allowance and to encourage those who do not to use it up during the following year.

good ethos in the school promoted a high standard of discipline, and that links with parents and the community were very good.

● Following a review of evidence on the assessment of **noise-induced hearing loss** under the war pensions scheme, the Government has announced that its current approach reflects the international standard. Thus war disablement pensions will not be increased for hearing loss due to ageing and war disable-

ment pensions will only be paid for disablement due to service. The Government has also pledged to review the position if new scientific research warrants it.

● The **Forces Coachcard Scheme** has been extended until March 31, 2002. A new-style Coachcard has been produced and is available from Department 6A2 at Llangennech. Eligibility remains the same and the regulations are in DCI JS 2/93.

Have a say on Pay-As-You-Dine

MORE than 20,000 Servicemen and women of all ranks and ages are to be given a chance to express opinions on their messing needs under an independent, confidential survey commissioned by the Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) team.

Questions covering all aspects of messing will be included in the questionnaire, which is to go out to a sample audience this month. There will be a chance for soldiers to give their own views on PAYD.

Questionnaires will also be sent by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC) to civil servants, MoD contractors and Service dependants. A PWC spokesman said it was hoped everyone asked to take part would respond. "The more opinions we gather, the better the quality of information we will have for our analysis."

BIG CHANGE

PAYD will make a fundamental change to the way in which food is paid for. Currently, soldiers who live-in have a deduction from pay of about £98 a month (£71 if married accompanied) regardless of the number of meals eaten. The system works because, on average, Servicemen and women miss about 50 per cent of meals available to them.

Under PAYD, fixed-rate deductions would cease - as would extra messing - and personnel would be free to spend money only on what they wished to eat.

PAYD director Commodore Robert Bradshaw described the survey as a unique opportunity for sailors, soldiers and airmen to have their say.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
Confidential support lines:
 UK 0800 731 4880
 Germany 0800 1827 395
 Cyprus 080 91065
 Bosnia 0800 731 4880
 Others UK 1980 630854
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333
Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249; Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725
Samaritans 0345 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 0171 403 8783
Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302
War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858
WRVS 01235 442954

RUGBY

Army on scoring rampage against airmen

Army 43, Royal Air Force 8

IT was as if the Gods had descended on Pontypridd to assuage the drought that had prevailed in Wales the previous month, writes **Roger Thompson**.

Twenty-four hours before kick-off Sardis Road was awash, but a day later, in brilliant sunshine and on a drying pitch the Army took the field against the Royal Air Force in the first Inter-Services match to be played in Wales since 1943 when the fixture was moved out of Luftwaffe bombing range to Swansea.

The Army had Capt Tim Rodber (Green Howards), Maj Rob Wainwright (RAMC), Cpl Mattie Stewart (PWRR) and Capt Brian Johnson (R Signals), while the RAF played Rory Underwood. Three British Lions of distinction and five



Picture: Roger Thompson

Going forward: England's Tim Rodber offloads the ball to Simon Pinder during the Army's victory over the RAF at Pontypridd. Providing a second option on the right is Peter Curtis

international representatives and Barbarians highlighted the quality on the pitch.

It should have been a one-sided match and was, the Army winning by 43 points to eight. The Army pack was rock solid in the scrum and invariably went forward. Rodber and Peter Curtis (R Signals) secured most of the line-out ball while Dwane Cadwallader (Para) and Sgt Giles Powell (QDG) ram-paged in the loose.

Army possession was almost total and tries followed at regular intervals through Fus Chris Budgen (RWF), Gnr Rory Greenslade-Jones (2), Rodber, Cpl Mal Roberts (RLC), Wainwright and Capt Howard Graham, who also kicked four conversions.

New caps Budgen, Cadwallader and Roberts played particularly well in their first Willis Corroon match, while Greenslade-Jones displayed a new, direct and powerful authority at centre. The cheekiness, the attempt at the unusual,

was still there, but so was a measure of steadiness and timing not seen in previous years. With such a force in the centre field, the latent contributions of Johnson and Underwood on the wings were somewhat under-used and it took Green (replacing Johnson) to produce the match's flash of brilliance.

His speed is awesome and instinct takes him forward and onward into the clear open spaces. Bruno Green has the vision and timing to offload to the supporting players which make him such a danger.

There is huge potential in this squad and there was a lot left in the tank for when the Army played the Royal Navy for the Willis Corroon Trophy at Twickenham as this edition was going to press.

Welsh Districts 24, CS U-21 12

A streetwise Welsh Districts XV beat the Combined Services Under-21 side by 24-12 in a competitive encounter at Llantwit Fardre RFC at Pontypridd.

Services took advantage of a strong wind to score first through AC Barrie Kirwan, with OCdt Martin Wright adding the conversion but were held at 7-7 by the interval. Winger Gnr Martin Lacey scored in the corner in a second half during which Services conceded two more tries.

HI-TECH SERIES

THE first race in the Hi-Tech adventure racing series on May 16 at Bewl Water, Kent has attracted dozens of military entries (details on 0171 439 4445). Look out for a chance to win free Hi-Tech shoes in a forthcoming *Soldier* competition.



Picture: Garvin Davies

Army scrumhalf Laurie Potter gets the ball away in the women's rugby match against the Police at Syston RFC. The Police won by 38 points to nil

BF(G) beaten at the post

Germany 20, BF(G) 16

GERMANY saw off British Forces (Germany) in a tight contest played with unrestrained physical intensity at Hanover.

It was the Service XV's first outing since their game against Poland in October and they made a tentative start during which they gifted the Germans a soft try. Trailing 10-6 at half-time, the Servicemen took the lead after the interval, only to fall victim to extraordinary bad luck

when their fullback attempted to kick the ball dead, then saw it bounce back off the upright into the arms of a German player who scored.

Ahead 17-16, the national team extended their lead with a drop goal as BF(G) flung caution to the wind in a bid for a final winning score. Last year the German side won this annual fixture by a single point from a kick charged down behind the posts.



HOCKEY



Picture: Mike Weston

On the ball: Pte Matt Ison (2 PWRR) evades an RAF tackle. Maj Peter Boxell (RA), left, and WO2 Ian Jennings (APTC) look on

Army keeps its grip on the trophy

THE Army retained the Inter-Services hockey title at Aldershot, beating the Royal Navy 4-0 and the Royal Air Force 5-4, and also took the honours in the Under-23 and veteran's tournaments.

The women's competition was won by the RAF, with the Army finishing as runners-up.

The AGC Training Centre won the Tri-Service Cup Winners' Cup and Capt Paul Tapp of the Army was named senior player of the tournament.

SHORTS

Mayo on world scene

MIDDLE distance runner Lt James Mayo (Cheshire) has started his bid to make the athletics world championships in Seville in August. Mayo, who competed at international level two years ago, has completed his officer training at Sandhurst and was immediately selected to compete and train on the South African grand prix circuit alongside world-class athletes.

Mountain bike win

ARMY rider Cfn Duncan Jamieson, a REME vehicle mechanic serving at the Combined Arms Training Centre Battle Group Light Aid Detachment at Warminster, won the first mountain bike race of the season in the prestigious National Points Series downhill competition held at Cheddar Gorge.

The 19-year-old crossed the finishing line two seconds ahead of his nearest rival despite falling off once and hitting a tree on his way around the course.

Jamieson, who finished sixth overall in the 1998 National Points series of races, has a new bike for this season and is hoping to build on his success in forthcoming races. His form has caught the eye of the Scottish selectors, who have called him up for the national team.

Snowboarders' alert

THE first British Army snowboard championships are to be held at the Stubai and Hintertux glaciers in Austria from May 22-26. Contact Cpl Ted Land, 28 Wksp, 28 Engr Regt, BFPO 31 (Hameln Mil 2505/2305) for details.

Welcome to Aviemore

NEWCOMER OCdt Joanna Williams, below right, of 205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (V), won the Harlequin Trophy for top TA woman skier and the Ski Association Trophy for the top TA woman in Scotland at the Army Alpine championships at Aviemore. SSgt Brian Davidson won the RAMC trophy, the Hotel Keepers Cup for Scotland's male TA champion and the SAS Challenge Cup for the TA men's individual champion. The 205 Fd Hosp team also won the 51st Highland Division and District trophy for the TA in Scotland inter-unit championships, the McSwan trophy for RAMC inter-unit competition and the City of Edinburgh Artillery Cup for TA inter-unit races.



SWIMMING

Big effort puts Mac on World Cup stage

FOLLOWING a demanding training programme at the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Gdsm Steven Mount (Coldm Gds), Gdsm Philip Gaunt (Gren Gds), Pte Michael Gibbons (2 LI) and Maj Richard MacNamee (SG) represented the Army at the British winter swimming championships in Glasgow.

MacNamee was the only Army qualifier for individual events and competed in the 50 and 100m breaststroke. Despite a dubious disqualification in the heats, which was contested with video evidence, he was ranked 11th in Britain on time.

He was back in Glasgow to compete in

the World Cup, finishing 15th overall as the seventh fastest British swimmer.

Next on the agenda for the team is the Speedo grand prix in Sheffield in May and the Southern Counties prior to the British nationals in July.

Their preparation will include the use of the new Aquapacer training device which they are currently trialling as well as a lactate testing machine that the Army has bought. Innovations such as these are very much the style of coach Dave Crouch. Any interested swimmers should contact Maj (Retd) Spud Leaning on Aldershot Mil 3581.

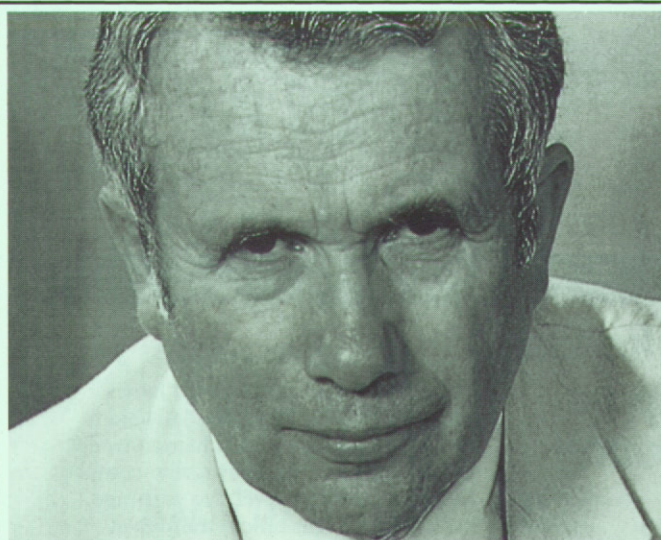
HALF MARATHON

CPL Andy Arrand (Trg Regt and Depot RLC) won the men's title in the Army half marathon championships, run concurrently with the Fleet race. LCpl Nicky Dean (251 Sig Sqn) took the women's title, Sgt Amanda Flack (ACIO Brighton) the veteran women's, and Maj Peter Marsh (20 Tpt Sqn RLC) the veteran men. First Serviceman across the line was the Royal Navy's Mark Croasdale, who finished second behind race winner

Andy's title

Tipton Harriers' Stuart Hall. The Army won all three Inter-Services team races.

● The Regular Army won the men's and both veterans races in the annual cross-country fixture against the Territorial Army at Bath. The TA triumphed in the women's race.



"As a young soldier Ray answered the call of his country. Now he can't even answer the phone".

As a war correspondent I've seen, first hand, the most appalling injuries and mental pressures our Armed Forces endure, leaving thousands of them crippled for life both physically and mentally.

Ray, as a young soldier in N. Ireland is just one of them.

The task of dealing with horrifically mutilated bodies finally took its toll leaving him trapped in a world of nightmares and severe depression.

Combat Stress helps care for victims like Ray with support in the community together with treatment and respite care in one of its three nursing homes.

Unfortunately, caring for people like Ray doesn't come cheap these days, it all costs money. Something Combat Stress is short of. Please help. A donation (no matter how small) can make such a difference to those who have given so much.

Thank you.

Mark Bell



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..... Signature

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FOOTBALL

Leader of the pack

Royal Navy 1, Army 4

CPL Claire Leader notched up a hat trick against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth to give the Army victory in the first women's Inter-Service football championship, writes Derrick Bly.

Leader's prolific scoring has brought her seven goals in the two games. The Army's other goal against the Navy was scored by Pte Rachael Turner.

There was an early fright for the Army when the home side opened the scoring on 12 minutes through POWtr Claire Watts. And they should have gone further ahead soon afterwards but missed an open goal.

SSgt Ali Garven and Pte Natalie Slade began to establish some control for the Army before Leader equalised in the 31st minute.

Earlier, players from both sides had been introduced to the FA's Kelly Simmons and Kenneth Dart of Naafi, sponsors of Services women's football.

Army 9, Royal Air Force 1

In the first women's match between the Services, the Army overwhelmed the Royal Air Force 9-1 at the Aldershot Military Stadium.

Claire Leader scored four times, Natalie Slade and Gnr Hazel Savage twice each and Rachael Turner once as the players created their own bit of military sporting history.



On the ball: Pte Rachael Turner (RLC), left, in action against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth

Picture: Mike Weston

Sailors take the honours

Royal Navy 3, Army 2

FOLLOWING their home defeat at the hands of the Royal Air Force, the Army went down to the Royal Navy by the odd goal in five during a close encounter at HMS *Temeraire*, Portsmouth, played at an electrifying pace.

Cpl David Hope's 23rd-minute opener was cancelled out by a Navy equaliser ten minutes later and the Army finished the half strongly.

But they soon had their backs to the wall when the sailors converted two early second-half chances.

Cpl Paul Alford renewed Army spirits with 25 minutes left on the clock but the elusive equaliser did not come and the Navy held on to lift the coveted Constantinople Cup as Inter-Service champions and the Mercury Cup for competition between the two old rivals.

TETRATHLON

Mac holds off challengers

THE Army modern tetrathlon championships attracted 40 competitors, with invitation teams from Oxford and Cambridge Universities competing in a separate guest event.

The first discipline, the shoot with .177 air pistols, produced a lead for LCpl Andy Mackenzie (HCMR) on 916, followed by Lt Charlie Timmis (1 RGR) with 904. In the women's event, Lt Penny Shanahan (AGC) on 892 led OCdt Michelle Wollaston (Cardiff OTC) on 748.

In the 200m swim OCdt Katie Moore (RMAS) recorded a time of 2min 29.53sec to score 1,105 points and Shanahan recorded a personal best of 2min 36.01sec to score 1,040. OCdt Simon Ash (RMAS) did 2min 12.14sec (1,179), with Mackenzie in hot pursuit in 2min 20.54sec (1,095).

In sodden, cold conditions Wollaston

took the lead from the start of the 3,000m run and maintained this to finish in 11min 17.36sec. Shanahan was next 30 seconds behind. Timmis had a storming run to finish in 9min 55.31sec, with OCdt Gareth Lloyd (Cardiff UOTC) on his heels with a time of 10min 4.73sec.

Before the final discipline, the fencing, Mackenzie had a good lead in the men's competition, 356 points clear of Simon Ash. In the women's event Penny Shanahan was 80 ahead of Michelle Wollaston.

Ash clawed back a few points but not enough to close the gap while Wollaston failed to break down Shanahan's lead.

Men: 1, LCpl Andy Mackenzie, HCMR; 2, OCdt Simon Ash, RMAS; 3, OCdt Edward Hayward, RMAS. **Women:** 1, Lt Penny Shanahan, AGC; 2, OCdt Michelle Wollaston, Cardiff UOTC; 3, OCdt Katie Moore, RMAS. **Team:** 1, RMAS. **REME championships:** 1, Capt Rob Gethen Smith, 70 AC Wksp.

SKIING

2 Close Support on roll in Bavaria

THE 1999 RLC ski championships were hosted by 1 GS Regiment RLC in Ruhpolding, Bavaria. Sponsored by Bax Global, the event attracted soldiers from 29 units, with 21 Alpine and 26 Nordic teams battling it out over a two-week period of training and racing.

The Territorial Army RLC regiments were well represented and despite heavy commitments due to operational tours and the developing situation in Kosovo, the overall turnout was exceptional.

Following the move from Zwiessel, race organisers were able to run a full programme thanks to the excellent snow conditions and the flexibility of the local staff and facilities.

There were team wins for 2 CS Regt in

the 10km freestyle, the 15km classic, the slalom, giant slalom and super G and for Sp Bn HQ ARRC in the military patrol competition and overall Nordic championship. Champion TA Nordic team was 151 (GL) Sp Regt and 2 GS Regt won the women's Nordic title. Scottish Tpt Regt took the TA Alpine honours and 2 CS Regt the Regular Army Alpine and overall championships.

● Lt Col Andrew Maitland, CO of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry, helped his regiment to sweep the board at the Yeomanry championships at Verbier. The Royal Wessex won the men's, women's and team events in the giant slalom and super giant slalom.



Steady as she goes: LCpl Vicky Gray takes a bead on the target during a military patrol race at the RLC championships in Bavaria

SAILING REGATTA

Kiel's yacht clubs break the ice

THE British Kiel Yacht Club joined forces with the Kieler Yacht-Club and the Norddeutsche Regatta-Verein from Hamburg to organise the first international Ice-breaker Regatta on the Kieler Forde.

Nine identical Najad 331 boats fought for the trophies and a number of well-known sailors took part. The Norddeutsche Regatta-Verein had been looking for closer links with BKYC and so Lt Col Peter Stableford, Rear-Commodore Off-shore, who runs BKYC, came up with the idea of an Anglo-German regatta at Kiel.

The British team was headed by the Admiral of the BKYC, Gen Sir Michael Walker, and the Vice-Commodore, Brig John Smedley.

Sailing was not the only matter on the agenda – the regatta was also a social event. For its committee crew the Norddeutsche Regatta-Verein put its money not just on its president, Gunter Persiehl, but also on Hans-Joachim Fritze, president of the German Sailing Association, and Achim Griese, silver medal-winner at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

SHORTS

On track for 2002



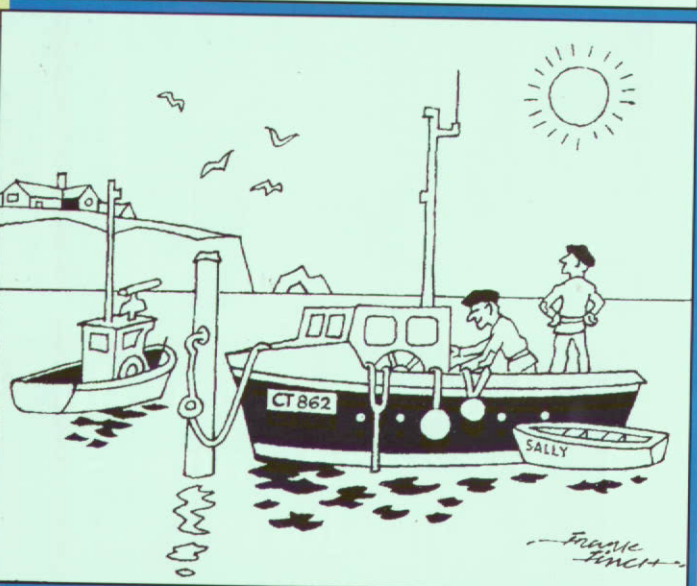
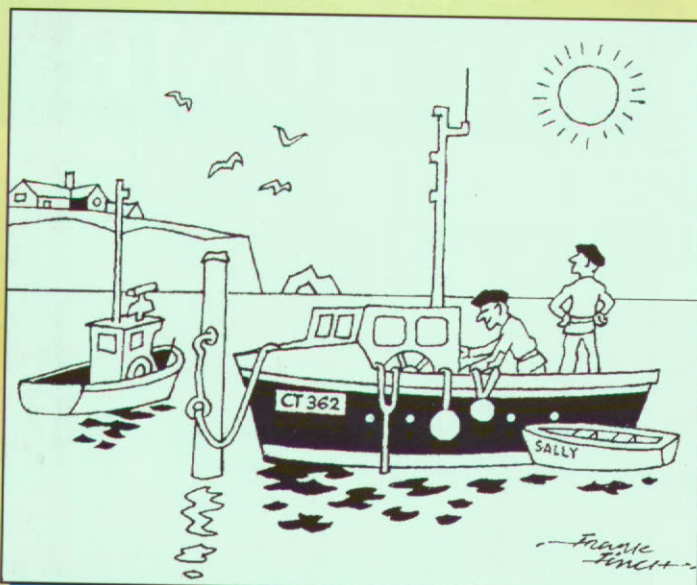
Fast lady: Sgt Donna Nevens (16 Signal Regt) propels herself on to a skeleton at the Olympic bobsleigh track at Igls, Austria. Nevens, who is the current British Army champion, was taking part in the guest class at the Italian national championships as part of her training for the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. Picture: Sgt Taylor

Badminton oldies win

THE fourth annual reunion badminton challenge match between the current Army team and the Army (Past) ended in a fourth consecutive win for the team of retired soldiers and officers. Playing for the Army (Past) at Arborfield was Maj (Retd) Roger Green, winner of 14 Combined Services individual titles and arguably the finest player the Services have seen. The Army's top pairing of WO Adrian Quinney and Sgt Adrian Batty remained unbeaten throughout the tournament.

How observant are you?

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

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

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Competition No 688 (March): First correct entry drawn was from WO1 (ASM) Pete Bodily, of 7 Bn REME, Wattisham Airfield, Suffolk, who wins £100. Runners-up Mr T M Brown, of Nottingham, and Mr G B Pryke, of Derby, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: hackle on beret; horizon far left; hand of soldier on left; cab rear window; wheel; stone below wheel; leaf of spiky plant; front rhino's horn and right ear; rear rhino's tail.

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Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 01252 347355 (Aldershot military 2355) **Editor** John Elliott 347356 (2356) **Assistant Editors** Graham Bound 347362 (2362), Karen Moseley 340753 (5753), Anthony Stone 340462 (5462) **Picture Editor** Terry Champion 347357 (2357) **Photographer** Mike Weston 347357 (2357) **Art Editor** Les Gwyer 347169 (2169) **Librarian** Gerard Sutton 347351 (2351) **Advertising Manager** Sheila Little 347352 (2352) **Business Manager** Andi Clarkson 347353 (2353)

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E-mail address: solmag@btinternet.com

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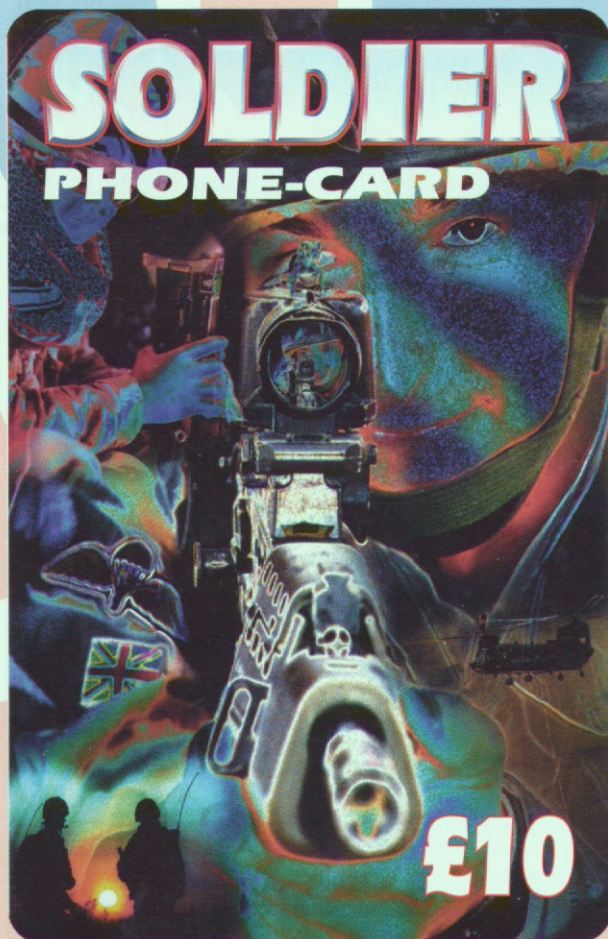
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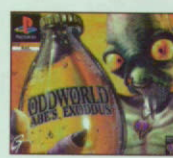
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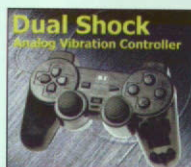
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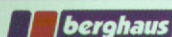
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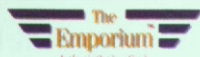
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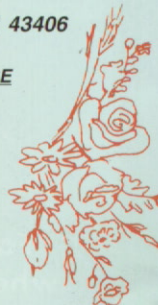
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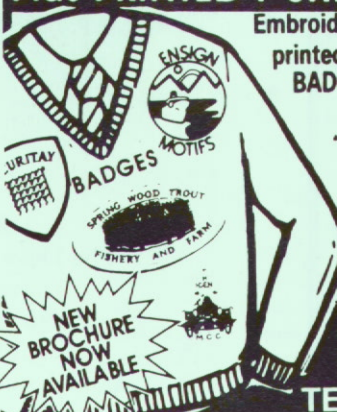
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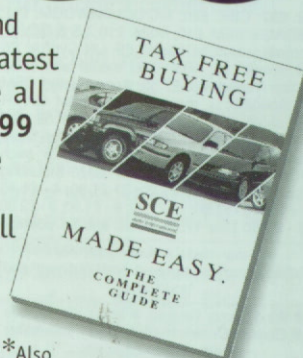
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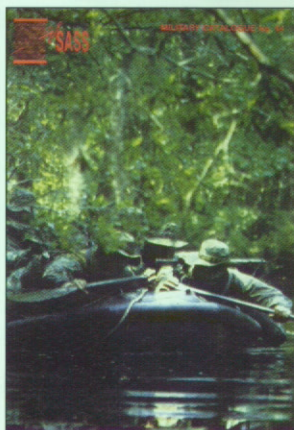
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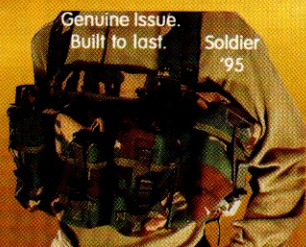
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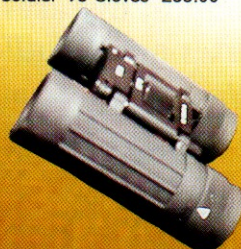
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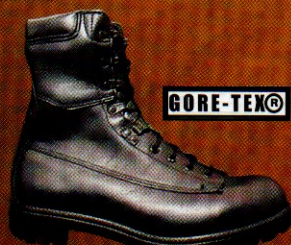


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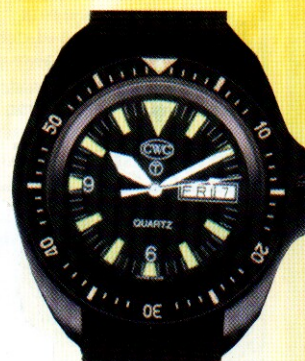
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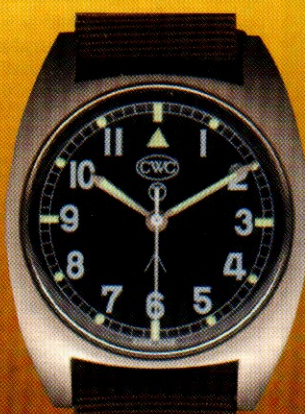
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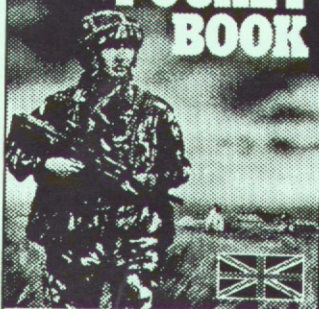
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Turn to page 52 for details of the *Soldier* Magazine Members' Club.

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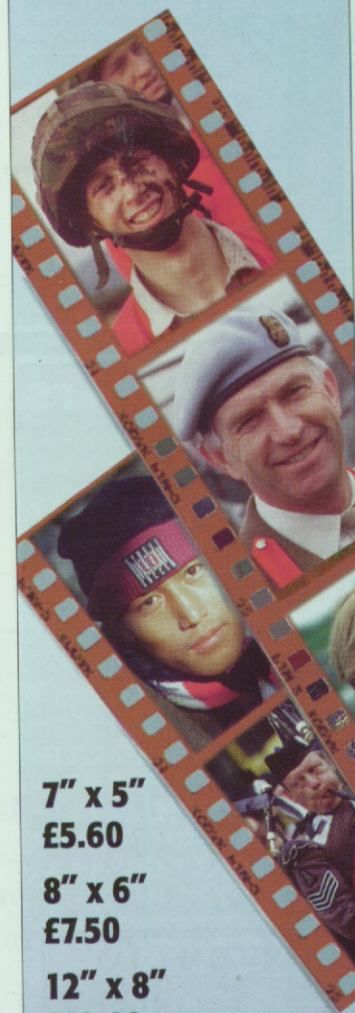
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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

MARCH 20, 1999

Three-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £2,233.33 each): Maj P Meldon, HQBF Gibraltar; Tpr BE Milroy, Scots DG, Fallingbostal; SSgt T Philson, 105 Regt RA (V), Edinburgh.

10-way tie for fourth prize (19 goals, £300 each): Sgt NM Asquith, 1 Bn REME, Osnabrück; Capt PP Green, 15 AEC, Bicester; LCpl J Johnston, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; LCpl R Moreman, 1 RRW, Paderborn; LCpl KL Sellars, MOD DM (A), Upavon; Maj GE Spink, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh; Sgt JL Sutcliffe, 821 EOD Sqn RLC, Didcot; Sgt DS Varley, 35 Engr Regt, Hameln; Sgt RJ Weed, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; SSgt CD Wilkin-son, 1 RHF, Fallingbostal.

Important Notice

Owing to the international matches played on Saturday, March 27, all English and Scottish Premiership teams were replaced by national teams on the following lines:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 24 Belarus | 42 Turkey |
| 56 Sweden | 25 Switzerland |
| 43 Moldova | 57 Luxembourg |
| 26 Denmark | 44 Andorra |
| 2 Hungary | 29 Italy |
| 45 Iceland | 7 Liechtenstein |
| 35 Georgia | 49 Armenia |
| 10 Romania | 36 Slovenia |
| 50 Russia | 11 Slovakia |
| 37 Greece | 51 France |
| 12 Czech Rep | 38 Norway |
| 52 Ukraine | 17 Lithuania |

40 N Ireland
19 Scotland
55 Poland

54 England
41 Germany
22 Bosnia

MARCH 27, 1999

Six-way tie for first prize (17 goals, £1,616.67 each): LCpl MOP Cowell, Sp Bn HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Cpl GP Debaughn, KRH, Münster; Lt Col KR Gillies, BMM to Saudi National Guard; Capt ADT Hawes, HQ Hohne Station; WO1 KL Quinn, MDHU Frimley Park; SSgt GJ Sissons, APC, Glasgow.

Note. Only six prizes this week. Rule nine applies.

APRIL 3, 1999

First prize (21 goals, £3,600): LCpl SA Lawson, 1 RWF.

Five-way tie for second prize (20 goals, £1,020 each): Tpr HR Barnes, 2 RTR, Fallingbostal; Cpl I Buxton, 21 Log Sp Regt RLC; Lt Col KA Fisher, Army Rifle Association, Bisley; SSgt MJ Fodor, 2 RGJ, Paderborn; Lt Col JJP Poraj-Wilczynski, RHQ Para, Aldershot.

Eight-way tie for seventh prize (19 goals, £125 each): Pte SJA Ashton, 1 RRW, Paderborn; Sgt JF Budgen, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Wimbish; Cpl AJ Dolman, Defence Diving School, Cosham; Cpl T Parr, 1 Staffords, Tern Hill; Sgt S Pattison, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; Pte LJ Powell, 1 RRW, Paderborn; Cpl NJ Sclater, RSME, Chatham; Brig BD Wheelwright, Service Adviser Pakistan.

APRIL 10, 1999

Six-way tie for first prize (17 goals, £1,450 each): LCpl NM Birch, 1 Bn REME, Osnabrück; Capt RC Firth, ATR Winchester; WO2 TJ Gibson, BATUS, Suffield; Sgt I Jacka, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbostal; LCpl C Maxwell, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford; SSgt NC Onslow, 16 Armcd Fd Amb, Tidworth.

30-way tie for seventh prize (16 goals, £33.33 each): Csgt CJ Ash, 2 LI, Bulford; Capt RB Bayston, Petroleum Centre, West Moors; Sig SA Blight, 2 Signal Regt, York; LCpl CI Butler, 19 Airmob Fd Amb, Colchester; LCpl G Davies, CATC BG, Warminster; Pte N Dobson, 1 LI, Edinburgh; Pte JM Evans, 8 Tpt Regt RLC, Catterick; Maj Gen GA Ewer, MOD, London; Cpl AS Fell, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; LCpl N Garcia, 1 WFR, Tidworth; LCpl RM Gibbs, 2 RRF, Celle; WO1 A Glynn, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Cpl M Gray, 1 LI, Edinburgh; WO1 FS Green, RMA, Sandhurst; Bdr J Griffin, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey; CSgt G Grundy, 1 KORBR, Catterick; Cpl SV Hamblin, Royal Sch of Signals, Blandford; Maj RJ Hannay, KRH, Münster; Capt D Jones, Dental Centre Osnabrück; Sgt MA Jones, 259 Signal Sqn, Dhekelia; Cpl DM Kemp, KRH, Münster; ATpr RJK Koops, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham; Lt Col MR Lanham, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot; Cpl IS McKnight, MOD, London; Sgt RJ Norman, SEME,

Bordon; Sgt C Smallwood, 1 Kings, Preston; Cpl RE Smith, MOD, London; 2Lt KL Taylor, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote; Sgt PJ Tittley, 15 Fd Wksp REME, Catterick; OCdt CR Young, RMA, Sandhurst.

APRIL 17, 1999

First prize (19 goals, £3,600): LCpl JD Colbert, 2 RRF, Celle.

Six-way tie for second prize (18 goals, £916.67 each): SSgt PW Leighton, 20 Tpt Sqn RLC, London; Sgt D McLaughlin, Depot R Irish; Capt M Pears, RMA Sandhurst; SSgt SR Quarmby, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gütersloh; Cpl A Shepherd, 24 Armcd Fd Amb, Catterick; Maj RSD Ward, RLC Trg Centre, Deepcut.

15-way tie for eighth prize (17 goals, £40 each): Sgt JM Ballantyne, RMA Sandhurst; Sgt RA Bromley, BATUS, Suffield; Cpl LA Bunch, 27 Tpr Regt RLC, Aldershot; Maj SM Clarke, D Geo Commitments, Feltham; Sgt D Eddy, 1 LI, Edinburgh; LCpl LM Goodwin, 1 GH, Osnabrück; Sgt D Hird, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford; SSgt JH Laffey, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley; Cpl M Leither, 1 Cheshire, Chesham; WO1 FD Mann, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne; Lt Col NJH Naylor, MOD, London; Sgt CG Palmer, HQ RSME, Rochester; SSgt AJD Saunders, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld; WO2 M Whitehead, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; Capt CP Wilson, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham.

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Condoms by post. Complete range of Durex, Mates - sporty, coloured and novelty condoms. Plain cover despatch. Full lists from: Ebba Trading, P O Box 94, Royston SG8 5YE. Tel/fax: 01763 245762. E-mail: ebba@globalnet.co.uk

WANTED

Ex-Service band based in Edinburgh requires musicians for marching/concert band. Apply by telephoning 01764 654988 or 0131 4482786. Band instruments for sale - apply as above.

Turn to page 52 for details on how to win a pair of tickets to the Royal International Air Tattoo 1999 at RAF Fairford, Gloucester. The Tattoo takes place on July 24 and 25 and 15 pairs of adult tickets are *Soldier Magazine's* to give away as prizes. Simply enter the wordsearch competition and submit your entry by May 28, 1999.

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Diary

Veterans return to Hemminkeln

MEMORIES flooded back for veterans of the wartime Glider Pilot Regiment and Airborne Forces when they presented commemorative plaques to the village of Hamminkeln in north Germany.

In March 1945, Hamminkeln, not far from the Dutch border near Arnhem, was the scene of fierce fighting as the Allies launched Operation Varsity to help get forces across the Rhine. The war in Europe ended just 44 days later.

In 1995 a memorial was laid to the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry who suffered severe losses, and now new plaques have been dedicated to the Glider Pilot Regiment and the 1st Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles, both of which played a vital part in the operation.

DATES

MAY

5: Frogmore House, gardens and mausoleum, Windsor Castle, open in support of St Dunstan's. Tickets: 0171 723 5021.

16: British Model Soldier Society national collection special event, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, 1100-1600.

26: Military concert (RA, RDG), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

29: Major General's Review (1 Coldm Gds), Horse Guards Parade.

29-31: D-Day historic military vehicle show, Denmead, nr Portsmouth (01705 241911).

JUNE

5: Colonel's Review (1 Coldm Gds), Horse Guards Parade.

9: Military concert (Queen's Minden, RL, Inns of Court and City Yeomanry), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

12: Queen's Birthday Parade (1 Coldm Gds), Horse Guards Parade.

23: Military concert (Coldm Gds), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

27: Catterick Garrison open day, Marne Barracks, Catterick Village.

27: Aldershot Military Museum special events day, 1300. Tel 01252 314598.

JULY

4: Sandhurst open day, military and sporting displays. Entrance free.

7: Military concert (HC, R Irish), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

18: ATR Pirbright open day.

20-Aug 2: Royal Tournament, Earls Court. Ticket office 0171 244 0244.

21: Military concert (Highland and Lowland Bands), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

23-25: Invicta Military Preservation Society's War and Peace Show, Beltring Hop Farm and Country Park, Kent.

29: Military concert (Music in Youth Summer School, incl ACF), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

AUGUST

4: Military concert (WG, Queen's Normandy), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

SEPTEMBER

4-5: Minley Show, Gibraltar Barracks, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey.

● To include public events, contact the Editor.

Join the Army, see the world

THE Empire may be long gone, but British influence still extends to many corners of the world, not least within the former Soviet Union.

Apparently we have bilateral defence co-operation programmes with Russia itself, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Britain provides English language training to military officers in some of those countries while officers from others are invited to the UK to pursue language training.

In Russia, the major element of the British military assistance programme is a resettlement project aimed at retiring officers. We retrained 2,000 last year, bringing the grand total to 6,000 since work started in 1995.

A Parliamentary written answer from Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson recently revealed that during the past 11 months or so the Army has exercised in 32 different countries. So if you want to visit Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Macedonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Latvia, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine or the USA... join the British Army.

The Barrosa Eagle has landed

Lt Ian McEwan, below right, of the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, prepares the Barrosa Cup's secret cocktail in preparation for the annual commemoration at the Regimental Museum of the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Armagh. The ceremony marks the closing stages of the Battle of Barrosa on March 5, 1811, one of the most famous victories of the 8th's antecedent regiment.

During hand-to-hand fighting, Sgt Patrick Matherson of the Royal Irish Fusiliers (87th Regiment) captured one of Napoleon's much-prized Eagle standards with the shout: "Be jabers, boys, I have the cuckoo."

A cannon ball hit the mess wagon during the battle but a single silver cup was salvaged and a toast drunk to the great victory and to fallen comrades.

It was during this battle that the 87th adopted an old Irish cattle-herders cry, "faugh-a-ballagh" (clear the way), as they unseated the French guns on Barrosa Ridge.



Right arm... and legless?



What a night that must have been. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards taking part in Exercise Trumpet Dance, were amused to discover this notice about a forthcoming attraction at the officers' club in Fort Lewis, Washington State.

Apparently a good time was had by all. If you didn't know, Right Arm Night, a tradition among American troops, is an opportunity for officers to buy their senior NCOs – or "right arms" – a drink or three.

Headstone fit for a Ypres hero

A headstone has been dedicated in Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey to the memory of William "Paddy" Kenny, who served with The Gordon Highlanders as a drummer and won the Victoria Cross for saving several colleagues under very heavy fire at Ypres in October 1914.

Discharged in 1923, he joined the Corps of Commissionaires in London and became a great favourite with shoppers in Bond Street. When he died suddenly in January 1936 at the age of 55 he was buried in an unmarked grave in the Commissionaires' plot at Brookwood, a fact which came to light in 1997.

The Gordon Highlanders London Association erected the Commonwealth War Graves Commission standard headstone, engraved with the Victoria Cross and the inscription: "Buried near this spot". Among those who attended the dedication were Lt Gen Sir Peter

Graham, last Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders before the regiment amalgamated in 1994, and a large contingent from the London Association. Paddy Kenny's complete group of medals are in the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen.

History on show

The 50-year-old Military Historical Society is to mount its annual exhibition at RMA Sandhurst during the Academy open day on Sunday, July 4. The exhibition, which will reflect interests ranging from badge and button collecting to uniforms, medals and regimental histories and pictures, will be judged by Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, Commandant of RMAS. Entry is free.

Noted newcomer

First lady: Musn Mazonne Jones, right, from Windsor made a little bit of military and musical history when she became the first woman member of the Band of the Royal Tank Regiment. She is also the first – and only – female soldier in the RTR.



British Bacon: Coventry's town crier, Stanley Bacon, above right, met namesake LCpl Alan Bacon at British Week in the Rhein-Ruhr centre in Essen, Germany. Alan was there with the RTR Band, in which he plays the clarinet



A hardy lot, those 1914-18 'goliaths'

IT was claimed in our story about an appeal for funds to support the preservation and display of a British Mark IV tank excavated in northern France last year (Bulletin board, March) that only three other First World War tanks survive to this day.

Not so, we are told. Many more are in existence, not least the 12 or so in the Tank Museum at Bovington. A quick check with David Fletcher, the curator, confirmed that there are at least "two dozen" tanks of 1914-18 vintage in museums around the world. David added that they included other marks and the tanks of other nations.

Could our surviving "other three" be Cambrai veterans? Also not true, says David. In addition to the one dug up at Flesquières in November, only one other is known . . . and it is in a museum in Lincolnshire.

Incidentally, a photograph sent to David by a relative of 2nd Lt Gustave Heap, commander of D51 at Cambrai, shows the battered vehicle (nicknamed Deborah) laid up in a French village soon after the world's first tank battle. Damage clearly visible in the picture is said to be identical to that on the tank found

at Flesquières. It is believed to have sustained five direct hits which killed four of its crew of eight. Heap was awarded the Military Cross for his actions.

For St Dunstan's, by royal decree

A rare opportunity to visit a royal retreat and support a worthy cause is being offered on Wednesday, May 5, by permission of the Queen. Frogmore House, gardens and mausoleum, set in the extensive Home Park of Windsor Castle, will be open on that day in support of St Dunstan's, the charity that looks after blind ex-Servicemen and women.

Tickets at £2.50 each (children up to 16 are free) may be obtained from Linda Rowlands, Fund Raising Department, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB (tel 0171 723 5021). Cheques should be made out to St Dunstan's.

Frogmore House's gardens were originally laid out by Queen Charlotte following her purchase of the house in 1792, and it has been a favoured royal retreat ever since. The mausoleum was built for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

Treasures
of the
National
Army
Museum



11



Cheers: The NAM's Lucinda Brown and 100-year-old Boer War bubbly

Good health! And we'll drink to that

HERE is official confirmation that champagne is good for your health.

An unopened bottle of the stuff, donated to the National Army Museum in Chelsea by Moët et Chandon (London) Ltd, is an example of the bubbly supplied to troops by the War Office during the Boer War . . . as a pick-me-up.

The war in South Africa was one of the last campaigns in which disease accounted for more casualties than enemy action and champagne was highly regarded for its medicinal qualities.

HOSPITAL USE

A label on the bottle reads: *Dagonet & Fils' Champagne was selected by His Majesty's War Office for use in the Hospitals and for the sick and wounded soldiers in the Boer War in South Africa.*

It will be displayed in a major exhibition on the British Army in South Africa, 1795-1914, due to open at the National Army Museum in October.

The exhibition will cover the role of the Army in South Africa, its impact on the indigenous populations and European settlers, garrison life and campaigns such as the Cape Frontier Wars, the Zulu War and the Boer War.

Admission to the museum is free.

Bulletin board

SEARCHLINE

Former members (all ranks) interested in a **263 Sqn, 160 Regt RCT(V)** reunion are asked to contact Joe McBeth, 3 Haydon Place, Denton Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 2UT.

German author wishes to trace British military personnel stationed at **Gardelegen**, a few miles north of Magdeburg, at the end of the Second World War. Replies to Maj N C W Dunkley, Defence Section, British Embassy Bonn, Box 2012, BFPO 105.

Carl Rymen, Belgian historian researching **6th Airborne Division 1944-45**, NW Europe, would like to hear from Normandy veterans and infantry reinforcement volunteer veterans. Write to him at Heistraat 68, 2491 Olmen, Belgium.

Ethel and Rip Ripley seek news of ex-sapper **Rod Morton**, wife Liz, son Dean, last known at RAF Laarbruch in quarters at Magdeburger Strasse, Weeze. Replies to 283 Padiham Road, Burnley, Lancs BB12 0HA.

Town archivist seeks photographs taken in **Bassum**, due south of Bremen, Germany, in the period April 6-20, 1945. Also notes, letters and experiences of those who fought or were stationed in and around Bassum at that time are sought for a chronicle of the town being created. Units based there included **9 DLI; A Coy, 1 Rifle Bde; 5 Dragoon Gds; 1/5 Queen's Royal Regt; 1 Suffolk**; and **1 South Lancs**. Replies to Stadt Bassum, Stadtarchiv, Mr Jens Mastnak, Alte Poststrasse 14, 27211 Bassum, Germany.

Ex-Service band in Edinburgh requires musicians for marching, concerts. Details on 01764 654988 or 0131 448 2786.

Contact for the **1960s 16 Signal Regiment Club**, including HQ BAOR Sig Tp, is Chris

The hunt is on for sergeant chef from Port Said PoW camp

A former Wehrmacht soldier captured in Italy and imprisoned at Port Said in October 1944 is trying to trace a British sergeant to whom he gave blood and later befriended.

Hans Bogner was in the huge PoW camp (No 318) between Port Said and Ismailia, where 85,000 prisoners were divided into Nazis and non-Nazis. He was in the latter group in one of 60 ten-man tents when the British commander came looking for a person with blood group O.

Hans Bogner volunteered and was taken to a field hospital where he gave blood five times to an emaciated and very sick sergeant. A few months later the sergeant drove by, saw Bogner, stopped and thanked him for saving his life.

The sergeant became a frequent caller, taking wine, cigarettes and sweets on his visits. Later Bogner was transferred to the officers' mess kitchen, where he found the sergeant was a chef, who continued to show his gratitude.

Now 78, Mr Bogner wants to trace the sergeant but cannot remember his name. Can anyone help? Replies should be sent to the Rev Leonard Lochner, Augustinerkloster, Klostergasse 10, D-97702 Muennerstadt, Germany.

Bartlett, 45 Whitehouse Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 5SR (tel 01702 524620), e-mail chris60s16er@tesco.net

Ex-Centurion tank driver (11th Hussars, 1962-68) seeks photocopies of anything to do with Centurion or its derivatives (MBTs, ARV and AVREs) in service. Replies to B L Kent, 129 Moresk Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1BP (tel 01872 241128).

Grandson seeks any information, unit details relevant to his grandfather, **Arthur Barron Brown RASC** who was at the Salerno landings and later became a WO in the TA at Harewood Barracks, Leeds. He was made MBE in December 1944. Replies to shedevil@wizard.net.au

Research student seeks information for her PhD on sea trooping 1945-62 and its effect on the lifestyles of women associated with the forces and in particular the **King's Regiment, Liverpool**. Replies to Carole Brown at the School of Leisure and Sport Studies, Leeds Metropolitan University, Fairfax Hall, Beckett Park Campus, Leeds LS6 3QS or tel 0113 2837489, fax 0113 2837575 or e-mail c.j.brown@lmu.ac.uk

PRESENTATION ITEMS

Following SDR, the **10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V)** will amalgamate with 4 Para (V) on July 1. Anyone who has made a presentation to the battalion is asked to contact the RSM before June 30 on 0171 414 5306 or write to RSM, 10 Para, Queripel House, Duke of Yorks HQ, Kings Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4SD.

5th/8th Battalion, The Kings Regiment (V) will amalgamate with 3 Cheshire on July 1. Anyone who has made a presentation to 5/8 Kings is invited to reclaim it or give a preference for its disposal. Contact Capt R L Taylor, Peninsula Barracks, Warrington WA2 7QS (tel 01925 646519 or Liverpool Mil 8827).

takes place on July 3 at Royal Regency Banqueting Suite, Ilkeston. Annual pilgrimage to regimental memorial Crich will be held on July 4. Contact RHQ WFR, Foresters House, Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell, Notts NG9 5HA (tel 0115 9465415).

Joint Services Hong Kong: Reunion in Carisbrooke Hall, Victory Services Club, London on July 3. Details from Bob Downie or Mandy Niblett, 8 Gauntlet Crescent, Kenley, Surrey CR8 5ER (tel 0181 645 9824).

Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association: Annual Crich dinner



Place of honour: Two nieces of LSgt John Rhodes unveil a new oil painting of the First World War action in which their uncle won his Victoria Cross. The work, by Sean Bolan, was commissioned and paid for by the Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards at Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, where it was unveiled. Pictured in front of the painting with Mike Barnes of the Khaki Chums military remembrance society are Florence Wrobel, left, and Margaret Ford, daughters of Rhodes's brother. On October 9, 1917, LSgt Rhodes, serving with the 3rd Battalion, Gren Gds, during the third Battle of Ypres, braved hostile

machine-gun fire and a British barrage to capture nine Germans manning a pill box near Houthulst Forest, east of Ypres. He was killed in action less than six weeks later, not knowing for sure that he was to receive the VC. He had previously won the DCM and bar for conspicuous gallantry.

Sean Bolan's father and grandfather were both Grenadier Guardsmen.

Present for the unveiling ceremony were members of the mess and representatives from the Staffordshire Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association. Before the war John Rhodes had been a miner in the Potteries.

Picture: Terry Champion

22nd (Cheshire) Regiment Band and Drums Association: Annual dinner in Chester on Sept 11 (Mons reunion, Sept 12). Details from Maj Ron Goodwin, c/o RHQ The Cheshire Regiment, The Castle, Chester CH1 2DN.

4th Regiment RA: All ranks reunion at Walsall on Sept 25. Contact Pete Lazell on 0171 341 5278 or Mick Avery on 01902 570942.

Sapper railwaymen: A reunion for ex-RE rail-

waymen, including movement, control and port operating, is planned at the Army Museum of Transport, Beverley, North Yorks, on Oct 6. For details, send sae to Robin Thorne, 18 Primrose Acre, Deanland Wood Park, Golden Cross, Hailsham, E Sussex BN27 3SD (tel 01825 872629).

National Ex-Prisoner of War Association: Annual reunion at Warners Holiday Village, Hayling Island, Hants, Oct 8-11. Details: C F Jago, 01722 333599 or Les Allen 01873 818308.

7th Fd Coy/Sqn RE: Annual reunion at Leicester in Oct. Details from Mrs G Bignell, Dovecote House, Claypole, Newark NG23 5BJ.

Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders Battalion: Fifth annual reunion dinner for former boys/junior leaders who served at Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth or Oswestry will take place on Oct 16 at 5 RGJ Training Centre, Milton Keynes. Details from Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentrych, Cardiff CF4 8QQ (tel 01222 891274).

Arborfield Apprentices, Intakes 50A and 50B: Reunion planned for October 2000. Contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.

MUSIC/Gordon Turner



Records from darker days – and a Scots DG pipe classic

DURING the dark days of the Second World War the Overseas Recorded Broadcasting Service provided recorded entertainment for our troops overseas. The recordings were never released commercially and many have disappeared for all time.

Among the recording artists were Capt (Lt Col Sir) Vivian Dunn and the orchestra of the Portsmouth Division, Royal Marines and also the Services Symphony Orchestra. Some of these recordings have now been traced and issued as a compact disc titled **Concert Classics**.

Included in the programme is Bell's *Cross the Meadows*, *By the Sleepy Lagoon*, *Arcadians Overture* and *Grenadiers Waltz*. Available from: Eastney Collection, 60 Mayford Road, London SW12 8SN. £12. (Cheques payable to Eastney Collection.)

THE EXCEPTION

Highland Cathedral features the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Pipe Major Bryan Brotherton) accompanied by the Band of The Light Division. Unless you are an ardent pipe enthusiast a complete CD featuring the great pipes of Scotland is too much to listen to in one session... but this is the exception.

Most of the tunes are well known but the tracks are so varied in musical content and arrangement that boredom never sets in. The band only appears on a few tracks and these accompaniments are tastefully done.

Of these I particularly enjoyed the *Titanic Love Theme* and *Absent Without Leave*. There is a ceilidh set, which really gets the feet tapping. The programme ends with *Amazing Grace Fling!* I highly recommend this to all. It is the Royal Scots Dragoons Guards at their best.

On compact disc and cassette CDITV 642 and available from PRI, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, BFPO 38.

INSPIRED IDEA

For those who enjoy a good march but are looking for something different, I suggest you invest in **Concert Marches** played the Minden Band of the Queen's Division. The 17 tracks include *Procession of the Nobles*, *Marche Militaire* (Gounod), *March of the Little Leaden Soldiers*, *Fame and Glory*, *Marche Lorraine*, *March of the Peers (Iolanthe)*, *Calling All Workers (Music While You Work)* and *Tannhauser*. It is a wonderful collection and to have them played as a programme is an inspired idea.

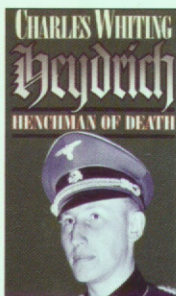
Available on compact disc PMRD 9412 from the Minden Band of the Queen's Division, Basingbourn Barracks, Nr Royston, Herts SG8 5LX.

If you have any problems obtaining recordings mentioned here, or any queries about military music, please write to me c/o *Soldier*.

Books

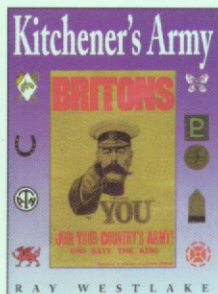
Who killed the evil Reinhard Heydrich?

WHO killed Hitler's right-hand man, Reinhard Heydrich – the Czechs or the British? And why was his widow protected by the British Secret Intelligence Service? Prolific author Charles Whiting attempts to answer these and other questions in his latest book, **Heydrich, Henchman of Death** (Leo Cooper, £19.95). Intriguingly he claims that the "the greatest mystery of all" is the link between the "father of the Final Solution" and the new Europe of the year 2000...



Kitchener's Army – by an authority

WITH hindsight, Ray Westlake's credentials for producing **Kitchener's Army** are impeccable – 18 years on the committee of the Military Historical Society; membership of the Western Front Association; an authority on badges and insignia; author of reference works on the volunteer and territorial forces and of recent titles dealing with unit movements in the First World War; prolific contributor to militaria magazines. His blend of authoritative text and hundreds of fascinating pictures, first published ten years ago, is re-issued by Spellmount at £19.95.



Stalingrad saga: the paperback

Magnificent, brilliant, superb, revealing, overpowering, compelling... almost every superlative in the thesaurus was used (by the likes of John Keegan, Alan Clark, Max Hastings and even Ben Elton) to salute **Stalingrad** when Antony Beevor's classic account of the Second World War's most epic and pivotal battle was published last year. The former 11th Hussars officer, said Keegan, "has an eerie understanding of how men behave at the end of their tether". This month the hardback best-seller is issued as a 500-page, illustrated Penguin paperback at £12.99. Join the queue.



Maori soldiers of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force training with the bayonet in the Western Desert during the Second World War. The censor at the time ruled that objects in the background should be touched out of the photograph before publication

Steel yourself for the future

SEVENTEEN years ago, 3 Para stormed Mount Longdon and the Scots Guards took Mount Tumbledown – both, as Tim Ripley puts it, "with cold steel".

The bayonet has been with us for 400 years and we tend to think of it as having passed its sell-by date, but it is very much with us today.

In the 1600s a group of Basques, running out of ammunition, are said to have forced knives down the barrels of their muskets, turning their weapons into improvised pikes with which they routed the Spanish cavalry.

It happened just outside Bayonne in the French Pyrenees and the battlefield became known as "La Bayonnette".

In this book Ripley concentrates exclusively on the weapon's use in the 20th century, particularly in the two

Bayonet Battle by Tim Ripley (Sidgwick and Jackson, £17.99).

world wars (notably by the Japanese in the second) but also in various low-intensity conflicts such as Aden in the 1960s, when on one occasion Lt Col Colin Mitchell ordered

● We have three copies of **Bayonet Battle** to give away in a competition. To enter, tell us on a postcard in what year British soldiers last fought "with cold steel".

Remember to include your name and address. Entries close on May 31 and the Editor's decision is final.

the men of the 1st Battalion, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to "go in with the bayonet" if they ran out of ammunition.

Although since the Falklands in 1982 the bayonet would seem, he says, to have fallen into disuse, this perception is misleading as it was

employed by the British, Americans and French in training for trench-clearing operations in the run-up to the Gulf War (but in the event, not needed).

The attachment is still used in training by our own Army and probably operationally by many others – for despite the coming era of the cyber-soldier with his hi-tech gadgetry, it is as well to be reminded that even in a casualty-conscious new millennium the tried-and-trusted methods of close-quarter battle will still be around.

"It would take a very brave man to predict the demise of the bayonet," Ripley writes. "Over the next 100 years the order 'Fix bayonets' will still reverberate around the battlefield when the going gets tough."

While close-quarter combat may seem politically incorrect to some of us, he says, this is a purely Western phenomenon.

"Armies in eastern Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa have no such scruples, so the prospect of bayonet fighting should not be considered too outrageous." – CH

Soldier ordering service

All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free professional military booksearch. Helion & Company, 26 Willow

Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315). E-mail address: books@helion.co.uk Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

Unique Funnies deserved better

BRITAIN'S 79th Armoured Division was a unique formation. Although formed as a conventional division, it was tasked to develop many specialised forms of armoured vehicle and use them in north-west Europe in 1944-45.

Its vehicles were unusual, ranging from Churchill tanks mounting demolition guns and flame-throwers to light amphibious vehicles, tracked and wheeled. Its actions were diverse in the extreme.

The 79th (whose badge is reproduced, right) and its vehicles have been the subject of many books. This is another in a series by a wartime gunner who draws on earlier histories, articles and personal accounts.

It also, unfortunately, strays from the point in its early chapters, when it describes a number of unusual devices produced by the so-called "Churchill's Toy Shop" or Military Intelligence Research (C).

These ranged from anti-tank weapons – the best, and best-known, being the PIAT – as well as anti-personnel

Churchill's Secret Weapons – The Story of Hobart's Funnies by Patrick Delaforce (Robert Hale, £20).

mines and special devices for clandestine sabotage. The author describes the rises and falls of the commander, "Hobo" Hobart, who was responsible for raising what became the 7th Armoured Division, the famous Desert Rats, before later becoming a corporal in the Home Guard.

These themes are interwoven with what the author sees as Winston Churchill's part in the development of tanks in general and British armoured divisions in particular.

EPISODIC

This leaves three-quarters of the book to describe the 79th from its inception and its specialised vehicles and their actions from D-Day through to VE-Day.

These actions are episodic because the division never fought as a complete unit, smaller formations taking part in different actions which their training and equipment

best fitted them for.

Churchill's part in all this seems somewhat overstated to this reviewer, and the author's technical details on equipment is sometimes not accurate. For example, more than once a "2.4-pounder tank and anti-tank gun" is referred to, and the amphibious Terrapin truck is said to have had "six or eight wheels", all matters which could have been corrected or clarified with a little research.

A famous shot of a Welsh Guards tank being inspected by Churchill is incorrectly identified as part of the Recce Regiment (which never used tanks), while in another view Churchill's "Tommy gun" is in fact a Sten. Overleaf a 2-pdr is described as a 6-pdr.

The listing of books in the bibliography is also selective, and does not include the 79th's own divisional history, David Fletcher's *Vanguard of Victory*, or the original account of *1st Assault Brigade Royal Engineers*.

Mr Delaforce has produced better books than this, which would not be this reviewer's choice as an account of this fascinating unit and its exploits. – PB

Dublin's troubles and strife

WHAT does a former member of the Special Boat Squadron get up to when he leaves the Royal Marines? In the case of Des Bray he goes home to Dublin to live quietly with his older sister – until he gets drawn into the Irish Army's fight against terrorism as the "war" moves across the border from Ulster.

The book reads like a novel ... or is it? The text, according to an author's note, has been passed for publication by the Special Forces Executive at the Ministry of Defence.

The Fourth Province by David Griffin. (Hermes Books, Bournemouth, softback, £7.99.)

Des Bray's mission is clear: to prepare a relatively unsophisticated security force for the arrival of active service units deployed by Unionists seething against the inroads of the Good Friday peace process.

A Dublin insulated against the extreme violence of urban terrorism is about to experience the horror of grenades exploding in bars, sniper attacks and

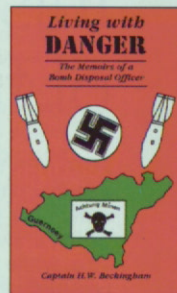
car bombs ... unless Des can give his small force the discipline, professionalism and knowledge it needs to compete with the invisible enemy.

David Griffin, who completed six tours in Northern Ireland, weaves an exciting tale out of the facts and the fiction, but there are flaws in the editing. Des Bray, whose attention to detail is what keeps him alive, would not have been impressed by some of the sloppy punctuation and grammar allowed to slip on to these pages. – JE

The man who cleared Guernsey of mines

CAPT Harry Beckingham considers himself to be extremely lucky to have served in Bomb Disposal from its inception in April 1940, and to have survived when the average life expectancy for a bomb disposal officer was just ten weeks.

In **Living With Danger** (paperback, available from the author, 64 Hartley Crescent, Birkdale, Southport, Merseyside PR8 4SQ, price £7, UK postage free, overseas add £1). After four years as an EOD officer in London and Hull he took part in the liberation of the Channel Islands and cleared 70,000



Roar of the mighty Tiger not enough

LEGEND has it that the German Tiger was the most powerful and invincible tank ever built when it deployed its might on the battlefields in 1943 and 1944.

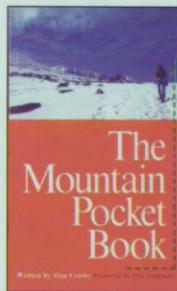
There were, however, flaws. Its thirst for petrol limited its range; it was liable to break down; it was cumbersome in mountainous terrain; and there were not enough of them available at the crucial time. Roger Ford's **Tiger Tank** (Spellmount "Weapons of War" series, £14.99) tells the story, aided by profuse illustrations including a detailed cut-away and wartime action pictures.



How to survive an avalanche

IF YOU want to indulge your head for heights, don't take to the hills without **The Mountain Pocket Book**

(Cordee, paperback, £4.99). This valuable source of relevant facts and figures has been put together by Alan Crosby, who has served in both the RAOC and the Territorial Army and is an expedition instructor with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The easy-to-follow illustrated text covers everything from initial planning of ventures to avalanche survival techniques and includes topical subjects such as rights of way.



Mailbag

Why stop at 22 years in this new age of fitness?

FURTHER to your prize letter ("Let's end age discrimination", March), we should remember that it is the British Army which draws a line after 22 years' service, while the Royal Air Force gives career chances through to 55 years of age, by which time children will hopefully have finished school and university and be self-supporting, and the mortgage on the family home paid off.

I believe the Australian Army does likewise.

The significance of the 22-year career seems lost in the mists of history. Why not 20 or 25? It has certainly not kept pace with increasing life expectancy and improved health and fitness.

ACTIVE SERVICE

An officer from my own Territorial Army unit celebrated both his 60th and 61st birthdays on active service in Bosnia and he is by no means unique. A warrant officer of the same unit retired, under protest, at 70, at which age he was still active and an asset.

There is another angle to this, possibly slightly macabre, but as a TA officer in his mid-50s in Bosnia, the thought of being killed did not worry me so much as it would have at 21.

Gender and race discrimination in the Army are crumbling. Let's hope age discrimination is next in the target zone. — David Chown, ex-Intelligence Corps, 35 Army Education Centre, BFPO 36.

DOWNLOAD...

Some views posted to *Soldier's* page on the Army web site:

KOSOVO: SEND IN TROOPS

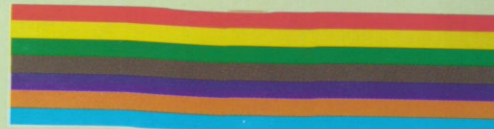
I AM sure that others will feel the same sense of shame that I feel that we are not being allowed to intervene on the ground in Kosovo. Any real soldier will tell you that the only way to evict a determined infantryman from a piece of ground is at the point of a bayonet. Only joint operations, conducted deep, close and rear will compel the enemy to surrender. — WO1(ASM) Feeney, REME.

ALCOHOL: TWO-CAN RULE

ALCOHOL on operations should be banned because of the increased effects it has under fatigue. Even two cans will have potentially life-threatening consequences, especially when the individual is extremely tired and has the responsibility of a loaded weapon. Soldiers cannot expect creature comforts all the time. If they do, they're in the wrong job. — Gnr Peter Coleman, 104 Regt RA (V).

Destabilised by Armani Army

Our story on the "multi-coloured stable belt" (Page 13, April) drew a bit of flak, by telephone, e-mail and the mailbox. Here is a flavour of what you thought of the development...



YOUR article on the Armani Army (April) disgusted me. Every unit in the British Army has colours of one form or another and these colours are what a soldier is willing to die for.

In the past, thousands of soldiers have died defending the regimental colours. Unit colours are depicted in the stable belt and there are a lot of squaddies who are proud of their units, so changing the stable belt to colours that would better suit a bunch of girl guides is a big mistake.

You can identify a soldier's regiment by his or her stable belt, the maroon of The Parachute Regiment being a good example.

As for the macho élitism mentioned in the report, the very heart of the Army recruit training process is based on building competitiveness and comradeship, which is followed through to the parent unit. Every unit strives to be the best... and when they achieve it they like to brag a little.

Are we going to let some French fashion designer who knows nothing whatsoever about the British Army or its traditions tell us what to wear? To deny a unit its colours is to deny them their history. — RAMC (V) soldier (name and address supplied).

Obscene proposal

I am writing in response to the column in the April 1999 issue entitled "It's the Armani Army". Being a member of a regiment that has had to adapt to change and having myself experienced the effects of broken traditions, I regard the idea with contempt.

The idea of a "chic image", portrayed

by a multi-coloured symbol, is close to obscene. The British Army was built on élitism and the competitive spirit, to name but two characteristics, and that is what contributes to us being regarded as one of the most professional forces in the world.

We shouldn't be making French designers rich and, in any case, the simple green or black belt would be a more mature approach. At least we will have our own capbadges... for now, that is. — Sgt, 1 RGBW (name and address supplied).

Smart enough for Int?

I wondered what the Army was coming to when I read about the Armani Army and rainbow stable belts. I was a humble field engineer and plant fitter in a field squadron, but I realised your story was an April Fool joke. I think my talents were wasted as a sapper and I should have been in the Int Corps. — Edward Kelly (ex-RE), Dover, Kent.

April Fooled

I have just finished the April *Soldier* and found it, as usual, full of interesting material. The April Fool article on the new stable belt is good. I wonder if it will attract the same response as the decimalisation of regimental numbers you did a few years ago when the 16th/5th Lancers became 3.2L? — Peter Brown, Wimborne, Dorset.

● We're sticking by our story and so is "French fashion designer" Avril Blague. After all, the fact that her name translates into English as "April Joke" could be a complete "hareng rouge". — Editor.

New Suez association in business

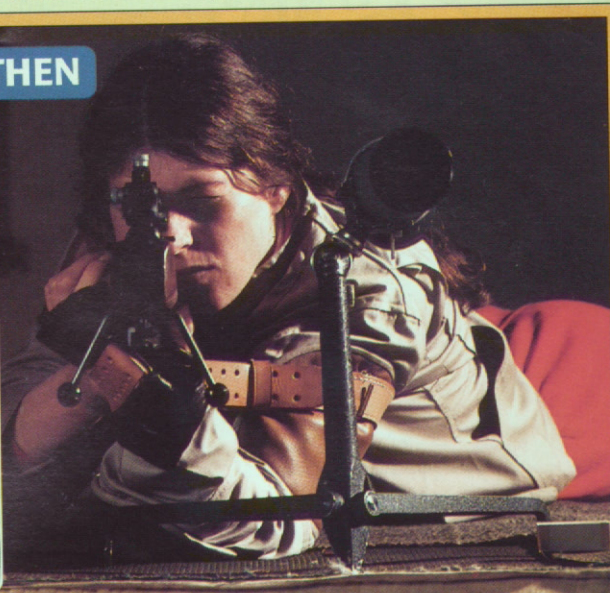
YOU may not have heard of the Suez Veterans Association, which is not to be confused with the Canal Zoners, a separate organisation. The SVA was formed less than two years ago and has so far held two reunions in the UK and re-visited the Canal Zone twice. — David Powis (ex LBdr, 88 Arracan Bty, 41 Fd Regt RA, 1951-53), Membership Secretary SVA, 103 Gay Gardens, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7TH, tel 0181 262 7839.

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication).

A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. 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

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1949

No civilian suit or cash grant in lieu will be given on release to National Servicemen called up after January 1947. The Commons heard that issue of clothing would impose too heavy a burden on the administration side of the Services and an equivalent cash grant would cost the country between £3m and £4m.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1974

Main picture: Cpl Sally Waters of 68 Sqn, RCT, wins the WRAC individual small-bore rifle championship for the second time, while (inset) Sgt Valerie Charnock from 39 (City of London) Signal Regiment celebrates winning the Miss Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve title. She received £20 and the Miss TAVR sash.

There's room for alcohol on ops

I WAS quite amused by comments in the Download column (March) in which people put forward their ideas about the two-can alcohol rule. I am not sure if any of them have ever been on an operational tour such as Bosnia, but the reality is that you are not dug in ready for war.

In some cases it is just like a normal working day anywhere in the world.

Our company is deployed quite often on operations (one of the few) and when we are deployed we aren't allowed to drink at all. Obviously I am not saying that you should be allowed to get out of

Prize letter

your tree every night, but we are all adults. Everyone knows that most units abuse the two-can rule anyway, so why pretend to enforce it?

As to affecting fitness, is fitness not important in the United Kingdom, where there is no two-can rule? You can still be fit and drink in moderate amounts. One bad side effect is that when soldiers are allowed to drink again after being unable to do so for a long time they are not used to the alcohol and end up making idiots of themselves. — LCpl (name supplied), REME, 1 WFR, Op Palatine.

Gebeit badges were still going strong

WITH reference to R Haggard's letter concerning the Gebeit cap badges (Feb), I too worked on the York and Lancaster badge and, having previously been in Khartoum with 1 DWR in 1947 and 2 Green Howards from 1947 to 1949, worked altogether on three cap badges. I

still have the centrefold of the 1953 Y and L Christmas card, a picture of the completed badge. In the late 1970s I met a major in the Green Howards who had just returned from the Sudan and he confirmed the regimental badges were still there. — T Campbell, Devizes, Wilts.

PS...

Regular, not royal

YOU referred to the Royal Australian Army (Page 11, Dec). The correct title is the Australian Regular Army, which may or may not have something to do with the high amounts of fibre that the soldiers have in their diets. Apart from that I found your magazine to be very good and well worth the effort of fighting one's way through herds of rampaging kangaroos and swarms of savage koalas to get to the newsagent to buy it. — Colin MacAulay, Wattle Grove, New South Wales, Australia.

Die Hards die hard

IN the article (Page 21, March) on the re-enactment of Rorke's Drift by a company of the 24th Foot you gave them the nickname of "The Die Hards". This is incorrect as the 57/77th Foot, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) gained this name and regimental battle-cry after the death of Col Inglis at the Battle of Albuhera on May 13, 1811. This was after Col Inglis had received his third and, finally, fatal wound. As he lay dying in front of his men he cried out "Die hard, my men... die hard". This was in the Peninsular War, 100 years before Rorke's Drift. — M A Sampson (ex-Sgt, Die Hards and Royal Signals).

● The re-enactment society involved in the ceremony at Isandhlwana calls itself the Die Hards. Our story made no such claim about the 24th Regiment of Foot. — Editor

Beret proud

IN 1977, I passed P Company, enabling me to wear with pride the maroon beret of Airborne Forces. In Vox pop (March) you published pictures of Service personnel, including two women, wearing the Airborne Forces beret. Do we now have female paratroopers or is this another example of the Armed Forces pandering to political correctness? — K P Walton, Fire Officer, Phoenix Theatre, London.

● The two women are entitled to wear the beret because they serve with Airborne Forces. They are also wearing their own cap badges (in their case that of the AGC), as do maroon beret-wearing, non-parachuting specialists from other corps. Glider pilots and glider-borne troops wore maroon berets in the Second World War. — Editor.

Wrong impression

GEN Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff refers (Page 21, April) to "libertarian values" and their outcomes. On the following page an advertisement by a housebuilder is headlined "Let's live together". Having campaigned for some 50 years against the Permissive Society I find such advertisements grossly irresponsible. The Army should honour family life. Statistics reveal children from stable married relationships do better in life. — C T Wareing, county councillor, ex-Sgt RE and ex-Lt TA, Redditch, Worcs.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Humanitarian soldiers

In Macedonia, British troops have given Kosovar refugees medical treatment, food and shelter. But should soldiers be involved in such humanitarian work? We put that question to 12 of them.



Maj John Bentley RLC

This is an excellent task for us. I think a soldier has to be flexible, and yes it is the kind of task that a soldier can be asked to perform in today's climate. Absolutely.

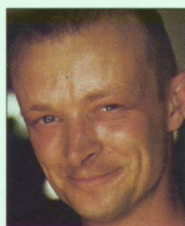
LCpl Paula Groves RLC

Initially, obviously it's not what I joined the Army for, but what we are doing is a very worthwhile task. It's giving me an awful lot of satisfaction. It's different from the normal kind of work we do but it's good.



Cpl Andy Lawman RLC

It's not what I joined the Army for, but it's OK. We've been going out with loads of rations for the refugees. It makes me feel really good because there's a sense of meaning and a goal.



Capt Gerry Ewart-Brookes RLC

It's not really a soldiering job, but if we can be used effectively to assist people, yes, why not. We are a ready source of manpower, we've got a command and control structure, and we can get in to set things up before normal aid agencies.



WO2 Glenn Priestley RLC



It is very worthwhile work. It's the second time I've been involved with something like this. I was involved in the Ethiopian famine relief, too. To be working with organisations like the United Nations, which is leading this operation, gives you a nice warm feeling. What we are doing is actually saving lives.

Pte Merisa Gonzalez RLC



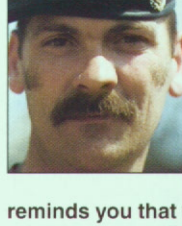
I like helping people like these who haven't got much. I'm enjoying what I'm doing and it gives me a really good feeling. I think we should be involved in this kind of thing.

LCpl Colin Hare RLC

At the end of the day, we can't leave people to suffer. I'm happy to get on and do the work. It's been an eye-opener for me, and it's affected me, especially seeing the kids' faces.



WO2 John Gaughan RE



By most people's definition it's not a soldier's job, but by the same token we all have compassion. This kind of work puts you in touch with reality and

reminds you that we take things for granted. It is most definitely worthwhile work.

LCpl Jamie Scarisbrick RE

It's work that we need to do because there is no one else to do it. The lads get a lot of satisfaction out of this. Soldiers can adapt to anything, and they can certainly turn their hands to this sort of thing quite well.



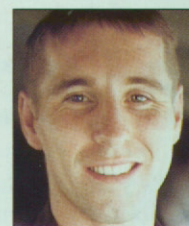
LCpl Craig Bradley RE



It's good experience, especially for the younger lads. This kind of thing gives them a chance to use their trade skills. It's not conventional soldiering, but it's good for us and it's good for the refugees.

Pte Dean Samuels RAMC

I think this kind of thing is brilliant. I'm loving the job at the minute. This is why I joined the medical service, because I like working with people. As far as I can see we are doing a good job. Apart from not getting a lot of sleep, it's excellent.



Cpl Barry Gardner RAMC

Yes, it's worth it. As medics this is the kind of thing we train for. Whenever possible I think we should be able to help with these kind of situations. We have the facilities and the manpower to be able to do it.



Interviews: Graham Bound Pictures: Mike Weston

COMING SOON

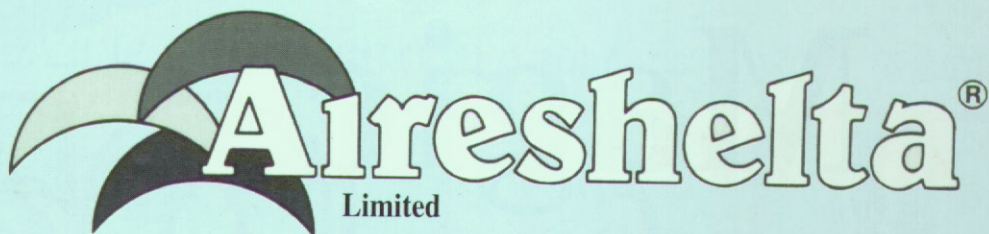
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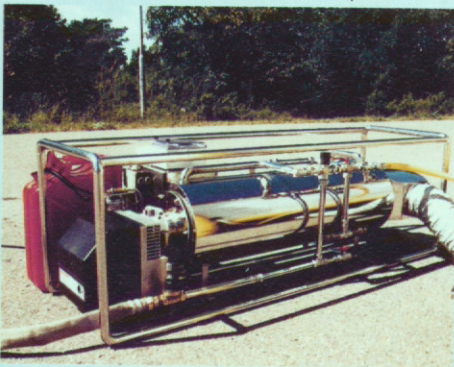
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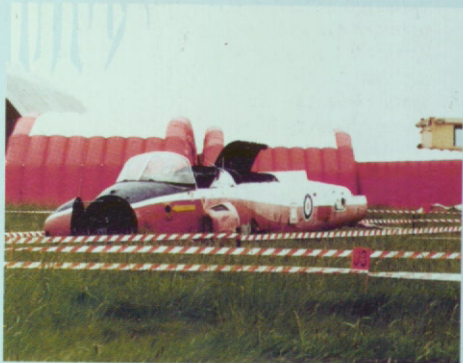
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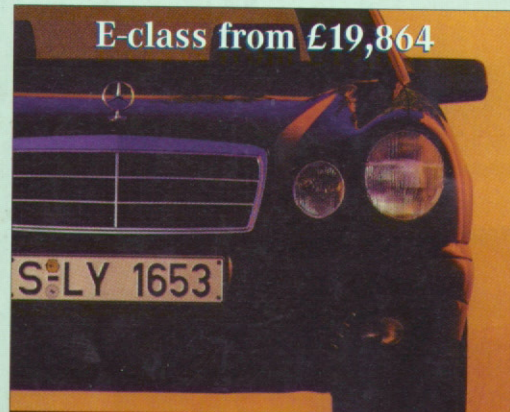


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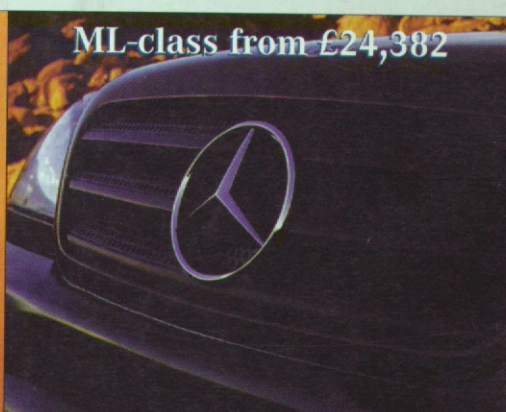
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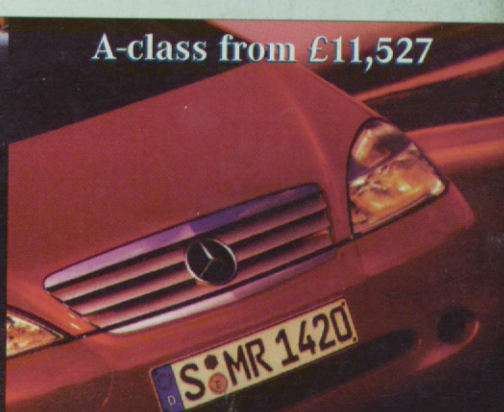
Magic Moments



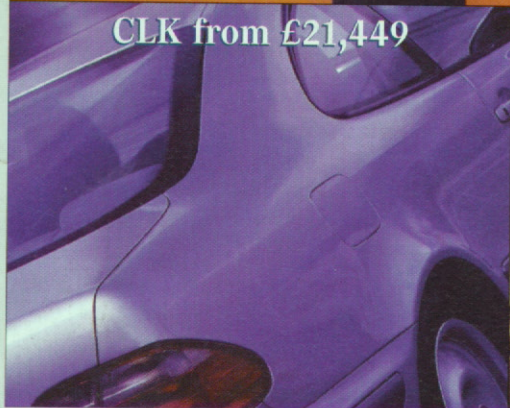
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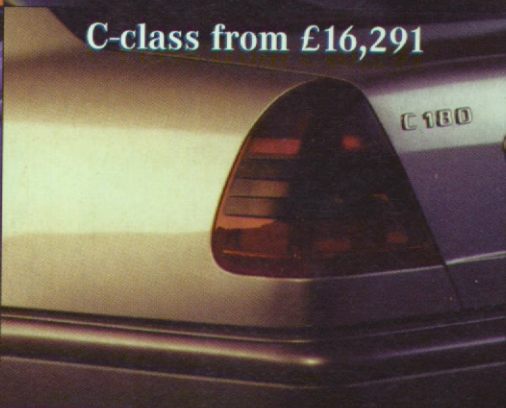
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