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April 2000 £2

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Novelist and journalist hopes to raise funds for a national memorial to animals caught up in war

– Jilly Cooper talks about her Army –
Page 38

● Orienteering: cross-country for wrinklies? Oh no it isn't!

– Page 36

Where is our Pte Peter?
Page 14

No penguin colony is being left unturned as troops deployed in the Falklands scour the "camp" for their missing mascot, believed to have done a runner and gone AWOL.



9 Cover story

The Army unveiled the first of its potent new WAH-64 Apache attack helicopters at GKN Westland's Yeovil production line last month. First to fly in it was Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon, piloted by Maj Yori Griffiths, who tells how he trained on Page 23.

Picture: Cpl John Skillen

How to contact Soldier
– see Page 78



● Marching out made easy – see special report on Pages 4-5

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Contract cleaning takes stress out of Paderborn moves

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SOLDIER to soldier

Heroes ... and villains

SOLDIERS have long enjoyed a love-hate relationship with society at large. Rudyard Kipling summed it up for his audience in a few immortal lines of verse*.

The gist of it was that Tommy Atkins was a hero when there was a war to be fought – preferably on some distant, dusty Asian battlefield – but not quite such great shakes when polite society had to put up with him on a peaceful home front.

SNIPING CRITICS

Yet, just when it appears the undergrowth is full of critics sniping at the military, its kit and its lifestyle, along comes an incident that provokes the most eloquent and informed reaction in the national media. Then the Army discovers it has friends capable of thundering out a defensive broadside memorable for the passion and precision of its fire.

We should not be surprised by this. It is no coincidence that surveys steadfastly place the military at the top of the lists of establishments and institutions most respected by the British public.

EXTRA MILE

On the subject of heroes, the Army Families Federation is looking for one of its own. Whoever is judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to the Army community will receive the Naafi Rosebowl for a year – and £500 for a pet project.

Judges are looking for a person, or group of people, who have gone the extra mile in trying to improve life with the Army, triumphed over apathy, or achieved more than anyone thought possible. To register your vote, ring 01980 615525 for a nomination form and return it by April 14.

* O it's Tommy this and Tommy that, an' "Tommy, go away"; But it's "Thank you, Mister Atkins," when the band begins to play ...

Marching out made easy

Nothing causes more tension or upset for Army families than moving out of a quarter. A successful contractor cleaning trial to reduce that stress has taken place in Paderborn

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

MARCHING out, the old-fashioned and universally loathed process by which Army families have to prepare their quarter for inspection before moving out, causes more stress, heartache and argument than almost any other aspect of Service life – and that's official.

This is the gist of a report on a trial of contractor-cleaning of married quarters in Germany. The general opinion of soldiers' families quoted in the report may be summed up as: "If you want to encourage accompanied service – sort out march-outs."

A trial which looked at ways of improving the system began in April last year and ended last month. By the time it was over, 1,000 quarters had been cleaned, including those vacated during the large-scale moves of 1 Royal Tank Regiment families from Paderborn to Honington in Suffolk, and of 35 Engineer Regiment from Hameln to Paderborn in Germany.

It was a big hit with families moving in and out of Service accommodation. A survey indicated that 90 per cent of those involved felt the system had significantly removed the stress of moving while 88 per cent of families arriving at a new quarter said they were satisfied with the standard of contract cleaning.

In June, contract cleaning on march-out will be extended to garrisons throughout Germany, although not without cost. Families opting into the scheme will have to pay a sum, still to be decided, depending on the quarter. Those who choose not to will continue to clean their own quarter, as they do now.

Col Simon Reed, Deputy Commander of Paderborn Garrison, explained why the trial had been introduced. "It came about purely as a retention tool," he said. "And there was a side-effect in that there were financial benefits. We did make some effi-

ciencies, particularly from the carpet-cleaning budget and staff costs. Those savings largely covered the cost of the trial."

The garrison will provide a contractor and make the process simple and easy for families to access, said Col Reed, but costs will have to be borne by those using it. The scheme will not be funded by the MoD. Families will, however, have the option of paying for cleaning from the disturbance allowance they receive.

The major benefit is that those opting into the scheme will not have to be physically present at the handover of the quarter after the contractor has completed the deep clean. This will reduce some of the many stresses associated with the handover process.

"We are attempting to give the customer what they want instead of being officious and having embarrassing officials checking that they have done what they were supposed to do."

"As the landlord, the MoD is taking responsibility for the presentation of the accommodation for the new tenant rather than the previous tenant."

CLEANING CHARGE

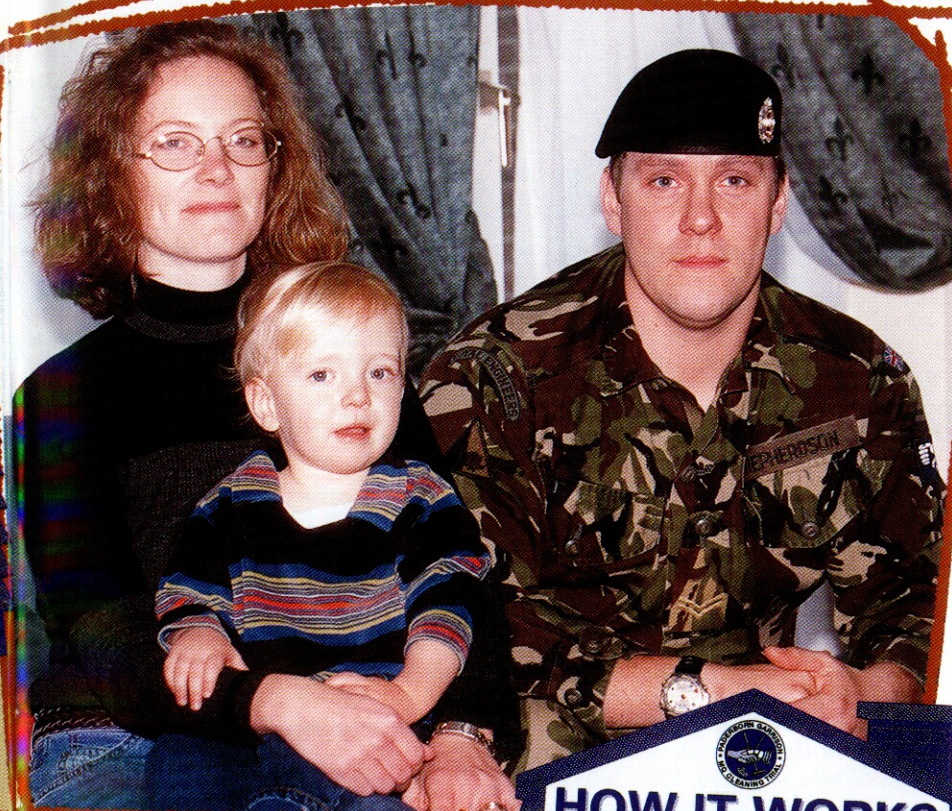
Tenants in civvy street would be expected to pay a deposit to a landlord on occupation of a rented property. A cleaning charge is usually deducted from this deposit at the end of the tenancy to pay for the property to be brought up to hand-over condition.

Sarah Marks, the trial officer at Paderborn, echoed Col Reed's thoughts. "We took over responsibility for cleaning all the living areas of the house while the occupants remained responsible for the garden, attic, cellar and rubbish, and for leaving the house at a normal standard of day-to-day cleaning," she said.

A pre-move inspection was introduced in which estate managers advised families on what to do and assessed the quarter for re-decoration.

The march-out itself was replaced by a

Happy movers: LCpl Jason Shephardson, right, with wife Angela and Kiernan, one of their three children, at their contractor-cleaned home in Paderborn



No hassle: Typical Army housing in Germany which has been the focus of a new trial to take the stress out of moving

mini-move-out (usually undertaken the day after the occupants' packing cases had departed) to check the inventory, inspect for damage and read the meters.

"Once a quarter is vacated the redecoration, carpets and repairs identified at the pre-move inspections are attended to and the quarter is cleaned for the incom-

ing occupant, usually one to three days before they move in," said Sarah Marks.

Under the new system, incoming families will benefit from a clean and fully maintained house with no outstanding repairs, something that could not be guaranteed under the old system. It has also made life easier for the estate managers,

HOW IT WORKS

To qualify you must be eligible for disturbance allowance for the move

CONTRACT SYSTEM

- Garrison Headquarters will contract a firm to clean Quarters
- Occupant books move out and receives detailed information pack on the trial
- Removals take furniture
- Occupant prepares house as per responsibilities
- Occupant completes mini move out
- Contractor cleans Quarter

OCCUPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- complete pre and post trial questionnaires
- tidy garden and outside areas
- clean garage, cellar, attic
- remove and dispose of all rubbish
- care and maintenance of inventory items eg sofas
- damages

Help us devise a better system for the future
Osnabrück Garrison have agreed to question occupants pre and post move on the current system to allow us to evaluate the trial. We will be monitoring attitudes, costs and success rates for our post trial report at the end of the year.
If you have any ideas on a system for the future please send them through the Paderborn Partnership post boxes or direct to Sarah Marks, MCTO, HQ 20 Arm'd Bde, BFPO 22.
General queries about the trial should be directed through Families Offices.

To preserve personal choice, a voluntary opt-in scheme is to be introduced in Germany in June and in other theatres later this year. It will allow the existing disturbance allowance to continue and enable families to choose between cleaning and handing over the quarter in the traditional way, or paying for a contractor to deep clean and hand over the property on their behalf.

The MoD sees it as a significant first step towards its aspiration of a publicly-funded cleaning service for the occupants of married quarters.

the outgoing tenants and the incoming tenants, who do not have to put up with workmen coming in. It has all been done before they arrive. They are coming into a quarter that has been professionally cleaned and redecorated, if required, and with new carpets if appropriate.

"The families have welcomed the initiative. It is working well," he said.

One family to benefit from the trial was that of Cpl Jason Shephardson, serving with 35 Engineer Regiment. He and his wife, Angela, have three children.

"No matter how much effort we put into cleaning the old quarter, there was always the dread that it might fail inspection," said Angela, speaking from the family home in Paderborn.

SHOWROOM

"For instance, we were expected to clean a ten-year-old cooker to the standard of appearance it had when it came out of the showroom. You just can't do it."

Veterans of six previous postings, Jason and Angela recently exchanged one quarter cleaned by contractors to another also prepared by contractors.

"It is the cleanest house we have ever moved into," she said. "We used contractors for our last quarter and found it took an awful lot of stress out of the move."

Her husband agreed. "It was the best move we've ever made. I was very impressed with the standard and I think the majority, if not everyone, will take advantage of the system. By using Army contractors, we know that it will meet the acceptable standards."

"This system brings peace of mind and that is worth having. It was a great success for us."

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SECOND EDITION OUT NOW

The Spring edition features:

The Job

1RRW Framework Patrols in Bosnia (Regular & TA)

Main Feature

"Instructors To Be" The ITG Instructors School for Phase 1 training staff at ATR Litchfield

Kitbag

A comparison of UK personal kit & equipment with SFOR allies

Plus

Ex Snowshoe, Ex Volta Tiger, round up of recent Army Sport and much more

The Competition

To win a mountain bike and other Army-branded merchandise please answer the following questions:

- Which unit does our intrepid lumberjack belong to?
- Who left the pub to recruit for the Army?
- Who soaked SFOR?

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CC1 Competition, C/O SO3 DCC(A).
Rm 0368, MOD Main Building,
Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



www.army.mod.uk

Army involved in Mozambique rescue mission

TROOPS from the predominantly-Army staffed Joint Helicopter Support Unit based at Odiham and Bramcote-based 30 Signal Regiment supported four RAF Puma helicopters sent at short notice to Mozambique to assist the humanitarian aid mission in the flood-hit country.

The small-boat specialists of 539 Assault Squadron Royal Marines were also involved in Operation Barwood and the effort was coordinated by the Joint

Force Headquarters at Northwood. Five naval Sea King helicopters operating from RFA *Fort George* were continuing efforts in the central region after the Pumas ceased operations on March 19 as floods receded around Maputo.

The tri-Service team of just over 100, commanded by Col Andy Canning, was sent to Africa at nine hours' notice and based at Palmeira, a village 120km north of Maputo. From there the Pumas flew round

trips to camps and distribution points set up for thousands of people displaced by the floods. The aircraft averaged 30 hours' flying a day, moving up to three tonnes of food, medical aid and equipment.

Front-line communications were provided by a 30 Signal Regiment detachment under Capt John Dagless, while Colerne-based 21 Signal Regiment personnel operated the links for the rear party at Hoedspruit air base in South Africa.

More troops leave Belfast

MEN of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire are being withdrawn from Belfast early this month following the latest security assessment by the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The decision means that for the first time since 1969 there will be no roulement battalion stationed in Belfast. At the height of the Troubles in the early 1970s there were 15.

But 1 PWO will remain on standby on the mainland.

The reduced level of threat in Northern Ireland has allowed the GOC, Lt

Gen Sir Hew Pike, to rear-base to the mainland four of the six roulement battalions at his disposal. It reduces to below 14,000 the number of troops deployed in the Province, although Gen Pike still has more than 16,000 available to him should the security situation deteriorate.

● Army EOD personnel were involved in dealing with 500lb of home-made explosive discovered in two cars stopped at Hillsborough, near Lisburn last month. An Army Technical Officer was called in by police to identify the explosive, contained in bags.

Crash driver in safe hands

WHEN a concrete mixer hit a tree just outside JHQ Rheindahlen, the driver was given some high-powered first aid. Brig Brendan Lambe, Assistant Chief of Staff (Personnel), HQ Land, and Maj Mark Gore, 2iC Garrison Labour Support Unit, Rheindahlen, were among those who saw the accident happen and who rushed to help the injured driver, alert emergency services and control traffic. Maj Gore said: "We're glad we could help and send the driver our best wishes for a speedy recovery."

● Nearly 1,500 soldiers and 400 vehicles were involved in White Javelin, a field training exercise for Germany-based 1 Signal Brigade. The exercise stretched from Bielefeld and Paderborn in the east to Mönchengladbach and Venlo in the west.

● The annual St Patrick's Day parade of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards in Muster was the first major event in the regiment's centenary year.

● Map experts 14 Topographical Squadron RE paraded at Mönchengladbach to receive Kosovo medals. Cpl David Nelson was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service and Cpl John Tyler a Commander KFOR's personal commendation for bravery and expertise in applying life-saving first aid in an emergency.

Sofs in firing line



On target: Defence Secretary **Geoffrey Hoon** fires the SA80 for the first time on the 30m range at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Mr Hoon, who was on his first visit to RMA to open a conference on the Balkans, later toured the grounds and met staff and cadets at a skill-at-arms meeting. He was said to have achieved "a very fair grouping".

Phoenix battery to be sent to Kosovo

THE Army's Phoenix specialists, 22 (Gibraltar 1779-1783) Battery, part of 32 Regiment RA based at Larkhill, are to be deployed to Kosovo for surveillance and intelligence work following outbreaks of ethnic violence in Mitrovica and other towns.

Two troops from 22 Bty, consisting of 139 soldiers under battery commander Maj Sebastian Heath, are involved in the operation, which will provide KFOR commanders with the Army's all-weather, day-night pilotless flying surveillance system.

Also involved are two Gazelle helicopters from 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps.

IN BRIEF

● **LCpl Katie Tranter**, 19, died when she stepped into the moving blades of a helicopter tail rotor in Split on the day she was due to return home from Bosnia. A member of the Adjutant General's Corps, she was serving on attachment to The Queen's Royal Lancers.

● **Gen Sir Mike Jackson** has taken over as

C-in-C Land Command from Gen Sir Mike Walker, who succeeds Gen Sir Roger Wheeler as Chief of the General Staff. Gen Jackson is pictured, left, being greeted by his Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Freddie Viggers.



● The **Prince of Wales** met nearly 2,000 schoolchildren from London's ethnic communities during a two-day extravaganza at the Wembley Arena which showed off the array of jobs available in the Army.

People, places, events

Para put pin back into booby-trap grenade

PARATROOPER Cpl Mark Gale, pictured, pushed the safety-pin back into a booby-trapped grenade in a gas-filled room in Pristina, saving the residents of a block of flats from a potentially devastating explosion.

The incident, on June 30 last year, has resulted in Cpl Gale being awarded a commendation for distinguished service from the Chief of Joint Operations.

Cpl Gale was leading a patrol on the Dardinja estate in southern Pristina not long after the liberation of Kosovo when an Albanian man approached the soldiers to report a gas leak in his flat. The paras found that the flat had been filled with CS gas to fool the occupant into shutting off the mains.

A grenade with its pin pulled had been placed inside a cup which secured the fly-off lever, and the handle of the cup had been tied to the gas mains tap. Shutting off the gas mains would have exploded the grenade, with potential for serious loss of life in the flats.

Cpl Gale evacuated the room, put the safety pin back in the grenade and disabled the booby-trap. He received his certificate at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick from Lt Col Andrew Kennett, CO 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.



A bit of local colour



It's a wrap: Staff at Brighton's Armed Forces Careers Office threw themselves into supporting the Army's Operation Kenya recruiting promotion, even pulling in **Anthony Johns**, centre, director of *Aladdin*, a local production, and two glamorous members of the cast. Also in the shot are **Pte Andy Clive**, from 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island, and **Custard**, a 13ft python. Picture: Brighton Argus

Big changes as units quit Bosnia

A MAJOR reduction in the number of British troops serving with Nato's Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia is under way. The withdrawal follows the announcement by Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon in December that British soldiers in the theatre would be reduced by 1,300 to just 2,000.

Fundamental changes have resulted, including the withdrawal of one of the two British battle-group headquarters, an armoured squadron, a medium reconnaissance squadron, an artillery battery, an engineer squadron and various logistical assets.

Britain's presence in Bosnia will now be concentrated at Mrkonjic Grad and Banja Luka, with logistics centred on Sipovo. The drawdown has meant a cessation of British activities in places such as Jajce.

The status of Split North Port – main point of entry until now for British supplies and equipment – is under review and plans are in hand for troop flights from July to be routed through Zagreb rather than Split. With the with-

drawal of the Army garrison in Split on schedule to be completed by January 2001, the site is to be administered by the Royal Air Force as RAF Trogir.

Many peacekeeping operations in the British-controlled Multi-National Division (South West) (MND (SW)) will be taken on by Dutch and Canadian forces who will be increasing their strengths by 700 soldiers each after announcing that they would be focusing their Balkans efforts in Bosnia.

Belgian and Luxembourg forces are withdrawing to concentrate their efforts in Kosovo.

MND(SW) will now consist of four battle-groups: the British in Mrkonjic Grad, the Canadians in Coralic, the Dutch at Bugonjo and the new Czech battle-group in Ljuba. It is anticipated that the restructuring will be completed by mid-summer.

The reduction in British forces in Bosnia is part of the overall lowering in the numbers of SFOR peacekeepers from 32,000 to 20,000, announced by Nato last October.

R Irish to have shamrock flash

SOLDIERS of The Royal Irish Regiment of all ranks are to wear a shamrock shoulder flash, right, on their combat clothing.

The decision by the regimental dress committee comes exactly 100 years after Queen Victoria ordered her Irish regiments to wear a sprig of shamrock in their headdress to honour the gallantry of Irish soldiers fighting in South Africa.

A batch of 15,000 flashes reached units in time to be handed out on St Patrick's Day. Irish Rangers will continue to wear the 107 (Ulster) Brigade flash. The green-on-black flash is a direct derivative of that worn with



Dog's day: **Killykeen Brian Boru VII** (to give him his full name), regimental mascot of The Royal Irish Regiment, poses with **Pte Allan Jones** at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, to celebrate his first birthday last month. In common with Royal Irish soldiers of all ranks, Brian Boru will wear the shamrock shoulder flash on his Combat 95 kit.

distinction by the Irish Brigade during the Second World War.

IN BRIEF

● Armed Forces Minister John Speller visited the **Army Foundation College**, Harrogate to inspect the facilities, present medals to members of staff and watch students prepare for a special millennium parade. The college, which trains 16-year-olds, is to expand to 1,344 students by the end of the year.

● **Musn Alison Swindles** (22), right, is believed to have become the first woman to wear the maroon beret and badge when she joined the Band of The Parachute Regiment on March 1. An oboist, Alison





Shape of things to come: The Army's first WAH-64 takes to the skies above Yeovil

Apache rolls out in style

THE Army watched its first WAH-64 Apache helicopter roll off the production line at Yeovil on March 15 during a glitzy, laser-lit ceremony worthy of the launch of a new Ferrari F1 racing car.

GKN Westland is in the process of delivering 67 of the state-of-the-art attack aircraft to the Army Air Corps.

Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon welcomed its arrival as a giant step forward in the capability of the 21st century Army.

WAH-64 will provide a lethal backbone to the new Colchester-based 16 Air Assault Brigade, with its ability to give battlefield commanders the capability to attack enemy armour at a range

LSSA bonus period

Qualifying period for the first Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) bonus of £1,000 is 280 days in a two-year period, not 260 as stated in the feature on key allowances (March).

of 40 miles. Hunting in packs, its sophisticated digital technology can find the enemy, build up a picture of the threat and share that image with other helicopters, tanks and artillery systems.

The helicopter can fly at nearly 200mph and loiter for up to four hours over the battlefield. Its deadly array of Hellfire missiles and 30mm chain guns is augmented by radar and targeting systems designed to dominate any battlefield.

Powered by the advanced Rolls-Royce RTM322 engine, the British Apache is a more potent version of the US Longbow.

Mr Hoon, who was given a ride in the first aircraft, said: "It is tremendously exciting to see Apache today and I know the Army is keenly looking forward to putting it through its paces."

● AAC pilots learn to fly Apache in the "bag" – Page 23

was formerly with the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps.

● Six hundred and eighty-nine officers and soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, including a 101-strong Gurkha reinforcement company, move from Aldershot to Colchester this month to

join 16 Air Assault Brigade. The 3rd Battalion at Dover is due to transfer to Colchester in August, to be replaced by Aldershot-based 1 Para. The band is also due to move.

● Following a trial period, Forces Radio BFBS in Catterick Garrison is now the UK mainland's first permanent forces station.

An Eye on their patch



Rising to the occasion: Royal Military Police in the capital have found the perfect place from which to keep an eye on their patch – the London Eye. The Sergeants' Mess of London District Provost Company claims to be the first military mess to hold a committee meeting 450ft above the Thames. Twenty-two members, including, from left, chairman SSgt Guy Whitehall, president WO1 (RSM) Chris Richards, Sgt Debbie Christon-Greet and Sgt Andy Morris, held the meeting during a 30-minute "round" trip. Picture: Graeme Main

● There is concern that the London Eye poses a security risk to MoD Main Building just across the river because day-tripping double agents with long-lens cameras could snoop on the building.

RGBW freedom

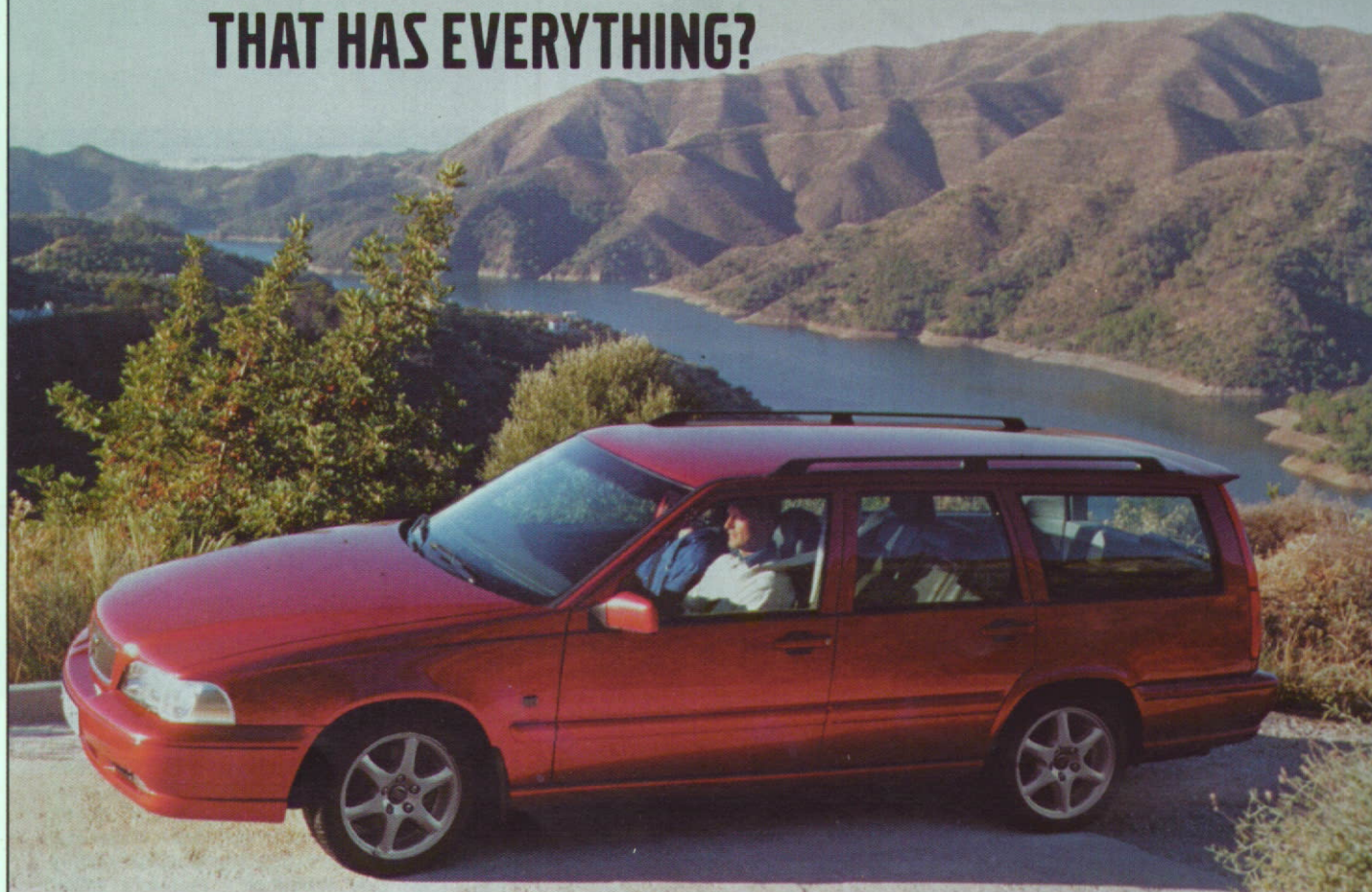


On parade: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment parade through the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to receive its Freedom of Entry in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment. Picture: Steve Dock

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People, places, events



Cold steel: Britain's AS90 Braveheart system, manned by soldiers from the Royal Artillery Trials Team based at Larkhill, Wilts, undergoes winter trials inside the Arctic Circle at Rovajärvi as the Finnish Army makes a decision on the most suitable artillery system for its three new rapid-reac-

tion brigades. German and Slovakian 155mm armoured howitzers also took part as the temperature dropped to minus 12C. Finland has long-term plans to buy up to 80 artillery pieces. Observers present included British Defence Attaché Lt Col Glen Grant, inset, and the British Ambassador, Mr Gavin Hewitt.

Exam changes take pressure off captains

LIFE has been made a little easier for captains attending the Junior Command and Staff Course (JCSC) so that they can concentrate on regimental duties in the months leading up to the course and its career-shaping Integrated Promotion and Staff Examination (IPSE).

One of the three IPSE papers – military knowledge – has been dropped from the exam and the six-month preparation phase scrapped for all candidates except those gaining information technology skills.

At present, 420 mainstream captains attend the 18-week JCSC each year and have to pass the exam at the same time. A pass at a lower level qualifies them for promotion, while a higher pass is required for selection for staff college training. With

officers finding it difficult to balance preparations for the exam with gaining full benefit from the command and staff course, the Army Board acted to streamline the process.

It was felt the six-month preparation phase, which lengthened the course to nearly a year, was no longer essential.

All residential phases of the course will, from March next year, be based on one location – Shrivenham-Watchfield in Wiltshire – rather than split between Camberley and Shrivenham as they are now.

Time created by these measures, announced by Gen Sir Alex Harley, the Adjutant General, last month, will be used to reinforce the teaching of the welfare (G1) management skills needed by all officers.

The fighting Doves



Picture: Steve Dock

Well done, my son: **Pte Stephen Dove**, AGC (SPS), right, is congratulated by his father, **WO1 Derek Dove**, REME, on completing trade training at Worthy Down. Stephen, the fourth generation of "Fighting Doves" to join up, follows in the footsteps of **Maj (QM) Dicky Dove**, RASC (1928-1963) and **SSgt Charles Dove**, ASC (1907-1929). Other military members of the family include **Capt Peter Dove**, Gren Gds, RRF and AAC (1965-78), and **Marine Christopher Dove**, RM (1997-99).

Home from home



Opening time: **Gen Sir Sam Cowan**, Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas, talks to men of the first intake of Gurkha recruits to new purpose-built accommodation for the Gurkha Recruit Company at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick. In common with other buildings at the ITC, it was named after a winner of the VC, in this case Rfn Bhanbhagta Gurung. Gurkha training was recently moved to North Yorkshire from Church Crookham in Hampshire.

IN BRIEF

● Movement experts from **24 Regiment RLC** paraded at their base in Bielefeld, Germany to receive medals for service in Kosovo and Bosnia. **WO2 "OJ" O'Hanlon**, Sgt Robert Mavers, Cpl Chrissie Phillips and LCpls Paul Bowen, Mark Rush and John White were awarded Kosovo Medals, while **WO2 Mick Thompson** received the Bosnia award from Maj Gen Christopher Elliott, GOC UKSC(G). **WO1 Andy Creswell**, **99 Postal and Courier Sqn**, received a GOC's commendation for

services to charity. In the past ten years he has raised more than £32,000 for good causes.

● **Fus Dylan Parry**, right, of the **1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers**, currently based at Ballykelly, prepares to celebrate St David's Day with the regiment.

(Picture: Sgt Shane Wilkinson)



● British soldiers were among 75 firefighters drawn from seven countries who tackled a blaze which gutted the Sports Palace in Pristina, Kosovo. The building also housed the KFOR press centre.

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People, places, events



Getting some rhythm: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots based in Colchester enjoy the delights of New Orleans and its world-famous Mardi Gras. Ninety soldiers from C Company were lucky enough to visit the city for a few days during the carnival festival as part of a mil-

itary exchange programme between Britain and the United States. Over a period of three weeks at Fort Polk, Louisiana, the Royal Scots trained on American weapons and equipment with the élite 101st Airborne Division and got an insight into US air assault operations.

Picture: Cpl Jim Elmer

Geoff 'talks' boy out of minefield

ROYAL Engineers Cpl Geoff Garbutt, currently serving with Hameln-based 45 Field Support Squadron RE near Pristina, saved an Albanian child from death or serious injury by "talking" him out of a minefield.

He was returning to his base in a convoy from Podujevo when he saw the child, aged about ten, off the road and holding something. "I don't know why I got the driver to stop," he said. "It must have been a sixth sense, but I just knew something was wrong."

The boy, who was holding what looked to be a grenade, indicated that he was standing in a minefield. Using sign language, Geoff got him to put the object



Cpl Geoff Garbutt

down – "he wanted to give it to me" – and then motioned him out of the danger area by getting him to step on footprints already in the soil.

"I gave him a bit of a ticking off and tried to tell him not to touch things lying around or go off the road again," said Geoff. The Royal Engineer marked off the area with mine tape before returning to base, where he reported the incident to the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit.

"They went up to the field, took a look around and confirmed the object was a live Serbian grenade. Knowing I stopped it from blowing the lad up has really made my tour," said Geoff.

Paul loses fight for life

SSGT Paul Collins, below, whose appeal for bone marrow donors was reported in *Soldier* (Dec), has lost his fight against a rare form of leukaemia. The former Royal



Signaller, who left the Army in 1995, died at Frimley Park Hospital from acute myeloid leukaemia.

While efforts to find a donor for Paul failed, his appeal resulted in dozens of people putting their names on the national Anthony Nolan bone-marrow register and £2,500 being raised for the charity. Almost £1,000 was also raised for the Macmillan Cancer Nurses appeal. Jamaican-born Paul's chances of survival would have been significantly increased if more donors from Afro-Caribbean backgrounds had come forward.

Welfare worker WO2 Jenny Ingleton said Paul had gained strength from his faith and even arranged his own funeral. "There was a huge turnout at Aldershot Military Cemetery for Paul's funeral and the collection raised £1,450 for the Leukaemia Research Fund."

● To register as a bone-marrow donor or make a donation, call WO2 Ingleton on 94631 3459 (civ 0207 414 3459).

Eating irons



Picture: Graeme Main

Stirring it: From left, LCpl Mick Longmere, LCpl Morski Moor and Cpl Duncan Welton were among soldiers from REME Workshop at Aldershot-based 27 Regiment RLC who raised money for Cancer Research by tucking into a Kellogg's-sponsored breakfast and bidding for a day's leave. The event, organised by LCpl Maz Maspero, raised £105.

IN BRIEF

● Following a national appeal, the Army has traced relatives of 2nd Lt Marcel André Simon, who was killed in action aged 18 during the **Battle of Arras** in north-west France on April 29, 1917. He was serving with the Royal Berkshire Regiment. His remains will be buried with full military honours in France.



● LCpl Clinton Marsh, left, serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, was selected as BRITFOR driver of the month in Kosovo in recognition of his ambulance-driving abilities on roads often made hazardous by potholes, harsh winter conditions and erratic local driving.

● A new laundry facility built with a £5,000 grant from the Church of England Trust has been opened at **22 Field Hospital RAMC** in Aldershot to provide the soldiers with round-the-clock washing and drying facilities.

● An **Investors in People** award has been achieved by 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V), which has units all over the eastern counties.

South Atlantic update



Trying to p-p-p-pick up a penguin: Falkland Islands soldiers spread out to search for the missing Pte Peter

Picture: Terry Champion

Falklands fury as Pte Peter jackasses it in

From a special correspondent, Stanley

AS this issue was going to press soldiers deployed in the Falkland Islands were involved in an apparently futile search for a vital member of the garrison.

Pte Peter Penguin, official mascot of Britain's most remote defence force, is believed to have gone AWOL... or native. When he is traced, he is certain to be stripped of his honorary military rank and back-squadded.

"We think he's returned to the wild," said LCpl Joe Kisonyu RE, the official penguin major and mascot handler. "His disappearance was completely out of the blue and very out of character."

"He had seemed so happy with the little beret we had made for him and always wore it with pride. He was particularly pleased with the personalised webbing belt run up by our base tailor."

"Until now his service record has been as clean as the driven snow. This is a real black mark."

Months of gently coaxing on spindrift-swept South Atlantic barrack squares

had given the spritely three-year-old jackass penguin a grasp of basic drill commands such as "Attenshun!" "Halt" and "Quick maaaaaarch!". His handler described Pte Peter's slow march, or waddle, as "immaculate... good enough to put a smile on the face of a Grenadier Guards' RSM".

LCpl Kisonyu added that the penguin's little flippers were splayed at precisely the right angle for him to achieve parade-quality marching and that his general poise and disposition suited solemn occasions, in particular military funerals.

Search parties have concentrated their efforts in the vicinity of HQ British Forces on several large colonies suspected of harbouring the bird. "He's just blended in with the crowd," said one exhausted

soldier who had just spent several hours shuffling through a malodorous flock of about 10,000 assorted gentoo, rock hopper, king and jackass penguins. "We reckon he ditched his beret the minute he absconded, and now he looks the same as the rest of them. It's like looking

for a needle in a haystack." Huge penguin colonies cover both East and West islands, far outnumbering even sheep.

Hopes are now pinned on Peter's love of chocolate-covered biscuit bars, fed to him as a treat by fond fans serving in this military outpost on the edge of Antarctica. Search teams have taken with them large quantities of the confectionery in an effort to lure their mascot back into his hutch. There is a fear that other penguins, introduced unwittingly to the dark brown delicacy, will lay siege to the garrison Naafi shop in the hope of supplementing their normal fishy diet.

The loss of Pte Peter is a major blow to the unit, only the second in the British Army to be allowed to adopt a wild creature as its mascot. If he is not found soon, HQ BFFI is considering contingency plans to acquire and train either a walrus or a sheep, both breeds felt to be synonymous with the Falklands.

A spokesman for HQ BFFI described Pte Peter's loss as "a tragedy". "We spent a lot of time and effort on him almost from the moment he was hatched," she said. "It's not as though we can just go out and grab any old penguin. Temperament and posture are vital in mascots and Peter was absolutely unflappable."



Missing: Pte Peter

Adventurous training

Paras trek to Inca lost city

TEN soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment trekked to one of the ancient world's most fabled cities in Peru.

Awe-inspiring Macchu Picchu, hidden away high in the Andes, literally took their breath away.

Led by Capt David Blakeley, the soldiers also scaled one of the largest volcanoes in the world, El Misti, which last blew its top 100 years ago. At 19,600ft, the peak is two-thirds the height of Mount Everest, and the group had to battle to overcome the effects of altitude. Their mental and physical robustness was thoroughly tested.

"We had to stop every five paces to catch out breath," said Capt Blakeley. "We reached the top after a lot of hard work. It was satisfying all ten reached the summit."

Soldiers serving with the **Commando**



Up for it: The 1 Para team reach the lost city of Macchu Picchu

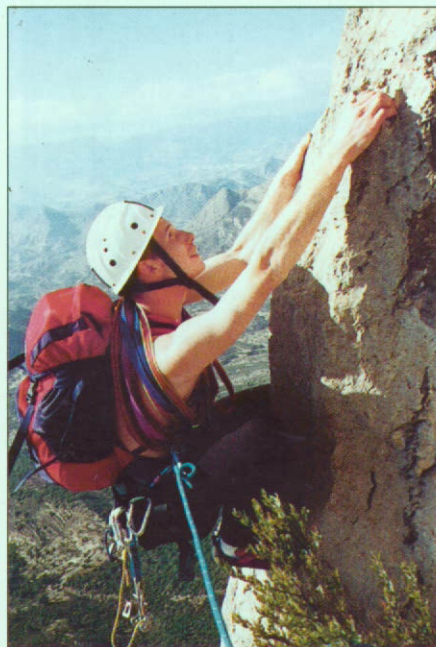
Logistic Regiment RM dived on the wreck of the *Thistlegorm* during a trail-blazing expedition to the Sinai peninsula, a jagged tooth of granite and limestone jutting into the Red Sea. The *Thistlegorm*, sunk in 1941 by a German long-range bomber, was heavily laden with lorries, fuel trucks, motor cycles, aircraft wings and rifles, all of which can be seen where they lie in 30 metres of water.

Among the debris are cases of shells and Bren gun carriers destined for the British Army, as well as two steam locomotives standing on the seabed on either side of the wrecked ship.

A ten-man expedition drawn from **RAVC** teams around the world trekked from Juri to Kala Pattar (18,192ft) in the Solu-Khumba region of Nepal.

Three groups of six soldiers from 7 **Signal Regiment** completed week-long rock-climbing proficiency courses in Spain's Costa Blanca region (see picture left). They were instructed by WO2 Mike Holman, currently at Blandford gym, Lt Tania Noakes of 7 Sig Regt, 2nd Lt Richard Vowles, RMAS and Cpl Ewen Whitney, also from Blandford.

As this issue was going to press, 12 Colchester-based soldiers of the **1st Battalion, The Royal Scots**, led by Capt Tom Perkins, were tackling the 26,000ft summit of Mount Annapurna in Nepal before returning by white-water raft.



Up for it: LCpl Mark Ross of 7 Signal Regt gets to grips with Espolon Central, a grade four climb on Spain's rugged Costa Blanca

Force for good

Signallers tune in to £7,000 charity dash

WO1 Chris Hymas's bright idea looks set to pull in £7,000 for charities in Herford and Bulford and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Chris, RSM of (UK) **Armd Div HQ and Signal Regt** at Herford, persuaded volunteers from his and other Signals regiments to raise £1,000 a month, culminating in a three-day dash for London.

In August he will be joined by soldiers from 1 Armd Div Signal Regt, 3 (UK) Div HQ and Signal Regt and 14 Signal Regt in running, cycling and canoeing 120 miles to the capital, where they will push a float full of toys through the streets.

Lisburn-based Cpl Tim Turpin and Pte John Campbell, both RLC, helped *Ready Steady* TV cook Paul Rankin prepare a banquet for the Action Cancer Millennium Ball in Belfast City Hall to raise £60,000.

Sgt Paul Kinvig RAMC, Sgt Dave Hill AGC and Cpl Rob Seabridge RLC cycled 98 miles from the Belize-Guatemala border via Belize City and the Caribbean coast to the **British Army Training Support Unit Belize** headquarters. Paul is on a seven-month attachment from Medical Branch, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div at Herford, Dave on a one-year posting and Rob on a seven-month tour from 6 Supply Regt RLC, Dulmen.

The £1,288 they collected in sponsorship was given to BFBS Belize manager Richard Hutchinson. It was as part of £8,598 raised in Belize towards more than £100,000 collected for the Wireless for the Blind charity by forces' broadcasting stations overseas.

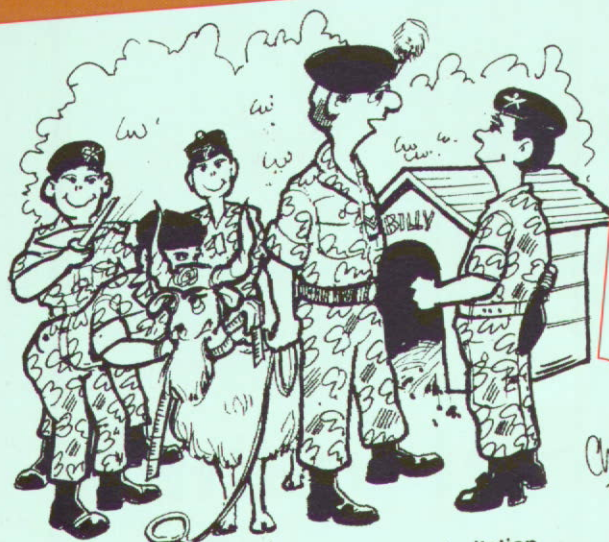
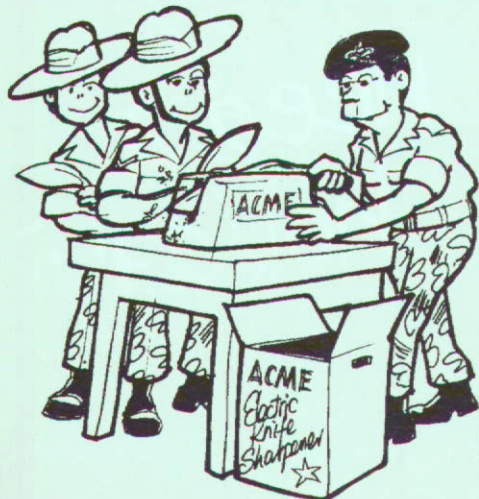
Lt Col Richard Watson, PWO, CO of the **Army Training Regiment Glencorse** at Penicuik in Midlothian, inspected the handiwork of his own chefs when he sat down to lunch with members and staff at the Broomhill Day Care Centre. The meal was prepared by chefs at the ATR, which has supported the centre since 1992.

Sgt Maj Charles Jenkins, Int Corps, arrived at the **Royal Star & Garter Home** for disabled Service men and women at Richmond, Surrey with a cheque for £1,115 he raised by cycling from Land's End to John o'Groat's.

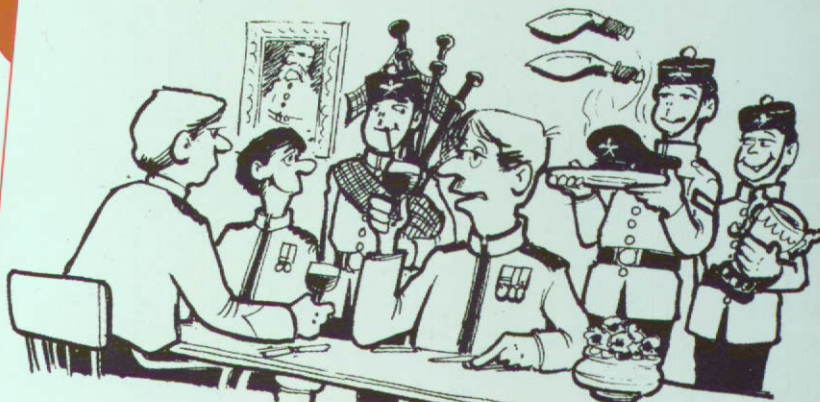
Reception staff and colleagues at **Salmond House Training Centre**, Rheindahlen, raised nearly £1,000 for Children in Need.

The **United Kingdom Support Element, HQ BALTAP** raised £2,000 for cancer and polio research and a Danish charity at the Prince's Life Regiment Barracks in Viborg, Denmark.

Chuckle with Chip



"Well, thanks very much for the invitation... we've never been to a Dussehra party, have we Billy?"

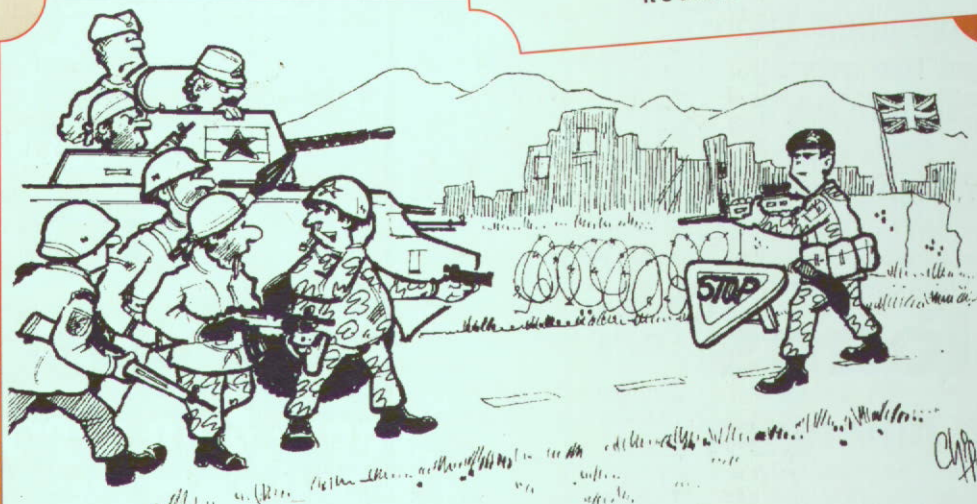


"Then I said: 'if you win at Bisley Rifleman Gurung, I'll eat my hat!'"

Gurkha giggles



"It's the new Gurkha transport modification!"



"Careful, this could be a trap... there may be two of them!"

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Doctor in the house

To millions of radio listeners he is Dr Fox, music meister. But he might have been Capt Fox, Para

Report: Anthony Stone

SWITCH on a radio almost anywhere in the United Kingdom this weekend and the chances are you will hear Dr Fox taking the temperature of the pop world by running through the Pepsi chart.

On Thursday evenings he is at it again, hosting the Pepsi chart show on TV while chatting with showbiz mates such as Geri Halliwell and Noel Gallagher.

Capital Radio's main man hangs out with the hippest; a "doctor" with his finger on the pulse. It might be hard to believe, but Dr Fox – or Neil as his friends call him – almost took up an Army career.

His family has a military background. Dad did National Service and his uncles served during the Second World War. Neil and his two older brothers went to Kingston Grammar School in Surrey and joined the Combined Cadet Force.

His eldest brother wanted to be a fighter pilot but was given the red card because he was colour-blind. "My middle brother wanted to be in the Army from the day he was born," Neil told *Soldier*. "He went to Sandhurst at the age of 18 and is still in the Army 22 years later as a colonel in intelligence.

COMMISSION

"I went off on young officers' courses, spent time with the Royal Artillery and the Royal Engineers and did some parachuting at Netheravon. I ended up considering a short-service commission and thought the engineers might be for me.

"I passed the Regular Commissions Board and they offered me a cadetship to Bath University, where I was going to do business and management. But as I went through university I changed my idea of what I wanted to do as a career and ended up doing broadcasting, which is like chalk and cheese really.

"There is still a part of me that likes lots of aspects of the military life and what it can offer. For young men and women it can be a fantastic life. I know my brother has loved his time in the Army. I think it is a fantastic career for a young guy or girl.

"You can get trained, see a bit of the



Tonic for the troops: Radio DJ Doctor Fox thought about a career as an Army officer

During his interview with *Soldier* Dr Fox threw down a challenge to The Parachute Regiment... to abseil down London's tallest building for charity.

"If they abseil from Canary Wharf then I will do it with them – perhaps we will get a few newspaper editors to do it with us."

world and get fit. There is also great camaraderie that you rarely get outside. I look at my brother and the friends he has. They are not just mates... they are friends you would risk your life for.

"I was going to be a Para engineer and suppose I would have ended up a captain. But I never thought I would be a career soldier because part of me always very much enjoyed the engineering side, so I thought I would go into the Army to learn

a trade." Neil Fox did five parachute jumps with the Army and got a taste for adrenalin sports. He lives on the edge, prescribing himself a regular dose of extreme activities such as skydiving, snowboarding, paragliding and scuba diving.

When not taking it to the max, he enjoys flying his own old Sioux helicopter. A veteran of UN operations in Cyprus, it has been restored to its military spec. The aircraft was once used to train Army Air Corps pilots at Middle Wallop and he hopes to return it there to fly in one of their displays.

Fox speaks highly of the professionalism and maturity of the young recruits in the TV programme *Soldiers To Be*.

"Imagine an 18-year-old being posted to Kosovo as part of a peacekeeping force, doing something pretty heavyweight. You have to take your hat off to these guys.

"Rather than watching it on TV every night you can actually go and be part of it.

"People realise the military has an incredibly tough role to play – you really are piggy-in-the-middle in some really horrible situations. But there is no doubt the British Army is the best in the world, everybody says that."

Healthcare in Germany

Successful operations

When British military hospitals in Germany closed, there was concern among soldiers and their families about the level of care available in local facilities contracted to replace them. They need not have worried

Report: Ray Routledge

IT seemed a logical thing to do. Two hospitals serving the medical needs of 72,000 people in an area the size of Scotland did not make sense.

So in the mid-1990s, the Britain's military hospitals in Germany closed their doors for the last time after contracts had been drawn up with five German facilities to provide the same service. Primary health care would still be available on military bases.

Under the new arrangements, hospital facilities are available to soldiers and their dependants throughout the Army's main concentration area in northern Germany – at Viersen, Bielefeld, Hanover, Paderborn and Osnabrück.

According to Annie Green from the BFG Health Service, the change has been a huge success. "The hospitals we chose are all close to the major garrisons," she said.

Any reservations soldiers and their families might have had about health care in Germany have been dispelled by the excellence of the treatment available, she says. Whatever is required in terms of surgery, paediatrics, and other forms of



Picture of health: Annie Green of BFG Health Service outside the community hospital at Viersen a successful story of Anglo German co-operation

health care can be provided. "The high standard of clinical treatment is beyond question," Mrs Green said. "However, some of the cultural differences needed to be overcome."

For example, a German patient is unlikely to question a doctor's clinical judgement or disobey his instructions. A German patient asked to strip off in a

public area would do so without embarrassment.

"We had to explain to German physicians that British patients' expectations of privacy are very different."

Language is not a problem. Bi-lingual British liaison staff are on hand and German doctors, who will fully explain the medical situation to a patient, for the

area is the Allgemeines in Viersen. In common with other German hospitals it has no tradition of the charitable giving often associated with British hospitals but is becoming used to the idea. It seems that the British community it serves often wishes to make a "thank you" gesture.

Maj Jonathan Turner, 2iC of locally-based 16 Signal Regiment, said the regiment held fund-raising events throughout the year and had decided to donate a TV and video to the children's ward at Allgemeines.

"We like to send a third of our funds to Army charities, such as the Army Benevolent Fund, a third to UK civilian charities and a third to local charities. We put it to the vote and the soldiers decided the hospital would be a worthy cause."

At the presentation was Capt Lee O'Rourke, R Signals, and his wife Jan, whose first baby, Jessica Louise, was born at the hospital three weeks before.

"I had no qualms about having Jessica here," said Jan. "We had a familiarisation visit at the hospital and the midwife was with me during the birth."

"She was very calm and spoke good English. It is not just the medical care that is excellent... their attitude is very loving with the babies. It gives you confidence."

Young Jessica is one of more than 1,000 British babies to have been born in the German hospital facilities since the con-

tracting out. "When the contract was first put in place, we had soldiers serving in the Gulf and mums back here did not want to have their babies in Germany, so we made arrangements for them to go home," said Annie. "That happens less now, even when fathers are away, because they have gained confidence in the German hospitals."

She said patient satisfaction surveys indicated that people were happy with the treatment and care they received.

And although in certain circumstances a patient may be flown home, that would be only after discussion with the patient, the doctor and the consultant – and always with the patients' best interests at heart.

While Anglo-German relationships are very good, the hosts are perplexed by one aspect of British culture. "We did a survey in which people said they wanted a British-style traditional menu while in hospital," said Annie. "That was no problem for the German

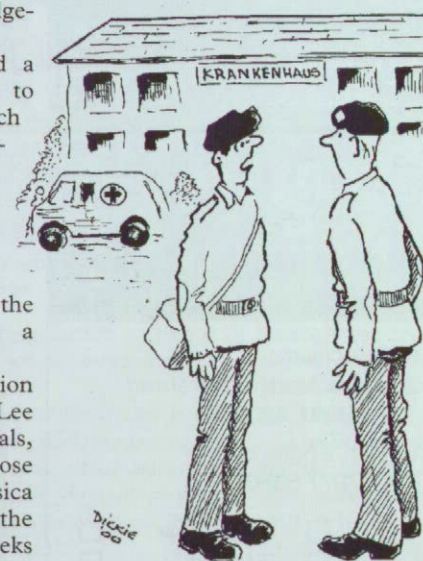
authorities, but they were a bit confused over the 'traditional' British foods requested – pizza and curry."

While there may be no accounting for some tastes at mealtimes, Germany's hospital system has quickly demonstrated that it has all the right ingredients to provide excellent care for British Service personnel and their families.



On the box: Children at the Allgemeines Hospital at Viersen will enjoy a TV and video courtesy of 16 Signal Regiment, from left Sister Dorothee (Matron), Capt Lee O'Rourke, Mrs Jan O'Rourke with baby Jessica, Herr Eckerdt (Hospital Chief), Sister Elvira. Holding the TV, Maj Jonathan Turner and Capt Bob Boursfield

Picture: Steve Dock



"I heard they serve German beef, so I brought some best Aberdeen Angus sandwiches for my stay."



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Feature

As the British Army took delivery of its first Apache last month, Army Air Corps pilots training in the USA were discovering just how busy a place the cockpit of a WAH-64 helicopter can be

Maj Yori Griffiths AAC, one of the first British aircrew to prepare for the arrival of the new attack helicopter, describes his steep learning curve at a training facility in Phoenix, Arizona

VIEWING the outside world through a small monocular sight while sitting in the blacked-out cockpit of a US Army AH-64A Apache attack helicopter was not quite what I had in mind when I learned I was to be a member of the first team of Army Air Corps' aircrew to convert to the British WAH-64.

This form of training – it's known as the "bag" – taught us how to fly the aircraft safely while using the pilot's night vision sensor.

Our training in Phoenix was divided into two stages – the Apache A course with the US Army, followed by WAH-64 conversion, our first opportunity to get to grips with a tandem-seat attack helicopter and master the art of firing its Hellfire missile system, 70mm rockets and 30mm cannon.

Our biggest challenge was mastering the helmet display unit (HDU). Worn over the right eye, it projects a forward-looking infra-red (FLIR) picture from a sensor mounted on the nose of the aircraft.

SPLIT VISION

While FLIR provides excellent picture quality, the location of the sensor, two feet below and 12ft in front of you, means your right eye is "ahead" of your left, which is viewing the cockpit instrumentation and outside world in real time.

Crews are taught to interpret "symbology" – basic aircraft instrumentation – imposed on the picture. The "bag" is used to train aircrew to use the FLIR picture and interpret the aircraft's movements on the console.

WAH-64 is fitted with the Longbow Fire Control Radar (FCR), which is used for target acquisition and fire-control. Its fast-acquisition capability allows the crew to locate targets while the fire-control capability collects target information which is used to calculate ballistic solu-



Apache in the 'bag'



Apache classmates: From left, Maj Sean Leach, Capt Keith Marshall, Maj Mick Manning, their Boeing instructor, Maj Floyd Howard and Maj Yori Griffiths line up in Phoenix

tions for weapon engagements – giving the crew the best chance of destroying the target.

Apache is also fitted with a Radar Frequency Interferometer (RFI) to increase its survival rate. All this information is displayed to the aircrew via two multi-purpose display screens in each cockpit, as well as through the HDU.

Our training in Phoenix was done on the first two production aircraft and consisted of three weeks' ground school and simulator training before we moved on to the flying phases. The daylight flying stage gave us a feel for how the aircraft flies and introduced us to the multi-purpose display screens through which the majority of the aircraft and weapons information is passed to the crew.

Phase two covered night flying and refreshed crews on flying symbology before we moved on to multi-aircraft daylight missions and more taxing night sce-

narios – the crux of the course – bringing together all that had been taught at ground school, on the simulator and in the aircraft.

The WAH-64's cockpit is a busy place, but we rapidly became familiar with the new procedures and were able to move into a battle position, place a "no fire zone" around our own position, sector up the engagement area, designate the "next-to-shoot" target with the FCR and send all this information to the wingman within 90 seconds.

When WAH-64 is introduced into service, it will be a step forward not only in aviation terms, but also in the operational capability that it brings to the British Army. The AAC took delivery of its first WAH-64 on March 15 in a ceremony at GKN Westland Helicopters at Yeovil. Later this year, the AAC will have its own conversion training and aircraft fielding programme running at Middle Wallop.

Tear-stained testament to grief

He was the last British soldier to be killed by the IRA. Now LBdr Stephen Restorick's mother, Rita, is determined his death will not have been in vain

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE smiling soldier was an easy target. Once the sniper had him in his sights, LBdr Stephen Restorick never had a chance.

As he returned the licence to the woman driver at the checkpoint in Bessbrook, South Armagh, the 23-year-old Royal Horse Artillery lance-bombardier was shot in the back.

It took a second to squeeze the trigger, but for his family the reverberations of the gunshot will never fade away.

Three years on, Stephen's mother, Rita, has written a book, *Death of a soldier*. It is an attempt to make sense of the hatred that killed her son. She knows there are no easy answers. Sometimes there are no answers at all.

It was a struggle to find a publisher. Most books about the Troubles are written by journalists, academics or politicians. This book is written from the heart and gives a bereaved mother's viewpoint. It is impossible not to be moved.

Rita's eyes filled with tears continually as she spoke. "You cannot imagine the absolute physical pain that comes with grief," she said. "It is a pain in your chest. Over time that eases but there are things that trigger the tears even when you think you are over the tearful stage."

"I was in a shop buying some flowers for Stephen's grave and they had some music playing and a tune came on that I always associated with Stephen - it was Whitney Houston's *I will always love you*.

"It's this constant reminder; it'll be a tune or you will see a young man in front of you, and, from the back, you think it looks like him. The world is suddenly full of people with the name Stephen."

Stephen had early ambitions to follow his father into the RAF, but the Army won



Voice of all mothers

SO much has happened since that terrible night when I heard the words every mother dreads. I was an ordinary mother watching TV when my world fell apart. Only those who have suffered the death of a son or daughter fully know the pain and despair that follow.

My family tried to help but it took a long time before I began to pick up the pieces again.

Yes, I could be strong when I visited Northern Ireland and met people there. But people did not see me at home on the days when I did not want to get out of bed to face another day or when the tears streamed down my face as I longed for Stephen to be here again.

Yet I was determined to make people look at my pain and loss and see in it the suffering of so many mothers before me who had lost sons and daughters in the conflict.

I wanted to be the voice of all mothers who wanted an end to the waste of so many young lives."

From *Death of a soldier* by Rita Restorick.

out. He joined the regiment at Colchester and trained on the AS90. His first posting was south Armagh. "Yes he was a soldier and you knew his job was dangerous but you never thought it would be him," Rita said.

"He had a second cousin who was on the streets of Belfast for two years and he was fine. Steve was only out there for nine months altogether in two tours."

It might be British to conceal emotions, but that does not help the bereaved when it comes to grieving, said Rita.

ONLY NATURAL

"The worst thing people can do is not to mention the son or daughter they have lost. It does not upset their parents, they want to talk about it and if, in talking the tears come, the listener has to accept that and not be embarrassed because it is only natural.

"The book started as a way of getting my grief down, basically a release for my feelings," she said. "I did not want him to be forgotten."

It might have started as a book about Stephen but it grew into a personal record of events during those three years.

In the aftermath of Stephen's death, Rita called for peace, not revenge. She wanted to understand why Stephen died, and to fathom what forces drive a gunman to kill.

"Because he was killed in Northern Ireland I was able to channel my grief. If he had been killed in a car crash or died of an illness I would have found it far more difficult. Short of campaigning for safer roads or medical research I would not be able to be so focused on what I was doing.

"I wanted to say I could see both sides of the problem. Not everyone understood."

She felt pressure from the military, which seemed to be saying: *Your son died protecting your country. If you question what he was doing it is almost like betraying him.*

"I don't look at it like that," she said. "We wanted there to be a way so that no more soldiers had to stand on checkpoints like Stephen did, basically a sitting target for a sniper. It is no good saying we are not going to talk to them because they have killed people in the past."

"They would call it war; they would say 'It is just you who call it murder'."

"It does not mean I agree with what they do; I certainly don't agree. I can accept and understand the wish for a united Ireland and the feeling that Britain should not be in the north any more."

Rita is angry, but not just at the IRA. She is angry with the Army for not putting up a shield at the checkpoint until after Stephen's death. She is angry with the way in which she was treated. And she is angry with the politicians for arguing for so long without finding a solution.



At home: Rita Restorick knows there are no easy answers; sometimes no answers at all...

Under the Good Friday Agreement the man convicted of Stephen's murder might serve only three years.

"It is very hard to forgive someone who does not believe they have done something wrong," she said. "They see themselves as soldiers, just as Stephen was a soldier, and they believe they are fighting for a just cause."

"It's very difficult to forgive somebody in that situation. You believe they probably celebrated to a certain extent the night Stephen was killed. I think all I would say is that I have tried to understand why he believes he has a just cause."

"I ask myself, if we had been a republican family in south Armagh would Stephen have joined the IRA or Sinn

A better way

THROUGH her painful experience, Rita Restorick hopes the way the Army deals with bereavements may change.

"It is the little things that niggle me," she said. "At the first anniversary of Stephen's death, I thought we might have received a card from the regiment - but there was nothing."

"An officer arranged the funeral and brought the Northern Ireland medal when it was mounted, but we don't remember being told there was a visiting officer. Because you are in such shock at the time it is very difficult to take in."

Rita thinks it would help to let the bereaved have something in writing, giving a point of contact and explaining the support available.

She is also looking to form a support group for parents of soldiers killed on active service.

"Bereaved parents almost fall into a black hole," she said. "The Army knows how to deal with widows and orphans but not the parents."

When she was least prepared to deal with it, Rita had another setback. She was told the rules did not allow the MoD to pay air fares for the family to attend the trial in Belfast. Through the family's efforts, funding is now available.

Fein? Or would he have been like the majority and just lived his life normally and not got involved? It is hard to say what makes one man pick up the gun and the other one not. So I don't know if I can forgive yet, but I can understand."

If the peace holds, there has been talk about some kind of service featuring representatives of the Army and the IRA, in a symbolic act of peace. Rita is sceptical.

"I don't think there is much point in a Service of Reconciliation," she said. "It's just a one-off thing that would last an hour-and-a-half, if that."

"I think what is needed is like they had in South Africa where you can meet the person who did it and you can show him the pain he caused the family. In exchange he could tell you why he took the path he did, why he shot my son."

In 1997, outside Downing Street, Mrs Restorick gave Gerry Adams a Christmas card bearing a picture of a white dove, a message and photographs of Stephen and his elder brother, Mark.

Adams took the card, but later said there were thousands of Mrs Restoricks in Northern Ireland. If that is truly so, then one day surely the peacemakers will be heard.

Death of a soldier by Rita Restorick is published by Blackstaff Press at £9.99. To order a copy phone 01232 668074.

Honest brokers

As we recorded in the last issue, the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body's report on the military salary for 2000 was accepted in full. We take a closer look at its observations

Story: John Elliott

A QUICK rifle through the pages of the latest report of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) provides ample evidence that this independent group of worthies is more than happy to call a spade a shovel. Which will be of huge comfort to those soldiers – ranging from the newest recruit up to brigadier – who depend on it for their next pay rise.

Under the chairmanship of Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, the AFPRB does not mince its words when it identifies weakness – or unfairness – in the system. "We are dismayed that a promised and much-needed major programme of improvements to family accommodation has been extended by two years and essential improvements to single accommodation are planned over an excessively long ten-year period" is a typically robust observation in its 29th report*.

As recorded in the March edition, the report was accepted in full by the Government, and its pay recommendations were being implemented from April 1.

CDS to get bigger rise

SENIOR military officers above the rank of brigadier are to receive a pay rise of 3.3 per cent. The exception is the Chief of the Defence Staff, who will get 4.8 per cent following the recommendation to the Government of the Review Body on Senior Salaries, which noted a gap between the salary available to CDS and that being paid to top civil servants and judges.

So, just what's in the report and what caught the attention of its authors? Here's a quick guide.

Key to its investigations was the issue of **quality of life**, which the report deems more important, if anything, than pay in attracting and retaining well-trained and motivated people.

"Increased operational commitments without corresponding increases in resources have exacerbated overstretch. The Services have responded willingly and with great professionalism to the extra commitments. However, this has been at a personal cost for many, with more frequent operational tours, less time spent with families or available for training and preparation for promotion," notes the report.

It welcomes the Defence Secretary's announcement in December of improved **separation allowances** for which the qualifying period has been halved, and of the new "on-the-road" category of separation compensation.

A major review of the **X-factor** payment, undertaken every five years, led to the AFPRB recommending an increase for those attracting the higher rate. The X-factor is an adjustment to pay which compensates for the overall disadvantages of military service compared to civilian lifestyle.

In their summary, the authors note:

Leave: privilege or entitlement?

THE AFPRB believes leave should be an entitlement – albeit subject to operational circumstances – rather than a privilege, and that every effort should be made to ensure soldiers take their full allowance.

All soldiers are now entitled to a common personal leave allowance of 30 working days, and for those who complete a six-month tour on operations there is an additional allowance of four weeks.

"... we have heard anecdotal evidence that some personnel have been unable to take leave because they have been directed to attend a training course or to take up a slot on an adventurous training

"Other quality-of-life issues such as the very poor standard of too much Service accommodation and the effect of frequent moves on the careers and education of spouses and families also have a major impact on retention and morale."

Did you know?

Members of the AFPRB
● talked directly to 3,000 Service personnel and their spouses to hear their concerns at first hand;

● made 20 visits to military units in the UK and overseas;

● visited Kosovo a month after British forces were deployed there and saw at first hand the challenges, dangers and working conditions faced by personnel in raw operational circumstances;

● visited units in Northern Ireland, Kuwait and Bosnia.

worked (between 2000 and 0600 and the weekends) fell to about nine hours a week, the lowest since the survey began.

These statistics, however, excluded the main deployment to Kosovo and support operations.

Variations included 21 per cent of Army officers and 15 per cent of junior NCOs and below being on duty for more than 110 hours a week, with soldiers in Bosnia and Kosovo logging an average of 19 hours on duty a day.

*AFPRB 29th Report 2000. Published by the Stationery Office Ltd. Price £7.55.

course," says the report. "We recognise that these events are important and with current commitment levels it is difficult to fit everything into a busy year. But we strongly believe that it is important that personnel have the opportunity to take their leave at a time which suits them and their families, again subject to operational circumstances."

ADDITIONAL DATA

To help gauge the potential scale of the problem the MoD has been asked to collect additional data on the incidence of leave denied or cancelled for Service reasons. Last year's leave survey by the



Review Body
on Senior Salaries

Reporting points

On Pay 2000

"... we have put a considerable effort into working with the MoD on the development of its new pay structure for the Armed Forces. We believe that the new system is an improvement on the current arrangements, and we greatly regret that administrative problems encountered by the MoD in implementing the new structure have delayed its introduction by 12 months until April 2001."

On Service Families' Taskforce

"We welcome the creation of the Service Families' Task Force... set up in response to the Strategic Defence Review. The Task Force aims to ensure that Service families receive comparable treatment to civilians with regard to schools' admission policies, access to NHS dentists and other similar problems faced by Service families."

We look forward to seeing the results of the Task Force's efforts on behalf of Service families as these issues are often raised on our visits."

On overstretch

"One complaint above all has been voiced in our discussions with Service personnel – that they are being asked to do too much with insufficient resources."

On Working Families' Tax Credit

"... Service personnel expressed the view that it was inappropriate for members of the Armed Forces to be in receipt of Family Credit [replaced by Working Families' Tax Credit payable to working families on low or middle income – in some cases up to £24,000 a year depending on family size]. We look to the Services to bring this important change to the attention of their personnel."

On relative danger

"Service personnel are roughly 20 times more likely to be killed as a result of their work than are employees in the civilian sector. The likelihood of non-fatal injury is broadly comparable."

On family accommodation

"During our visits to units in the UK and abroad the poor conditions of much Service accommodation is a recurring theme and we have been appalled by the standard of some of the accommodation we have seen."

As a result of a revalidation exercise to ensure consistency across the Services, some 3,500 family quarters and approximately 5,500 single-bed spaces have been downgraded. "... this should be an ongoing exercise, which will then help to ensure that the charges we recommend match the grade of the accommodation occupied by Service personnel."

The report recognises that there has been some improvement to housing stock since the move to Defence Housing Executive management, but notes that "overall, some 60 per cent of Service accommodation is still below Grade 1."

Not such a bonus

IN their report, AFPRB members express reservations about the use of bonus payments over the longer term "because of their arbitrary nature and the unfairness that can result from their sudden introduction or removal."

Soldiers with longer service claimed to have missed out on commitment bonuses introduced in 1990 and now paid to all other ranks across the three Services after 4½ and 7½ years' service.

Hard-pressed soldiers not eligible for re-engagement bonuses, created in 1995 to reward personnel in shortfall categories who waive for a year their right to give 12 months' notice, had also voiced disquiet.

MoD showed that, on average, Service personnel took 33 days' annual leave, which when adjusted to a five-day working week, is only fractionally less than the average basic leave entitlement of civilians.

Five per cent of Royal Navy personnel reported losing leave compared to 25 per cent of soldiers and 23 per cent of airmen.

Averaged over all personnel, 1.9 days of annual leave were lost, with 12 per cent of Army respondents [only 2.4 per cent of the Army received survey forms, resulting in a response rate of 1.2 per cent] claiming they had lost eight days or more.

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Masterclass: Composer Malcolm Binney, right, main picture, instructs musicians in a Basingstoke rehearsal room. Inset, from left: SSgt Gary Crofts on the bass trombone; Musn Mark Rivvers and his French horn; and Sgt Steve Milgate with Laura Lee from Warwick College

Music to their ears

Basingstoke-based musicians nurture youthful talent in a superb new complex

Report: John Elliott
Pictures: Graeme Main

ARMY bands have taken a fearful battering in the past decade, so it is refreshing to report some good news from the military music front.

The Minden Band of the Queen's Division now boasts what are reckoned to be the best rehearsal facilities in the Army, although you might not think so from the outside. The £600,000, purpose-built complex of practice rooms, studios, instrument stores and a library is artfully housed within the cover of a rather large Second World War-vintage hangar at Basingstoke Barracks, near Cambridge.

Outside, young soldiers posted to the Army Training Regiment go about their phase one military training; inside, the

band nurtures the skills of the musicians who have inherited the mantle of the former 1st and 2nd Battalion Bands of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), The Duke of Kent's and St George's Bands of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the 1st and 2nd Battalion Bands of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

All of them were swept away in 1994 when a major revamp under Options for Change reduced from 69 to 30 the number of Regular Army bands.

Today's Minden Band sports a new cap badge but retains a traditional ceremonial uniform based on those of its former regiments. Its musicians perform in a range of ensembles, including marching and concert bands, brass and woodwind ensembles, jazz and dance bands, fanfare trumpeters... and a barbershop quartet.

Director of Music is Kneller Hall graduate Capt Tim Arnold, CAMus, pre-

viously bandmaster of the Band of the Army Air Corps. He enlisted in The Royal Green Jackets in 1975 as a clarinettist and pianist and also served with The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment before completing an intensive three-year course at the Royal Military School of Music.

Soldier watched contemporary composer Malcolm Binney giving a masterclass in one of the Minden Band's two large rehearsal rooms. In attendance were two members of the PWRR's Kohima Band on a "training camp" and youngsters from Warwick College.

The Minden Band hosts regular music workshops with schools, colleges and youth bands. It also has close ties with several fine wind bands, including the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic and Landsmere Concert Band.

As well as spreading the gospel of musical excellence, the youth workshops also serve to attract new young talent into the military band community.



In tune: Musn Fraser Hurman, left, coaches Rebecca Garratt



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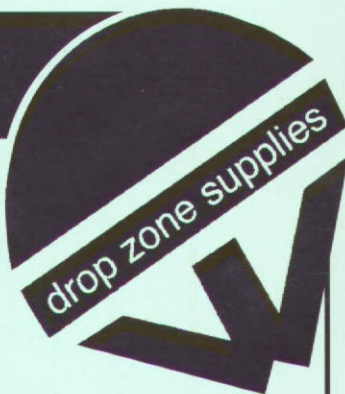
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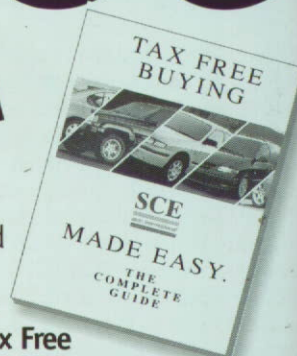
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Picture: Steve Dock

On track: The Advanced Composite Armoured Vehicle Platform struts its stuff at DERA Chertsey

'Tupperware' tank unveiled

A REMARKABLE plastic tank "platform" is to be trialled by the Army at Bovington after being unveiled for the first time at Chertsey in Surrey, writes **John Elliott**.

Moulded from an aerospace-quality E-glass-epoxy composite material, the Warrior look-alike armoured fighting vehicle represents the biggest breakthrough in AFV make-up since the introduction of aluminium in the early 1960s. Six years in development by DERA (Defence Evaluation and Research Agency) in partnership with Vickers Defence Systems, the one-off vehicle is driven by a Perkins CV8 powerpack – identical to Warrior's – and has a dummy Fox turret.

It will never fire a round – gun and turret are "bolted" on to provide bulk and give the appearance of an AFV. In fact the vehicle, produced at a cost of about £6 million, is no more than a mobile test-bed for its plastic hull, manufactured by Vosper Thornycroft, whose experience of building glass fibre-reinforced hulls for the Royal Navy goes back 25 years.

The concept offers huge potential savings in weight, a major attraction to users of AFVs, and ease of incorporating stealth materials. Bolt-on armour provides added protection to a material said to have excellent fire-resistance qualities. It also offers a high degree of comfort to its occupants – "you could call it the Tupperware tank because it keeps the crew fresh" was how one DERA scientist put it.



HERE'S a must-have item for the well-appointed military expedition member – a de luxe camouflage travel bag with its own in-built mirror, honeycomb of pockets, straps, tough external zip and large hook (branches, hanging from, for the use of). In association with Cardiff-based BCB International, we've got ten £25 travel bags to give away. To have a chance of winning, tell us on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope:

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Bits and pieces

● A requirement for up to 32 **heavy armoured repair and recovery vehicles (HARRVs)** to replace 47 obsolete and difficult-to-maintain Chieftain recovery vehicles (CHARRVs) currently in service has been identified by the Defence Procurement Agency. Although similar in appearance to the Challenger (CRARRV) version, the HARRV will be designed for worldwide deployment rather than optimised for use in Europe.

● The Defence Procurement Agency has issued invitations to tender for a large number of new high-explosive **enhanced performance grenades (EPGs)** to one UK and five overseas companies. EPG will replace the L2 grenade currently in service with the infantry. Manufacturers have been told the weapon will have to defeat the standard Nato target, which is protected by 20 layers of Kevlar armour and 1.6mm thick titanium sheet.

● A new **multi-purpose battlefield vehicle**, designed to provide protected tactical mobility, is being looked at as a possible Private Finance Initiative. The Future Command and Liaison Vehicle (FCLV) would replace older variants of Saxon, Land Rover, FV432 and the Sabre-Spartan-Sultan family of combat reconnaissance vehicles. About 500 FCLVs are planned, to be operated by RE, REME, RA, RAC and infantry units.

● US Department of Defense scientists are developing an **arm patch** that might replace soldiers' food for a day or two. The patch, called the Transdermal Nutrient Delivery System (TDNDS), would inject vitamins and nutrients into soldiers during periods of rapid operating tempo. It could be in service by 2025.

● The British Army is considering an early acquisition of a variant of the Alvis Vehicles **Warrior 2000** (featured in Kitstop, Aug 1998) to replace its Warrior infantry fighting vehicles, according to *Jane's Defence Weekly*. The 2000 offers significant improvements in armour, mobility and fire-power.

Guards at your service

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

SOLDIERS who thought their uniformed days were over are grabbing the chance to re-enlist in a new and soon-to-be expanding Army unit.

They are signing up with the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) after finding that life in civvie street can be difficult, confusing and sometimes hostile.

The MPGS, part of the Adjutant General's Corps, emerged from a study which recommended recruitment of a new type of soldier to replace the MoD Police (MDP) currently fulfilling armed guarding duties.

It was an idea with considerable added value in terms of retention: if a professional guard force was minding the front gate, Regular soldiers would no longer have to do so.

Now the service is set to expand after a hugely successful pilot scheme involving 118 MPGS soldiers at four sites – Wilton, Donnington, Chilwell and Chicksands.

WORTH IT

"This proved the worth of the service both in financial terms and in the provision of security," said Maj Michael Gouldstone, the officer responsible at HQ Land Command, for overseeing the introduction and development of the MPGS.

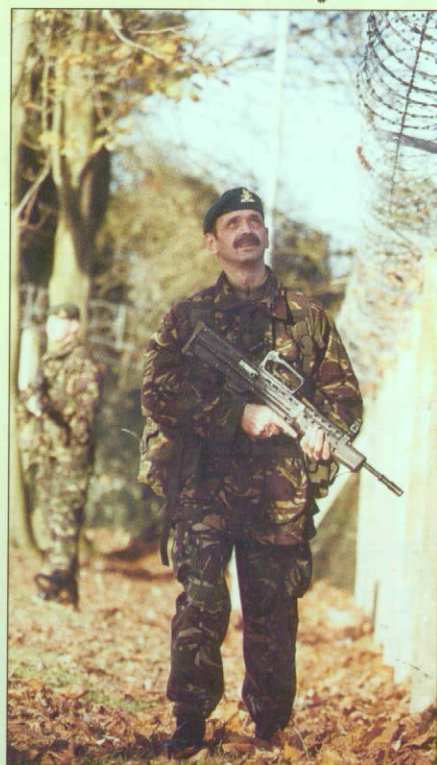
After consultation with trade unions, the unit's role is to be extended to other camps at which 500 MDP positions have been identified for replacement over the next four years.

There are no plans, Maj Gouldstone said, to replace the MoD Guard Service, which provides an unarmed, civilian presence at bases throughout the UK.

So successful has the trial proved that as well as expanding into MDP areas, the MPGS concept has been warmly embraced within the Armed Forces' Regular Retention Scheme.

It means the 1,500 or so Regular full-engagement soldiers standing guard every day across the UK will be released for primary duties. The scheme will be phased-in gradually, starting at Chatham, Worthy Down, Bovington and Blandford.

A new unit offers former soldiers the chance to serve to the age of 55 ... and relief for Regulars from 'stag' duties



On patrol: Pte David Evans, front, and Pte Ian Quick patrol the perimeter at Worthy Down

WO1 Les Holden, who runs recruitment and training administration for the MPGS from Worthy Down near Winchester, is quick to point out that under the new regime the administration of guard duties will be a far cry from the one so familiar to generations of Servicemen and women for whom it was an unloved, uncomfortable and sometimes penal



Passing through: Pte Ray Taylor checks IDs at Worthy Down at the start of his second Army career. He is a former warrant officer in The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

waste of time. "This is a professional armed guarding service," he said. "It offers a good quality of life and working hours should not exceed 48 hours a week. Duty forecasts are published well in advance."

So far most recruits have come from the Army, with about ten per cent from the Royal Navy and five per cent each from the Royal Air Force and Royal Marines.

Regardless of their previous rank they re-enlist into the Regular Army as private soldiers on a Military Local Service Engagement providing a three-year renewable contract up to the age of 55. Those who held previous seniority can expect many promotion opportunities.

Rates of pay are the same as those for a Regular soldier, minus the X-factor to take account of their limited requirement for mobility.

MPGS soldiers will serve within 21 miles of their chosen area. They may be posted for up to 30 days a year outside

that area, but not out of the UK or to Northern Ireland. Postings are usually for courses or to provide short-term cover.

WO2 Paul Brightman, chief instructor on the Phase 2 training course at Worthy Down, explained the training regime.

"My role is to look after the other instructors and to make sure they have the information available to develop and produce the training package. They deliver the training, which includes conduct of security duties, applying powers of arrest and carrying out guard-room procedures.

"Recruits have to learn sections of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act and how to apply powers of search, things they can and cannot do, their powers with military and civilian personnel, and the use of force with a

firearm. And they need to know how to carry out emergency procedures in the event of a serious incident."

MPGS soldiers operate a shift system of up to 12 hours.

Pte John Benney, who left the Royal Engineers six years ago, said: "Civvie street is nothing like Army life. Coming out was the biggest mistake I made. When I heard about the MPGS and the chance it gave me to come back in, I jumped at it."

A similar tale was told by Pte Ray Taylor, a former WO2 with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and now pre-selected for promotion to full corporal.

"I had 22 years' service and came back because I wanted to return to a job where I was used to the working conditions and

Are you eligible?

The MPGS is open to both men and women. In order to be considered, candidates should meet the following criteria:

- Be under the age of 49 on enlistment.
- Have served for at least three years on a previous engagement (Army, RN, RM, RAF or TAVR).
- Possess a discharge assessment of either exemplary or very good (or other Service equivalent)
- Have a gap of less than six years between previous service and re-enlistment (unless enhanced by other forms of comparable service, such as TAVR, Police, Prison Service or other security agencies).

For further information, or if you would like to be considered for service with the MPGS, contact the MPGS Recruitment and Training Wing, AGC Centre, Building 22, Worthy Down, Hants SO21 2RG (tel: 01962 887113).



Pleased:
Maj Michael
Gouldstone



Professional
service: WO1
Les Holden

back in the mainstream of military life. I was a civilian for six years and missed the camaraderie. That was one of the main reasons I came back in.

"I've found that my previous military experience was given full consideration and acknowledgement. Coming here was a good move and I'd recommend it to any guys due to leave or out now."

Maj Gouldstone is delighted with the quality of the recruits, many of whom are former warrant officers, and is looking to the long-term. "There is an aspiration for a further 2,000 MPGS to be deployed into the Field Army to cover units, training establishments and so on, and that would take about ten years.

"The challenge facing us is being able to recruit sufficient numbers.

"So far the guys are happy to come back into the Army ... back into a family they know and understand.

So hard to get promotion – Mailbag, Page 77

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From Westminster to Wapping

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

Recruiting surge turning the tide

WITH recruiting reaching "record" levels, the net outflow from the Army has been reversed, Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon told MPs.

Sir Sydney Chapman had expressed concern about retention and overstretch and asked for TA cuts to be reversed, but Mr Hoon responded:

"It is no longer true that there is a net outflow from the Army. It was the case, but the situation has been turned around, and there is now a net inflow of about 30 people a month. The Government's policy has been successful. Recruiting has reached record levels recently."

He added that retention "remains of concern" but the problem was being addressed, both through changes in commitments, which were leading to overstretch towards the end of 1999, and in terms of enhanced allowances and improved pay, both now available.

Welfare of ex-PoWs: Prime Minister Tony Blair and Defence Under-Secretary Dr Lewis Moonie will meet Royal British Legion representatives this month to discuss welfare of former Far Eastern prisoners-of-war.

But Dr Moonie told the Commons on March 9 that there would be no change to the Government's long-standing policy not to make compensation payments to ex-PoWs on



account of their imprisonment. Dr Moonie made the statements during a debate in which MP Martin Bell, a former Suffolk Regiment soldier, had called for a one-off British Government gratuity to be paid to more than 7,000 surviving British Far East PoWs and 3,300 widows.

DU-based ammunition: Although research is being conducted into alternative materials, none have so far match the capability of depleted uranium-based anti-tank ammunition, so there are no plans to remove it from service, Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said in a written answer.

Kosovo bomblets: Nato assesses that previously unexploded cluster bomblets in

Kosovo have killed 22 civilians and injured 27 in Kosovo, with further three military personnel killed and four injured. KFOR has cleared more than 8,870 unexploded bomblets. All unexploded ordnance sites in the UK-led sector have been marked and 90 per cent of munitions cleared.

Cadet numbers up: Between March and September last year the number of Army cadets rose to 42,114, the highest for ten years, in the wake of a special recruiting campaign, Defence Under-Secretary Dr Lewis Moonie told MPs.

More defence attachés: The number of countries with permanent British defence attachés is to increase from 75 to 80 following a review.

The study followed the Strategic Defence Review, which concluded that increased priority should be given to support for defence diplomacy in central and eastern Europe and the provision of operational military advice and assistance in sub-Saharan Africa.

A new distribution of attachés, starting this month, will take two years to complete.

Young Service people: The number of personnel under 18 serving in the Armed Forces stood at 6,238 in January this year. Most of them are serving in the UK but of those overseas, 114 are in Germany, 23 in the Former republic of Yugoslavia, 15 in Cyprus and 12 in the Falkland Islands.

And I quote . . .

"Our Armed Forces are being reduced and reduced and reduced. To see the thin red line, you probably need a magnifying glass, if not a microscope . . . There is no longer enough time between unaccompanied tours. The magical figure of 24 months is becoming more mythical than real." – Baroness Strange, speaking in the Lords Defence debate on March 8.

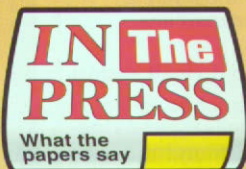
● The Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, threatened to resign over plans to involve the Army in a gesture of demilitarisation alongside terrorist groups in Ulster. – *Daily Telegraph*

● The Ford Motor Company, which was accused of institutionalised racism at its factory in Dagenham, east London, has taken advice from the Army in its drive to overhaul its equal opportunities policy. – *Independent*

● More than 300 former British Army Gurkhas are offering their services to shipowners following an alarming rise in pirate attacks at sea in the Asia Pacific region. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● SAS experts are helping combat benefit swindlers costing the taxpayer billions of pounds a year. Former members of the elite regiment are training teams of "fraud-busters" in undercover surveillance skills. – *Daily Mail*

● British Army chefs are staying on at a



Nato HQ in Banja Luka, Bosnia, when their pals pull out because other nations' soldiers love their grub. Eighteen RLC chefs have been ordered to "Stand by your stoves!" – *Sun*

● Hibou the barn owl, recruited as the mascot of the Joint Helicopter Command, the Army's new £3 billion Apache helicopter force, has been withdrawn from active service by his owner after a row over travel expenses. – *The Times*

● Soldiers who believe they have been given the wrong orders will have the right to sue their commanding officers for compensation under new European Union laws being

introduced by the Government. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● A soldier who was crippled in a parachute jump has learned to walk again thanks to his own determination and a piece of cow bone. RSM Mick Cooper DWR, whose back was broken during an exercise in Canada, has now started a tour of duty in Germany. – *Express*

● Railtrack has called in the Army to help rebuild the London to Glasgow line, which is almost a year behind schedule and about £3 billion over budget. It is using the Royal Logistic Corps and Royal Engineers to teach railway workers Army discipline and revise its plans for the repair scheme. – *Independent*

● David Schwimmer, who plays Ross in the TV series *Friends*, and other cast members of a new Steven Spielberg TV series about US soldiers were sent to an Army camp in the south of England to be whipped into shape for *Band of Brothers*, a spin-off from film *Saving Private Ryan*. – *Sunday Telegraph*

Who dares

Cross-country for wrinklies?

Wrong!

Orienteering is regarded as a soft option by some Army sportsmen and women. But we found there's more to it than meets the eye

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

TAKING part in this popular series has become something of a challenge to our intrepid reporters, who have attempted a wide range of daredevil sporting and adventurous training "opportunities" available to soldiers.

Parachuting, bobsledding, white-water kayaking, hang-gliding, cross-country motor-cycling and potholing – usually the preserve of younger, fitter specimens than are to be found pounding *Soldier's* keyboards – are among the adrenaline-inducing activities we have had a crack at in the past. The latest challenge was to dare to do something which didn't jeopardise life or limb but still involved a modicum of gentle exercise.

Abseiling, perhaps? You need a head for heights. Snorkling off a Bermudan beach? Editor likely to kick that one into touch. Orienteering? Just the ticket. Cross-country running for wrinklies... an absolute doddle, even for a couch potato.

You do have to put a bit of thought into it. Map-reading – that's straightforward enough, isn't it? All combined with a gentle stroll through the woods – easy-peasy. Exactly my sort of death-defying danger.

When Maj Chris Huthwaite, serving with 3 Division HQ but perversely the 5 Division orienteering secretary, invited me to take part in an event with 250 competitors, many of them civilians, at Sandhurst I quickly discovered that to be a successful orienteer you have to be very, very fit, be able to map-read at speed, and have the strategic nous to plan your route rapidly.

You have to be able to "see" obstacles on a map's flat surface and find a way around them. If you are a member of a team, you've got to get it right or your colleagues are unlikely to forgive you. And



You are here: Maj Chris Huthwaite, above right, explains the fundamentals of orienteering map reading

Beat the clock: Competitors study their maps, right, at the start line



you have to do it all against the clock.

Alarm bells started ringing when I found the start line was a brisk 15-minute walk from my car. This was clearly not the cushy number I had been expecting.

Ah, but I learned how to read a map at school, so that would be a doddle.

Wrong! The map issued to me seconds before I started the hour-long run was not of the variety made so familiar by Mr Ordnance Survey.

This is Chris's explanation, verbatim: "An orienteering map is a pictorial description of what should be on the ground and is not always the truth – it can tell lies." Should be a great help, then.

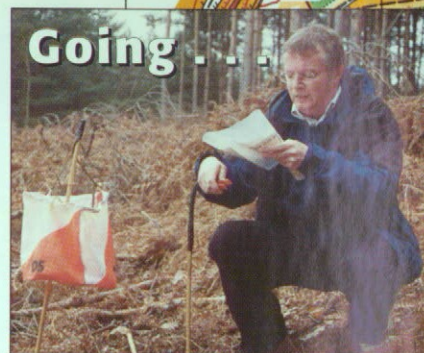
White areas on the map signify trees (whereas on an OS map they denote open

ground); for orange, read grassland; step into deep green and you will find yourself lost in thick woods.

Actually, there are two types of map – the pretty coloured one and a brown version which shows just the contour lines (clearly for the seasoned athlete, that one).

Essentially there are two styles of competition, line event or score event. In the first, competitors have to go through control checkpoints in a designated order.

In the second (in which *Soldier* was entered) participants devise the route best matched to their ability to get as



going...

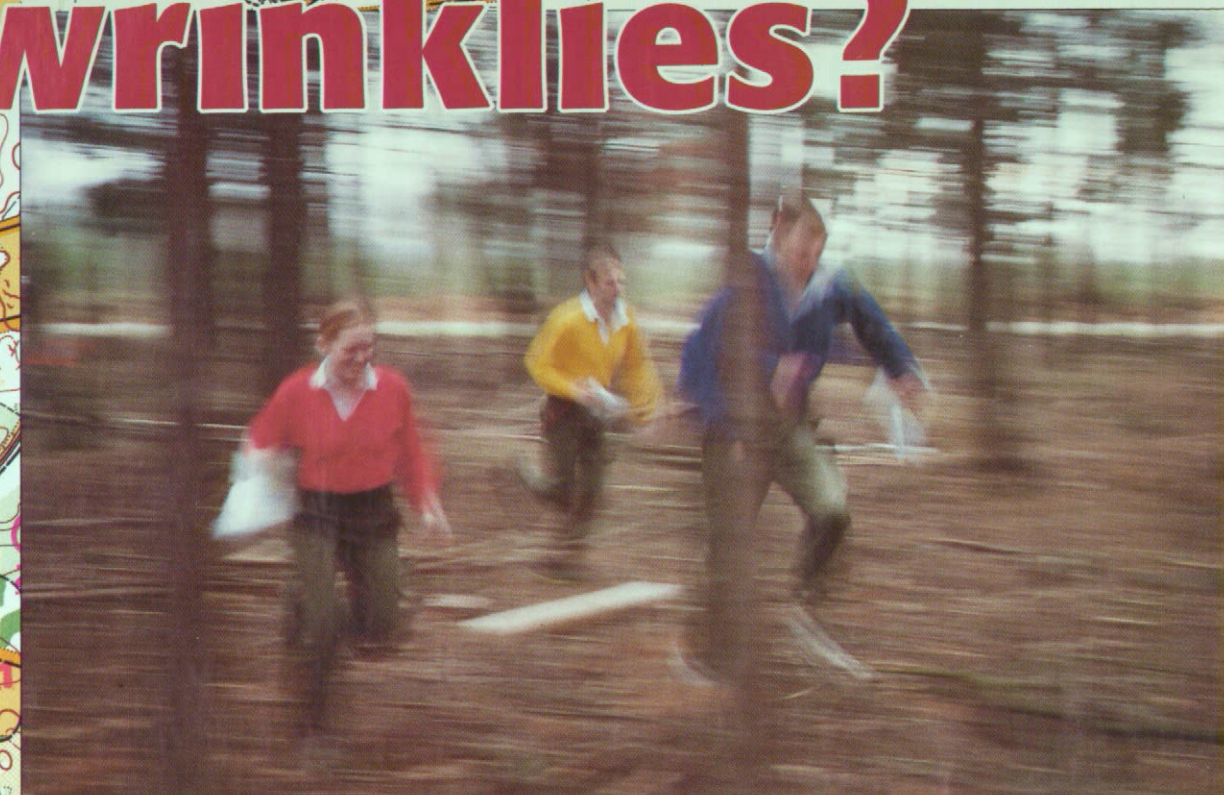


many points as possible in an hour, visiting the checkpoints in any order they wish. As each control-point scores differently depending on the degree of difficulty, good route-planning is essential.

A course planner will calculate a route which will enable a good runner to get through all the controls (just about) one hour. We faced 25 control points on a course devised by Sgt Maj Steve Wall, 2 PWRR.

A quick glance at my fellow competitors was not reassuring. They looked rather too fit for my peace of mind and it began to dawn on me this orienteering lark might just be a touch tougher than I had imagined.

Although there was a smattering of civilians waiting for the off, most of the opposition was made up of young, disturbingly healthy soldiers and officers.



Quick on their feet: Orienteering is a sport of endurance and only the fittest need apply

Just what is orienteering?

ORIENTEERING, imported from Scandinavia, now aspires to become an Olympic event.

Runners use a map and compass to find points in the landscape. They are issued with a control-card at the start of a competition which is stamped as they pass through pre-ordained points along the route.

Starts are staggered to ensure each runner or team self-navigates rather than tagging along behind the people in front.

You don't have to be fit to enjoy it at a basic level, but it helps as events vary in length from two to 12km.

While in the Army it is technically not a sport – it is regarded as military training – the British Army Orienteering Club is the largest in the UK and takes part in events most weekends. Army runners compete in many civilian competitions.

And it's not all done in daylight. The Army individual championships include night competitions.

● For more details, contact the British Army Orienteering Club on 94344 8215.

Chris saw me off (oh boy, did he see me off!). "If you get lost go and find one of the controls marked on the map," was his parting advice.

An hour and 13 control-points later (not bad for a beginner, if I say so myself) yours truly felt not a little satisfied ("smug" was the adjective provided by my ever-supportive photographer), if totally knackered. I had run through woods, grasslands and tracks, crossed bogs and ditches and thoroughly deserved the welcoming cup of tea at the finish.

Orienteering is an exciting and challenging sport and it DOES take effort. To compete seriously you have to be very fit, have the ability to size-up options at a glance, and be a team player. You can progress from a gentle club level all the way to international competition.

Definitely not for wimps or whingers.

Heard the one about the camel?

Jilly Cooper has an enviable reputation both as a popular novelist and a journalist. She told *Soldier* about a £1m project which is close to her heart

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Graeme Main

ONE of Jilly Cooper's earliest memories is of the pride she felt for her father when she was a child in war-torn Britain.

At her home in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside, this engaging writer recalled her wartime fears and told of her hopes of raising funds for a national memorial to animals in war.

"I was very proud of my daddy," she said. "For a little girl to have a blue-eyed, handsome brigadier as a father... well, you can imagine."

Jilly's father, W B Sallitt, a Royal Engineer, had left the Army but rejoined on the outbreak of war and soon found himself at Dunkirk. He went on to become the youngest brigadier in the Army.

Posted to the Staff College and later the War Office, he moved his family to Camberley and then Cobham in what was at that time deepest, rural Surrey.

MARKSMAN

She recalled one of his wartime stories. "It was before Dunkirk and he was with a friend who was a Bisley marksman. There was a German tank about 2,000 yards away and through their binoculars, they could see a German officer nonchalantly smoking a cigarette. 'Arrogant bastard', they thought, and the Bisley marksman picked him off."

Jilly also recalled rare wartime treats. "My father went to Portugal to arrange the lease of the Azores and brought back the first orange I ever tasted. Another time he returned from America with a banana."

Like other families, Jilly's went short of food and endured the terror of air raids. Her school was hit by a doodlebug.

Today, her home is full of warmth and buzzing with activity and excitement,



reflecting the character of the lady herself, whose career has been one of extraordinary success.

Her great-great-grandfather had once edited the *Leeds Mercury* and Jilly followed him into the newspaper business, starting her career in journalism with the *Middlesex Independent* in Brentford.

She married her former soldier-turned

publisher husband Leo in 1961 and after a variety of jobs – described in *Who's Who* as including "copy writer, receptionist, puppy-fat model, switchboard-wrecker and very temporary typist" – she became a columnist with the *Sunday Times* and later the *Mail on Sunday*.

She has also enjoyed great success with her books, from the hilariously satirical

From the 1983 introduction to *Animals in War*:

"This is not a pretty story – it has been written in tears, not ink. Locked away in my study day after day, the material was so harrowing, I was in despair that I would never be able to finish the book. But gradually I succumbed to the fascination of the subject. For with military history you put your finger on the pulse of all history, and so open the jewel box of the past." – Jilly Cooper

● All profits from the sales of Jilly's *Animals in War* are to go towards the Animals in War memorial planned for Hyde Park.

Animals in War and Jilly's latest novel, *Score* are now out in paperback both priced at £6.99 and both published by Corgi.

If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please send your contribution to Col Ronnie McCrum, *Animals in War*, 32 Chapter Street, London SW1P 4NX

Class to the saucy novels *Riders*, *Rivals* and *Polo* and a series of children's books.

Jilly has also found time to indulge her love for animals. Surrounded by cats and dogs of diverse ages, shapes and sizes, she enthused about her animal memorial project.

"We are trying to get a statue built in central London in memory of all the ani-



A good read: What does a famous writer read when not working at the keyboard? Answer above

A quiet stroll: Jilly Cooper and Husband Leo, right, enjoy a walk in their garden



mals that have died in conflict and we have got as far as planning permission with Westminster Council for a site at Hyde Park," she said.

"And we have been through a huge selection process with different artists."

Despite the cost – estimated at about £1m – the fund-raisers, who include Joanna Lumley, Dame Vera Lynn, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and the Duke of Wellington, enjoy the patronage of the Princess Royal and are undaunted. Jilly's contribution will be the profits from the publication of an updated version of her 1983 book *Animals in War*.

"The story of animals in war is often horrific," she said. "For example, more than eight million horses were killed in the First World War, and in the Second World War the Russians had little mongrel dogs who would be trained to run under tanks with a primed bomb on their backs."

Some of the tales raise a smile. "I do admire camels," she said. "They are such characters. I heard of one which ate three tins of salmon and seven boxes of matches – and it had no effect at all."

And there are stories of animal courage. "A pigeon called Cher Ami arrived mortally injured carrying a message that saved a platoon in the First World War.

"Then there was Satan, a messenger dog who struggled across no man's land despite having a shattered rear leg to deliver his cargo of two carrier pigeons. The message they delivered helped save Verdun."

Another canine caper involved a dog which made his way from England to France to join his master in the trenches. In the modern era, the book tells of Rats, a dog much-loved by troops stationed in Crossmaglen.

LATEST PROJECT

Always on the look-out for new projects, Jilly is now investigating Nazi art, or perhaps more accurately, appropriated art.

"It is about the art the Nazis looted from the Jews."

"Today the Jews are getting their treasures back. Can you imagine having a wonderful picture in your home having paid perhaps millions for it, only to find out it's not yours?"

Her lively imagination is one of the reasons Jilly Cooper remains an enduring and successful writer. Given her keen sense of humour and genuine warmth, an interview with Super Cooper was rather more than a routine assignment. It was a real pleasure.



Left hand down a bit: Cpl Karl Auger, above, of 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron, drives his M3 rig into the river at Hameln

Splashdown: A rig, main picture, enters the Weser with a crash

Messing about on the river

For 28 Engineer Regiment based at Hameln the nearby River Weser provides an ideal location to practise river crossings

Pictures by Steve Dock

IF you want to cross a river and you haven't got a bridge, what do you do?

Take your own, of course.

Or ask the experts of 23 Amphibious Engineer Squadron, part of 28 Engineer Regiment based in Hameln, who know just about everything there is to know about crossing rivers. Their job is to provide the British Army with its wide-water obstacle-crossing capability.

They take in their stride bridging the fast-flowing Weser on their doorstep in north Germany. Exercising on the river is part of their training programme.



Safety first: A combat support boat, right, crewed by Cpl Graham Goddard and Cpl Jase Dempsey, provides safety cover for the M3 rig as it operates on the river. Left, Cpl Goddard brings the boat out of the river at the end of another successful crossing

Along with their colleagues from 412 Troop, the only Territorial Army unit based in Germany, they use the state-of-the-art M3 amphibious rig. This versatile

bit of kit is driven into the river at speed and can be used either as a ferry or, by linking several rigs together, formed into a ready-made bridge. Weighing in at almost



25 tonnes, each M3 rig has a crew of three and boasts a road speed of 80kph (50mph). Once in the water they are fast, robust and highly manoeuvrable.

When linked to form a bridge, the M3 rigs are capable of supporting the weight of a Challenger 2 main battle tank. They can form a bridge spanning a 100-metre



Not for wimps: WO2 "Kid" Currie, above, of 44 Sqn, 35 Engr Regt, lowers himself into the water in near freezing conditions to start underwater training

Watchful eye: The M3 rig, below, is manoeuvred into position while the safety crew looks on



stretch of water in just 30 minutes. In tandem with their German colleagues of 130 Pioneer Battalion, the sappers have the capability to cross 800 metres of river.

When our photographer went along to see this spectacularly mobile ferry-cum-bridge take to the water he came across other members of the regiment practising their underwater welding techniques in the near-freezing Weser.

For bridge-builders and divers alike it is cold, wet, uncomfortable and dangerous. And they love it.

Issues

A word in your ear

Angered – by apathy

Cari Roberts answers your questions

Dear Cari I now live in Germany and am amazed at how people seem to sit around and moan. They don't know they're born. Everything's done for them and still they complain. – Wife in Germany.



Cari replies: They obviously don't represent Service families, most of whom get on with their lives without fuss. Why not turn your frustration to positive action. The Army Families Federation would welcome your help, as would other volunteer agencies. The people you refer to could do with a bit of support by the sound of it, so why not offer it to them? As a first move, contact AFF and ask what you could do to help.

Dear Cari I agreed with you when you were talking about life-long learning on *Counterpoint*, but what do you do when you've got all these qualifications and then get posted to some place where there's no work? I'll tell you. Nothing. – Wife in BFG

Cari replies: I disagree. Have you tried using your computer? I've interviewed a fascinating woman who is acting as a long-distance PA for a portfolio of clients. You could look into how you could use your skills on-line. Another interviewee sells feature articles and stories on the web. A teacher I know writes lesson plans for other teachers on-line. Another acts as a homework tutor. You need to concentrate on what you can do and not what you can't. Ask yourself what skills you have to offer.

Cari comments

There has never been a better time to be a Forces spouse. Technology means we can work wherever we are based. If you find yourself in an environment where there is apathy, it's up to you to use your enthusiasm for life to enliven the people around you. If you need to spend money on technology you may find it is an investment. *Counterpoint's* technology expert advises that people should spend as much as they can afford (but no more) on getting the most flexible system available. Ask yourself what you want to do with it and get a system that does that and only that. Then spend time getting to know its strengths and weaknesses. After that, the world is your oyster.



Just another statistic: Service deaths on the road at home and abroad rose alarmingly last year

It doesn't have to end like this

ABOUT 200 soldiers and MoD civil servants will have road accidents in Service vehicles this week... and 200 more the next... and the one after that. And that's just a normal seven days.

More soldiers die on duty as a result of traffic accidents than any other cause – and last year there was a 71 per cent increase in the mortality figures.

Sixty-four Service men and women were killed on the roads and 78 "lucky" survivors were invalided out of the Army because of the extent of their injuries. In all, a staggering 9,401 RTAs involved Service vehicles during 1998-99. Add in the number of Service personnel killed and maimed in their own cars and the total carnage becomes truly frightening.

The problem is not a new one. Road accidents have killed more soldiers than the enemy has in virtually every operation since the Second World War.

Speed and fatigue – more than 80 per cent of drivers in the UK are estimated to have fallen asleep at the wheel at some time – are major causes of road accidents and are targeted in a MoD campaign to coincide with National Road Safety Week, May 1-7.

Perversely, lack of vision or direction when reversing is still the most common contributing factor in MoD accidents – despite regulations which clearly require drivers to seek assistance before they

back up. Most at risk, according to compelling MoD statistics, are drivers with less than 12 months' experience. Although age is not as significant a factor as sometimes assumed, the combination of youth and lack of driving experience can make youngsters especially vulnerable.

Road safety is a responsibility of the chain of command and commanders at all levels are being urged to ensure proper training and familiarisation is readily available.

Here are three examples of serious Army road traffic accidents reported last year:

- A regiment deploying on a live-firing exercise had 12 accidents in just over three weeks, killing one civilian and causing £96,000 worth of damage to their own vehicles and thousands of pounds' worth to civilian cars.
- An officer and a private were killed in separate accidents on exercises when they were crushed by vehicles driving over them as they slept.
- A soldier died when he drove into the back of another vehicle late at night.

How do you cope with fatigue? Learn to recognise the signs early so you can stop and take a 15-minute nap, followed by a 30-minute rest. Where do you get more advice? Contact the Defence Road Safety Officer, Capt Bill Bailey, on Andover Mil 2385.

And please drive safely!

In 1998-99, road accidents accounted for 36 per cent of all Service deaths and 53 per cent of all Service deaths attributable to injury

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000
 Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569
 Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
 Army Families Federation 01980 615525
 British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124
Confidential support lines:
 UK 0800 731 4880
 Germany 0800 1827 395
 Cyprus 080 91065
 Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 020 8543 6333
 Family Escort Service UK 020 7463 9249;
 Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272
 Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028
 Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
 Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575
 National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812

Getting real, at last, with families

STAFF from the Army Families Federation have been out and about with the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team (as featured in *Soldier* last month) on its spring tour of units, talking to families in the evening briefing sessions.

This is a great opportunity for us to meet more families and get their views first-hand on issues that concern them. It is only too easy to think you know what people want, so it's a lesson worth learning to discover you don't.

Families often surprise me. They put up with a lot – moving, separation, mixed housing, lack of career opportunity, educational disruption, second-class citizenship – make the best of it and continue to support their soldier's career. But they don't feel valued – they are not convinced the Army sees them as a wonderful asset.

On the whole, spouses' individual contact with the Army leads them to think they are regarded as just another problem to be sorted. The face of the Army to them is more often than not men in uniform/ex-uniform who would, for the most part, prefer to be doing something more muddy.

And if spouses dare to get involved in anything considered khaki, such as posting requests, problems with pay or housing allocation, it's "well, get right back in your box, madam. Not your concern". Yet here we are, living in the 21st century, where the expectations of society, especially women, are high, and where partners in a relationship are very definitely equal.

The Army posts the spouses as well as the soldiers. They are vitally concerned in the move and usually in charge of the



Sue Bonney is Editor of the *Army Families Journal*, quarterly magazine of the Army Families Federation

practicalities. They have the right to ask questions, but sometimes they get a less-than-helpful response.

A wife recently contacted AFF about rent arrears being removed from her husband's pay without warning; severely affecting their ability to meet their mortgage repayment. Her husband was in Kosovo, so she had gone to the unit, only to be told it wasn't her concern.

As a joint payee of the mortgage it was very much her concern.

She lives in today's world – her husband's unit (or its representative) is somewhere back in the Fifties. Worse, there was a procedure to help the family which the unit could have instigated. I don't think she sees herself as valued by the Army.

I'm sure the overall policy towards families is changing for the better. The creation of the Service Families' Task Force and Policy for People in the Strategic Defence Review were major steps forward.

Thanks to concerns about retention, the Army is beginning to extend its modern employer approach towards families, recognising it is dealing with modern views and expectations. But that approach has to be seen where it matters . . . with the families in the real world.

They don't have to stick around unless they want to. And if they don't, they will take their soldiers with them.

○ Briefings are held in the evenings for families of units being visited by CGS's Briefing Team, in partnership with AFF. If the team is visiting your unit, ask about them.

AFF

You can e-mail the AFF on armyfamiliesfed.centraloffice@virgin.net

AFF's capital conference

KEY speakers at the Army Families Federation worldwide conference in London on May 26 will include the Armed Forces Minister, the Chief of the General Staff and the Adjutant General. Details, tickets on 01980 615525.

They've got *Soldier* taped

WITH the help of St Dunstan's, an audio-tape version of *Soldier* is planned for the near future. Anyone knowing a potential recipient and who has not already made contact is asked to write with details to the Managing Editor, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

New PAX+ increases options for cover

FIRST the bad news. PAX+, the MoD-backed personal accident and life insurance scheme signed up to by 50,000 Service members, is to expire on June 30.

Now the good news . . . it is to be replaced by a new PAX+. And the very good news? Significant enhancements to the existing package have been negotiated without an increase in premiums – and there is actually a sizeable reduction in the cost of family cover.

Cover applies 24 hours a day, anywhere in the world, including active service, and both on and off duty.

IN ADVANCE

AON Risk Services, who have been re-awarded the contract in partnership with AIG Europe, introduced the new policy and rates to all existing and new PAX+ members last month, well in advance of the expiry date at the end of June.

Main changes are:

- New cover for quadriplegia, paraplegia, arm and/or leg fractures, and periods of hospitalisation;
- Increased personal accident benefits for loss of sight or hearing, loss of hands or feet, burn injuries, permanent disabilities not otherwise provided for and injuries caused by criminal acts;
- Life cover to include early payments in the event of critical or terminal illness;
- Cover for personal legal expenses and personal liability.

PAX+ is available in units ranging from £1.65 for individual personal accident (£2.55 for families) to £2.65 for combined personal accident and life premiums (£4.05 for families). A maximum of 15 units is permitted and premiums are collected monthly direct from pay.

NOT COVERED

You won't be covered, however, in the event of war between any of the major powers – the USA, France or the UK and Commonwealth countries.

Dependent children are covered free of charge under the family plan.

Although all Service personnel should receive details, additional information is available on Freephone 0800 212480 or from regimental admin offices.

Other classes of insurance cover – kit and home contents, let property, legal expenses, travel and adventure training – will also be available in due course to Regular and reserve forces under a one-stop shop concept. Details on 01883 834151.

Regular Forces Employment Association
0207 321 2011

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 020 7403 8783

SSAFA Forces Help housing

advisory service 01722 436400

Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302

War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858

WRVS 01235 442940



Trailwalker UK

Sat 24th - Sun 25th June 2000

Trailwalker (UK) is an exciting and testing non-stop Charity competition, taking place on the 24/25 June 2000. Teams of four must all complete 100km through the rolling downland, sleepy villages and beautiful white cliffs coastline of the South Downs Way, from Petersfield to Brighton. If you are fit and ready, you can join this prestigious event. Companies, clubs, families and friends take part. Challenge your colleagues, make your own pace or compete against our elite Armed Forces competitors, including present day Gurkha soldiers. By entering, you will support the Gurkha Welfare Trust, a registered charity which provides pensions and relief aid for Gurkha ex-servicemen in Nepal.

Last year 1000 people took part and we raised £55,000 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, a registered charity (No: 1034080) established in 1969 for the relief of poverty-stricken servicemen and their dependants. In 1997/1998 income from Trailwalker UK enabled the Gurkha Welfare Trust to carry out eight major school improvements - some projects involved building up to 16 new classrooms per school.

Please send me a Trailwalker (UK) information pack.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

PLEASE RETURN TO OR CONTACT:



Trailwalker (UK), Queen's
Gurkha Signals Regiment,
Gamecock Barracks,
Bramcote, Nuneaton,
Warwickshire CV11 6QN
Tel: 01455 222576
Fax: 01455 222334

Http://www.trailwalker.uk.clara.net
Email address: trailwalker.uk@clara.net



Trailwalker (UK)

If you are a military enthusiast then you should be reading MEDAL YEARBOOK 2000



The new edition of the collectors' price guide and handbook for the medal hobby is fully updated and available now. With listings and descriptions for all British and Empire medals that is an essential reference work for all collectors and enthusiasts From Orders of Chivalry through Gallantry to campaign and long service; from Waterloo through the World Wars to Bosnia - all are included... And, NEW for this special Millennium Edition are the current South African and new UN medals.

Also included is the subject index to MEDAL NEWS - the magazine of the medal hobby - for a free sample copy just contact us at the address below.

The MEDAL YEARBOOK is available from WH Smith's and other book shops or direct from the publishers. Cost just £14.95 (plus £2.50 p&p) for the paperback or £19.95 (plus £3 p&p) for the limited edition hardback. (Hardback only available from Token Publishing Ltd.)

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HONITON, DEVON EX14 1YT

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E-mail: info@medal-news.com www.medal-news.com

Please quote SOL/3 in all correspondence

BODYGUARDS

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

For an information pack
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Professional Bodyguard Association

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

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

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Your 2000 pay scales

Regular Army

OFFICERS – MAIN SCALE

Rank	Service years	Daily rates
		£
2nd Lt (UC)	On appointment	25.67
	+1 *	29.46
	+2 *	33.08
	+3 *	36.11
2nd Lt (SSLC)		
On commissioning		34.33
After 9 months		37.47
2nd Lt		49.66
Lt	On appointment	59.70
	+1	61.27
	+2	62.84
	+3	64.41
	+4	65.98
Capt	On appointment	76.12
	+1	78.18
	+2	80.24
	+3	82.30
	+4	84.36
	+5	86.42
	+6	88.48
Maj	On appointment	95.89
	+1	98.26
	+2	100.63
	+3	103.00
	+4	105.37
	+5	107.74
	+6	110.11
	+7	112.48
	+8	114.85
Special List Lt Col		132.64
Lt Col	On appointment/under 19 years' service	135.26
	2/19 in rank/ service	138.82
	4/21 in rank/ service	142.38
	6/23 in rank/ service	145.94
	8/25 in rank/ service	149.50
Col	On appointment	156.63
	+2	160.75
	+4	164.87
	+6	168.99
	+8	173.11
Brig		191.31

*These rates include an education grant of £6.21 a day, in accordance with Article 630 of the Pay Warrant 1964.
UC = University Cadet, SSLC = Short Service Limited Commission

VETERINARY OFFICERS

Rank	Service years	Daily rates
		£
Captain and Major	On appointment	76.12
	+1	81.51
	+3	86.90
	+5	92.29
	+7	97.68
	+9	103.07
	+11	108.45
	+13	113.28
	+15	118.89
	+17	124.50
	+19	130.11
Lt Col	On appointment*	140.47
	+2 *	144.99
	+4 *	149.50
Colonel	On appointment	156.63
	+2	160.75
	+4	164.87
	+6	168.99
	+8	173.11
Brigadier		191.31

*Captains and majors who on 31/3/94 were paid at the former "after 23, 25 & 27 years' service" points will remain at these points on reserved rights.

OFFICERS – REGULAR COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

Years	Daily rates
	£
Captain	
On appointment	91.92
+1	93.96
+2	95.26
+3	96.56
+4	97.86
+5	99.16
+6	100.46
+8	101.76

OFFICERS – SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION (LATE ENTRY)

Includes officers of R Irish (HSFT) serving on revised financial terms of service introduced 21/4/77

Years of commissioned service	<12	12-15	15>
Lt & Capt only	£	£	£
On appointment/ commission			
+1	83.86	87.89	91.92
+2	85.88	89.91	93.96
+3	87.89	91.92	95.26
+4	89.91	93.96	96.56
+5	91.92	95.26	97.86
+6	93.96	96.56	99.16
+8	95.26	97.86	100.46
+10	96.56	99.16	101.76
+12	97.86	100.46	101.76
+14	99.16	101.76	101.76
+16	100.46	101.76	101.76
	101.76	101.76	101.76

WELBEXIAN OFFICER CADETS

Rates payable to cadets joining RMCS

Year	Daily rates
	£
1	23.56
2	33.96
3	36.71

SOLDIERS – SCALE RATES

Rank	Class	Band	A	B	C
			Daily rates		
			£	£	£
Pte	4	1	28.34	28.64	29.09
		3	31.89	32.19	32.64
		2	37.01	37.31	37.76
	2	3	42.70	43.00	43.45
		1	35.64	35.94	36.39
		2	40.81	41.11	41.56
		3	46.49	46.79	47.24
	1	1	38.76	39.06	39.51
		2	43.92	44.22	44.67
		3	49.59	49.89	50.34
LCpl	3	1	38.76	39.06	39.51
		2	43.92	44.22	44.67
		3	49.59	49.89	50.34
	2	1	41.26	41.56	42.01
		2	46.41	46.71	47.16
		3	52.53	52.83	53.28
Cpl	1	1	44.38	44.68	45.13
		2	49.53	49.83	50.28
		3	55.66	55.96	56.41
	2	1	47.18	47.48	47.93
		2	52.29	52.59	53.04
		3	58.38	58.68	59.13
Sgt	1	1	50.65	50.95	51.40
		2	55.74	56.04	56.49
		3	61.83	62.13	62.58
	4	1	55.71	56.01	56.46
		2	61.24	61.54	61.99
		3	67.28	67.58	68.03
SSgt	4	1	58.90	59.20	59.65
		2	64.42	64.72	65.17
		3	70.50	70.80	71.25
	7	1	77.79	78.09	78.54
		2	82.97	83.27	83.72
		3	88.52	88.82	89.27
WO2	6	1	75.97	76.27	76.72
		2	83.44	83.74	84.19
		3	87.68	87.98	88.43
	4	1	67.15	67.45	67.90
		2	72.69	72.99	73.44
		3	80.24	80.54	80.99
WO1	7	1	87.68	87.98	88.43
		2	87.68	87.98	88.43

JUNIOR ENTRANTS

All categories, including young soldiers, but excluding officer cadets

Age	Daily rates
	£
aged under 17	17.66
17 but under 17½	21.43
17½ in adult post	28.34*

*Plus committal pay if appropriate

ROYAL IRISH SOLDIERS (HSFT)

Soldiers enrolled on or after April 21, 1977 and soldiers enrolled before that date who opted to transfer to the revised financial terms of service

Rank	Class	A	B	C
		Daily rates		
		£	£	£
Pte	4	28.34	28.64	29.09
	3	31.89	32.19	32.64
	2	35.64	35.94	36.39
LCpl	1	38.76	39.06	39.51
	3	38.76	39.06	39.51
	2	41.26	41.56	42.01
Cpl	1	44.38	44.68	45.13
		55.74	56.04	56.49
		61.24	61.54	61.99
Sgt		64.42	64.72	65.17
SSgt		75.97	76.27	76.72
WO2		87.68	87.98	88.43
WO1		87.68	87.98	88.43

Your 2000 pay scales

ROYAL IRISH (HS) PART TIME (HSPT BOUNTY)

Rates payable for duties undertaken in 1999/2000

Level	Bounty £
Year 1	420.00
Year 2	775.00
Year 3	1130.00
Year 5 and subsequent years	1180.00

OFFICER CADETS

Rank	Daily rates £
Officer Cadet on entry	31.41

MILITARY PROVOST GUARD SERVICE (MPGS)

Rank	Class	Daily rates £
Pte	4	26.31
	1	35.99
LCpl	1	41.22
Cpl	1	47.04
Sgt		51.74
SSgt		54.71
WO	2	58.49

LENGTH OF SERVICE INCREMENTS (LSI)

Year Rank	9	12	15	18	22
	Daily rates				
	£	£	£	£	£
Pte	0.94	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32
LCpl	0.94	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32
Cpl	0.94	1.32	1.61	1.61	1.61
Sgt	1.14	1.61	1.98	2.36	2.36
SSgt	1.14	1.61	1.98	2.73	2.73
WO2	1.14	1.61	1.98	2.73	3.11
WO1	1.14	1.61	1.98	2.73	3.57

LOAN SERVICE

	1	2	3	4	5
	Daily rates				
	£	£	£	£	£
Brig	19.13	28.70	38.26	57.39	66.96
Col	15.66	23.49	31.33	46.99	54.82
Lt Col	13.53	20.29	27.05	40.58	47.34
Maj	9.59	14.38	19.18	28.77	33.56
Lt/Capt (LE)	9.19	13.79	18.38	27.58	32.17
Capt	7.61	11.42	15.22	22.84	26.64
Lt	5.97	8.96	11.94	17.91	20.90
WO1	6.72	10.07	13.43	20.15	23.50
WO2	6.30	9.45	12.59	18.89	22.04
SSgt	5.89	8.84	11.78	17.67	20.62
Sgt	5.57	8.36	11.14	16.71	19.50
Cpl	5.07	7.60	10.13	15.20	17.73
LCpl	4.44	6.66	8.88	13.31	15.53
	6	7	8	9	
Brig	76.52	86.09	95.66	105.22	
Col	62.65	70.48	78.32	86.15	
Lt Col	54.10	60.87	67.63	74.39	
Maj	38.36	43.15	47.95	52.74	
Lt/Capt (LE)	36.77	41.36	45.96	50.56	
Capt	30.45	34.25	38.06	41.87	
Lt	23.88	26.87	29.85	32.84	
WO1	26.86	30.22	33.58	36.93	
WO2	25.19	28.34	31.49	34.63	
SSgt	23.56	26.51	29.45	32.40	
Sgt	22.28	25.07	27.86	30.64	
Cpl	20.26	22.79	25.33	27.86	
LCpl	17.75	19.97	22.19	24.41	

ADDITIONAL PAY

Officer pilots and flying instructors	£	£
	Regular	Reserve
Qualified aircraft commander, 2nd Lt to Lt Col with less than 6 yrs in rank		
Initial rate	10.49*	
Middle rate	17.61*	
Top rate	26.61*	20.52
Enhanced Rate (Pilots only)	30.00*	20.52
Lt Col after 6 yrs	25.19	20.52
Lt Col after 8 yrs	23.69	20.52
Col on appointment	22.21	20.52
Col after 2 yrs	20.73	19.07
Col after 4 yrs	19.26	16.88
Col after 6 yrs	17.05	14.67
Col after 8 yrs	14.82	12.47
Brigadier	8.88	7.47

Qualified as pilot

2nd Lt to Lt Col with less than 6 yrs in rank		
Initial rate	5.40*	
Middle rate	11.91	
Top rate	14.02	11.34

* Not payable to officers on Short Service Commission who entered training on or after 1/7/88

Soldier pilots and flying instructors and REME serving test pilots

Qualified aircraft commander (all ranks)		
Initial rate	10.49	
Middle rate (1)	17.61	
Top rate (2)	26.61	20.52
Qualified as pilot (all ranks)		
Initial rate	5.40	
Middle rate (3)	11.91	
Top rate (4)	14.02	11.34

Aircrew

Initial rate	5.19	
Middle rate	11.45	
Top rate	13.48	11.34

Parachutist

Qualified parachutist	3.98	
Jumping instructor under 8yrs	5.71	4.24
Jumping instructor after 8yrs	8.50	4.24

SAS

	Lower	Higher
All officers and WO1s	17.56	24.60
WO2/SSgt/Sgt	14.10	21.10
Cpl and below	11.44	18.43

Divers (all ranks) Category

ACAD	1	3.02
UDS	2	6.09
AAD	3	8.71
ADS	4	14.81
ADI	4	14.81

Gurkha service

Lt Col and above	5.25
Major	4.58
Capt	3.90
Lt/2nd Lt	3.30

Gurkha language

Lower rate	0.60
Higher rate	1.04

Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London)

Basic rate	2.96
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Longer Separated Service Allowance

Basic rate	4.72
Middle rate	7.38
Higher rate	10.05

Longer Service at Sea Bonus

18 months but under 5 years	3.60
5 years but under 10 years	6.89
10 years and over	8.51

Northern Ireland Resident Supplement

	4.77
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OTHER MINOR FORMS OF ADDITIONAL PAY

Work in unpleasant conditions	£
Soldiers only	0.71
Work of an objectionable nature	
All ranks	
Basic rate	4.57
Higher rate	13.50
Experimental	
All ranks per test	1.99
Royal Logistic Corps, Helicopter Crews	
All ranks	3.65
Special Communications	
Sgts to WO1	8.41
Sigs to Cpl	6.32
Special Forces Communications	
Officers, Sgts & WOs	8.60
Cpls & below	7.36
Air Despatch	
Under Trg/Lower rate	3.65
Higher rate (after 4 years on preceding rate)	5.88

FOOD CHARGES

	Daily rate £
Married unaccompanied officer /other ranks in marital status categories 1 and 2	2.36
Officers and other ranks in marital status categories 3, 4 and 5	3.23

ENTITLED CASUAL MEAL CHARGES

Meal	Charge £	VAT £	Total £
Breakfast	0.56	0.10	0.66
Main meal of the day (either midday or evening meal)	1.87	0.33	2.20
EITHER: Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.30	0.23	1.53
OR: (high tea or supper)	0.93	0.16	1.09
(late snack or light tea)	0.37	0.07	0.44
All meals in one day	3.73	0.66	4.39

Overseas rates are as above, except that VAT is not applicable.

MISSED MEAL PAYMENTS

	£
Breakfast	0.56
Main meal of the day (either midday or evening meal)	1.87
EITHER: Third meal (midday or evening meal)	1.30
OR: (high tea or supper)	0.93
(late snack or light tea)	0.37
All meals in one day	3.73

SOLDIER

The British Army Magazine

Soldier is your best source of information about the British Army – by far.

To subscribe, turn to Page 55

SERVICE FAMILY ACCOMMODATION (SFA) DAILY CHARGES

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas

Type		Grade 1 £	2 £	3 £	4 £
I	F	14.73	12.83	8.32	4.94
	PF	13.94	12.12	7.82	4.63
	UF	13.16	11.41	7.33	4.32
II	F	13.29	11.55	7.53	4.47
	PF	12.59	10.92	7.09	4.20
	UF	11.88	10.28	6.64	3.94
III	F	11.66	10.16	6.63	4.00
	PF	11.06	9.62	6.25	3.77
	UF	10.47	9.08	5.87	3.54
IV	F	8.82	7.86	5.46	3.39
	PF	8.26	7.36	5.10	3.17
	UF	7.71	6.86	4.75	2.95
V	F	7.72	6.93	4.78	3.06
	PF	7.23	6.49	4.46	2.86
	UF	6.74	6.04	4.14	2.66
+Bedroom	F	0.55	0.47	0.34	0.17
	PF	0.52	0.44	0.32	0.16
	UF	0.49	0.41	0.31	0.15
D	F	6.22	5.56	3.90	2.44
	PF	5.88	5.25	3.68	2.31
	UF	5.54	4.94	3.46	2.19
C	F	5.80	5.15	3.63	2.31
	PF	5.51	4.89	3.44	2.20
	UF	5.21	4.63	3.25	2.09
B	F	5.34	4.77	3.34	2.15
	PF	5.10	4.55	3.18	2.05
	UF	4.86	4.32	3.03	1.96
A	F	4.06	3.63	2.58	1.77
	PF	3.86	3.45	2.46	1.69
	UF	3.66	3.26	2.33	1.60
+Bedroom	F	0.21	0.21	0.14	0.06
	PF	0.19	0.18	0.12	0.05
	UF	0.17	0.16	0.11	0.05

Type		Grade 1 £	2 £	3 £	4 £
I	F	11.08	8.82	4.12	0.60
	PF	10.61	8.43	3.92	0.57
	UF	10.14	8.05	3.72	0.54
II	F	9.82	7.79	3.66	0.53
	PF	9.39	7.45	3.48	0.51
	UF	8.97	7.10	3.30	0.48
III	F	6.32	4.88	1.97	0.00
	PF	6.06	4.67	1.88	0.00
	UF	5.79	4.45	1.78	0.00
IV	F	4.81	3.80	1.63	0.00
	PF	4.55	3.60	1.54	0.00
	UF	4.31	3.40	1.46	0.00
V	F	4.19	3.33	1.42	0.00
	PF	3.96	3.15	1.34	0.00
	UF	3.74	2.98	1.26	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.55	0.47	0.34	0.17
	PF	0.52	0.44	0.32	0.16
	UF	0.49	0.41	0.31	0.15
D	F	3.81	3.05	1.41	0.00
	PF	3.64	2.91	1.34	0.00
	UF	3.47	2.77	1.28	0.00
C	F	3.49	2.78	1.29	0.00
	PF	3.34	2.66	1.23	0.00
	UF	3.19	2.54	1.17	0.00
B	F	3.14	2.51	1.16	0.00
	PF	3.02	2.41	1.11	0.00
	UF	2.90	2.31	1.07	0.00
A	F	2.40	1.92	0.90	0.00
	PF	2.30	1.84	0.86	0.00
	UF	2.20	1.76	0.82	0.00
+Bedroom	F	0.21	0.21	0.14	0.06
	PF	0.19	0.18	0.12	0.05
	UF	0.17	0.16	0.11	0.05

F= Furnished PF= Part Furnished UF= Unfurnished

GARAGE AND CAR PORTS

Standard garage	0.50
Substandard garage	0.34
Standard car port	0.25
Substandard car port	0.17



SINGLE ACCOMMODATION

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas

Rank	Grade 1 £	2 £	3 £	4 £
Major and above	4.59	4.03	2.80	1.70
Captain and below	3.72	3.26	2.27	1.39
WO & SNCO	2.82	2.46	1.72	1.04
Corporal and below	1.62	1.42	0.98	0.60
Juniors	1.28	1.11	0.79	0.48

SFA WEEKLY RENT REBATES

England/Scotland/Wales/Overseas

Type		Grade 1 £	2 £	3 £	4 £
A	F	23.94	20.93	13.58	7.91
	PF	22.53	19.64	12.71	7.32
	UF	21.12	18.35	11.85	6.72
B	F	32.83	28.84	18.83	10.50
	PF	31.15	27.28	17.74	9.83
	UF	29.46	25.72	16.65	9.16
C	F	35.98	31.43	20.79	11.55
	PF	33.93	29.62	19.45	10.78
	UF	31.87	27.82	18.12	10.02
D	F	38.85	34.23	22.61	12.39
	PF	36.47	32.05	21.07	11.50
	UF	34.09	29.88	19.52	10.62
V	F	49.28	43.75	28.70	16.66
	PF	45.84	40.64	26.47	15.26
	UF	42.41	37.52	24.24	13.87

GRADE 4 CHARGES

Families quarter Grade 4 charges less rent element (£ daily). All areas except Northern Ireland.

	F	PF	UF
I	1.55	1.24	0.93
II	1.43	1.16	0.90
III	1.32	1.09	0.86
IV	1.27	1.05	0.83
V	1.20	1.00	0.80
D	1.02	0.89	0.77
C	0.97	0.86	0.75
B	0.92	0.82	0.73
A	0.88	0.80	0.71

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F	Rent	11.97	9.42	4.07
	Rate	2.56	2.00	0.86
	Total	14.53	11.42	4.93
A	Rent	11.26	8.84	3.81
	Rate	2.56	2.00	0.86
	Total	13.82	10.84	4.67
UF	Rent	10.56	8.26	3.55
	Rate	2.56	2.00	0.86
	Total	13.12	10.26	4.41
F	Rent	16.42	12.98	5.65
	Rate	3.26	2.55	1.10
	Total	19.68	15.53	6.75
B	Rent	15.57	12.28	5.32
	Rate	3.26	2.55	1.10
	Total	18.83	14.83	6.42
UF	Rent	14.73	11.57	5.00
	Rate	3.26	2.55	1.10
	Total	17.99	14.12	6.10
F	Rent	17.99	14.14	6.24
	Rate	4.08	3.20	1.38
	Total	22.07	17.34	7.62
C	Rent	16.96	13.33	5.84
	Rate	4.08	3.20	1.38
	Total	21.04	16.53	7.22
UF	Rent	15.94	12.52	5.44
	Rate	4.08	3.20	1.38
	Total	20.02	15.72	6.82
F	Rent	19.43	15.40	6.78
	Rate	4.90	3.85	1.67
	Total	24.33	19.25	8.45
D	Rent	18.24	14.42	6.32
	Rate	4.90	3.85	1.67
	Total	23.14	18.27	7.99
U	Rent	17.05	13.44	5.86
	Rate	4.90	3.85	1.67
	Total	21.95	17.29	7.53
F	Rent	22.18	17.50	7.18
	Rate	4.99	3.92	1.57
	Total	27.17	21.42	8.75
V	Rent	20.63	16.25	6.62
	Rate	4.99	3.92	1.57
	Total	25.62	20.17	8.19
UF	Rent	19.08	15.01	6.06
	Rate	4.99	3.92	1.57
	Total	24.07	18.93	7.63

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How many miles did you say?

BMW, mint condition, driven to moon and back by one careful owner... \$1 million

A GOOD friend of mine, Ronnie Rogers, has never been known to be scared of mileage when picking up a "snip" prestige car, but even he would blanch at the odometer reading of the car that sits comfortably in my drive, **writes Syd Taylor.**

I can picture him now tapping the phone to see if the connections are right.

"What's that you said? I've bought 200,000-milers before, but come on now, there's a limit!"

He has just learned of this unique car that redefines the meaning of limit. It's a BMW 325i, a model already known in "the trade" for coping well with high mileage. But this one's different.

It has been used in a research and development programme by Mobil Oil in New Jersey, USA, to test the protective qualities of their synthetic engine oil – Mobil 1 – the very same product that you and I can buy on the garage forecourt.

The test has taken four years and tens of thousands of man-hours to complete and when the car arrived in the UK journalists were invited to assess just how it has survived the rigours of the world's first one-million-mile test. And survive it, it has – better than anyone with the slightest understanding of matters mechanical could possibly imagine.

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this achievement is better understood if you are somehow able to visualise a million miles. Two-and-a-half trips to the moon might not seem much when you look up into a clear night sky, but in earthly terms that's about 40 times round the world, with maybe 10,000 trips to the local kebab house thrown in for good measure.

When it was new, the UK 325 equivalent of the American spec'd car was £21,000 on the road and today you would expect to pay between £3,000 and £4,000 for an equivalent BMW 325 on the used-car market, dependent on



Clock this: It's been around, it's well oiled, and it still looks a million dollars

mileage and condition – but with the time and effort spent on this project, the value of this BMW to Mobil has increased with every one of those million miles to a level where it matches the mileage. Yes, it's valued at more than a million dollars!

You might expect the engine to be rattly and struggling to run, with clearances measured in feet and inches and needing treacle-like oil to fill the gaps, but you'd be wrong. Instead, when this standard BMW 325i engine was stripped for detailed wear and cleanliness examinations, most parts, including the crankshaft, which would have made more than a BILLION revolutions, remained within BMW's tolerances for new engines.

Parts like combustion chambers and intake valves, which with normal engine oils attract a build-up of deposits, were in almost pristine condition. With most oils, the engine would have suffered badly in a test of this length, but in this case key components such as piston-rings, valve gear, crankshaft, cylinder wells and combustion-chambers showed little wear, even after a million miles of hard driving.

Main-bearing wear was only 0.0002in and crankshaft-end play 0.0005in – normal for a new engine. There was zero wear on the cylinder walls, which were smooth and unscored, and no sign of a wear ridge, which normally develops at around 80,000 miles in engines lubricated by normal mineral oil.

The first 50,000 miles were run on the American Automobile Manufacturers Association "stop-and-go" test and the remaining 950,000 covered in a high-stress durability cycle with speeds varying between 50 mph and 85 mph.

But what's it like now, I hear you ask. Well, on start-up from cold there's no tell-tale puff of blue oil-smoke and there's not a rattle or rumble from the engine even if you rev it sharply before it's warmed up. And when it's hot you don't get that acrid smell of burnt oil that seems to signify the terminal stages of an engine life.

The end of the road for this engine is many miles away. In fact it runs like the proverbial Swiss watch and is testimony to the excellence of BMW engineering protected by a remarkable oil.



Sport

Edited by Anthony Stone

KAYAKING



K1 champ: Sgt Michaela Barwick in action

Army sink RAF challenge in wild water test

FOR the first time in serving memory, the Army has won the Inter-Services wild-water racing championships. The millennium "splashfest" took place on the River Nith, western Scotland, and changed the balance of power in a sport the RAF had dominated since 1972.

The Army team, lead by Capt Peter Francis (AGC), put in months of winter training and civilian competition to hone skills and fitness levels.

Maj Paul Hepworth (RLC) finished second to Great Britain number two Cpl John Willacy (RAF) in the opening Canadian singles event. OCdt Andy Nicholl (RMAS) earned a creditable third in his inaugural championships to put the Army three points in the lead.

VICTORY

The second day of competition began with victory for Sgt Michaela Barwick (APTC) in the women's kayak. Cpl Lisa Dunne (RLC) took third place to push the Army further into the lead.

SSgt (now WO2) Andy Clement (RLC) paddled into third place in the men's kayak, while the rest of the team matched their RAF opposition almost point for point. By the end of the day the Army led again by three points.

Team events filled the final day, with the Army women winning their kayak event and the men taking second place. The Army B team was third.

The Army took the Canadian team event by a clear 19 points.

■ SSgt Shane Wright (R Signals, ATR Bassingbourn) represented the Army for the last time after being awarded colours for 18 consecutive years of service to the sport.

SKIING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sappers so successful

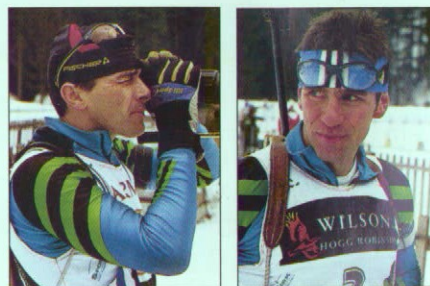
Skiers from 35 Engr Regt freeze out the opposition for sixth year on the trot

FOR the sixth year in a row and for the 12th time overall, 35 Engineer Regiment has proved itself the Army's premier skiing regiment. It walked off with the Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent Trophy for results across all Army skiing disciplines – Alpine, Nordic, biathlon and military patrol.

As it has done so often in the past, 35 Engr Regt also provided top individuals for British international teams, and this despite its squadrons being deployed to Kosovo, Bosnia and Northern Ireland.

This year's successes were achieved at a time when the regiment was moving lock, stock and barrel from Hameln to Paderborn.

The unit's victories in alpine events at



Famous sons: Sgt Michael Dixon, left, and Cpl Jason Sklenar, both Olympic skiers

Serre Chevalier in France were matched by similar successes in Nordic skiing and the biathlon, both held at Ruhpolding in Bavaria during the Wilsons Hogg Robinson-sponsored British, Inter-Services and Army Nordic championships. Icing on the cake for the regiment was its result in the military patrol competition at Ruhpolding.

Currently representing Great Britain on the international biathlon circuit is Cpl Jason Sklenar, who completed in the Lillehammer Olympics but narrowly missed selection for the Nagano Games.

The regiment's most renowned athlete is the evergreen Sgt Michael Dixon, famous in the world of biathlon skiing for achieving Britain's best-ever Olympic position (11th at Albertville) and for his five Olympic appearances.

In all, 35 Engr Regt has produced nine Olympic skiers who, between them, have represented their country at 17 Winter Olympics.

Ruhpolding results:

Biathlon – BBU team challenge: 1, GBR women; 2, 1 Hldrs; 3, 1 GS Regt RLC. 10km sprint: 1, LCpl Gee (2 RTR); 2, Sgt Dixon (35 Engr); 3, Cpl Sklenar (35 Engr). 7.5km sprint, women: 1, Pte Fowler (GBR); 3, LCpl Gray (GBR). 10km mass start, women: 4, LCpl Gray (24 Armd Fd Amb); 5, Pte Fowler (2 CS Regt RLC). 12.5km pursuit, men: 1, LCpl Gee; 2, Cpl Sklenar; 3, Sgt Dixon. 15km ind, junior men: Pte Jackson (1 GH). 20km ind, men: 3, Cpl Sklenar; 4, LCpl Gee; 15m ind, women: 1, Pte Fowler; 2, LCpl Gray; 4x7.5m relay: 2, 35 Engr; 3, 45 Cdo RM; 4, 2 RTR.

Cross-country – 15km ind, women: 2, Capt Doherty (16 Armd Fd Amb); 3, Gnr Menzies (16 Regt RA). 15km ind, men: 3, LCpl Gee. 15km team: 1, 2 RTR; 2, 45 Cdo RM; 3, 35 Engr. 4x10km relay: 1, 45 Cdo RM; 2, 35 Engr; 3, 2 RTR. 10km, women: 1, Capt Doherty; 3, Gnr Menzies. Military patrol race: 1, 45 Cdo RM; 2, 35 Engr; 3, 4 Regt AAC.



End in sight: Marksmen take aim during the biathlon at Ruhpolding Picture: Graeme Main



On target: LCpl Bob Geddes (1 Hldrs) takes aim at Ruhpolding

Picture: Graeme Main

■ About 300 alpine and Nordic skiers took part in the RLC ski championships at Ruhpolding. WO2 Kipper Knight (2 CS Regt) won the individual giant slalom while 23 Pioneer Regt took the honours in the team giant slalom ahead of 8 Tpt Regt and 2 CS Regt, eventual winners of the RLC Cup for overall champions.

LCpl Simon Burke (2 CS Regt) and LCpl Neil Reed (23 Pnr) featured strongly in the Nordic racing. The team and individual slalom was won by 2 CS Regt

ahead of 8 Tpt Regt, and 2 CS also finished first in the military patrol race.

■ Skiers from units worldwide descended on Jasper National Park in Canada for the Army Medical Services championships. Sixty-eight skiers took part in the women's individual and team giant slalom. Capt Alison Grant (MDHU Frimley) was first and went on to take the trophy for overall women's champion.

For the second year, 205 Scottish Field Hospital won the trophy for best TA unit.

Regulars 3 Armd Fd Amb won all the Nordic races, were strong contenders in the alpine events and went on to take the Weir Trophy, awarded to the overall winning Regular Army unit.

LCpl Surgit Singh (3 AFA) won the Assassin Trophy as the overall individual Regular Army champion. The 3 AFA team, which included Sgt Matt Garwood and Ptes Stephen Chapman and Simon Proctor (best overall novice), has trained under Capt Mick Moran since November.



Big effort: Nordic skiers at Ruhpolding Picture: Graeme Main

SHORTS

Clean sweep on ice

IN a competition which was tighter than their body suits, Army teams made a clean sweep of the British luge championships at the Olympic bobsleigh track at Igls, Austria.

In the men's race, Sgt Andrew Couchner (REME) from 1 AAC, won his first British and Army title by 14 hundredths of a second over two runs, beating the reigning British champion Keith Yandell after trailing on the first run.

The women's race also saw a change in the lead after the first run. Consistency paid off for Capt Laura James, (REME) as she held off SAC Rachel Keen (RAF).



Sgt Andrew Couchner, left, and Capt Laura James (RAF).

Katie crashes out

TV favourite Katie Hill joined a trio from the British Army Ski Bike Association at Igls to promote lesser known winter sports for the benefit of Blue Peter viewers.

She challenged Capt Sarah Bradley Walker (ATR Pirbright) to a race and crashed out in spectacular fashion. Katie is pictured, above left, with SSgt Chip Collingswood (QRL).



Germans bowled over

MAJ Jim Cotterill, serving with 12 Regiment RA in Sennelager, is helping Germans learn how to play cricket.

The European Cricket Council was tasked to spread the word to mainland Europe and set up the International Cricket Council based at Lords. To fulfil its mandate, the council selected qualified coaches to "export" to each host nation and the services of the Royal Artillery battery commander were offered to the German Cricket Board.

Army all-rounder Jim is now helping with youth development in Germany as well as the national A team. He is also responsible for bringing German coaches up to standard and has just returned from an indoor event in Spain at which his Under-19 team performed very well.

FOOTBALL

Army Cup runneth over into a new millennium


Over the past 100 years, some of the greatest British players ever have raised the Army Cup


HISTORY will be made this month when teams battle for the honour of winning the 100th Army Cup at the Military Stadium, Aldershot, writes **Derrick Bly**.


It is a competition which has seen some glorious moments as well as some tragic ones: in 1948 two players were killed by lightning.


The only breaks in this prestigious competition since it was first won in 1889 by the 2nd Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, came during the two world wars and, for reasons unknown, during the 1899-1900 season.

Over the years, royalty, VIPs and sports personalities have presented the coveted trophy to the winners. Here is the *Soldier* guide to the important milestones.

 Early 1900s: The Army Football Association affiliates to the Football Association, Scottish and Irish FAs and a number of county football associations.

 In 1912 the final transferred to Plymouth Argyle's Home Park ground due to a coal strike.

 The following year the Army FA inherited the Military Stadium by taking over and renaming the Army athletics ground in Aldershot. Immediately after the First World War, King George V presented the trophy to the RAMC, who defeated the 1st Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment by the only goal.

 In 1922 the first final at the stadium with its new grandstand was attended by King George V before a record





Royal cup: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, was present for the 1957-58 season Army Cup final at Aldershot. The match was won by 4 Training Battalion REME





The cup: What it's all about


crowd of 15,000. Takings amounted to £1033 16s 6d.

 In 1930 the Duke of Gloucester presented the Army Cup to the Sherwood Foresters, who defeated the Duke of Wellington's Regiment 3-1.


 In 1962 the Gurkhas entered the competition for the first time.


 One of the saddest memories in the Army Cup records was the lightning strike in the 1948 final when a player from each side - RAC Bovington and 121 Training Regiment RA - was killed and the referee, other players and spectators were injured.


 In 1971 Naafi presented the Jubilee Cup to the Services, to be competed for by the winners of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force cup competitions at the end of each season.


 Sponsorship of the Army Cup arrived in 1979, for which the Army Football Association remains very grateful. The coveted trophy is kept in pristine condition by Carringtons of London. The winners of this year's competition will

also receive a Warwick vase - theirs to keep - to mark the centenary final.

 The Army referees' committee was formed in 1920 and continues to ensure the final is in good hands.

 In 1921 the RAF joined the Army and Royal Navy in the Inter-Services competition and have been allowed to lift the Inter-Services trophy on the odd occasion.

 One of the Army FA's earliest tours was the 1945 wartime visit to Northern Ireland. Included in the squad were Frank Swift, Bert Sproston, Cliff Britton, Stan Cullis, Joe Mercer, Tommy Lawton, Denis Compton, Jimmy Hagan and Wilf Mannion, of FA and international fame. It was a squad more than capable of giving any team in the province a run for its money. At the end of the conflict an Army team toured Italy and Greece.

 In 1956, Army players Duncan Edwards (RAOC), Gary Shaw (R Sigs), Phil Woosnam (RA) and Jimmy Armfield (KORR) were selected for England and English League XIs and two years later one Bobby Charlton, who was ex-Army, gained international honours.

Kick-off on Wednesday, April 26 at the Military Stadium in Queens Avenue, Aldershot, is at 3pm.

Where there's Hope ...

A 51st-minute individual effort by Cpl Dave Hope separated the Army and Royal Navy in their Inter-Services clash at the Military Stadium. After a goalless first half, Hope picked up the ball midway into the Navy half and raced

clear to put the Army ahead and secure the Mercury Cup.

● Goals by Connor (2), Alford and Shannon gave the Army a 4-2 win over Gwent at Ebbw Vale in the South-West Counties Championship.

● An FA Youth team was too strong for Combined Services Youth, beating them 3-0 at Burnaby Road, Portsmouth.

● RN Youth beat Army Youth 3-2 at Portsmouth in an Inter-Service match.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



On schedule: The swimming pool and recreation centre is taking shape for the summer

Simply the best

THE jewel in the crown of the Army's centre of sporting excellence is getting ready to sparkle. The garrison physical training and recreation centre in Aldershot, which will house a magnificent 50m swimming pool complete with a floating floor and diving pool, will officially open in July.

The £10 million project built by Amec will also contain back-to-back sports hall, badminton courts, squash courts with facilities for 100 spectators, summer football pitches, volleyball courts, basketball courts, netball courts, indoor cricket nets, and a large fitness and weight suite.

In the pool complex itself, there will be



Col Bob Crawley

space for spectators and competitors on both sides of the pool

Col (Retd) Bob Crawley said: "This project is incredibly important. It is the Army's millennium works project and will mean that not only can soldiers and their dependants enjoy second-to-none sporting facilities, but it can be used by the top Army teams.

"There is no doubt that facilities like this will increase the standard of Army sport."

The centre of excellence will be used by the garrison's soldiers and families. If there is spare capacity, it is intended to market the space to civilian sports clubs.

BOXING

Squad proves knock-out in South Africa

THE British Army boxing squad has returned in triumph from South Africa after beating a Natal select team 8-5 in Ladysmith.

The win was all the more remarkable as the tournament, organised by former professional Max Mallinger, was held just five days after the Army team arrived and before they had had a chance to really acclimatise.

"The South Africans were a little raw but strong and hard," reported boxing coach SSgt Neil McCallum, pictured right.

The 18 boxers and two coaches took advantage of the trip to forge good relations with local people, inviting youngsters in for training sessions and sparring.

They also took the chance to make battlefield tours, visiting Spion Kop and Rorke's Drift among others.

The boxers paid for much of the tour themselves but were grateful for sponsorship from the Army Sports Lottery.

■ Another first-rate display by the Army meant the team retained the Combined Services trophy with resounding wins at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth. The Army team boxed their way to ten wins, with the Royal Navy mustering just two victories and the RAF one.

■ HOPES for an Olympic qualifying place are dwindling for light-middleweight boxer Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC), pictured right.

He missed out on qualification at a tournament in Germany and has one more chance at a contest to be held in Venice.

Gnr David Smith (7 RHA), meanwhile has been selected for a place at the European qualifying tournament, also in Venice.

■ THE ABA quarter-finals are to be held on April 26 at Maida Gym, where the Army is due to take on the very strong Western Counties squad.



SHORTS

Everyone's help needed with marathon effort

THOUSANDS of athletes, many of them soldiers, will be slogging round 26.2 miles on April 16 in the Millennium Flora London Marathon.

Among those taking part to raise cash for the Royal British Legion will be Light Dragoons (who can be sponsored through Cpl Sean Moxon on 0049 5051 912 964), ARRC (Col Ian Waters 0049 2161 565 5514), 22nd Cheshire (Cpl Kevin Thompson 07718 974 756) and the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre (Sgt Neil Whitewick 0115 957 2588).

■ A strong contingent from HQ Land at Wilton will run the marathon for the

Lord's Taverners. Contact Lt Col Leo Callow, Wilton Mil (9)4331 3888.

■ The Lincolnshire branch of SSAFA Forces Help is holding a charity fly-fishing competition on May 13 at Rutland Water, with £1,000 in cash prizes and tackle. Entry forms, rules and competition details are available from Col (Retd) David Jolley on 01406 425 550.

■ Seven members of the Army Gliding Association are travelling to Australia at their own expense this month in an attempt to break the British national distance record set overseas. They will also attempt flights of 300km, 500km and 750km.

INTER-SERVICES CROSS-COUNTRY

Shepherd's doggedness delights

Army's finest run off with top prizes and enjoy a memorable clean sweep

ARMY athletes dominated the millennium Inter-Services cross-country championships at Deepcut, taking all bar one of the 31 gold medals on offer and completing a clean sweep for the first time in the event's history, **writes Steve Lonnen.**

From the start it was going to be the Army's day. Junior team captain Sig Tom Grady (R Signals) led the team home and saw his colleagues fill the next five places for maximum points. Grady made light of a troublesome knee and the testing hills to storm around the course untroubled and 20 seconds clear of established athlete Pte Dave Stevens (Para).

With only one victory for the Army veterans in the past decade, the declared team-sheet of the Royal Navy looked daunting, with a seemingly unbeatable quartet including two previous winners and a pair of "fresh" 40-year-olds good enough to get into the senior team.

The Navy began well and by halfway had built up a four-point lead. Inspired running, excellent pace judgement and vociferous support on all of the ten hills on the devilish Deepcut terrain led to a tremendous reversal of fortunes by the finish.

WO2 John Best (ITC Catterick) capped an outstanding season by picking up the bronze medal – a tantalising three seconds behind the Royal Navy's WO Tim Panes and only six seconds behind individual champion Lt Steve Gough, also of the Royal Navy.

Evergreen Capt Lyn Higgs (APTC), never one to shirk hard work, quickly settled into her stride in the senior women's race and hit the front within 800m, never to be headed again. The former world veteran half-marathon champion will be a great loss to the sport when she departs for civvy street within the next year.

SSgt Sue Sharp (APTC), hampered by injuries of late, ran a remarkably well-judged race to finish in the silver medal position.

LCpl Nicky Dean (R Sigs) is a talent no one underestimates, even when she is not in full training. She battled gamely but was narrowly beaten to the line for the bronze medal.

The senior men's race involved 27 of the best runners in the Services lining up for the start. With seven international athletes in the field, all three teams believed they were in with a chance.

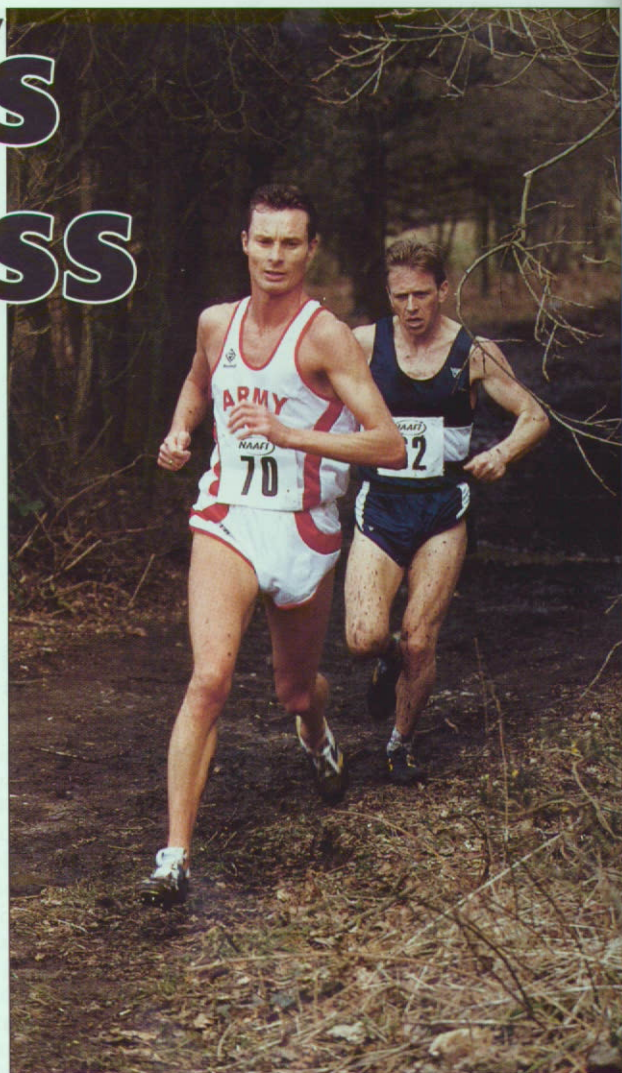
When the race started there was amazement from the large contingent of observers at the sheer speed around the opening two laps of the grassed field. The man asking all the questions at the front was three-times Army champion Cpl Alan Shepherd (RAMC). By the time he had climbed the third hill on the course, Shepherd's relentless assault had decimated the field.

BOLD TACTICS

After the race, Shepherd said: "There were no tactics involved other than 'I'm going to run as hard as I can for as long as I can.'"

The only person able to live with the tempo set by the Army medic was Great Britain international Cpl Mark Croasdale of the Royal Marines.

Going into the second lap the pair had a 50-metre lead over England international and reigning champion Sgt Andy Arrand (RLC). Arrand, running on his



Shoulder charge: Cpl Alan Shepherd sees off the considerable challenge of Royal Marine Cpl Mark Croasdale at Deepcut

training ground, had in turn a 50-metre advantage over a group containing Great Britain international Cpl Mark Flint (RAF), CSgt Craig McBurney (1 LI), Pte Phil Hinch (RAMC) and SSgt Kenny Butler (RLC).

Croasdale had beaten Shepherd six days earlier on a tough course in the English Nationals, and looked to be biding his time before putting his World Championship fell-running experience into practice.

Indeed, an amazing surge halfway around the second lap by Croasdale gave him a 15-metre lead. But by the end of the four "Victory Hills", Shepherd had turned the tables and demonstrated his own "mountain goat" skills to win by five seconds and take his first Inter-Services title.

Arrand, a little short on speed due to lost training time caused by a strained back, ran relatively comfortably in an isolated third spot.

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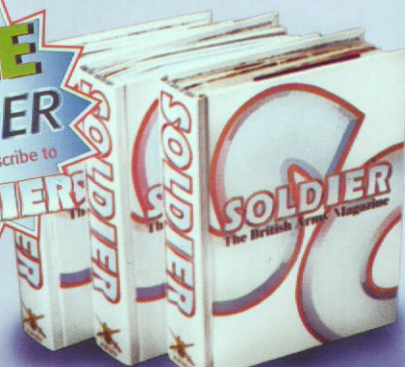
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February competition (No 697): First correct entry drawn was from Mrs D Mason, of York, who wins £100. Runners-up Mrs M Osborne, of Devizes, and LCpl Alan McKnight, of BFPO 808, receive a £10 voucher each. The ten differences were: rotor head and blade; cockpit shape; wheel strut; letter "E"; large cloud shape; winch harness; gull's wing; wave shape under feet; inflatable's rib.

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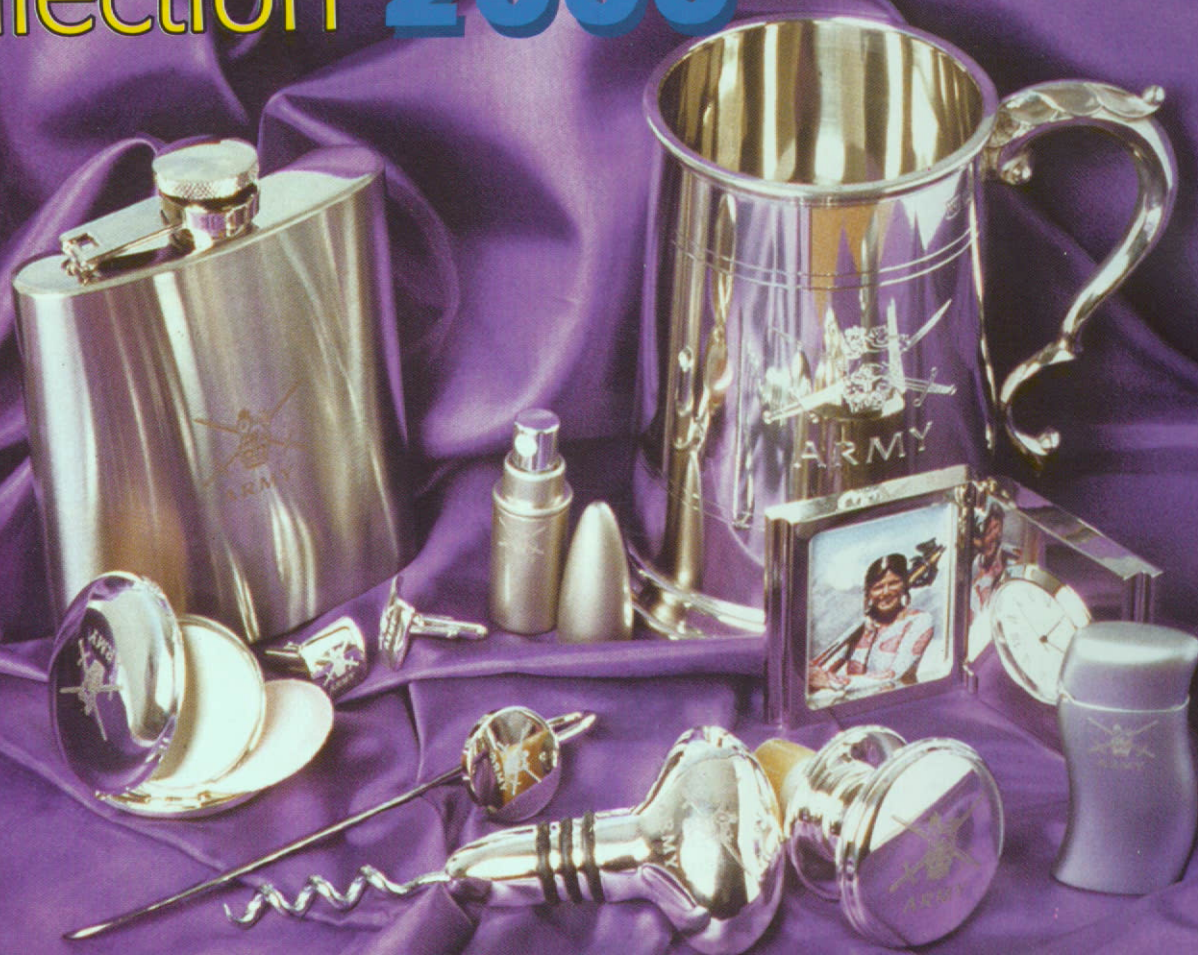
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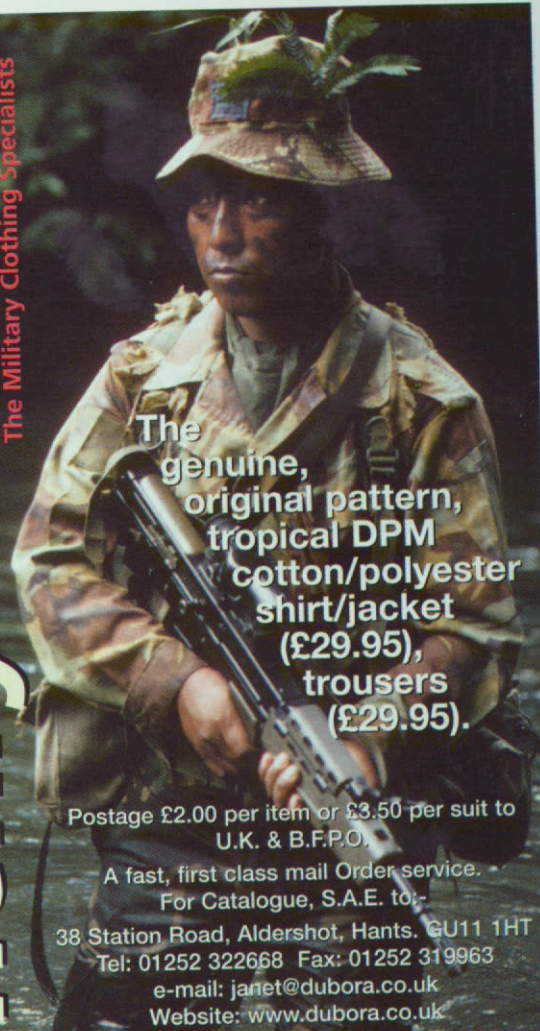
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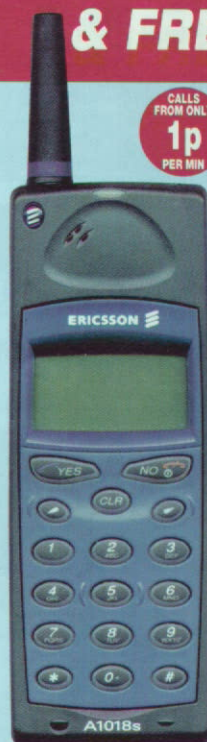
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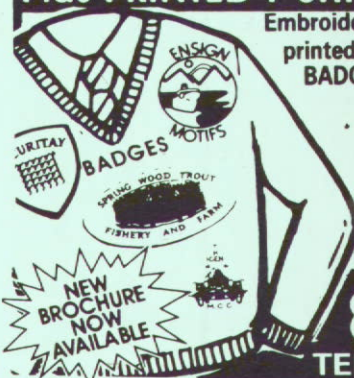
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PEN PALS

REPLIES. To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to *Soldier Magazine* at the address below. When replying to more than one pen pal please place all the letters in one envelope and send to *Soldier Magazine*. The box number must be **clearly written in the TOP LEFT CORNER** of all your replies. Replies should consist only of a letter and photograph if requested. Replies received more than three months after the cover date and **large, heavy, or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.**

TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *Soldier Magazine*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Alone again. If any older soldiers who wrote to me (October - Jan, 39, warped sense of humour) before would like to write again, I would love to hear from you. New pen pals welcome too. **P652**

Curvy, cuddly redhead with grey eyes and GSOH would like to hear from Servicemen, 38+, single or divorced, UK or overseas. **P653**

Kate, 5'7", tall and slim with dark blonde hair. Enjoys reading, TV, videos, music, concerts, the cinema and theatre, animals and horse-riding. Would like to hear from pen pals, 20-40. **P654**

Joanne, a 28-year-old, single mum with two great children. Would like pen pals, 18-35, to occupy spare time. Interests include eating out, reading, videos, the cinema and clubbing. **P655**

Teresa, 29, 5'8", brown hair and hazel eyes, single mum to one small child. Enjoys reading, pubs, music, days out, the countryside and motor sports. Seeking pen pals, 30-40. **P656**

Clare, 40-something, attractive blonde with zest for life. Likes country walks, travel and generally looking after house and garden. Would like replies from pen pals, 40-50. **P657**

Jen, 31, 5'3", blue eyes and GSOH. Likes pubs, clubs, sailing, travelling, good food, and music. Would like to correspond with genuine, honest males, 28-38, at home or abroad. **P658**

Lynn, 34, 5'2", dark brown hair and brown eyes. Interests include F1 racing, horse-riding, swimming, the cinema and socialising. Would like to hear from pen pals, 30+, with GSOH, at home or abroad. **P659**

Paula, 36-year-old divorced, single mum. enjoys reading, writing, watching TV, the cinema and going for a drink. Seeking replies from pen pals in their thirties or early forties. **P660**

Dec, slim, slightly crazy, brown-eyed blonde. Enjoys pubs, clubs, music, going for walks and generally having a laugh. Would like to write to someone with GSOH and who is sincere, loyal and caring. **P661**

Jean, 5'8", 48-year-old, active

brunette. Non-smoker with own home and bad memory (what was your name?) who enjoys yoga, the gym, swimming, rambles and antique fairs. Seeking replies from pen pals, 48+. **P662**

Garry, 18, blond hair, blue eyes, great personality. Loves football, walking, camping and clubbing. Replies please from pen pals with similar interests. **P663**

Lisha, 22, 5'4", brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys corresponding with pen pals, clubbing, watching wrestling and listening to music. Would like to hear from sincere pen pals, 20-30. **P664**

Sarah, slim, lively and attractive 41-year-old. Likes driving, dancing, swimming and popular music and is seeking unattached or divorced male pen pals, 40-45, for friendship and communication. **P665**

Elaine, tall, slim, 38-year-old, Northern Ireland girl. Interests include cycling, keeping fit, socialising, history, cooking, music, reading, poetry - and Eddie Izzard. Would like to hear from pen pals, 30-40. **P666**

Julie, 39-year-old, blue-eyed blonde. Likes the cinema, socialising, travel, music, walking and reading. Would like to hear from sincere Servicemen with GSOH at home or abroad. **P667**

Shelley, 17, tall, fair-haired college student who likes to holiday abroad, eat out, read and spend nights in with friends. Replies from pen pals up to 25 years please. **P668**

Tracy, 25, trainee aerobics instructor. Likes eating out, going to the gym, dance music and playing pool. Would like to hear from male soldiers. Photos would be appreciated and all letters will be answered. **P669**

Bernadette, 20, 5'3", brown hair and green eyes and likes sport, walking, clubbing, the cinema and travelling. Seeking pen pals, 20-30, male or female. **P670**

Jane, 33-year-old, slim blonde with hazel eyes. Enjoys socialising, clubbing, going to the gym, reading and listening to music. Would like to hear from pen pals, 30-45. **P671**

Deirdre, considerate and caring 63-year-old with GSOH and love of life. Enjoys keeping fit, running, swimming, outdoor sports and going out for meals. Gets on well with people of all ages and would like to hear from pen pals, 55-65. **P672**

O soldier boy, won't you write to me? Viv, 32, petite, dark hair. Likes swimming, walking, cycling, war books and films and music. Seeking pen pals, 28-38. All letters answered. **P673**

Julia, shy 28-year-old with GSOH. Enjoys socialising, animals, the countryside, sports and music. Would like to hear from fun-loving squaddies, 25-35. **P674**

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

FEBRUARY 19, 2000

Three-way tie for first prize (27 goals, £2,611.11 each): Lt Col OP Bartrum, MOD, London; SSgt MA Colman, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Sgt JR Downes, 19 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Bulford.

Six-way tie for fourth prize (26 goals, £577.78 each): WO2 N Blight, 110 Pro Coy RMP, Sennelager; Sgt DJ Burge, 1 IG, Münster; WO2 JR Ellison, 9 Fd Wksp REME, Bordon; Capt JR Gillespie, HQ Episkopi Garrison; Cpl RM Jones, London District Pro Coy RMP; SSgt DA Leach, 1 PWRR, Tidworth.

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

FEBRUARY 26, 2000

Three-way tie for first prize (19 goals, £2,600 each): SSgt CJ Cheeseworth, MCTC, Colchester; WO2 I Drummond, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; WO1 JA Ford, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne.

17-way tie for fourth prize (18 goals, £205.88 each): Capt AL Bower, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, Aldershot; Sgt MJ Curran, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; Lt Col R Dixon, Dental Centre Arborfield; SSgt TI Done, SEAE, Arborfield; Maj BK Drage, CATC, Warminster; Cpl JA Grouse, 17 Port & Mar Regt RLC, Marchwood; Capt AD Henderson, 1 RWF; LBdr MC James, 26 Regt RA, Gütersloh; Capt MS Lawson, HQ AGC, Worthy Down; ATpr (name withheld), 8 Flt AAC, Hereford; Cpl RE Messenger, 15 Fd Wksp REME, Catterick; Cpl CB Murphy, 3 (UK) Div Signal Regt, Bulford; Maj LS Pilling, DCSA,

Thatcham; Lt HAC Simms, 1 R Irish, Canterbury; Spr AP Spillane, 32 Engr Regt, Hohne; Pte JR Townsend, 2 PWRR, Tidworth; Sgt G Trolley, 1 RHF, Fallingbostal.

MARCH 4, 2000

Four-way tie for first prize (25 goals, £2,225 each): Sgt JM Kitchen, HQ 19 Mech Bde, Catterick; Cpl DB Lodge, 2 RTR, Fallingbostal; SSgt DJ Piper, 6 Bn REME, Tidworth; Capt DM Rea, 621 EOD Sqn RLC, Tidworth.

10-way tie for fifth prize (24 goals, £240 each): Maj ST Burton, HQ 4 Arm'd Bde, Osnabrück; Sig KJC Codling, 2 Signal Regt, York; Sgt PH Downward, QDG, Catterick; LCpl ASM Jordan, 38 Engr Regt, Ripon; LCpl NC Power, 2 RTR, Fallingbostal; Cpl MP Ransom, 1 Bn REME, Osnabrück; Gnr CAL Ray, 19 Regt RA, Colchester; Sgt IC Scott, 1 BW, Fort George; SSgt S Spencer, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote; Sgt PB Szeremeta, 259 Signal Sqn, Episkopi.

MARCH 11, 2000

Three-way tie for first prize (24 goals, £2,600): Maj JJ Bruce, 33 Fd Hosp, Gosport; Cpl MC Cook, 1 GH, Osnabrück; Lt KT Hughes, 3 R Irish.

11-way tie for fourth prize (23 goals, £318.18 each): WO2 AJ Alford, QDG, Catterick; Maj PA Bernthal, Blood Sup Depot, Ludgershall; LCpl BM Fisher, 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt RLC, Colchester; Sgt CT Lee, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; CSgt JD Mabb, 1 RGJ; Sgt SD Moroney, 1DWR, Hounslow; CSgt RE Phillips, 1 Cheshire,

Dhekia; SSgt A Pugh, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham; SSgt RJ Reader, 123 Sqn RLC (V), Telford; Sig JP Thomas, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; Maj RL Tomlin, RMA Sandhurst.

MARCH 18, 2000

Four-way tie for first prize (21 goals, £2,225 each): LCpl KR Duffus, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; Capt PT McGrath, 234 Tpt Sqn RLC (V), Birkenhead; Cpl AN Powell, 7 Bn REME, Wattisham; WO2 R Wilson, HQ NI.

16-way tie for fifth prize (20 goals, £150 each): Maj GR Akhurst, 105 Regt RA (V), Edinburgh; Pte CA Cumow, ITC Catterick; Sgt PS Dobson, RAC Centre, Bovington; Pte DS Dunlop, ATR Glencorse; Cpl A George, 2 R Anglian, Chesham; SSgt MG Harris, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück; Cpl PB Hughes, 1 WFR; Sgt DJ Joyce, RDG, Münster; Capt CS Marshall, Royal Hosp Haslar, Gosport; WO2 JA Mill, AGC Trg Centre, Worthy Down; Lt Col RH Moodie, SHAPE; Pte D Savage, 1 KORBR, Catterick; WO2 DB Shorrock, HQ 19 Mech Bde, Catterick; SSgt SA Strickland, 1 A and SH, Edinburgh; SSgt SM Vaughan-Atkins, 243 (Wx) Fd Hosp (V), Bristol; WO2 SM Wilson, 207 Fd Hosp (V), Manchester.

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DATES

APRIL

29: British Model Soldier Society show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London, 10.30-6.

MAY

7: Victorian Military Fair, Victory (Services) Club, Seymour Street, London W2.

20-21: JHQ Summer Show 2000, Rheindahlen, Germany.

27-28: London International Tattoo 2000, Wembley Arena.

27-28: Overlord 2000 Historic Military Vehicle Show, Denmead, nr Portsmouth (023 9224 1911).

31: Kneller Hall summer concert (Minden, Normandy Bands, Queen's Div; Band of Para Regt), 8pm (gates open 6pm). Tickets £4 on night. Advance sales for minimum booking of ten. Details on 0181 898 5533 or ticket hotline 0181 744 8646.

JUNE

14: Kneller Hall concert (Bands of SG, AGC). For details, see May 31.

15: HQ 3(UK) Div Beating Retreat, Tidworth Polo Ground, gates open 1700, in aid of Army Benevolent Fund. Military bands, corps of drums, White Helmets, parachute display, static displays. Free to public.

17: 21st Nato Music Festival, Böckelbergstadion, Mönchengladbach in aid of international refugee fund.

17: Oxon & Bucks Millennium Tattoo, Thame (01189 723717).

28: Kneller Hall concert (Band of Coldm Gds, Waterloo Band of King's Div). See May 31.

JULY

Weekends: Horse Guards, Whitehall open, free, 10-4 (020 7414 2360).

8-9: Parachute Spectacular, Southsea Common, Hants.

10-15: Royal Military Tattoo 2000, Horse Guards Parade, in aid of principal Service charities.

12: Kneller Hall concert (Band of Royal Signals). See May 31.

20: Harmony 2000 Young Musicians, Kneller Hall.

Entrance £1, for other details, see May 31.

26: Kneller Hall summer concert (Bands of RLC and REME). For details, see May 31.

AUGUST

9: Kneller Hall summer concert (Bands of RA and AAC). For details, see May 31.

SEPTEMBER

5-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show (information/ticket hotline 0115 912 9196; website

www.mwias.com)

12-16: Royal Hospital, Chelsea Son et Lumière 2000 - Men in Scarlet (020 7881 5308/5309).

● To include events open to the public, contact the Editor.

Col Sam flies into the sunset

COLONEL Sam, the longest-serving member of the Army Air Corps, has hung up his wings. Lt Col Sam Drennan, right, whose flying career started in 1971 as an NCO pilot, was the most decorated Army pilot of the modern era.

His many brushes with death included narrowly avoiding being caught in a culvert mine blast as he took off from the landing pad at Forkhill, Armagh.

He was commended for bravery following the difficult evacuation of a soldier at night in the Gambia, and won the DSO for another particularly hazardous casualty evacuation during the Falklands war. Col Sam was awarded the MBE for flying in Belize and the AFC for another life-saving sortie. His final job at Middle Wallop was that of Chief Flying Instructor.



Beefeater hero honoured

One hundred years after he won the Victoria Cross, tribute has been paid to former Yeoman Warder Albert Edward Curtis in the form of a new headstone laid on his grave at St Stephen's Church, Chipping Barnet.

Curtis enlisted in the East Surreys in 1893 and won his VC during the Boer War. He became a Beefeater in 1910 and remained at the Tower of London until 1931, nine years before his death. His grave had been marked only by a small wooden cross.

The rededication service, led by Canon Christine Farrington, a distant relative of Yeoman Warder Curtis, was attended by Fd Marshal Lord Inge, now Constable of the Tower and Maj Gen Geoffrey Field, Resident Governor of the Tower.

Mod cons for scooter set

If you didn't know there was an Armed Forces Scooter Club, you do now. Open to all serving members, it offers a network of support to enthusiasts. What's more, there's no joining fee and a free monthly newsletter offering discounts from dealers. Want to know more? Simple... just write to the Armed Forces Scooter Club, BFPO 47.

Spalding tops SSAFA Forces Help three-car draw sale league

Bad luck if you didn't win the 23rd SSAFA Forces Help three-car draw... but there will be another one along next year. First prize of a VW Golf went to a Mrs Watson of Spalding. Winners of the two VW Polos were from Doncaster and Leeds. Incidentally, Spalding division of the Services' charity sold the most number of tickets,

including the first and third prizes. The draw, sponsored by Natocars for the 19th consecutive year (and supported by Volkswagen for the second), raised more than £85,000, which will go towards helping serving and former Armed Forces personnel and their dependants cope with a wide range of needs.

Flying opportunities

Every year the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators offers scholarships to would-be flyers to achieve a Private Pilot's Licence. Also on offer are awards to help suitably-qualified pilots achieve a Flight Instructor (Restricted) rating. Application forms from the guild, (Attention Brenda Thomas), Cobham House, 9 Warwick Court, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5DJ (please enclose sae). Forms must be returned by May 15.

● No sooner had Challenger completed its last operational tasking - in Kosovo - than it was taking its place in the Imperial War Museum collection at Duxford. The tank was given to the museum by the MoD.

Take a bus to Aycliffe

Sgts Mel Longley and Chris Laverick and LCpl Shaun Stollery of 124 Recovery Company, 102 Battalion REME (V) at Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, transported a 40-year-old six-tonne bus from York to the Aycliffe District Bus Preservation Society... and earned fulsome praise. "Their professional approach made the move look very easy," said secretary Ian Wiggett. The society is donating £150 to a local charity appeal as a "thank-you".

Hameln RSM piped out

What it is to be popular. RSM Kenny Matheson said farewell to 28 Engineer Regiment in style, towed through Bindon Barracks in Hameln on top of a 27,000-kg M3 bridging rig by 120 soldiers and officers. Kenny was hauled to the main gate where he handed over to new RSM Jim Leach. The grunts of the tuggers were given musical backing by the town's Pied Piper, who turned up to bid his own farewells. Kenny is shortly to be commissioned and promoted captain, a rank in which he will become manning officer with 21 Engineer Regiment in Osnabrück.

Brent in remembrance

Brent Council wants to extend the Remembrance Day ceremony it holds each year in the Town Hall and in particular wants to attract more black and Asian ex-Servicemen and women living in north-west London. Anyone who would like to attend the event on November 12 is invited to write to Pal Prashar, Brent Council, Premises and Promotions, First Floor, Bridge Park Complex, Brentfield, Harrow Road, Stonebridge, London NW10 0RG.

2 PWRR falls in for Queen of Denmark

Queen Margrethe of Denmark inspects a guard of honour formed by the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at Windsor Castle. The occasion marked the start of her recent state visit to Britain. Queen Margrethe, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, is accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Captain of the Guard, Maj Simon Jones.

Picture: Sgt Ian Liptrot



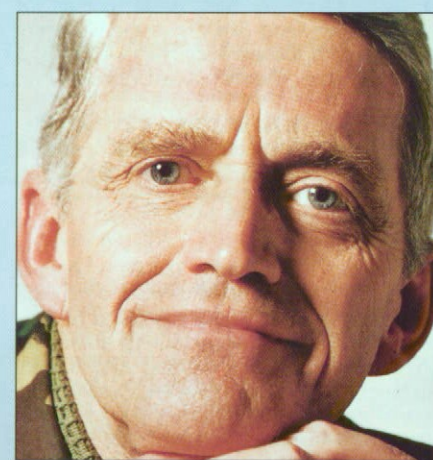
Peter has 38 years as warrant officer

IN December we paid tribute to WO1 (RSM) Norman Walker, formerly of the Royal Tank Regiment, whose 37 years, we were assured, was "reckoned to be" currently the longest uniformed service by a warrant officer.

Not quite, it seems.

Step forward WO1 (GSM) Peter Padley, who was due to retire on March 31 after 38 years and 26 days of distinguished service. His wife, Kay, tells us Peter has been a member of the sergeants' mess for 27 years, a warrant officer for 19 and a WO1 for more than 15 years. He is believed to be the only REME cap-badged soldier to have been a garrison sergeant major and the only REME soldier to have earned the combination of LS&GC Medal with bar, the MSM and the MBE (unless, of course, you know better...).

Peter's great love for parachuting - he logged up more than 3,500 jumps, was a founder member of both the REME and Royal Marines display teams and helped form the AAC's Blue Imps - was brought to a premature end by a serious skiing accident in



Long-serving: WO1 (GSM) Peter Padley

1998. His final post before retirement was as GSM to 20 Armoured Brigade at Paderborn, where he has served for the past eight years.

Sgt Jack's done more camps than you've had hot dinners

While we are on the subject of long service, our story about 55-year-old TA chef Cpl David Sands (Diary, Feb) soldiering with 2 RGJ in Kosovo prompted news of Sgt Jack Burrell, who at 68 is said to be the oldest serving soldier in the Territorial Army. He joined the Regulars as an 18-year-old in 1949



dinners. He was due to retire on March 31.

And then there's 65-year-old WO2 Fred Burgoyne, left, another TA chef, whose uniformed service stretches back an amazing 46 years to 1954. Currently

and has unbroken TA service since 1971. Jack is attached to 3 (V) Military Intelligence Battalion and is still in demand for his expertise as a provider of wholesome cooking in adverse conditions. His colleagues reckon he has done more TA camps than most of us have had hot dinners. He was due to retire on March 31.

Legends of the regiments and corps

10 Aldershot Military Museum



Pioneer: Samuel Franklin Cody and, inset, his Gamage Pattern flying helmet

Army's flying 'colonel' who never was

AMONG the collections in Aldershot's military museum is a group of objects relating to pioneering aviator Samuel Franklin Cody, whose fortunes were closely linked to the Home of the British Army and neighbouring Farnborough.

A larger-than-life American, he became chief kiting instructor to the Army, which at that time was in charge of military flying in the UK. In 1908, while working for the Army, Cody made the first recognised powered flight in Britain, an event which took place at Farnborough, then the balloon establishment of the Royal Engineers.

TERMINATED

Despite this success, his contract at the balloon establishment was terminated a year later by the War Office. Flying machines, apparently, flew too rapidly to provide any useful reconnaissance role.

Undaunted, Cody was granted British citizenship personally by King Edward VII at Doncaster in 1910. The king referred to Cody at the time as "Colonel", although he had never been in the Army, let alone obtained a commission.

Cody won the Military Trials race for aircraft in 1912 at Larkhill and was killed the following year when a plane he was flying broke up in the air over Farnborough.

See ballooning feature, Soldier, Oct 1999

Aldershot Military Museum in Queens Avenue, Aldershot, is open 1000-1700 every day (1000-1630, Nov 1 to Feb 28). Adults £2; others £1 (children 5-15, senior citizens, students, UB40, disabled). Tel 01252 314598.

To appear in this feature, contact the Editor

Bulletin board

Sales of epic VC book on track to meet Star promise

▲ Sales of David Harvey's *Monuments to Courage*, his definitive, two-volume testament to the winners of the Victoria Cross, are on target to raise £20,000 for the Star & Garter Home for disabled ex-Service personnel.

David completed his meticulous, 36-year-long research despite being confined to a wheelchair after he was hit by a drunk driver in France. The resulting opus has been widely acclaimed and is used by *Soldier* staff as a first point of reference for any VC queries.

Its 900 pages contain details of all 1,348 recipients, illustrated by 5,000 photographs – many published for the first time. Copies are available only from Pat M da Costa, 124 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9HL at £75 plus £6.50 p&p. Cheques should be made payable to "Monuments to Courage".

▲ Missed underscore: Our note on the Army Wargamers Association (Searchline, Feb) omitted an important element of the organisation's e-mail address... an... The correct address is the **AWA@bigfoot.com**

▲ Closing date for the Royal Aero Club Trust's Exhilaration of Flight photographic competition is Oct 1. Entry fees (£10 for adults, £5 under-16) will go towards the trust's charitable aims of helping disabled and disadvantaged youngsters to take part in air sports, providing training scholarships and maintaining the nation's aviation heritage. Prizes include flying lessons. For entry forms and rules, visit the trust website at www.royalaeroclub.org/trust.htm or write to RAEC Trust Photographic Competition 2000, Events Organiser, British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Old Schoolroom, Loughborough Road, Leicester LE4 5PJ (tel 0115 261132).

▲ Want to know what historic military event took place today? Or on your birthday? Greenhill Books' website reveals all at www.greenhillbooks.com

▲ The First World War Veterans Campaign, founded by Michael Lyons (see Diary, March) to bury with honour old soldiers who have outlived their relatives, has an Internet site. It can be found at www.warvets1.co.uk. Michael, chairman of the RBL's New Addington, Croydon, branch, is on 01689 842413.

▲ A single-owner collection of Bruce Bairnsfather famous wartime "Old Bill" drawings is to be auctioned by Onslows at the Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2 on April 20. Viewing is the previous afternoon and on the morning of the auction. Patrick Bogue, on 020 7371 0505, would welcome further entries for the event. More details are available on www.auctions-on-line.com/onslows

Slick Charlie cranks humour levels

Videos

Charlie Charlie One – spring edition

THE new packaging and branding of *Charlie Charlie One* is a far cry from its predecessor, the Army Video Diary. What was evident about the first edition of the new format was that the contents were far more dynamic.

The second edition, arriving at units early this month, achieves the same excitement with an action-packed race through Bosnia, Louisiana, Canada, Argentina and Kenya. The spring video crams a great deal of information into just over 20 minutes... all set against a powerful Oasis-esque soundtrack.

Production of *CC1* is slick and allows us to see and hear a lot more soldiers (and a lot fewer officers!). The infantry features heavily, but RE, RLC, RMP, AAC and QARANC all have their say.

Humour levels have been cranked up and the Royal Scots tree-feller is a must-see. Top Tips is an interesting feature that should get stronger and stronger – although the Geordies will take some beating with their wet-wipes.

Comparison of personal equipment and rations between UK and SFOR allies is interesting and handled with tact and humour, although the Turkish soldier might wish he had British-issue kit. Main feature on the ITG Phase 1 Instructors' School is informative and

might silence some *Soldiers To Be* critics. It has a daring intro that will leave civilian viewers in a state of shock.

This is a quality product which leaves you wanting more. The narrator is much more upbeat than in the winter edition and Service readers are encouraged to get into their training wings to watch a copy. Satellite TV has expressed an interest in the diary and short clips will be featured on the Army website at www.army.mod.uk soon.

CC1 is worth watching for the chance to win a mountain bike. – JP

● Winner of the winter edition mountain bike was LCpl J Henson, 661 Sqn, 1 AAC, Gütersloh, while 20 runners-up won Army pen sets and mouse mats.

REUNIONS

50 Group RADC Association: Ex-RADC/QARANC (dental) personnel from any period, Regular or National Service, sought for reunions. Details: Roy Elliott, Secretary, 50 Group RADC Assoc, Corner Cottage, 2 Crabs-grove, Oving Road, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4JQ (tel 01296 641274).

201 RCZ Wksp (V): Joint mess reunion for former officers and SNCOs in the Coventry area, May 5-6. Details from Maj R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club: Annual reunion on May 6 at DMSTC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants. Details from Corps RSM on 01252 340252.

Middlesex Regiment (DCO): Annual Remembrance service will be held in the regimental chapel in St Paul's Cathedral on May 13, followed by the annual reunion at the Victory Services Club that evening. Members of regiment and families welcome. Details from Ron Morris, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA (tel 020 8949 7605).

Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association: Annual service and parade, Cavalry Memorial, Hyde Park, London, May 14.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: T J Checketts to be COS HQ 4 Div, Feb 18; A D K Inkster to be Col (W) Force Dev Branch, HQ DRA, Feb 28; I W Abbott to be RCDS, Jan 6; G W Berragan to be Col Individual Trg DI Trg Pol (A), Jan 10; D J Clements to be RCDS, Jan 6; G C W Dodds to be DACOS G3 O&D HQ Land, Jan 4; T M Fitzalan Howard to be Language Trg, Jan 4.

Lieutenant-Colonels: A Schumacher KORBR to BMM Kuwait, Nov 15.

Retirements

Brigadier: F R Steer, late RAOC, Feb 11.
Colonel: D J B Wood, late KRH, Feb 11; J G Dickinson, late RAMC, Mar 5.

Assemble Broad Walk East 1030. Details on 01344 778255. To mark millennium, all standards and guidons of Regular cavalry regiments and yeomanry regiments will be on parade together for the first time.

Hovercraft crew: Second reunion on May 16 at Stokes Bay, Gosport, Hants. Details ASAP from Brian Russell on 023 9258 4371 or mobile 07818 087855.

Queen's Royal Regiment: Anyone badged Queens – Regular, National Service or TA – welcome to reunion on May 27 at Farnham Drill Hall, Surrey. Ring Stuart Browning on 01483 892474 or Ian Chatfield on 01483 429425.

2nd Coldstream Guards (Malaya): Return in June via Kuala Lumpur, Tapah, Cameron Highlands, Ipoh, Penang, Singapore. Details from Reg Counsell, 76 Bradley Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5HR (tel 01179 699667).

12 Bn Devonshire Regt/6th Airborne: Trip to Ranville, Normandy, proposed June 3-7 for unveiling of monument to 6th Airborne Division. Anyone welcome. Contact Mrs Ada Follett, Rosemount, Exmouth Road, Exton, nr Exeter, Devon EX3 0PQ (tel 01392 874596).

Combined Ex-Services Association: 19th annual reunion, June 16-18 in Bridlington, E Yorks. Standard bearers welcome. Contact G Thomas on 01262 673101.

Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment: Annual reunion, Pitchcroft Racecourse, Worcester on June 17, celebrating 50th anniversaries of Freedom of Worcester and dedication of new memorial to those who died in Malaya 1950-53. Big turn-out anticipated. Details from RHQ on 01905 354359.

Cheshire Regiment Association: Reunion 2000 to be held in Blackpool, June 23-26 and **Mons Reunion** in Chester on Sept 3. For further information ring Capt A W Hughes, RHQ Chester, on 01244 327617 or e-mail him at postmaster@rhqcheshire.u-net.com

New chance to join Villa crew

SKY One is auditioning for men and women to take part in the next series of *The Villa*, the "experiment in human relationships" which flies eight single people to a luxury villa in the Mediterranean to see whether its computer match-making programme will bring them together. Last year's winning contestants included a soldier.

Applicants must be aged 18 to 35, unmarried and living in the UK or Eire. Send name, address, telephone number, photograph and some personal details to *The Villa*, PO Box 2883, London W1A 5RF or call the hotline on 09009 11 55 88 (calls cost 50p).

PRIZE-WINNERS

Two copies of the *Great Events of the 20th Century* video (December issue): L E Wray, Glenwood Close, Chatham, Kent and J E Boreham, Weston Rise, London. Answer: 1901.

dle, Dorchester, Dorset DR2 7ET (tel/fax 01305 848360).

Parachute Regt WOs' and Sgts' (Past and Present) Dinner Club: Annual dinner in Colchester, Oct 14. Details from WO2 Nobby Clarke, c/o RHQ, 38 Signal Regt (V), Manor Top TAC, Hurfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN or e-mail nobbyclarke@derbycounty.co.uk

Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders' Battalion: Sixth annual reunion at 5 RGJ Training Centre, Milton Keynes on Oct 14 for boys and junior leaders who served at Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth, Oswestry and Shorncliffe between early 1950s and late 1970s. Details from Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn Pentrych, Cardiff CF15 9QQ, enclose sae, or tel 02920 891274.

6147th Tactical Group: Mixed force of "Mosquitos" who served with the Fifth Air Force during the Korean War will hold their annual reunion, Oct 30-Nov 5, in Tucson, Arizona. Details from Robert P Blackwood, 3331 S Calle Del Albano, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (tel 520 648 1933).

Guards Association of New South Wales: Annual reunion, March 11-18, 2001 at Bowral, NSW, Australia. Details: John Fallows, 1/25 Dalley Street, Bondi Junction, Sydney NSW 2022.

61st Light Regiment RA: Second reunion planned for May 18-19, 2001 at Cranfield University. Contact David Drinkwater, Camusfearna, Birchmoss, Echt, Westhill, Aberdeenshire AB32 6XL (tel 01330 860351). Korean War mortar gunners welcome.

▲ A snappy and colourfully-illustrated 19-page history of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, detailing its activities between 1688 and 1958, has been published by the regimental museum and is available from the author, R H H Dinnin, 18 Castle Street, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7AN. Cheques for £6, including postage, should be made payable to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regimental Museum Appeal.



SEARCHLINE

Richard Beath seeks whereabouts of fellow former members of **6 Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, Light Infantry** with whom he served in Belfast from July to Dec 1972. He is writing a book and seeks their contributions and approval. Replies to Foxhill Lodge, Perrymead, Bath BA2 5AT (tel, home, 01225 833767; work, 0117 900 2525).

Ex-National Serviceman (RA/Int Corps, 1952-54), now resident in Israel, is writing novel set in Cyprus and would like to hear from ex-Servicemen of all ranks who served during the **EOKA emergency, 1954-58**, or the **Turkish invasion, 1974**. Plans to be in UK in May to research and interview respondents. Replies to Malcolm Feuerstein, Hamayadim 83/8 Zichron Yaacov, 30900, Israel (tel/fax 44 6 6210801), e-mail malmar@netvision.net.il

Researcher seeks information on **2nd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment in Salonika, 1916-18** for forthcoming book. Tel 01624 661124 or write to Barry Quilliam, 22 Springfield Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM2 1DX.

Doreen Boucher, née Gittus, who served in the **Maritime Ack-Ack, 1944-45**, seeks a unit armflash, thought to be a white anchor with a red RA on either side of a blue background. Also news of old comrades Marion Henderson from Rochdale, Anne "Ginger" Wiseman from South Shields and Helen "Nellie" Ryan from Mitcheltown, Co Cork. Doreen came originally from Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. Replies to 61 Lisa Street, Deception Bay, Queensland, 4508, Australia or boucher@ats.com.au

Would Brian "Mo" Morris, who was with the **Royal Tank Regiment** at Tidworth, Hants in 1969-70, or anyone who knew him, contact Mrs Karen Bali, People Search Tracing Services, 30a Bedford Place, Southampton, Hants SO15 2DG (tel 02380 562243) or visit www.people-search.co.uk

John Quinn, aged 36, sought for school reunion. He left St Bede's School, Scunthorpe in 1980 and joined the Army. Thought to be serving still and possibly based in Germany. Reunion is planned for April 29. Contact old friend Simon O'Sullivan on 01724 403791 (day) or 01724 858384 (evenings) or osullsm@spcs.britishsteel.co.uk

Relative seeks news of **Lt Anthony MacDonald RAMC**, who served in the Army Blood Supply Depot at Aldershot and possibly retired in 1992-93. Any relevant information would be appreciated. Contact Nicola Hahner on 0118 9619586 or 07939 006820 (mobile).

Author researching Second World War auxiliary units recruited mainly from the Home Guard and centred on Fife and Angus. All parts of Scotland will be covered in a forthcoming book. Anyone with information, memories about formation dates, unit histories, command structure, training or operational bases in Scotland is asked to write to David Blair, 265D High Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 1JH.

News sought of **Harry Richardson**, who was a quartermaster Sgt Maj, possibly cap-badged Royal Artillery, billeted at Langside, near the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow during 1945. Replies to C.Harte on 01698 820064.

Paras' history in their own words

JOHN Parker's **The Paras** (Metro Books, £19.99) is highly readable and pulls no punches. It is based on more than 50 interviews with men of all ranks who have served in The Parachute Regiment over 60 years, from Ringway to Kosovo, as well as wives. *Soldier* readers can order it at the special price of £17.99 (inc p&p) by telephoning the credit card hotline number 01476

541080; faxing on 01476 541061; or sending a cheque payable to Metro Books to: Grantham Book Services, Isaac Newton Way, Alma Park Industrial Estate, Grantham, Lincs NG31 9SD, quoting the reference *Soldier*.

Mombasa to Burma with the askari

ONE of life's little rewards is to turn the first page of an unconsidered book and strike gold. John Nunneley's **Tales From The King's African Rifles** (Cassell, £16.99) is an engaging story, seamlessly woven with anecdote and wry observation. Eager for action, young Nunneley missed the war in Abyssinia but was in time to fight alongside his *askari* against the Japanese in Burma. This is also the story of his loyal servant,

Tomasi Kitinya, a 16-year-old Luo tribesman who followed him to war and was killed far from the shores of Lake Victoria.

Verdun: the lesson Hitler didn't learn

IN 1942 Hitler vowed Stalingrad would not become "a second Verdun". As Malcolm Brown points out in **Verdun 1916** (Tempus, £18.99), it did, and the similarities are obvious. The longest battle of the First World War was also one of the costliest, hundreds of thousands of French and German soldiers perishing in the ten-month struggle for the French garrison town. The awfulness is captured vividly in

extracts from letters and diaries of those taking part, including young VAD nurse Winifred Kenyon, whose sunny optimism in the midst of death is particularly memorable.

De-mining the world: an impossible dream?

NEWS that Sir Richard Branson has teamed up with the Ministry of Defence to develop radar-equipped airships to locate landmines in former war zones will give fresh hope to all who might have thought ridding the world of this menace was an impossible dream.

The Virgin boss, inspired by the anti-landmine campaigning by Diana, Princess of Wales, is hoping a fleet of Mineseeker airships, developed with the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, will be deployed to places such as Kosovo next year.

As an example to other nations slow to sign up to an international agreement Britain acted swiftly to destroy all anti-personnel mine stocks held by the Army.

But is that kind of goodwill and determination enough to motivate the world to eradicate an evil which causes innocent victims random and horrible suffering?

Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance: A Resource Book by Rae McGrath. (Pluto Press, 345 Archway Road, London, N6 5AA; paperback, £17.99). *Soldier* readers can buy the book at a special price of £15, inc p&p in UK, by telephoning 020 8374 2189. Offer valid until the end of April.

120 Million Landmines Deployed Worldwide: Fact or Fiction? by Ilaria Bottigliero. Available free (while stocks last) by writing to Jon Wright, Pen & Sword Books Ltd, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, S Yorks S70 2AS.

One leading anti-landmine campaigner is engineer and former soldier Rae McGrath, whose *Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance: A Resource Book*, focusing on the field aspects of the problem and its solutions, is written from the expert perspective of one who has "been there, done it and got the T-shirt".

A Nobel Peace Prize Co-laureate through his co-

founding of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, he has had vast experience in many mine-affected areas of the world.

He pioneered one of the first wide-scale United Nations mine clearance operations in Afghanistan, so he is worth listening to when he says: "The UN is probably the only viable umbrella for an international response to landmines and, having accepted that role, has, with few exceptions, shown itself to be institutionally incapable of adequately or effectively meeting the challenge."

And though he does not believe in general disarmament except in an ideal world, McGrath does seek a simple justice that would allow people who have and are suffering from this scourge to enjoy the freedom from fear that peace should bring.

He observes: "During 18 years in the British military I never heard an experienced



Deadly harvest: A collection of different anti-personnel landmines photographed in Battambang, Cambodia by Chamrong Lo

soldier express any opinion which contradicts these beliefs."

The author regards as counter-productive the kind of "crazed" statistics which estimate the number of mines

in the Western Sahara as "between one and ten million" and he would appear to have an ally in Pro Victimis, an organisation which helps what it calls the "forgotten victims" of natural and man-

Last spring the then Defence Secretary Lord Robertson pledged that no British soldier will ever again lay an anti-personnel landmine. He announced a complete and early destruction of all such devices held by the British Army. Where necessary, anti-tank mines will continue to be used in military operations.

made disasters. An independent study commissioned by this Geneva-based private foundation describes estimates of tens of millions of landmines both deployed worldwide and held in stockpiles as "in all probability, gross exaggerations".

The report, *120 Million Landmines Deployed Worldwide: Fact or Fiction?* (see details left) argues that this sort of distortion does more harm than good by causing potential international clearance programmes to be aborted as "missions impossible".

If these wild estimates were true it would take 1,100 years and 33 billion US dollars just to clear the mines already laid.

Fortunately, says the report, evidence gathered in the field over ten years suggests the problem may not be as monumental and practically intractable as anticipated, but amenable to realistic, medium-term and affordable solutions. — CH

IN BRIEF

Virtual War: Kosovo and Beyond by Michael Ignatieff. Published to complement the BBC2 television series *Future War*, this thought-provoking paperback original examines the implications of high-tech, "zero-risk, zero-casualty" conflict in which "virtual war proceeds to virtual victory". (Chatto & Windus, £12.99.)

Korea: We Lived, They Died by Alan Carter. Subtitled "Memories of a Forgotten War", this down-to-earth and readable paperback account of the experiences of a

National Serviceman with The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in actions up to and including the Battle of the Hook is published 50 years after the conflict started. Available at £6.95 plus £1 p&p from Mail Order Dept, Woodfield Publishing, Babsham Lane, Bognor Regis, PO21 5EL.

The Second World War in the East by H P Willmott. This volume in the high-quality Cassell History of Warfare series edited by Sir John Keegan covers Asia and the Pacific. The excellent text aside, it is very

much a visual experience, with photographs, graphics and computer-generated battlefield maps by Malcolm Swanston and his team. (Cassell Military, large-format hardback, £20.)

Command in the Royal Naval Division by Christopher Page. Fine military biography of Arthur Asquith, one of the most decorated non-professional soldiers of the First World War, who rose from temporary acting sub-lieutenant to brigadier general in just over three years, won three DSOs and the Croix de Guerre, was recommended for the VC and DSC and was wounded four times. (Spellmount, £20.)

Sepoys in the Trenches by Gordon Corrigan. A former Gurkha officer pays detailed tribute to the 140,000 Indians on the

Western Front. Of the 90,000 combatants in the Indian Corps, 8,557 died in the trenches. (Spellmount, £24.95.)

The Coldstream Guards by David J Hunter. Seventh in the 56-page glossy paperback series showing regiments of the British Army as illustrated on cigarette and trade cards. (£7.95 plus 60p p&p from the author at 11 Sunnindale Drive, Tollerton, Nottingham NG12 4ES.)

Two more titles in the Cassell Military Paperbacks series: **With a Machine Gun to Cambrai** by George Coppard, who enlisted at 16 and whose account written from his diaries was first published in 1968; and **Great Gambles of the Civil War** by Philip Katcher — stories from the US conflict 1861-65.

'First Things First' by Eric Smith. The story of RAF Hornchurch and RFC Suttons Farm 1915-62 includes the exploits of the Army flyers who fought off the threat of German airships, among them Capt William Leefe Robinson VC, who changed the course of aviation history. (Ian Henry Publications, Romford; paperback, £14.95.)

Women's Writing of the First World War edited by Angela K Smith. Absorbing anthology, with extracts from writers as diverse as the Pankhursts, Virginia Woolf, Vera Brittain and the music-hall entertainer Vesta Tilley. (Manchester University Press, paperback, £13.99.)

Through the Jungle of Death by Stephen Brookes. Dramatic, tragic, sometimes even comic

autobiographical story of the author's 3,000-mile escape at the age of 11 from wartime Burma. (John Murray, £16.99.)

The Charge: The Real Reason Why the Light Brigade Was Lost by Mark Adkin. First paperback edition of the former British Army officer's 1996 reappraisal critically acclaimed as "definitive". (Pimlico, £10.)

Napoleon on the Art of War selected, edited and translated by Jay Luvaas. Masterly distillation of the great man's writings. (Simon & Schuster UK, £17.99.)

The Russian Front, 1941-1945 by Bob Carruthers and Prof John Erickson. Many photographs, some previously unpublished, illustrate this account. (Cassell Military, hardback, £19.99.)

IN MY BOOK Peter Horsfall

An occasional series in which we talk to military authors about their life and work

From Leeds to Lords

ENLISTING in the Coldstream Guards changed Peter Horsfall's life. Now retired with Mary, his wife of 47 years, he spent 34 years with the Coldstream, rising to major, and enjoyed a second career as Staff Superintendent at the House of Lords, where he was involved in 15 State Openings of Parliament.

Now he has written an often amusing book telling of his time both in the Army and at the Lords*. But just how did this man from a humble Leeds background come to be working in the Upper House?

"I was quartermaster of the Guards Depot at Pirbright when a former RQMS of the regiment, Bill Kirke, now Principal Doorkeeper at the Lords, told me that the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, Lt Gen Sir David House, was keen to get a Guards QM as the Staff Superintendent."

"I suggested six names from different regiments, including my own as a joke as I was due to leave. Fifteen minutes later I received a phone call from Black Rod."

With the job — a combination of RSM and quartermaster, just as he had been doing for the previous 20 years — came a residence at the Palace of Westminster.

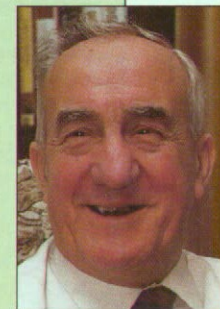
MEMORIES

Peter became involved in "anything and everything" and has many fond memories, particularly recalling many dealings with Baroness Thatcher.

"She was amazing. By 1982 she was known as the Iron Lady and I had to look after her during President Reagan's visit. She was the complete opposite to what I thought — so feminine. I got to know her over a period of years and she was always so gracious."

Peter, a lifelong cricket fan, is involved with the Lords Taverners and is a member of the MCC and both Middlesex and Surrey CCCs. As the headline says, it's a long way from Leeds to Lords. — RP

**Hard to Believe — Too Old at Sixteen* is published by the Memoir Club at £16.99.



Picture: Graeme Main

Two sides to argument on drivers' pay

I WOULD like to thank the author of the letter about Army pay ("Pay gap with civilians drives me to despair", Feb). I'm a B1 driver earning about £170 a month after taxes. If they want to make us an equal army, with equal rights for everyone, how about equal pay? – **Pte Sean Nolan, RAP, SDG HQ, Podujevo, Kosovo.**

CIVILIAN drivers are not on £7.50 an hour, nor do they earn £420 for a 56-hour week unless they are Hazchem-trained and live in London. Standard rate for drivers on the red book agreement is £5 an hour and £7.50 for overtime – a total of £350 a week for 60 hours. Nor do they receive cheap accommodation or messing. The grass outside is not as green as you would believe. I am amazed by my son's wages – he's a lance jack in the sappers and earns as much as I do. What do I do? I'm the manager responsible for the profit of my depot and the jobs of my drivers. – **Brian Bridle, Ipswich.**

ONE reason for poor retention is the pay, or lack of it. I and a few of my colleagues are class 1 privates but still paid as class 3 privates. We were meant to become class 2 more than a year ago and class 1 eight months ago. When we get our backpay it will be taxed. What a sad situation. – **Pte A C Watson, B Coy, 1 RRW, Bosnia.**

Honesty is best for gay soldiers

I AM a gay soldier and have served for six years. Proudest day of my life was passing out. I swore to do my duty and being gay has never interfered with my work.

People have to realise that gay men are not interested in the guys on the block, or anywhere else, if they are straight. I have told four good mates in my block and they haven't withdrawn their friendship. If others were more open-minded the Army would be better for it. I would say to other gays: if you trust your mates, tell them. Honesty is the best policy. They probably know already. – **Pte (name, address supplied), Germany.**

I'M a civil servant working at the Army Technical Support Agency, Nottingham, and also serve in the TA. I have concerns about gays serving in our tight-knit, company-size workshop team, which, typically of the TA, spends much time working and socialising together.

If a guy was posted into my team and was found to be homosexual I think it would be detrimental to morale and team spirit. If he got on with the job and mixed socially I would not have too much of a problem, but his friends would be saddled with a stigma.

Straight soldiers caught up in this in the TA will leave rather than be subjected to regulations on discrimination. – **WO2 (AQMS) D A Platt, REME TA specialist, Notts.**

My tears (of laughter) over plight of 'singlies'

I JUST had to reply to the various letters from "singlies" in regard to moving problems. One of them made me actually laugh out loud. It broke my heart to hear how Maj Robinson (Feb) had to go without his windsurfing kit.

As a "pads" wife for 14 years I have moved all over the world and accepted all manner of situations. However, I would like to point out to singlies everywhere that on my last move from Cyprus to Germany, all our possessions were taken from us (we are a family of five with children under ten) EIGHT weeks before we left – leaving us literally with a suitcase of clothes to last us until we got to Germany.

Then, when we arrived, we spent two days in a totally empty quarter, sleeping

on the floor, covering our children with coats until our furniture arrived.

On top of all this I cleaned a quarter to march-out standard (singlies welcome to help).

As for finances, what do singlies think we pads do with our disturbance allowance? If they are not sure, I'll tell them: pay for new school uniforms for the children and clothes suitable to the country (it's obvious, really, given the differences between living in Cyprus and Germany). Then there's the curtains, nets and normal household equipment to pay for, setting up phone lines, paying for TV rental – free to singlies – and so on. – **Mrs Margaret Canham, MC Squadron RLC, Münster.**

Prize letter

Rumblings in the ranks about EFI

I AM serving as part of the Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and have felt it necessary to write to you to highlight a point which has caused rumblings throughout units deployed here.

I refer to the facilities provided by the EFI (Expeditionary Force Institutes), including the shop and the Tommy Tucker chain of food outlets. It seems that UK troops are given the short end of the stick.

I have heard nothing but complaints about overpricing and being ripped off. Other nations' facilities seem to be able to provide a better service, with a variety of stock, at a fraction of the price.

Even items such as coffee and tea are, in most cases, up to DM 1 (about 30p) cheaper in other outlets. It seems that rather than being here to assist in the welfare of troops, they are here to make a profit. Because there is no alternative in some locations, their profit margin is ensured. Also, I do not find the staff particularly helpful. Common courtesy would not cost much and may make the whole shopping experience better. It's all we've got. **WO2 (name supplied), HQ National Support Element, Banja Luka, BFPO 553.**

▲ Mike Sheriff, International Director of Naafi, responds: "EFI is the uniform branch of Naafi. It has a long tradition of serving with the Forces, going back to 1894. Since 1953 EFI has been involved in every theatre of operations. Currently it is deployed in support of Ops Palatine, Bolton, Jural, Deliberate Forge and Agricola.

"Naafi has recently undergone a tremendous period of change and is focusing on bringing high-street brands, value and service to the Forces wherever they may be deployed. Naafi does make a profit from some, but not all, of its operations; it is, however, not profit-retaining, and in 1999-2000 will make a total contribution of £16.6 million to the Armed Forces.

"Poor customer service is never acceptable and a comprehensive customer service training package is being developed for the locally-employed civilians as well as EFI detachment commanders.

"Comparisons with other nations' service providers will always happen in multinational task force environments. Naafi will never be complacent about comparisons, however, for example, the American PX run by AAFES is granted millions of dollars each year by Congress, the Norwegian PX makes no direct return of profits and the Dutch ECHOS is a Christian charity run at cost.

"Naafi International will continue to strive to bring to British Forces serving overseas the best service and facilities it can. The Foundry Pub at Banja Luka is a recent example, where in five weeks a £250,000 development was completed."

● More of your letters in the next two pages

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1950: SQMS C Darby, R Signals, examines an Italian gun which the Australians captured and used during the siege of Tobruk. In the background is the Garrison HQ, manned by a new generation of British troops in Cyrenaica.

There were no sights on the guns so the orders went like this: "Try and get that wadi, Bill. That one was a bit wide, shift her over a couple of telephone poles to the left..." One famous Aussie gun crew charged passers-by two piastres "a pop" and did such good trade that a nearby unit complained of the number of shells the Germans fired back in retaliation.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, April 1975: A bid to get rid of the Combined Cadet Force has been rebuffed in the Commons following a question from Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Labour, Ormskirk), who asked RAF Minister Brynmor John if he would take steps to disband the CCF.

We're offended by credit refusal

HAVING read Mrs Craddock's letter (Feb) on the difficulty she had obtaining credit through civilian companies, I find myself in complete agreement with her comments. I have served ten of my 14 years' service in Germany.

I returned to the UK in September 1997 and have been refused credit by many different retailers on numerous occasions. Most recently my wife and I applied for an interest-free credit offer from Toys 'R' Us – the store in which my wife had worked for the previous six months – for a purchase totalling £150.

Once again we were refused credit due to our not having a permanent address in

the country for more than three years. Having bought a car while in Germany, for which I obtained credit to the tune of £17,000 via a UK company (all completed in a few minutes over the phone), I still cannot make use of an interest-free credit offer for a sum which is less than three days' pay. It is an embarrassing situation which causes offence.

Surely there is some form of credit check that can be carried out for HM Forces personnel who have not been based in the UK for the required three-year period. – Sgt Dean Siford AGC(SPS), 4 GS Regt RLC, Wksp REME, Dalton Barracks, Abingdon.

Mail us!

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. 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.

PS...

Sgts set the agenda

YOUR article about training the trainers (Mar) took me back a few years. While adjutant at the Highland Brigade Depot in Aberdeen (1964-66) we had four really excellent sergeants (one from 1 BW, two from 1 QO Hldrs and one from 1 Gordons) who competed to have the best platoon on passing-out parades. They made up the rules themselves, but what was interesting was that the greatest penalty points were given to the platoon that lost most recruits.

Later, in 1973-88, when I was Army Careers Officer for the South of Scotland based in Edinburgh, I was often berated for having the lowest percentage of figures for acceptance in Scotland. It was water off a duck's back to me because I also had the highest percentage figures for retention. – Euan Gordon, Edinburgh.

No wimps, please

AS an instructor at an Army Training Regiment, I was interested in the article on the instructors' school at Lichfield (Mar), which I have attended. The next week a recruit handed me a newspaper cutting and said: "Hey, corporal, it says here you can't shout or swear at me." I politely told him where to go. Many of those we train haven't a clue about hygiene – we even teach them how to shower and shave. Some have to be told 50 times before they take it on board. The Army should keep its training policy out of the public eye – and those who join up need to ask themselves if they are doing so for the right reasons. The Army needs soldiers, not wimps. I get great satisfaction from seeing a civilian turn into a soldier in a few weeks. – Cpl (name supplied), ATR Pirbright.

Women in focus

I WRITE not as a misogynist but as a soldier concerned with the image of the Army. Would it be possible for programme makers of series such as *Soldiers To Be* to direct the spotlight on females with a bit more about them than has recently been the case. Potential recruits watching these programmes could form the opinion that the majority of women in the Army are of the same calibre as some shown recently. Or are the females in my unit – who have drive and professionalism – the exception? – Sgt (name supplied) 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford, Germany.

Royal supporter

I APPLAUD the author of the letter (Feb) asking why the Army cannot be "Royal". As a proud parent of a soldier daughter serving in the Royal Logistic Corps, I often get asked what she is doing and reply that she is in the British Army. Much better to be able to say the Royal Army. I'm ex-Royal Air Force aircrew, Second World War vintage. – Gerald Stevenson, Prestatyn.

Take the chance to show we care

THE BBC TV series *Soldiers To Be* gave us fresh insights into today's British Army and reminded many civilians, myself included, of how proud we ought to be of the best army in the world. As far as I am concerned, nothing is too good for these lads and lasses. May I suggest that we strive to ensure that:

- They pay no income tax during operational tours (I've read the arguments in *Soldier* for and against, but believe that where there is a will there is a way. Besides, it would be tangible recognition by a grateful nation);

- They get a tax-free allowance of first-class mail and telephone calls;

- Civilians club together as "Friends of the Army" to try to provide brighter and more comfortable accommodation in the sometimes grim and gritty living quarters they have to endure while on long-term peacekeeping operations. Let's show we care. — John D Mills, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

▲ While on operations abroad, troops are already entitled to free "blues" (airmail letter forms) and a free welfare telephone allocation recently increased to 20 minutes a week. Internet access is available in some operational areas. — Editor.

Acre of Ireland in Staffordshire

EDWARD Kelly (Feb) raised the issue of a memorial to the "thousands of Irishmen who have served in the British Army". He might like to know that The Royal Irish Regiment has sponsored the Irish Infantry Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA).

Now nearing completion, it will be effectively "an acre of Ireland in the middle of Britain". The NMA is near Alrewas, just off the A38, about seven miles north-east of Lichfield in Staffordshire. Trees and shrubs in the grove will be native to Ireland and at its centre will be an Irish granite plinth bearing the names of all Irish infantry regiments of the line. While specifically designed to honour Irish infantrymen, it is hoped it will be a focus for recognition of all Irish soldiers who have served, and continue to serve, in the British Army.

It will be dedicated on May 6 and Mr Kelly is welcome to come along, as are all Irish soldiers, past and present, and their dependants, of whatever corps or regiment. Details from Lt Col James Linford on 01846 608345, e-mail mod0018@icwebkit.co.uk — Col J S Douglas, Regimental Colonel, The Royal Irish Regiment, BFPO 808.

CS95 jacket is the place for those medal ribbons

IT is nice to see that at long last individual campaigns are to be recognised with the award of their own unique medal, and not a bar to a General Service Medal as has been the case in the past.

Photographs in *Soldier* regularly feature proud Service personnel wearing several medals for recent operational tours of duty. It's a pity the opportunities for them to show off their hard-earned medals are limited to the odd ceremonial parade and Remembrance Sunday.

Now Combat Soldier 95 has become the accepted day-to-day wear for most units in the Army, may I suggest that the regulations be amended to allow the wearing of medal ribbons on the lightweight jacket when not deployed on field training or operations. Medals and medal ribbons were worn with the ubiquitous battledress and with the bush jackets of

both olive green and khaki drill in the Middle and Far East theatres.

CS95 is, I believe, the natural successor to battledress, so authorising the wearing of medal ribbons with this versatile and popular uniform would not be without precedent. To reduce costs, the medal ribbons could be sewn on to a brooch and pinned to the jacket.

This would allow their easy removal for exercises and operations. Such a measure would recognise operational service in a tangible way and act as an aid to recruitment. — Capt N T Nash RAMC(V), 253 (NI) Fd Amb (V), BFPO 801.

• Why was a GSM not issued for Greece 1945-48? The Greek commemorative medal 1940-41 and 1941-45 was issued not to be worn but as a keepsake. — J E G Stephens, Barnet, Herts.

Tinkering with a respected medal system is ill-advised

I AM incensed by someone's ill-advised decision to fix something that wasn't broken. I refer to the decision to scrap the 1962 General Service Medal and replace it with an entirely different system.

I cannot understand the decision to replace the clasp/bar system with a United Nations-style ribbons system. The issuing of bars is as old as the award of medals themselves and, when used correctly, provides for all eventualities.

Despite baffling entitlement criteria

with some issues, it should be quite straightforward and relatively simple to determine who gets what. The Suez argument would not have arisen had common sense prevailed.

If the British Government deems it prudent to deploy its soldiers to an operational theatre, then that decision should be reflected in the award of a clasp to the General Service Medal (for example, Lebanon).

British medals, respected the world

Malaya's forgotten veterans

I was interested in the letter from Lt Col I A Vere Nicoll ("GSM is about to be overtaken by events", Jan). We members of the National Malayan and Borneo Veterans Association have long been urging the award of a distinctive medal for the veterans of the Malayan Emergency and Borneo Confrontation.

Almost every military action since the Second World War has been granted a distinctive award — Korea, the Falklands and Kosovo to mention just three.

In the case of the Malayan Emergency, more than 100,000 British troops were involved in a campaign which lasted 12 years and claimed 1,865 lives. I have no

wish to detract from the bravery of other members of the Armed Forces, but compare those figures with the Korean War — 40,000 men involved, 687 deaths; or the Falklands — 255 deaths.

Those veterans received a distinctive medal they could wear with pride. We veterans of Malaya and Borneo were awarded the GSM, the same as someone who had served tea and buns in the Naafi. We have long considered ourselves the forgotten army. — Richard C Scott, ex-Suffolk Regiment, Tappen, British Columbia, Canada.

▲ The Korean War casualty figure is disputed by several authorities. — Editor



Early plans for the Channel Tunnel weren't as watertight as at first hoped...

Write your own funny caption for this photograph, first published in *Soldier* in October 1950. The best, in the opinion of the Editor, will win a silver-plated book-clock bearing the Army logo. Usual competition rules apply and entries should reach us by April 28.

Gun lore... in reverse order

THERE are three things wrong with the photograph of a soldier with a rifle used to illustrate the parliamentary column (Feb):

- It has been printed the wrong way round;

- The soldier has his/her hood up, with the obvious effect on hearing and tunnelling of vision — something definitely not encouraged. In fact, the most recent waterproof jacket is designed to fit under the smock if the tactical situation requires it.

- It was officially decreed the SA80 would no longer be called that as far back as 1994. How can I stop my young soldiers calling it thus if they see it in print all the time. It is quite simply the rifle 5.56mm or the rifle. — Sgt R Allen, 31 Armd Engr Sqn, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.

▲ The print was reversed inadvertently so we hold our hands up on that score. Point also taken about the hood. As to the name of the weapon, we'll stick to SA80 — which is how it is known to the rest of the world. — Editor.

MPGS 'founders' at back of promotion queue

AS a founding member of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) I agree with comments that the original members have done a good job in getting the service up and running.

However, a major point of contention concerns promotion. When we joined up (I left the Army as a sergeant) we were told past military service would not count

towards promotion, yet it now seems that HQ PMA has moved the goalposts to increase recruiting by offering senior NCOs promotion to at least corporal and, in some cases, guaranteed sergeant within a year. As a result, original members of the MPGS are now finding it increasingly hard to get promotion. — MPGS soldier (name, address supplied), Chicksands.

PS...

Courtly mountings

THE sergeant who questioned the cost of court-mounting his medals (March), can save his money by having them mounted as per Army Materiel Regulations, ie loose-mounted. Court mounting is not an official way of wearing medals but has gradually crept into use.

Courtiers were first required to have them mounted this way when Queen Victoria objected to the clinking of medals as they bowed their way out of her presence. Guards officers attending court adopted the method, and later all ranks in the Household Division were required to do so.

When Materiel Regulations were re-written in recent years, the then Master Tailor of the Coldstream Guards was approached for advice, resulting in permission being given for court-mounted medals "at no public expense." The cost to an individual to have his medals court-mounted (not a simple job), or for any other private tailoring, is dependent on the tailor taking on the task. It is not the responsibility of the Army. And, as with any business, prices vary. — Len Penrose, ex-Senior WO2 (Master Tailor) Instructor RAOC, Yateley, Hants.

Save the Tournament

The Save the Royal Tournament campaign has collected more than 16,000 signatures of people — Dame Vera Lynn among them — who say it is wrong to scrap the Royal Tournament. Our e-mail address is royal_tournament@care4free.net and the website can be found at www.savethe_royaltournament.care4free.net — Tony Langham, Flat Four, 113 Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2SF.

Southern pipes...

HOW long has the regiment whose recruiting area is about as far from Scotland as you can get without falling off the White Cliffs into the English Channel, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, had the Corps of Pipes and Drums to which you refer on Page 13 (March)? — Michael Potter, Bedford.

Terrific Traser

MAY I say that the Traser watch, as featured in Kitstop (Feb), is the most practical watch I have ever owned — and by far the easiest to read in poor light. As we are apparently living in "rip-off Britain", I also applaud the importer for discounting the price to military customers. I have no connection with the Traser company.

Reference "SA80 to be modified" (Westminster to Wapping, Feb), is it not time the MoD cut its losses and turned to the well-tried, well-proven, ambidextrous Austrian Steyr AUG, but fitted with our sight? It would not be setting a precedent to go for a foreign weapon. The GPMG and Browning pistol were originally Belgian and even the Bren (L4) was originally Czech. — John Bushell, Chesham.

Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Is your kit fit?

Army issue kit has come in for a lot of stick recently. But what do troops really think of it? We asked a group of soldiers working in an extreme environment... the hot and humid jungles of far-off Brunei.

Sgt Rodney Boyland, REME

The radios work when they are issued in the field and they work when they leave the workshop. What happens to them then is a different matter. Some of the kit is old, but it works.



Cpl Paul Jones, AAC

Uniform kit is very good at the moment. The SA80 is quite accurate, but comes across as a bit tinny compared to the SLR, which was solid. It is also hard to clean.



Sgt Mark Surey, REME

The SA80 is a good range weapon, the sight is excellent, but not much cop for anything else. We should have bought the M16. But our equipment is so much better than it used to be. I think when they trial equipment they should give it to a field unit to use until it breaks.

ATpr Tony Crawford, AAC

During my basic training the firing pin on my SA80 snapped. Kit falls to pieces after a while.



Sgt Taff Jones, REME

Our equipment is outstanding compared to ten or 15 years ago. But the thing the Army will never get right is boots. Perhaps they should give us an allowance every year

to buy our own. Army stores should be like a shop.

Cpl Marcus Mason, REME

There have been about 22 modifications to the SA80. Back in 1984 when they did the field trials why did they not talk to the soldiers?

There is no one thing you can do to make it better. Certain plastic and rubber pieces fall off the weapon.



Bdr Jason Bloodworth, 5 Regt RA

I have not had any problems with SA80, but wouldn't mind a change.



Sgt Jason Crane, Para

The SA80 is all right for moving about with and the length is about right, but I do not rate its firepower.



Cpl Krishna Bishwakarma, 2 RGR

The tropical dress we wear in Brunei is smart and comfortable and is a good fit. I thought the SLR was a better weapon than the SA80.

Sgt Alex Caldwell, REME

I think there are too many pieces to the SA80. I like Combat 95 kit, it is just the lack of availability. It's good kit, but you can't always get hold of it easily out here.



LCpl Manojkumar Gurung, 2 RGR

The SA80 is light and effective but not robust enough. Because of the plastic you have problems having and it rusts quickly. When you are carrying it it feels like you are carrying a toy. The jungle boots need more cushioning underneath.



Interviews: Anthony Stone Pictures: Graeme Main



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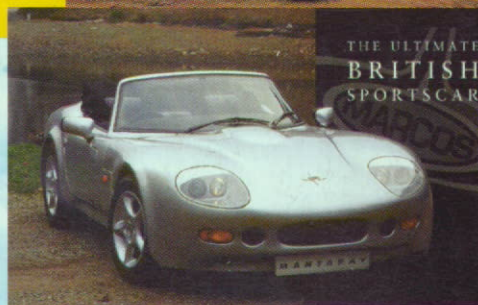
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