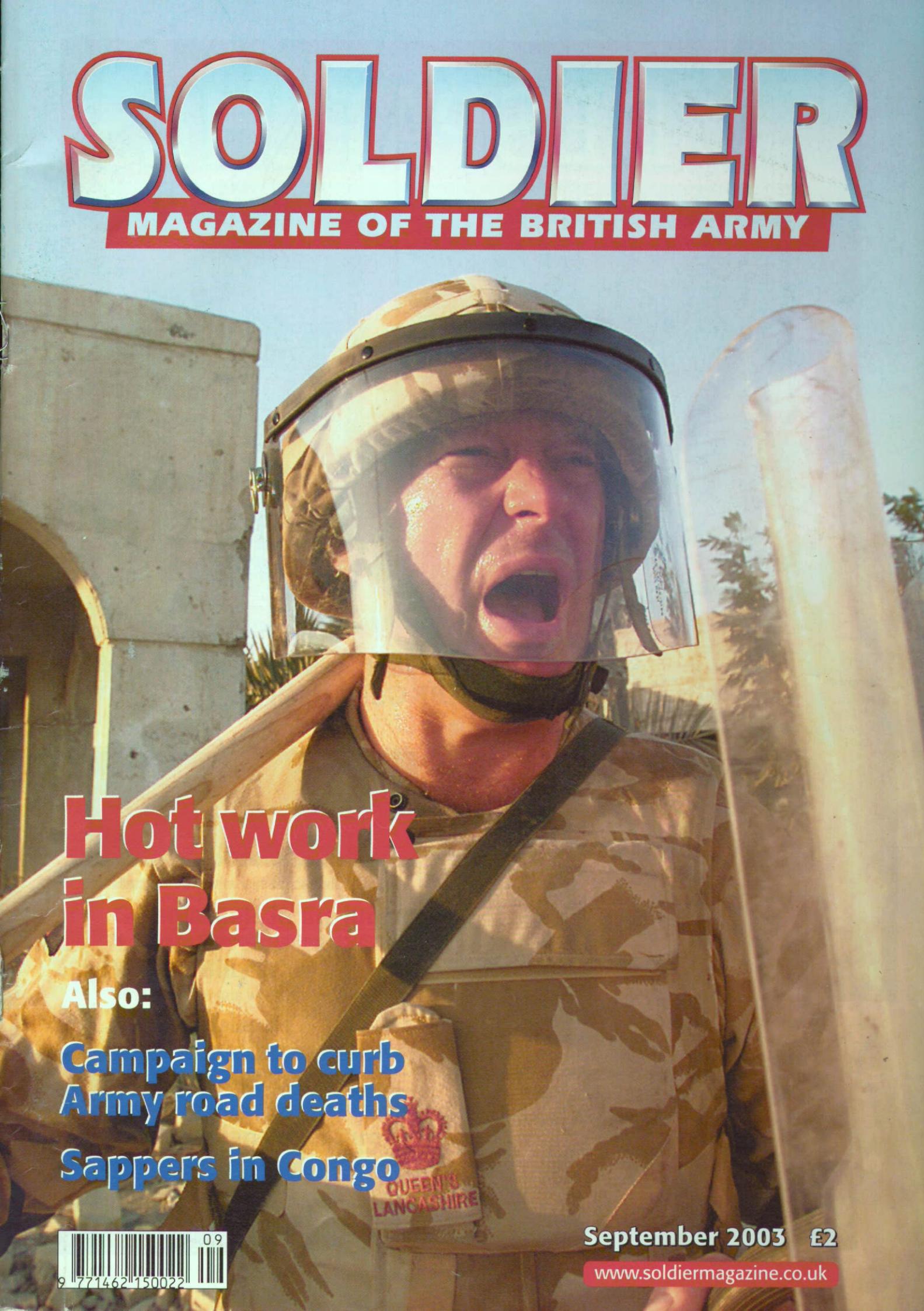


SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY



Hot work in Basra

Also:

Campaign to curb
Army road deaths

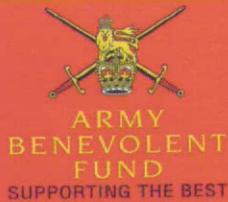
Sappers in Congo



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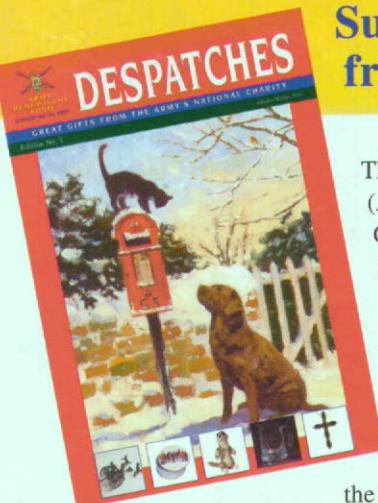


DESPATCHES

GREAT GIFTS FROM THE ARMY'S NATIONAL CHARITY



Support the Army family with gifts from the **NEW ABF Gift Catalogue.**



The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) - the Army's National Charity - launches its new and improved gift catalogue, 'ABF Despatches' this month.

This autumn/winter issue sees the addition of some great new products made available to the public for the first time, including a range of goods from Nepal and an exclusive ABF wine.

The catalogue, which is available free of charge, makes gift buying easy for all your family and friends, whether civilian or military. It includes a huge range of gift ideas to suit any pocket including curry kits, toys, jewellery, jigsaws, belts, rugs and resin figures, as well as the ever-popular Piscator merchandise. It also features a wide range of Christmas cards.

'ABF Despatches' will be distributed from the beginning of September. To receive your **FREE** copy of 'ABF Despatches', please complete and return this coupon FREEPOST to: ABF Despatches, FREEPOST SW3705, London, SW7 5BR. Alternatively either telephone us on 01608 647451 or email: abfe@btconnect.com

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For further information about the Army Benevolent Fund or to order on-line please visit:

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The ABF is the Army's National Charity, committed to the welfare of soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in times of need.

Registered charity number 211645

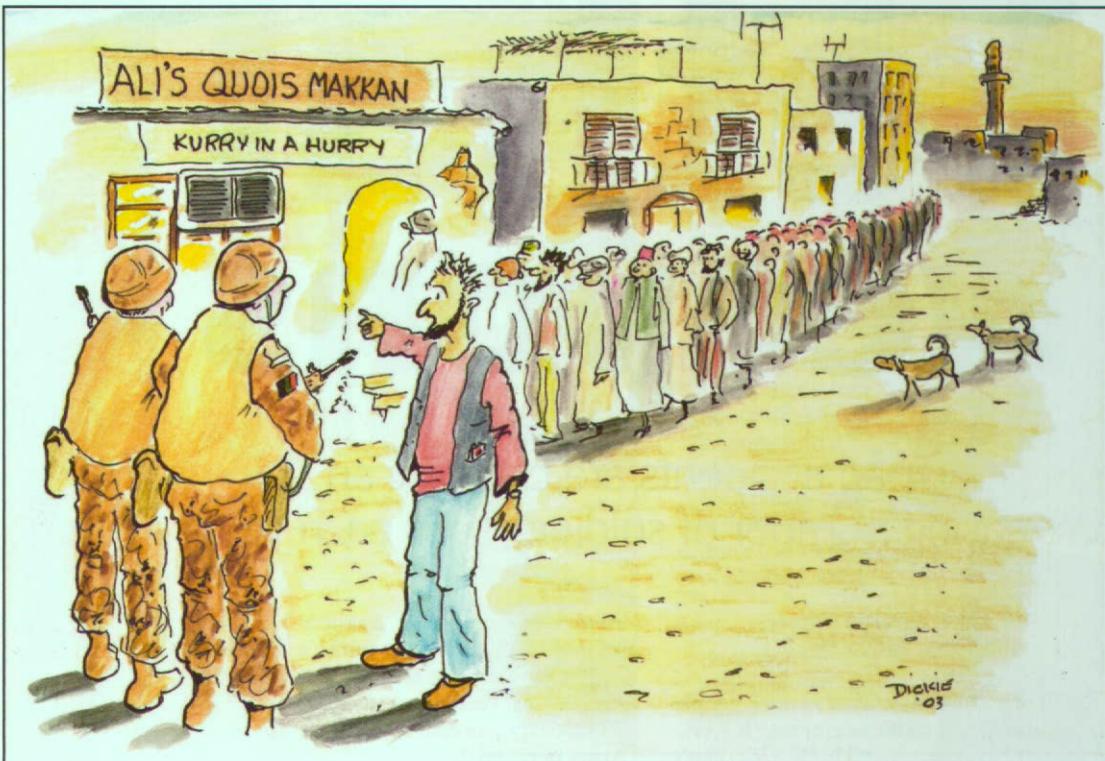
Cover picture

Hot work: WO2 (CSM) Darren Leigh carries out public order training with Burma Company, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Basra.

Troops from the QLR, 1 Kings, 1 KOSB, the Light Dragoons and 40th Regiment RA dealt with riots fuelled by petrol and power shortages in Basra, Az Zubayr and Maysan province.

Picture: Mike Weston

'No one is ever going to replace the Army, the infantryman' – Frederick Forsyth interview, see Books



"The curry's rubbish, but he's got the only working air conditioning in Basra" – See Pages 18-21

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

4 Lethal weapons

Off-duty road accidents claiming more lives

18 Troops at boiling point

Extreme temperatures test troops in Iraq

22 Congo's airbridge of hope

Sappers triple vital airfield capacity

27 Greenjackets in the jungle

Hot work on Exercise Red Stripe for C Company

29 What a Billy Whiz . . .

Blind biker shatters world speed record

35 Stefan's friends

Lancers rally round disfigured Bosnian boy

38 My Army: John Virgo

Snooker star enjoyed his days as a cadet

40 Canadian adventure

Trails End offers superb opportunities

42 New score for Army music

Military bands face time of change



TV documentary was, in my view, a scurrilous, unbalanced attempt to discredit professional personnel, military and civilian, who work on British bases in Cyprus – Mail, Page 74

PLUS

31 Kitstop: Bowman

33 Chip

37 My other job

46 Sport

53 Win £100

62 Info section

64 Diary

66 Wish list

68 Book reviews

73 Soldier to soldier

74 Mail

78 Vox pop



Lethal weapons

Off-duty road accidents are claiming an increasing number of soldiers' lives each year

Report: Andrea Frazer
Pictures: Steve Dock

FACT: In 2002, the Army lost 47 people in off-duty road traffic accidents (RTAs).

"Think it can't happen to you? Well think again," said WO1 Andrew Frost, Master Driver at HQ Land Command.

"Apart from operations, driving is the most dangerous on- and off-duty activity that Army personnel are involved in on a daily basis. However many soldiers don't give the risk of having an accident a second's thought."

Research has shown that the vast majority of accidents are preventable by the driver behind the wheel taking a more responsible attitude towards his or her driving behaviour.

Figures released by the Association of Chief Police Officers in 2002 state that 95 per cent of accidents are the result of human error and claim that only five per cent are unavoidable.

The question remains: how is the Army managing to reduce on-duty fatalities but not those that occur off-duty?

"Soldiers who drive military vehicles have been fully trained and familiarised with the vehicle. They are often under the command and control of a more senior

increasing number of Soldiers killed or injured in off-duty road traffic accidents.

Off-duty fatalities rose by a alarming 30 per cent last year, from 36 in 2001 to 47 in 2002. Sixty per cent of these deaths were Army personnel.

Since January 2003, a total of 14 soldiers have died in off-duty accidents compared with four on-duty fatalities.

"The unnecessary death of a soldier in a road accident is bad enough," said WO1 Frost. "But imagine the anguish and sense of loss experienced by next-of-kin, friends and colleagues of those killed. The pain for those left behind goes on and on."

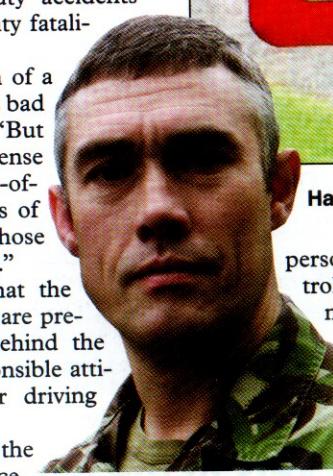
It appears that off-duty soldiers, free from the constraints of the military environment, are likely to let their hair down and take more risks when on leave than they would in work time.

"Camp gates anywhere in the UK on a Friday afternoon notoriously resemble the starting grid at Le Mans, with soldiers bomb-bursting to all corners of Europe and the UK for the weekend," said WO1 Frost.

"Many adopt a totally different mindset when they get behind the wheel of their own vehicle."

"Soldiers often have to travel long distances to spend time with loved ones."

"Their priority is to get home as quickly as possible. And in an attempt to squeeze as much as possible into the weekend, many will travel back to work late on Sunday night or return at daft



WO1 Andrew Frost, HQ Land Command Master Driver



Harsh reality: Sixty per cent of off-duty road traffic fatalities among Service men and women since 2001 have been Army personnel

person and operate in a controlled and disciplined environment," said WO1 Frost.

"They know their driving is under scrutiny and if it isn't up to scratch they may be held accountable."

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"Their priority is to get home as quickly as possible. And in an attempt to squeeze as much as possible into the weekend, many will travel back to work late on Sunday night or return at daft

o'clock on Monday morning having had very little sleep and often suffering from a hangover. It's a recipe for disaster.

"The groups most at risk are no different from our civilian counterparts – it is young men in the 17-25 bracket and those in their first two years of driving. Additionally there is an alarming increase in fatalities in the 37-40 age bracket."

"We continue to suffer a high number of fatal road traffic accidents and, although we are making good progress in reducing the number of fatalities on duty, there has been a significant increase in off-duty deaths," said Maj General Richard Shirreff, Chief of Staff of HQ Land and chairman of the Army standing committee on training safety.

"It is absolutely vital that we do all we can to highlight the dangers of 'driving on the edge' to our people. Soldiers must apply the same common sense and defensive driving techniques they are taught in

their military driver training when driving and riding their own cars and bikes off duty. The bottom line is that apart from the tragedy of losing so many young lives, we simply cannot afford to lose such quality people."

The Army has introduced a number of driving initiatives in recent years which aim to raise awareness of road safety issues. These include "Drive alive", a CD-rom based defensive driving package, driver behavioural presentations, driver training and testing, regular campaigns and a hard-hitting road safety play performed at military locations worldwide by the Walking Forward Theatre Company.

Training is available to all soldiers and courses range from the basic Service GS Driver through to the RosPA/Institute of Advanced Motor Driving test.

For more about defensive driving or other road safety issues, contact your local MT staff or Master Driver.

• Road safety is not the sexiest topic of conversation and, when it's mentioned, troops just switch off and assume they are in for a lecture,

ward Theatre Company.

Arrive alive – don't become a statistic

Easy tiger: Cut the speed and stick to the limit.

Take a break: Stop for a 15-minute break every two hours on a long journey and if sleepy stop in a safe place, take a short nap or drink two or three cups of strong coffee.

Demon liquor: Don't drink and drive and avoid driving with a hangover.

Bling bling: Is a call more important than a life? Making or receiving a call, even using a hands-free phone, can distract your attention from driving and lead to an accident. Drivers who use mobiles while driving are up to four times more likely to have an accident than those who don't. RosPA states that no driver should use a mobile phone while driving.

Clunk click: Belt up in the front and back. Twenty years of mandatory seatbelt wearing for front-seat passengers and drivers have saved an estimated 50,000 lives, 590,000 serious casualties and 1.5 million minor casualties. But with nearly half of all passengers failing to belt up in the back, it is clear that even more lives could be saved.

• Skid pan alley – Page 37

At 5mph over the 30mph limit, how much further does it take to stop?



John died in his sleep. He was warm, comfortable and doing 70 mph on the motorway.



Great night out 12 month hangover



You're four times more likely to have a road accident when you're on a mobile phone.

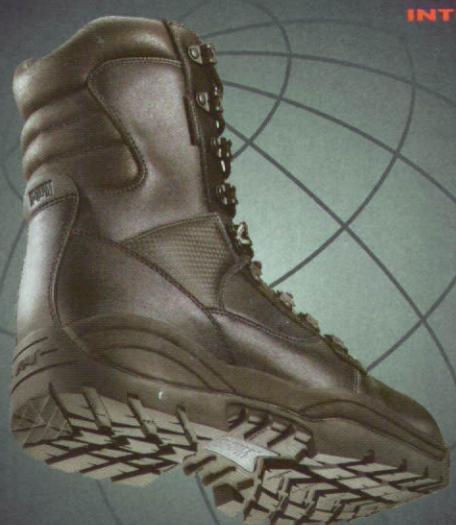




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Fusiliers on front line in Ardoyne

SOLDIERS from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers wore helmets, visors and protective clothing to line the route of the annual Orangemen's parade through the Ardoyne in North Belfast.

The proximity of loyalist and nationalist communities in the Ardoyne has the potential to explode in an instant, and the estate has seen significant violence in the past two years. Levels of disorder there can act

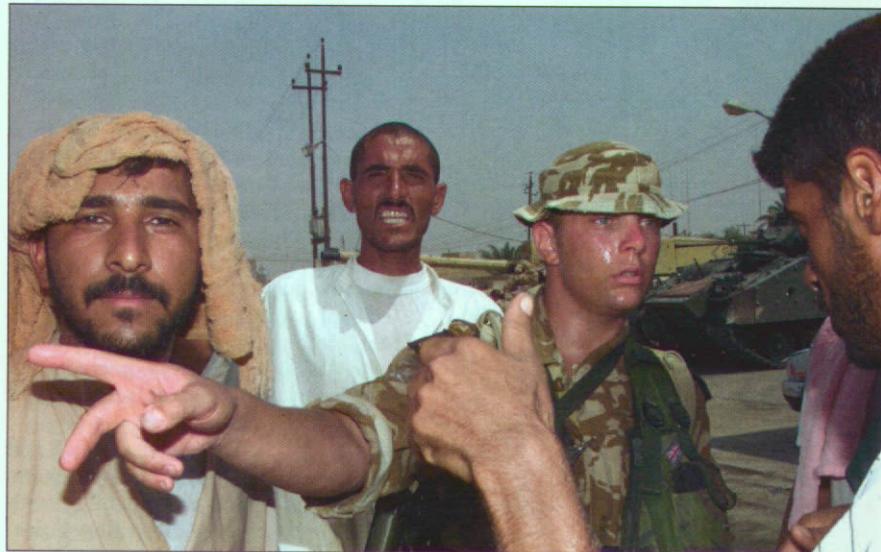
as a barometer for the rest of Belfast. Based at Girdwood in the north of the city, soldiers from 2 RRF have patrolled the religious divides round the clock.

One stone can spark a fully-fledged riot, although real efforts are being made on both sides to prevent civil unrest.

Troops from three regiments patrolled the Ardoyne during the Orangemen's parade in an operation led by Lt Col James

Denny, CO 2 RRF, in conjunction with the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Thirteen mobile screens were taken in to create a visual and physical barrier as the two communities were virtually sealed off to enable the parade to go ahead.

Soldiers endured a short barrage of bottles and stones more aimed at the opposing community but quickly identified the trouble and quelled the violence.



Heated discussion: LCpl Simon Jeffery of Badger Squadron, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, directs a local man to a petrol station in Basra. Fuel shortages brought tension to a head

Fuel crisis sparks violent protests

From Andrea Frazer in Basra

AN outbreak of violence in southern Iraq signalled an end to the honeymoon period enjoyed by British troops.

Tension in urban areas increased significantly as motorists queued for petrol for many hours in baking heat. The lines, often three deep, stretched several miles.

The crisis was a catalyst for violence as civilians vented anger at the perceived lack of progress by coalition forces in repairing the country's infrastructure. But years of neglect by the former regime destroyed the infrastructure to a point where Iraq cannot produce enough electricity, fuel and water to meet demand.

Protests at the shortages escalated into riots at petrol stations in northern Basra.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers were confronted by angry

crowds of up to 2,000 in Basra, while troops from 40th Regiment RA deployed at Az Zubayr and the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Light Dragoons dealt with trouble in Maysan province, firing baton rounds.

Fuel shortages were caused by a lack of electrical power reaching the refineries. Lines had been cut by saboteurs and fuel smuggling added to the problem. British troops were accused of stealing the oil until an information campaign was put into place to correct this misconception.

Patrols targeting tankers and barges smuggling fuel out of the country were stepped up. Successes include the seizure of a ship carrying at least 1,100 tons of diesel fuel. The situation was steadily improving, with extra supplies sourced and escorts for tankers on the road. Sappers helped repair pylons to restore power.

● See Pages 18-21

As violence spread across southern Iraq, the workload for British troops increased. In addition to patrolling and guard tasks, soldiers were operating in public order and counter-terrorism roles. There have been 17 attacks on coalition forces in eight weeks.

Officer dies in Basra bomb blast

CAPT David Jones, 29, of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment was killed in a remote-controlled bomb blast in Basra on August 14.

The bomb exploded as the military ambulance he was travelling in passed by. The driver and another patient were injured. The vehicle was on a routine trip from the patient's unit to 202 Field Hospital at Shaibah.

Lt Col Jorge Mendonça, CO 1 QLR, said: "Dai Jones was a courageous, warm-hearted and very popular officer who will be sorely missed. The battalion's thoughts are very much with his family, and especially his wife Izzy."

He had been in Iraq since June 10 for Op Telic 2 and had also served with 1 (UK) Armd Div during the first phase.

Media ops officer Maj Charlie Mayo said: "This was a direct attack on a clearly marked ambulance without any justification. We will work closely with the police to track down those responsible."

● Pte Jason Smith, 32, a TA soldier attached to 1 KOSB, collapsed and died after coming off patrol in the Al Amarah area, north of Basra. Pte Smith, who had been in Iraq since mid-June and was fully acclimatised, was a member of the 52nd Lowland Regiment.

Lt Col Mark Castle, CO 1 KOSB, said: "Pte Smith was a committed and highly-motivated Territorial soldier with a great deal of experience. He had settled into the battalion exceptionally well and will be sadly missed."

● Capt James Linton RA, of 40th Regiment RA, died at Az Zubayr after an 0600 run. He collapsed while exercising with battery members. Capt Linton, 42, leaves a wife and two children, five and three.



Capt Jones and his wife, Isobel

Scots' royal day



Royal inspection: The Princess Royal reviews soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots after presenting new Colours to the regiment at Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh. Picture: Dick Goodwin

Big Brother scare



Who's watching? Sgt Carl Aspinwall and LCpl Sarah Douglas from the Northolt Troop, 11 EOD Regiment RLC bomb disposal team carried out two controlled explosions on a suspicious bag detected by an explosive sniffer dog at Channel Four's *Big Brother* house in film studios in Hertfordshire. It contained only electrical equipment, but the six remaining contestants in the house at the time were evacuated while it was checked out.

Things that go bang . . .

EOD units in line for .50 'bomb blaster'



A BRITISH-made .50 calibre rifle is to be introduced across all three Services to make life a little safer for bomb disposal units.

About 70 of the Accuracy International AW50F bolt-action rifles will be supplied, each with a high-powered telescopic sight, laser range-finder and spotting scope, in a £3 million off-the-shelf purchase.

Three years ago the Army bought 90 large calibre Super Magnum .338 rifles – the L115A1 – from the Portsmouth-based company to beef up the firepower available at platoon level.

Specialist Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy explosive ordnance disposal units will be issued with the weapon to

render large bombs safe at long range when access is difficult. The round perforates the bomb casing and the heat generated ignites the explosive – resulting in what is described as a “low-order event” during which the casing is split open by gases given off by the burning explosive. Although tests have proved the system, a low-order event cannot be guaranteed so the rifle will be used only when the risk of a “high-order” detonation is acceptable.

The AW50F, which is expected to be in service by next year, replaces an older weapon of the same calibre.

● The MoD is to upgrade the Royal Artillery's AS90 155mm howitzers, so increasing accuracy and reliability, with part of the Laser Inertial Artillery Pointing System (LINAPS) digital gun sight.

Light forces to get 'go-anywhere' missile

LIGHT forces will go into battle with a mobile rocket system when a £100-million project enters service in late 2007.

Based on a six-wheeled, four-wheel drive Supacat vehicle coupled to a self-loading launcher from Lockheed Martin, the system will provide light, airmobile units such as The Parachute Regiment with the means of firing the latest precision GPS-guided rockets to ranges of more than 60km.

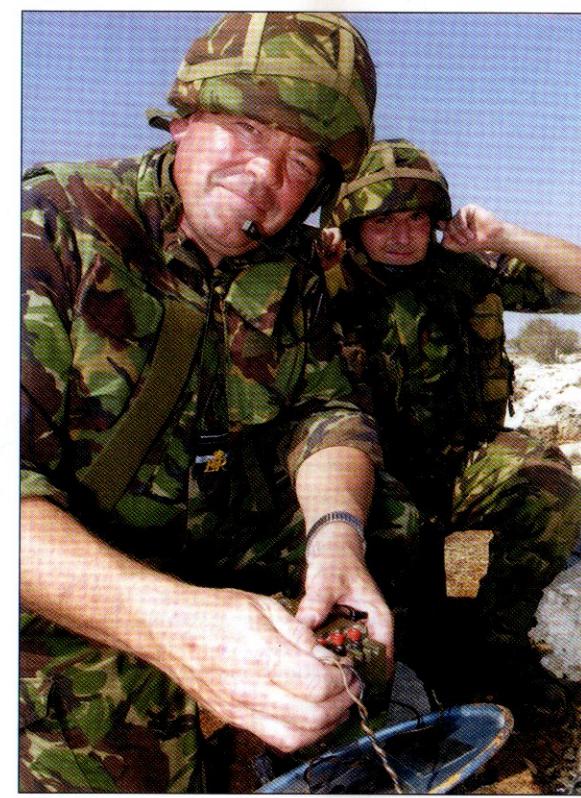
Each vehicle will carry six rockets, all ten times more accurate than existing rocket systems. Two will fit in a C-130J Hercules aircraft, while one can be carried underslung by a Chinook.

An assessment-phase contract has been given to Bedfordshire-based INSYS Ltd to design, build and trial the system.

● Bowman latest – Page 31



Cyprus surprises



Big noise: Air Vice Marshal Bill Rimmer, left, Commander British Forces (Cyprus), prepares to initiate an ambush with explosives at Pyla ranges. Sgt Tony Wilson, of C Company, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry watches anxiously. CBF, who is leaving the RAF, was treated to a day of surprises and loud bangs by the battalion. His farewell visit ended in dinner and the presentation of a LI silver bugle. Maj Gen Peter Pearson, Chief of Staff Field Army, is to take over. Picture: Cpl Will Craig

Hackles all at sea



Ahoi there: Five soldiers from The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers sailed from the Mediterranean back to Faslane, Scotland in the nuclear submarine HMS Splendid. CSgt Tom Darkoh (of 2 RRF) and LCpl Nick Channon (C Coy, Londons), and Fus Chris Breen, Mark Greaves and Gareth Lambie (all 2 RRF) are pictured holding *Splendid's* Jolly Roger in the weapons' storage compartment. The regiment has long-standing links with several Royal Navy warships, but the affiliation to the *Splendid* is its first with a submarine.

If you have a 'LOA' survey, get it filled in

that money is spent on each of 30 different areas.

Appropriate LOA rates will be set once expenditure standards for the UK have been benchmarked.

Responses will be collated by the Defence Analytical Services Agency, updating levels and patterns of spending since the last survey four years ago.

Given the exponential growth in internet use, analysts anticipate much-changed data in the section on communications.

To be valid, the surveys have to be returned by September 12.

Minden roses survive posting to Basra

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers celebrated Minden Day on the first day of August, as they do every year.

But what was extraordinary about this year's parade was that it took place in Iraq. Interflora flew out 700 fresh red roses free of charge – the order would have cost about £25,000 – and the flowers were presented by Maj Frances Castle, the wife of commanding officer Lt Col Mark Castle. She is serving in Basra with HQ 19 Mechanized Brigade.



Tradition: Wearing roses behind the cap badges on their tam-o'-shanters are, from left to right, WO2 (RQMS) Robert Stuart, CSgt David McCleary, SSgt Lee Swan, CSgt William McLaren and Cpl Neil Bentley

● ENTERPRISING sappers at Waterbeach Barracks in Cambridgeshire were tired of their dilapidated squadron rest room . . . so they designed, resourced and constructed a new one. The men of 34 Field Squadron (Air Support) RE, 39 Engineer Regiment, completed the task in 12 months

IN BRIEF

● Soldiers of 127 (Dragon) Battery paraded at Mansergh Barracks, Guttersloh to say a nostalgic farewell to 26 Regiment RA before arms plotting to Larkhill to become part of 19 Regiment RA, the Highland Gunners. Following its involvement in the Gulf conflict, 26 Regt is now preparing to deploy on Op Telic 3 in November.

● Cpl "Jonah" Jones of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment has completed a four-month secondment as a team leader with the Prince's Trust in Stoke on Trent. His Tern Hill-based battalion also supported the team by lending the regimental sergeant major to give a presentation on discipline

and laying on a spectacular day's entertainment in Clive Barracks. At least two of the youngsters in the team have decided to join the Army. Nationwide secondments to the Prince's Trust can be organised through commanding officers. More information from Services liaison officer Maj Nigel Hill at the Trust's HQ on 0207 543 1328.

● Games nights in the joint officers' and WOs' and sergeants' mess at the Northern Ireland Reinforcement Training Team at Ballykinler Training Centre have raised more than £7,500 for local and military charities in the past 16 months. The events, run by CSgt Anto Wickham, have been supported by soldiers passing through.

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S101A	Black/Brown reversible leather belt. RHA Cypher on buckle	14.50
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Selection of Blazer Badges RA, RAA & RA Cypher. Navy & Black	9.65	

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S37	Flat with engraved Cypher (Large).	each 3.50
S38	Flat with engraved Cypher (Small).	each 3.50
S76	Flat with die struck RA Badge (Large).	2.95
S77	Flat with die struck RA Badge (Small).	2.95

CAP BADGES

S103	Cloth Cap Badge - gold and silver wire.	3.50
S104	RA — Small (Brass).	3.25
S104A	RA — Large (brass) cap badge. E11R revolving wheel.	4.50
S104B	Brass helmet plate (Reproduction. Victorian c1878)	15.50
S104E	KGV1 — Large (brass) cap badge. Revolving wheel (Re-strike).	4.50

CAR BADGES

S112	Gold RA Cypher on blue background.	4.70
CHINA MUG		

S73	Dark Blue china mug with RA Gun Badge in yellow.	4.90
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COFFEE MUG

S74	Coffee Mug — stoneware pottery. RA Badge relief.	6.60
COMB CASE		

S31	Comb in leather effect case. RA Gun badge and Cypher relief.	2.50
CUFF LINKS		

S44A	Gilt oval cuff links. Regimental colours. Zig zag design. Swivel link fitting.	10.76
S46	Oval, silver hallmark cuff links with gilt RA Gun Badge.	45.00
S48	Red enamel shield RA Gun Badge in gold.	7.75

Matching tie slides available for S44 and S48 Cuff links.

CUMMERBUND

S67	Silk. Zig zag — Regimental colours.	19.95
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DIARY

P61	Pocket Diary — hardback. Maroon/navy blue with embossed RA Gun Badge in Gold. One week to view — useful information includes map of London Underground.	2.85
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FLASKS

S106	Countryman Chunky 6oz Pewter Flask. Drinking cup incorporated in stopper. Engraved RA Gun Badge.	16.30
S10D	Polished pewter 6oz. Engraved RA Gun Badge.	13.25
S10E	Pewter Flask with funnel for easy filling. RA Gun Badge	19.75

KEY RINGS

S51	RA Badge on tan leather tab.	2.00
S52	Large Tan Leather - Embroidered RA Gun Badge	3.95

MEDAL HOLDER

S66	Medal holder — saves damaging your suit, etc.	2.30
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MODEL FIGURES

S131	Gunner carrying 155 shell, height approx 13", includes plinth.	66.50
S132	Gunner carrying 155 shell, height 10" includes plinth.	49.55
S133	Northern Ireland Urban Patrol SA80.	54.50

MODEL FIGURES — BRONZE

S136	Bronze figure Officer RHA.	85.00
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S140	Bronze figure Bombay Horse Artillery.	85.00
S141	Bronze figure Northern Ireland RA (SLR).	85.00
S142	Bronze figure Northern Ireland RHA (SLR).	85.00
S143	Bronze figure RHA driver.	85.00
S145	Bronze Gunner RSA Larkhill.	85.00
S146	RHA Gunner c1809. Includes framed details of Regt. 9" x 1/2 plinth.	51.50
S147	RHA Gunner c1809. Includes framed details of Regt.	64.86
S148	IRAQ CONFLICT - kneeling gunner with SA80 rifle.	91.50

MODEL GUN BRONZE

Bronze 25PDR.	deployed on its turntable with spent shell cases and ancillaries 1/72 scale.	
On suitable presentation base		80.00

PAPER KNIVES

S70	Solid Brass dagger paperknife — RA Badge relief on handle.	6.10
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PENS

P4	Kingston biro pen. Once a Gunner always a Gunner, RAA	3.50
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SCARVES & CRAVAT

S41	RA Regimental zig zag pattern scarf. 60" x 12". Zig zag front, plain reverse. Polyester.	17.35
S41A	RA Regimental zig zag pattern cravat. Zig zag design both sides. Polyester.	14.00
S41B	RA Regimental zig zag design. Lambswool scarf, 60 x 12.	14.96
S41C	RA Regimental zig zag design. Shetland wool double thickness — very warm scarf.	23.50

SHIELDS & BANNERETTE

S84A	RA Gun Badge Banner. Embroidered gold & silver wire on navy blue background with gold edging & tassels. 91/2" x 12".	26.00
S84B	RA Cypher bannerette. Embroidered gold & silver wire on navy blue background with gold edging & tassels. 91/2" x 12".	26.00
S84BBD	RA Cypher badge on blue painted background 7" x 6".	25.50
S84C	Heraldic RA Badge on red painted wooden Shield. 7" x 6" with Royal Regiment of Artillery scroll.	24.50
S84D	Superb Wooden Shield. 8" x 10". Hand painted RA Crest. Special order.	39.75
S88	Wooden Shield. 51/2" x 71/2". RA Cypher in Pewter with Scroll. RAA or Royal Regiment of Artillery. SUITABLE FOR PRESENTATION.	16.60

SPECTACLE CASE

S43	Leather effect case in brown. RA Badge & Cypher.	2.90
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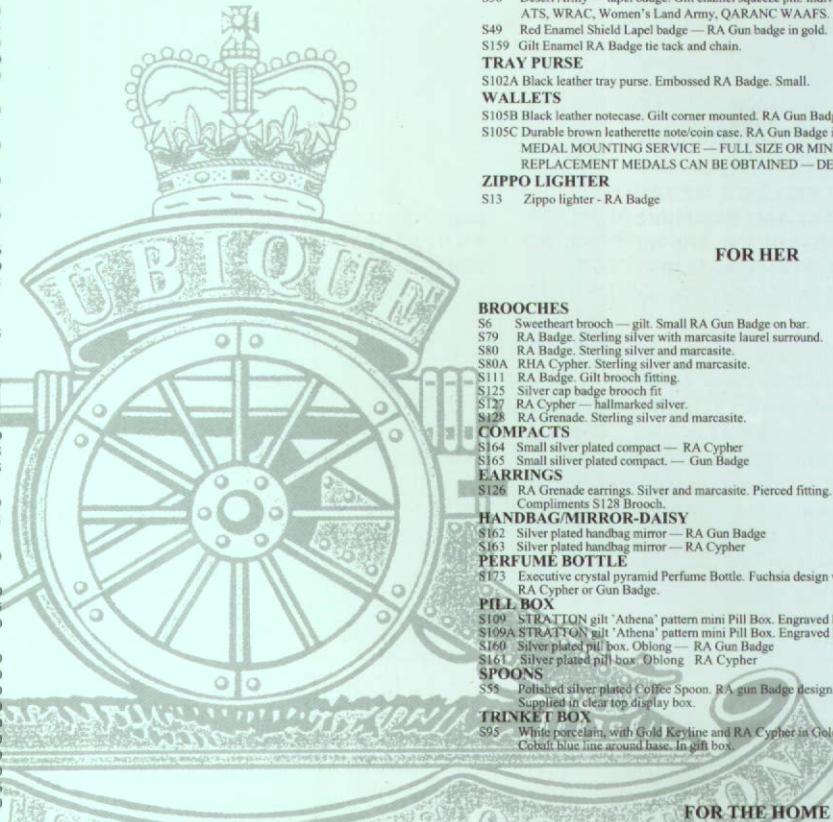
SWEATSHIRTS/SWEATERS/PULLOVERS

S22	Polo Shirt — two button pique with knitted collar — navy blue. RA Gun Badge motif. Sizes: Sml, Med, Lge, X-Lge, XX-Lge. (Please add extra 50p for XXL.)	15.00
S22W	Polo Shirt — two button pique with knitted collar — white. RA Gun Badge motif. Sizes: Sml, Med, Lge, X-Lge, XX-Lge. (Please add extra 50p for XXL.)	15.00
S23	White cotton short sleeve flight shirt. RA Gun Badge on pocket. Please quote collar size.	15.50
S24	Long Sleeved Sweatshirt — Navy Blue — RA Gun Badge Motif. 70% Cotton/30% Polyester. Med — Lge — Ex Lge.	19.70
S26	50% Wool/50% Acrylic - Long Sleeved Sweater - Navy Blue - V-neck. RA Gun Badge embroidered. Sizes 38"-48".	22.50

TANKARDS

S118	Lidded tankard standard gauge — RA Gun badge	26.95
S120	RA Cypher etched superior quality 1pt pewter.	31.00
S121	RA Gun Badge etched standard quality 1pt pewter.	15.70
S121A	Standard 1pt pewter tankard - mounted RA Gun Badge.	17.50
S122	Lidded tankard. Large standard gauge. RA Gun Badge relief.	34.50
S171	Crystal - Hand-cut 1pt tankard RA Cypher or Gun Badge.	29.32

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S64CC	Clip-on - RA Regimental zig zag - 3" blade. Smooth finish.	8.50
S64D	RA Regimental zig zag - 3" blade. Silk.	16.95
S64E	Silk, self-tie bow tie. zig zag Regimental colours.	12.40

THE SLIDE

S48A	Red enamel shield tie slide. RA Gun Badge in Gold.	5.80
S114	Large round gilt metal - engraved RA Badge. (Compatible with S44 cuff links).	17.30

TIE TACKS

S47	SILVER Gun Badge tie tack and chain. Very neat 1/2 width.	15.95
S29C	RA tie tack/lapel badge. Gilt enamel squeeze pin. Individually boxed.	3.10
S30	Desert Army — lapel badge. Gilt enamel squeeze pin. Individually boxed.	2.55

ATLAS, WRAC, Women's Land Army, QARANC WAAFs.

S49	Red Enamel Shield Lapel badge — RA Gun badge in gold.	3.00
S159	Gilt Enamel RA Badge tie tack and chain.	5.00

TRAY PURSE

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



Real life: War art doesn't come any more realistic than this work submitted to the 69th annual exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society at The Mall Galleries in London.

It was painted by WO2 Dougie Farthing, inset, in Afghanistan with the only tools at hand – a 2½-in paintbrush on the wooden top of an Army MFO crate. Dougie was promoted in June and awarded the MBE for his work in Afghanistan, where he was the operations colour sergeant with C Company, 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

The painting depicts a contact between D Coy, 2 Para and unpaid, disaffected Northern Alliance soldiers who went into the town of Niaberig at night to steal and kill. The AFAS

exhibition of paintings and sculpture, most of them of non-military subjects, was Dougie's first. He told *Soldier*: "I paint, draw and sketch most places I go, but this is the first time I've been in an exhibition. The painting has now gone to the National Army Museum, which is great."

After making initial sketches and paintings in Afghanistan, Dougie finished the project once the unit had returned to the UK. Fifty prints of the final painting were quickly snapped up by D Coy soldiers. Picture: Steve Dock

● See www.afas.org.uk



Tankies take up Alpine challenge

A TEAM from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment beat nearest rivals the 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and 1 General Support Regiment Workshop REME to the line in the Alpine challenge competition which has replaced the old Harz Mountain marathon in Germany.

Designed by the Alpine Training Centre in Bavaria to promote adventurous training among units, the two-day challenge tests physical endurance, mental stamina, team spirit, navigational skills and route selection.

Eight of the 26 three-man teams which set out from Oberstdorf in the beautiful



Showing the strain: Competitors on the challenge

Allgau region of the Bavarian Alps completed the course, the first day over 45km with 4,500m of climbing, the second over 35km.

Not so leaky

SAPPERS from Royal Engineers Close Support Team (Warminster) fixed the leaking bank of an activity lake at UK Youth's Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre in the New Forest. The repair was designed by 518 STRE Military Works.

Wives on course in Rutland

VOCATIONAL courses available to the dependents of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at St George's Barracks in Rutland under a £50,000 European Social Fund project will benefit the wives of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment when they arrive at North Luffenham next month. In addition to dozens of free courses, the Steps into Employment initiative provides for work experience.

Housing list trio

BACCOCK Prime Solutions Ltd, Serco Ltd and PriDE Ltd have been shortlisted as potential tenderers for the MoD's £460 million regional housing contract for the South East. The contract covers 94 sites.

GOSH's silver bounty

A SUM of €42,000 (about £32,300) was raised by Elmpt-based 7 Signal Regiment for Great Ormond Street Hospital and military charities following 12 months of fundraising under its fourth Exercise Silver Child. The idea of Capt Chris Hymas, Silver Child has raised thousands of pounds since 1992.

Nervous of flying? Brize team can help

IF you break out into a cold sweat at the thought of flying, a team of Royal Air Force specialists can help you overcome your phobia.

A four-day programme at RAF Brize Norton involves relaxation techniques, desensitisation and virtual reality, talks by pilots, a visit to air traffic control and safety demonstrations. It culminates in an actual flight.

Community psychiatric nurse Sgt Caroline McSherry RAF told *Soldier* that several personnel formerly crippled by fear of flying had learned to manage their anxiety so well that they had fallen asleep during the flight.

"When I joined the forces myself," she said, "I was not the biggest fan of flying. However, as an aeromed-trained nurse, flying became almost a weekly experience and so I had to treat myself.

"I just have to look around me on every flight I go on now to spot the fact that there are several people who appear to be suffering unnecessarily. This need no longer be the case."

Fear of flying affects up to 40 per cent of the population and ten per cent avoid aircraft altogether. Symptoms include rapid heart rate, sweating, trembling, fast breathing, muscular tension, nausea and breathlessness.

Some phobics feel the urge to flee or freeze, believing they are going to die. The condition can cause feelings of shame, embarrassment, anger and fear. Some use alcohol to avoid the issue.

The RAF Brize Norton programme is open to military personnel from all three Services on referral from a doctor at your medical centre.

Special de-livery



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

Clean sweep: Capt Simon Drewett, right, of 711 Mobile Bath and Laundry Unit RLC, with the silver medal presented by David Hunt, left, Deputy Master of the Worshipful Company of Launderers, in recognition of the Territorial Army unit's services in the Gulf. The presentation took place at a garden party at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham to celebrate the first ten years of the Royal Logistic Corps.

The day culminated with Brig Richard Rook, Director RLC, dedicating ten trees donated by the parish council in whose area the barracks lie.

All for one ...



Making a splash: Cadets from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and their French and German counterparts join in a tri-partite exchange exercise at RMAS. Leading the way out of the lake is OCdt Louise Halstead (RMAS), followed by Lt Jean-Christophe Hume (St Cyr), OCdt Peter Farrimond, blue shirt, and OCdt Oliver Barnett (RMAS).

The annual, week-long exchanges involve 50-strong parties of officer cadets visiting Sandhurst, St Cyr and Dresden. The programme at the Royal Military Academy included an adventure race, a skill-at-arms meeting and visits to the Tower of London and Houses of Parliament. Picture: Mike Weston

Tribute paid to Korean heroes

From David Falcke in Korea

YOUNG soldiers stood shoulder-to-shoulder with veterans of the Korean War to remember the sacrifice of more than 1,000 British Servicemen who died in the conflict.

They took part in events throughout Korea to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice in 1953.

The British contingent of 14 serving soldiers and 35 veterans was joined by Korean War veterans from 21 other nations.

The Regular Army presence was masterminded by Brig Martin Vine, deputy commander London District and the last Gloucestershire Regiment commanding officer before its amalgamation into The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. Units which served in



Homage to fallen: The Colour Party at the Solma-Ri battle site on Gloster Hill include, from left, CSgt Michael Hope RGBW, Capt Charlie Grist RGBW, CSM Brian Anders, Kings, LCpl Moshan Shah PWRR and Cpl Tony Devanny DWR. Picture: David Falcke

Korea were invited to nominate soldiers to take part in the anniversary events, which were led by the President of South Korea.

The RA, RTR, PWRR, RRF, Kings, LI, RRW, RGBW, DWR and A and SH were represented.

Capt Charlie Grist, RGBW, whose grandfather, Maj Digby Grist, fought with the Glosters in Korea, led the Regular contingent.

Regiments long since disbanded were represented by veterans, among them soldiers of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, Durham Light Infantry, Royal Fusiliers, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Essex Regiment Middlesex Regiment and the Royal Army Service Corps.

The British Korean Veterans Association and Korean Veterans Association helped with the organisation.

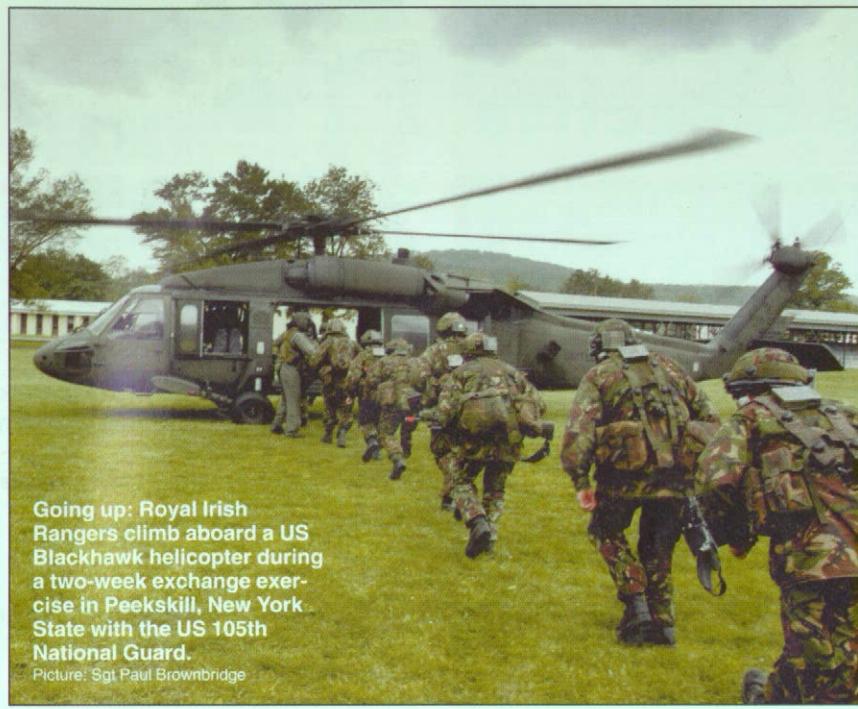
LBdr Ian Clarke, of Larkhill-based Imjin Battery, 19 Regiment RA paid homage to Pte W H Thomas, a friend of his father killed in action, while Gen Roddy Cordy-Simpson, President of the Royal British Legion, visited the grave of his wife's uncle.

Home front: Royal British Legion standard bearer Charles Wakeling, a former private in the Essex Regiment, awaits the arrival of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at a service in Westminster Abbey to mark the end of hostilities in Korea 50 years ago. Picture: Mike Weston

IN BRIEF

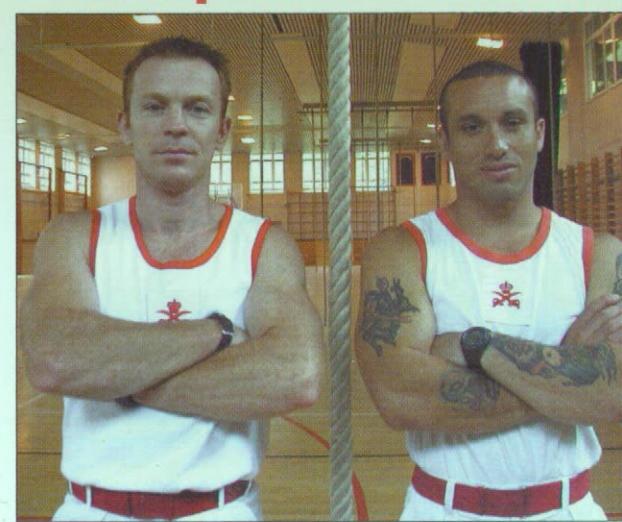
- The Earl of Wessex met Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force nurses at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and the burns unit in Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham. Some of the medical staff had recently returned from tours of duty in Iraq.
- Three hundred Kent schoolchildren

laid posies on the graves of Canadian soldiers who died during the First World War and were buried in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery at Folkestone. The annual remembrance ceremony dates back to 1919 and in many cases children from the same families have kept up the tradition from generation to generation.



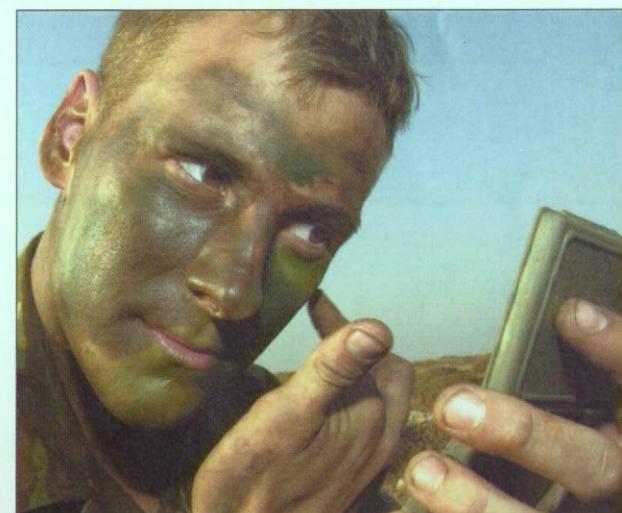
Going up: Royal Irish Rangers climb aboard a US Blackhawk helicopter during a two-week exchange exercise in Peekskill, New York State with the US 105th National Guard. Picture: Sgt Paul Brownbridge

Nice rope trick

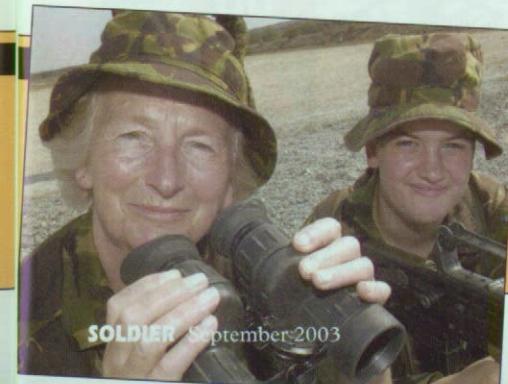


Going up: WO2 (QMSI) George Best, left, and Sgt (Sl) Dusty Miller, both APTC, each completed 1,080 15ft rope climbs in 24 hours to set a world record and raise more than £1,000 for the Farnborough-based Parity for Disability charity. They achieved it in the gym at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot, with APTC rope-climbing specialists on hand to ratify the attempt for the Guinness Book of Records. "We are exhausted," said Dusty, "but we are also proud and pleased to have helped an extremely good cause."

How do I look?



Eye contact: Pte Darren Wilson of 7 Platoon, Burma Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment prepares for a week of live-firing on the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area's Pyla Ranges in Cyprus. Night attacks and intensive training during the day prepared the soldiers for a six-week exercise in Belize. Picture: Cpl Will Craig



• The lord's a lady: A keen observer of 106 Regiment RA on exercise in Cyprus was Honorary Colonel Mary Fagan, left, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. Her husband is a former Army officer and her two sons also served in the Forces. With her is Gnr Lucy Mason of 269 Bty. The TA gunners were in Cyprus to complete a Lion Star exercise. Picture: Cpl Will Craig

- WO2 Steve Boswell and SSgt Eddie Eade from the Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court presented a cheque for £7,677 to the Royal Star and Garter Home. They raised the money by completing the gruelling Marathon des Sables in the Sahara desert and organising a charity regimental dinner-dance at Headley Court.

Assaulting the objective was the easy part ...

... reading orders
and calculating the
distance were the
real challenges!

Reading, writing and the ability to work with numbers are all skills for life that no soldier can afford to be without. For some, however, this is a real challenge.

Can you help?

By volunteering a few hours each week you could help Army personnel to meet that challenge and in the process gain yourself a national qualification. This is available to Link Up supporters at no cost.

As part of a national project, the Army Link Up pilot areas are Tidworth, Warminster and the South West; Höhne and Fallingbostel.

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Hands up who wants to get wet? Students at the Army Sub-Aqua Diving Centre at Bovington put on a demonstration to mark the official opening of the new facility in Stanley Barracks by Maj Gen Andrew Ritchie. Chief instructor at the centre is WO2 Alf Cranmer APTC. Regular and TA personnel who wish to bid for courses should see DCI Army No 1 2003 or contact the course clerks at the Army School of Physical Training on 94222 2103 or 94222 2123 for details.

Send us your best pictures

CALLING all photographers – especially amateurs. Once again you have the chance to see your work published in *Soldier*.

But speed is paramount. Send us your prints by **September 12** and the best, in the judgement of our Chief Photographer, will win a £25 voucher and appear in the October issue of the magazine.

If you need a little more time and would rather wait to be judged for the November issue, get your entries to us by **October 6**.

The contest will run until February and all pictures published will be judged for the *Soldier* Award, valued at £250, which is

one of the categories in the 2004 Army Photographic Competition.

Send your entries, preferably prints up to A4, to the Chief Photographer, *Soldier* (address in Page 3), including a self-addressed envelope for return, or e-mail them to phot@soldiermagazine.co.uk indicating "Soldier Photo Comp".

Soldier competition rules apply. Query line: 01252 347357 or Aldershot mil 2357.

● The 2003 Army Photographic Competition prizegiving, postponed because of Op Telic, will take place at the Ministry of Defence in London on September 26.

Top stars help Redcap appeal

WO2 Shirley Barrett, left, and WO2 Alex Smith are raffling a giant, autographed tennis ball to raise funds for the families of the six Royal Military Police soldiers killed at Al Majarr al Kabir in southern Iraq.

Shirley, an instructor with the Operational Training Advisory Team in Shorncliffe, and Alex, who is serving in Northern Ireland, worked at Wimbledon this year. The ball was signed by 30 top seeds, including Andre Agassi and Tim Henman, and by former stars John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova.

Tickets cost £1 each and will be drawn in November by the Provost Marshal (Army) at 156 Provost Coy RMP, Colchester. Cheques made out to "RMP CBF" may be sent to WO2 Smith, SIB RMP Det Lisburn, BFPO 801 or WO2 Barrett, OPTAT, Lydd Camp, Romney Marsh, Kent TN29 9JR.



Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● Britain's armed forces must adapt to American doctrine, equipment and "mindset", according to Air Marshal Glen Torpy, commander of British air power in the war against Iraq. His call for more integration with US forces was delivered at a conference at the Royal United Services Institute in London on the performance of British equipment in the conflict. – *Guardian*

● The Hague-based International Criminal Court is to study a dossier of 22 alleged incidents of human rights abuses by British forces in Iraq submitted by the Athens Bar Association. – *Times*

● The Army and the Royal Navy are fighting a turf war for control of the Royal Marine commandos amid a reorganisation of infantry forces to provide more rapid reaction units. – *Daily Telegraph*

(This report was strongly rebutted by the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Mike Jackson)

● Significant changes are being planned for the Army that could give some regiments more operational roles as more advanced equipment is brought into service. Some infantry battalions could be given specialist roles, such as armoured reconnaissance. – *Times*

● Pauline Prescott, wife of the Deputy Prime Minister, has spoken of her delight at being reunited with a missing son after more than 40 years. She had given him up for adoption after she fell pregnant as an unmarried 16-year-old. The son is now Lt Col Paul Watton, 47, of the Royal Military Police. – *Sunday Times*

● France has apologised for the desecration of 45 First World War graves of British, Canadian and New Zealand soldiers in the Saint-Aubert military cemetery near Cambrai. – *Daily Telegraph*

● A British soldier serving in heat-baked Iraq has been treated for hypothermia after taking a nap in a walk-in fridge. – *Daily Mirror*

● A squaddie who couldn't stop phoning his fiancée from Iraq has had to take out a bank loan after racking up a £1,400 bill. Chris Kelly and Sueanne Nester had bought the latest G3 video phones, as advertised by football star David Beckham, so they could keep in touch. – *Daily Express*

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 Softie 6 1100g, comfort -0C £75
 Softie 10 : 1600g, -7C £95

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Over to you: In a ceremony dating back 300 years, the Queen "reaffirms her trust in the officers and soldiers" of 29 Commando Regiment RA by touching the key to their magnificent fortress barracks overlooking Plymouth Hoe. The key, which actually

unlocks the great main gates of the Grade 2-listed Royal Citadel, is borne by Gnr Kelvin Teague, with commanding officer Lt Col Simon Wolsey looking on. The Commando Gunners provided light gun support to 3 Commando Brigade during hostilities in Iraq.

Army college on Freedom march

THE Army's youngest soldiers stepped out in style last month to exercise for the first time their new Freedom of Harrogate.

Four hundred members of the Army Foundation College's Waterloo and Cambrai Companies, who graduated the following week, paraded through the town with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

Harrogate's mayor took the salute as the junior soldiers, led by the Pipes and Drums of the Tyne Electrical Engineer Band of Newton Aycliffe-based 102 Battalion

REME, marched past. He was accompanied on the dais by the college commanding officer, Lt Col Guy Deacon.

The borough's freedom was awarded to the college's predecessor, the Army Apprentices' College, in 1972, although the town had actually adopted the establishment back in 1956.

Lt Col Deacon said: "This is a further significant step in establishing the Army Foundation College in its home town of Harrogate following the construction of the new college." It opened in 1998.

Ulster grove service

TREES planted in memory of Army, police and prison service personnel who died in the cause of peace in Northern Ireland are to be dedicated in the **Ulster Ash Grove** within the National Arboretum on September 23. The centrepiece is an inscribed granite pillar surrounded by boulders from the six counties.

Muslim adventures

A GROUP of young Muslims from Sheffield's Yemeni and Somalian communities sampled life in the British Army during a week at Totley Camp. The 17 youngsters, aged 16 to 19, tried their hand at abseiling, canoeing, mountain biking, rock climbing and orienteering. The project was run by WO2 Roger Williams.

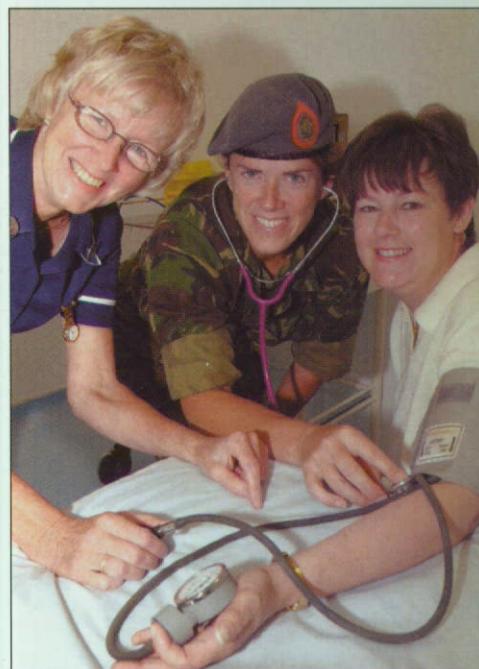
Parachuting wives

TWENTY-one Army wives of 9 (Parachute) Squadron RE who parachuted for charity have handed over more than £4,500. The money was given to the Army Benevolent Fund, Breast Cancer Research and the Blesma charity for limbless Service personnel.

Talking the talk

RESERVE officers from nine countries, including the UK, studied French and English at the fourth **CIOR language academy**, held at the Defence Training Centre in Polje, Slovenia. Capt Richard Koss (33 Sig Regt (V)) and Maj Lin Maclean (Tayforth OTC) served as instructors.

Flower lady



Pressure's on at Tidworth: **Mrs Ann Welbourne**, right, has her blood pressure checked by **Jenny Warren**, left, and senior nursing officer **Maj Jackie Bailey** QARANC after being presented with a bouquet of flowers as the first patient to use Tidworth Garrison's state-of-the-art £12-million Primary Health Care Centre.

Top dogs



Great team: **Fus Mike Collins** and **Jake** pose proudly after winning the military working dog trials at Glamoc in Bosnia. Picture: Cpl Si Pugsley RAF

LETTER

Florida opens its attractions to Telic troops

I HAVE just spent my post-Op Telic leave in Florida and could not help but notice how much the American public support their forces.

One spin-off is that theme parks are offering big discounts to military personnel and their dependents. Many of these offers are extended to coalition forces, including the UK.

Unfortunately no discounts are available at Disneyworld, but in the Orlando area the Walt Disney World Parks, Busch Gardens at Tampa Bay, SeaWorld Adventure Park and Universal Studios are offering complimentary admission to Service personnel and special discounts to families until December 19.

It would be nice if we saw UK attractions offering similar discounts.

Incidentally, I was unaware of the discounts when booking my holiday so paid full price for everything. — **Capt P Stredwick, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.**

Western breaks

ARMY Welfare Services have got together with HIVE and Best Western Hotels to offer serving personnel and their families discounted getaway breaks in the UK.

Some are 100 per cent, so you just have to pay for food and drink at the hotel. The offer runs until the end of January and applies also to MoD civilians.

See www.army.mod.uk/hive

Dawn parade

• SOON after arriving in Kuwait to acclimatise for their tour of duty in Iraq, soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment held their annual Waterloo Day Parade to mark the 188th anniversary of one of their 200 battle honours. To beat the Gulf heat, the troops fell in at 0530 when the temperature was a mere 42C. By midday it was soaring towards 58C.

• SANDHURST-style command tasks have been used by Maj Simon Miller, OC 115 Provost Company, 1st Regiment RMP, to sharpen up Iraqi policemen attending a leadership course at Al Amara.

For individuals used to following exact orders for the past 30 years, the exercises devised by the Royal Military Academy proved surprisingly difficult until their instructors encouraged them to start thinking for themselves.

Troops at boiling point

Soaring Iraqi temperatures pose greatest threat

Reports: Andrea Frazer
Pictures: Mike Weston

TROOPS in southern Iraq are coping with temperatures which have soared above 50C (120F) and humidity levels hovering around an unbearable 85 per cent.

The hostile conditions are currently the most dangerous enemy that soldiers are battling. Existing is an effort in itself and functioning professionally in such a searing operational environment is one of the greatest challenges faced by soldiers anywhere in the world.

"The British Army has had little experience of conducting operations in such high temperatures," said Brig Bill Moore, commanding 19 Mechanized Brigade.

"Patrolling for three hours in 55C in 85 per cent humidity, with body armour, helmet and webbing is extremely hard work.

"Soldiers' water intake needs careful management. Their performance, particularly in recent weeks, has been testament to the leadership and man-management skills of NCOs, SNCOs and officers. The Army has equipped us well for the heat, by providing CamelBaks [backpack hydration systems] and the brigade's re-supply system



Thirsty: Cpl Brian Jackson, 1 QLR, dries off with a sweat rag after another patrol in Basra

reinforces soldiers with cold water on the ground throughout patrols.

"Sensible management of working hours has managed to keep the vast majority of soldiers effective. Soldiers are feeling the heat much more because they are genuinely tired but they are coping extremely well. I have been out on patrol with them and am really impressed by their professionalism and effectiveness."

August is a notoriously difficult month – local people refer to it as "the oven". A wind change early in the month brought moisture from the south, increased the humidity levels and brought the threat of dust storms.

The secret of survival is water and lots of it. Soldiers are drinking an average of eight litres a day. Many add a combination of sugar and salt while others add hydration supplements such as Diarolyte. Hats and sunscreen are a must and shade is a highly sought-after commodity.

Availability of air conditioning units is increasing throughout theatre, with more arriving as each week passes, but the greatest problem is that power cuts regularly put a stop to a cool sleeping environment



Ways to beat the heat: Soldiers of Somme Coy anti-tank platoon, 1 QLR cool off after a patrol

and the only form of escape from the heat.

Chefs in field kitchens are preparing, cooking and serving food in temperatures ranging between 60 and 80C. Drivers, aviators and those working at fuel points get little respite from the burning rays. REME technicians and engineers have had to down tools simply because equipment is too hot to handle. The current security situation means that patrols are deployed at all hours

of the day and night. Even at night temperatures are in the mid-30s. Many sleep outside on rooftops to take advantage of any breeze.

But there is better news on the way: the worst of the heat may be almost over. Staff at the mobile meteorological office at Basra International Airport predict that temperatures will reduce towards the end of this month. Unfortunately the cooler temperatures are said to attract mosquitoes.

Goodies from loggies

Lt James Burroughes of 2 Close Support Regiment RLC calls on a family during one of many military aid projects in southern Iraq.

The loggies, who returned to Germany in July, were involved in a series of initiatives to improve the quality of life for people in the area. Lt Burroughes, who led the regiment's aid efforts, said: "I launched myself into the villages surrounding Shaibah airfield and started listening to their stories. Most were littered with tales of loss, murder, disappearances and woe."

The loggies got the local school up and running and began the task of encouraging children to attend. Aid was distributed to villages via a representative from each family to avoid the near-riots sparked by food boxes being showered from the back of a truck.

Cpl Grant Bruce collected large amounts of food, sweets and toiletries for 500 people around Shaibah airfield. Boosted by generous donations from 202 Field Hospital, families in the area found themselves receiving aid parcels beyond their wildest dreams.



ous donations from 202 Field Hospital, families in the area found themselves receiving aid parcels beyond their wildest dreams.



Spr Glen Parker, a welder serving with 15 Field Support Squadron, part of 38 Engineer Regiment, cuts bolts off a badly twisted section of a power pylon damaged by copper thieves. Crime like this is making it difficult for coalition forces to provide local communities with electricity

Medics on watch for heat illness

THE threat of heat-related casualties in Iraq has increased significantly in recent weeks.

Medics admit the term "heat illness" is misleading and describe it as a combination of dehydration, tiredness, salt depletion and electrolyte imbalance.

Symptoms include nausea, muscle cramps and light-headedness and in the case of electrolyte imbalance can include confusion, mood changes and disorientation.

Early reporting of symptoms is essential to avoid casualties collapsing into a state of semi-consciousness or unconsciousness.

Diarrhoea can lead to more rapid dehydration and soldiers are being told to report any illness or report sick. Medical centres have the authority to recommend a switch to light duties.

Acclimatising troops are most at risk. When possible soldiers have a two-week acclimatisation period, but often put themselves under pressure to get to work before they are physically ready. There have been two main surges in heat casualties, towards the end of the acclimatisation period and during periods of increased temperature and humidity.

"It's very much a case of commanders taking a sensible approach, cancelling formal PT sessions and getting back to basics and ensuring troops are drinking enough, have regular breaks and rescheduling non-essential work to the cooler parts of the day," said Maj Olivia Morris, OC 22 Med Sqn.

Soldiers are taking responsibility for themselves and colleagues, ensuring water intake is high, adding salt and sugar to meals and seeking shade or air-conditioning when it is available.

Between mid-July and mid-August, 226 British soldiers out of the 11,000 in theatre were diagnosed with heat-related illnesses. In the same period 49 soldiers were returned home.

"If heat casualties do not take time to recover afterwards then they are more susceptible," said Maj Morris.

Medics have been surprised at the relatively low numbers of troops suffering from sunburn. "They seem to be aware of the threat of sunburn and skin cancer and are generally taking a more responsible approach to the sun. Most want to go back home with a good tan but are tending to opt for high factor sun-screens," said Maj Morris.

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Brigade pushes into volatile territory



Troops involved in major gun battles

Report: Andrea Frazer

Pictures: Mike Weston

TROOPS deployed in 19 Mechanized Brigade's operational area of southern Iraq have reported an increase in direct attacks in recent weeks.

Brigade commander Brig Bill Moore told *Soldier*: "The operational situation in our area of operations has now turned volatile. Over the past three weeks there has been an increase in direct attacks against British forces and we are actively targeting groups responsible for those attacks."

He said the brigade's first two weeks in theatre had concentrated on crime prevention, engaging a number of gunmen in looting, extortion and vandalism.

"Within the past three weeks the threat of improvised explosive devices has increased, with elements targeting coalition forces in the Basra and Maysan provinces, mostly by bombing. We have had five or six major gun battles in recent weeks, exchanging more than 500 rounds in each one."

"The situation in southern Iraq is not improving but soldiers are working extremely hard."

Brig Moore said the brigade was using intelligence-led operations to combat the threats, leading to the arrest of several of the bombers, and disrupting terrorist organisations.

"We are bearing down on organised crime and pulling weapons off the streets."

"The intelligence community is working extremely hard to establish a more mature intelligence architecture and we



Pte Lee Edwards, above, of Burma Coy, 1 QLR provides security cover from a Saxon while traffic queues for benzene from a fuel station. Inset: Brig Bill Moore, the brigade commander

are seeing positive results of that, enabling us to target criminals and terrorist groupings with a lot of success."

His soldiers, said the brigadier, were well prepared, with experience in Northern Ireland, the Balkans and Sierra Leone, and were naturally good at talking to people. All had learned some basic Arabic and local people were responding well. Troops were working very long hours in challenging conditions and making a huge difference to security.

"We have been working closely with several countries. The Danish are part of the brigade and we also have Czechs and Lithuanians in the area.

"Iraqis are understandably frustrated at

the lack of progress in restoring basic utilities such as power, fuel and water. We are doing our best to assist with this and a large number of projects have been undertaken by the battle-groups."

"The military can't do it alone and our efforts in security terms are being hampered by lack of progress in economic regeneration. Iraqis feel that progress in restoring basic utilities is too slow and this results in them venting their frustration on coalition soldiers."

"We are working hard to encourage the multi-national contractors and the Coalition Provisional Authority to work harder to restore Basra and Maysan provinces to a standard the Iraqi people deserve."

Nine nations share military load

ABOUT 11,000 Servicemen and women remain in the Gulf region and Iraq.

Command of the international Multinational Division (South East), responsible for the provinces of Basra, Maysan, Dhi Qar and Al Muthanna, is based on HQ 3 (UK) Division, under Maj Gen Graeme Lamb.

The main assets available to the headquarters are provided by 19 Mechanized Brigade and 101 Logistic Brigade.

Nine countries have committed troops

to the division and when all are on the ground they should total around 5,500.

In Basra province, a Czech field hospital and a company of military police is already attached to the division, and a 140-strong Norwegian company is working alongside 38 Engineer Regiment in Basra and Maysan provinces.

A 450-strong Danish battle-group has been operating in Maysan. It includes a Lithuanian contingent of 30. In Al

Muthanna province, a Dutch battle-group of 1,100, including a marine battalion, engineers, a medical facility and military police, will be based at As Samaway.

An Italian mechanized brigade of 2,800 is moving into Dhi Qar province, supported by a Romanian mechanized battalion and a military police company. A 130-strong security force company from the Portuguese National Guard will be used in a policing role.

Airbridge of hope

British and French sappers join forces to triple the capacity of a vital lifeline into one of Africa's most troubled regions

Report and pictures: Graeme Main

A SMALL team of Royal Engineers coped with rain, mud, intense humidity and an absence of mail to create a vital airbridge in northern Congo.

The Bunia airstrip was crucial to the French-led European Union force which flew to Africa to stop savage tribal bloodletting in and around the remote jungle town.

A detachment of 70 sappers based on 42 Field Squadron, from 28 Engineer Regiment at Hameln in Germany, repaired the runway and extended the apron to cope with an anticipated flood of military and humanitarian supplies.

Bunia, the biggest town in the war-ravaged Ituri region, has been the focal point of massacres by warring ethnic Hama and Lendu militias. Local people welcomed the European force and hoped it would remain in the area after its mandate ended at the beginning of September.

A recce team from Permanent Joint Headquarters at Northwood flew in to



Maj Simon Higgens

look at what the British could best contribute towards the peace process. Maj Simon Higgens, officer commanding 42 Squadron, said: "We quickly realised that by expanding the capacity and throughput of the airfield we could increase the speed people get in here, military or UN, and also the outflow of the French and the British at the end of the mandate when that comes on September 1.

"More importantly, we can also speed up the humanitarian relief and aid coming in. At the moment the apron is constricted to being able to handle just two to three C-130 Hercules-sized aircraft at one time. We identified the ideal task as extending the apron to twice its current size.

"Because of the way the airport is being expanded we are also building an exit road so aircraft can come in one side and out the other, speeding up the processes of getting aircraft in and out.

"Having spoken to a C-130 pilot, he reckoned that, with correct management and the placing of aircraft on the apron once it was completed, the capacity could be increased to about nine – tripling throughput."

Maj Higgens continued: "We looked at what size of force we needed to do the job and decided on 70 from one squadron, with appropriate support.

"We couldn't have done it without the French, who have been brilliant. They've given us their equipment, their expertise and their know-how, and together the British and the French sappers have achieved a great deal very quickly.

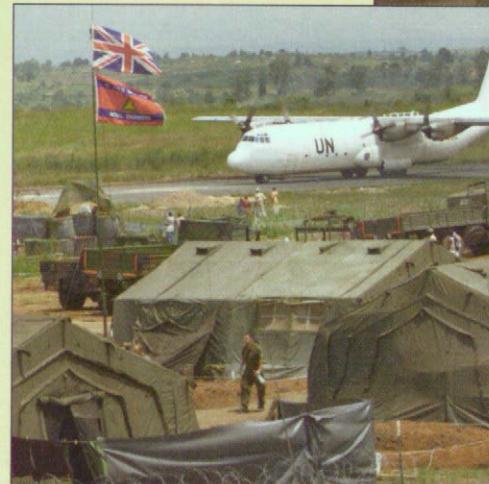
"Twenty-six days after starting with a heap of soil the apron will be levelled and stabilised with cement, which is quite an achievement. When we finish the job we will recover to Entebbe and fly back to Germany."

The job was completed ahead of schedule and the team is now back in Germany.

Maj Higgens told his men when they arrived in theatre that every shovel in the

Incoming: A C-130 throws up a dust storm on the emerging apron area, main picture

Home is where the flag is: The British lines alongside the airfield at Bunia in northern Congo



On the night shift: British and French engineers worked 18-hour days to complete the task at Bunia

ground had the potential to save a life. "Because we are concentrated here on the airfield and don't get out into the region we are helping indirectly. So it is important that everything we do has a benefit. We don't see the troubles still going on around us because we are well protected by the French."

"The French sapper platoon working with us – about a third of my workforce –



Just wait until it's finished: French sapper Sgt Julian Beaussart, left, surveys the Bunia airfield apron with help from Cpl Mark Rowson



You'll soon be right as rain: Sqn Ldr Dave Curtis, left, receives an injection from Maj David Houston RAMC before returning home for treatment to a badly injured foot



Every shovelful saves a life: Spr Dan Gaskin moves soil as the apron is levelled

has been integrated fully. They eat with us and we've had one social evening where we had some fun with them as well. They've been superb.

"Twenty-three French sappers, added to my 70, gives me a force of 93, including supporting REME guys, posties, chefs, medics and a clerk."

The wildcat strike by British Airways baggage handlers and check-in staff impacted on the far-away Congo – the soldiers received no mail for more than a week.

Although confined to the airfield which was well protected by French soldiers, the

sappers had one or two uncomfortable nights, including one occasion when random firing from the jungle beyond the perimeter caused them to take cover in previously-prepared trenches.

Intermittent firing punctuated most nights.

Maj Higgens said that when the sappers heard about a massacre at the nearby village of Nissi they realised that by getting the apron done quickly more troops and aid could be moved in, so indirectly influencing events going on around Bunia.

"We've faced many challenges. It is in the middle of Africa and everything has

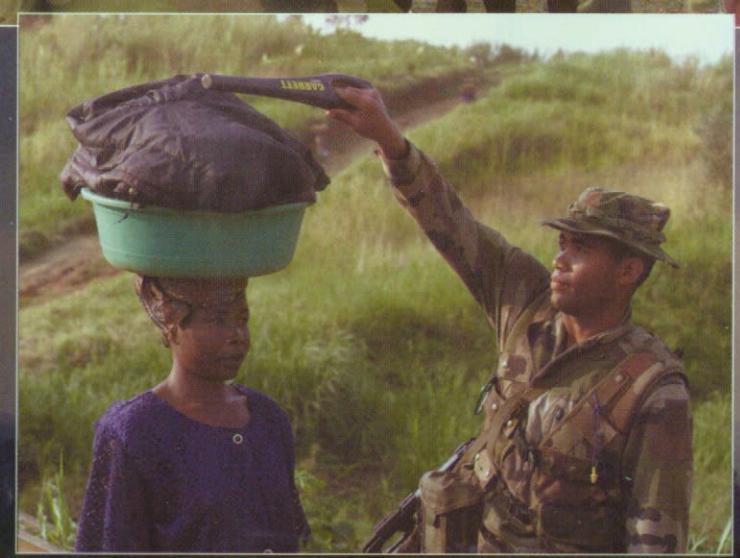
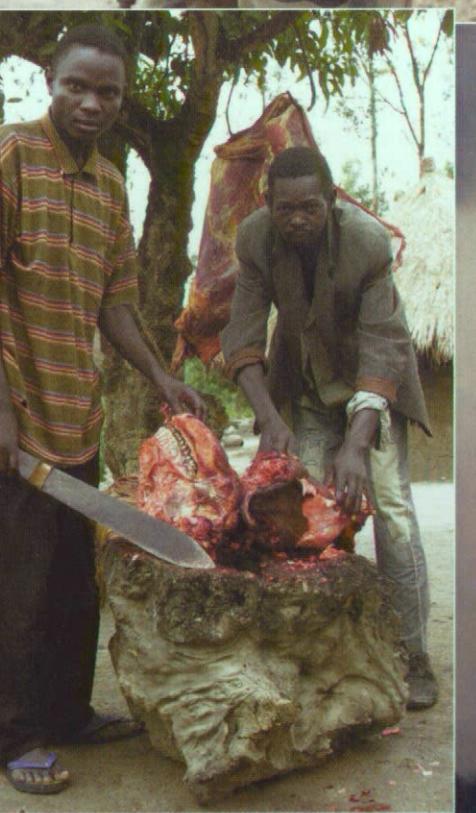
had to be flown in. The other factor is the weather. Normally at this time of year we would be seeing five or six hours of rain every day but fortunately the rainy season hasn't hit us hard yet.

"We've lost two or three days to the weather, but we haven't had the rain we were expecting so we are actually working round the clock to try and make the best of this window of opportunity.

"We depend on a local aggregate, limestone, to stabilise the soil. Although it comes from a quarry only a kilometre away, transport problems getting it here mean we have to work 18 hours a day."

A better place

British soldiers serve in all corners of the world, but the Congo is something else. Graeme Main's pictures of Bunia reflect how a small force is making a big difference



Clockwise, from top left: A smiling child is delighted to salute the French soldier who gave him his beret; women enjoy the safety afforded by the EU force to stock up on food at a market on the outskirts of Bunia (the stirrings of trade was an early sign that stability was returning to the province); a butcher in the Mudzi Pela district plies his trade beside the road; French soldiers of the 3rd Regiment d'Infanterie de Marine on patrol; a young girl stands on a hill overlooking a refugee camp near the airfield at Bunia; Lt Col Johnny Rollins, R Irish, Commander British Force, working with the European Union force headquarters; a French soldier uses a metal detector to check there are no weapons in a woman's load at Shari river crossing. She was going to Bunia market, an event that would have invited almost certain death before the arrival of the stabilisation force.

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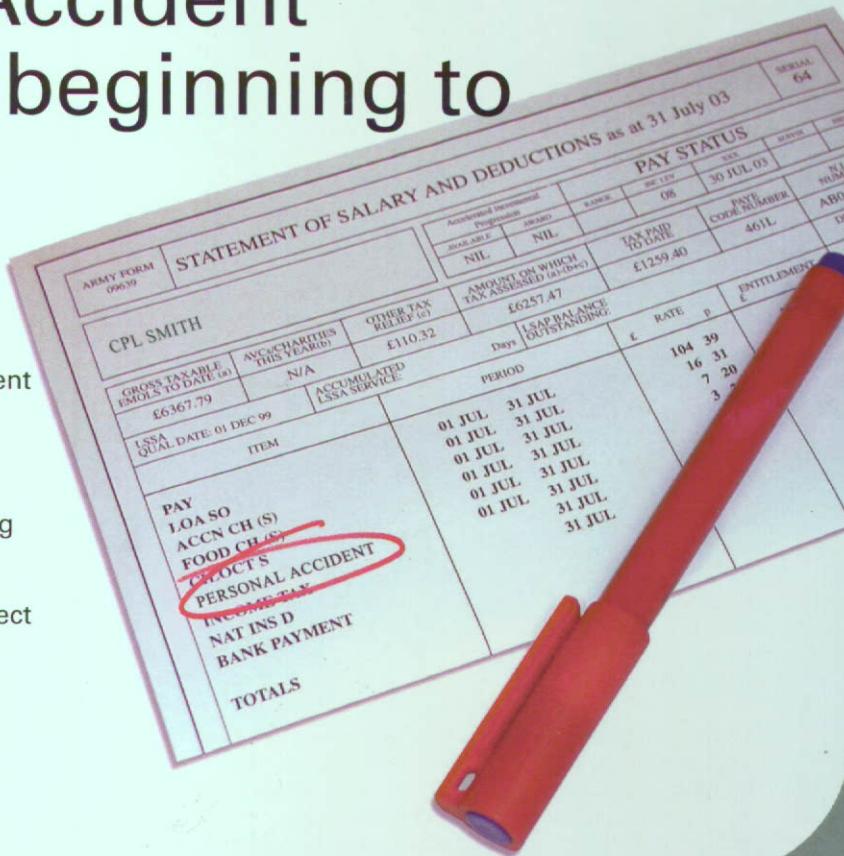
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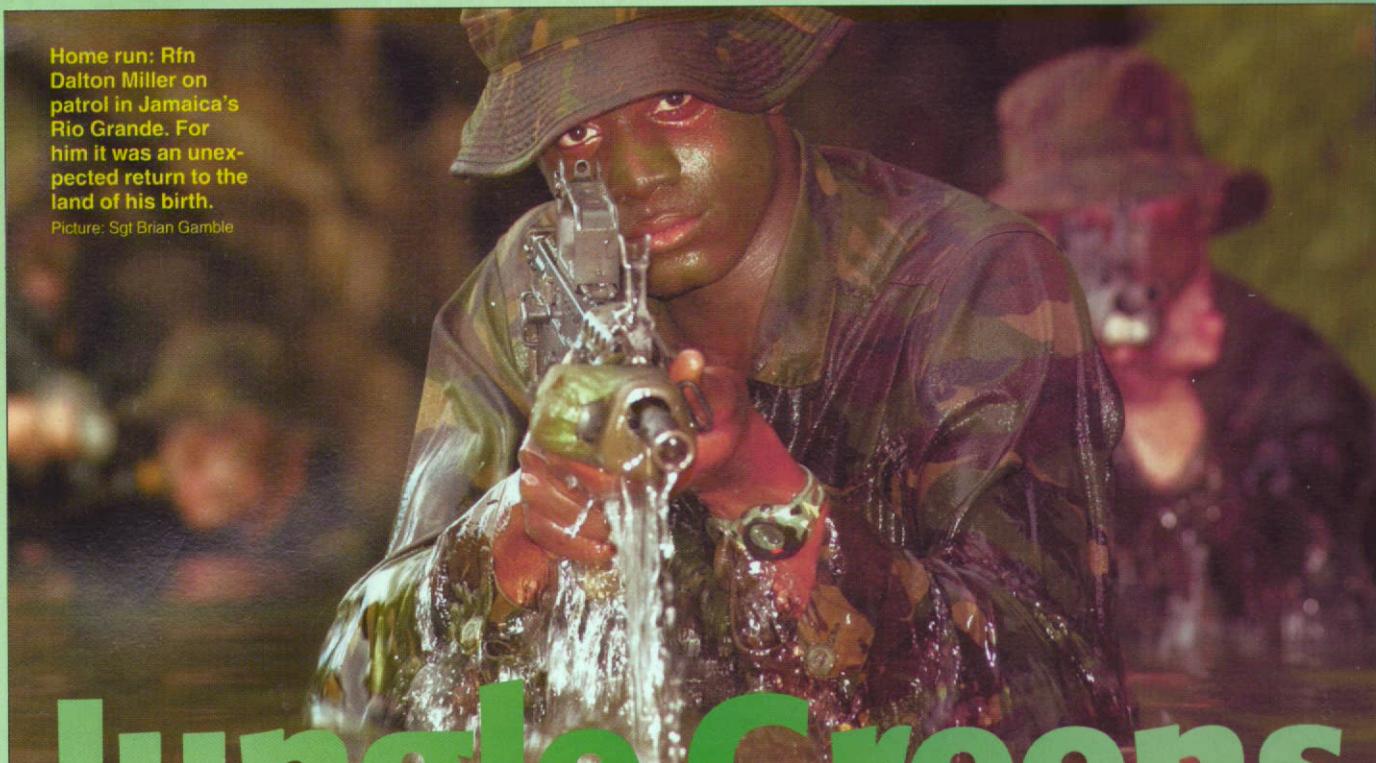


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Home run: Rfn Dalton Miller on patrol in Jamaica's Rio Grande. For him it was an unexpected return to the land of his birth.

Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble



Jungle Greens

Hot work in Caribbean for RGJ's R Company

CHEST deep in the waters of the Rio Grande in Jamaica, Rfn Dalton Miller keeps an eye out for river-borne drug barons, **writes David Harris**.

High in the steamy Blue Mountains, he patrols with his Recce Platoon buddies as their jungle training comes to an end.

Here, up-country from Jamaica's tourist traps, soldiers of R Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets swapped factor 15 for cam cream during five sweat-soaked weeks of Exercise Red Stripe.

Rfn Miller, 19, was back on the island

of his birth, one of half-a-dozen sons of the Caribbean in R Coy, which has natives of nine nations in its ranks. He left Jamaica at the age of eight and settled with his mother and siblings in Bethnal Green, a recruiting hotspot for 2 RGJ.

He has been with the battalion only a few months. "Almost immediately I learned I was going home with the Army," he said. "It's been the hardest time of my life but a brilliant experience. We were left in the jungle for 11 days, learning survival techniques and how to fight an enemy in harsh conditions. Now I can see my father at his home in Spanish Town for a week."

Ambushes, section attacks and observation points in the semi-tropical vegeta-

tion seemed a world away from their Land Warfare Centre battle-group role back in Warminster.

Commanding officer Lt Col Harry Emck said: "We took these guys out of their comfort zone and put them into an unusual climate that tested them to the limit. It allowed us to foster links with the Jamaica Defence Force, whose support has been second-to-none."

Billeted at Titchfield, the JDF battle camp at Port Antonio on the north coast, 2 RGJ's hosts were both friend and foe. In the 35C heat of wargaming, their troops – all Regulars – proved tough adversaries.

Other Jamaican soldiers were involved in a reciprocal visit to Salisbury Plain.

Bridging loan

SAPPERS from Osnabrück-based 7 HQ Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment deployed to Canada to work on two bridges in British Columbia.

Fifty members of the squadron took part in ongoing restoration on the 18,000km-long Trans Canadian Trail. The exercise was organised to celebrate the Canadian Military Engineers in their centennial "Bridges for Canada" project.

They decked the 70m-long Nursery trestle bridge near Grand Forks and constructed handrails for the 174m Kettle River trestle bridge. The sappers also enjoyed an adventure training package.

Garden city

MORE than 30 student members of the University of London Officers' Training Corps brightened up two areas of Camden, North London during a weekend organised by the Royal Engineers' sub-unit.

Under the eye of QMSI Billy McLaren they stripped and flattened an overgrown piece of land to build four giant flowerbeds spelling out "2003", surrounded by a scenic patio and barbecue area. The second task was to re-create a "secret" garden in the heart of Camden. It had been locked for two years after being extensively vandalised.

Running blind

FORMER Para Dave Powell and ex-RAF Cpl Iain Millard, both registered blind, are planning to run the Great North and South Runs to raise funds for St Dunstan's, the charity which rehabilitates Servicemen and women who have been robbed of their sight.

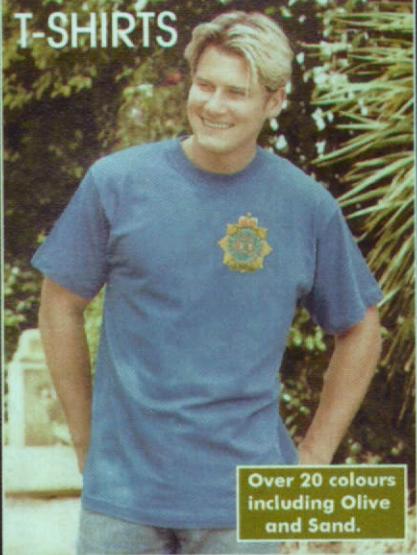
The northern run is on September 21, the southern on October 12.

Donations can be made online by visiting www.st-dunstans.org.uk and clicking on the Great North Run link, or direct to the Fundraising Department, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

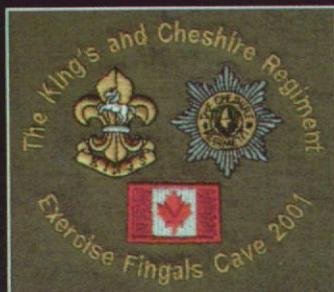
● Blind Billy's record run – Page 29

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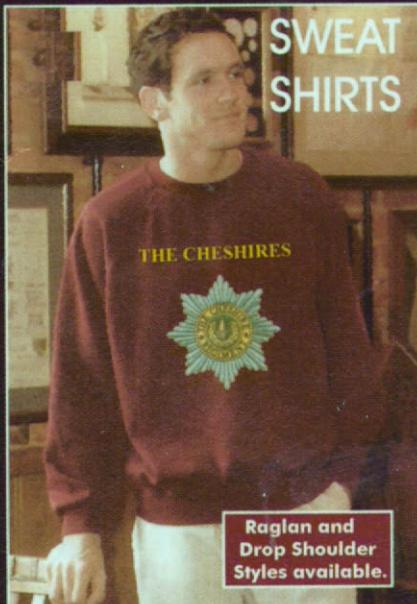
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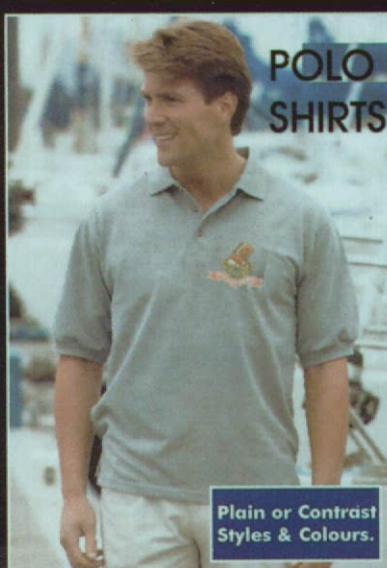


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Speedster: Billy Baxter blasts down the runway at Boscombe Down, above, and enjoys the moment, inset, as his record-breaking run is confirmed at Boscombe

Inset picture: Nigel Gillies

What a Whiz

FORMER soldier Billy "The Whiz" Baxter smashed the world blind solo land speed record when he roared through the 170mph mark on the main runway at QinetiQ's MoD facility at Boscombe Down in Wiltshire.

Billy's daring feat on an unmodified 1,200cc Kawasaki Ninja ZX12R was part of a £100,000 "Blind Ambition" fund-raising awareness campaign by St Dunstan's, the charity that provides independence for blind Service personnel through rehabilitation and training.

"Escorted" by two outriders from the Kawasaki-sponsored Flying Gunners Royal Artillery Motorcycle Display Team, the totally blind rider averaged an aston-

ishing 164.8mph over the two legs, shattering the old record of 141mph.

An Army Air Corps Gazelle helicopter flew overhead to act as a mobile camera platform.

The fastest blind man on earth lost his sight to a rare infection of the eyes while serving as a senior NCO in Bosnia in 1997 with the 1 RHA.

"If I could bottle how I feel I would be a millionaire," said Billy, 39, after his high-octane achievement. "I wanted to show the public what the blind and visually impaired can achieve with training."

● To support the Blind Ambition appeal, call 01980 592935 or donate online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk



Chaplains' museum opens

PICTURED at the official opening of the Museum of Army Chaplaincy are, left to right, the new curator David Blake; Deputy Chaplain General the Rev David Wilkes; and the Chaplain General, the Ven John Blackburn. "Holding" the programme is a model dressed in the uniform of a chaplain.

The museum is housed in a converted stable block at Ampthill House, the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre outside the village of Ampthill on Salisbury Plain.

Exhibits include the 18th century Domus Dei silver and the only remaining friezes from the Guards' Chapel in Wellington Barracks, which was destroyed by German bombers in 1944.



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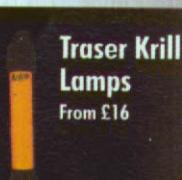
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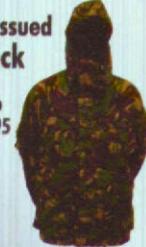


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Bowman's coming

Army's new comms to go live

Report: Ray Routledge Pictures: Steve Dock

FIELD trials of the much-anticipated Bowman communications system are gathering pace and the first infantry battalion has begun to convert.

As the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment adapted to the kit, a team at Knook Camp North near Warminster continued to test the system.

Battalion and brigade trials will go on throughout next year, although Bowman is on target to meet its planned in-service date of March 30, 2004. The complete system will be ready to deploy by June 2005 (its Operational Readiness Date).

Assistant trials director Maj Scott Youngerson, R Signals, is delighted with what he's seen so far. "Bowman is more than just a radio," he said. "It will provide a tactical communications system that will give us secure voice and data communications, situational awareness, and protection against electronic warfare."

It will allow users to pass data over greater distances – up, down and sideways across the chain of command.

"This will be in the form of reports and returns and will allow a radio's position to be reported automatically as an icon map symbol that will appear on every computer screen on the net."

Up to 20,000 vehicles, 156 ships and 276 aircraft will be fitted with the kit, while 70,000 personnel will be trained to use 46,000 radios and 26,000 terminals.

Bowman is scheduled to provide the Army with its primary means of communication for at least the next 20 years.

The package includes battlefield radios and terminals similar to laptop computers. The man-pack radio incorporates a global positioning system (GPS) and vehicles will also have GPS receivers.

Infantrymen will be relieved to know that Bowman is lighter than Clansman, although in some circumstances there will be extra kit to carry, such as the portable user data terminal. This is about half the size of a house brick and has a touch-screen display. It will be available at section level for commanders to send data and to see their

position (as well as every other station on the net) on a map display.

Challenger 2, Warrior and Scimitar will have customised systems integrating thermal sights and onboard systems.

Designers have given thought to the easiest font (typeface) to read on screen when an individual is tired and cold.

Later upgrades will offer specialised programmes and applications for NBC, air defence, artillery, and engineers.

"The trials at Knook Camp are the first formal technical trials for Bowman," said Maj Youngerson. "They allowed us to look at the technical performance of the radios in the hands of the military user."

"Range is comparable with Clansman, which you might not expect with a digital radio, although Bowman can pass data from one unit to another automatically."

The range was tested on a long straight road in the Midlands, with vehicles staged at 5km intervals. "A Land Rover left the base station and moved out of its range. Other vehicles along the route automatically passed messages for the first vehicle, so effectively extending the data range. We proved that Bowman can re-route messages beyond the routine working range of the base station net."

Battalion-level trials will be carried out by 1 R Anglian in November, and a brigade-level exercise involving also men of the 1st Battalion, Cold-



Delighted: Maj Youngerson



Going live: Pte Nathan Lowden, of 2 LI, right, uses the PRC 355 VHF radio with a portable user data terminal (PUDT). The PRC 355 radio comes with a built-in GPS system. Sgt Dave Irons, of the Royal Marines, kneeling, holds the PRC 354 radio

stream Guards will follow next March. Climatic trials on man-pack items will be done by the Royal Marines in Brunei (hot and damp), Canada (cold) and California (hot and dry).

At Knook Camp, Capt Tom Holloway, KRH, SO3 Information Manager for Director Land Digitization, said: "The message to everyone is that Bowman is coming. I believe it is the Army's most highly-integrated project ever."

"A video, scheduled for distribution to regiments by the end of the year, will explain how it works and how it will arrive.

"Bowman will cut down dramatically the amount of time spent on reporting positions and it will improve soldiers' lives. It is good and it works."

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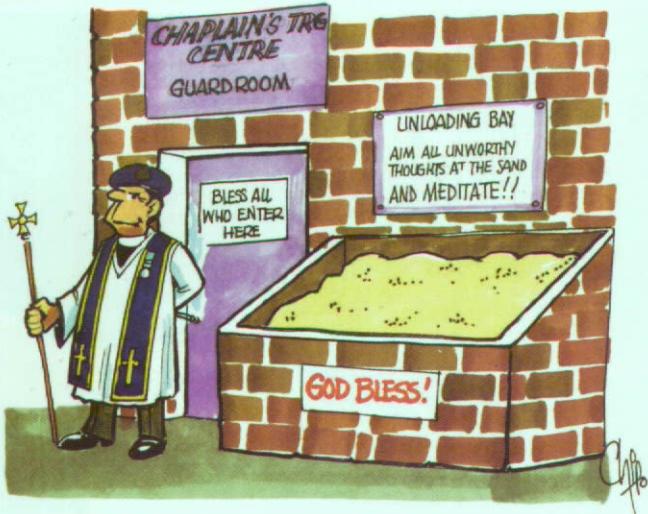
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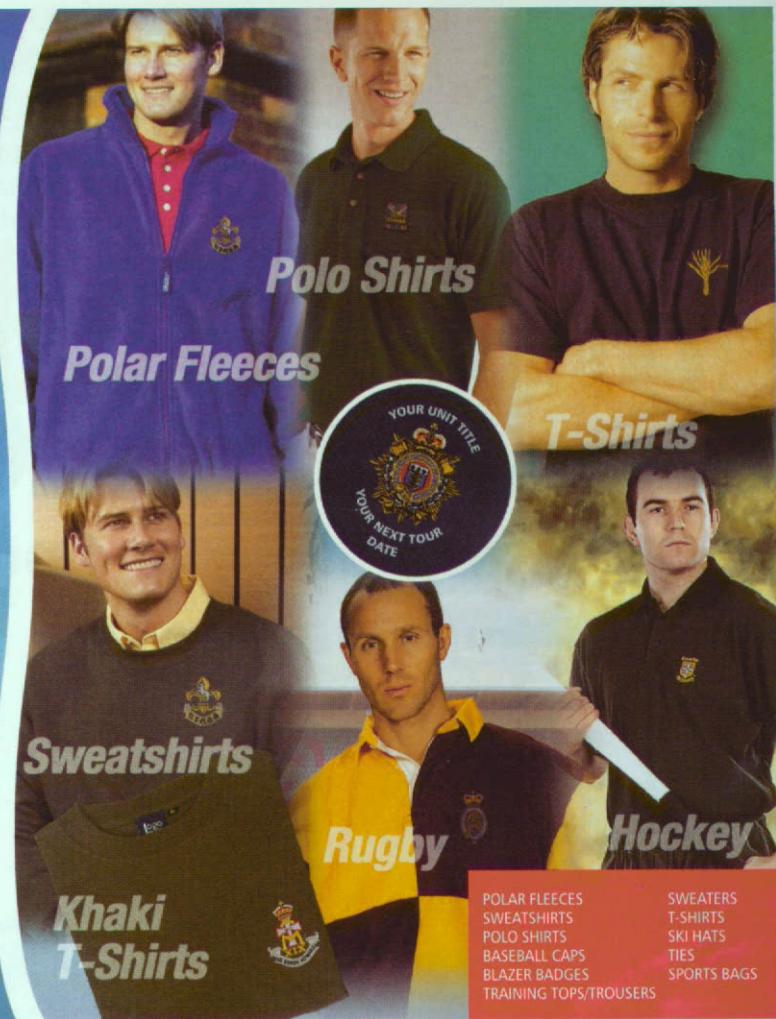
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Stefan's friends

Normal life beckons for boy who needs surgery – thanks to Lancers

Reports: Ray Routledge Pictures: Steve Dock

TAKE one look at little Stefan Savic and your heart goes out to him.

That was certainly the case for Sgt Wayne Ingram and his soldiers from 9th/12th Royal Lancers, attached to the Highlanders in Bosnia as B Squadron recce company in Bosnia.

Four-year-old Stefan was born with a severe facial deformity and, thanks to the efforts of Wayne and the squadron, and with financial help from the local community, the youngster could be on his way to leading a more normal life.

"We came across Stefan on a patrol in Milosevci, a village about 20km east of Banja Luka," said Sgt Ingram. "The boys in the squadron have adopted him and we always stop at his home when on patrol."

Stefan needs drastic surgery before he starts school, where he could face the cruelty of children who don't know him.

"We were told he would have to go to Paris and have three operations costing £40,000 and there would be a charge of £1,200 a day for the 30 days he needed to

be there," said Sgt Ingram.

He contacted Great Ormond Street Hospital, where surgeons examined reports and scans provided by Bosnian doctors. Consultant surgeon David Dunaway agreed to waive his fee and a figure of £24,000 for surgery and accommodation was agreed.

Before the surgery could go ahead, the doctors needed to examine the youngster and he was brought to England with his mother and an interpreter.

The hope is that Stefan will have his operation in October. "We managed to raise all the money



On his bike: Stefan, supported by, from left to right, WO2 Des Henderson, his father and project organiser Sgt Wayne Ingram

through the local community," said Sgt Ingram, adding that more was needed for expenses such as accommodation for his parents and interpreter.

Stefan's father is convinced that help has arrived just in time. "If Stefan did not have the operation he would soon realise that he has this deformity and it will create complexes."

"I am especially happy to know Wayne and the guys and we have become friends."

While in England for his pre-surgery examination, Stefan visited London and was presented with a huge model lorry by Hamleys toy store before joining Wayne for a holiday at his home in Weymouth.

Back in Bosnia the goodwill built by 9/12th L has had an unexpected benefit. "The word got out that we could be trusted and when we were in one village to search for weapons under Operation Harvest, 17 rifles were handed in," said Sgt Ingram.

● Readers who would like to contribute to Stefan's fund can contact the 9th/12th Royal Lancers regimental secretary on 0116 278425.

Oksigen's a breath of fresh air

BANJA Luka-based Radio Oksigen, the hearts-and-minds Army-sponsored station, is planning to go national – and perhaps to launch a second station.

It would happen immediately if Oksigen manager David Bailey had his way. A former Regular who was in the Territorial Army when *Soldier* visited in October 2000, David is now a civilian. He has been involved in the industry for many years and knows a success when he sees one.

"Oksigen launched in April 1999 and only broadcast to the Banja Luka area," he said. "We targeted an audience aged 15 to 25 to sell them the idea of peace and tolerance. Today we are covering 85 per cent of the brigade area using seven transmitters on five frequencies."

Oksigen has become a truly multi-cultural station, with an almost equal split between Serb, Croat and Muslim listeners.

"Research results give us about a 14 per cent penetration into our target audience with about 60,000 people listening at any one time for one to three hours a day. That is higher than

In the studio: DJ Aleksandra Kuzman with David Bailey

the UK where the average listener time is about 12 minutes."

With competition coming from 65 other Balkan stations, Oksigen must be getting something right. The station has a staff of ten, broadcasts live around the clock and is a mix of Radio One, Galaxy and Kiss. Western dance and chart music feature strongly.

The station also puts on summer tours, beginning in 2001 with Boy George. "We packed a club here with kids from all ethnic backgrounds with no trouble."

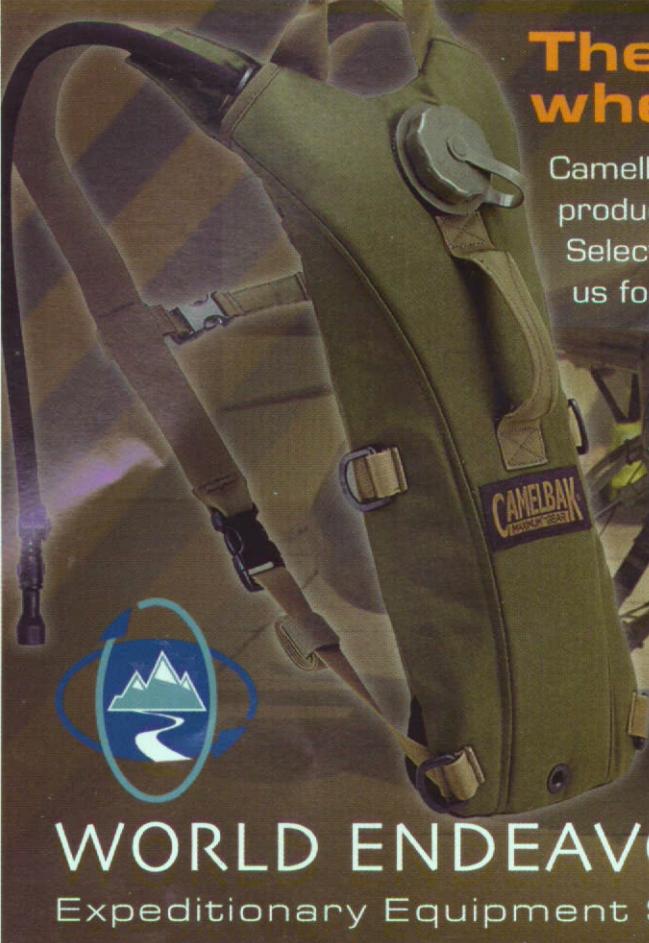
The station has been calling on its audience to help in the local community.

"We have been in fundraising, trying to get kids to contribute what little money they have to help others such as Stefan, who has won the hearts of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and who needs radical surgery to cure a facial deformity."

"Last year we managed to get a heart operation for a Serb child. People here have got to start helping themselves."

What started off as a psyops operation to encourage people to hand in weapons and be aware of mines, has become a lifestyle. Within a year, it could go national.





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Skid pan alley

New road safety training equipment unveiled to improve soldiers' defensive driving skills

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

ROAD traffic accidents continue to be a serious threat to the health and safety of British soldiers in Bosnia, writes Ray Routledge.

Poor roads and dangerous local drivers shoulder most of the blame. But, in an effort to improve the defensive driving skills of soldiers in poor weather, a new skid-pan kit has been unveiled at Mrkonjic Grad.

Capt Steve Wemyss, the

Road safety is a primary concern so anything that raises awareness is useful'

motor transport officer for the Highlanders battle group based in the town, said skid pan training

was one way to get soldiers to drive more carefully.

He showed *Soldier* the remains of a Land Rover that had hit a truck head-

on. Remarkably, two soldiers in the vehicle had been unharmed.

"Road safety is a primary concern so anything that raises awareness is useful," he said. "Defensive driving is very important and the skid car is part of raising that profile. It is a bit of fun but it raises in the mind questions about how to control the vehicle."

Capt Wemyss said that all soldier drivers will do the training.

The skid-pan kit comprises a cradle under the Land Rover. The master driver, who sits alongside the soldier behind the wheel, can raise or lower the Land Rover from inside the cab using the cradle, altering the amount of tyre contact with the road. This simulates wet and icy conditions.

"The master driver shows the drivers how to cope with the skid so that if they face it for real, they have some idea of what to do."



Skid realities: Capt Steve Wemyss

Miles's eastern challenge

Basra TV channel set for *Emmerdale* treatment

HOW do you turn a fledgling Iraqi TV station into a sure-fire ratings winner to compete with the likes of Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya?

It's a tall order, but the British Army reckons it has found just the man to make Basra-based TV Nahrair the channel everyone wants to watch.

Territorial Army Capt Miles Pennett of the Queen's Own Yeomanry has been asked to come up with a successful format for the embryonic station.

Fortunately the 25-year-old knows a thing or two about ratings winners: in his civvy job he's an assistant director on the hugely popular TV soap *Emmerdale*.

"Making TV Nahrair a hit is a big challenge, but I have to say it's easier than working six days a week on

Emmerdale," said Capt Pennett, who is based at the southern headquarters of the Coalition Provisional Authority. "I suppose you could say I have to help create a *Middle East Enders*."

Capt Pennett, whose other TV directing credits include *Countdown* and BBC's *Question Time*, joined Leeds-based Yorkshire TV as a runner 18 months ago but quickly made his mark

to land a senior role behind the cameras. *Emmerdale* is currently the top-rated imported programme in Finland.

After growing up in York, where he was educated at the Manor CofE School and York Sixth Form College, he first got involved with the Army when he joined the Officer Training Corps at Strathclyde University.

He spent two years on Full-Time Reserve Service in 2001-2 in Kosovo, where he served with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Queen's Royal Hussars, and in Bosnia, where he served with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles and the Welsh Guards.

● If you are in the TA and have an interesting or unusual day job, drop us a line or e-mail routledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Basra beat: Capt Miles Pennett in southern Iraq

Hot shot to trick shot

Snooker star talks exclusively to *Soldier* about his days as an Army cadet

Interview: Andy Simms

AS famous for his fondness of elaborately designed, and often garish, waistcoats as his trick shots and deadpan table manner, it comes as no surprise that John Virgo's brief flirtation with a military career was driven by his desire to wear an Army uniform.

Enthused by images of Hollywood stars wearing silk shirts in American war movies, the former national snooker champion spent three years as an Army cadet with the 5th Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers in his hometown of Salford during the late 1950s.

"I was 12 when I joined the cadets and to be honest with you I think the big appeal for me, and most of the other lads, was that you got to wear a uniform," he conceded. "The battalion's motto was something along the lines of 'nine VCs before breakfast' and we got to wear this great beret with a yellow hackle.

"In those days you still had to blancho your gaiters and belt each week, and we used to 'bone' the toe-caps of our boots with a hot spoon. We had a sergeant major whose boots were always like glass and for three

years I tried desperately to get mine to look like his," he said. "The cadets were responsible for a lot of ruined spoons in our house.

"It might sound a bit silly, but everybody likes to dress up and the only thing I didn't particularly like were the shirts, which were woolly at that time and bloody uncomfortable."

Taller than most of his contemporaries, John, who is now the voice of BBC Sport's snooker coverage, also discovered that his unusually large feet were not ideally suited to the hard-wearing Army-issue boots.

"When I went to see about getting fitted for my uniform the lieutenant in charge of dishing out all the supplies refused to believe that a 12-year-old needed size nine boots and gave me a smaller pair instead," he said. "On camps I only had to go on one route march and that would be me excused boots for the week because my feet would be covered in blisters."

But despite the discomfort, John insists that his stint in uniform was a happy one and a period of his life he still cherishes.

"My mates and I used to have some great times as cadets and a lot of laughs – more often than not at my expense," he explained. "I will always remember one classic occasion when we were taking part in a mock battle on a hill near Rhyl in North Wales. I got my belt caught on a branch as I was crawling through the undergrowth towards the 'enemy'.

"Without even thinking I stood up to pull my trousers up and immediately heard the rattling of tin cans, which were used to simulate the sound of a Bren gun. I must have had about a thousand bullets in me before I realised what I'd done.

"I have got some tremendous memories of being in the cadets," he added. "It taught me discipline and got me thinking about things rather than just hanging around on street corners."

Indeed, on reflection John believes that he would have graduated from being a cadet to a soldier if fate, and snooker, had not intervened in October of 1961.

"In Salford we all thought that a GCE was an electrical appliance. I left school when I was only 15, but soon realised the error of my ways and enrolled in evening classes at night school.

"On the way home one night I called into a snooker club and from that moment my cadet days and any chances of an Army career were numbered. I had found my new love – playing snooker.

"Although my father and brother both used to play in the local amateur leagues and I had been given my first snooker table, which was 2ft x 6ft with rubber bands for cushions, at the age of eight, I did not become hooked on the sport until I entered that club.

"Dad used to refer to snooker clubs as dens of iniquity and people used to say that being able to play well was a sign of a misspent youth, which I suppose it was then as there was no way you could make a living out of it.

"Snooker can be a solitary sport, but in a club you meet some tremendous characters and it was that, and the working-class sense of humour I encountered, that kept me going back for more."

Just four months after first entering Potters Club, which is still a well-known haunt for many professionals, John was crowned as the under-16s champion of Great Britain.

With little prize money available and no coverage of the sport on television, he then spent the next 14 years as a "pot hunter", travelling around the country entering amateur competitions in an attempt to win trophies and small cash purses.

It was only during the early 70s, following the advent of colour television and the arrival of the equally colourful Alex Higgins on the scene, that snooker became popular and John began contemplating turning pro.

Fifteen caps for England and winning the National Pairs title alongside Paul Medati in 1976 finally convinced him that the time was right to try his luck among the sport's élite.

Three years later he produced his best ever performance at the Embassy World Championships, reaching the semi-finals at the Crucible before losing out on a shot at the title to Dennis Taylor. However, better still was to come and later that year he claimed his only major title, the UK Championship, by beating Terry Griffiths 14-13 in the competition's final.

Despite always appearing glum while at

In Salford we all thought that a GCE was an electrical appliance – I left school when I was only 15



Snooker loopy: Although no longer a professional player, John Virgo is still heavily involved with the sport he loves – commentating on all the major tournaments for BBC Sport and entertaining crowds on the exhibition circuit with his infamous array of trick shots

Virtual Virgo . . .

AS well as providing commentary on all the major tournaments for the BBC, John Virgo's dulcet tones can now be heard on *World Championship Snooker 2003*.

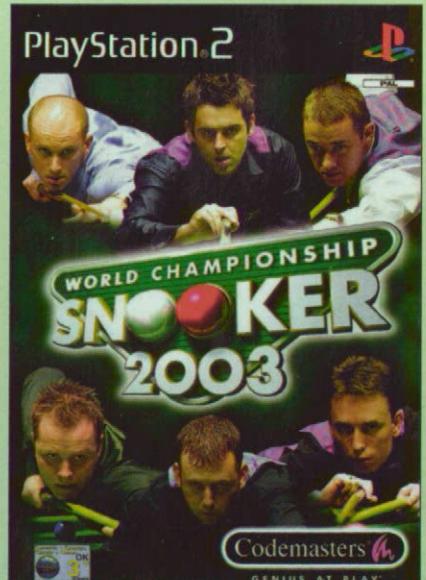
Alongside old sparring partner Dennis Taylor in the commentary box, John talks players through the action in snooker's only official videogame, which features 28 professional players (including Peter Ebdon, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Stephen Hendry and Mark Williams), real venues and tournaments, and is now available on the PlayStation 2, Xbox and PC.

Courtesy of Codemasters, *Soldier* has five copies of *World Championship Snooker 2003* for the PS2 up for grabs.

For your chance to win, simply tell us the name of snooker's current world champion.

Send your answers on a postcard to John Virgo competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by September 30. Usual rules apply.



This way to adventure

After a hard exercise in Canada, soldiers look forward to superb outdoor opportunities at Trails End in the Rockies

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston
and Trails End

IT'S been a long, hot and exhausting exercise across Canada's endless prairies. You are shattered, smelly and irritable.

You arrive at Trails End Camp (TEC) near Cochrane in the Rocky Mountain foothills and, as if by magic, a week later you are a different person, with new life in your batteries, a smile on your face and the satisfaction of a job well done.

Quite simply, TEC – known locally as the Jewel in the Crown – offers excitement, relaxation and adventure.

Maj Ian Mellor, officer commanding Trails End, said: "Those soldiers – our customers – have worked hard on the prairies and they arrive here shattered, some still with cam cream on."

"When they go on the expeditions, they



Packages: Maj Ian Mellor

come back different people. They all have war stories to tell and that is what makes TEC such a success."

The camp offers soldiers who have trained at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus) and the British Army Training Support Unit Wainwright (Batsuw) – and the "opposition force" or Opor – some of the best opportunities in the world.

"We support Batus and Batsuw in all their adventurous training programmes in summer and winter," said Maj Mellor.

The facility can qualify soldiers from basic standard to instructor level. About 630 individuals received qualifications last year.

The camp itself is on the Lazy H ranch, private land belonging to Richard and Connie Blair. It can accommodate 142 soldiers in bunkhouses, reducing to 98 in winter. While not lavish, it is better than the soldiers have enjoyed on the prairies.

Buildings are modern, clean and well maintained, with a central kitchen and dining facility. There is a newly-fitted fitness room, satellite TV, a briefing room, and two internet terminals. For soldiers who fancy a beer there is a bar on the ranch. Alcohol is forbidden on camp.

Other facilities include a helicopter landing pad, a VIP suite, female accommodation, 42 minibuses and a headquarters with a permanent staff of four.

Workshops and stores full of hi-tech adventurous training textiles and equipment complete the picture.

Cooks from the unit being hosted assist the resident master chef. "We need battle-group manning to help us in running the packages," said Maj Mellor.

Expedition leaders are mostly local, well-qualified Canadian guides. "We have high-level instruction, some world-leaders. We have a vast area to train in, as far north as the Columbia ice fields."

By any standard the packages that have evolved at Trails End since the present site was opened in 1992, are impressive.

● What you think of the Trails End treatment – see Vox pop, Page 78



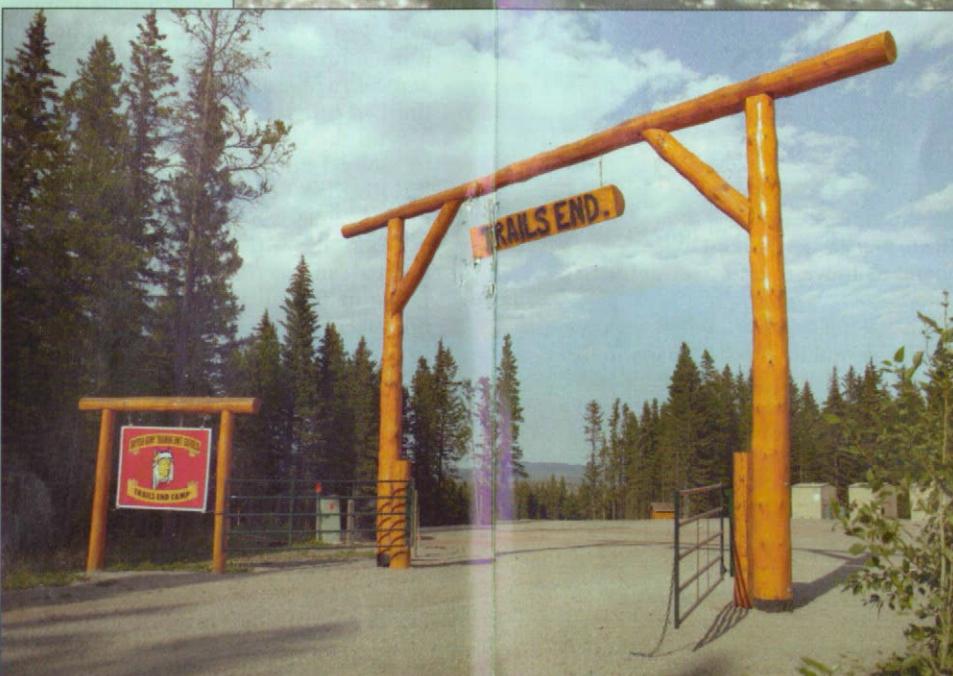
Chilling out: Ice climbing in the Rockies is one of the exciting winter options on offer



Down boy: Dog sledding, above, is one of Trails End's most popular options.

Wild ride: Alberta's fast-flowing rivers offer plenty of white water opportunities, right

Welcome: Hundreds of soldiers enjoy the opportunities Trails End Camp has to offer, below



Packed programme in summer months

Ex Ghost Run: Canadian canoeing and kayaking with a proficiency award available. Half-day skills' training and a half-day trip down grade-one water is followed by a four-day expedition on the Kootenay River at grades two and three. Gives a real feeling of achievement.

Ex Wapta Dance: Alpine mountaineering. Five-day expedition, glacier crossing with crevasse rescue and climbing peaks.

Ex Wapta Glide: Ski mountaineering, a five-day package including telemark skiing. If possible, participants should have a skiing qualification in advance.

Ex Yam Rock: Five-day multi-pitch rock climbing expedition, with proficiency award available. Exciting stuff with anything up to 14 pitches. Not for the faint-hearted.

Ex Fast Air: Army Parachuting Associa-

tion-approved course up to free-fall level using sports parachutes. Includes six jumps. Individuals pack own parachutes, which ensures they really pay attention.

Ex Bear Dawn: Multi-package of five activities – single-pitch climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, trekking, and white water rafting in Kananaskis and Canmore areas.

Ex Rough Ride: Five-day expedition into the wilderness on horseback. Soldiers have to feed and groom their horses, sleep in trapper tents and climb 8,000-ft Black Rock Mountain (a 3,000-ft climb without the horses).

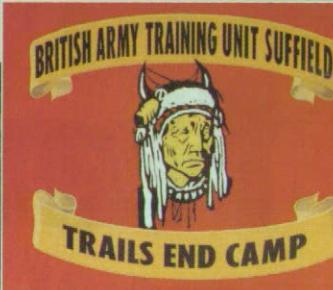
Ex Deep Water: Limited availability sailing expedition off Vancouver Island. All participants so far have come back with day skipper qualifications ratified by the British and Canadian Yachting Associations.

... and there's also a lot on in the winter

Dog sledding progression course.

Recreational skiing: For families of personnel serving at Batus and Batsuw. There is a charge.

Joint Services Skiing Instructor: Both Alpine and Nordic Snowboarding.



New score for Army musicians?

Bands face time of change in war role and music college location

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

TAKE a stroll around the streets of suburban Twickenham and you may hear the strains of a trumpet . . . or perhaps an entire military band.

Within sight of England's international rugby stadium lies Kneller Hall, home of the Royal Military School of Music for nearly 150 years, but perhaps for not much longer.

Its location is not the only challenge concerning the Army's modern musicians. Changes to legislation have called into question their wartime duties.

"We are confronted by several issues," said Col Tony Potter, late R Irish, the school commandant. "One is the very future of Kneller Hall itself and another is the future operational role for bands."

In common with the rest of the Army, the Corps of Army Music was heavily committed to providing cover for the firemen's strike – Op Fresco – and the war in Iraq. Fourteen bands were drawn into Fresco and seven deployed to the Gulf to support Army Medical Service units.



Banding together

Type 49 in action: The band of the Irish Guards

THE Directorate of the Corps of Army Music is responsible for the 30 Regular and the 15 Territorial Army bands.

"We have two types of Regular band, Type 45 and Type 35," said Lt Col Geoff Kingston, CA Mus, principal director of music for the Army. The numbers reflect established strength.

"Type 49 are the state bands comprising

the Royal Artillery and the Foot Guards – Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards. The exception is the Light Division, also a Type 49 but not a state band."

All other the others are Type 35.

Military bands, synonymous with the best of British pageantry and ceremonial, perform – in perfect harmony – at about 3,500 engagements.



Shake a stick: Student bandmasters, from left, Justin Gooch, Tony Williams and Paul Collis-Smith learn conducting techniques. The bandmasters' course takes three years

Yet their medical role is being called into question.

Bandsmen, as they were known, were used as stretcher-bearers in both world wars. Later the role was expanded and musicians – their modern title – were trained as medical assistants.

"However, legislation known as clinical governance made it clear that the Army could no longer train non-medical personnel to perform medical functions," said Col Potter. "The upshot was that bands found themselves without a war role."

Musicians deployed on Op Telic to decontaminate casualties in the event of chemical attack, an activity for which they were trained before they left the UK – which may define their future role.

Although no decision has been taken on their wartime duty, decontamination, general support to field or general hospitals on non-nursing duties, or some other logistic support function that kept the

band together as an entity are all possibilities.

"We need a war skill that utilises the attributes of our musicians, namely their intelligence and flexibility. It has to be an activity that does not require more than two or three weeks' training if their musical skills are not to suffer."

Also of concern to the corps is the future of Kneller Hall, something that has been bubbling away for years.

"The uncertainty of our future is unsettling for our civilian staff but it also means that we are now in a period of financial and planning void, with no one prepared to invest in the Kneller Hall site until the final decision is made," said Col Potter.

"Our future is far from clear and we have three options: move to Sandhurst, which would be in 2006 at the earliest; stay here; or move to an as yet unidentified site."

Whether Kneller Hall, an impressive grade 2 listed building, provides the training environment and flexibility needed in the 21st century is questionable.

A move to Sandhurst would permit a modern, custom-built school of music and give students the use of Sandhurst's extensive training, fitness and sporting facilities. But it would also mean the corps losing its chapel, museum and, possibly, their independent warrant officers' and sergeants' mess, something they regard as essential for the training of bandmasters.

There is an interesting story behind its creation. At a grand review to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday the massed



Heavy metal: Student bandsmen strut their stuff on the Kneller Hall parade square

None of our students is average

THE Corps of Army Music leads the field in recruiting soldier graduates and has one of the highest retention rates in the Army.

Its school trains all Army musicians, from basic recruits to senior bandmasters sitting the Advanced Certificate of Music. Chief instructor is Lt Col Malcolm Torrent, CAMus, who is assisted by the school bandmaster and four full-time academic professors who teach conducting, harmony, orchestration and history of music. Fourteen peripatetic instructors coach various instruments.

"There is no such thing as an average musician. He or she can range in age from 17 to 35, could be a school leaver or a graduate," said Lt Col Torrent. This year 22 per cent of phase two trainees were graduates, most with degrees in music.

"One thing all students have is musical competence on their instrument, which they have to prove during an audition. Once accepted they must complete phase one training at ATR Winchester."

Musicians between 16 and 17 can join as junior soldiers and attend a 20-week development course at Bassingbourn, Cambs.

"At Kneller Hall musicians start phase two training, known as the foundation course, which lasts 11 to 44 weeks depending on the standard of musicianship on entry. Students are not at the college any longer than necessary," said Lt Col Torrent. "Their aim is achieving the trade employment qualifications before passing out."

Currently 56 students are on the foundation course, including a few from Botswana and Jamaica.

The bandmasters' course, widely regarded as the school's premier training package, lasts three years and produces highly-qualified WO1 bandmasters.

Appalling din led to foundation of school

KNELLER Hall was built in 1709 for Sir Godfrey Kneller, a prolific court painter to James II, and William and Mary.

After his death in 1723, the estate remained in private hands until 1850 when it was bought by the government. Seven years later a military school of music was established in its grand rooms.

There is an interesting story behind its creation. At a grand review to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday the massed

bands – 20 or so – of British regiments were required for the first time to play the National Anthem. The result, in front of the General Staffs of all the allied forces fighting in the Crimea, was an embarrassing musical fiasco.

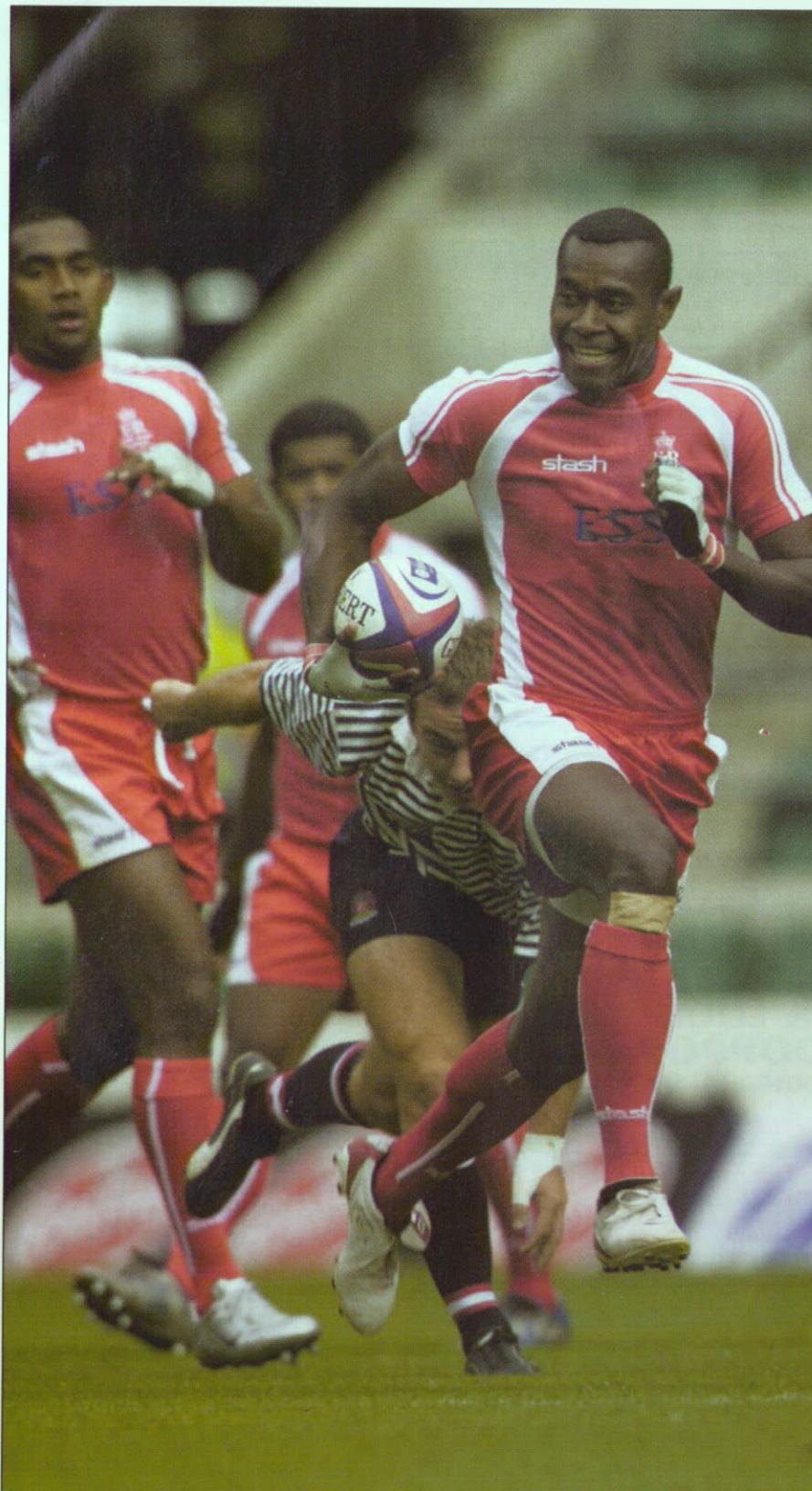
Each band used different instrumentation, pitch, style and arrangement – producing a humiliating cacophony. Among those who heard it was George, Duke of Cambridge, a cousin of Queen Victoria and

commander of the 1st Division in the Crimean War.

When he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army he established a central college for military music and the War Office acquired Kneller Hall. Its first intake comprised 85 pupils from 48 regiments under a civilian director of music.

The school was granted the title Royal in 1887 during Victoria's golden jubilee.

Reds slip up at Twickers



All smiles: Pte Epeli Qolikibua (1 RS) enjoys that winning feeling during the Army's victory over hot favourites Gloucester during the opening round of the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham

Newcastle Falcons bring an end to Army's winning run

Report: Roger Thompson
Picture: Graeme Main

AT full throttle and fuelled by a series of big-name scalps and championship wins, the Army remarkably fell two hurdles from home at Twickenham.

Last month the ESS-sponsored Army Sevens team performed with panache and pace, winning the Welsh Sevens at Cwm Tawe and the Henley International Tournament.

At Henley the Army destroyed the Northampton Saints 47-19, mesmerising the Zurich-Premiership professionals, who chased shadows throughout a 20-minute final. The resulting praise from the Saint's All Black coach Wayne Smith could not have been higher.

These words may still have been ringing in the team's ears when they arrived at Twickenham to compete in the London Pride Middlesex Sevens.

A late entry had secured an unenviable first round draw against the mighty Gloucester, who signalled their intention by fielding six internationals including Henry Paul and Simon Amor.

Despite the pedigree of their much-fancied opponents, the Army strolled to a comprehensive 33-24 victory, with playmakers Pte Epeli Qolikibua and Pte Emosi Naisaramaki (both 1 RS) hitting expansive form.

Pte Saula Roko (RGBW) revelled in the near-perfect sprinting conditions, stretching his legs over the closely-cropped turf in the warm sunshine, and up front Pte Isoa Damu Damu (Hldrs) showed exactly why so many pundits rate the Fijian flyer so highly.

Maybe the leaking of 24 points should have provided a warning. Flamboyance is one thing, frivolity against professional players hungry to impress at the start of the season another. Schoolboy "chip-kicks" were a silly and unnecessary ploy from a team renowned for its hands and which simply needed to run to score tries.

However, the second round produced an equally emphatic 40-5 win against the Leeds Tykes.

The forwards were more competitive and the ball flowed sweetly to the backs, who established complete control, building patiently and only plundering the line when the defence had fallen away.

The Reds' reward was a semi-final showdown with familiar adversaries the Newcastle Falcons.

Failing to secure successive kick-offs and quickly recover from their errors, the Army allowed Newcastle to cruise into a 17-point lead.

A shrill wake-up call from head coach Lt Col Andy Hickling bump-started the Army players, who managed to claw their way to within five points of the Falcons, but with the whole of Twickenham on edge expecting a fabulous comeback, three scoring opportunities were squandered.

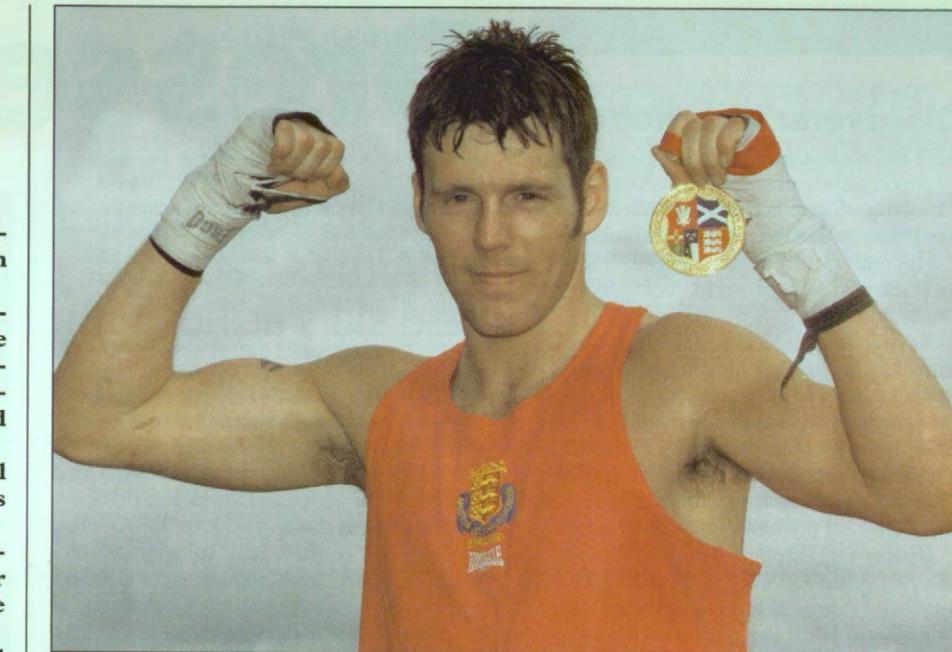
At such a high level of competition only the truly hungry can eat their way through to the final and on this occasion the Army had not shown the required appetite for success.

Northampton, on the other hand, did and went on to win the final at a canter, with the same players overpowered by the Army just seven days earlier.

Acutely aware of the opportunity missed by his players, Hickling said: "Our priorities now are to retain the Dubai title and there will also be a trophy in the offing in Singapore, where victory would more than make up for the mistakes made at Twickenham."

◆ The Combined Services rugby team will take on the Barbarians in a Remembrance Day match at Aldershot Rugby Stadium on Tuesday November 11.

See October's *Soldier* for further details and ticket information.
www.armyrugbyunion.co.uk



Hot prospect: LCpl Tony Davis (1 RRF) has been selected as a member of England's élite squad

Athens awaits

Olympics boost for Army boxing champ

BRITISH light-heavyweight champion LCpl Tony Davis (1 RRF) has been selected for an élite England training squad ahead of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, writes Alex Narey.

The 29-year-old, who was on international duty at the Commonwealth Federations' Championships in Kuala Lumpur as *Soldier* went to press, will take on full-time training duties alongside six other prime candidates who are believed by national coaches to have the best chance of success next summer.

Although selection for the Games themselves remains uncertain, Davis's inclusion on the short-list represents a significant boost to the Combined Services champion's chances of donning an England vest in the ancient Greek city.

"I have now got a great chance of getting to Athens," enthused Davis. "A few years ago I could only dream of boxing for England but now I'm among the best in the country and I fully intend to stay there."

"I have been told that I have proved myself, but I feel that there is still a lot to do and this news is really encouraging for me in terms of my international career continuing."

However, with the intense training programme comes the reality that Davis will be unable to fulfil his domestic duties as a member of SSgt Vinny Powell's Alder-

shot-based Army boxing team, who return to action this month.

"This is a great opportunity that I have to take," he said. "It will mean that I will be absent from the Army team for some time and away from home a lot."

"It will be difficult, but I have the support of my wife Joanne, who backs me all the way, so I intend to grab this chance with both hands."

Ian Irwin, England's performance director, added: "Tony has not had a great deal of international experience, but he has not had his nose spread across his face and in that respect he still has plenty to offer."

"He has a very good temperament and is cooperative. The training will be tough for the qualifiers and will take him away from his work as a soldier, but we feel that with a lot of hard work and training he has the right pedigree to reach the Olympics next year."

Speaking about his chances in Kuala Lumpur, Davis believes that a heavy training schedule throughout August, which included a week at Crystal Palace with his England teammates, will serve him well and is adamant that he will return home from Asia with something to show for his efforts.

"At Crystal Palace we were up at seven in the morning and would do sparring sessions before hitting the weights," he said. "It was hard work and took its toll, but I enjoyed it."

"I'm determined to at least reach the medal stage of the championships in Kuala Lumpur and then I'll take it from there."

SHORTS

Discoverer sails home

AFTER more than 20 days at sea, the 14-strong crew of the British Army's 67ft Challenge Class yacht *Discoverer* finished the DaimlerChrysler North Atlantic Challenge in fifth place, easily beating the German Army's yacht *Asta* across the finish line.

As well as competing against 62 teams from 12 countries, including two other British teams, in the 3,600 nautical mile race from Newport, Rhode Island, USA to Hamburg in Germany, the Army accepted a separate challenge from their German counterparts, who eventually finished in 43rd position, before setting sail.

Discoverer's skipper, Maj Ben Archer (Royal School of Artillery), said: "We're absolutely thrilled to have finished fifth overall and third in our class – it's a fantastic achievement for all the boys."

"It was a tough race with periods of very rough weather and we're all exhausted, but it has most definitely been worth it. Our success is down to the whole crew working as a team and mucking in to solve the problems we faced."

The race, won by the American yacht *Zaraffa*, was organised to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Hamburg Yacht Club.

Army's Dutch delight

A TEAM representing the United Kingdom claimed a podium finish at the Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) military pentathlon in Holland. Lt Tania Pitman (256 Field Hospital), JUO Alanda Scott and OCdt Ali Wilson finished third behind Canada and the USA in the competition, which attracted more than 180 reservists from Nato and Partnership for Peace countries.

Hat-trick hampered

A SERIES of lengthy dry riverbed crossings denied Cpl Neil Moreton (2 Close Support Regiment RLC) a third successive victory in Kenya's annual Rhino Charge Rally. Navigating for Kenyan businessman Rob Collinge, Moreton had to settle for sixth place in this year's competition, which is regarded as the toughest 4x4 rally in the world, after his team's progress along the 50km course was repeatedly hampered by the natural obstacles.

Tri-ing times in France

ARMY triathlete Maj Simon Jordan (4 GS Regt RLC) completed the Ironman France, one of the 24 stages of this year's World Triathlon Federation Ironman series, in 13hrs 31min 38sec. Held in the French Alps in the town of Gerardmer and now in its second year, the race includes a 2.5-mile swim, 112-mile cycle and 26.2-mile run.

Dressed for success

Inter-Services victories for Army's track and field stars at Tidworth

MODELLING new-look red and black strips, the Army's athletics teams celebrated a double victory at Tidworth Oval after winning both the men's and women's Inter-Services titles.

Fielding a near full-strength side, the men's team's bid to wrestle the trophy from the grasp of reigning champions the Royal Air Force got off to the best possible start in the hammer.

Despite the efforts of the RAF's enigmatic team captain and long-serving Great Britain athlete Sgt Mark Proctor, the Army secured maximum points in the field event with Nigerian star Pte John Osazuwa and debutant Spr Matt Jones finishing in first and second place respectively.

Track victories from twin brothers LCpl Josephus Thomas (100m) and LCpl Joeselyn Thomas (200m), Nigeria's Pte Lee Okoroafo (110m hurdles), Pte Musa Audu (400m), LCpl Spud Williams (400m hurdles) and Sig Haggi Chepkwony (5,000m) followed, giving the Army what looked to be an unassailable lead.

However, thanks to a first place



Leading the way: LCpl Spud Williams en route to Inter-Services 400m hurdles title Picture: Steve Dock

finish in the 800 metres, an Inter-Services javelin record and masterful performance from Proctor in the discus, the RAF pulled level on points

with just the 4x100m and 4x400m relays to run.

Faced with the prospect of finishing as runners-up for a second successive season, the Army's eight sprinters kept cool heads and powered round the track to win both events and clinch a narrow, but deserved, four-point team victory.

There was no such nail-biting finish in the women's competition, which saw the Army successfully defend their Inter-Services crown.

Newcomers LCpl Claire Davidson (triple jump champion), Pte Hajurat Yusuf (400m champion), LCpl Kelly White (runner-up in the javelin and long jump), Sig Becky Harvey (5,000m runner-up), Sig Julia Cartwright (who finished second in the 400m, 400m hurdles and high jump) and Sig Susie Jones (800m champion) were part of an extremely successful team that took maximum points in almost every event and finished 67 points clear of nearest rivals the RAF.

■ Results: Team standings, men – 1, Army (163pts); 2, RAF (159pts); 3, RN (71pts). Women – 1, Army (162pts); 2, RAF (95pts); 3, RN (71pts).



Picture: Steve Dock

Dazzling debut: Sig Julia Cartwright amassed an impressive points total after finishing second in the high jump (behind Army team-mate WO1 Steph Grant), the 400m and the 400m hurdles

RESULTS SERVICE ... RESULTS SERVICE ...

ATHLETICS: Inter-unit championships. Major units (after 19 events) – 1, 3 CS Regt RLC (279pts); 2, 21 Sig Regt (238pts); 3, RMAS (193pts); 4, 11 Sig Regt (175pts); 5, 3 RSME (162pts); 6, 1 RSME (148pts); 7, HQNI & Sig Regt (128pts).

Minor units (after 18 events) – 1, HQ 4 Div/ASPT (130pts); 2, DISC Chicksands (117pts); 3, ATR Lichfield (115pts); 4, 39 Ind Bde (93pts); 5, Nijmegen Coy Gren Gds (81pts).

Women's (after 15 events) – 1, 21 Sig Regt (102pts); 2, 3 CS Regt RLC (100pts); 3, 29 Regt RLC (86pts); 4, RMAS (85pts); 5, 11 Sig Regt (69pts); 6, 2 R Irish (43pts).

Inter-Services decathlon and heptathlon championships. Heptathlon individual standings – 1, LAC Becks Scotcher (RAF) 3,565pts; 2, Sig Julia Cartwright (Army) 3,344pts; 3, SAC Julie Easterbrook (RAF) 3,220pts. Team standings – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN. Decathlon individual standings –

1, Pte Lee Okoroafo (Army) 5,902pts; 2, Gdsm John Dodsworth (Army) 5,500pts; 3, LCpl Spud Williams (Army) 5,142pts.

Team standings – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RN.

CANOEING: Army sprint and marathon championships. Team competition, senior men's – 1, 4 Med Regt (117pts); 2, 3 RSME (116pts). Women's – 1, 4 Med Regt (174pts); 2, 21 Sig Regt (56pts).

Class 3/4/5 – 1, RMAS (163pts); 2, 4 GS Regt RLC A (151pts); 3, 11 Sig Regt (148pts); 4, 1 WFR (144pts); 5, 21 Signal Regt (139pts); 6, 4 GS Regt RLC B (74pts).

CLIMBING: Inter-Services championships, junior team winners – Army. Junior individual – 1, OCdt James Moore (Army); 2, OCdt Dan Sheppard (Army); 3, OCdt Kev Page (Army).

Women's team winners – Army. Women's individual – 1, Maj Leanne Callaghan (Army); 2, OCdt Judith Duffus (Army); 3, OCdt Jo Holden (Army).

Open team winners – Army. Open individuals – 1, LSgt Loz Owen (Army); 2, Capt Mike Smith (Army); 3, Capt Jason Ainley (Army).

Best veteran – Val Singleton (RAF). **Best super veteran** – John Snowden (Navy).



Champion: Maj Gareth Baker

2, Army B (squad). 680kg – 1, Army A; 2, Army B. 640kg – 1, Army A; 2, Army B. 720kg – 1, Army A; 2, RAF.

Tri-Service championships, 600kg – 1, Civil Service; 2, Combined Services; 3, Police. **Catchweight** – 1, Police; 2, Civil Service; 3, Combined Services. 640kg – 1, Civil Service; 2, Combined Services; 3, Police. 680kg – 1, Civil Service A; 2, Civil Service B; 3, Combined Services.

WINDSURFING: Army championships – 1, Maj Gareth Baker (RE); 2, Capt Allan Cross (RLC); 3, Maj Jamie Clarke (RLC); 4, Maj Dave Hinsley (AMS); 5, WO2 Brian Greive (REME); 6, Capt Steve Jones (RE). **Raceboard class** – 1, Lt Col Neil Curry (REME); 2, Maj Mark Gidney (RE). **Freeride** – Maj Stuart Anderson (REME). **Novice** – Capt James Marshall (RLC). **Women's** – LCpl Clare O'Neill (AAC). **Inter-corps series** – 1, RE; 2, REME; 3, RLC.

■ E-mail results@soldiermagazine.co.uk

by 189 runs; Bath CC (200-9) beat Army (164) by 36 runs.

GOLF: TA (5.5pts) beat Army (4.5pts).

TUG OF WAR: Army championships, 600kg – 1, 7 Signal Regt; 2, 4 R Irish. 560kg (women's) – 1, 16 Regt RA; 2, 14 Regt RA. 680kg – 1, 7 Signal Regt; 2, 4 R Irish. 560kg – 1, 7 Signal Regt; 2, 1 RHA. 560kg (women's) – 1, 16 Regt RA; 2, 4 R Irish. **Catchweight (TA) winners** – 124 Pet Sqn (V). 530kg (girls) – 1, Cleveland ACF; 2, Norfolk ACF. 560kg (boys) – 1, Highlander's ACF.

Inter-corps championships, 600kg – 1, 7 Signal Regt; 2, 14 Regt RA. 560kg (women's) – 1, 14 Regt RA; 2, 11 Signal Regt. 680kg – 1, 7 Signal Regt; 2, 11 Signal Regt. 520kg (women's) – 1, 14 Regt RA; 2, 11 Signal Regt. 640kg – 1, 7 Signal Regt; 2, 14 Regt RA.

Land Command (United Kingdom) championships, 600kg – 1, 1 RHA; 2, 14 Regt RA. 520kg (women's) – 1, Kings Troop RHA; 2, 16 Regt RA. 680kg – 1, 1 RHA; 2, 2, RAF. 560kg (women's) – 1, Kings Troop RHA; 2, 16 Regt RA. 560kg – 1, 14 Regt RA; 2, 1 RHA. 640kg – 1, 1 RHA; 2, RAF.

5 Div championships, 600kg – 1, 1 RHA; 2, 14 Regt RA. 520kg (women's) – 1, 11 Signal Regt. 680kg – 1, 1 RHA; 2, 14 Regt RA. 560kg (women's) – 1, 11 Signal Regt. 560kg – 1, 14 Regt RA; 2, 1 RHA. 640kg – 1, 1 RHA; 2, 14 Regt RA.

Inter-Service championships, 600kg – 1, Army A (7 Signal Regt); 2, Army B (squad). 680kg – 1, Army A; 2, Army B. 720kg – 1, Army A; 2, RAF.

Tri-Service championships, 600kg – 1, Civil Service; 2, Combined Services; 3, Police. **Catchweight** – 1, Police; 2, Civil Service; 3, Combined Services. 640kg – 1, Civil Service; 2, Combined Services; 3, Police. 680kg – 1, Civil Service A; 2, Civil Service B; 3, Combined Services.

WINDSURFING: Army championships – 1, Maj Gareth Baker (RE); 2, Capt Allan Cross (RLC); 3, Maj Jamie Clarke (RLC); 4, Maj Dave Hinsley (AMS); 5, WO2 Brian Greive (REME); 6, Capt Steve Jones (RE). **Raceboard class** – 1, Lt Col Neil Curry (REME); 2, Maj Mark Gidney (RE). **Freeride** – Maj Stuart Anderson (REME). **Novice** – Capt James Marshall (RLC). **Women's** – LCpl Clare O'Neill (AAC). **Inter-corps series** – 1, RE; 2, REME; 3, RLC.

■ E-mail results@soldiermagazine.co.uk

SHORTS

Rugby rudiments

THE Combined Services Rugby Association is running a series of referees' courses for Service personnel over the coming months.

Course dates include: National foundation course – September 10-12 (RAF Halton); September 15-17 (Portsmouth). B grade – December 10-12 – (RAF Halton). C grade – September 25-26 (RAF Halton). B and C grade – September 25 (Germany); October 20-22 (Portsmouth). Level 1 Advisor – November 19-21 (RAF Halton). For more information contact WO2 John Voss on mil 9491 43754 or send an e-mail to johnvoss1@hotmail.com

McIntyre mulls victory

ILFORD-based 36 Signal Regiment (V) have sailed into the history books by becoming the first Territorial Army unit to win the Royal Signals Baltic Regatta since the launch of the competition in 1966.

Led by skipper Sgt Maj Terry McIntyre, a six-strong team from the regiment completed the race round Germany and Denmark on board a 33ft Najad331 yacht.

"A year ago four of the team members had no sailing experience, so they all deserve a great big pat on the back," said McIntyre. "To go from knowing nothing about sailing to taking first place in a competition against seasoned sailors just goes to show what can be achieved with training and determination."

Catch of the day

THE Army's coarse fishing team clinched promotion to the top flight of the National Federation of Anglers by hooking more than 44lb of fish during the Second Division championships on the River Soar and Loughborough Canal.

Team skipper Capt Gus Brindle (1 RS) said: "We came fourth overall with a total of 435 points and missed out on a medal by just six points. However, we did enough to win promotion and we are extremely happy with that."

The 16-strong team came within one point of promotion last season having been relegated from the First Division in 2000.

Loggies motoring ahead

FOR the fourth successive year 4 General Support Regiment RLC have been crowned as the Army's team motor-cycle champions.

The unit's reign of dominance in the championships, this year held at DST Leconfield, is unprecedented in the world of Army motor sport.

Senneck's overs, but not out

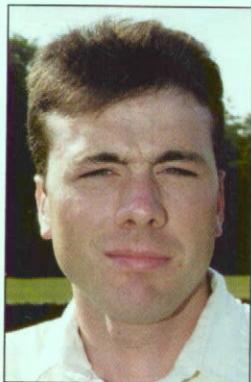
All-rounder helps bring an end to Army's barren run

EXORCISING the disappointment of five years of near misses and heavy defeats, the Army re-emerged as the pre-eminent force in Inter-Services cricket after posting a record score against old foes the Royal Air Force on their way to the title at Aldershot.

Put into bat by the reigning champions, the Army, who last lifted the Inter-Services trophy back in 1998, took full advantage of the dry, batsman-friendly conditions with Sig Martyn Cull (21 Sig Regt), 85, and Gnr Phil Carlin (7 Para RHA) crafting an opening partnership of 64.

Carlin's dismissal for 27 made room at the crease for skipper Capt James Fulton (2 RGJ), who shot a quick-fire 18 before being caught behind. SSgt Nick Palmer (4 Regt AAC), 46, then settled the Army innings, putting on 99 runs with Cull.

When this partnership was broken it was left to Capt Alex Senneck (HQ Theatre Troops), 52 not out, and Pte Trevor Fabien (1 PWO), 19, to put the match out of the RAF's reach. The pairing duly obliged, hitting 55 runs off the last four overs to leave the Army on 299-7 – the



Star: Capt Alex Senneck

highest recorded score in senior Inter-Services cricket history.

In reply, the RAF started badly, both openers being dismissed by the end of the seventh over with just 30 runs on the board, before Fg Off Tim Adcock (54) and Fg Off Ollie Bailey (51 not out) stepped up the run-rate.

However, tight bowling and good fielding drills continued to frustrate the visiting batsmen with Sgt Steve Hole (32 Regt RA), 3-31 off eight overs, and man-of-the-match Senneck, 2-20 off six, the pick of the Army bowlers.

With wickets falling at regular intervals, the huge total slipped further and further away from the RAF, who were still 96 runs astray when the 50-over innings closed at 203-8.

The Army, last year's wooden spoon winners, continued where they had left off at the crease when put into bat by the Royal Navy the following day.

Once again it was Cull, 29, and Carlin, 85, who laid the foundations, ably dealing with the Navy's pace bowlers. But with the prospect of another massive total on the cards, the remaining batsmen, hampered

by Mne Stuart Phelps, 3-13 off ten, and PO Adam Troughton, 2-28 off his ten-over spell, failed to keep the early momentum going and the Army were dismissed for a disappointing 209 off 49 overs.

However, Senneck, 4-17 off nine, who was later to be named player of the series, and Fabien, who conceded just seven runs



Picture: Graeme Main

Champion assault: Sgt Dean Woodhouse helps destroy the Navy's batting order at Aldershot

off eight overs, soon dispersed any fears that the Navy would reach the required total. The duo opened up with a display of accurate fast bowling that left the Navy struggling on 19-2. Sgt Dean Woodhouse (70 Aircraft Wksp), 4-41 from ten overs, followed suit and was denied a five-wicket

haul only by a butter-fingered teammate who dropped a straightforward catch.

With only PO Rouse, 39, making any significant headway with the bat, the Navy limped to a total of 126, 83 runs short of their target, and the Army were at long last crowned champions.



British champion: Mark Hatton

Ice-cool performance

ARMY slider Pte Matt Duncan (2 LI) strengthened his case for a Great Britain call-up by winning silver at this year's British luge championships in Lillehammer, Norway.

Displaying levels of courage and technique that belie his two years of experience in a discipline widely regarded as the most dangerous of ice sports, Duncan finished just four seconds behind Salt Lake City Olympian Mark Hatton after two runs.

"This result proves that Matt has what it takes to compete at the highest possible level," explained Maj Adam Johnstone, secretary of Army luge. "I think that the 2006 Olympics in Torino, Italy may just come round too soon for him, but if he continues to improve at the rate he is then there is no reason why he can't become an Olympian in 2010."

Duncan was also joined on the podium by British novice champion Lt Steve Reynolds (REME), who finished in third place.

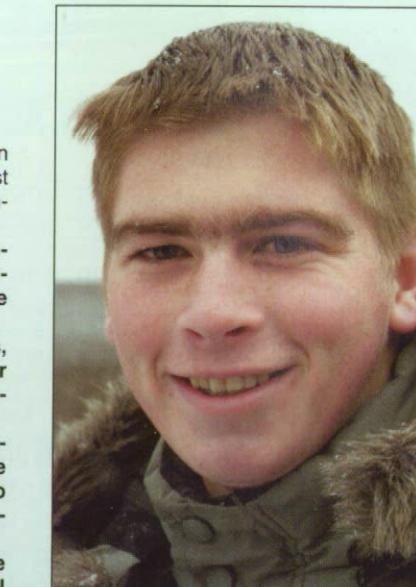
In the women's competition, Army champion LCpl Hannah Errington (RLC) capped her first season competing on the World Cup circuit by winning the British title.

◆ The British Army has organised two seven-day ice sports camps to help identify and develop luge, skeleton and bobsleigh athletes for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Spaces are still available on the camps, which will be held in Lillehammer from October 18 and cost £450 per person (Army Sports Lottery members qualify for a £75 refund).

Budding Olympians will receive expert training and be instructed in the whole range of ice sports skills, from preparing the equipment to starting, driving and, most importantly, stopping the sleds.

For more information contact Maj Johnstone on mil 94251 2863, Capt Helen Carter on mil 94384 8211 or e-mail adamluge@yahoo.co.uk



Olympic hopeful: Pte Matt Duncan (2 LI)

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to September . . .

ANGLING: 1 – Coarse fishing competition (Aldershot); 2-3 – Army individual coarse fishing championships (Aldershot); 4 – Inter-group/division coarse fishing championships (Aldershot), Game fishing, Army v Royal Navy (Chew); 5-6 – Army coarse fishing team final (Aldershot); 13-14 – AAF Group 8 match (Hawley Lake, Hawley); 14-16 – Inter-Services game fishing championships (Rutland Water); 27-29 – AFF Group 8 final (Bassingbourn, Royston).

ATHLETICS: 15 – National sprint triathlon championships (Cotswolds); 17 – 4 Div cross-country league meeting (Hermitage).

CANOEING: 5 – Inter-Services marathon championships (Nottingham); 6-7 – Inter-Services sprint championships (Nottingham); 11-12 – Army surf canoeing championships (Newgate).

CRICKET: 4 – Minor units final (Aldershot); 5 – Major units final (Aldershot); 12 – AGC AGM.

CYCLING: 6 – National circuit TT championships (Liverpool); 6-7 – Sleepless in the Saddle (TBC); 7-14 – World masters track championships (Manchester); 13-14 – NPS mountain bike downhill event (Reading).

EQUESTRIAN: 21 – Combined training (Warminster Saddle Club); 28 – Army and RA Hunter Trials (Larkhill).

FOOTBALL: 2 – Army U21 v Gala Winton (Tidworth Oval); 4 – Army U21 v Torquay United (TBC); 13 – Army Crusaders v APTC (Aldershot); 20 – Army Crusaders v AGC (Aldershot); 27 – RMAS v Army Crusaders (Sandhurst).

GOLF: 2 – 2 Div (Scotland) autumn meeting (Kinross GC), Army women v NAP GC (Army GC, Aldershot); 3 – 4 Div (south east) autumn meeting (Aldershot); 6 – Army v Kent (Army GC, Aldershot); 6-7 – Army v Pyle & Kenfig (Saunton GC); 8-11 – Inter-Services championships (Saunton GC); 17 – Inter-regional championships (Worksop); 19 – 2 Div (north east) summer/autumn meeting (Ashley Wood GC); 25 – 4 Div (east) autumn meeting (Ely GC, Cambridge); 29 – Women's strokeplay (TBC).

NETBALL: 17 – 4 Div championships (Aldershot).

ROUNDERS: 17 – Inter-unit championships (Worthy Down); 18-19 – Inter-corps championships (Worthy Down); 19 – Inter-Services championships (Worthy Down).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 5 – Army v Navy (United Services Ground, Portsmouth); 10 – Army v RAF (United Services Ground, Portsmouth); 17 – Lawson Cup final: REME v RE and 3/4 play-off: AGC v RLC (Aldershot); 24 – Yeoman Cup (Aldershot).

RUGBY UNION: 7 – English Sevens club championships (Harpenden).

SWIMMING: 15-25 – Army team tour (Cyprus).

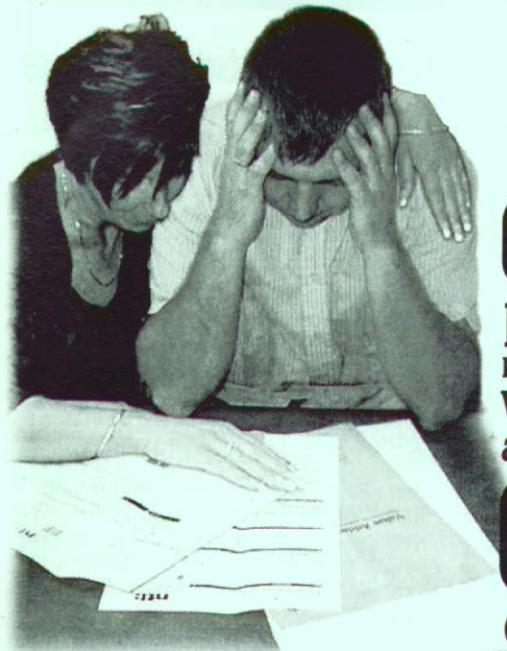
TUG OF WAR: 6 – Braemar Games (Scotland); 7 – National league championships (Daventry); 18-21 – European outdoor championships (Assen, Holland).

WINDSURFING: 17 – Inter-corps competition (Hayling Island).

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

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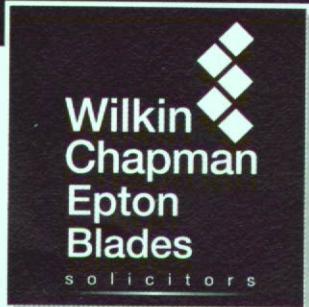
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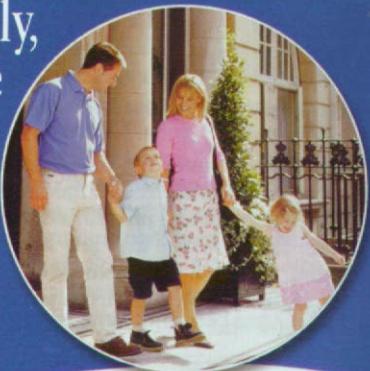
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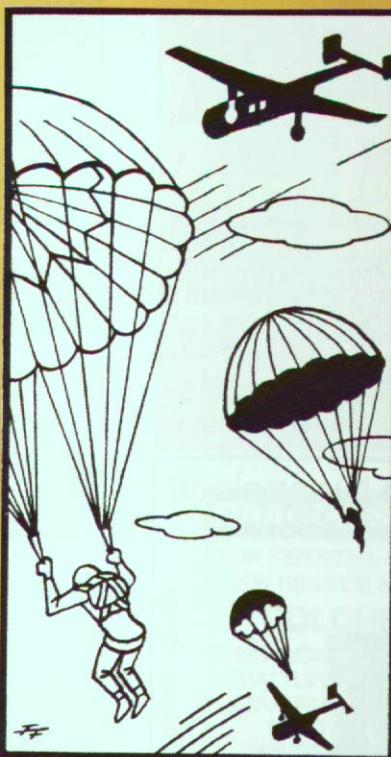


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No 742

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TEN details have been changed in one of our archive drawings by Frank Finch. Circle the differences in the right-hand image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 742, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by September 30.

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

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First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £10 gift vouchers. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

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

July issue (No 740): First correct entry drawn at random was from Mr B Broome, of Oldham, who wins £100. Runners-up W Quinn, of Co Armagh, NI and Pte C Slicker, 1 QLR, Helles Coy, Op Telic 2, receive a £10 gift voucher each. The ten differences were: sun's rays; saloon roof; saloon sign; saloon curtains; cowboy's hat (top right); cowboy on left; doorknob; horse's hoof; left-hand and right-hand windows above GUNS sign.



Freeze frame

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Write a caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in November 1950. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply, entries to reach us by September 30.



SGT J Smith of DNBCC Winterbourne Gunner wins our prize for the July competition, left, with his caption: **"The prisoners fled at the thought of have confessions tickled out of them"**.

We also liked **"I was told the Army marches on it stomach, but this is ridiculous"**, suggested by both Mrs D Hayler of Liss, Hants, and Julie Ann Boyd of Old Windsor.

Also in the frame were: **"The drought called for unorthodox measures in the annual triathlon"**.



from Cpl A J Burke, 2 Close Support Regiment RLC: **"Are you sure you lost your car keys on this part of the beach"** from Ross McNeill, HQ Northern Ireland; and the topical **"You lot look for weapons of mass destruction**

over there, and we'll keep searching here" from Bill McCarthy of Brixham, Devon.

T Green from HQ 12 Mech Bde offered: **"Due to severe drought, the RLC synchronised swimming team had to rehearse on land"**.

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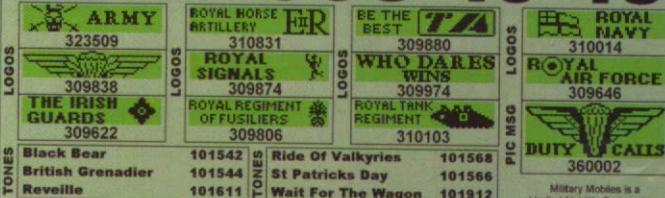
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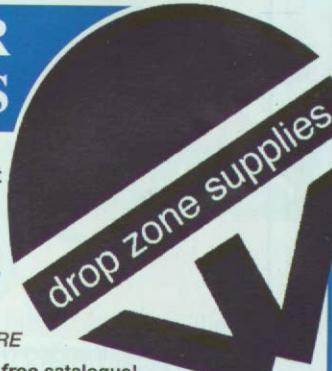
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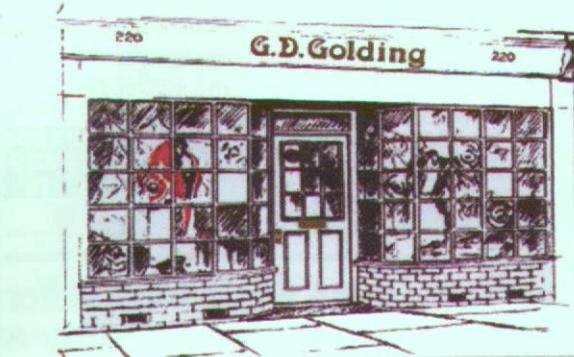




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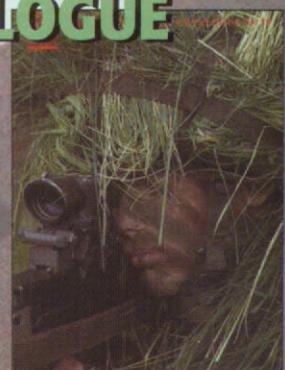
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Penny, (41), 5'4", slim with brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys keeping fit, horse riding, socialising, travel, good wines, cooking, walking and the countryside. Seeking pen pals who like children, 30-50. P416

Kel, (25), fair, slim, attractive with blue eyes. Enjoys extreme sports including skydiving also motorsports, dancing and being a lady. Seeking exciting single officer/soldier pen pals who enjoy life to the full, 20-34. P417

Jacqueline, (35), 5'6", slim build, long dark hair with green eyes. Enjoys tennis, the gym, films and going out with friends. Seeking pen pals, 30+. P418

Linda, (33), 5'8", in the medical profession, slim build, brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys music, socialising, quizzes and swimming. Seeking pen pals and new friends, any age group. P419

Caroline, (24), medical professional seeks great friendships. Enjoys socialising with friends and family, music, travelling, long walks and much more. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P420

Johann, (31), 5'2", medium build with shoulder length highlighted hair. Enjoys clubs, pubs, beer, good laughs, also likes quieter times, walking and the cinema. Seeking flirty thirty something pretty mad girl who would like to hear from guys aged 30-40 for some no thrills, spills, communication and friendship. P421

Patricia, (55), 5'5", brown hair and hazel eyes. Home maker who enjoys walking and music. Seeking pen pals, 48+. P422

Christina, (34), 5'8", brown hair and blue/green eyes. Enjoys socialising, eating out, walking, swimming and travel. Seeking single male pen pals, 30-38. P423

Kirsten, 5'8", brunette. Enjoys reading, hiking, kick boxing, swimming and various others. Seeking pen pals, 29-40. P424

Claire, 5'6", red-hot redhead, medium, cuddly build with blue eyes and GSOH. Enjoys motorsport, superbikes, football, shopping and clubbing. Seeking genuine male pen pals looks not important but a GSOH is, 28-35. P425

Elaine, (39), 5'4", size 20 with short fair hair and blue eyes. Enjoys reading, TV, bingo, pubs and staying in for romantic meals. Caring, honest, single hard working mum of one son (15). Seeking pen pals, 35-45. P426

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Kellie, (26), blonde beauty therapist with slim build and green eyes. Enjoys water skiing, pubs, clubs and dancing. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P427

Claire, (26), 5'3", red head with medium build. Enjoys theatre, general socialising, reading, Buddhist meditation, travel and swimming. Graduate, single and currently working as a civil servant. Seeking pen pals, 24-30. P428

Tam, (25), 5', brown hair and hazel eyes. Enjoys writing, receiving letters, making new friends, music and collecting snow scene shakers. Seeking pen pals, 20-29. P429

Gary, (40), 6', medium build with blue eyes. Enjoys running, cycling, pubs, music and cooking. Seeking pen pals with GSOH, outgoing personality and enjoys life, 30-45. P430

Sally, 5', blonde, medium build and blue eyes. Enjoys reading, writing, music, holding hands and having a laugh. Seeking pen pals with GSOH, 32-45. P431

Claire, (24), 5'4", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys music, cinema and F1 motor racing. Seeking pen pals/special friend, 20-40. P432

Shereema, (37), 5'5", slim and attractive. Enjoys travelling, gym, outdoor pursuits, scuba diving and good conversation. Seeking single reliable officer/marines/soldier pen pals, 35-45. P433

Jane, (38), 5'4", attractive brunette with blue eyes. Enjoys writing letters and watching TV. Seeking lonely soldiers to write to, to brighten up their day (and mine). P434

Priscilla, (48), 5'4", short light brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys reading, holidays, walking and music. Seeking pen pals, 40-56. P435

Tina, 5'7", fair hair and fair complexion. Enjoys DIY, reading, day outings and music. Seeking pen pals, 30+. P436

Bubbly, blonde single mother of one. Enjoys meeting new people and having a good giggle. Wishing to correspond with male soldiers (serving or ex) with GSOH, 25-45. P437

Mairwen, (35), 5'6", red hair and blue eyes. Enjoys gardening, motoring, TV, videos and visiting different places. Single mum of one, prefers a quiet drink and a meal. Seeking pen pals, 30-40. P438

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REUNIONS

Queen's Own Buffs, Royal Kent Regiment: Annual remembrance service and reunion, Sept 14 in Maidstone. Details from Bryan L Bartlett, 185 Park Crescent, Erith, Kent DA8 3EB, tel 01322 346053.

63 Squadron RLC: Centenary parade and open day, Sept 20, at Roman Barracks, Colchester. Includes military and parachute display. Ring Capt Derek Hendry on 01206 783575.

Suez Canal Zoners 1948-56, RN, RM, Army, RAF and Merchant Navy: Annual reunion weekend, Sept 26-28 at Blackpool. Contact reunion administrator Bernie Corrie on 01483 575081 or jcorrie@compuserve.com

4th (1/4th and 2/4th) and 4/5th (TA) Battalions, Royal Hampshire Regiment: 57th annual reunion at Newburgh House (pre- and post-war HQ of 4 Bn), Winchester, Sept 27. Enquiries, tickets from Maj (Retd) Ian Taylor, 4 Cedar Wood Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh Hants SO50 7LN, tel 023 80694771.

REME Commando: Reunion hosted by 29 Cdo Wksp in the Royal Citadel, Plymouth on Sept 27. Open to all REME-trained commandos, all branches, past and present. Ring SSgt Terry Harvey on (mil) 93784 6099/6103 or (civ) 01752 236099/236103.

Association of Ammunition Technicians: Reunion on Oct 4. For details, contact Bob Graham, Army School of Ammunition, Marlborough Barracks, Temple Herdewyke, Warkwickshire CV47 2 UL, tel 01869 257571 or e-mail rm.graham@btinternet.com

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SEARCHLINE

News or family of WO1 RSM B F Jessup RA of Bury St Edmunds, late 1950s, former owner of a **1935 MG sports car**, sought by Ryder Forsyth, Preston Bagot Cottage, Preston Bagot, Henley-in-Arden, B95 5ED.

Ex-Q Bty RHA, 21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Guards Armoured Division 1994-5, Normandy, Brussels and Nijmegen contact Sgt D MacSweeney, 1 Tp, Q Bty, 5 Regt RA, Marne Barracks, Catterick, N Yorkshire DL10 7NP e-mail danmacsweeney17@yahoo.com or call 01748 87 5944.

Johnny Aspinall, formerly of 21 Sig Regt at

CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS

CLOSING date for 2004 Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships is Oct 23. Open to all British citizens, the awards cover a range of skills and disciplines, including animal welfare, vets, PE teachers, science and technology, the voluntary sector and adventure and exploration. For further information send an sae to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR, tel 020 7564 9315, e-mail office@wcmt.org.uk or visit the website at www.wcmt.org.uk

Zoners, please don't jump gun

WE hear the Army Medal Office at Droitwich is being swamped by premature applications for the Canal Zone 1951-54 clasp – and criteria for the award haven't been published yet.

As we pointed out in our report (Update, July), Suez veterans will have to be patient for a little longer. Only when eligibility rules have been announced will Zoners and next-of-kin of those who have died be able to apply to the medal office. We'll let you know when you can.

Somerset Light Infantry (Germany, UK, Malta and Cyprus): Annual reunion on Oct 4 at Ladymead School, Cheddon Road, Taunton, Somerset. Partners welcome. Tickets from David Williams, 29 Knowle End, Woolavington, nr Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 8JH.

Vehicle specialists: Reunion Oct 10-12. Further information from www.vehspec.co.uk or rjmac915@yahoo.com

12 Regt RA: Reunion on Oct 18 at Woolwich for officers past and present. Details: Maj T D K Taylor RA, BC T/HQ Bty, 12 Regt RA, Dempsey Barracks, BFPO 16, tel Sennelager 94879 2262/3 or welfare_12@hotmail.com

Parachute Regiment WOs' & Sgts' (Past and Present) Dinner Club: 45th annual dinner on Oct 18 in Colchester. Details from WO2 Nobby Clarke, c/o RHQ 38 Sig Regt (V), Manor Top TAC, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield S12 2 AN or e-mail paradinnerclub@aol.com

5 Kings/2 T Force Old Comrades' Association: Annual reunion, Norwich, Oct 21-23.

RAF Laarbruch, is sought by old mates Eric Pratt and Geoff Scott. Call 01422 373075 or berylanggeoff@alfiesworld.freeserve.co.uk

Passing-out or intake photos please, of **68 Training Regiment RAC, Intake 303, Group 51-11, June 1951, Catterick**, required by ex-trainee Ken Clayson ex-Royal Scots Greys 1951-53, kenneth.clayson@ntlworld.com

Denis A Lee, ACC, Aldershot 1951, and att 8 RTR, Paderborn 1956 wants to hear from anyone who served with him. Write to 19 Walton Gardens, Grantham, Lincs NG31 7BH.

Seeking Danny (Taff) Thomas RLC, YTS trainee in Warrington with Dave Barker ex-RN, and later Dave's best man in August 1995. E-mail dave@barker3703.freeserve.co.uk

Korean War veterans – former PoWs from C Troop, 170 Ind Mortar Bty RA, sought for Imjin Day 2004 reunion. Please contact Jim Jacobs, 15 Angus Close, Fareham, Hants PO15 6BA, tel 01329 235155.

King's Ford School, Colchester, reunion planned for July 2004. Former pupils and staff asked to write to King's Ford Junior School, Gloucester Avenue, Colchester CO2 9AZ or

Contact K V G Moore, tel/fax 01692 651086.

Coldstream Guards: Reunion for past and present drummers, Aldershot, Oct 25. Details: Peter Horsfall, 222 Leigh Hunt Drive, Southgate, London N14 6DS, tel 020 8882 6072.

RASC and RCT Assoc (Northants Branch): Annual dinner-dance on Oct 25. Details from Brian Smith on 01604 628292.

7 Armd Wksp Coy Op Grapple 1 reunion amendment: To be held Nov 15-16, SEME WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Prince Philip Barracks, Bordon. Details from SSgt Griffiths or SSgt Jobes ETS CAT, Course Design, Bld 51, REME Trg Gp, Bordon Garrison, Hants GU35 0JE or tel 01420 48 5610.

Regimental Duties and Military Training Instructors' Association: Annual reunion, Nov 29-30. Details from Ray Lee on 07990 982013 or rayl@postmaster.co.uk

22nd Regiment RA: Disbandment parade at Rapier Barracks Kirton in Lindsey, Lincs on Dec 15. Ticket only. Past members and families urged to attend. Details from Capt Bren Downey or Capt James Rogers on mil 94774 8447 or civ 01904 66 8447.

Aliwal Branch, QRL Association: Reunion dinner for 16/5 QRL and 17/21 Lancers will be held at Telford on Jan 24. Details from Maj (QM) W J Cook, 01952 632928.

Ex-59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE: Reunion to be held July 23-25, 2004 at Chivenor. To help update database please send contact details to Capt L M Wilson, AO, 59 Indep Cdo, RMB, Chivenor, Barnstaple, N Devon EX31 4AZ, tel 01271 857603 (fax 01271 857610) or e-mail www.59cdo.btconnect.com

admin@kingsford-jun.essex.sch.uk
Danes who served with the British Army during the Second World War are asked to contact K V G Moore, 5 King's/2 T Force Association, The Granary, Church Road, Bacton NR12 0JP or tel/fax 01692 651086.

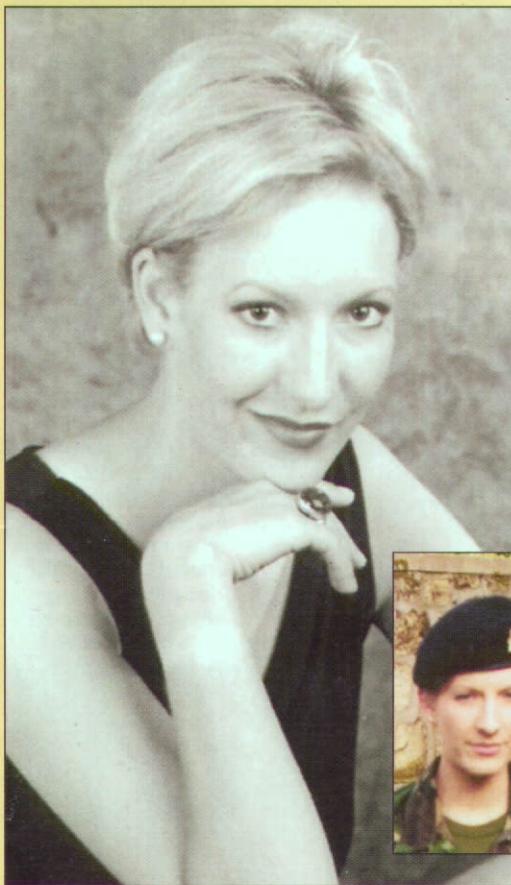
6 Armd Wksp, Munster, Germany 1985-1992 reunion planned for latter part of October in Nottingham area. Tel 01843 294347 or e-mail russell.heatley@btopenworld.com

Stamps: 1993 Royal Tournament commemorative cover sought. Does anyone know what year the first cover for the tournament was produced? Mrs A J Cross, 56 Scarborough Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3EE.

Ex-Gloster Arthur Ronald Pitt sought by old friend Winifred Farthing, evacuated from Rotherhithe to Exeter during the early 1940s. They lost touch after 1947 and Winnie seeks any news, whereabouts of Arthur. Write to Mrs W E Reid, 20 Station Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4AR.

George Albert Clark, 1st Yorkshire Regiment, stationed in March, Cambridgeshire in 1942, is asked to contact S Revell, 17 Fishermans Drive, March, Cambs PE15 8DA or tel 01354 658946.

Tamsin awaits call to arias



WHEN not in military uniform, **Tamsin Hughes**, left, can often be found in mezzo soprano mode. Her father is **Maj the Rev Alan Hughes**, below, who served as a Regular with the Coldstream Guards, spent 12 years as the free-falling padre of the 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment after ordination, and then moved to The Queen's Own Yeomanry.

His day job is vicar of Berwick on Tweed and he is also responsible for military pastoral needs in Northumbria and the Borders as well as being padre to Durham Army Cadet Force.

Tamsin, serving with C Troop, 100 Pioneer Squadron, 169 Pioneer Regiment RLC (V), sang as a soloist at last month's Berwick Tattoo. She says she is available for service in the Gulf or anywhere else the MoD would wish to send her to entertain troops.

MESS DISPOSALS

22nd Regiment RA will disband on March 31, 2004. Any individual who has made a presentation to the officers' mess should contact Capt James Rogers (Capt J P Rogers RA, 22nd Regt RA, Rapier Barracks, Kirton in Lindsey, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 4HZ; tel 0190466 8447 or mil 94774 8447) with instructions for its return or disposal. Items unclaimed by Nov 30 will be disposed of by the regiment.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Hulk (July) winners: C Kyeremateg, London; D Leaman, Bristol; S Wontroba, Sutton Coldfield; W Howell, Hounslow; A Thomas, Norwich; E J Lewis, Bishop's Stortford, Herts; R Clarke, Coventry; T Pyle, Birmingham; M Finch, Bisley, Surrey; A Walker, Leek, Staffs. Answer: Eric Bana.

Vietcong (July) Winner: S Keats, BFPO 22. Answer: 1972 (source: *Brassey's Battles*).

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000; www.armybenfund.org

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

Army Families Federation 01980 615525; www.aff.org.uk

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124; www.blesma.org.uk

Confidential support lines:

UK	0800 731 4880
Germany	0800 1827 395
Cyprus	080 91065
Bosnia	0800 731 4880
Others UK	1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com

Consumer Credit Counselling Service Free Confidential Helpline 0800 1381111

0800-2000 hours Mon-Fri

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families

Association Office (0900-1700) 01482 808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812; www.ngvf.co.uk

Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011; www.rfea.org.uk

Royal British Legion's Legionline 0845 7725 725; www.britishlegion.org.uk

RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre 01622 717202/718484; www.rbl.co.uk

ESHRA Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency 020 7839 4466 www.eshra.com or eshra@britishlegion.org.uk

Airborne battle to take Sicily

THE 60th anniversary of the airborne element of Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily in 1943, will be marked at the Airborne Forces Museum in Aldershot by a lecture by Col Simon Barry and Lt Col Pat Butler, two serving Parachute Regiment officers who recently toured the battlefield.

In the confusion of being fired on by friend and foe, the night drop by the 1st Parachute Brigade was widely scattered and only 12 officers and 283 men (out of 1,856) reached their objective, the Primosole bridge over the Simeto river. Yet they captured and held it against overwhelming odds throughout the day.

The Anglo-American operation (second in scale only to the Normandy landings) was dogged by confused command that allowed the Germans to withdraw 40,000 of their own troops and 62,000 Italian soldiers, in addition to most of their equipment and supplies.

Tickets for the evening event in the Waldram Theatre cost £6.50 and are available by ringing

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier: D R Wilson to Brigadier Op Telic Mobilisation Study, Jul 28.

Colonel: R C L Clifford, to be Head of International Defence Training (Army), Director Individual Training (Army), Jul 28; M W L Theobald to be ACOS Operational HQ British Forces Cyprus, Jul 30.

HELP FOR RESEARCHER

Final-year BSc (Psych) student Abigail Tripp is researching successful transitions from service to civilian life and would like to interview former privates and JNCOs in London area. They should have served a minimum of three years, be between 25 and 45, left voluntarily or because they reached the end of their contract and be settled in a career and relationship. Ring 0779 247 1115 or abs@tripp.fslife.co.uk



DATES

SEPTEMBER

6-7: Demonstrations and re-enactments of cavalry swordsmanship and First World War exhibition, Burton Court, London.

7: Winchester & District Militaria Society annual exhibition, fair, Winchester Guildhall, 1000.

26: Herford, Germany ten-mile charity race, fun run and fete sponsored by RASST(G) (Herford mil 3120).

26-28: London Soldier military displays, Chelsea Barracks, 1000-1700, free.

28: Aldershot Militaria Society and Military History Society fair, The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey. OCTOBER

4-5: Crimea lectures, National Army Museum (020 7730 0717).

12: Victorian Military Fair, National Army Museum.

14: Queen opens Women in War exhibit, Imperial War Museum.

31: ABF musical celebration of Wales (incl Band of WG, Aled Jones), Cardiff (02920 224488).

* A £100,000 appeal has been launched by the Inniskillings Museum to expand and modernise its beautiful spaces in Enniskillen Castle Keep.

Together with a hoped-for £200,000 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the money would pay for a radical overhaul to turn the collection into a "must-see" attraction in the area.

Donations may be sent to the Curator, The Inniskillings Museum, The Castle, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh BT74 7HL (028 6632 3142).

* A gift of 50,000 Lotto tickets by National Lottery organisers Camelot to the Services failed to produce a jackpot but still generated £11,843 in winnings. The money has been donated to the UK Forces Gulf Fund and welfare funds of Op Telic units who took part in the war. The Army's share of the loot was £3,654.

* South African military historian David Rattray is to give a lecture on the Battle of Isandlwana in New Hall, Winchester College on October 11. The talk is to raise funds for essential maintenance at the 900-year-old All Saints Church in nearby Houghton. For tickets (£30, including wine and canapés), ring 01794 388204.

* Bill (The Lone Piper) Jenkins is planning an Armistice Day vigil in Iraq and would be happy to lay poppy crosses or unit badges at memorials. The 68-year-old ex-Marine, who has played his "pipes of peace" all over Greece and India, can be reached at 23 Wellstead Road, Liverpool L15 8JX.

Hitting 'em, affectionately

TO mark the close camaraderie they had built up with the Police Service of Northern Ireland during their two-year tour in the province, the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders arranged a boxing match against their police colleagues.

The jocks won the fixture, at Palace Barracks, by five bouts to four.

Good job they were friends...

Soldato goes down a treit in downtown Pacho

WHILE we can't claim a thriving readership in Colombia, we are told members of a new organisation called Soldados de Mi Pueblo (Soldiers of My Town) received with enthusiasm a pile of back numbers given them by defence attaché Col Michael Wilcox.

He handed over the magazines while visiting locally-recruited troops in the town of Pacho, 100km north-west of Bogota.

Colombian armed forces have been fighting a bitter war against left wing narcoterrorists for the past

40 years and suffer casualties almost on a daily basis.

With much of the country under the brutal control of drug barons, the 10,000-strong Soldados de Mi Pueblo was formed to re-establish authority in town and villages suffering from terrorist attacks and intimidation.

They receive three months of military training and serve for 18 months close to their homes.

Col Wilcox tells us the British Army is held in high regard by the Colombian Army.



Gen Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman, left, C-in-C Land Command, and 42 (North West) Brigade commander Brig Mike Wharmby, centre, are briefed by WO2 Glen Lindsey of 75 Engr Regt (V) during a visit to Warcop Training Camp in Cumbria.

They were there to see 500 youngsters on a two-week Combined Cadet Force camp sponsored by 103 Regiment RA (V).

Picture: Maj Roy Bevan

It's an up and down life...

WO2 Ken Cooper, below left, and WO1 Dave Rothery, right, have raised thousands of pounds for charity over the years. Their latest exploit was to collect £1,000 for the Army Benevolent Fund by completing the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge.

The two members of 42 (North West) Brigade's Specialist Training Team ran up Ben Nevis (4,090ft) in Scotland, Scafell Pike (3,210ft) in England, and Snowdon (3,567ft) in Wales in just 22 hours.



War hospitals in front line

A CAMPAIGN to save Britain's remaining war memorial hospitals has been launched by Michael Lyons of Croydon. His immediate aim is to prevent developers demolishing Purley and District Memorial Hospital.

He tells us the UK national inventory of war memorial records lists 101 hospitals built to commemorate the dead of the First and Second World Wars and to benefit the living and future generations. They were seen at the time as a practical tribute and historical landmarks.

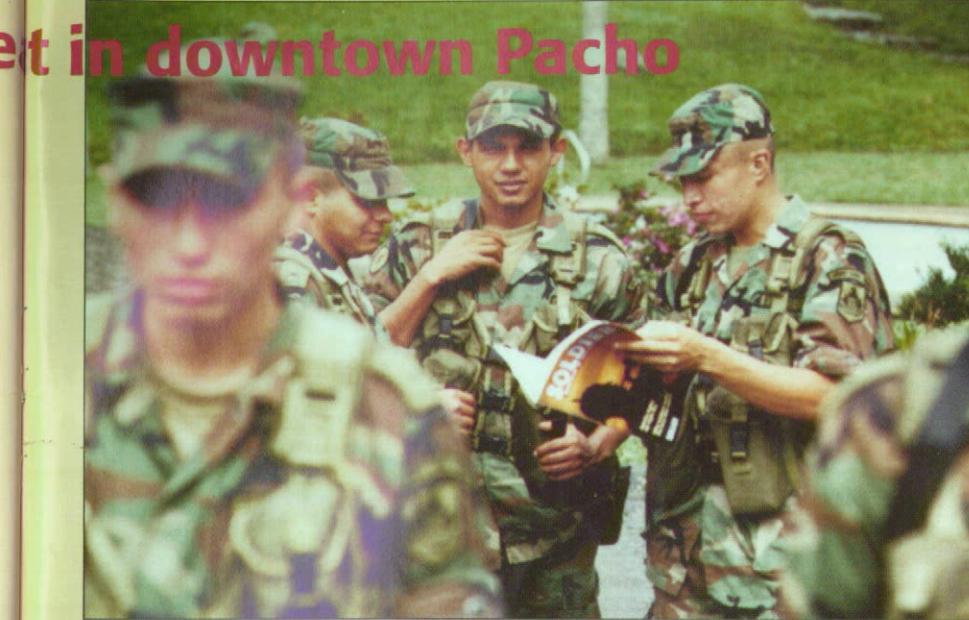
Among those that have already disappeared are Oxted and Limpsfield and the Great Northern in North London, built by public subscription. A member of the Friends of War Memorials, Michael can be reached at 46 Chertsey Crescent, New Addington, Croydon CR0 0DA, tel 01689 842413.

Picture: Graeme Main

Borderers pay Sicily tribute

THIRTY-ONE soldiers from the Cyprus-based 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment visited Italy to mark the 60th anniversary of the Border Regiment landing on Sicily.

Pictured at the grave of Pte Albert Eagles, who died on July 10, 1943 in the first glider landings, are LCpl Steven Dockerty, left, Pte Steve McQueen and Pte Lee Wilson. They toured battlefields at Ponte Grande and Primosole Bridge and held memorial services at Syracuse and Catania War Cemeteries.



Bordon remembers

A NEW war memorial close to the main road through Bordon is the result of years of hard work by a dedicated band of fundraisers in the Hampshire village.

The 4th Battalion REME band was on hand to support the Whitehill and Bordon Memorial Association at an official dedication service led by Forces' chaplain Padre Tyrone Hillary and attended by Bordon Garrison commander Col Roger Owen, and representatives of the local authorities, the Royal British Legion and the Canadian Veterans' Association.

Col Owen, who laid a wreath, said: "It is a fitting tribute to all those from Bordon and Whitehill who lost their lives in the two world wars and other campaigns since 1914, that this memorial has been erected in their memory."

The dedication took place on the hundredth anniversary of the first permanent troops arriving in Bordon and Whitehill. Until boundary changes in the 1920s, the names of the villages' war dead were recorded on memorials at nearby Blackmoor and Headley.

Steve Johnson, secretary of the war memorial association, is still raising funds to pay for paving around the base. He can be contacted on 01420 472555.



Motor-cycle plugs...

THE new(ish) All Arms Veterans Motor-Cycle Club has asked us for a "plug" ... and this is it. The family-oriented touring club, for serving and ex-Service personnel, is open to all ranks. If you want to know more, look at <http://aavmc.homestead.com/index.html>

● The Victoria Cross won by Lt Col Dan Burges in the First World War has gone on display in the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Custom House, Gloucester. The result of a generous donation, it is one of eight VCs awarded to the Glosers and brings to four the number in the museum.

In tune with Army charity

ALED Jones, massed male voice choirs, Julian Lloyd Webber and the Band of the Welsh Guards will figure prominently in a musical celebration of Wales to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund and SSAFA-Forces Help.

It kicks off at 1930 in the Cardiff International Arena on October 31. Tickets (£21) may be booked by ringing 02920 224488.

Legends of the regiments and corps

50 Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

George White
32nd Foot
Private
1857 October 1857

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Retail reconnaissance

Switched on . . .



COMPACT COMPUTER ▲

INCORPORATING the smallest, lightest GPS technology available, the Suunto M9 is a mobile, lightweight navigation system.

As well as the GPS function (which has 500 waypoints with 50 reversible routes) the M9 includes a watch, barometer, thermometer, altimeter and 3D compass – all neatly wrapped in a streamlined 75g plastic casing and strap.

The wrist-top computer, designed to give yachtsmen instant access to invaluable navigational information, has its own rechargeable battery.

£500, from www.suunto.com (0238 0694949).

MUSIC ON THE MOVE ▼

THIS compact MP3 player weighs just 268g with battery, yet offers a full range of features in its tough, anodised aluminium case.

The 20GB hard-disk can store up to 8,000 songs in WMA or 5,000 in MP3 at 128kbps, while USB and Firewire connections ensure compatibility and ultra-fast downloads.

£329, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).



FLASH GADGET ▲

WITH a depth of just 8mm, the Flashcam from Oregon Scientific has the distinction of being the world's thinnest 1.3 mega pixel camera.

Despite its diminutive size, the fully-digital camera features Autobrite technology, which means that it automatically compensates for backlighting and glare.

A rechargeable lithium-polymer battery, which has a capacity of more than 1,000 shots between charges, and an internal memory which can hold up to 91 shots at basic resolution, add to the Flashcam's unparalleled portability.

£79.99, from www.oregonscientific.co.uk (0871 2221966).

Game on . . .

INDYCAR SERIES, PS2, XBOX & PC

SET to be the most accessible, exciting and entertaining racing game yet designed, Codemasters' *IndyCar Series* features adrenalin-fuelled, ultra-close pack action, with up to 33 cars racing on track, and requires total focus to handle overtaking at speeds of more than 200mph.

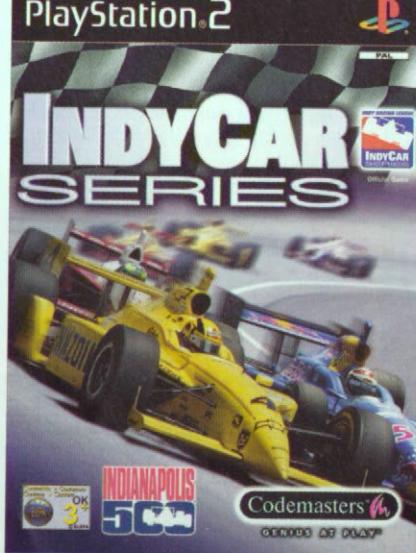
The game delivers a full *IndyCar* open-wheeled championship season on short ovals and speedways throughout America, with the Indianapolis 500 the highlight of the racing calendar.

As well as boasting all the official cars, tracks, teams and drivers, *IndyCar Series* also features realistic and detailed gameplay. All of the motorsport's rules and flags are observed and real-life physics, such as track temperature affecting grip, have been taken into account.

Accurate in-game recreations of the racing speedways even include fully-animated pit crews, field marshals, and clean-up crews and vehicles.

To succeed on the track, players will have to adopt real *IndyCar* racing tactics, continuously overtaking, defending their position, performing close manoeuvres often within a hair's width, using drafting to get ahead of the car in front and switching fuel settings to maximise either speed or economy.

VERDICT: Super fast, super title. 9/10



WIN . . . WIN . . . WIN . . .

COURTESY of Codemasters, Soldier has five copies of *IndyCar Series* for the PS2 up for grabs.

For your chance to win, simply tell us in which year Nigel Mansell won the *IndyCar* World Championship.

Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by September 30.

OUT NOW

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

INDUSTRY rumours suggest that Sony's PlayStation 3 will incorporate four XDR-DRAM chips providing a total of 256MB of main RAM – an eightfold increase over the 32MB found in the PS2. The memory bus speed is also expected to be significantly faster than that of its predecessor.

UBI Soft Entertainment has announced that *Rainbow Six 3*, the next instalment of their best selling series based on the novels of Tom Clancy, will be released exclusively for the Xbox this Christmas.

The game will feature a brand new voice recognition system via the Xbox Live Communicator headset, allowing gamers to give orders directly to their teammates during intense firefights.

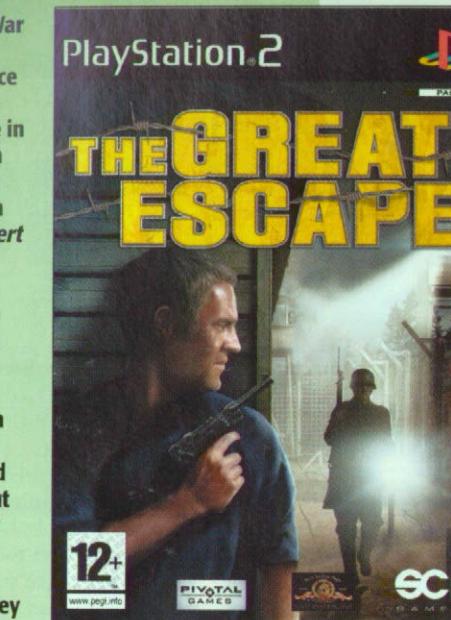
ONLINE sources are reporting that Nintendo will launch the successor to GameCube as early as spring 2005.

No details of the specifications of the system are known, although Nintendo recently signed a technology deal with leading graphics company ATI.

Several development studios are already thought to be working on titles for the next generation of consoles.

THE GREAT ESCAPE, PS2, XBOX & PC

OUT NOW



BASED on the 1963 Second World War movie starring Steve McQueen, *The Great Escape* gives gamers the chance to try to breakout from the "escape-proof" Stalag Luft III and participate in the most famous motorbike scene in Hollywood history.

Published by SCi Games, the team behind the massive hit *Conflict: Desert Storm*, this movie spin-off offers a huge variety of gameplay that takes you from slow, tension-filled stealth scenes to adrenalin-pumping action and chase sequences.

One minute players will be sneaking around in the shadows of a mountain-top POW camp, stealing keys and sneaking up on guards, and the next they'll be having a shoot-out aboard a moving train or riding that motorbike through heavily-guarded German countryside.

The action revolves around four key characters from the film, each with their own skills and characteristics. Capt Virgil Hilts (McQueen) is the master of escape, Flt Lt Andy MacDonald (Gordon Jackson) speaks German to distract and fool guards, Flg Off Louis Sedgwick (James Coburn) can fix the most complex mechanisms

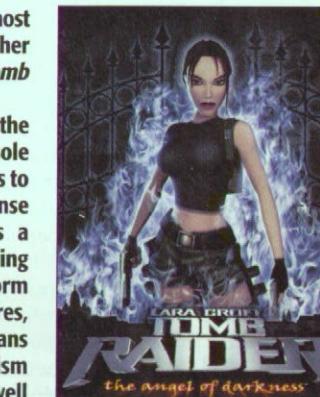
and Flt Lt Bob Hendley (James Garner) will get his hands on almost anything you need.

McQueen's image rights have been secured for the game and his voice has been digitised from the original film.

VERDICT: A fitting tribute to a classic film. 9/10

TOMB RAIDER, PS2 & PC

OUT NOW



LARA Croft, the world's most famous cyber-babe, makes her debut on the PlayStation 2 in *Tomb Raider: The Angel of Darkness*.

A new game engine pushes the capabilities of both the console and the latest generation of PCs to create a more involving, intense gaming experience. Lara has a new look and skills, including hand-to-hand combat, free-form climbing and stealth manoeuvres, and a unique system that means her strength and athleticism evolve depending on how well gamers play.

VERDICT: Worth the wait. 8/10

BEACH VOLLEYBALL, PS2

OUT NOW



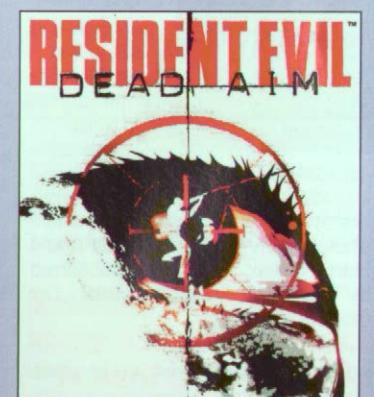
ACCLAIM Sports' *Summer Heat Beach Volleyball* offers gamers addictive two-on-two, pick-up-and-play action from 12izzling locations.

Whether battling it out on the sands of Venice Beach Stadium, Flamingo Pier or Emerald Marina, *Summer Heat* features TV-style presentation with instant replays, arena fly-throughs, music videos and player cut scenes.

Gameplay modes include arcade, exhibition and tournament, and there are also a number of mini-games to unlock.

RESIDENT EVIL: DEAD AIM, PS2

OUT NOW



COMBINING first-person shooter action with third-person adventure exploration, *Resident Evil: Dead Aim* pits gamers against hordes of relentless zombies aboard a gigantic sea-cruiser.

In the true spirit of the survival horror genre, players must employ stealth and search tactics, as well as displaying a quick trigger finger, if they are to make it out alive. Bullets are scarce, but new weapons such as a grenade launcher, shotgun and an assault rifle become available as the game progresses.

VERDICT: Fun with a gun. 7/10

SPEED KINGS, ALL

OUT NOW



AVAILABLE for all three next-generation consoles, *Speed Kings* combines intense, over-the-top motorbike race action with combat stunts and heavy traffic.

Created by highly-acclaimed UK developer Climax, the game features 12 street circuits set in a variety of locations including London, Hamburg and Las Vegas. Each environment is packed full of destructible objects and advanced AI allows for multiple traffic formations.

Players can take to the air in an attempt to avoid pile-ups and obstacles, but if they lose control the bikes suffer real-time damage, hindering race times.

WIN . . . WIN . . . WIN

SOLDIER has teamed up with SCi Games to offer you the opportunity to re-enact one of the most popular scenes in cinematic history.

For your chance to win one of five copies of *The Great Escape* for the PS2, simply answer the following question:



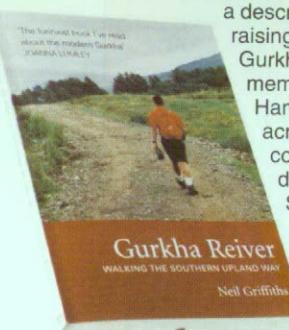
Steve McQueen was reunited on the set of *The Great Escape* with the director who made him a star in *The Magnificent Seven*. What was his name?

Send your answers on a postcard to The Great Escape competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by September 30. Usual rules apply.

Hills are alive – with the sound of laughter

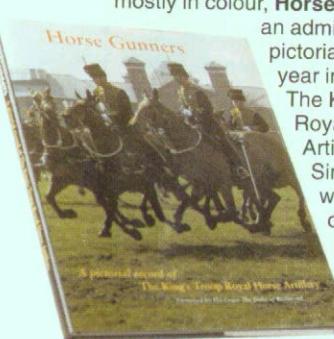
DON'T be deceived when you learn that *Gurkha Reiver: Walking the Southern Upland Way* is, basically, a description of a fund-raising trek by four Gurkhas and a former member of the Royal Hampshire Regiment across Britain's first coast-to-coast long-distance trail in Scotland. Neil Griffiths has written it with such style and humour that Joanna Lumley calls it



"the funniest book I've read about the modern Gurkha". She is right. It is published by Cualann Press, Dunfermline, at £10.99, with proceeds going to the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Buy it.

Year in the life of The King's Troop

WITH more than 200 photographs, mostly in colour, *Horse Gunners* is an admirable pictorial record of a year in the life of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. Maj Simon Hall, who as commanding officer led the Troop throughout these events, coordinated the project. Words, including a comprehensive history, are by Maj W G Clarke (Retd) and photography by Julian Calder and Henry Dallal. The book is published by The King's Troop at £14.99 (softback £10.99).



coordinated the project. Words, including a comprehensive history, are by Maj W G Clarke (Retd) and photography by Julian Calder and Henry Dallal. The book is published by The King's Troop at £14.99 (softback £10.99).

Light-hearted look at Army aviation world

ARMY aviators' memoirs do not feature often in these pages, so *Below the Jetstream* is particularly welcome. In his foreword, the Prince of Wales observes that its author, John Tippen, "covers a period not well documented at present". During 35 years' service from 1947, Lt Col Tippen flew more than 30 types of aircraft. His light-hearted paperback can be obtained direct from the publishers, Plane Tree, or from the Army Air Corps Museum at £7.50. All proceeds are going to the Glider Pilot Regiment and Army Air Corps Associations.



"So I thought South America works, let's take a look. So first I got out a map and then I went there. "But I invented a place somewhere between Surinam and Guyana."

In his thrillers, Forsyth always uses sol-

Underdogs and loners

Frederick Forsyth talks about his latest novel, *Avenger*

Interview: Craig Cabell

THE war on terrorism has changed the world. So much so, writers such as John le Carré and Frederick Forsyth have moved away from the Cold War and started to concern themselves with the conflicts of the new millennium, but not just Afghanistan and Iraq.

In Frederick Forsyth's latest novel, *Avenger*, he touches on the conflicts in Bosnia and Serbia and a fictional runaway Serbian gangster who finds refuge in South America. An American billionaire wants to take revenge on the runaway for murdering his son. He hires a man to get him – the Avenger.

The author agreed with the suggestion that it is probably his best book since *The Fist of God* 20 years ago. He went on to describe how the story came about and how much he enjoyed researching it.

Avenger started out as a long short story, a novella, called *Draco*, but obtained an extra dimension after what the Americans call 9/11, Forsyth said.

"I had to give a reason why somebody in high authority wanted to keep the bad guy safe, and I hadn't that in the original novella. So the idea grew and became the novel *Avenger*.

"The research was good fun. It took me all over the world. I had been to the Persian Gulf before, but I had never been to Bosnia or for that matter Surinam (another country essential to the plot) – and Surinam is a dodgy place."

Why did he move from Bosnia and Serbia to South America?

"The problem was technical to the book," he explained. "I needed the bad guy to take refuge in one of the world's last – but minor – banana republics, so it was either Africa or certain parts of Asia or indeed certain parts of central or South America.

"So I thought South America works, let's take a look. So first I got out a map and then I went there.

"But I invented a place somewhere between Surinam and Guyana."

In his thrillers, Forsyth always uses sol-

diers. With his latest novel touching on recent conflicts, what was his view of the coalition forces in Iraq?

"I don't think you can fault the Americans in combat," he replied. "The 3rd Infantry Division took Baghdad – OK, 24 hours late – but there's nothing really significantly wrong with that.

"I think in the aftermath the criticism of the Americans is that they don't have a light touch. Our troops have that ability, which I think they got from Northern Ireland.

"Our soldiers can work in a civilian environment, with a rough-and-ready humanity towards the civilians, but at the same time keep everybody alive. That said, I think the Americans dealt with the fanatics; we dealt with the more anti-Saddam quarters of Iraq. Our troops didn't have a sexy job. But they have shone. We have seen this in Kosovo, Serbia and Iraq, and everyone will admit that the Army has done a fantastic job."

"The reason why, in my novels, I concentrate on four or five men doing a job undercover behind enemy lines is because to the reader it appears to be a more glamorous pastime.

"But no one is ever going to replace the Army, the infantryman; his kit, the armour and all that goes with it."

Asked whether it was right for coalition forces to go into Iraq, Forsyth was unequivocal.

"I can't stand all this fuss about why we went into Iraq," he said. "For example, Milosevic pales into insignificance against Saddam Hussein. But when we bombed Serbia, we didn't do it with a view to leaving the infrastructure intact, we did the reverse. We deliberately smashed the infrastructure in order to break down the will of the dictator.

"But when we then invaded Kosovo,

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"I think in the aftermath, the criticism of the Americans is that they don't have a light touch. Our troops have that ability, which I think they got from Northern Ireland.

"Our soldiers can work in a civilian environment, with a rough and ready humanity towards the civilians, but at the same time keep everybody alive.

"That said, I think the Americans dealt with the fanatics, we dealt with the more anti-Saddam quarters of Iraq."

– Frederick Forsyth, left

where, by proxy, we toppled Milosevic, we didn't get the permission of the United Nations. It was a Nato operation and no one objected.

"My question is this: if the life and liberty of the people of Kosovo was justification enough, what is so different about the people of Iraq?"

It is clear that the author still holds very strong individual opinions and interesting that his books always seem to include a loner. Examples include the assassin in *Day of the Jackal*, Mike Martin in *The Fist of God*, and even Cal Dexter in *Avenger*.

Would Forsyth describe himself as a loner?

"I think I am. I'm not a team player. I prefer to work alone. I've only been employed three times in my life – all as a journalist. And the third time I got upset with the plight of the Biafran people, and, typical of a loner, I

went against my superiors. Consequently I was told either to touch my forelock or leave. I did my own thing and was fired.

"But then again, I've always favoured the underdog. My first book was a non-fiction that concerned the plight of the Biafran people in the late 1960s, *The Biafra Story*, and that, in essence, influenced my third novel, *The Dogs of War*. So the loner and the underdog have always been in my novels and I make no apology for that."

Are any more novels on the way?

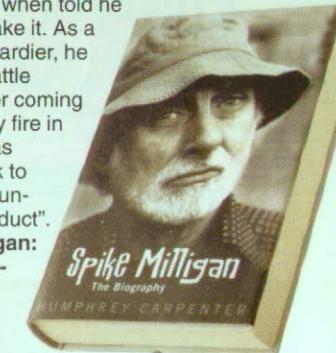
"Have I got a brilliant idea for another thriller? No. Do I have an embryo? No. If one comes, it could be post-war Iraq, it could be war on terrorism; it could be none of those things."

"So I need to come up with a new theme, a new plotline, and that won't happen in ten minutes. So let's see what happens next."

Why battle-scarred Spike was demoted

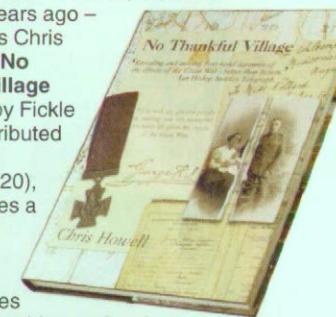
AFTER joining the Royal Artillery in 1940 Spike Milligan tried to switch to the RAF to become a pilot but stayed in the Army when told he wouldn't make it. As a lance bombardier, he suffered "battle fatigue" after coming under heavy fire in Italy and was busted back to gunner for "unreliable conduct".

Spike Milligan: The Biography, by Humphrey Carpenter, which gives an insight into the comic's darker side, traces his manic depression back to those wartime events.



Country tapestry of wartime voices

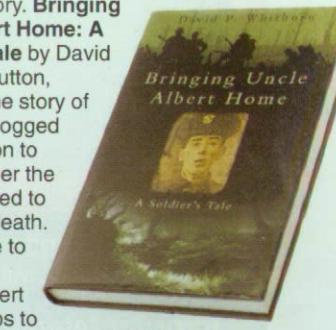
JUST when you thought everything possible had been written about the First World War – after all, it did end almost 85 years ago – along comes Chris Howell with *No Thankful Village* (published by Fickle Hill and distributed by Helion & Company, £20), which weaves a vivid and moving tapestry of human stories springing from his own local community, the area around Midsomer Norton and Radstock, in Somerset. Here, the voices and souls of farmers, miners and others seem to cry out of the pages.



Real-life detective story with a difference

AND, as if to further prove the theory about the endless fascination of the First World War, here is a true-life detective story. *Bringing Uncle Albert Home: A Soldier's Tale* by David Whithorn (Sutton, £17.99) is the story of one man's dogged determination to piece together the events that led to his uncle's death.

A pilgrimage to the Somme retraced Albert Turley's steps to the very hillside where he fell in August, 1916 while serving with the Worcestershire Regiment. But why "Bringing Uncle Albert Home"? Like all detective stories, you'll need to read this to the very end...



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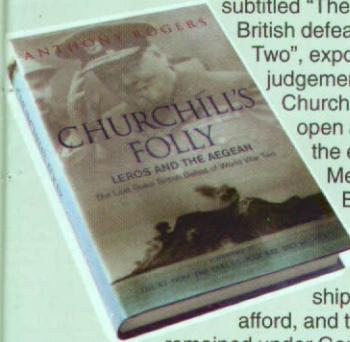
BOOKS IN BRIEF

Churchill's Folly: Leros and the Aegean by Anthony Rogers. Given Sir Winston's pre-eminence in the national psyche (see "New releases", below right), it is ironic that this new book, subtitled "The last great

British defeat of World War Two", exposes the mis-judgements behind Churchill's decision to open a new front in the eastern Mediterranean.

Britain was to lose an entire brigade, aircraft and warships it could ill afford, and the Aegean

remained under German occupation until the end of the war. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20.)



An Underworld at War by Donald Thomas. The Second World War brought misery to millions and millions (of pounds) to a few. The author digs deep into the seamier corners of society to unearth stories of spivs, deserters and racketeers who profited, or tried to, from a world in conflict. (John Murray, £20.)

Cold War: Building for Nuclear Confrontation 1946-1989 by Wayne D Cocroft and Roger J C Thomas, edited by P S Barnwell. Large-format, 280-page, profusely illustrated volume which goes a long way to explaining some of the strange shapes (and what was underneath them) which appeared across this green and pleasant land as it attempted to protect itself from nuclear obliteration. (English Heritage, £24.99.)

Fire From the Forest: The SAS Brigade in France, 1944 by Roger Ford. Claims to be the first comprehensive history of the regiment's role in the Normandy campaign and the liberation of France. The SAS Brigade mounted 36 operations behind German lines between D-Day and October 1944. (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.99.)

A National Serviceman in Korea by George C Pagan. Eighty-page, softback story of a Royal Signaller's experiences at war from 1950 to 1953. Available from the author, 16 Dukes Way, Weaver Vale, Kingsmead, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 8WA, £8.99 plus £1 p&p UK.

Great Generals of the Napoleonic Wars by Andrew Uffindell. A re-examination of the battles of Napoleon, Eugène de Beauharnais, Lasalle, Moore, Wellington, Hill, Archduke Charles, Blücher, Gneisenau, Bagration, Barclay de Tolly and Kutusov. (Spellmount, £25.)

The Last Crusade: The Palestine Campaign in the First World War by Anthony Bruce. Paperback version of book first published last year. (John Murray, £8.99.)

Chariots of Fire: Tanks and Tank Crews by Philip Kaplan. Lots of pictures to support the author's account of the development of the tank over the past 86 years. (Aurum Press, £20.)

VIDEO/DVD

Super *World at War* set to win

IN association with Fremantle Home Entertainment, *Soldier* has two superb boxed DVD sets of the seminal *The World At War* series to give away. Each is worth £150.

Only 5,000 of the special 30th anniversary production – amounting to 35 hours of viewing – will be released, in a limited-edition, numbered box set. The Thames Television documentary series, narrated by Laurence Olivier and with a musical score by Carl Davies, was the product of an extraordinary feat of research, culminating in the first of 26 hour-long episodes in October 1973.

It attracted amazing ratings for a factual historical programme and went on to be broadcast in nearly 100 countries. The interviews and archives add up to a definitive record of the 1939-45 conflict, underwritten by analysis which has stood the test of three decades.

The brainchild of Jeremy Isaacs, knighted in 1996, *TWAW* draws together the threads of an epic drama through the eyes and experiences of civilians and soldiers, Americans and Japanese, British and Germans, Russians and Europeans.

Those who endured the bombing in the front line were given as much prominence as military leaders and politicians, their sto-



ries woven into archive film – much of it in colour – drawing heavily on the remarkable footage shot by the Nazis of even their worst atrocities.

The five-volume set costs £149.99 from all good high-street outlets.

To have a chance of winning one of the two boxed sets tell us on a postcard who was the US President at the beginning of hostilities. Was it:

a) Harry Truman, b) Franklin D Roosevelt or c) Dwight Eisenhower?

The first two correct entries draw from answers received by September 30 will win the prize. Usual rules apply.

New releases

EARLIER this year the public voted Sir Winston Churchill the greatest Briton ever.

His inspirational leadership and oratory during the Second World War galvanised the nation when it seemed nothing could stop the advance of Hitler's mighty war machine. Churchill's speeches rallied Parliament and the people of Britain.

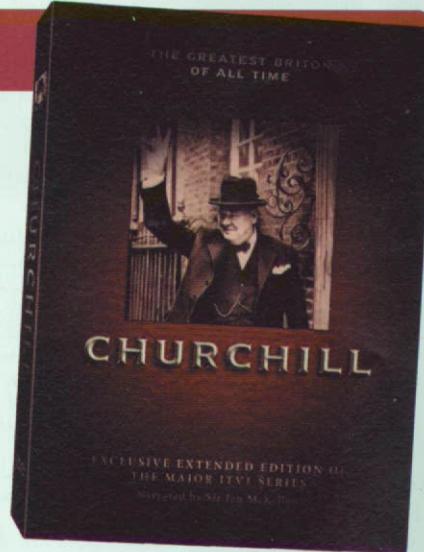
Recordings of his gravel-voiced defiance – "We will fight them on the beaches" is just one example – still have the power to raise goosebumps on the back of one's neck.

Even so, it was a small surprise in our modern era of instant fame that Churchill polled a greater number of votes than more recent icons such as the People's Princess and John Lennon.

Universal Pictures is about to release on DVD and video *Churchill*, the series soon to be shown on ITV. Narrated by Sir Ian McKellen, the project was made in collaboration with the great man's granddaughter, Celia Sandys, and includes first-hand testimonies from his family. It will become available towards the end of October.

• A timely release from Prism Leisure on DVD is *The Gulf War*, Hollywood's take on soldiers struck down by mystery medical problems on their return from the 1991 conflict.

Starring Ted Danson, Jennifer Jason



Leigh and Brian Dennehy, it is available from all good outlets or from Prism (www.prismleisure.com). Price £5.99.

• Look out for an Oscar-winning black comedy set against the unlikely backdrop of civil war in the Balkans. *No Man's Land*, priced £10.99, is the story of a newly-recruited Bosnian soldier who finds himself in a trench in which two Serbs are booby-trapping a "body" which turns out not to be dead when United Nations peacekeepers turn up with a TV crew. With sub-titles.

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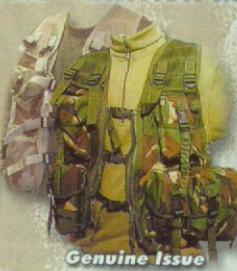
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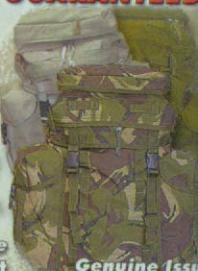
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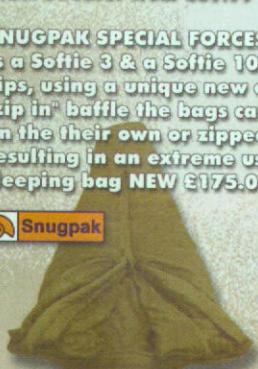
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SOLDIER to soldier

Surviving 'the oven'

AS Britain wilted in temperatures in the mid-30Cs during an unusually prolonged spell of hot weather in August, it was, incredibly, almost twice as hot in Iraq.

Temperatures spiralled past 55C during the month people in the Basra area refer to as "the oven". It accurately describes the extreme conditions soldiers have been working in.

And with humidity touching 85 per cent, it is hard to imagine just how uncomfortable conditions have been for troops more familiar with western climates.

We are told that weapons in direct sunshine become hot enough to burn the hands of the unwary, and that those inside armoured vehicles measured temperatures above 60C.



So it is good to report that every soldier who works outside, away from a stock of bottled water, has been issued with a CamelBak. The backpack-style water reservoir, pictured left, long regarded as a bit of "Gucci" kit which many soldiers paid for out of their own pockets, has been a real success, with the added virtue of keeping liquid cooler for longer.

We are told battle-groups in southern Iraq have been issued with sufficient for all members of infantry battalions, plus 40th Regiment RA (whose soldiers are doing an infantry job), 209 Signal Squadron and field sappers to have one each.



More good news on the equipment front: temperatures inside the temporary deployable accommodation camps (see *Soldier* June) specially procured for British troops in Iraq are 20C lower than outside... offering occupants the chance of a decent kip.

And we were assured all other soldiers' accommodation quarters would have air conditioning by the time this issue was published.

**Home truths****Sue Bonney**

Do we figure in this review?

FLEXIBILITY, now there's a word. Not to mention adaptability. And, wait for it, here comes "meeting the challenge".

Any of that sound familiar? Echoes of previous Defence reviews and changes to Army structure, perhaps? Oh, and how about a "policy for people"?

As mentioned in *Soldier* last month, the Secretary of State for Defence talked quite a bit about flexibility and adaptability in a speech to the Royal United Services Institute, giving advance notice of an autumn Defence Paper which will look at the "vision for the future of the Armed Forces".

There is talk of shifting balance, changing structure and hard choices to adapt to the needs of a changing role. Some newspapers, unable to resist creating indignation in the shires, have taken this to mean the inevitable and imminent disappearance of certain illustrious regiments.

Before everyone gets hot under the kilt about that, should it come to pass, I can't help wondering where we fit in. What does the MoD's vision of the future hold for endlessly flexible and adaptable Service families? Are we part of the light, balanced structure to come? Or are we somewhere in the background, not quite in focus, but assumed to be coming along for the ride? Entirely at our own risk, of course.

Mr Hoon made generous reference to the quality of Service personnel in his speech, but made no mention of the value to the MoD of their supportive families. He did say, however, that it would be even more important to meet Service personnel's expectations and aspirations - which are, of course, directly influenced by those of their families.

In the September issue of the *Families Journal*, AFF chairman Lizzie Iron agrees with Mr Hoon but asks if future Service families will be as accommodating as their predecessors, and wonders how families' issues fit into the MoD's overall plan.

For example, most people aspire to a shower and modern kitchen,



**A personal view
from Sue Bonney,
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal**

but some could be waiting 16 years for both at the current rate of investment in the DHE's upgrade programme.

Mr Hoon said that investment will go down in some areas and up in others. Will investment in such things as the housing upgrade go up? Will it even be considered, when ranked against new technology and equipment?

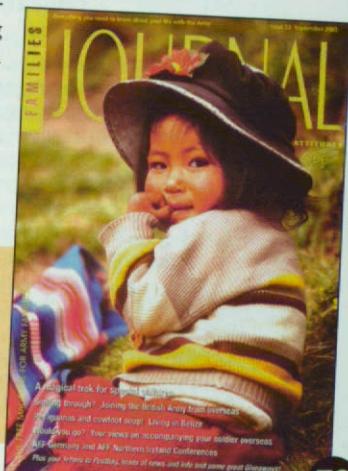
We can only hope that in the New Model Army Mk 3 the policy for people will get a realistic slice of the budget to meet modern aspirations. If not, I suspect the vision for the future lies increasingly in unaccompanied service and commuting soldiers whose families will be disconnected from the Army.

The military community is an essential ingredient of the Service's ethos - without it, we will be greatly diminished. Most of today's families support their soldier and stick with the Army because they live with it and feel part of it. If tomorrow's families remain at a distance, so ultimately will the soldier, which has obvious implications for retention.

But the Army community will not survive modern society's expectations unless the MoD invests significantly in the true cost of supporting Service personnel - and their loved ones.

Mr Hoon said we should "think the unthinkable, challenge orthodoxies and find new solutions". Giving priority to a personnel support budget to meet modern expectations should do all of that.

The September issue of the AFF Families Journal, right, is out now. Make sure you get your family's free copy from your unit.





Telly documentary was 'scurrilous, unbalanced'

MANY former and serving members of the Army may have seen the so-called documentary "Squaddies on the rampage" put out recently on Channel Four.

The image this programme portrayed bears no resemblance to life in the bases I have experienced over the past five years and was an insult to the good name of the Army. In my view it was a scurrilous, unbalanced attempt to discredit professional and hard-working personnel, military and civilian, who work on the British bases.

Hart Ryan, the production company, came to Cyprus to film without our knowledge. Nor did they ask us to comment in order to provide balance. It was only through contacts with the local

media that we knew anything about the filming. The most recent incident portrayed in the programme occurred in 1997. Even at that time there were thousands of serving personnel here who did not misbehave and the "ex-squaddies" who were quoted were a disaffected few and should not be accepted as representative of the majority.

During the past six years there has been no major incident attributable to British service personnel, although some have been the victims on rare occasions.

The main commentator, Dr Marios Matsakis, who the programme erroneously claimed to be a state pathologist, is vehemently anti-British and would do and say anything to discredit Service per-

sonnel. He must have seen the platform provided by this programme as a gift to air his malicious views.

Finally, the British Army has to live with the stigma of the rape and murder of Louise Jensen. The killers are thankfully locked up in Nicosia Prison. We do, however, find it distressing that the parents of Louise have to suffer cruel reminders of their tragic loss every time they see a programme produced for financial reasons and not in the interest of saying anything new. I should be very grateful if you could publish this letter in order to redress the balance for those who quite rightly feel aggrieved. — Robert Need, Head of Media Operations, HQ British Forces Cyprus.

Hussars' medal isn't so unique

MAY I correct one of *Soldier*'s rare errors of fact on Page 8 of the August issue (clearly your correspondents have been led astray by the excess enthusiasm of The King's Royal Hussars).

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment introduced a Regimental Medal (pictured left) a year or so ago.

This is not unique, as alleged in your article. Indeed, I think it was the 14th/20th Hussars that had such a medal for some years. — John Bird, lately Colonel, Loyals and Queen's Lancashire Regiment.



YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them as short as possible.

The more space you take up to get your point across, the less room there is for other letters, and we are anxious to use as many as we can.

E-mails should include your name and location at the bottom (not necessary for publication).

Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

Please be brief

Separation bonus a bit on light side

I HAVE been on three operations during the past 12 months — Agricola, Fresco and Telic — and spent the requisite 280 days within 365 away from home.

I was pleased to hear that the Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA (AT)) bonus was to be increased to £1,250 to realise an amount closer to the "promised" £1,000 after tax. In mid-May I received my bonus: £730 and some pennies. I was told that this was because the bonus was unearned income and I was liable for tax

Prize letter

S02 Reg Pay, DSPS(A) replies: To explain how this has occurred, it is necessary to have an understanding of how tax is collected from military salaries.

Sgt Williams was paid his bonus in April 2003, the first month of the new tax year. All taxpayers are entitled to tax allowances and these are given in the form of tax codes that represent an annual amount of salary an individual can earn before becoming subject to tax.

Inland Revenue legislation dictates that an individual is restricted to a maximum of one-12th of this allowance for each calendar month. In April each year then, an individual is only permitted to one-12th of the annual allowance and the effect of this for Sgt Williams, who received both his salary and LSSA bonus in April, was to indicate that his earnings would exceed the threshold for

at 40 per cent. We are all liable to tax and that is not my gripe. The publicity that followed the rise in the LSSA (AT) bonus was untrue because the bonus equates to roughly two weeks pay, rank-dependent — £270 is a large amount to be

missing if you believed the spin. I know the reply will be that I will recoup the tax over the rest of the year, but that's not my point.

I wait with bated breath for my next bonus, although I don't think I can afford it. — Sgt D P Williams, Cambridge.

higher rate tax. In subsequent months, the tax position of individuals is reassessed to take into account current month earnings and the tax treatment of prior months.

Where it is established that prior month tax treatment was incorrect, the current month tax deduction is automatically adjusted to correct any discrepancy. This has happened in Sgt Williams's case and it is confirmed that he has now been refunded, via his tax deductions for May and June 2003, the overpayment of tax collected when his bonus was paid.

Had Sgt Williams received his bonus at a later point in the tax year, the prior month tax treatment and tax paid to date would have been taken into consideration and he would not have paid tax at the higher rate. His bonus would then have been much nearer to the £1,000 he was expecting.

PISCATOR



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Moving appeal falls foul of Treasury rules

I AM on Op Telic and am leaving the Army this month. My wife, a Danish national, is in Germany trying to organise our move from our quarter there to our house in Denmark, where we are planning to settle.

Current rules say we cannot get our belongings moved at public expense because we are not going back to the UK.

PS4(A) replies: We have a lot of sympathy for LCpl Woolhead's situation (which is not unique among officers and soldiers of all ranks).

Unfortunately the rules governing this situation are largely Treasury-driven, with the added complication of tax implications if last moves were fully funded by the MoD, and we have been unable to change them.

The current regime of Army allowances is based on the principle that all soldiers are

I understand that we can't just move anywhere and expect it to be paid for, but when it would be cheaper to move us to Denmark than the UK, why can we not be accommodated? If we were to be given the equivalent amount of cash to cover the move, and did it ourselves, we would probably be able to return some change. – LCpl A Woolhead, Op Telic.

recruited in the UK and, therefore, the Public Purse will pay to return an individual's effects to the UK.

In LCpl Woolhead's case, given that he is based in Germany, he could send his personal effects to the UK under the Final Tour of Duty Provision. However, any onward movement to another country on retirement would be at his own expense since this is viewed as personal choice rather than a result of serving in the Army.

PS . . .

Regular duties

I HAVE just read the July 2003 Talkback and would like to say to the poor old Territorial Army folk left behind when the Regulars went home, who do you think is replacing you?

Let me guess, the Regulars who went home six to eight weeks ago. Many of my friends came back from the Gulf, went on their promotion course and are now preparing to go out again until November, when they are replaced by, wait for it, other Regulars.

Then they look forward to returning in March 2004. Bear in mind also every other theatre of operations in which Regulars are deployed. – Regular Army nurse (name and address supplied).

Paid adventure . . .

MANY of my colleagues in the Territorial Army have been enjoying paid adventure training for too long – I hope Operation Telic gave them a reality check. The notion that we in the TA could replace Regulars is absurd.

When will both camps realise that we are on the same side and here to help each other?

No one wants a war, it's inconvenient for us all, but those who do choose to join up have a duty to bite the bullet and work together as a team – lives may depend on it. – Name, address supplied.

TA on operations

TO those who accept being deployed on operations (with all that entails) is also part of being in the TA, thanks very much. – Sgt Del King, Op Telic.

'Insulting' interview

AS a military policeman with the California Army National Guard serving in Iraq during Op Iraqi Freedom, I find John Simpson's opinion of the American Armed Forces (My Army, June) offensive and insulting.

We are your allies and consider the British our best friends. It is appalling that Mr Simpson would consider the US military unprofessional, trigger-happy cowboys.

The British are our brothers. We have fought side-by-side many times and we will always be there for Britannia. God Bless the Queen and God Bless the US. – Jerry Sanchez Jr, Sgt, US Army.

Double jubilee

HAVING enlisted in 1976 I am fortunate enough to have served the Queen through two jubilees. Although not a lucky recipient of the Silver Jubilee medal, I am curious to know if there are any Service personnel who have been awarded both the Silver and Golden Jubilee medals. – Maj John Beamer, MBE, Royal Hospital, Haslar.

Signallers among first into Iraq

I DEPLOYED to the Gulf attached to 2 Signal Regiment as part of the deployment of MAPPS (Switching Centrals).

It was good to see your coverage of the Infantry, who were at the front line. However, Royal Signals personnel were some of the first over the border.

I was one of a small unit of four from 21 Signal Squadron attached to Trunk Node 27 from 2 Signals who were the first across the border on the morning of March 22.

The four of us were given a grid reference and told to make our way there by ourselves, with no protection other than 120 rounds apiece. We were alone for more than a week and it was 2km to the nearest quick reaction force. If there had been an incident we had no communications to them, so we had to fend for ourselves.

At one point we were the furthest central forward (just behind the Paras) providing SCRA coverage for 16 Brigade. – **LCpl Craig Washer, R Signals, Op Telic.**

• The Op Telic coverage in the May issue of *Soldier* included reports that signallers were among the first troops into Iraq. – **Editor**

P2K £1,825 deficit doesn't seem fair

INSTEAD of being commissioned in April 1998 I was deferred for almost two years to carry out a second tour in a WO1 post.

I was shocked to find that of the late entry (LE) officers in my employment, I am paid the least despite being the most senior (in other-ranks and commissioned service).

Because I was commissioned before Pay 2000 I lost the significant pay rise given to WO1s that year. The fact that I was deferred meant I did not receive any pay increments and lost two years on the officer pay scale (albeit my seniority was backdated).

A fellow LE officer with identical OR service and on the same pay scale, but commissioned a few months after me, is £5 a day better off. A deficit of £1,825 a year is hardly fair, especially when I was deferred in the interest of the Services.

While I understand PS10 (A)'s response to Capt M J McKenna ("Pay 2000 leaves me trailing behind my junior colleagues", May), I do not believe it provided the answer he was looking for. It certainly didn't answer the pension query.

Despite this, I am delighted that a graduated pay system for ORs is in place. I never believed it was fair for someone to sit in a rank for a long time and not be rewarded. – **Capt John Le Feuvre, 1 RHA, Tidworth.**

Treading water

I WAS being paid as a WO1 (SSM) in March 2001, scale 18-plus Band 6 Class 1

rates of pay, and transferred to the new system on lower band level 6 pay.

My next increment should have been due in September 2001 as this was the anniversary of my promotion to WO1 but I did not receive it. It was explained to me that I would not receive another increment until September 2005 because of the high pay band I was on before the introduction of Pay 2000.

As I leave in June 2005 after 22 years, it means that I will not have received a pay increment for more than six years apart from the annual pay rise. I feel let down by the new system, as do a lot of other soldiers. Only two more years of treading water to go. – **WO1 J H Ball RLC.**

Lower rank, higher pay

AS a sergeant supply controller running an account in an operational squadron on Op Telic I am responsible for the administration of a small team of "senior" JNCO TA augmentees.

I brought them up to scratch, ably aided by a Regular TA augmentee corporal. I find that due to Pay 2000, this corporal and others earn the same or, in some cases, nearly £6 a day more than I do.

The corporal has completed three more years than me but what is the justification for allowing a lower rank with less responsibility to earn more than his boss? – **Sgt Bartlett, Op Telic.**

Double confusion over medals

PS12(A) suggested (May) double medals are allowed for the Op Grapple 6 tour of Bosnia, from late May to November 1995.

The 1st Battalion, The Devon and Dorsets deployed under the Unprofor banner with UN beret and then, midway through the tour, re-painted its vehicles on becoming Nato's multinational brigade.

We spent more than 28 days on each of these tasks and were told that we were not entitled to both medals. Please clarify whether 1D and D is entitled to both. If so, how do we claim it? – **Name and address supplied.**



I'm sorry, it's the same as the one I gave you for last year's revolution - we're cutting overheads

Soldier has been advised by PS12(A) that although it sets policy, it is unable to comment on individual cases. This issue can only be investigated and resolved through the unit's admin office. The issuing of double medals is rare and is dependent on the exact number of days' service under each tour.

IN reply to Maj Kent-Payne's letter ("You can have double medals", May), he is correct in saying troops received two medals for the Brunei and Borneo campaigns and that those serving in Bosnia during the change

from UN to Nato control also picked up two gongs. Not everyone automatically received two medals for serving in Cyprus

in the first Gulf War. I was with a TA transport squadron and, like the rest of Support Regiment, UNFICYP, received just the UN medal. – **Sgt C J Hole, Taunton, Somerset.**

MAJ Kent-Payne's observation is incorrect. Personnel serving in the Sovereign Base Areas qualified for this award but not personnel with UNFICYP, who were considered to be already on a "medal-earning" tour. I am concerned that the response from PS12(A) failed to point this out. – **D MacTaggart, Nuneaton.**

SOLDIERS in the Sovereign Base Areas – within range of Scud missiles – received the Gulf medal without clasp. All UN soldiers received the Cyprus UN medal. Any soldier who has a Gulf and UN medal for the same period should not have both. – **SSgt B Benfield, Wimborne, Dorset.**



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1978: The closure of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley marks the end of an era for the Royal Army Medical Services. The once grandiose Victorian edifice stretched for more than a quarter of a mile along the front at Southampton Water.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, September 1953: Riders from the Army Mechanical Transport School, Bordon, at the White City, administer punishment on a BSA machine, above. There are 18 on this bike, which was taking part in the spectacular SSAFA searchlight tattoo at London's White City.

Help at hand for actions against German hospitals

IN the June edition of *Soldier* (page 11) a national newspaper was quoted as stating that soldiers have no redress against the MoD for treatment in German hospitals but only against the hospitals themselves.

I act in the lead case of *A Child "A" by its Litigation Friend and Mother "B" v the MoD and Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital NHS Trust*, which was heard between March 4 and 17 in the High Court of Justice, Royal Courts of Justice in London. Judgment was handed down on April 16.

The article by Clare Dyer, legal correspondent of *The Guardian*, to which you refer, was published on April 22 and, I think, set out the position very well.

There are a number of claims against the MoD concerning treatment in Designated German Provider Hospitals (DGPs) and indeed non-DGPs and the judgment in the lead case is set to be appealed in the Court of Appeal. The MoD has raised no objections to this.

These proceedings also have implications for treatment of Service personnel

in Cyprus and other countries where Service personnel are based or on operations, as well as for the NHS as to their duty of care towards NHS patients referred to hospitals abroad for treatment.

If Service personnel wish to pursue a claim against the MoD in respect of alleged negligent treatment in DGPs or other medical establishments, it is recommended that they contact Mr James Bond at the Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EY, or ring him on 020 7973 7215.

Should they want to claim in Germany against the DGP itself, they are advised to get in touch with HQ Army Legal Assistance, Catterick Barracks, BFPO 39 on +49 (0)521 9254 3191.

The issue of redress may not be determined for up to two years but irrespective of whether a claim is made against the MoD or the DGP, Service personnel should be aware that a British agency can provide assistance for them. — **David Poole, solicitor, London**

This unfair allowance

I AM single and own my own property, which I share with my partner and daughter. I pay a mortgage and bills like any other homeowner. If I were married I would get the Get You Home (Posting) (GYH(P)) allowance as well as reduced food and accommodation and be eligible for the Over-37 package.

Married friends get £170 a month more than I do. How can the Army treat me and others differently because we aren't married? — **Name and address supplied.**

PS10(A) responds: We understand this soldier's frustration. When policy for allowances is formulated we try to make it available to everyone who meets the eligibility criteria, whatever their marital status. Occasionally this is not possible as an allowance is introduced to provide recompense for a particular purpose.

For GYH(P), this is based on the family home. For a single soldier his "home" is deemed to be the single accommodation in which he lives. The writer may be entitled to claim the stability allowance, GYH(SA). While this is a warrant (rather than a daily rate based on mileage for GYH(P)), his warrant would ensure door-to-door travel to cover his journey and, depending on how far he has to travel, could be worth more than £170 a month.

We are looking at all the GYH allowances to provide one allowance to cover GYH(P), (SA) and (D), for detached duty. If we are successful this would remove the anomalies as long as personnel met the eligibility criteria.

The Over-37 Package was introduced to assist families to settle before leaving the Service. This is particularly important for those who have children about to take GCSE or A level exams soon after they retire. It is therefore structured for married personnel.

PS...

Brunei night-flyers

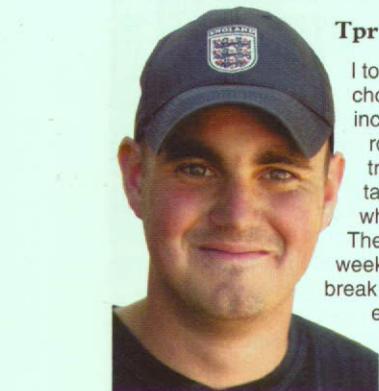
YOUR article "Eye in the sky" (July) stated: "But it is the unit's [7 Flt AAC] night-flying capability which sets it apart. Brunei's own air force does not have this ability."

Please be aware that the Royal Brunei Air Force has its own night-flying capability in the form of Blackhawk S70A-33 aircraft, which are fully night vision compatible and all pilots have been trained in NVG operations and undertake tasking and training on a regular basis.

Your comments do not give justice to the British loan service pilots who are here to train and evaluate the RBAirF. These experienced pilots give of their all in the training of local pilots and spend many hours flying at night and in inclement weather to carry out their tasks. — **Sydney Blake (ex REME Avionics), RBAirF, Brunei.**

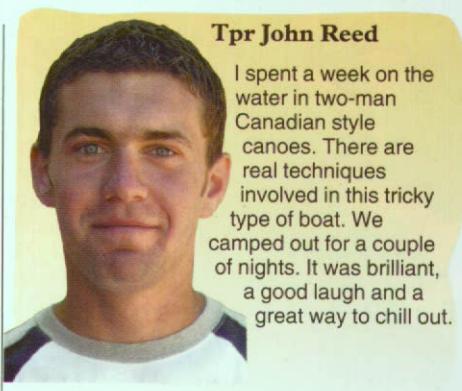
Vox pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue



Tpr Steven Gill

I took the multi-choice option that included kayaking, rock climbing, trekking, mountain biking and white-water rafting. The whole lot in a week. It is a great break at the end of an exercise.



Tpr John Reed

I spent a week on the water in two-man Canadian style canoes. There are real techniques involved in this tricky type of boat. We camped out for a couple of nights. It was brilliant, a good laugh and a great way to chill out.



LCpl Mark Toner

I went rock climbing for a week. It was my first experience of it and I would do it again. They supply all the kit and it meant team-working, and I got a qualification for my efforts. It was good fun. If I came again, I'd try paragliding.

Sgt Jim Lindsay

This is a free package. It is not compulsory, and time does not come out of leave. It's fantastic. I have been horse-riding into the Rockies and camping out there. It is hard work but it's marvellous, I'd recommend it. All this and we get paid too.



Lt Steven Rodaway

I am into rock climbing and this gave me a lot of technical knowledge. I'd like to carry on to the next stage of qualification. Trails End is something to look forward to. Everyone seems to have enjoyed it and many want to go on to more qualifications.



Cpl Stephanie Vella

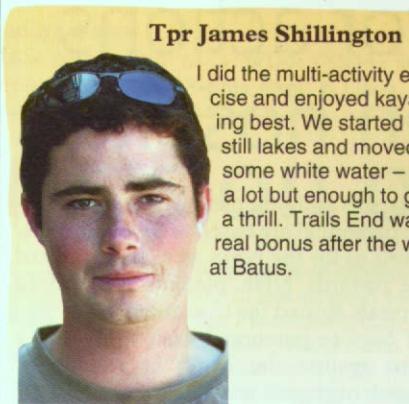
I went horse-riding along the Rockies. I have ridden before, but nothing like this with a western saddle – the works. And we had to look after the animals. They ate a lot, especially my horse, Ernest. If anyone has the chance to come here I'd say jump at it. I have really enjoyed myself.



Sgt Simon McNamara



I went on the climbing exercise, which was hard work for some of us who are getting older. This was brushing up on old skills. Most was steep hiking but there were stages when we had to use ice picks to climb. Trails End organised well-qualified instructors who knew their stuff. It was first class.



Tpr James Shillington

I did the multi-activity exercise and enjoyed kayaking best. We started on still lakes and moved to some white water – not a lot but enough to give a thrill. Trails End was a real bonus after the work at Batus.



Sgt Rich Woodford

I did the open canoeing. It was very good. They gave us a couple of days' training, culminating in white water. Trails End gave me a thoroughly enjoyable end to the Medicine Man exercise.

Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Mike Weston



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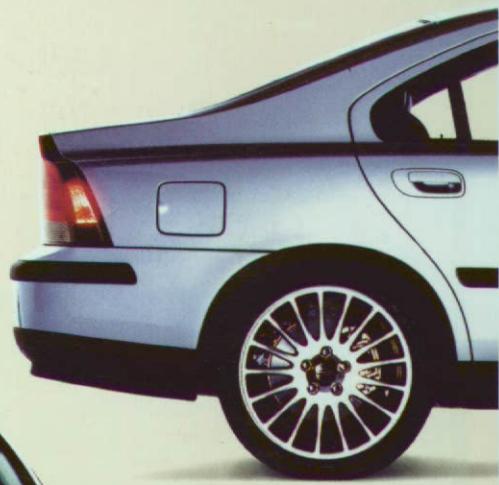
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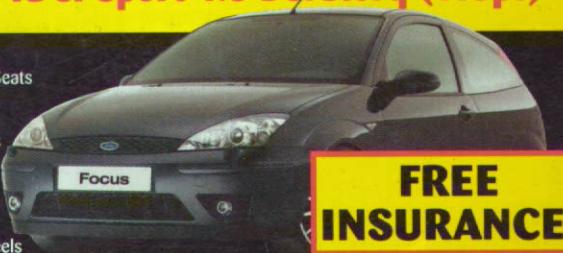
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