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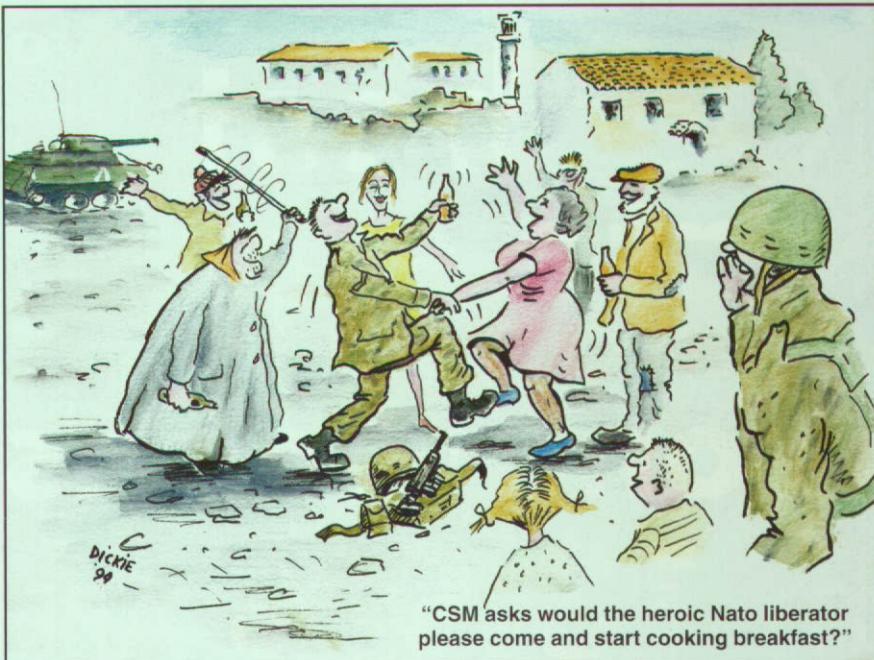
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How to contact Soldier – see Page 51



● Kosovo – Pages 5 and 12-17

SOLDIER

to soldier

Knights in shining helicopters

OBSERVERS compared it to a scene from *Apocalypse Now* . . . a pale sky filled suddenly with clattering helicopters charging in to disgorge heavily-armed paratroopers. To the beleaguered inhabitants of Pristina they were as welcome as Arthur's knights must have been to damsels with dragons trouble.

Within an hour of their Chinook and Puma helicopters arriving over the Kosovo capital, the men of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, reinforced by a full company from their 3rd Battalion, were patrolling the streets, delivering security and a large measure of joy to the ethnic Albanians who had stayed on in their dangerous city.

CONFIDENCE

Outlining Britain's commitment to airborne forces in last year's Strategic Defence Review, the Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, said our Paras and Apaches would "lead the world". As 1 Para completed the biggest airborne insertion by a peacekeeping force, Gen Guthrie's confidence appeared well-founded. The Apaches riding shotgun over Pristina may have been American, but the Paras were British.

In Parachute Regimental Association clubs up and down the country glasses have been raised to the men of 1 and 3 Para in Pristina. RHQ has received hundreds of letters and calls expressing pride in their achievements.

Lt Col Joe Poraj-Wilczynski, regimental lieutenant colonel, summed it up: "This successful deployment demonstrates the versatility of airborne soldiers in both peacekeeping and potential war-fighting. We are very proud of them."

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

We've got some great give-aways in this edition

Page 25 – Win a major new work on winners of the Victoria Cross.

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Page 33 – Win a copy of Michael Hickey's new book on the Korean War.

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Page 52 – Win a family ticket to Thorpe Park and Butlins.

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Pages 53-54 – Special offers to tourist attractions

19 Battling the big C

Officer who overcame cancer three times

20 Forgotten war

Korea veterans prepare for major reunion

23 Chuckle with Chip

Uniform approach

24 Great VC search

New book is result of years of detective work

30 Gunners' getaway

A chance for adventure in deepest Snowdonia

32 My Army

Michael Hickey, Korean veteran

34 Broadsword diary

Life on an Army yacht in the South China Sea

38 Keeping score

Inside the Royal Military School of Music

48 Kitstop

Donut tanks for divers

70 Vox pop

What you thought of garrison radio



Picture: Kevin Capon

12-17 COVER STORY

On their way: A column of Warriors from the King's Royal Hussars battle-group winds its way across the dusty countryside of the Petrovec training area in northern Macedonia, heading north to an assembly area close to the Kosovo border. The mixed column of armour included Warrior, Challenger 1s and AS90 self-propelled guns

PLUS

23 Chuckle with Chip

27 Westminster

40 Issues

42 Sport

48 Kitstop

51 £100 competition

62 Diary

64 Bulletin board

66 Books

68 Mailbag

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Paras prevail in Pristina

From Graham Bound in Kosovo

WHEN the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment arrived in Pristina, they were greeted with flowers and bullets.

Less than 24 hours into the operation to occupy Kosovo and supervise the orderly withdrawal of the defeated Serb forces, the spearhead force landed cautiously on a plot of ground near the centre of the capital city. In an airborne operation reminiscent of the film *Apocalypse Now*, 680 men, including a company from the regiment's 3rd Battalion, were disgorged from an aerial fleet of Chinook and Puma troop-moving helicopters. US Apache attack helicopters buzzed around, threatening to bring devastating firepower down on anyone who dared oppose the landing.

ALBANIAN WELCOME

The troops knew ethnic Albanians in the city would welcome them as they had already been greeted with gratefully open arms when moving into the much smaller town of Kacanik near the Macedonian border. But nobody knew how the Serb regular troops (the VJ), the Serb irregulars or the much-feared federal police (MUP) would respond.

In the event, as the Paras moved out on to the streets of Pristina, they were met by the thousands of ethnic Albanians who had decided to stay in the city and weather the Serb persecution. They greeted the soldiers as liberating heroes.

Among the Serb soldiers, paramilitaries and police there was a sullenness; unspoken acknowledgement that they had been beaten by Nato forces. Most showed only insolence to the British. Within an hour of landing, a patrol from A Company, 1 Para had been attacked. A Serbian policeman stepped from a ransacked private home and opened fire. The round narrowly missed a soldier and the Serb ignored warnings in Serbo-Croat to drop his

Pictures: Kevin Capon



In safe hands: Guarded by a boy with a stick "rifle", sniper Pte Maurice Rawston of Support Company, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, rests on the corner of a street in Pristina

Troops to get more leave after operational tours

ALL soldiers are to get a 20-day break at the end of six-month rotalement operational tours. This will be in addition to the annual leave allowance of 30 working days a year announced in May. Outlining the change, Brig Andrew Ritchie, Director of Personal Services, said shorter or longer operational tours would attract the new leave allowance in proportion to the tour length. Full details in next issue.

weapon. As he raised the gun to fire again, the soldiers shot and killed him.

Legend will record that the man's last words were "I die for Serbia". Serbia is unlikely to thank him, because his actions simply proved at a crucially early stage that Nato troops, British in particular, meant business. "That message was very clearly sent to the police and the Yugoslav Army," said 1 Para's adjutant, Capt Cameron Jack. "We are ready and able to respond appropriately."

His CO, Lt Col Paul Gibson, pointed out that his men have been serving in

Northern Ireland for years and conditions in Kosovo are not dissimilar. "This is very like Belfast in the 70s," he told *Soldier* in the vast municipal sports hall that has become 1 Para's HQ and from where the troops police the east side of the city.

They work closely with the Irish Guards who have similar responsibility for the western part of the town.

A few VJ soldiers wandered the streets, visibly edgy and doing their best to leave Kosovo before a deadline expired. They were permitted to retain their weapons for personal protection until the deadline expired, but the British soldiers disarmed non-uniformed paramilitaries, the federal police and Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) fighters on sight.

KLA guerrillas were generally canny enough not to enter the town, but for many Serbs there was no escape. The key to success in this dangerous work, said A Coy's Sgt Chris Whittaker, was to make it clear there was no room for negotiation.

"They're not very happy about it, but we get them on their back foot and they cave in pretty easily. The Serbs don't scare

● Turn to Page 16

IN BRIEF

Royal gift: Sgt Simon Turley, AGC(SPS), pictured, holds the Army's wedding gift to Prince Edward and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones. The antique silver rose bowl, made in Birmingham in 1926, is engraved from all ranks. It was bought with donations from non-public funds from all commands, districts and divisions, and from arms and Service directors on behalf of soldiers.

● 10 Para was due to march through the City of London days before disbanding. Under the Strategic Defence Review it will re-form on July 1 as a London-based parachute company.

● Garrison radio has arrived in Colchester for a month-long trial on 107MHz FM. See Vox pop reaction (Page 70) to Bulford garrison radio.



People, places, events

Birthday honours

KCB

Lt Gen J F Deverell, OBE, late Li.

CB

Maj Gen C L Elliott, MBE, late RE; Maj Gen R W M McAfee, late RTR; Maj Gen J D Stokoe, CBE late RCS.

CBE

Brig J M Arigho, RRC, late QARANC; Col J H Crosland, MC, late Para; Brig A S Ritchie, QCVS, late RA; Col D W Wonson, late AGC.

OBE

Lt Col G P Cass, RRF; Lt Col T A D Frizell, AGC; Lt Col R C Hart, RE; Lt Col R W Killick, RE; Lt Col N McCleery, RDG; Lt Col I A McPherson, BEM, RLC; Col I G Robertson, late RAMC, TA; Lt Col S W L Strickland, KORBR; Lt Col M N S Urquhart, KORBR; Lt Col M J Vacher, RA; Lt Col J M Wells, RAMC.

MBE

Maj A A Allen, REME; Maj N A Archibald, RHF; Capt D Ashton, KRH; Maj A J Battley, RLC; Capt D Binks, RLC; LCpl C Blezard, RE; Maj R H W St G Bodington, WG; WO1 E W Bradley, Hldrs; Maj N S Chapman, Cheshire; WO2 A K Chauhan, RA; Maj T A Coles, BW; Maj J L Collier, RLC; WO2 E C Coogan, R Irish; Maj J M Cowan, BW; Maj A J Crease, BEM, Scots DG; Maj J A Currie, KOSB; Maj D J Cusack, LD; Maj N R Davies, MC, Para; Maj S Davies, QLR; Maj J E Deverill, RE; LCpl L F Doherty, RAMC; Maj H S Evans, RRF; Capt H Fecitt, TD, Int Corps, TA.

CSgt B L Fleming, R Irish; SSgt P A Follan, AGC; Capt D R Gorton, AGC; Maj J J R Gout, RLC; Capt J W G Griffiths, REME; WO2 R P Guillou, RY, TA; WO1 G Haxby, PW0; Maj D I Hollas, RLC; Cpl J N Horton, REME; Sgt A Jack, AGC; Maj H Jones, RLC; Maj C R King, CD, Princess Patricia's Canadian LI; Maj W A Le Gassick, AGC; Sgt D S Lear, PWRR; Maj J L J Levine, Gren Gds; Maj N D Ling, RA; WO1 R M Loching, AGC; Maj J Q Lockwood, Staffords; WO1 A J MacKay, Hldrs; Maj D F Minden, RAMC.

Maj J D S Moir, KRH; Sgt B S Nagra, R Anglian, TA; Maj I A Orr, KOSB; Maj J F Pelton, RE; Cpl G P Richards, RCS; Maj T J J Saunders, D and D; WO1 I Stobbs, RE; Capt A Taylor, RA; WO2 P J Taylor, REME; WO2 J S Tovey, TA; SSgt J R Toward, Scots DG; WO2 M J Whitehead, AGC; Capt S Willingham, RLC; Maj J M G Willis, GH; Cpl R Yardley, A and SH; WO1 I S Young, APTC.

OBE

Lt Col D Duarte, Royal Gibraltar Regiment.

Apache's water test

TRIALS to establish whether escape from an Apache helicopter downed on land or in water is possible for pilot and crew wearing full British Army air crew equipment have been carried out at a safety and survival training facility on Teesside. A special Apache escape training "dunker" at the Nutec Centre for Safety in Billingham was used by staff from Defence Evaluation Research Agency (DERA).

Lt Col Allison Eke, RAMC, a consultant in aviation medicine, said the exercise would establish airworthiness approval for aspects of the Apache which had not been evaluated during trials in the US.



Last goodbye

Pulling out: Following completion of the demolition of Fort Whiterock Army base on the Springfield Road, Belfast soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards take their leave. The last dedicated Army base situated in the west of the city, it has been home to some 7,500 troops during the past 20 years.

The demolition, which began in January, was completed two weeks ahead of schedule and the site has now been formally handed back to the Industrial Development Board. Fort Whiterock was the first major Army base in Northern Ireland to close under the Good Friday Agreement.

Picture: Pete Bristo, AIS Northern Ireland

Home comfort



So nice to see you: Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam gives LCpl Spencer Cooper of B Company, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, a cuddle during her visit to Woodbourne RUC station, West Belfast. Mrs Mowlam's constituency is Redcar, where LCpl Cooper comes from. "I'll give you a hug as you come from my home town," she told him. The Green Howards have started a six-month roulement tour in Belfast and are unusual in being deployed in two operational areas at once. A Company is currently serving with the Kosovo Force

New colours



In the Signals: Former members of the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment have regrouped under new colours. When the Nottingham-based part-timers lost their battalion in the reorganisation of the Territorial Army they found themselves being "head-hunted" by other units in the area. These three, Sig Jamie Henley, bottom right, Cpl Linda Floyd and LCpl Donal Hammett, were among 25 who joined 87 Signal Squadron at Lenton. Picture: Gareth Griffiths

PHASED WITHDRAWAL BY 2005 AT THE EARLIEST

Bases in Germany to remain 'key element' in UK defence

A BRITISH Army presence is to remain at all its current major locations in Germany.

Following consultations with the Federal authorities, Defence Secretary George Robertson has confirmed to the German Federal Minister, Herr Schäping, that the United Kingdom will continue to station United Kingdom Support Command (Germany) and 1st (UK) Armoured Division in Germany, as

create a better balance between 1st (UK) Armoured Division in Germany and the 3rd (UK) Division based at Bulford. The three armoured regiments remaining in Germany will be larger than at present and equipped with Challenger 2.

Withdrawal of the three armoured regiments to the UK will mean that there is a reduced requirement for barracks accommodation in Germany.

Withdrawal, however, will be phased and is not expected to be completed until 2005 at the earliest. Phase One will involve the withdrawal to the UK of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment from Barker Barracks, Paderborn, next month. To make best use of this barracks and to meet British Forces Germany's operational requirements most efficiently, it is intended to relocate 35 Engineer Regiment from Gordon Barracks, Hameln to Barker Barracks.

A year ago Britain announced, following the Strategic Defence Review and the decision to return 2,500 Germany-based troops to the UK, the forward basing of ground forces in Germany would remain a key aspect of British defence policy.

The SDR recommended that three armoured regiments would be withdrawn from Germany to the UK to

Meanwhile, 28 Engineer Regi-

ment, 65 Field Park Squadron, and 522 Specialist Team RE will move from Bindon Barracks, Hameln to Gordon Barracks, thus retaining more than 800 soldiers and their families in Hameln and allowing Bindon to be returned to the Federal authorities. It is expected that the barracks will be handed back after 2002.

Timing of the withdrawal of the other two regiments is dependent on building projects in the UK, now at an early planning stage. Next phase of the withdrawal will not start before 2001 and will involve the surrender of a barracks at Osnabrück. A considerable British Army presence will remain in Osnabrück, headquarters of the 4th Armoured Brigade and home of many of its major units.

Final phase will affect Bergen-Hohne and will include a re-grouping of 7th Armoured Brigades units. Although some married quarters in Celle will be retained, Trenchard Barracks is to be given up.

Troops forced to take cover over holidays

FOLLOWING concerns expressed by a number of soldiers anxious that a posting to Kosovo would mean they would have to forfeit holiday insurance cover because of late cancellation of a paid-for holiday, Soldier contacted the Association of British Insurers for advice.

Suzanne Moore, of the association, said: "Although policy wordings do vary, most soldiers should be covered under a travel insurance policy if they need to cancel a holiday because they are being deployed abroad.

SYMPATHETIC

"There is some indication that even those insurers who do not explicitly offer cover will treat claims sympathetically," she added.

The bottom line is that individuals must check the wording of their insurance policy. If in doubt, contact the insurance company.

And the advice for those about to book a holiday: check what cover you have at the time you make the booking.

IN BRIEF

● A £75 million contract for the final development and production of extended-range barrels and a new modular charge system for the Royal Artillery's AS90 self-propelled gun has been placed with Marconi Electronic Systems. It will increase the effectiveness of the guns and provide a significantly enhanced artillery capability for the Army.

● Soldiers of the Dorset Yeomanry, the Army's armour replacement regiment, transported 32 Challenger 2 main battle tanks in two lengthy convoys from Bovington to Marchwood military port near Southampton. The tanks were embarked on the ro-ro ferry Dana Minerva for passage across the Atlantic to Newfoundland, from where they will

make a 1,500-mile train journey to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATU) near Calgary.

● One hundred kilted soldiers of 1 KOSB based at Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus marched into the village of Pisouri with their drums and pipes... to give blood. As a special thank-you to the

battalion, the soldiers were invited into a tavern for a drink.

● Cambridge Armed Forces Careers Office has re-opened after a three-month refurbishment. WO Brian Soper said the staff had done a "fantastic job", continuing to work by moving from room to room as the work went on around them.

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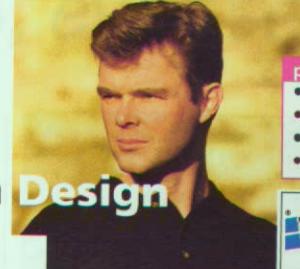


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S/FREE IN2

People, places, events



Pedal patrol: A peacekeeper serving with the United Nations in Cyprus on his 21-speed Diamond Outlook DX mountain bike, one of 36 bought through a dealer in Nicosia city

Pedal power puts UN patrols back in touch

BRITISH soldiers serving with the United Nations in Cyprus have been turning to pedal-power to help them patrol the Buffer Zone between the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish-occupied north of the island.

Push bikes have been used by the UN Force in Cyprus for a number of years as a cheap and easy way to get around various camps on the island, and countries making up the force have either purchased their own or relied on individuals to splash out.

Two years ago the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, then the British contingent of UNFICYP, decided to use bikes as a cheap and effective method of patrolling the Buffer Zone in the city of Nicosia.

This decision was aided by the fact that the narrow streets often led to vehicles sustaining dents and scrapes.

Another reason was that troublemakers in the zone could hear the noise of approaching Land Rovers and disperse, making it difficult for the peacekeepers to investigate disturbances.

Two patrol vehicles had to be surrendered when bikes entered service in the British-Dutch controlled Sector 2 in February last year. Advantages to the UN were a reduction in vehicle numbers, cheaper running costs and an increased personal involvement on the part of the troops, which had the effect of fostering better relations with both sides in the Buffer Zone.

IN BRIEF

● The Joint Air Transport Evaluation Unit (JATEU) based at RAF Brize Norton has been awarded the Investors in People accreditation.

● Epsom town centre, Surrey, was brought to a standstill when the Freedom of the borough was awarded to 135 Independent Topographic Squadron RE (V) in honour of its 50-year presence in the community. The

Chief Royal Engineer, Gen Sir John Stibb, received the ceremonial scroll on behalf of the squadron after soldiers from 135 Sqn and 42 Survey Engineer Group, supported by the RE band, had paraded through Epsom.

● Three soldiers from 51 Field Squadron (Airmobile) joined A Company, 1 RGBW in Botswana on Exercise Diamond Cutter to

Shouting match



Togetherness: The Royal Military College Sandhurst has its first husband-and-wife instruction team. Having completed half of her two-year tour at RMAS, SSgt Marie Mariner has been joined by husband CSgt Sean Mariner. She is with Cadre 97, he with the 99th. After six years of marriage, this is the first time the couple have served together

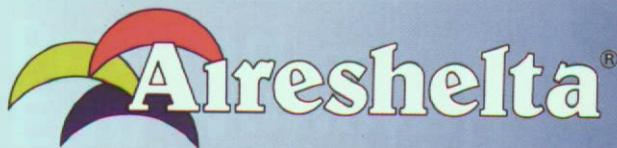
Border coll-eagues



My best friend: Sgt Mick Powers of 103 (The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) makes a new acquaintance during an exercise in the Scottish Borders. Nearly 250 soldiers from the 103rd, based in the North-West, took part in Exercise Border Reiver on private land in the Kelso, Melrose and Duns areas. In time of war the unit's role would be to provide low-level air defence, using its Javelin systems

supply clean water for the 160 personnel on the live-firing exercise and to build a portable shower unit.

● A ceremony on June 9 at which the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment would have received the Freedom the Royal Borough of Windsor had to be postponed because so many soldiers of the 1st Battalion were training for Kosovo.



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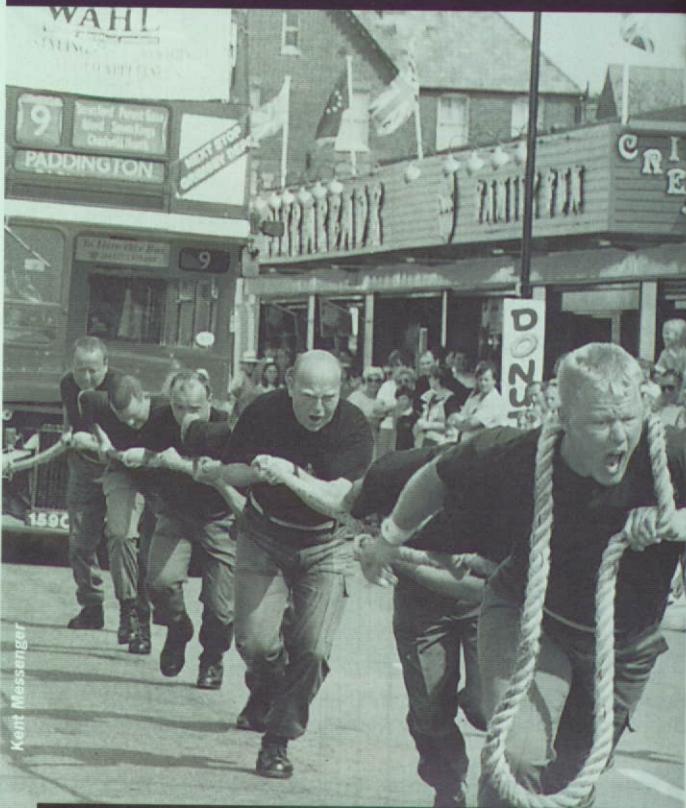
This amazing bird's-eye view shows the major incident set-up deployed by Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Aireshelta's pioneering **Aireshower** inflatable decontamination unit - named as a Millennium Product by The Design Council for its role at the forefront of technology and creativity - is linked to several **Airesheltas** to provide a mobile mass casualty evacuation headquarters. This set-up would also make an ideal instant field hospital.

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People, places, events



Right of way: Soldiers of the 19th Regiment, Royal Artillery march through Inverness to mark the Freedom bestowed on the regiment in recognition of the close ties between the Highland Gunners and the city. Following the Freedom ceremony, commanding officer Lt Col Peter Fox paraded the regiment with its Colours and a 105mm light gun through the packed Inverness streets. The gunners were led

by the Pipes and Drums of The Highlanders. Representing the Colours, 19/5 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery was led by Maj Andy Smith, 28/143 Battery (Tombs's Troop) by Major Peter Hardisty and 25/170 (Imjin) Battery by Maj Jonathan Calder-Smith.

Inverness Council was given the regimental flag flown on operational peace-keeping tours of Bosnia and Cyprus.

Why do you want to leave the Army?

A STUDY has been launched to find out exactly why people do not stay in the Army longer and what can be done to persuade them to extend their service.

The Adjutant General, Gen Sir Alex Harley, has sponsored a six-month, in-depth scientific study, to be carried out by a research team from Hay Management Consultants in conjunction with the Institute for Employment Studies at Sussex University.

Despite a 12 per cent increase in recruiting last year, there continues to be a net outflow from the Army of up to 100 trained adult soldiers every month. Recruiters believe that there is a finite pool of high-quality potential recruits, so improved recruiting can only be part of the solution to the problem.

It is feared that failure to retain more trained personnel for longer will result in the Ministry of Defence failing to meet the target set by the Strategic Defence

Review of full Army manning by 2005.

The Army Retention Study team, headed by former RAF pilot David Pyper, is to travel throughout the Army at home and abroad to gather information from serving officers and soldiers of all ranks. Former soldiers and soldiers' families will also be asked for their views, as will the many agencies and organisations that support the Army. A report is due to be presented to the Adjutant General by the end of November.

Maj Celia Attlee, REME (V), a Territorial officer appointed project officer for the study and based at HQ AG, Upavon, said: "The study team will canvass a broad spectrum of people and opinions from across the Army. The aim is to improve retention by making the Army a better place to be. If you do find that you become involved in this research, don't hesitate to get you point of view across. Your ideas do matter."

IN BRIEF

● The Duke of Gloucester visited 29 Regiment RLC to open 47 AD Squadron's new headquarters before carrying out a sortie in a C-130 Hercules aircraft to drop a jungle line. He spent the rest of the day with 29 Regiment at the Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, lunching with the officers and senior NCOs and meeting individuals from 80 Postal and Courier Squadron and 59 and 55 Movement Control Squadrons.

● TA medics from 207 Field Hospital RAMC (V) were the first to set up a working 50-bed field hospital in new hangar-like training premises in Towthorpe Lines, Strensall. Built specially for Army Medical Services to train TA medics, the facility can produce conditions to simulate, for example, the climate of the Gulf. Four different electricity supplies, including a failed distribution system, can be turned off to create the effect of power cuts.

Iron Division veterans go back to Sword

SOLDIERS from 206 Signal Squadron, 3rd (UK) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment based at Bulford formed a guard of honour for the 55th anniversary D-Day commemorations in Normandy, writes Karen Moseley.

The young soldiers, some of whom were on seven days' notice to join Nato forces in Macedonia, formed up next to old soldiers who had landed on the beaches of France in the early hours of June 6, 1944 to begin the liberation of Northern Europe.

The veterans were part of the 3rd British Infantry Division, forerunner of the present division, and one of the many assault units that landed on the Normandy coast 55 years ago.

Their destination was Sword Beach at the sleepy seaside town of Hermanville-sur-Mer. The red-and-black triangular flash of the "Iron Division" which they wore on their sleeves is identical to the one worn by 3 (UK) Division soldiers today.

Remembrance services took place in the city and on the seafront, where Brig David Radcliffe, assistant divisional commander, 3 (UK) Div, laid wreaths. As the *Last Post*, played by Cpl Colin Pope, 2 LI, sounded, the veterans braced their shoulders. Some stared at the sky, others towards the surf through which they had waded. Others let the tears flow.

At the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, local schoolchildren followed a Royal British Legion piper playing a lament and laid a single flower on each grave.



Tribute: Soldiers of 3 (UK) Division in front of the Iron Division memorial, fashioned from its triangular flash, at Hermanville-sur-Mer

● Soldiers from the 3rd Regiment RHA serving in Bosnia are "shelling out" to raise £10,000 for the UK-based charity Hope and Homes for Children to build accommodation for child victims of the Kosovo exodus. Teams from 3 RHA (which can be contacted at Regimental HQ, Operation Palatine, Jajce, BFPO 546) are attempting to carry a 96lb 155mm shell around their locations in western Bosnia, a distance of 650km, in 24 hours.

British troops are key to peace

Nato's biggest contingent has a vital role to play in the critical months ahead

THROUGHOUT the long months of waiting and preparing for the move into Kosovo, Nato's massive ground force was British-led. The 50,000-strong multinational army, the greatest peace-enforcement force ever assembled, is under the command of Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson, and British soldiers make up the largest national contingent, out-numbering even the Americans.

Now British forces have taken on the key role in Kosovo itself, having deployed some 13,000 troops into the critical central area of the province within a few days of the peace agreement – effectively a Serbian surrender – being signed.

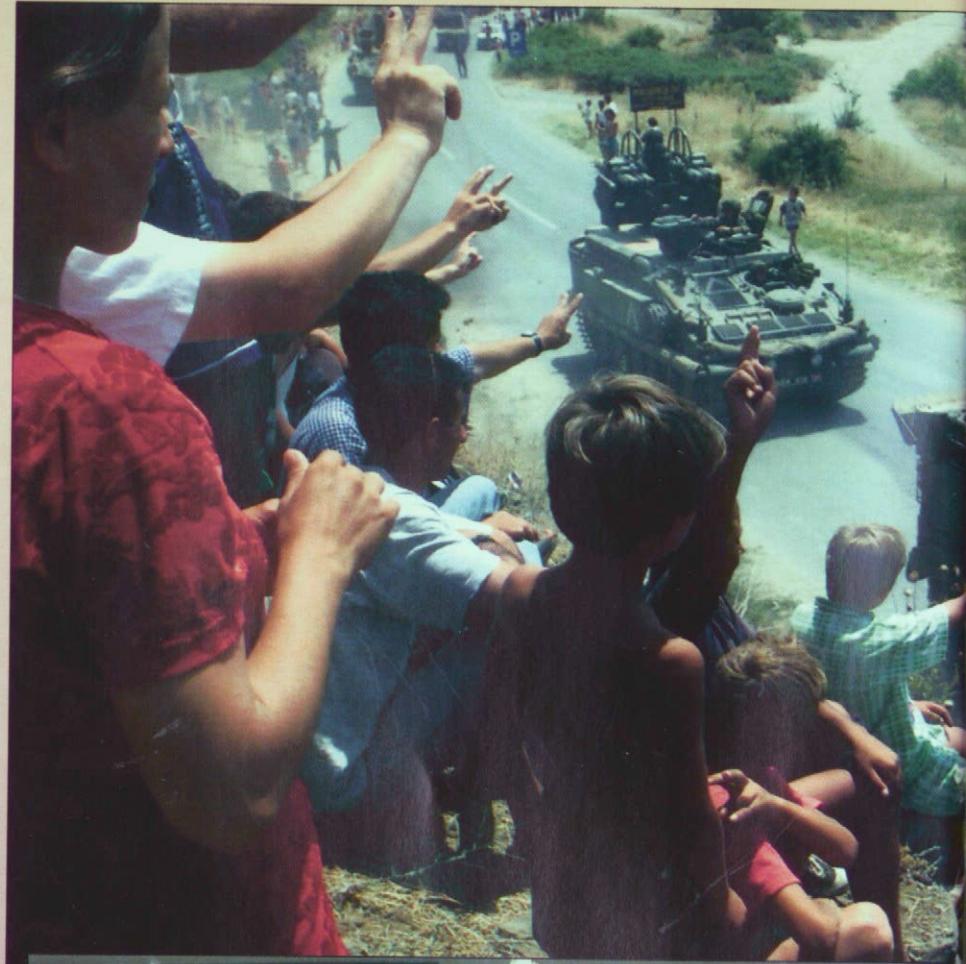
With a main base in Kosovo's capital city, Pristina, British units continued to deploy into the surrounding countryside, at times taking on renegade Serb units which were not respecting the peace agreement. Mainly, though, they were getting on with the crucial business of supervising the orderly withdrawal of Serb regular and paramilitary forces, checking for mines and booby traps, and supporting the return of refugees to their homes.

CENTRAL REGION

British forces in Pristina control the crucial central region. The other four regions of the province are in the hands of Britain's four main Nato allies, the United States, France, Italy and Germany.

These countries, too, have taken on a massive task. Italy's 5,000 troops are controlling the northern section centred on Leposavic. About 7,000 US soldiers are in the eastern zone, with Gnjilane as a main base, while 7,000 French troops are based in the western zone around the town of Pec. The German Army controls the southern region, including the main gateway to Kosovo from Macedonia, with a contingent of 4,500.

Other Nato countries are contributing between 2,000 and 150 soldiers each, and are attached to the main administrative powers. The smaller contributors are The Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Poland, Canada, Hungary, Portugal and the Czech Republic.



Flowers for a fusilier: Fus Garry O'Brien, a Warrior driver with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, accepts the smiling thanks of a Kosovar girl in a ransacked village



Grim reality: Sgt Maj Mick Robson, 1 Para, counts the markers on a site of a mass grave in the Kosovo town of Kacnik. His battalion was among the first troops airlifted into Kosovo

Welcome: Cheering Kosovar children, left, in Brazda camp wave to British Army Warrior armoured fighting vehicles of the Irish Guards as they make their way towards the border for the advance to Pristina

More pictures from Kosovo in Pages 14, 15, 16 and 17

How to write to a British soldier in Kosovo – Page 17

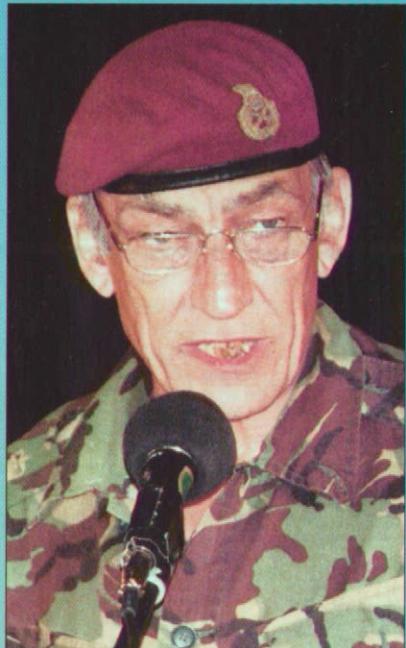
What Milosevic learned from Hitler and Saddam – Pages 66-67

More than 200 soldiers from the Colchester-based 1st Battalion, The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and the Combat Service Support Battalion have been posted to the Balkans.

NEXT ISSUE: We see the KRH "liberate" Podujevo

Pictures: Kevin Capon

The men in charge



Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson announces the terms of the peace agreement which brought an end to the bombing

LT GEN Sir Mike Jackson is the soldier who has come to typify Nato's will to succeed in the Balkans. He was chosen to negotiate with the Serbs following diplomatic success in Bosnia, where he was commander of the United Nation's implementation force between 1995 and 1996.

A career soldier, Lt Gen Jackson has served as commander of Nato's ACE Rapid Reaction Corps since 1997. He comes from a Service family and began his career at 19 in the Intelligence Corps.

He transferred to The Parachute Regiment in 1970, and commanded 1 Para between 1984 and 1986. He spent two years at the MoD as director-general of Personal Services (Army) and has served in Northern Ireland and Berlin.

Maj Gen Richard Dannatt, the commander of British forces in Kosovo, is an experienced Balkans hand. He was appointed to command the South-West Sector in Bosnia when the peace-keeping mission was run by the United Nations. On his appointment to head the 4th Armoured Brigade he served under Gen Jackson when the Bosnian operation was handed over to a Nato-led command.

Race for Pristina: Paras go head-to-head with Russians

THE WILD card in the peace-enforcement pack is Russia. Although playing an important part in the negotiations which led to the peace agreement, and apparently determined to take part in the Kosovo peace enforcement mission, Moscow refused to place its troops under the central control of Nato.

The disagreement led, a few days later, to a chilly and worrying stand-off between soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who were in the vanguard of the British advance, and Russian troops who had stolen a march on Nato.

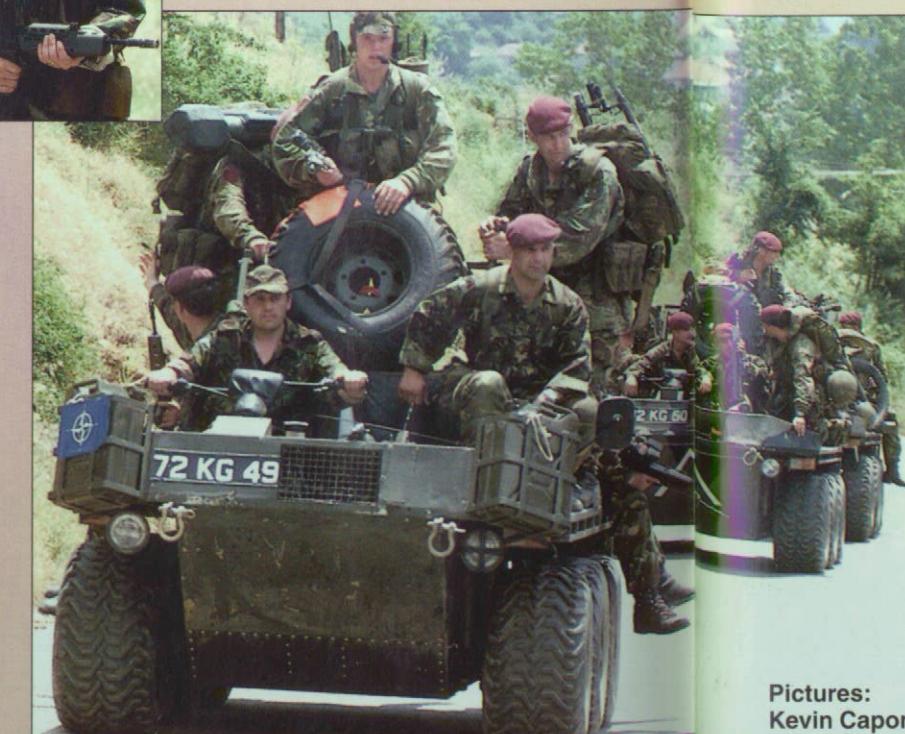
With the peace deal signed, and 50,000 Nato troops waiting for the signal to move, international diplomats and Nato commanders were surprised by the news that a convoy of Russian armoured personnel carriers, with an estimated 200 troops, had left peace-keeping duties in Bosnia and was racing though Serbia towards Kosovo.

Frantic diplomacy extracted a promise from the Kremlin that the unilateral deployment would halt at the Kosovo border; but the troops continued their advance. The competition to be first into Kosovo has been compared to the race for Berlin at the end of the Second World War.

When the Paras and other troops reached Pristina Airport on the first day of the advance, they found that Russian troops were already there, and, effectively claiming the territory. The stand-off was not hostile, but the Russians refused to allow the Paras access to a large part of the airport, claiming that the route had been blocked by Serbian mines.



Above and right: Paras in the Kacnik pass
Below: Paras on patrol in the eastern suburbs of Pristina, for which they are responsible



Pictures:
Kevin Capon



Above: A lookout from 1 Para locks on to a potential target in Pristina. Behind him, a sniper is already starting to take aim



Right: Pte Leigh Young, left, Pte Martin Duffy, centre, and Pte Riki Albuery of 1 Para in a cornfield close to the Kosovo border as 5 Airborne Brigade prepared to move while a peace agreement was forged



The way in: A sapper with 1 Para, above, provides cover at a strategically vital bridge on the route from Macedonia

First into torture chamber

BRITISH soldiers unearthed a torture centre in Pristina and have been helping war crimes investigators to gather evidence of atrocities they believe took place there.

A *Soldier* reporter and photographer were the first journalists to enter the building, said to have been used by the feared Federal Police (MUP) for interrogation and torture. The building had been ransacked by the departing MUP and dossiers and papers destroyed. But enough evidence remained to make it clear that torture and perhaps killings had taken place there.

Rooms in the basement had been turned into cells and a torture chamber. On the floor lay spiked knuckle-dusters, a sword or bayonet, a black hood, batons and baseball bats. One baton had been broken and the felt-tip inscription on one bat was translated as: "The mouth shitter".

STEEL BEDSTEAD

Perhaps most chilling of all was a steel bedstead with straps for tying down victims. Pictures of victims were strewn on the floor of an upstairs office. Also in the building were weapons, mines and ammunition.

Lt David Blakeley and his platoon from A Coy, 1 Para took the building from the Serb police, but had no idea of the horrors within. Outside, guarding the entrance to the building, were other LCpl Gary Simpson and Cpl Frank Gostling, both of 1 Platoon, A Coy. "It's obvious what went on here," said Cpl Gostling. "All the tools of the trade are here."

Even some Serbs have helped Paras

From Page 5

our blokes. The truth is, they're scared of us." LCpl John Melville has strong opinions about those who terrorised Kosovo: "They've made life miserable for everyone," he said. "When we take their weapons we feel great."

The Paras, along with the Irish Guards doing the same work on the other side of the wide boulevard that divides the city, are not short of allies. "Most people are happy for us to be here," said LCpl Melville. He said even some Serbs had put themselves at risk to pass information that might help recover weapons.

Pte Mark Hodgkinson showed us a remarkable note, passed to him by an old man. Concerned that other Serbs might see him, the man dropped the note at the soldier's feet. It read: "Please help us. Criminals that terrorise us come from this part of the town and they live in building block 1, entrance 4, number 10. Be careful because they are armed."

GUNMAN'S HIDE

The information led to a gunman's hide. The potential killer had fled but his AK47 rifle and ammunition were captured and added to the motley collection of confiscated weapons.

Three days after the British arrival, occasional shots were still reverberating around the city. The Paras invariably responded, but not always in time to save lives. Two children were shot dead from a Yugoslav Army vehicle, apparently in a final act of twisted bitterness. An elderly man and two young women were shot in another incident, and the same marksman briefly targeted a Para observation post.

In the ramshackle streets of Pristina it is not easy to fire on gunmen, and the "hoods" as they are known to soldiers are only too well aware of this. But there were successes. The summary execution of two Serbs, witnessed by a Para OP, resulted in arrests, and an Albanian father and his two daughters kidnapped by Serb irregulars with rape – and worse – on their minds were released when the Paras were tipped off.

PARA 'POLICE FORCE'

Ninety per cent of the soldiers' work is less dramatic. As the days go by local people have increasingly seen the troops as a *de facto* police force. Patrols have visited ransacked houses and arranged for EOD experts to check them for booby traps. Pouring oil on the troubled waters of Pristina is an important job.

An Albanian couple insisted on showing the soldiers – and *Soldier's* reporter – the damage Serb police had inflicted on the home of their daughter, a refugee in the UK.

"I wanted to stay in my house, even if they killed me," the man said. "Going out to buy bread was dangerous, but last night we slept well for the first time in three months." He had many different people in many different places to thank for that, but for the moment the men of 1 Para were the subject of his gratitude. "These soldiers", he said, "are like brothers."



Watchful: Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, part of 5 Airborne Brigade, keep watch on the road north up the Kacanik Pass in the direction of Pristina



Insertion completed: Royal Air Force Chinook helicopters depart from Pristina after airlifting soldiers of 1 Para to the outskirts of the capital city of Kosovo



Cool customer: Pte Karl Smith uses an umbrella to provide welcome shade while on sentry duty in a Warrior vehicle positioned outside the main gate of Petrovac camp



Evidence of ethnic cleansing? WO Andrew Kevill, a British Army intelligence officer, sifts through a pile of Albanian passports and identity cards found dumped on a site taken over by the 4th Armoured Brigade as a headquarters. It is believed the documents may have been confiscated from Albanian Kosovars fleeing to the refugee camps in Macedonia



On the way: Warriors of the King's Royal Hussars battle-group head for Kosovo

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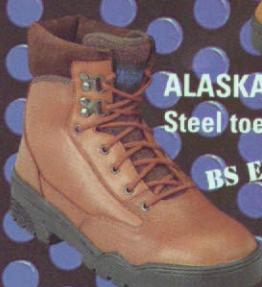
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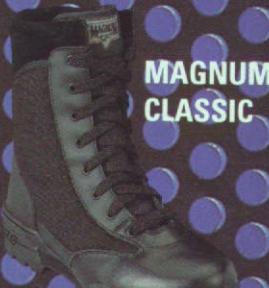
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Battle of the big C

This man confronted, and overcame, cancer three times

Report: Karen Moseley
Picture: Terry Champion

EVERYTHING was coming up roses for Royal Engineer Capt Leo Stanton in 1993. He was about to marry the girl of his dreams, his career was going well, and his next posting was a fascinating two-and-a-half years in Oman.

There was just one small problem clouding his happiness. A few months earlier, he had returned from exercise in Kenya and it looked as though he might have picked up a tropical disease.

"They thought I might have a blood disease as I had some quite interesting symptoms, but the tests were not conclusive," he recalled. "Carol and I got married in Minley Parish Church and had the reception in the manor; it was a fabulous day. I was feeling all right, although a bit gaunt, and then we went off to Bali for our honeymoon."

The axe fell as soon as he returned. He was told by phone to go immediately to Woolwich hospital.

"I thought it was a bit odd they couldn't tell me what it was over the phone, but they can't afford any ambiguity," he said.

It was there he was told he had Hodgkin's disease, a cancer which attacks the lymph glands. He was also told it was 98 per cent curable with routine chemotherapy and a few doses of radiotherapy to mop up the remains.

NIGHTMARE JOURNEY

But it meant saying goodbye to Oman, and the villa that was to be their home, and was the start of a nightmare journey that lasted more than three years.

It took so long because Maj Stanton, who is now OC of 55 Training Squadron at the Combat Engineering School at Minley, did not just get the cancer once. It came back twice over the next three years, and at one point he was given just a ten per cent chance of survival.

During the first treatment, which lasted eight months, he was in hospital every month for intravenous chemotherapy and on 30 tablets a day. "It is pretty barbaric,



Iron will: After three brushes with cancer, Capt Leo Stanton is now enjoying life to the full

pretty primitive treatment, but then I was well again and I thought I was cured."

But the following October he recognised the symptoms again, and this time there was a tumour on part of his lungs. The cancer had come back with a vengeance and he underwent two back-to-back bone marrow transplants at Hammersmith hospital in what was still experimental treatment.

After removing his own healthy bone marrow he was given massive doses of chemotherapy which literally started to kill his body. The drugs were causing hallucinations and making him hyperactive, and there were times when he could not stop crying. He was in isolation ("not too bad, bit like being on a command vehicle exercise") and at his lowest ebb.

But not so low that he gave up thinking about the future. It was while he was going through the second bone marrow treatment, that he decided to apply for a master's degree in business administration (MBA). He already had a B Eng (Hons) in electronics from Shrivenham, and had passed his staff college exams.

"I revised like mad, but when I went into the exam I couldn't remember a damn thing because my mind was so

addled with all the drugs and pain killers. I had to leave the room after five minutes and was really irritated as I'd never failed an exam in my life."

His iron will won through, however, and earlier this year he was awarded the degree by the Open University.

His achievement was all the more sweet as, to everyone's horror, the cancer returned a third time after he had been back at work just three months.

"It was then the consultants started holding their heads in their hands and it all went a bit quiet," he remembered. "The only treatment they could give me was a similar dose of chemotherapy to the one I had had the first time round, and that seemed to knock it on the head."

He has now been in the clear for more than two years and is cautiously optimistic – "doctors never tell you you're cured" – and enjoying life to the full.

During all the time he was ill, he says the Army was totally supportive. "The Army and the sappers gave me jobs where the posts could be gapped or I could convalesce.

"I've been so impressed. I didn't think the Army was very good with people with long-term illness, but it was outstanding."

Korea: Frozen

Military author Charles Whiting takes a look back at those who, just under half a century ago, went off to fight a war that changed the world

WHEN it all started 50 years ago next summer, most squaddies went without trouble. Obviously the brass had thought the young 19-year-old National Service men might cause them a headache or two.

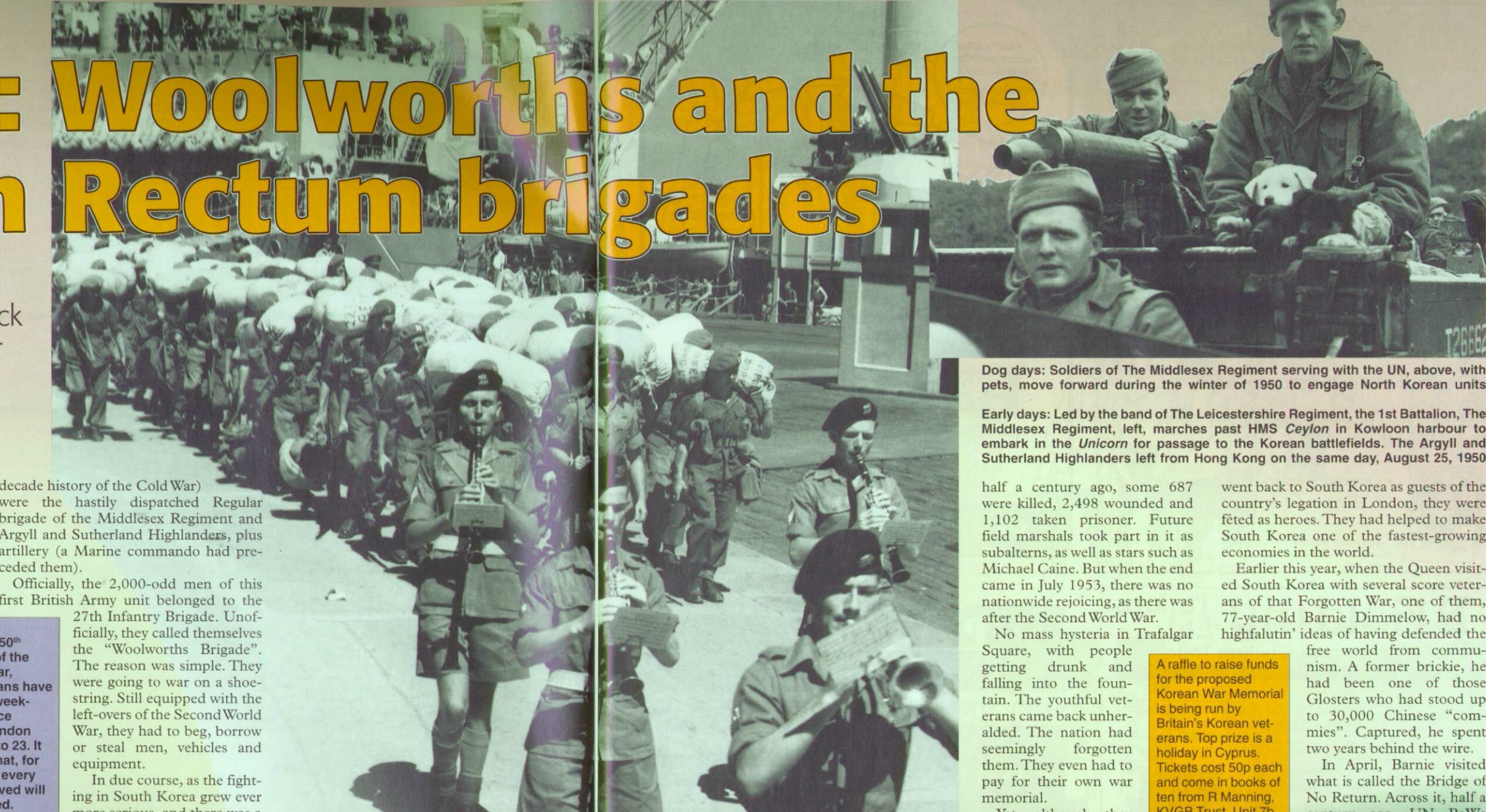
In fact, these first post-war conscripts turned up aces. They even "volunteered" to go. The old sweats did as they were told. They hadn't a clue where Korea was, but when had the average British soldier known where he was going in wartime?

It was the Z Reservists who turned out to be a bit of a problem. Mostly infantrymen, they had been placed (without pay or permission) on the so-called Z Reserve after being demobbed at the end of the Second World War. Now in their mid-and-late twenties, they were being called up again to fight on the other side of the world.

Many hundreds of them were, indeed, ex-PoWs and were not fit for active service. A few deserted. Now and again their irate wives took up the fight. An angry housewife arrived at a depot where her Z Reservist husband was being kitted out, shoving three snivelling kids in front of her, telling the perplexed orderly officer: "You've taken their father, now you can bloody well look after this little lot!"

Younger Regular officers and NCOs were gung-ho. "It's only a small war," they chortled, "but it's the only war we've got." Then they were right . . . then. But years later the new conflict in Korea had become a very large war and would in the end cost a million dead.

The first British troops to arrive in Korea to do battle with the North Korean and later Chinese Communists (for this was to be the only "hot" war in the four-



Dog days: Soldiers of The Middlesex Regiment serving with the UN, above, with pets, move forward during the winter of 1950 to engage North Korean units

Early days: Led by the band of The Leicestershire Regiment, the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, left, marches past HMS Ceylon in Kowloon harbour to embark in the *Unicorn* for passage to the Korean battlefields. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders left from Hong Kong on the same day, August 25, 1950

decade history of the Cold War) were the hastily dispatched Regular brigade of the Middlesex Regiment and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, plus artillery (a Marine commando had preceded them).

Officially, the 2,000-odd men of this first British Army unit belonged to the 27th Infantry Brigade. Unofficially, they called themselves the "Woolworths Brigade". The reason was simple. They were going to war on a shoestring. Still equipped with the left-overs of the Second World War, they had to beg, borrow or steal men, vehicles and equipment.

In due course, as the fighting in South Korea grew ever more serious, and there was a distinct possibility that the Allies would be kicked out of that far-off country, the Woolworths Boys were followed by the 3,000 men of the 29th Infantry Brigade. As the weather grew progressively worse in the mountains (40 below zero in the winter), the 29th also acquired a nickname.

It was even less flattering than that of its sister brigade. It was the "Frozen Rectum". The brigade patch was a white circle on a black background and, according to its members (the Glosters, the Royal Ulster Rifles, Northumberland Fusiliers, and 8th Irish Hussars), that's what their rear ends looked like when they sat exposed on their freezing packing-case "thunderboxes".

Hastily they were pushed into the Pusan Perimeter, around the port of that name through which they had arrived and would be evacuated if the situation got any worse. And that seemed to be on the cards.

By now this last-ditch position was commanded by US General Bulldog Walter. The former corps commander in Patton's Third Army in the Second World War was typical of the US top brass with their bellicose nicknames . . . Mad Mike, Iron Mike, Will Bill, and so on. However, Walton, who was fated to die in Korea and lose his son there in combat, lived up to his Bulldog tag.

Bolstering up his hard-pressed Yanks with troops from nearly a dozen nations, including the British, he held the North Koreans and their new Chinese allies. It was nip-and-tuck for a time, but in the end the 8th US Army, to which the British belonged, started advancing once more.

Now the battle for Korea would rage back and forth for three years. For the first time since the Second World War, the advocates of air power learned that you couldn't win wars from the sky. It was the same with those who thought of bold,

swift armoured strikes, proposed by the American command. As long as the enemy held the mountains, they would be able to interdict the few valley roads.

Although the war in Korea had, by the end of 1950, been virtually forgotten at home in Britain, media interest was revived at certain intervals, usually when some tragedy had taken place.

There was a tragic but brave defeat of the 29th Brigade on the Imjin, which won the Glorious Glosters a VC. There was Pte Speakman of the KOSB, a giant of a man, who won his VC by charging the enemy and flinging empty bottles of Bass at them when he ran out of ammo. There was the Battle of the Hook when, for a while at least, the British stopped the "Chinese hordes" dead.

But, on the whole, the British part in the Korean War was forgotten – and has remained thus. Out of the 60,000 men – and women – that Britain sent to that war

half a century ago, some 687 were killed, 2,498 wounded and 1,102 taken prisoner. Future field marshals took part in it as subalterns, as well as stars such as Michael Caine. But when the end came in July 1953, there was no nationwide rejoicing, as there was after the Second World War.

No mass hysteria in Trafalgar Square, with people getting drunk and falling into the fountain. The youthful veterans came back unheralded. The nation had seemingly forgotten them. They even had to pay for their own war memorial.

Yet, although they were unaware of it at the time, those same young men, old and still forgotten now, helped shape the second half of the 20th century. They might even have saved the world. For their fighting efforts in Korea, even their very presence there, helped their political masters in Whitehall to prevent a nuclear holocaust. Without a British contingent in Korea (and those of the other Allied countries), Washington, standing alone in the face of world communism, might have used the atom bomb.

For South Korea it was a very real victory. Its citizens never did get the kind of democracy America promised them back in the late 1940s. But today their lifestyle, freedom and expectations are vastly different to their cousins north of the 38th Parallel, the present-day border between the two countries.

When, last year, veterans of the war

went back to South Korea as guests of the country's legation in London, they were feted as heroes. They had helped to make South Korea one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

Earlier this year, when the Queen visited South Korea with several score veterans of that Forgotten War, one of them, 77-year-old Barnie Dimmelow, had no highfalutin' ideas of having defended the free world from communism.

A former brickie, he had been one of those Glosters who had stood up to 30,000 Chinese "commies". Captured, he spent two years behind the wire.

In April, Barnie visited what is called the Bridge of No Return. Across it, half a century ago, UN PoWs (including Barnie) had been led into North Korea. Many never returned.

His thoughts were not of having saved the West. Instead they were personal, low-key, down-to-earth. Barnie, who has been diagnosed as suffering from

traumatic stress due to his imprisonment all those years before, said: "My last memory of that bridge was coming back over it to freedom. At least now I have one happy memory of that war . . ."

Like so many other ordinary British soldiers before – and after – him, he had gone off to war obediently enough. He had fought and he had suffered, perhaps not for some great cause, but because he had not wanted to let down his mates, his folks, "the old mob". Despite the suffering, he could be proud that he had "done his bit".

● See My Army – Page 32-33

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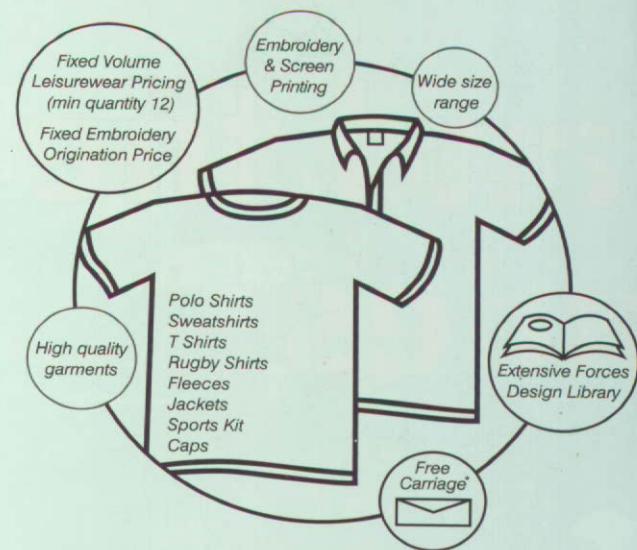
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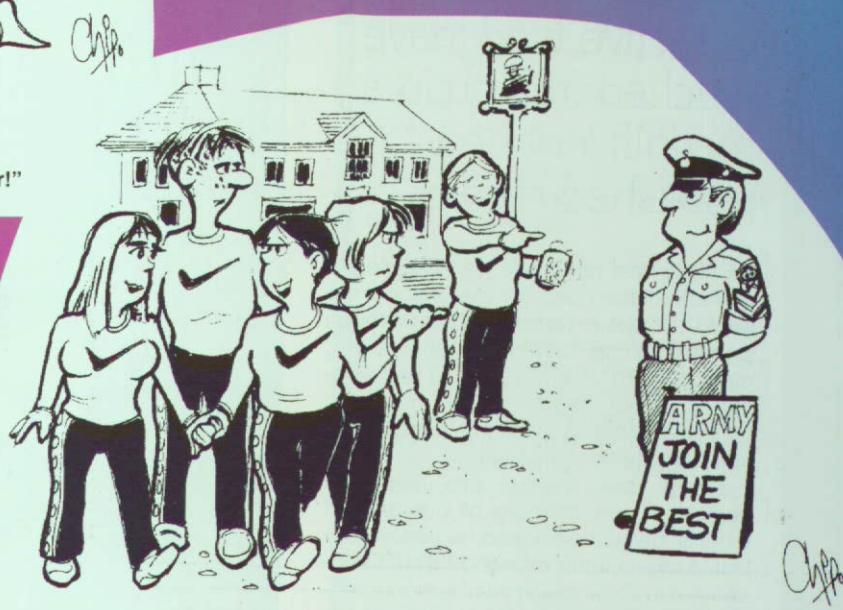
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Chuckle with Chip

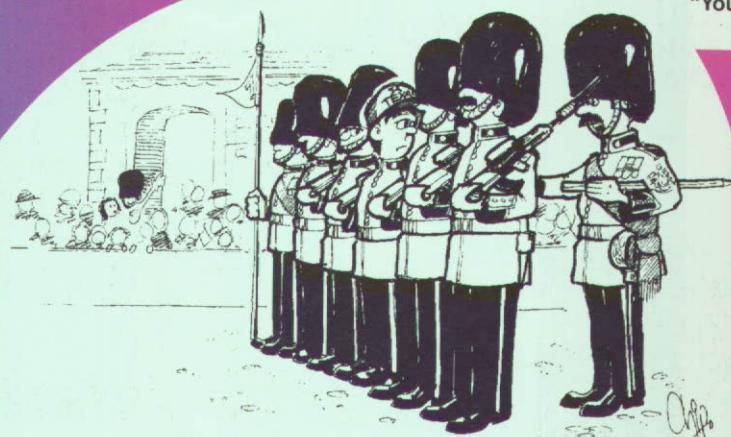


"But this isn't like 'Cut 'n Grow' Dolly hair dear!"

Uniform approach



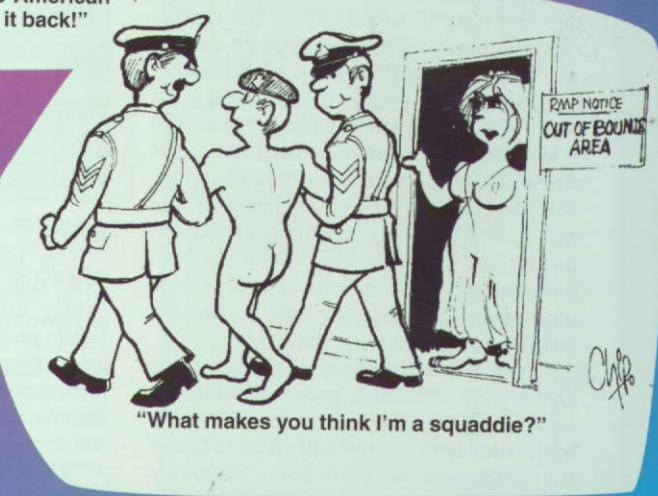
"You wouldn't catch me wearing a uniform!"



"I don't care if it upsets the entire Anglo-American special relationship ... go and swap it back!"



"These new unit flashes aren't as colourful as the traditional ones ... but they do make flight processing easier!"



"What makes you think I'm a squaddie?"

In search of the lost VCs

Years of painstaking detective work have reached fruition in a magnificent new published record

OF THE "lost hundreds" of VCs lying in unmarked paupers' graves around the world, all but a dozen have now been located. In the United Kingdom alone, more than 70 VCs were laid to rest without a proper headstone or memorial. Other final resting-places have gone into slow decline over the years.

Slowly but surely, this shameful neglect of the memory of our bravest men is being addressed. A newly-published two-volume reference work, *Monuments to Courage*, in itself a monumental achievement, is a major step in the process.

Fittingly, its sales will help The Star & Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Service Men and Women in Richmond, Surrey, which has a suite named after Jack Cornwell VC.

THIS aptly-titled book is truly a great achievement, writes Gerard Sutton.

After decades of painstaking and meticulous research, David Harvey has produced what is both a magisterial reference work and a celebration of gallantry, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty.

Monuments to Courage is the fruition of the task begun by the late Canon William Lummis MC, who died in 1985, aged 99. Soldier and parson, Canon Lummis devoted himself to compiling the definitive catalogue of VC holders, with particular reference to graves and memorials.

David Harvey has put more than 36 years into the project, taking over the reins after Canon Lummis died. His work, in which he has been assisted by volunteer helpers from all parts of the world, has involved travelling to sites in more than 50 countries, poring through national and local records as well as contemporary illustrations, and constantly checking and cross-checking facts.

Great effort has gone into correcting errors perpetuated in previous reference books and pinpointing accurate locations of the final resting places of all but a few of the 1,322 deceased recipients – including hundreds lying in unmarked paupers'



Picture: Terry Champion

Monument to courage: Author David Harvey, confined to a wheelchair after a hit-and-run accident in 1992, and Eric Wilson, who won the VC commanding the Vickers machine-gun company of the Somaliland Camel Corps in 1940, study David's book *Monuments to Courage* on the terrace of the Royal Star & Garter Home, which will benefit from proceeds of sales

graves around the world.

The result is that rarity, a reference book that is also enjoyable as a good read. There are more than 5,000 black-and-white pictures, but what we have is much more than simply an illustrated catalogue. Fascinating details and vignettes abound. Here are a couple of examples, chosen at random:

• Timothy O'Hea, a private in the Rifle Brigade, won his VC in 1866, unusually

not in battle, but by risking his life extinguishing a fire aboard an ammunition train in Canada. Some eight years later he disappeared without a trace during an expedition in Sturt's Desert, Queensland Australia.

• Sir James Hills-Johnes, a Gunner general, awarded the VC in the Indian Mutiny, was reputedly murdered by a disgruntled butler to whom he had refused a public house licence.

An impressive number of awards have been made not for simply killing, but rather for selfless attempts to save the lives of comrades in conditions of appalling danger.

One unpleasant fact emerges from even a casual perusal – the shameful neglect of so many brave men in later life and, indeed, after death. Many – especially, though not exclusively, former privates and NCOs – were buried in pauper's graves after an early death, their post-service lives too often blighted by poverty and ill-health.

As Sir Roden Cutler VC writes in his foreword to volume one, more than 70 VC holders were buried in unmarked graves in the United Kingdom alone. Many other memorials quietly decline, neglected and unattended. Thanks to David Harvey and his helpers, this state of affairs is slowly being addressed.

Soldier has over the past few years carried several accounts of ceremonies for new headstones. These, mostly furnished by regimental associations, and dedicated with all due religious and military ceremony, go some way to restoring the dignity we owe to our forgotten heroes.

SUFFERED

David Harvey suffered himself for his devotion to his cause. During a research visit to France in 1992 he was hit by a car driven by a drunken motorist and is now confined to wheelchair, effectively almost housebound. In spite of all, he pressed on and his remarkable scholarship has now finally been published. *Monuments to Courage* indeed.

No serious military collection should be without it. Some may find the high purchase-price a deterrent, but given the quality of the production, the research and the scholarship involved in the years of preparation and the fact that all proceeds go to the Royal Star & Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey, it is perhaps not unreasonable in this day and age.

To sum up, a long labour of love has produced a reference book that thoroughly deserves to become a standard.

Monuments To Courage: Victoria Cross Headstones and Memorials by David Harvey. Two-volume large-format hardback boxed set, published by the author in association with Kevin and Kay Patience and available from Pat M da Costa, 124 Oaklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9HL, priced £75 plus £6.50 p&p. Cheques should be made payable to "Monuments of Courage"; proceeds to Royal Star & Garter Home.

Signed copy to be won

SOLDIER has a set of the two-volume *Monuments to Courage*, signed by both the author and Eric Wilson VC, to award as the prize in a special competition. This magnificent boxed set, worth £75 and with an introduction by Princess Alexandra, president of the Royal Star & Garter Home, will go to the first entry drawn which answers correctly the following question:

In which year was the Victoria Cross instituted?

Send your entries to *Soldier* on a postcard marked "Monuments to Courage". The closing date is July 2 and the Editor's decision is final. The winner's name will be published in the magazine.



Picture: Mike Weston

Honour restored: Bugler Steven Miller and Lt Col Clive Hodges, then CO 1st Battalion The King's Regiment, at the 1994 dedication of the memorial headstone to Lt William Forshaw VC after its rediscovery by historians near Maidenhead. Lt Forshaw won the supreme honour for gallantry for his actions at Gallipoli in 1915 with the 1/9th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment. He died in May 1943, but because of the Second World War his grave was not honoured as his regiment would have wished

The Joker

The column that brings you the lighter side of Army life



It's just not bad enough, chaps

WE ALL make mistakes, some more amusing than others. That august institution *Hansard*, legendary for its fast and accurate transcriptions of Parliamentary business, drops so few clangers that when they do, they are deafening.

Its report of the revised Order of Battle for HQ Land Command contained the following unintentional slur on the British Army: "There will also be 2 (National Communications) Signal Brigade and nine **deplorable** Brigade-sized formations."

And it got worse. Another edition, with a touch of light blue humour, informed MPs that the Joint Rapier Training Unit was being formed at RAF Honington "to meet the need for **increased deplorability**".

Elsewhere, someone asked where the MoD bought its pigmeat. *Hansard's* version of the ministerial reply included the sentence: "The balance of the requirement for bacon and gammon and 100 per cent of the **port** requirement is presently sourced in the UK." Hic!

Staff chit-chat

Members of the officers' mess at an Army training regiment were considering ways to raise extra cash. A one-armed bandit was suggested and comments were invited from the staff. One anonymous contribution was: "One-armed bandits will never work in an officers' mess until someone invents one that takes chits."

Rapid promotion

From ex-soldier F Beck, of Penrith, comes a cutting from the *Cumberland and Westmorland Gazette* reporting the wedding of Carolyne Lewis and "Lieutenant Corporal Tony Green". Mr Beck comments: "Has this anything to do with Options for Change or have I been out of the Army for too long?"

Deadpan humour

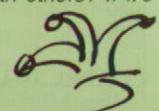
The following candidate for the Calling a Spade "An Implement for Manual Excavation of Earth" Award for the use of euphemisms was gleaned when a colleague visited the Army School of Catering abattoir at Aldershot.

Instructor: "What they [the student slaughterers] don't like much is the transition between being alive and being dead."

Interviewer: "You mean killing?"

Instructor: "Well, yes, sort of..."

Do you have a funny story or amusing cutting you'd like to share with others? If it's brief, decent and (preferably) true, send it to *The Joker*, c/o *Soldier*. As a bonus, we'll send a tanner for the best item used.



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Far-sighted surveillance

BATTLEFIELD commanders and peacekeepers are to get a new high-technology airborne surveillance system which will give them a greatly-improved picture of the situation on the ground, Defence Secretary George Robertson has announced.

The £800 million Airborne Stand-Off Radar System (ASTOR) will operate at long distance to give detailed, accurate and up-to-date information about forces, infrastructure and vehicle movements.

A consortium, led by Raytheon Systems Ltd has been chosen as preferred bidder for the ASTOR programme, which is expected to create or sustain around 2,500 jobs in the UK.

"ASTOR is a joint Army and RAF requirement which consists of new, highly-effective radar systems installed on high-flying Global Express business jets. It will be a significant step forward for the British Armed Forces, and indeed for Nato," said Mr Robertson.

The UK choice will now be considered for a similar Nato-wide surveillance system currently being studied by the alliance. The British system is expected to enter service in 2005.

Gulf veterans' illnesses: There is strong scientific evidence that Gulf veterans report more ill-health than other comparable groups, Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson told the Commons in a written answer.

"A further hypothesis, that Gulf veterans are not all suffering from a single illness, seems to be gaining support," he said. "However, there is still no medical or scientific consensus about the aetiology of the illnesses being suffered by some Gulf veterans."

Mr Henderson said the need for further research in the light of emerging studies in the UK and elsewhere would be kept under regular review by the MoD.

The MoD has identified 53,462 members of the UK Armed Forces who were deployed on Op Granby or to the Gulf region between September 1, 1990 and June 30, 1991, according to the Defence Committee's minutes of evidence on Gulf veterans' illnesses. As at March 5, 381 of these individuals were recorded by the MoD as having died since April 1, 1991, of whom 254 were Regular personnel recorded as having died while serving in the Armed Forces.

Information was being validated on another



And I quote ...

Defence Secretary George Robertson: "Kosovo is a tragedy. British soldiers, sailors, aircrew and ground crew have helped to prevent it from becoming a permanent disaster. They are bringing hope to hundreds of thousands of victims of this last great act of 20th century barbarity at the heart of our continent."



All-seeing: An artist's impression of how the Airborne Stand-Off Radar System (ASTOR) will fly high over the battlefield and beam back information to ground commanders

17 Gulf War veterans reported as having died.

The Medical Assessment Programme (MAP), now in existence for nearly six years, had seen 2,801 patients in that time and a further 29 were waiting to attend their first appointment. A total of 3,034 veterans have so far sought a referral to the MAP, of which 204 have failed to appear for an appointment one or more times.

Up to the middle of April, an average of five new patients had approached the MAP each week, compared to 12 a week last year and 19 in 1997.

Of 2,856 applications from Gulf veterans for an award under the War Pensions Scheme, 2,003 had been accepted, 272 rejected and 581 were still under consideration.

Shortfall: The shortfall for trained personnel in the Army at April 1 was 6,089. The figure, for UK Regulars, represents a 5.9 per cent deficit. It does not include Gurkhas, who had a surplus of 492, or Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service).

Falklands: Asked to define the strategic reason for maintaining a garrison in the Falklands, the Armed Forces Minister said in a written answer: "Our garrison on the Falkland Islands is a demonstration of the Government's commitment to ensure the security of the Falkland Islands and to uphold the right of the islanders to determine their own future. We will continue to provide a garrison comprising air, land and sea assets, backed up by the capability to reinforce if necessary."

European army: Asked what discussions had been held with EC President Prodi on the establishment of a European army, the Prime Minister said in a written answer that as there was no question of creating a European army, no discussions had been held.

IN The PRESS

What the papers say

● The Royal Marines have decided to allow women to take their notorious green beret commando training course. They could be offered places in commando units if they pass. — *Sunday Times*

● A former airman has rejected his Northern Ireland and good conduct medals in protest over plans to force Bloody Sunday paratroopers to reveal their names to an enquiry. — *Daily Mail*

The paratroopers were subsequently granted anonymity.

● Maj Alistair Mack, (AGC(ETS)), braved flames and smoke three times to shepherd mothers, children and elderly people from a burning tent in a refugee camp in Macedonia. — *Mirror*

● More than 1,000 executive apartments and houses worth some £300 million may be built on the site of London's Chelsea Barracks if plans being drawn up by a property company get the go-ahead. The barracks, home to 350 soldiers, occupy 11 acres near Sloane Square, one of the capital's most expensive residential areas. As part of the deal the developers must find and build a new central London home for the soldiers, within close range of their ceremonial duties. — *Guardian*

● Freemasons are to be banned from actively recruiting members of the Armed Forces or meeting on military property. New instructions to be issued fall short of prohibiting Service personnel from being members of lodges. — *Daily Telegraph*

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

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Adventurous training

Desert stormers

THEY bill it as "The Toughest Foot Race in the World". And they may be right.

The Marathon Des Sables in the Sahara covers 140 miles of hot desert sand and rock. There is minimal back-up and, apart from water, the runners have to carry their own supplies. Entries, this year from 28 nations, were limited to 600.

Commanding officer Lt Col John Wootton, WO2 (SSM) Chris Sturdy, Sgt Rab Lundie and LCpl Kev Bett made up a four-man team sent to North Africa by 22 Engineer Regi-

ment, currently serving in Bosnia.

For the entrance fee - £2,250 a person - the team owed much to 2iC Maj Stick Whitchurch, who came up with pledges. They also ran for the Leukaemia Research, Naomi Children's Hospice and Army Benevolent Fund charities.

Among 110 British competitors in the race was Maj Lawrence Williams RE, who completed the marathon in 1987, Capt Jay Turner RE and 2nd Lt Garth Miller RGR. The sappers were the first British team home, with 29 Commando RA next best and Lt Col Wootton a



Beau gesture: Saharan runners Lt Col John Wootton, left LCpl Kev Bett, WO2 (SSM) Chris Sturdy and Sgt Rab Lundie

Dragon chase

Exercise Finalis Dragon, an ambitious attempt to conquer Nepal's 18 trekking peaks, is the British Army's flagship adventurous training expedition this year

MORE than 150 men and women from all ranks, regiments and corps will be heading for Nepal from September in an attempt to climb all 18 of the county's trekking peaks before the end of the year.

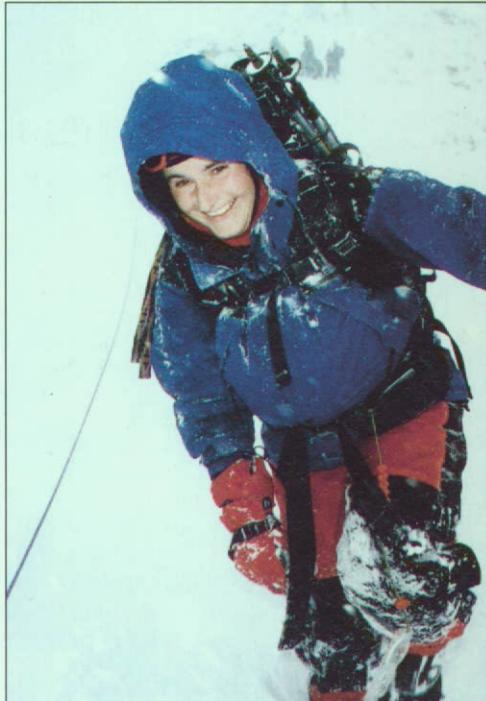
The expedition members, who will be led by Maj David Baggaley, APTC, officer commanding the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre, are all members of the Army Mountaineering Association.

More than 18 teams, each made up of ten men and women, will be taking part. Each team has a peak allocated to it and will have up to six weeks to complete treks to summits ranging from 5,500m to 6,300m.

One team will be made up of soldiers from 3 Cheshire (V), while another will be an entirely female group under Capt Rachel Semple RE, of 44 Cadet Training Team in Wales. She plans to conquer Imja Tse (Island Peak) at a height of 6,240m.

Capt Semple said: "It will be hard work at that altitude but with the training and the morale in the team, we should make it."

Subsidiary aims of the expedition are to produce a detailed guidebook of the



Leading the way: Capt Rachel Semple gets a taste for icy conditions while training at Glencoe

peaks and a cyber system of medical assistance for the people of Nepal. The medical project will link hospitals in Nepal by Internet to trainee doctors on university secondments.

The ambitious exercise was conceived by Maj Baggaley under the patronage of Gen Sir Sam Cowan, Chief of Defence Logistics. The medical side is being developed by the appropriately-named Capt Ali Everest, an Army doctor at RMA Sandhurst. The guidebook element is being handled by Lt Sal Ahsan of the Army Presentation Team.

Still time to run the NY marathon

THERE is still time to enter the New York Marathon and run for a worthwhile cause. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is seeking fund-raisers for the race on November 7. Participants will arrive in New York on November 4 and stay at the Holiday Inn on Broadway. All that is needed is a personal contribution of £150 and a commitment to raise £1,600 in sponsorship.

A £150 deposit must be paid with every application and a minimum of £1,000 sponsorship money by September 23.

Further information from the association's Nick Chetwood on 01539 737500.

● If the New York Marathon doesn't appeal, how about cycling across Cuba? The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has launched its 1999 Cuba Challenge, a 215-mile sponsored coast-to-coast cycle ride planned in November and December. Once again there is a personal contribution (this time it's £250) and a commitment to raise £2,100 in sponsorship. Information packs on 01539 735080.

Travels with a (cuddly) donkey

SPAIN'S Sierra Nevada mountain range was the venue for a party of soldiers and a cuddly toy called Dobbin.

Twelve members of the AGC Field Detachment of the 1st Battalion, The Green Howards and two members of the regiment joined Dobbin in the mountains of Andalucía.

Dobbin the donkey, a cuddly toy belonging to project leader Capt Simon Gorski, became the official mascot as the expedition climbed to Trevelez, at 1,800m one of the highest villages in Spain. All members of the team had their trekking and navigation skills put to the test. With rope work and security on steep ground thrown in for good measure, they also earned the Summer Mountaineering Proficiency certificate.

Join a scientific expedition to the Antarctic - details on Page 64

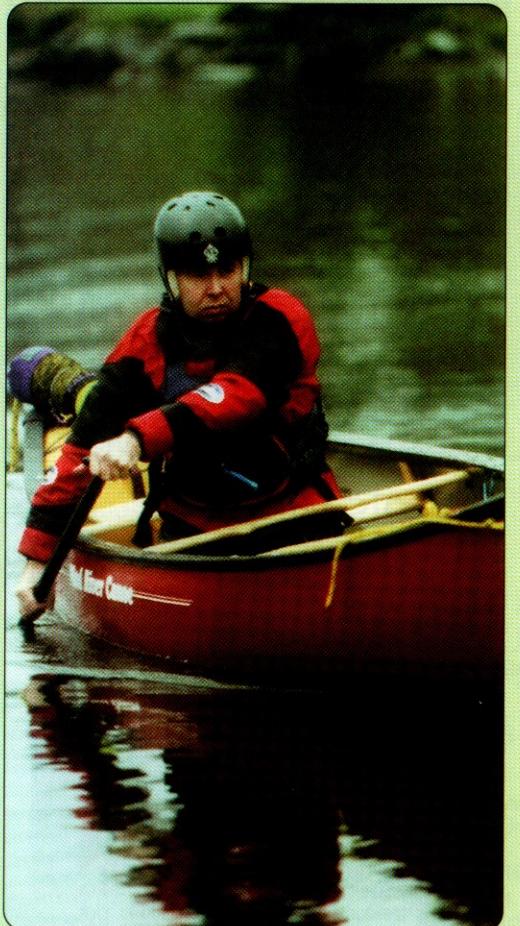
Gunners' getaway

Abseiling, climbing, canoeing and rafting are just a few of the activities available at the Royal Artillery Adventurous Training Centre in Wales

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE GUNNERS' adventurous training centre in Wales is all about challenge; pushing oneself to the limit and learning skills requiring initiative and endurance. But for first-time visitors just finding the Snowdonia centre may be challenging enough.

Best advice is to just head for Betwys-Y-Coed, then point your car down the A470 towards Blaenau Ffestiniog and keep an eye open for a small hamlet called Hafodgwenllian. There, nestled in the side of a heather-covered hillside, you will find a complex of rustic stone and slate-



Paddle your own canoe: Training Centre water sports instructor Bdr Keith Miles puts a Canadian canoe through its paces

roofed buildings and for a non-Welshman the first pronounceable sign for miles: The Royal Artillery Adventure Training Centre.

Drive too fast and you will miss it, but this, according to the centre's OC, Capt Chris Rechia, is the way it is supposed to be. "We like to keep a low profile and blend in. You won't see too many military vehicles here and the buildings are like any others that you would find in the area. We don't want to make too much impact."

Small and unobtrusive the centre may be, but the six instructors are very proud of the specialist equipment at their disposal. Kit for climbing, abseiling, canoeing, caving, camping and rafting is issued on permanent loan by the stores depot at Thatcham. Trainees can turn up at the centre with little more than a stout pair of boots and within minutes be ready for whatever the mountains can throw at them.

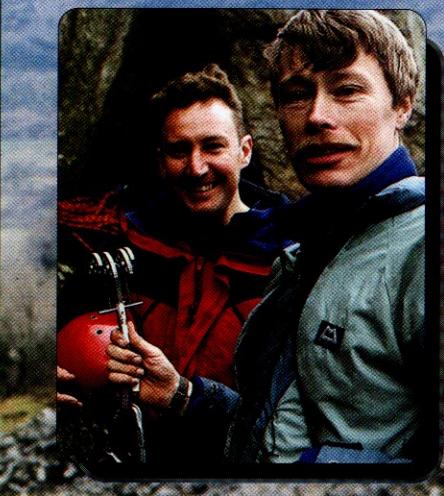
"We have a pretty nice little set-up here," admitted the OC. "We're totally self-contained, with good dormitory accommodation, cooking facilities and access to some of the best mountains, moorlands and lakes in the country."

He might also have mentioned "beauty", because here, just a short drive or a long hike from Snowdon, the panorama is breathtaking.

MOUNTAIN MAGIC

Trainees, mostly gunners but also a surprisingly large number of soldiers from other corps and regiments, usually spend a week at Hafodgwenllian, either participating in leadership cadres or simply enjoying a challenging break. Most of them appreciate the region's beauty. After long days spent tramping the hills, climbing rock faces or becoming drenched in the rivers and lakes, it can be difficult to persuade them to return to their snug huts or to pitch their tents. "People often just want to stay up on the mountain tops and watch the sun go down," said Capt Rechia. "And who can blame them?"

The 53 courses held each year are designed according to the needs of individual groups. No one is forced to hike, climb, dangle or paddle beyond their abil-



What goes up can (usually) get down: A student, main picture, enjoys (or endures) his first experience of climbing and abseiling. Both are standard fare at the centre

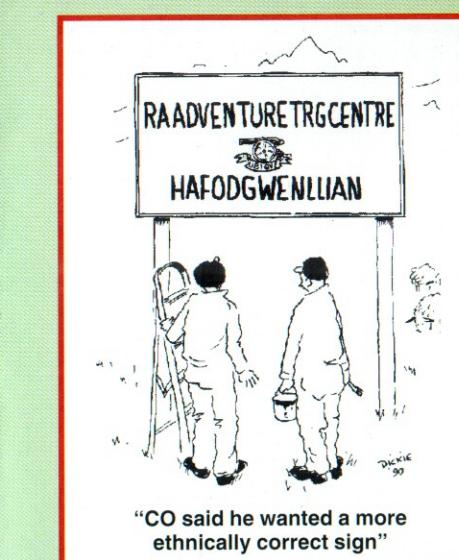
Not just any old iron: Instructors Bdr Mike Lloyd and Sgt Richard Barry, inset, swap notes on climbing equipment quality

ity, but trainees are urged to push themselves and discover qualities of courage, judgement and leadership.

More formal leadership cadres stress that targets must be attained in order to pass. But for many other groups, particularly those for whom a stay at the centre is a way of winding down following an operational tour, the regime is more relaxed.

"Generally, it's up to them how much they do. Soldiers reap what they sow from these courses," said Capt Rechia. "If they want to sit around or go to the pub, then they can, but if they want to go away at the end of the course knowing that they have achieved something, then they can do that as well. Most people opt for the challenge."

It would take a particularly idle soldier to ignore the opportunities for fun. Rock-



"CO said he wanted a more ethnically correct sign"

climbing, abseiling and fell-walking are included in most courses, while optional activities include mountain-biking, raft-building, white-water rafting, caving and coasteering, the centre's latest thrill-a-minute activity. Participants are roped

Diary of an adventurer



Gnr Mai Beckett, left, spent several days at Hafodgwenllian as part of a lance bombardier leadership course. These are his recollections.

Day one. Today both our map reading and our ability to lead were tested. There were eight tasks, including "Great Time" in which each team nominates one person to be submerged under water for 30 seconds in possibly the coldest lake in north Wales. I know because I was that man.

Day two. We were split into two groups, one going rock climbing and the other rafting. When we arrived at the lake we were told that we were not going to get wet. The next thing we knew we were balancing with one foot on either side of a canoe, bobbing for all we were worth in order to go forward. Raft-building took place on dry land, and that's where it stayed because the instructor thought that it was too cold to risk our not-so-reliable rafts in the middle of the lake. For this I thank him.

Days three and four. These days were spent out in the hills testing our navigational skills. Each group took a different route and met up at a cave system where we were to spend the night. Two groups arrived at the caves in daylight, but one decided to get geographically embarrassed and walked around aimlessly. We finally arrived and had the best night's sleep of the whole course.

Book a break at the RAATC

Accommodation at the centre is in high demand, so if you want to book a few days there and test yourself in the great outdoors, plan well in advance. Preference is given to those who wear the Royal Artillery cap badge, but soldiers from any unit are welcome.

Dormitory accommodation and instruction costs £6 a night (not including food). The self-contained annexe, which is suitable for family groups, costs £30 a night for gunners and £40 a night for those not in the regiment. Contact the centre on 01690 750267 for more details.

White heat of the Cold War

To our shame, many of us know of the Korean War only through television's *MASH*. But now a British soldier who was there has told the full story of the conflict that took British troops into the white heat of the Cold War

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston and collection of Michael Hickey

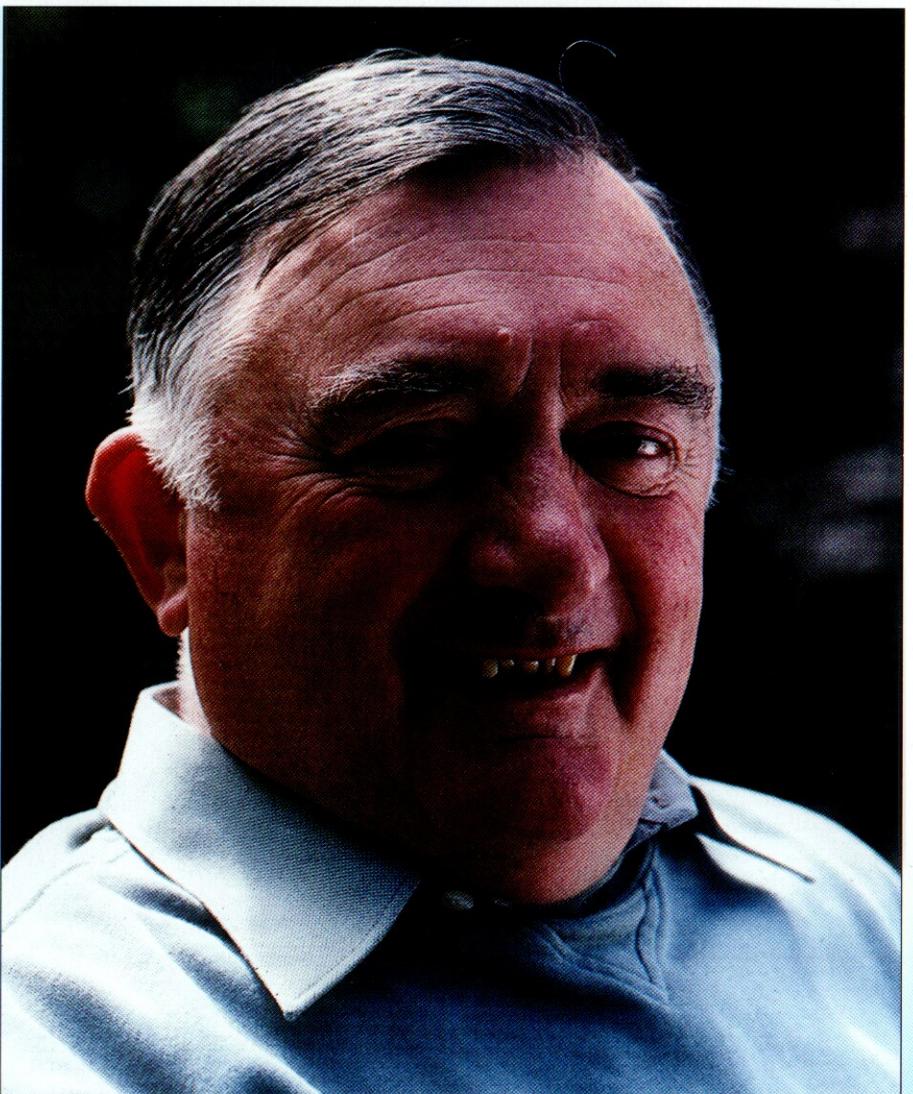
MICHAEL HICKEY describes his role in the Korean War as that of "a mere packhorse". If his assessment is correct, he is one of the most observant and erudite creatures the Army has produced.

As a Royal Army Service Corps subaltern in charge of a fleet of trucks, he spent two years criss-crossing the Korean Peninsula in support of the teeth arms of the 15 nations fighting under the United Nations banner, attempting to drive North Korean and Chinese armies from the south.

He could not, of course, be everywhere, and his book, *The Korean War: The West Confronts Communism*, relies heavily on exhaustive interviews with other UN combatants and a few from the other side. He writes of ordinary soldiers who fought both blitzkrieg and First World War static campaigns through baking summers and freezing Manchurian winters. But, crucially, the narrative sparkles with the zest of the eyewitness.

Michael Hickey can look back on a career that included far more than his stint in Korea. He flew helicopters in Suez and East Africa and held staff jobs in Aden and Singapore, to mention just a few exotic postings. But Korea has always preoccupied him, and, despite the book, there is no sign that he has got the war out of his system.

When we visited the Hickey home near Winchester, we found a self-effacing man being fussed over by his wife, Bridget, and looking rather less than his 70 years. Relaxing in his garden, he cooed over two dogs and a much-beloved pet turkey



Almost 50 years on: Michael Hickey, Korea soldier-historian, is proud of his "Jam Stealers"

called Martina (an escapee from a Christmas dinner farm, she pays for her keep by presenting her owner with one egg a day).

He rustled through files and albums of sketches and cartoons (Hickey is an accomplished artist), photos and notes; gems with which he illustrated our conversation.

The snaps and drawings reveal a grim environment, but the memories produced only smiles and laughter; much of it directed at himself, his platoon and his long-defunct cap badge, that of the RASC.

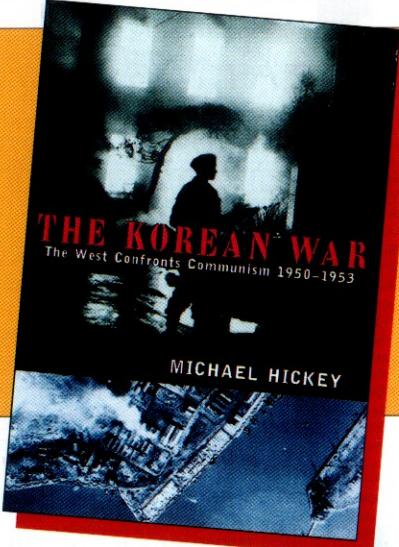
Units that considered themselves to be more glorious referred to the RASC as "the Jam Stealers" or "the Alley Slopers' Cavalry". Hickey does not mind because he knows that behind the jokes was an efficient logistic force not averse to get-

ting stuck in with front-line troops. "The moment I got into the corps I realised it did everything for the Army," he said. "We had to learn how to run a pack-horse company, we did air despatch, we learned how to run a landing craft and even how to slaughter cattle."

Compared to these skills, running a fleet of ambulances and lorries, the job of Hickey's platoon on landing at Pusan in late 1950, just six months after the North Koreans had invaded, should have been relatively simple. It would have been were it not for some long-forgotten planner back home. With a characteristic guffaw Hickey pointed back over 50 years to "some clowns who decided that two-wheel-drive Austin ambulances would work in Korea. They had forgotten that there were only about 50 miles of sur-

Win the book

Michael Hickey's book *The Korean War: The West Confronts Communism* is published by John Murray, price £25 and we have three copies to give away. Send us your answer to the following question on a postcard by July 30. First three correct entries drawn will win a copy. The Editor's decision is final. *How many nations fought together in Korea under the United Nations flag?*



faced roads."

The ambulances were eventually replaced by three-ton lorries. These reliable workhorses carried Hickey's little band of Jam Stealers into and out of sticky positions across the length and breadth of Korea.

He remembers the platoon as an unlikely social grouping; reservists and veterans of the Second World War, National Servicemen and Regular troops. They were men who would probably not have been friends back in class-divided Britain, but who mixed together well in this ad-hoc army.

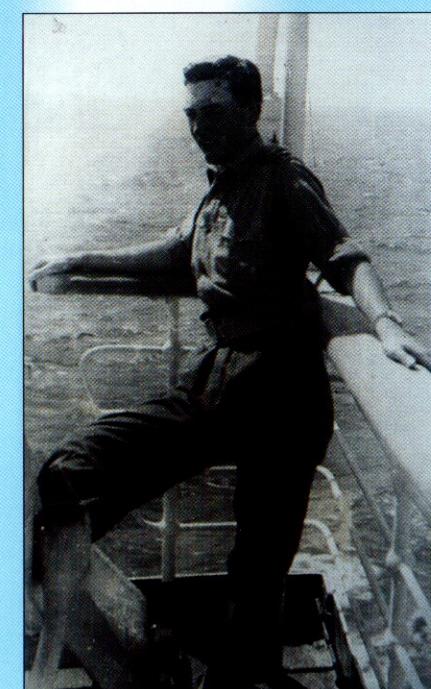
He speaks with particular fondness of his oddball driver and batman, Cecil "Ginger" Fitzmorris, who shocked everyone in the platoon by suddenly becoming the eighth Earl of Orkney when his father died. "Ginger was totally irredeemable," recalled Hickey with another of his guffaws. "He used to get fearfully drunk. We shipped him home with sighs of relief in 1951."

They met up again in London some years later and resumed their old friendship. The eighth Earl would invite Hickey and his wife to dine at the House of Lords. "And," remembered the peer's old OC with ill-disguised emotion, "of course he marched with me in Whitehall on Remembrance Day."

Hickey felt that he had to tell the men why they were putting their lives on the line so far from home. "I thought that they had to know we were not just stooges of the American imperialists, as the Chinese leaflets described us. So we had discussions on winter evenings." But these were no simple arguments. Some of the soldiers were card-carrying communists, although they had been told by the party to be model soldiers. Hickey recalls that they would tell their colleagues about the virtues of communism, but never shirked their duties.

Such political ambiguity was not

uncommon among troops who were captured. Hickey writes of soldiers who became virtual political commissars in prison camps. "Before they went in the bag, they were good soldiers," he insists. Although their work should have kept the Jam Stealers behind the front lines, they saw the fighting for themselves. On one occasion a heavily-armed company of American GIs passed through Hickey's post. "Jeeps, half-tracks, light tanks, the lot," he recalls. "A Jock in the Argylls stopped them and said, 'Hey lads, it's dangerous the noo – the hills are crawling with gooks'. An American said, 'Don't



Then: Hickey, aged 21, en route for Korea

worry, Limey, we've got what it takes', and off they zoomed, lights blazing, into the night."

Later the British troops watched as, several miles into the hills, the sky lit up with flares and explosions. A few days later they came across the aftermath. The GIs had camped for the night, failed to post adequate sentries and were slaughtered. Hickey recalls the scene as "sickening", but he insisted that his men inspect the dead soldiers. "Many of them were slack about guard duties. But they never ever failed after that."

Sandhurst had instilled some useful knowledge into the young officer, but he notes that the instructors sometimes missed the obvious. "We were taught about the phases of war; the advance-to-contact, the set-piece assault. . . but nobody ever taught us about the rout. I saw my first rout when an entire Korean division retreated in disarray from the Pukhan Valley. Our brigade had to go straight into the line. We managed to bring a two-divisional Chinese advance to a halt, and for 96 hours we got no sleep."

REMARKABLE

At Pukhan he witnessed remarkable fighting. "We had this marvellous New Zealand gunner regiment who at one point were fighting the Chinese infantry with ramrods. Huge Maori gunners were killing them with their bare hands. But they never lost a gun."

Hickey cannot explain why Korea, a war which claimed 1,078 British lives, has largely slipped from our memory, or even why when the war ended little honour was paid to the men who fought. "I feel that the veterans have been treated very shabbily," he complains. "Other nations treat their Korean veterans with very much more respect and concern."

But Hickey is not bitter. It is obviously far more important to him that he and his old comrades remain a close-knit group of friends. Every month he joins 40 or so others who live in the south of England for lunch. They keep an eye on each other and help out any members of the group who have fallen on hard times.

When the eighth Earl of Orkney, who only ever made one speech in Parliament and was described by his wife as "the great living argument for the abolition of the Lords", died last year, Michael Hickey and about 15 of his comrades turned out for the funeral. There was no one else there, but they carried their branch standard, said goodbye to Ginger Fitzmorris . . . and remembered Korea.

Who dares – special feature

Singapore Sling

A *Soldier* writer crewed for the Army's *Broadsword* as she won the latest leg of the Transglobe race. But as he describes in this four-page feature, it was a bitter battle

Report and pictures: Graham Bound

THE ARMY had crossed a third of the globe to achieve a trouble-free and victorious leg in the inter-Service Transglobe race, but the Hong Kong to Singapore phase of the Services' greatest-ever sailing project was just that.

True, someone forgot to put a tin-opener in the galley and the satellite communications system never worked, meaning that staff at the Transglobe base back in Britain obtained only fleeting fixes on *Broadsword*, but as the big red Nicholson 55 cutter sped south from Hong Kong dodging islands, oil rigs, fishing boats, perhaps even pirates, it was enough for the crew to know from increasingly brief and curt VHF radio communications with the other boats, that they were in the lead – and this despite the fact that *Broadsword* is marginally heavier than the Navy's *Adventure* and the RAF's *Racer*.

Success undoubtedly relied to a great extent on the pre-race preparation and training, for which, ironically, the crew had to thank Typhoon Leo, the first of the season's super-storms.

The safety-conscious Transglobe organisers postponed the start by two days while the storm put the wind up Hong Kong residents, before veering to the east and blowing itself out. *Broadsword*'s boys (disappointingly, not a girl among them – few women soldiers have applied for places on the Transglobe) used the extra time well, familiarising themselves with the big yacht, fixing minor problems which had troubled her on the leg from Hawaii and, most importantly, training hard.

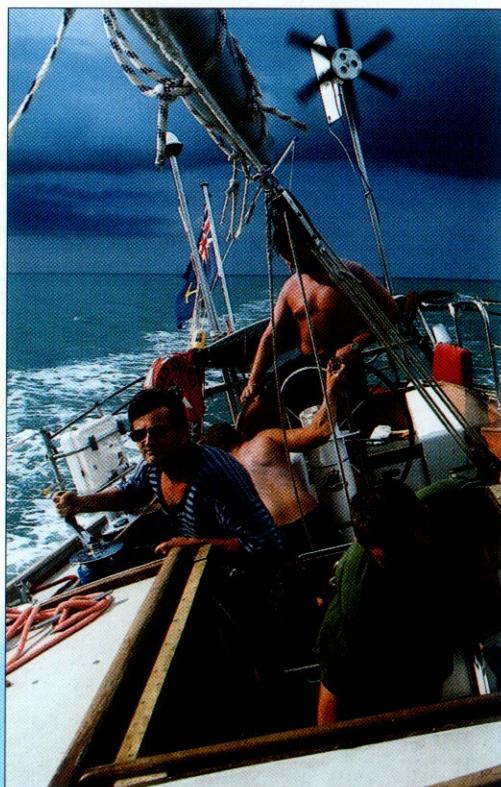
Although skipper Lt Col Robert Stovell and mates Cpl Larry Taylor, Sgt Ken Church and a few of the other crew were old Nic 55 hands, and others at least had some ocean-going experience, a quarter of the crew – the writer among them – had virtually no experience of ocean sailing. Ensuring that everyone was familiar with

Broadsword and one with her own peculiarities – was essential if every crewman was to play a full part.

On training forays *Broadsword* weaved her way through the heavy traffic, alternating between the giant number one genoa foresail (the workhorse sail of the trip) and the two huge spinnakers; honing the drills which would see action for real on dark nights with winds blowing up to force seven.

The work paid dividends a few days later. The Army established their boat's healthy lead within a few hours of the firing-gun booming across Clearwater Bay near Hong Kong, and that advantage was sustained for almost 1,400 miles.

Robert Stovell set a south-westerly course, following (as much as the frustratingly varying winds and currents allowed) a rum line passing within ten miles



Heading for clear victory: Close-hauled and at speed, skipper Lt Col Robert Stovell sheets in the genoa, while Cpl Tim Butt maintains the course

of Vietnam.

Adventure, apparently gambling on finding more wind to the east and then to the west, quickly slipped behind. *Racer* and her RAF crew, on the other hand, stayed doggedly in the wake of *Broadsword*. Just once did she take the lead, and then only briefly.

The tension was palpable. Once, on a dark night while two watches fought to bring a wayward spinnaker under control in a force 6, a lookout on *Broadsword*'s stern spotted a faint light on the horizon which was probably *Racer*. Crewman Chris Bolshaw described the watch for the foe as "the hunt for Red October".

Gradually, though, the Army widened the gap, and when, one morning, *Racer*'s skipper called with a ring of optimism in his voice, all fears had dissipated. "*Broadsword*, can you confirm that we can see you on our starboard bow," requested the excited skipper. "Not unless you've got the ***** Hubble Telescope, mate!", came the quick-as-a-flash answer (fortunately not transmitted) from Cpl Tim Butt. *Racer* had actually spotted *Adventure*.

Broadsword dashed on south towards Singapore, veering to the west and east from time to time, beating, reaching and, on one notable occasion, running goose-winged (flying two genoas), the main at maximum extension and a jury-rigged trysail strung from rear stay. If the skipper had been wearing a duffel-coat instead of swimming trunks, that too would have been up the mast.

It could only have been demoralising for the RAF and the Navy. From radio conversations monitored by *Broadsword* it was clear that the boats had united in their struggle against the Army, and suspected *Broadsword* had used her engine to make such good progress in light winds.



Picture: Peter Clarke

Ready: Against the panorama of Hong Kong, *Broadsword* cruises towards the start line

The propeller was, however, never engaged, and the suggestion of underhand tactics did nothing for inter-boat relations.

A few days before the finish, with frustration at its highest and winds at their lowest, it became clear that the other two boats were, however, running on something other than fresh air. As required by the rules, *Racer*'s skipper announced that both he and *Adventure* had switched on their engines and engaged their propellers.

It was, effectively, throwing in the towel. The two skippers hoped that *Broadsword* would follow suit and victory would then be down to the boat which used its motor the least. But they were

badly mistaken. Although *Adventure* retired from the race a few hours out of Singapore, she and *Racer* enjoyed the brief pleasure of crossing the line first. *Broadsword* soldiered on, finishing just a few hours later, under sail . . . and the very clear winner.

Nothing can diminish the Army victory, but the pleasure was tainted. There was no warm reunion of the crews over Tiger beers at Raffles Marina. There was too much acrimony for that. But the race showed that competition in the Transglobe is as serious as that which you will find in any ocean event, from the America's Cup down. And passions can run every bit as deeply.

Race diary

Day 2

OUR first full day at sea, and we appear to be well in the lead. The start in Hong Kong was a furious affair. *Racer* with the RAF crew were actually first across the line, but, close-hauled at about six knots, we soon overtook them.

Those resting below are disturbed by the voice of the skipper: "Damn, I thought we had them stuffed." One of the lookouts has spotted *Adventure* on the western horizon. She appears to be on a faster point of sail. We decide to jibe as soon as *Adventure* does, and slowly re-establish our lead.

Day 3

Last night Red Watch took over the cockpit at midnight to find *Broadsword* bowling along under the light "Pax" spinnaker. Within 15 minutes this has changed into a scene of chaos. A wind shift causes the kite to collapse and wrap around the forestay. In the blackness and with a fast developing squall, this is worrying.

Almost magically, the unmistakable bulk of Larry, our gentle giant of a first mate, emerges from the foredeck. He has been curled up in a sail. But even his efforts cannot sort out the problem. Finally with the wind rising, second mate Ken climbs the mast and releases the halyard. We gradually haul the sail down. Incredibly, it is undamaged.

Day 4

After a reasonable night's progress, we hit a "hole" in the wind. We hoist and lower sail after sail, but none give us any forward movement. Eventually, someone says "stuff this", and jumps into the sea. We all follow. This may have been how the *Marie Celeste* happened.

The wind's return excites the skipper. "Yes! We're back in the race, *Adventure* is way back there somewhere, and *Racer* is stuck in a wind hole. I can smell 'em!"

Day 5

We spend the day beating fast into a head wind. "Bloody exhilarating!" says Larry as he begins his fifth hour at the wheel. We touch eight knots, with *Broadsword*'s leeward gunnel under water and her bow slicing through waves.

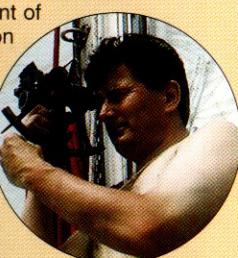
There is a worrying encounter with two other boats. Piracy is a real risk in this area. We watch with growing concern as the fishing craft, probably from Vietnam, approaches. We stay on course with every man on deck to show that we won't be a push-over. The boats just have a good look and sail on. They may have been real fishermen, but, as the skipper says, "we feel like an old lady waiting to be mugged".

Day 6

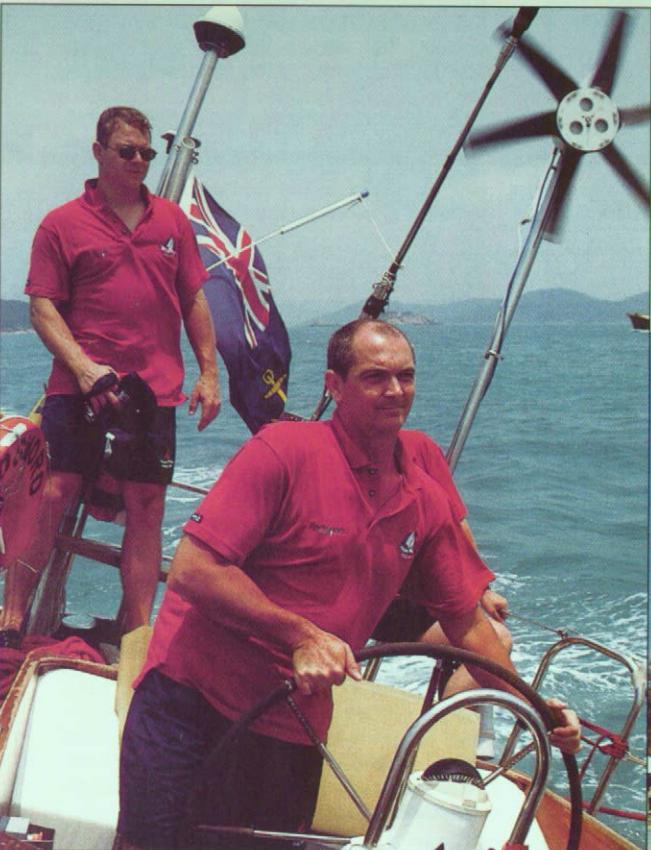
Despite enjoying a night of the same good winds that had blessed us, *Racer* has not made up much ground. We learn that the two trailing boats are cruising just a few hundred metres apart some 12 miles behind us and enjoying the company. We don't have time for socialising.

We sail goose-winged (with genoas on either side of the mast) and later we even put up a fourth improvised sail.

● Continued on Page 37



Skipper, Lt Col Robert Stovell, checks *Broadsword*'s GPS with a trusty sextant



Close-hauled and holding course for Singapore. Colin Henry on the helm, overlooked by Kris Steward

In at the deep end

Soldier writer Graham Bound describes why his assignment as one of the Broadsword's crew was one of his most challenging

THE most jarring shock was the grinding punishment of the watch system. Four hours on deck (three at night), helming, hauling on sheets and changing sails was hard work. When a spinnaker became tangled or rising winds demanded a quick sail change on a foredeck awash with foaming sea, it became dangerous; even scary.

And there was little respite in the several hours of "mother" watch; cleaning, cooking and baking bread in the sweltering galley.

The allocated three or four hours off, either spent sweating in one of the nine coffin-like bunks (with 12 crew, hot-bunking was inevitable) or curled up in a sail on deck offered little chance for recovery.

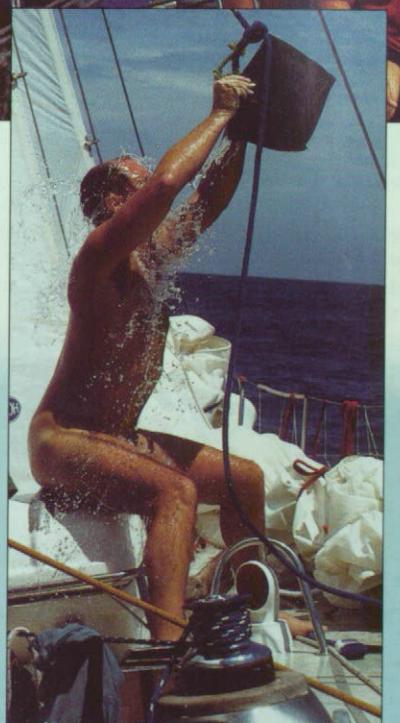
But there were pay-offs. In spite of ravenous appetites satisfied with some inventive meals (please, no more unidentifiable stew laced with curry powder, or tinned kippers ever!) the chubbier among us lost weight. Perhaps, thanks to those winches, we even built up some muscle.

But most of all there was the camaraderie which ensured that no badge of rank was ever mentioned, and which enabled us to find whatever was necessary in ourselves and in our boat to win the race. Nice one, guys.

Battling Broadsword



The winning crew, above. On the boom: Cpl Larry Taylor, Ssgt Chris Bolshaw, Cpl Tim Butt, LCpl John Hardman, Cpl Adrian Russell and Maj Boyd Holborn. Front: Sgt Ken Church, Graham Bound of Soldier, Cpl Kris Steward, Capt Colin Henry, Lt Col Robert Stovell and Pte John Melton

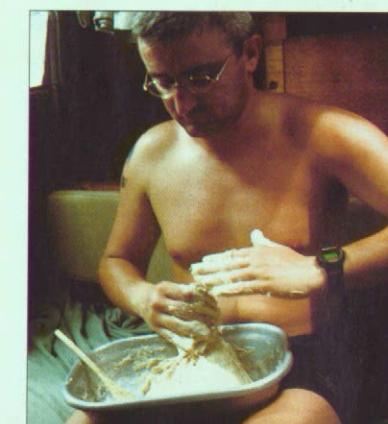


Cleaner and a lot cooler, Colin Henry, left, enjoys a little of the South China Sea

Winch! Sheetin in the massive foresail, right, is a job for two men. Chris Bolshaw winches while John Melton takes the strain



Getting every square inch of sail aloft, above, Larry Taylor teeters above the cockpit. Chris Bolshaw at the wheel



Adrian Russell, above, on mother watch, makes the daily loaves

Race diary

• From Page 35

Day 7

Dreadful heat. We struggle to stay cool as the winds die. At times the deck is too hot walk on with bare feet.

We have our second scare this evening as a fishing boat steams straight at us and sits a few hundred yards off, its crew watching us. The skipper sends a message to the other boats in the race indicating that we have visitors. After a few minutes, though, the visitors motor off.

Day 8

Low winds around mid-day seem to be standard. The wind goes almost on schedule, and we sit there depressed and thirsty. Then someone checks the instruments and finds we are actually going backwards. The laughter starts quietly before becoming almost hysterical.

By evening we are under way again. Spirits rise despite a supper of tinned pork, tinned beef stew, tinned peas and curry powder which is ravenously consumed but condemned as noxious. Bating the mother watch is an enjoyable sport.

Day 9

Today we relish the rare pleasure of heavy rainfall. If anyone could see us they would wonder about our sanity. We strip off and lather our salty hair with shampoo, while holding up saucepans to collect the water. Blessed relief! We are cleaner than we have been for many days and five gallons of fresh water better off.

Day 10

A magical day of good sailing, with Racer still some 12 miles behind. Adding to the magic is a sighting of dolphins. Last time we encountered them, John Hardman saw the fins first and shouted "sharks!". Now we all know better. The small dusky-coloured animals ride our bow wave for a few minutes before growing bored and peeling off as if on a single word of command.

Day 11

The radio schedule with Racer delivers a bombshell. The skipper says that he has overtaken us, but admits that he and Adventure have been using their engines. This means that as long as we do not use our engines and finish within the allotted time, we must win.

But why did Racer use her engine? She still has a chance under sail. Adventure, on the other hand, about 40 miles behind, has little to lose (Adventure later officially withdraws from the race).

A second bombshell comes a few hours later when Robert discovers that the other skippers have their own "private" radio channels on which they compare notes, discuss strategy and, often, criticise Broadsword's crew. We are not pleased.

Day 12

We are behind schedule, tired and running short of water. But we are content to be on the verge of winning. We sail happily down the beautiful coast of Malaysia, admiring the jungle-fringed beaches.

Day 13

We arrive in Singapore harbour in the early hours. There is no reception committee, but as we cross the line a crate of beer and two bottles of whisky appear from below decks. Broadsword, the winning yacht, is transformed into the party boat.

Harmony out of discord

THE Royal Military School of Music was started in 1857 after a very public musical fiasco that would have done a *Carry On* film proud.

At a birthday parade for Queen Victoria in the Crimea, bands of the British Army regiments were required to play the national anthem together for the first time. The result, in front of the assembled Allied General Staffs, was deeply humiliating, with each band using a different style, instrumentation, arrangement and pitch.

A decision was made to start a school of military music which would bring about the standardisation of training and performance so obviously lacking. Field Marshal the Duke of Cambridge took over Kneller Hall (designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built for Sir Godfrey Kneller, court portrait painter to Charles II) for the Royal Military School of Music.

HALL'S FUTURE?

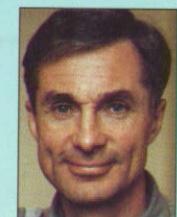
The rest, as they say, is history – but not quite. As with so much real estate belonging to the Army these days, a question mark hangs over the future of Kneller Hall as the home of the RMSM. Col Sandy Blackett, commandant of the school and Director of the Corps of Army Music, knows it is a sensitive subject.

"Various studies are going on at the moment looking at every military property inside the M25," he said.

"If ever, and wherever, we move we require quality accommodation and excellent instructional facilities, which, quite honestly, we do not have at the moment. There has been under-investment here because the threat of moving has been going on for 30 years which is why it has never been developed.

"The facilities we have at the moment are Victorian. There are those who would bitterly regret a move, and it would be everyone's choice to stay and improve what we have here. You don't turn your back on 140 years of history lightly."

Despite the ramshackle blocks that make up the teaching areas, the RMSM is still living up to its world-wide reputation as a centre of excellence in military music.



Quality sought:
Col Sandy
Blackett

Report: Karen Moseley
Pictures: Mike Weston

Keeping score

Kneller Hall, home of Army music for more than 140 years, continues to produce outstanding talent

A GLEAMING piano against the wall and the regimental side-hat perched rakishly over a bust of Beethoven gave the first clues that this was no ordinary military office. A music stand and a number of lovingly-restored radiograms reinforced the impression.

Kneller Hall, at Twickenham, Middlesex, is home to the Royal Military School of Music (RMSM) and last year also became the Headquarters Army Music.

The musically-inclined office belonged to Capt David Cresswell, the deputy chief instructor of the RMSM, who uses the piano to audition all applicants. Standards are high and all students are tested thoroughly, regardless of where they come from.

Things have changed since Capt Cresswell was a pupil at the school himself in the late 1970s.

"Back then the school supported 69 bands and there were more than 200 students on each foundation course," he explained. "Now there are 58 pupils on each course and the number of bands has gone down to 29."

It took three painful and emotional years to cut the number of military bands to achieve the savings required under Options for Change. But if the quantity has been reduced, the quality certainly has not. Neither has the popularity of military music. As a result the surviving bands have a very heavy workload.

It is the job of the military instructors and civilian music professors at Kneller Hall to prepare the future bandsmen and women for a career in which they are the "shop window" of the Army and regiments they will play for.

All musicians go to the RMSM for basic musical training before joining a band. They will have already completed their basic military training at an Army training regiment. This "roll-on roll-off" foundation course can last from four to 12 months, depending on musical ability.

"We have recruits who are postgraduates from university and colleges, down to talented



Predictions:
Capt David
Cresswell

instrumentalists from Salvation Army and school bands who may not have any formal qualifications," explained Lt Col Stuart Watts, the Principal Director of Music (Army) of the Corps of Army Music. "But our benchmark is at least grade six or seven at the audition.

"We are the only department and corps in the Army that auditions and interviews every person coming in. From the time the first application arrives we are into quality control."

All applicants complete the normal induction procedure for the Army and then go to Kneller Hall for two days to be heard instrumentally and tested in theory.

Twenty-three instruments are taught at the school and pupils, who are encouraged to study at least two each, are instructed by music professors who are renowned performers in their own right.

Kneller Hall is a hive of activity: in one room a trombone master-class is taking place, in another, student bandmasters are being taught how to conduct, and in the main hall the string section is practising. Snatches of music played on a variety of instruments float out from accommodation block windows.

Prof Andrew Bernardi, who teaches violin and viola, had been leading the Estahazy Chamber Orchestra at Glynd-



Keeping the beat: Student bandmaster James Norman of Defence Force picks up the tempo during the conducting

bourne the day before rehearsing his military students for a forthcoming concert at Kneller Hall. He was due to play his 300-year-old Claude Pieret violin at Queen Elizabeth Hall the following day.

"I also teach university students of a similar age," he said. "But the students here have a different approach. There are greater opportunities for study, there is a very positive atmosphere and there is more time. Civilian professors are not here by chance; having someone from a different background creates an empathy and students respond in a good way."

LCpl Lindsay Greenway is due to become the first woman to play in the band of The Parachute Regiment. Now 17, she has been playing the flute since she was nine years old and started learning the cello nine months before she joined the Foundation Course.

"The tuition is really good and the professors are brilliant; they would cost a fortune outside," she said.

"I joined the Army because I was guaranteed a job. I was at college for six months, but I just could not see myself getting a stable job except as a teacher, and I just wanted to play. There is so much competition."

On operations musicians are employed as medics, and after completing their musical studies at Kneller Hall, recruits will go to the Army Medical Directorate at Ash Vale for training. No Army musician is fully qualified until he or she has completed the medical course.

The other main residential course is for graduate musicians selected as having the potential to become bandmasters in the rank of WO1. Lasting three years, it is the longest course in the Army and results in a Bachelor of Arts Music degree.

It is also Kneller Hall's flagship course and those taking it study every instrument played in a military band.

They include students from foreign and Commonwealth countries, who all have to speak and understand English at a high standard before joining. Two foreign students on the current course were taking part in a conducting lesson under



Positive:
Prof Andrew
Bernardi



Great opportunities and atmosphere: LCpl Lindsay Greenway and LCpl David Byrne

the experienced tutelage of Maj Roger Swift, the conducting professor and ex-director of music for the Coldstream Guards.

"When you get to a dotted triplet it does show where to beat," Maj Swift was explaining. "Some of you are playing the dotted note rather than rum, rum, rum. Let's have another go."

The musical piece they were learning was the complex *Lincolnshire Posy*, an original composition for wind instruments.

Students from the foundation course were the musicians following, or not as the case may be, the baton movements of the would-be bandmasters.

"We have to look at the Service run-out dates of present bandmasters and predict

how many we will need in three years' time," said Capt Cresswell. "This also applies to musicians. So if every band has a full complement of tuba players we just don't train any."

Short courses for prospective band sergeants and band sergeant majors also take place at the RMSM, the most advanced certificate course being for directors of music, giving those who pass the letters "psm" (passed school of music) after their names.

Kneller Hall, a stone's-throw away from the world-famous Twickenham rugby stadium, has been described as being to musicians what Sandhurst is to Army officers. Its wealth of history and tradition means that any talk of moving causes passions to run high in present and past musicians.

But whatever its future, the school is determined to continue living up to its motto – "Second to None".



Skilled
tutelage:
Maj Roger
Swift



the Jamaican
class



Sport

Edited by Anthony Stone

RUGBY

Light Dragoons battle hard for RAC cup crown

IN spite of deploying on their regimental annual firing camp, the Light Dragoons managed to turn out a full-strength team to take on The Queen's Royal Hussars in the final of the Royal Armoured Corps (Germany) rugby cup final.

The Light Dragoons, who eventually won by 11 points to six, reached the final after successfully beating the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment in a hard semi-final.

The final proved to be no less of a challenge as the Hussars had an excellent team and, with strong play from their backrow and scrum-half, scored a try within five minutes of the start.

Undeterred, the Light Dragoons picked up their game and piled on the pressure. They were rewarded with two penalties for their efforts, converted by LCpl Billy Brebner.

After a very competitive first period, the momentum did not waiver in the second half and the Hussars crossed the line again, only to be held up by a determined Dragoons pack. No try was given.

The Dragoons replied shortly afterwards when a break from the backs resulted in Capt Antony Pearce carrying the ball over the line for the final score.

Capt Adam Griffiths accepted the trophy from the chairman of RAC rugby (British Forces Germany), Lt Col Simon Caraffi, CO 2 RTR.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Medically unsound

AT the Defence Medical Services Training Centre, the Army Medical Services put on a strong performance against reigning Lawson Cup rugby league champions, the Royal Engineers.

The sappers came on strong from the outset but could not break through a stout defence. Still smarting from their defeat against the REME, the AMS had put a great deal of work into bolstering their tackling. By and large the hard work paid off.

With 15 minutes left it was 13-12 in favour of the RE, with everything to play for. Once again AMS went to sleep and allowed RE to score 14 points. Sgt Spence Maynard replied with a consolation try just before the final whistle.

Not for the first time this season AMS, still seeking their first win, will reflect on what might have been.

Spirited gunners pound Dukes

7 Para RHA 20, Duke of Wellington's Regiment 15

FOR the third time since the Second World War, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and 7 Para RHA met in the final of the Army Rugby Union Cup at Aldershot, writes Roger Thompson.

It was the climax of the Army Rugby Union spring festival during which four inter-unit finals were resolutely contested over two days.

The Dukes, fielding 11 officers, were clearly fired up for their first final in 18 years. With five Army caps they provided a serious challenge to the holders and opened ferociously against a Para gunner XV with a distinctly slow-burning fuse. With an appreciable following wind the Dukes played fast, wide rugby and took an auspicious 15-point lead with excellent tries from Lt Justin Maude and Lt Richard

Payne; one conversion and a penalty being added by Maude.

The gunners' fuse, still only half fizzing, lobbed the occasional round behind the white-shirted Dukes who were slow to regroup. Clearly, with a following wind, forcing the Dukes to turn in defence would be a sensible second-half tactic.

Of greater immediacy for the Dukes however, was the loss of Lt Kevin Smith, their rampaging lock near half-time. As they turned to face the wind, and without his physical lead, the Dukes firstly surrendered dominance and eventually parity in the forwards.

Touch-kicking from defence into the strong wind became a desperate option as the gunners assumed absolute control of the line-outs.

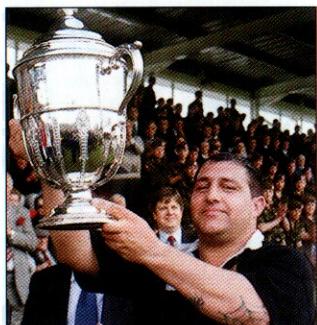
The 7 Para RHA scrum steadied and the old war-horse artillery exerted the sort of choking forward pressure that wins cup finals.

The kings of confidence, strategically and without fuss, time and again gained possession and rifled the ball deep into Duke territory.

But for brief forays there it stayed.

It was simple and effective and although the Dukes tackled courageously, it frequently took two or three defenders to haul down Rory Greenslade-Jones. Inevitably over-attention to this single danger created the gaps elsewhere and the gunners took their chances with tries by SSgt John Denwood and Lt Andy Foster.

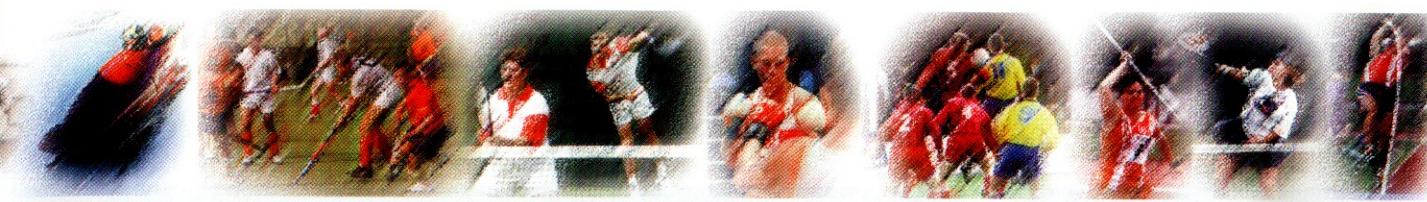
Capt Owen Pritchard, probably one of the steadiest and most underrated all-round footballers in the Army, kicked the conversion



Winning team: SSgt Dave Coghlan, captain of 7 Para RHA



Hand-off: Evasive Dukes' scrum-half Maj Simon Pinder



Picture: Mike Weston

My ball: Man of the match SSgt John Denwood, the 7 Para RHA scrum-half, gets another clean service from his rock-steady pack

and crucially the two penalty opportunities presented.

By the time Maj Simon Pinder, the Dukes' Army scrum-half and terrier captain left the field injured, the wind-assisted tourniquet had already tightened and the gunners edged home by 20 points to 15.

Although the gunners fielded a number of emerging players it was the decades of Army Cup experience of SSgt David Coghlan, Chris Woods, Rory Greenslade-Jones and Andy Dawling that counted.

His individuality for the first gunner score surgically severed the Dukes' defence, lifted the spirits of those who

Senior players took the right decisions and played the right option under pressure.

Between them the evergreen SSgt John Denwood, the gunners' scrum-half, was clearly the man of the match. It was he who was controlling the gunners' fuse. In defence he was rock solid, kicking judiciously to make ground and distributing the ball only when he thought it both safe and productive.

His individuality for the first gunner score surgically severed the Dukes' defence, lifted the spirits of those who

might have been losing their nerve and led the gunners back to the winning trail. His try was the first incisive moment against the tide – the rest is a kaleidoscope of what might have been.

Alongside and behind Denwood, Dawling in a masterly No 7 performance and Greenslade-Jones were simply too good in the closing quarter against a depleted Dukes team that fought gallantly to the final whistle.

It was a very close match. A kinder shake of the kaleidoscope might, just might, have produced a different result.

SHORTS

Big push for games

MEMBERS of the British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association raised just under £2,000 in a sponsored chair push from London to Bournemouth. The cash will go towards the World Ex-Services Wheelchair and Amputee Championships in September, being held in association with the Royal British Legion. Members of the association set off from the House of Lords and were hosted along the way by the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond, 7 Para RHA at Aldershot and the Army Training Regiment at Winchester. The association's events officer, Geoff Winchcombe, a former Para, said: "It was a great effort but we are still looking for more help."



On a roll: Members of 7 Para RHA and their helpers from the British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association pictured in Aldershot during the charity push. The wheelchair athletes are, from left to right, Jack Brooks, Andy Wood and Mark Young

Action angling

GONE fishin' usually means a chance to relax, but a Tri-service group took their fishing trip for scientific reasons (or so they claim). WO1 Bruce Findlay (HQ RSME, Chatham) was one of nine personnel recording the size, weight and species of fish off Ascension Island in mid-Atlantic. It was all on behalf of the Marine Biological Society of Great Britain. Big game fish were also a target. The combined catch in just two weeks of day and night-time fishing included more than 800 fish from 14 species and added up to a total weight of 9,000lb (4,082kg).

Engineers design course

GET in training for the Royal Engineers half marathon which takes place at Waterbeach Barracks, Cambridge, on October 3. There are lots of prizes, with a momento going to all finishers. The fast course should produce plenty of personal bests. For more information contact WO2 (RQMS) Higgins, 39 Engineer Regiment, Waterbeach Barracks, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9PA (tel Waterbeach Mil (9)4658 4537).

ARCHERY

On target for renaissance

Blind marksmen mark Army archers' move to new home at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

RMA Sandhurst is the new home for the Army Archery Association. The AAA has led a rather itinerant lifestyle of late but now it is hoped the move will add another string to its bow.

AAA chairman Lt Col Simon Varvill, QRH, said: "I hope this will start the renaissance of Army archery and bring things more into focus."

Archers from St Dunstan's in Ovingdean, which provides facilities for ex-Servicemen who have been blinded, competed in the inaugural event.

"St Dunstan's was the natural choice for the first match," said Col Varvill, "because the centre has often hosted the AAA. And to welcome us at our new

home it was fitting that we invited some of the people we have the kindest regard for."

Archery for the blind is a difficult concept to get your head around. The archers are remarkably accurate. It is not a question of 'left a bit, right a bit'. That method would be far too blunt an instrument to be worthy of the respect the sport inspires.

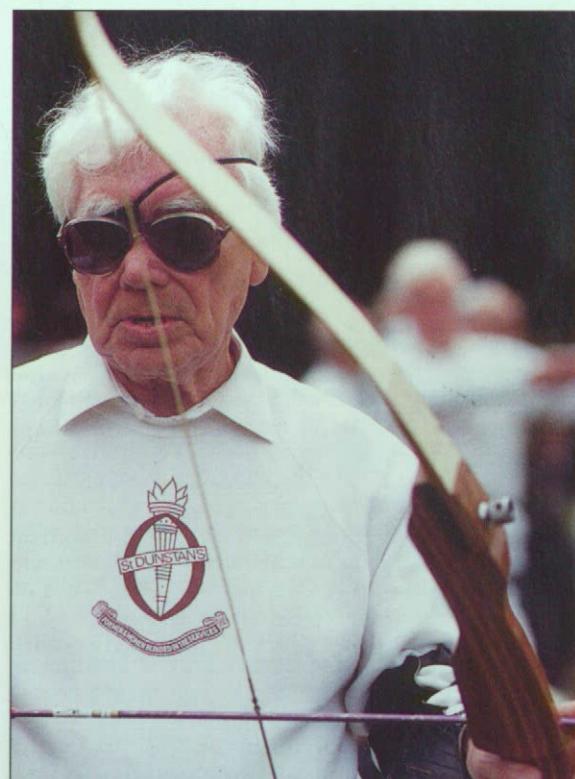
There are 18 variables in archery. Success lies in the elimination of as many of them as possible. To be any good you need the consistency of Manchester United.

Tom Hart, of the St Dunstan's team, demonstrated the skills required. A sighted helper assisted Tom to the firing position. His feet slipped into two studded metal plates on the grass to help guide his feet and keep them in the same position. Then he used the tactile sight to "see" his target. Tom steadied himself and slowly released his breath, while at the same time loosing an arrow. It missed.

A sighted spotter told Tom by how much he was wide of the mark and he made the necessary correction. Tom, an ex-Green Jacket who lost his sight in Calais in 1940, fired another dart. Again, this was close, but no cigar.

The same procedure was repeated. The next was on target. The following three crept nearer and nearer the centre. Each an improvement on the last.

When a sighted person shoots at a target spectators see a sport of strength, precision, concentration and grace. When a blind archer looses an arrow, they see all of those qualities in abundance, too. But the same marksmanship makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. Few sports create that kind of magic.



Pulling power: Tom Hart prepares to loose off another arrow



True aim: Maj Gen Arthur Denaro, left, commandant of RMAS, left, greets archers and officials during the inaugural meeting at Sandhurst. Standing next to him is Col Simon Varvill, chairman Army Archery Association, archer Eric Bradshaw, an ex-Green Jacket from St Dunstan's, Maj Wendy le Gassick, secretary AAA, and John Grout, a helper with St Dunstan's

Commando colonel went to war with a bow and arrows

- The record for a longbow was established at Istanbul in 1798 by Sultan Selim who shot an arrow 972 yards 3 inches.
- The last land battle in Britain in which large numbers of archers were employed was Flodden in 1513.
- At Agincourt Henry V's army of 6,000 fought against five times that number. His archers killed between 7,000 and 10,000 French knights and mercenaries. The bowmen's arrows pierced helmet visors, armour joints and even chain mail.
- For more than 400 years between the reigns of Henry I and Henry VIII, statutes were introduced to command men between the ages of 15 and 60 years to keep a bow and arrows. They had to be ready for war and to practise archery on Sundays and all holidays.
- Edward III banned all other sports, including football, because young men were playing too much of them and neglecting their archery.
- In the early days of the Second World War some civilian archers armed them-

selves with bows and barbed arrows to deal with German parachutists daily expected to drop on British soil.

● Crossbows were used in both world wars for grenade-throwing.

● While commanding 2 Commando, Lt Col J M T Churchill, one of Britain's most experienced archers, experimented with mounting a bow on a Bren gun tripod to act as a crossbow. When he went to France in 1939 he took with him his yew bow and arrows.

● While on patrol in a French village in 1940 Lt Col Churchill climbed into a farmhouse loft and spotted three German soldiers 40 yards away. He quietly signalled to two of his men and loosed an arrow at the centre German, hitting him in the chest. The other two Germans fell to rifle fire.

So, nearly 600 years after Crecy and five years before the first atomic bomb, the English longbow made a brief and incongruous return to the ancient battlefield of France.

CRICKET

Army v Wiltshire

The opening match of the Army season was played at Warminster Cricket Club in hot sunshine. Against not a great batting side, the Army fielders were a bit rusty but improved during their stint in the field. After the loss of two early wickets skipper Capt Chris St George and Sgt Nick Palmer batted superbly to win the game with two overs to spare.

Army won by eight wickets.

Army v Hampshire 2nd XI

THIS was a game the Army should and could have won. Invited to field against a strong county 2nd XI which included three or four first team players trying to regain their places, the Army bowled well for the first 20 overs, let it slip slightly but still looked on course after the 44th over when the score was 216 for six. The final six overs went for 97 runs which was disappointing and demonstrated that professional batsmen need no encouragement to score heavily off ill-directed bowling.

In reply 2nd Lt Simon Child scored a very good 50 in his first Army match against a couple of county first team bowlers. St George and Maj David O'Kelly batted well but could not keep pace with the daunting run rate facing them.

Hampshire won by 39 runs.

Army v Isle of Wight

AT the invitation of the IoW Cricket Board, the Army joined the Royal Navy and the RAF in playing on the island. The Army fielded fairly ordinarily and let the opposition score more runs than they deserved. Sig Keith Ford and Sgt D Cornhill put on 115 in ten overs to start the Army innings, but the middle order collapsed before the opening bowlers were given the chance to put things right.

Army won by four wickets.

SHORT

Titles retained

THE tug of war event at the Aldershot Show saw a titanic struggle between defending title holders 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC and 40 Regt RA. After several hours, the loggies came out on top, with 40 Regt RA running them close in both weights. A tough competition was ensured by the presence of 12 Regt RA and 1 Armd Fd Amb from Germany.

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Going hell for leather

Report and pictures: Chris Fletcher

EXERCISE Enduring Help '99 kicked off in spectacular fashion at the stroke of midday when the woodlands of Longmoor training area reverberated to the sound of 80 throaty motor-cycle exhausts.

Enduring Help is the Army's 24-hour motor-cycle cross-country endurance championship.

Teams comprising one standard issue Army bike and four riders competed in shifts to achieve the highest number of laps on a five-mile circuit within 24 hours.

The more accomplished teams aimed to complete about 100 laps, the equivalent of riding from London to the Hebrides without the benefit of roads.

Growing interest in the competition



At full throttle: Cpl Haynes on his way to victory for the team from 218 Squadron, 150 Transport Regiment, Hull

meant the number of participants had more than doubled since last year. So, to prevent a dangerous log-jam at the start, riders went off in three waves.

It was not long before mechanics and medics were called to attend damage both to man and machine, the much-dreaded sand bowl claiming many newcomers to the sport.

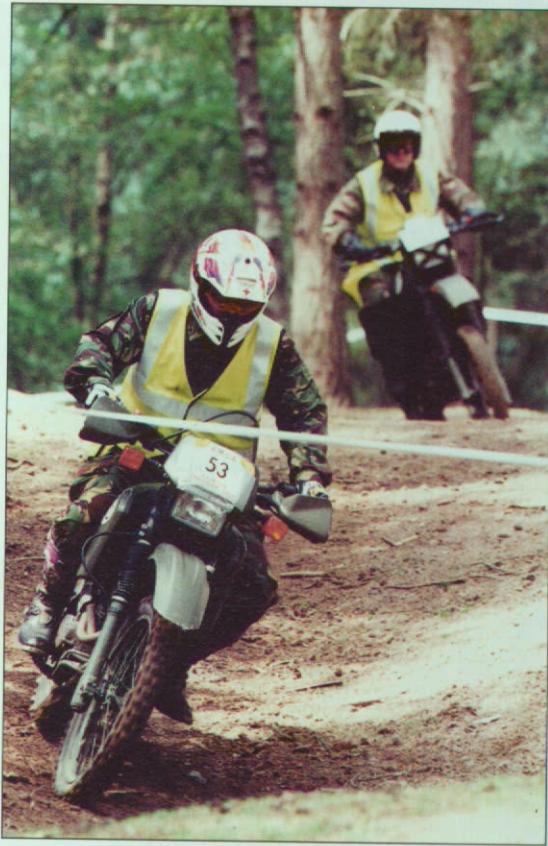
The night shift was the most daunting period of the race, riders having already been on the track for 12 hours. It was wet and dark, and the only light was from mud-splattered headlamps.

Sgt Kev Bailey, one of the competition organisers, said:

"This is a great event. There are guys out there who have only just learnt how to ride, pitting themselves against some of the best endurance racers in the country.

"You can tell the novices; they are the ones who keep revving their engines instead of maintaining the revs at a constant high level."

When the clock finally struck midday it was the bike belonging to Hull-based 218 Squadron, 150 Transport Regiment which took the flag having completed 94 laps. With three added as a bonus for raising more than £200 in sponsorship, the team



Downhill fast: Competitors attack the enduro course

totalled 97 and was declared the winner.

Runner-up positions went to the Royal School of Military Engineering, with 91, with the Joint Helicopter Support Squadron third on 88 laps.

In all £16,500 was raised for charity, the main beneficiaries being Childline, which received £7,500, and the Army Benevolent Fund, with £3,000.

FOOTBALL

Army lifts South West Counties championship

Devon 2 (1), Army 4 (1), pen

SEVERAL fine saves in extra time by goalkeeper SSgt Daisy May kept the Army in the game after they had taken the lead against Devon at Ladysmead Stadium, home of Tiverton Town, in the final of the South West Counties championship, writes Derrick Bly.

And to cap a fine performance, he saved twice when the game was decided on penalties after a 1-1 stalemate at the end of normal and extra time.

May kept out the second and

fourth attempts while the Army penalty-takers – LCpl Simon Bell, Sgt Tosh Williams, Spr David Blanchard and Cpl Danny Proctor – made no mistake from the spot.

Earlier, Pte Steve Carter gave the Army a dream start when he chipped the Devon keeper in the seventh minute. Devon equalised three minutes from the final whistle to send the game into extra time and penalties.

The victory completed a fine season for coach WO1 Steve Cotter and his back-room team.

Massey trophy final league table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RE	10	9	0	1	30	8	27
R Signs	10	6	3	1	31	12	21
RA	10	6	2	2	33	12	20
RLC	10	6	2	2	25	15	20
Infantry	10	6	0	4	29	15	18
REME	10	4	2	4	26	16	14
AGC	10	4	0	6	21	29	12
AAC	10	3	2	5	15	26	11
AMS	10	2	2	6	16	37	8
APTC	10	1	2	7	13	38	5
RAC	10	0	1	9	9	40	1

Dunkin'-donuts diving with a difference

ARMY divers may soon find themselves descending to the depths with what look like doughnuts strapped to their backs rather than the conventional cylindrical compressed-air containers.

Scientists at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), working in association with Life Support Engineering, have devised a new "torus" or ring doughnut-shaped vessel comparable in weight with existing designs.

Its main advantage is that it protrudes much less from the body and can be carried lower on the back, making it more comfortable

to wear. It is also safer than the conventional cylinder as the pressure regulator is placed in the central hole, thus virtually eliminating any possibility of it snagging on obstacles or being broken off.

The "dunkin'-donuts", of which prototypes are now being tested, are aimed at divers, firemen and other safety workers who need a portable air supply from three to 100 litres. The revolutionary method of manufacture is a spin-off from technology originally developed for the Light Anti-Armour 80 (LAW 80) shoulder-launched anti-tank weapon.



Where's my donut? The small, nine-litre, toroidal vessel, left, as it would be used by a diver pictured for comparison alongside conventional cylindrical compressed-air containers

Wear sunscreen

THIS column usually looks at new weapons and new equipment likely to come the way of soldiers, but this month we examine something rather mundane. But it is a life-saver.

We've all heard scare stories about the sun and how it causes cancer. And we've probably taken the attitude: "It can't happen to me". Well, it can and the Army takes the matter very seriously.

With the Army deploying in large numbers to Kosovo in mid-summer, the MoD has ordered 40,000 tubes of sun cream for soldiers serving there.

Graham Hill, managing director of Fenton Pharmaceuticals, and formerly of The Royal Green Jackets, explained how serious the problem of skin cancer has become.

FRIGHTENING

"About 40,000 people get skin cancer each year and about 2,000 of them die," he said. "This is a frightening statistic and in large part the deaths are preventable."

Two types of UV radiation have an effect, UVA and UVB.

"UVB causes burning and skin-peeling and UVA causes underlying damage," Graham said. "This causes loss of elasticity in the skin so effective use of a sunscreen avoids wrinkles in old age. It is these UVA rays that can cause skin cancer."

Prof John Hawk, Dept of Photobiology

Win a set for the summer

We are giving away ten sets of sunscreen, each containing four bottles of Delph factor 15 and four bottles of Delph after-sun.

To have a chance of winning a set, tell us on a postcard roughly how many people get skin cancer every year: a, 10,000; b, 25,000; or c, 40,000.

Answers with your name and address to: Sunscreen Competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by August 6.

The first ten correct entries drawn after the closing date will each win four bottles of factor 15 Delph sunscreen and four bottles of Delph after-sun care. The Editor's decision is final and the names of the ten winners will be announced in the September issue.



at St Thomas's Hospital, explained the technical detail.

"Ultraviolet radiation from the sun or sunbeds is well known to injure the skin. It causes sunburn, skin photo-aging and

skin cancers. All these disorders are susceptible to treatment with effective topical sunscreens."

The higher the SPF number on your sunscreen, the greater the protection from erythema active radiation (the stuff that does all the damage).

Put simply, SPF is a multiplication of the time we can spend in the sun, but this is calculated in laboratory conditions.

In the real world we sweat, swim, put on tee-shirts . . . and each time we do this we reduce the factor, which may not have been applied properly in the first place.

DEFENCE

There are three main lines of defence against the sun – keep out of it, wear sensible clothing, and use a sunscreen, correctly applied.

Soldiers spend a great deal of time outdoors and are therefore absorbing UVA rays even on a cold day. While everyone recognises that you can't wrap yourself up in cotton wool, we can all be sensible about sun exposure, especially those who are fair-skinned and blue-eyed.

Everyone is urged to look for signs on their own skin of potential problems. If you get a mole that starts itching or changing shape, go and see your medical officer or doctor.

Meanwhile, take the advice of the current pop hit . . . "Wear sunscreen".

SOLDIER

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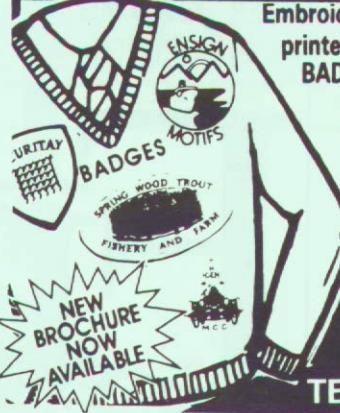
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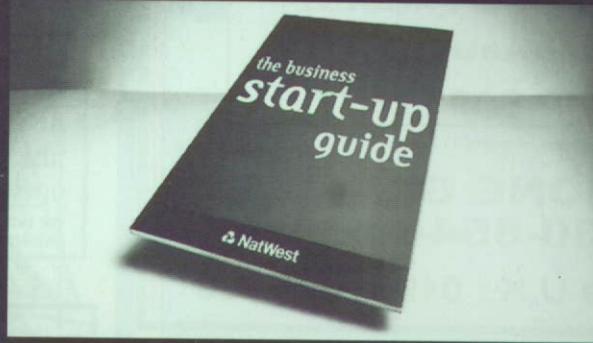
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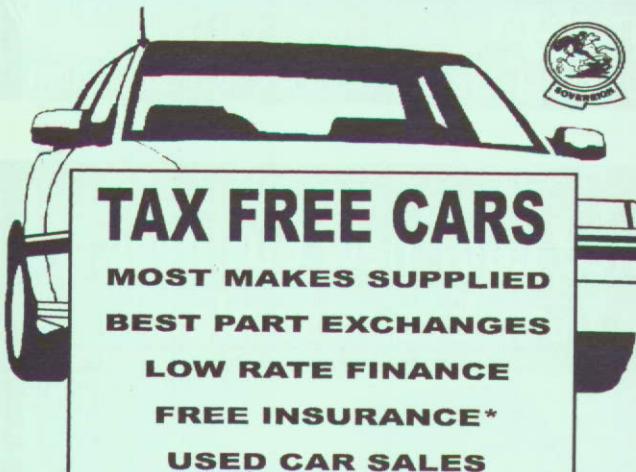
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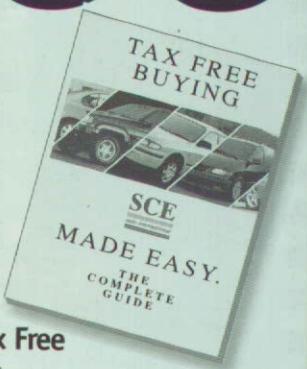
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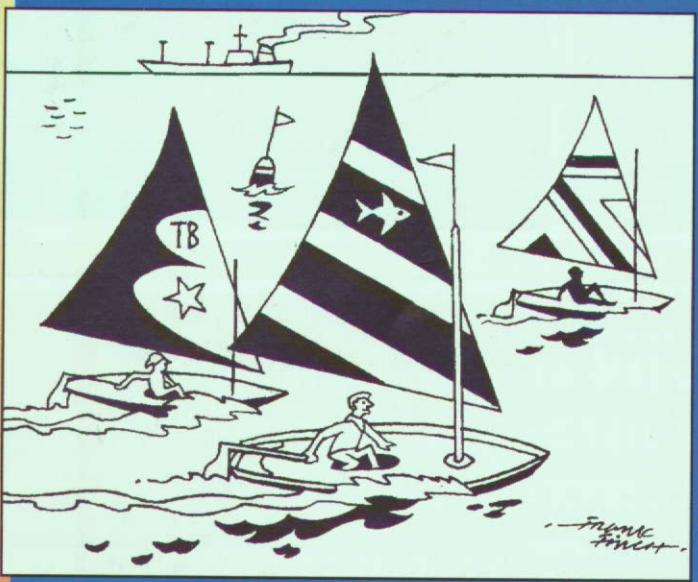
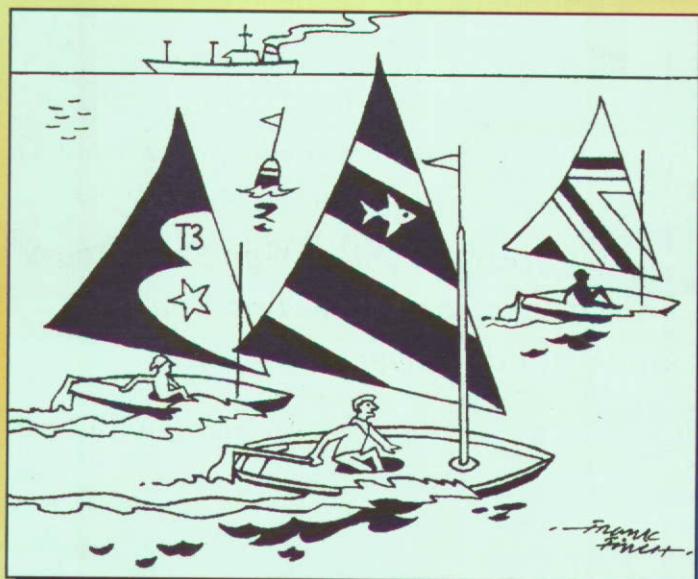
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A photocopy is acceptable, but only one entry per person may be submitted.

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May issue competition result (No 690): First correct entry drawn was from LCpl Graham Barnett, of Tidworth, who wins £100. Runners-up Mrs G Matthews, of Laindon, Essex and Mr J M Searle, of Huntingdon, Cambs each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: building outline; seagull; smaller boat's radar and window; mooring rope; larger boat's number, mast and stern; soldier's elbow patch; sea pattern.

SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU



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Incorporating the
Territorial Army
Magazine

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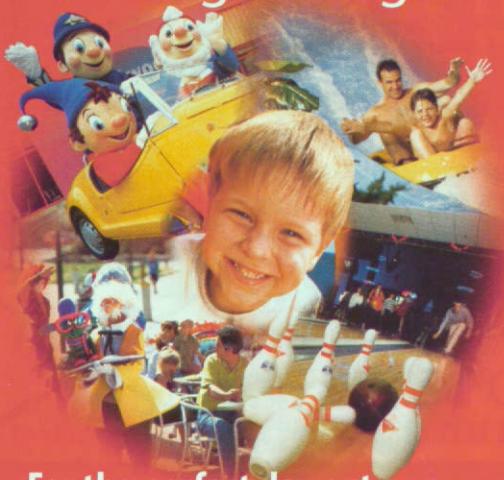
Answers on a postcard to: **Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU** to arrive no later than 23 July, 1999.

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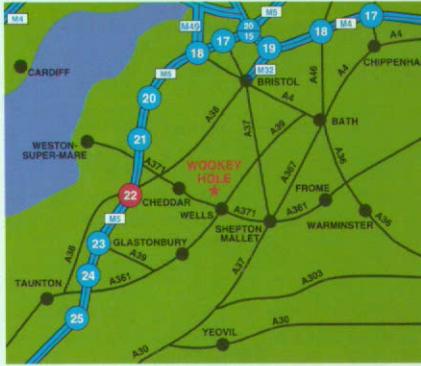
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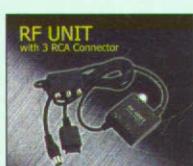
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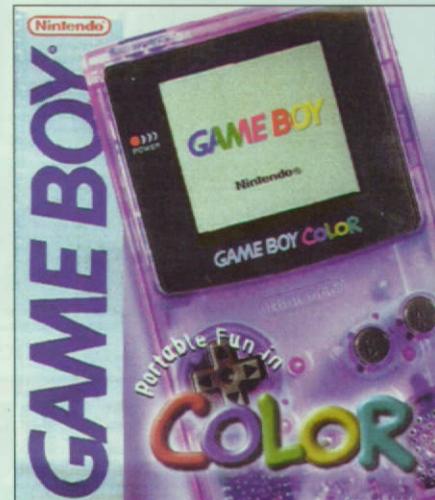
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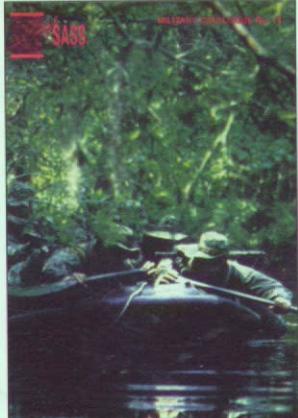
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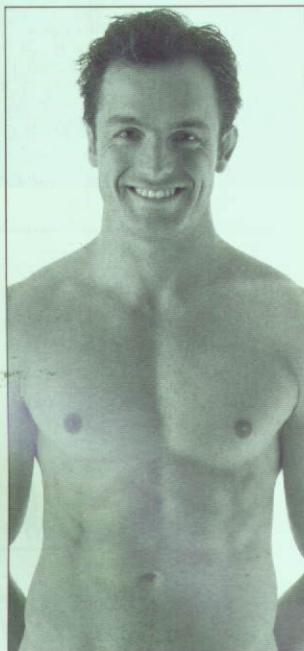
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Mandy, 5'9", slim and blue eyes. A divorced mum of two with GSOH. Enjoys meeting people, nights out, the cinema and walking on nearby beaches. Would like to hear from those 35+ for fun and friendship. P494

Kathy, 5'3", blue-eyed 38-year-old whose hobbies include ten-pin bowling, horse racing, squash and badminton. Has a wicked sense of humour and would like someone to share her thoughts with. P495

Sue, petite, 40-year-old, blonde divorcee. Interests include swimming, running, dancing, eating out and generally having fun. Would like pen pals, 35-45. P496

Sarah, 18, 5'3", slim build, brown hair and hazel eyes. Is honest and has a great sense of humour and enjoys pubs, the cinema, travel, Formula 1 and writing letters. P497

Miranda, 5'8", 32-year-old blonde chef with crazy sense of humour. Mad on socialising, music of any description and good conversation (but not swapping too many recipes). Seeking pen pals any age. P498

Linda, 5'6", brown hair and brown eyes and likes playing pool, drinking, romantic nights in, dining out, videos and having a good laugh. Would like to hear from 25-35-year-olds. All letters will be answered. P499

Christopher, 6'2", REME soldier, currently serving in the south of England. Interests include cycling, clubbing and good conversation. Would like to hear from girls, 18-35. P500

Garry, 30-year-old soldier currently posted overseas but returning to Colchester in September. Likes socialising, pubs, clubs, pool and keeping fit. Only outrageous, OTT women, 23-33, with GSOH need apply. Photo guarantees a reply. P501

Julie, 27-year-old, cuddly, blue-eyed blonde who enjoys pubs, clubs, the cinema, cooking and generally having a good time. Seeking genuine pen pals, 25-30, with GSOH. P502

Michelle, 27, 5'5", blue eyes. Hails from the South-East and enjoys clubbing, pubbing, meeting people and travelling. Would like to correspond with soldiers worldwide. P503

Gill, 33, attractive lawyer with dark brown eyes. Outgoing with bubbly personality and enjoys keep fit, walking and tennis. Seeking sincere soldier pen pals, 30+, at home or abroad. Genuine replies only. Photo appreciated. P504

Emma, 5'2", bubbly 24-year-old, blue-eyed blonde. Loves listening to music, supporting the local football team - Birmingham City - socialising and keeping fit. Seeking pen pals, 24-34. P505

Diane, 36, 5", dark hair and hazel eyes. Likes walking, writing, music and good company. A non-smoker with a son of 16 and is seeking pen pals, 30+. P506

Sandy, 5'5", independent, professional blonde lady from the Kent area. Enjoys dancing, music, travel, socialising and loves Army life. Would like to hear from pen pals, 42+. P507

Jan, happy smile and quiet but with plenty of personality. Enjoys aromatherapy, outdoor sports, swimming, collecting indoor plants and calendars. Seeking pen pals any age. P508

Jane, 32, 5'7", medium build, brown hair and brown eyes and GSOH. Lives life to the full, is adventurous and enjoys clowning around, travelling and having fun, fun, fun. P509

Judith, 5'6", slim, warm-hearted blonde who has a positive outlook on life and Christian beliefs. Enjoys walking, gardening and choral singing and would like to hear from pen pals, 45-55. P510

Joanne, 22, 5'3", hazel eyes and brown hair. Outgoing with GSOH and enjoys driving, swimming, the cinema, night clubs and theme parks. Seeking pen pals, 21-30, with similar interests. Will reply to all letters. P511

Susan, 5'6", green eyes medium build and honey blonde hair. Single and adventurous, enjoys heritage, music, art, swimming and nightclubs. Seeking pen pals, 30+. P512

Sarah, 5'9", 19-year-old blue-eyed blonde, caring and good-humoured. Likes going to clubs and pubs and meeting new people. Seeking pen pals, 18-28. P513

Paulena, 46, 5'3", brown hair and grey eyes. Enjoys photography, gardening, listening to music and taking her dog on long walks. Seeking pen pals, 46-56. All correspondence answered. P514

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Joanne, 29, 5'5", blonde hair. A single, non-smoker who enjoys watching football, socialising, eating out and dance music. Seeking pen pals, 29-35, non-smokers preferred. P516

Jacqueline, 32, 5'6", dark brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys socialising, music, having a lot of laughs and practising herbalism. Would like to hear from pen pals, 27-38. P517

Caroline, 29, 5'6", long, reddish hair and brown eyes. Interests include aromatherapy, interior design, good food and wine and socialising. Seeking pen pals, 26-36. P518

Shelley, 5'3", slim, brunette, 22-year-old nurse. Interests include computers, music, sports, alternative healing therapies and worldwide travel. Seeking male pen pals, 20-34, with good sense of humour. **P519**

Sally, 32, 5'6", brown hair, blue eyes. Attractive and outgoing with confident, assertive but spontaneous personality. Likes pubbing and clubbing, music and is studying sign language. Seeking pen pals, 25-40. **P520**

Sarah, 5'11", slim with green eyes. Divorced mother of two and part-time CAD teacher. Enjoys art, crafts and the outdoors and is seeking single, honest, male pen pals, 25-35. **P521**

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ALL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE PREPAID AND WILL BE INSERTED IN THE FIRST AVAILABLE ISSUE

PHOTO COMPETITION

So, how do you picture life in the Reserves?

THE National Employers' Liaison Committee is sponsoring a photographic competition for images depicting life as a member of the reserve forces.

Categories include best portfolio, best military training or operational photograph, best military sport or adventurous training photograph, best photo by a member of the Volunteer Reserve Forces and best PR photo.

CLOSING DATE

Competition entries must have been taken during the 12 months ending on the closing date of September 3. Prizes include £250 and items of equipment for category winners, and equipment for runners-up.

Send for rules and entry forms from VRFC Photographic Competition, DRFC4/NELC, Duke of Yorks HQ, London SW3 4SS. For further details, contact Maj Peter Clarke on 0171 218 5262 or MoD Main Building 85262.

DATES

JULY

4: Sandhurst open day. Entrance free. 7: Military concert (HC, R Irish), Kneller Hall, 8pm. Tickets: 0181 898 5533.

11: Airborne Forces Day South, Southsea Common, Portsmouth, 10am-5pm.

17: Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Band gala charity concert, Colesbourne Park, 6pm. Tickets on 01242 27979.

18: ATR Pirbright open day.

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

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

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

24: Sandhurst through the Ages, a concert of words and music with Christ Church Singers and REME Band, 7pm. Admission by ticket only, £8, on 01276 412543.

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

AUGUST

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

6-28: Edinburgh Tattoo.

SEPTEMBER

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

4-5: Berwick Military Tattoo, Berwick upon Tweed. Tickets on 01289 307113.

26: Aldershot Militaria Society annual show, The Maltings, Farnham, 1015-1600.

● To include public events, contact the Editor.

Ten Tors takes its place in cyberspace

DARTMOOR might have been covered in mist when the 40th Ten Tors expedition kicked off to the thunder of blanks fired from the 105mm light guns of 29 Commando Regiment RA, but the event nevertheless "reverberated" around the world.

For the first time, the annual 48-hour trek for 14-to-20-year-olds was given its own web site on the Internet. Information officer David Harris and his team from Exeter-based 43 (Wessex) Brigade also provided regular updates for Cefax pages on the BBC's regional TV station. While parents of the 2,400 trekkers were able to read about the progress of their offspring on television, more than 2,000 people accessed the Ten Tors website.

The great adventure is organised by 43 Brigade with the help of West Country Territorial Army units, the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Dartmoor rescue groups.

Brig Tony Faith, Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade, said: "As the organisers, we invest an enormous amount of time, energy and resource to get it exactly right. But the youngsters are the real stars."

Medals for Noel Coward's batman

A former batman to the late Noel Coward has been reunited with his war medals. Former LCpl Percy Morris, who won the Military Medal while serving with 5 Glosters during the Second World War, had his remounted set presented to him by Capt Steve Bennion, who leads 1 RGB's regimental recruiting team, during a brief ceremony at a retirement home at Pershore, Worcs. Percy, now in his 91st year, joined the Glosters in June 1939 and sailed to France with the British Expeditionary Force. He was wounded in action in Belgium, where he won the MM, and later served as Noel Coward's batman. He was discharged in 1945.

Boer War memorials in need of attention

Former officers of The King's (Liverpool) and Manchester Regiments have launched a £6,000 appeal to refurbish their Boer War memorials at Ladysmith, South Africa. Seven of the ten Regular and militia battalions of the regiments served in South Africa and the 1st Battalions of both fought shoulder-to-shoulder at the siege of Ladysmith. Time and weather have damaged the memorials, erected on exposed hillside sites. Contributions, however small, should be made payable to The King's Regiment Trust (Appeal Fund) and sent to Maj J J Jobes, RHQ(I), The King's Regiment, TA Centre, Ardwick Green, Manchester M12 6JH.

Teaching what to fly?

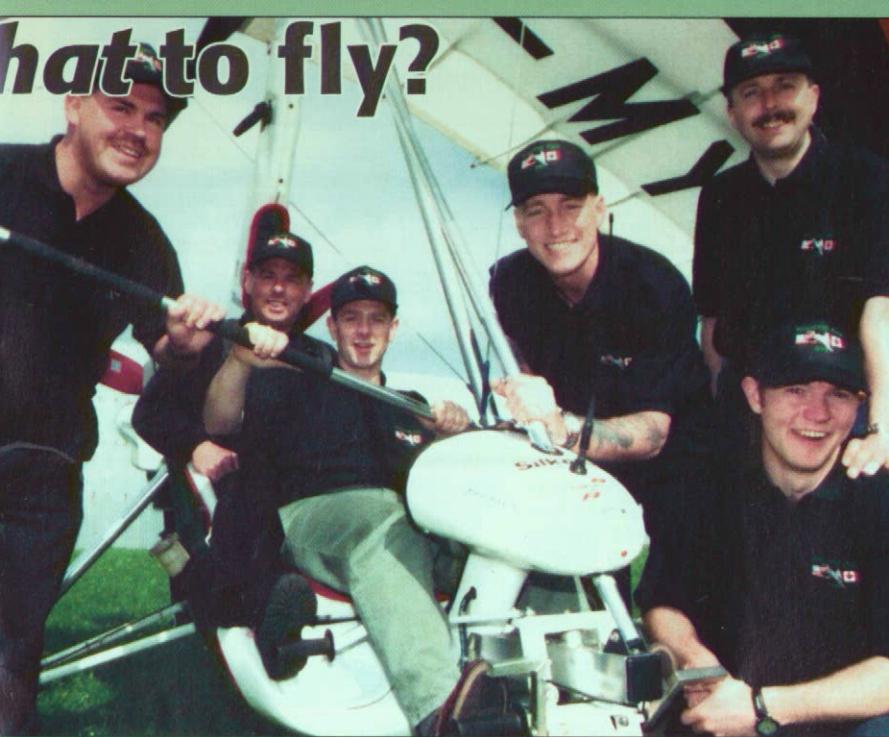
TEACHING birds to migrate using a microlight aircraft is nothing new. It has been done for Canadian geese in the Disney film *Fly Away Home*. Now the whooping crane is to get similar treatment ... with a little help from the British Army.

Soldiers from the 9th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment teamed up with the Royal Air Force to help the endangered North American bird.

This summer, Antrim-based soldiers with airmen from RAF St Athan, will take part in Operation Whooper Finn, a three-month venture in North America to chart a new migration route for the whooping crane.

The bird weighs in at seven kilograms and is one of the world's rarest crane species. Using the British-designed and built Pegasus microlight, exercise members aim to teach young captive birds a new migration route from Canada to the Florida coast. A similar project was successfully undertaken in 1997.

Soldiers and airmen will research routes and stop-over sites on a flight path that will cover about 10,000 miles at a typical cruise speed of just 60mph.



Flying squad: The crane drivers are, from left, Cpl Gary Hill, Sgt Steven Hutchins, Cpl Martin Mash, Sgt Jimmy Gordon, Maj Steven Harvey and Pte Simon Stirling

First in a new series

Legends of the regiments and corps

1 The Army Medical Services Museum



Man-marker: The spiked "D" tool used to brand deserters, and a piece of skin preserved for posterity

Marked for life

IT is not unusual today to see soldiers, both male and female, adorned with tattoos. But up until 1871 the threat of being tattooed sent fear through the ranks.

In those days it was a form of punishment inflicted on deserters. The offender, once caught and sentenced by court martial, would be paraded in front of the regiment and stripped to the waist. With his left arm tied above his head, the drum major would tattoo the letter "D" in the soldier's armpit.

GUNPOWDER

Gunpowder would be rubbed into the area to leave a permanent mark. A spring-loaded instrument with the needles arranged in the shape of a letter "D" was invented in 1850, replacing the large sewing needles used until then. Lamp black and Indian ink took the place of gunpowder.

The soldier was marked for life, making it virtually impossible to rejoin another regiment. The punishment was abandoned in 1871.

Two types of brand – and a piece of skin marked with the dreaded "D" – can be seen in the Army Medical Services Museum.

● Visit the museum at Keogh Barracks, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, near Aldershot (01252 340212). Open Mon-Fri, 9am to 3.30pm.

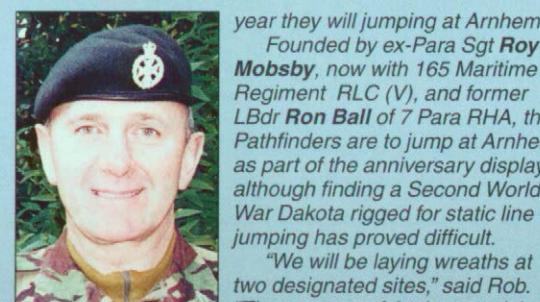


Saddle sore: WO2 Charles Jenkins, left, and Sgt Paul Wright, right, get some tips from marathon tricyclist Charlie Hankins at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. They were part of an Int Corps/RAF team of five cycling from Land's End to John o'Groats to raise money for the home

In good company

WO2 Garnet Gordon, of 201 Workshop Coy, 104 Bn REME (V), and Sgt Simon Ball and Cpl Simon Travis, both of 146 Workshop Coy, 102 Bn REME (V), with 42 years' service between them, have received Lord Lieutenant's Certificates from the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire.

Another TA soldier to receive a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate is SSgt Brian Burke, right, of 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital (V). A driver in civvy street, he was serving as a chef with RGJ (V) in Oxfordshire when he set up a field kitchen to provide meals for 40 elderly people put up in a community centre during floods last year.



year they will jump at Arnhem.

Founded by ex-Para Sgt Roy Mobsby, now with 165 Maritime Regiment RLC (V), and former LBdr Ron Ball of 7 Para RHA, the Pathfinders are to jump at Arnhem as part of the anniversary display, although finding a Second World War Dakota rigged for static line jumping has proved difficult.

"We will be laying wreaths at two designated sites," said Rob.

"The memory of Arnhem and the sacrifice made by so many young airborne soldiers should not be allowed to fade. We hope that in this small way, Pathfinder is helping to keep these memories alive."

● The Baby Life Support Systems (BLISS) charity is looking for people prepared to make sponsored parachute jumps. Details from Gerald Smith on freecall 0800 298 5960.

Bill Jackson remembered

A plaque in memory of Gen Sir William Jackson, who died earlier this year, has been unveiled at the entrance to the Jackson Club in Gibraltar Barracks, Hawley in Hampshire. Bill, as he was known to his friends, was a much-loved Governor of Gibraltar from 1978 to 1982, and the plaque was the result of the efforts of the Friends of the Gibraltar Heritage Society, of which Gen Jackson, a noted author and historian, had been a great supporter.

Back to Arnhem

Imagine jumping from an aged Dakota with an old-style parachute, wearing Second World War battledress. That's what some parachute enthusiasts are planning.

The Pathfinders, a group of veteran parachutists, are dedicated to keeping alive the art of the old round military parachute. This

Bulletin board

Go south, young man

● Fancy ten weeks of sailing and mountaineering in one of the planet's most unspoilt, beautiful and challenging environments? Volunteers, and in particular young, novice adventurers, Regular or Territorial Army, are wanted for the **British Army Antarctic Peninsula Expedition** at the end of next year. Up to five places are reserved for novice soldiers.

The expedition, from December 2000 to February 2001, sets sail from the Falklands to the Antarctic Peninsula across some of the most challenging seas. Parties will be landed on the peninsula to climb the snow fields and ridges to the plateau, after which they will ski, climb and sail along the coast to record wildlife and geographical information.

If you are interested, ask your unit to look up DCI(A) 67/99 or telephone Maj Richard Pattison on Abbey Wood Mil (9352) 33556.

Sail away from it all

● Volunteers of all ranks, Services and experience are sought for 14 days of sailing on HMSTC *Sabre*, a Nicholson 55, on the adventurous training exercise **Century Sail**. The first of 13 two-week legs in the Vilamoura area of Portugal, the Canaries and the Azores starts on October 2 and the exercise ends at Gosport on April 23 next year. Crew members will have to pay for air fares, berthing fees and transfers to the yacht, totalling in all £250 a leg.

For more information and an application form read DCI Joint 33/99 or contact project officer Sqn Ldr Bolton on RAF Wyton (95371) 7859 or 01480 52451 ext 7859.

Millennium Castaway 2000

● So you want to live on your own island, do you? **BBC Scotland** is about to give you just that chance. It intends to cast 30 men, women and children adrift on a remote Scottish island for the start of the millennium, then follow their trials and tribulations as they build homes to keep out the winter and survive with limited resources. To find out more about Castaway 2000, write to Lion TV Scotland, 6 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow G3 7UL for an application form.

APPOINTMENTS

Colonels: C T Page – To Chief J3 Ops HQ SFOR, May 12; C W Paskell – To Assistant Director Procurement Management Policy (Reliability), May 10; D S B Phipps – To Colonel Land Warfare DGD and D, May 10; R J Griffiths – To Defence Attaché Bogota, May 31; T M White – To DG Log Sp (A), June 1.

Lieutenant Colonels: J P J F Abbott, REME – To HQ Land, Sept 27; P A Astle, Cheshire – To HQ QMG, June 2; A G Bain, RRF – To CATC, Sept 1; I A Brazier, RRF – To HQ ARRC, Aug 16; A D H Budd, RA – To SHAPE, Sept 6; K I Chafer, AAC – To AHIST, May 13; R G Dixon, RTR – To PM/AV, Sept 13;

SEARCHLINE

Are you a member of the **Royal Army Ordnance Corps Association**? If not, join up and take part in branch activities, annual functions and reunions. For details of your local branch, contact the RAOC Charitable Trust on 01252 340514 or 340517 or 340650.

6/36 (Arcot 1751) Battery RA is keen to update its old boy database (all ranks). All members, Oct 1992 to present day, are asked to contact Sgt J Wilcox, 6/36 (Arcot 1751) Bty, 40 Regiment RA, Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe, Thirsk, N Yorks YO7 3EY (tel (civ) 01748 875420 or (mil) 94712 5420).

The Society for Military Nurses with Interest in Trauma (MINT) is made up of registered nurses from the three defence medical and nursing services with a common interest in trauma nursing. Application forms for membership and attendance at study days from Membership Secretary, MINT, 149 Bradley Avenue, Winterbourne, Bristol BS36 1HW or e-mail dayn@netgates.co.uk

Former pupils, staff and anyone connected with **Windsor School, Hamm** 1953-83 sought for grand reunion in June 2000. For news of membership register, reunions and newsletter, contact Gill Walker, Lyndale, Nations Hill, King's Worthy, Hants SO23 7QY.

Anyone who served in **A Company, Queen's Lancashire Regiment** in Northern Ireland, 1972 (Millhouse Mill-Falls area) is asked to contact John Bull, 12 Littlethorpe Park, Ripon HG4 1UQ (tel 01765 604071) for a party.

If you served in **Hong Kong**, write to Bill Robertson, 1 Perwinnes Path, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB22 8PH, who is campaigning for a General Service Medal. Include your name, rank and number.

For information about **The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Members Association** and its reunion events, contact Stuart Browning on 01483 892474. New members from London, Middlesex, Sussex, Kent, Devon and Yorkshire, including National Servicemen, attended a recent reunion dinner in Guildford.

Karel De Ceuster seeks information about George, a young British soldier stationed in Antwerp in 1944, who was a friend of the family. He was badly injured when a V1 bomb exploded on the **Rex cinema** in the city on Dec 16, 1944, killing more than 270 people. George, who was later repatriated, was in the cinema with Francois De Laet, who died two days later. Replies to Karel De Ceuster at

P D W Garbutt, KRH – To RMAS, May 24; R J Jenkinson, RE – To HQ ATRA, Aug 16; S W Ledger, LD – To RCDS, July 5; I W Mackenzie, R Signals – To PJHQ (UK), May 5; C W Owen, Kings – To HQ NI, Aug 16; S P Owen, IG – To RMCS, July 5; N A Sim, PWRR – To HQ SFOR, June 15; S W G Suchanek, KRH – To DGD&D, Sept 10; G M Thomas, Cheshire – To HQ SFOR, June 10; I G Tritton, RWF – To DETS(A), Nov 1.

Retirements

Brigadiers: T Glynn, late AGC(ALS), May 31; D M O'Callaghan, late 16/5L, May 31.

Colonel: D M Black, late QLR, May 11.

Kloosterstraat 118, B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium, tel 03 257 36 19, fax 03 237 72 34 or e-mail gd35588@online.be

The **Combined Operations Museum** at Inverary closed its doors at the end of June. Anyone interested in forming a Combined Operations Association is asked to send a sae to curator James Jepson, Cameronian House, Furnace, Inverary, Argyll PA32 8XU.

Researcher seeks information about British soldiers who fought with Finnish troops against Russia during the winter of 1939-40. She wishes to hear about personal experiences from those involved, or from relatives who have correspondence, diaries or photographs. Contact Laura Gustafson, 154 Willow Street, Acton, MA 01720, USA or e-mail 103133.1611@compuserve.com

Alex J Hurley seeks news of his sister, **Jacqueline Ivy Hurley**, with whom he lost touch about 20 years ago. Last known serving in the Forces and married to LSgt John Griffiths, 2 Coldm Gds. Replies to Alex J Hurley, V51152, HMP Kingston, 122a Milton Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 6AS.

Mrs V J Bergson seeks any information on her stepfather, **John Dermott Meade** (who would now be 81), who came originally from Birkenhead and served with the Royal Irish Fusiliers/Inniskilling Fusiliers during the Second World War. His service number was 704471 and he married Beryl Joan Young in Nov 1939. Replies to 2 Michelmersh Green, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 0NU (tel 01202 518721).

PRIZE-WINNERS

Para books (April): L Bdr N Morgan, 132 Bty, 39 Regt RA, Albemarle Barracks, Harlow Hill, Northumberland; Pte Oliver, AGC(SPS), HQ Coy, 3 Para, Connaught Barracks, Dover; Maj P I Brown, DCOS, 4 Armd Bde, BFPO 36; N R Baker, Deal, Kent; James Higginson, Lewisham, London SE13. Answer: Colchester.

Ziplight (May edition): SSgt A J Moutray, 24 Regt RLC, BFPO 19; Mr V Hunt, Belfast; Mr L R Newport, Oxford; Mr J McGough, Richmond, N Yorks; Mr A McFadden, Frimley Green, Surrey; Maj Gore RLC, Divulje Barracks, BFPO 544. Answer: 1933.

Bayonet books (May): Neil Mercer, Tyldesley, Manchester; Pte Roberts, Falklands Platoon, Williams Coy, Vimy Barracks, ITC Catterick; Maurice Ward, of Coventry. Answer: 1982 (The Falklands).

RETURN OF MESS ITEMS

Aviation Branch, HQ Land Command will cease to exist on October 1 when its responsibilities are taken over by the Joint Helicopter Command. Anyone who has made a presentation or donation to Aviation Branch and wishes the items to be returned should contact Maj S McClure AAC on Netheravon Mil (94321) 8304 or civ 01980 67381 before August 18.



FORMER soldier Maj (Retd) Raymond Hoare, left, has been presented with four medals on behalf of his twin brother, killed during fierce fighting with the Germans in Crete in 1941. The set, belonging to the late Sgt Brendan Hoare, should have been sent to his family in 1949, but was never delivered and has now been reissued by the Army Medal Office.

Sgt Hoare was serving with the Cypriot-Maltese manned 231 Company, RASC when he was killed in action.

The medals were handed over to Maj Hoare by Maj Gen Angus Ramsay, right, Administrator of the British Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.

Other presentations made at the same time were a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service to LCpl Alexander

Twin's medals go home - 50 years on

Dickson, Int Corps, for outstanding service in Northern Ireland; the Queen Mother Award to Maj Malcolm Russell, RAMC, for an exceptional project carried out during vocational training for general practice; a commendation to Pte Matthew Vranch, 2 R Anglian, for his actions during the Paramali fire which destroyed many quarters last year; a commendation to Maj Thomas Lafferty, RLC, for outstanding service in former Yugoslavia; and a GOC Northern Ireland commendation to Sgt David Valentine, Para, for exemplary service in the Province.

REUNIONS

Para spectacular: **Airborne Forces Day South** will be held on Southsea Common, Portsmouth on July 11.

The Cheshire Regiment: Fourth Berlin and Northern Ireland veterans reunion to be held at Winsford on July 17. Details from secretary BNIR on 01244 301564.

Regimental Association of Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt (PWRR): Annual reunions at Canterbury, Aug 1 and Maidstone on Sept 5. Details from Veronica Joel Newton (0181 888 9739).

Regimental Association of the Queen's Own Buffs (PWRR): Reunions on Aug 1 at Canterbury and Sept 5 at Maidstone. Former members of The Buffs, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, Queen's Own Buffs and 2 Queens welcome. Details from Assn Sec, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (tel 01227 818052).

JSMTC(S): Reunion on Sept 3 at Territorial Army Centre, Gordonville Road, Inverness. Tickets (£15) to JSMTC(S) Reunion Fund, Mrs A Baldwin, 8 Wyvis Drive, Achareidh,

Nairn. Further details from Ms E Wood on 0131 310 8675.

Armoured Engineer Regiment: Reunion planned for Oct 23 at Bridlington, North Yorkshire. Contact Keith on 01232 285325 or e-mail kmlne186@yahoo.com

South Notts Hussars Association: Former members wishing to attend reunion dinner at Bulwell, Nottingham on Nov 13 should contact Capt G E Aldridge, 6 Goodwood Drive, Toton, Notts NG9 6HX (tel 0115 972 5909).

74 Battery (The Battle Axe Company) RA: Anyone who served with or was attached to 74 Battery is invited to attend the Battle Axe Day Parade on Feb 24, 2000 at Larkhill, Salisbury. Contact the BSM, 74 Battery, 32nd Regiment RA, Roberts Barracks, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8QU (tel 01980 675307, fax 01980 675230).

Arborfield Army Apprentices: A reunion for Intakes 50A and 50B is planned at Arborfield for Oct 2000. For more details, contact Clem Clements on 01604 712128 or Tom Lennox on 01423 865225.

Videos

War videos to be won

ONLY four regiments of the Regular Army did not take part in the Second Boer War, which started a century ago this October.

Exceptions were the 4th Dragoon Guards, 4th Hussars, 15th Hussars and 21st Lancers. Non-Regulars who fought included detachments of 43 yeomanry regiments and 50 militia battalions.

This was the last great colonial war and introduced "commando" and "concentration camp" into the language as well as bringing military fame to Mafeking, Ladysmith and Kimberley.

The Boer Wars (DD Video, 55 minutes, £12.99) features rare contemporary archive film as well as photographs, authentic reconstructions and authoritative military analysis.

All significant events, battles and campaigns of the Second World War in Europe are featured in a newly-released set of three double-pack volumes.

Crusade in Europe (DD Video, £14.99 per volume, each 150 minutes) tells the Second World War in Europe from the personal viewpoint of Gen Dwight D Eisenhower. A companion series, **Crusade in the Pacific**, is also available from DD Video.

We have three copies of **The Boer Wars** and three sets of **Crusade in Europe** to give away - see foot of column.

MILESTONES

Before television captured the collective attention of the world, The British got their moving picture news from cinema newsreels such as Pathe Gazette (1910-46) and Pathe News (1946-70).

Happily the Pathe film record has survived to comprise the largest and oldest such archive in the world. Telstar Video Entertainment, in association with British Pathe, is releasing **The Milestone Years** as part of its "A Year to Remember" series at £10.99 each (running time 60 minutes). Years include 1929, 1939 and 1949, with footage showing the rise of Mussolini and Hitler, the outbreak of the Second World War, and the Berlin airlift.

COMPETITIONS

To win a copy of **The Boer Wars**, answer question one; to win a copy of **Crusade in Europe**, answer question two. Send your answers to **Soldier** on separate postcards by August 6, indicating the video title clearly and containing your name and address. Do not answer both questions on the same postcard. First three correct answers drawn in each case will win. The Editor's decision is final. Winners' names will be published.

1. In which month did the Second Boer War start?

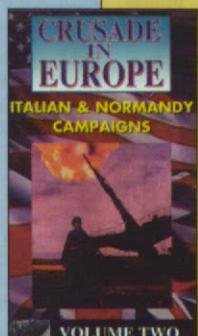
2. Name the Second World War general who went on to become President of the United States of America.

THE BOER WARS



The bitter fighting for the mastery of South Africa

THE HISTORY OF WARFARE SERIES



CRUSADE IN EUROPE

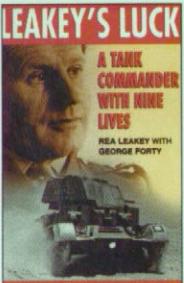
ITALIAN & NORMANDY CAMPAIGNS



VOLUME TWO

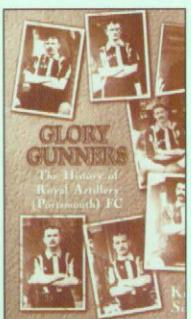
Charmed life of a wartime tank hero

ONE of the Royal Tank Regiment's greatest Second World War heroes, Maj Gen Rea Leakey, won his second MC as a British Army captain fighting as an Australian lance-corporal at Tobruk and during ten days' leave from a staff job fought as a tank gunner at Gazala. A third MC came in Normandy followed by the DSO in the battle through to Germany. All these experiences are recounted in his hair-raising autobiography, *Leakey's Luck: A Tank Commander With Nine Lives* (Sutton, £18.99), edited by George Forty.



Scandal that rocked the original Gunners

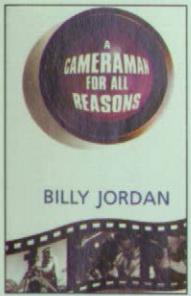
THESE days "football" and "Gunners" can only mean Arsenal – but 100 years ago the Glory Gunners were Royal Artillery



Journalist Kevin Smith has pieced together the intriguing story in *Glory Gunners*, available at £7.50 inclusive from him at 14 Station Road, Bognor Regis, W Sussex PO21 1QE.

Adventures of a combat cameraman

NEXT time you watch the film *Desert Victory* on TV, study the action footage. Much of it was



filmed in battle conditions at El Alamein by Billy Jordan, whose autobiography *A Cameraman for All Reasons* (The Book Guild, £12.95) is rich in anecdote. One of the first members of the Army Film Unit, Billy won the Military Medal during the invasion of Sicily and later, working for Pathé News, filmed during the Korean War and at the 1953 Coronation before making feature films around the world and retiring to Spain.

What Milosevic learned from Hitler and Saddam

BOMBS were not the only cargo carried by Nato aircraft over Kosovo in recent months. They also dropped leaflets urging Yugoslav soldiers to give up the fight and go home.

It is nothing new, of course: just the delivery methods have changed.

In the Napoleonic Wars, troops advanced with handbills on the ends of their bayonets persuading the enemy to surrender.

The British consul in Berne did his bit for King and Country in the First World War by floating messages down the Rhine in bottles – a tactic surprisingly repeated by psychological operations officers in the waters of the Gulf in 1991. (In keeping with PSYOPS methods in these more sophisticated times, they also sent "info-bombs" into enemy computers).

PIN-UP PICTURES

Goebbels knew how to grab a soldier's attention. In Italy in 1944, the Germans showered the Allied forces with provocative pin-up pictures. On the reverse were suggestive poems and exhortations to "pack it in". The "Georgia" series was avidly collected by the troops, but few took any notice of the words.

Veterans of the Canal Zone in Egypt now campaigning for medal recognition will recall pictorial leaflets circulated among the troops just before Christmas in 1953, ridiculing their lack of freedom and threatening their sentries with murder.

By far the most favoured method of leaflet delivery

Soldier ordering service

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

Easily Led: A History of Propaganda by Oliver Thomson (Sutton, £20). **Themes in History: Propaganda** edited by Bertrand Taithe and Tim Thornton (Sutton, £50).

used unemployed youngsters to form "demo networks" so that impressive rallies could be staged to whip-up popular feeling, for instance in 1989 on the 600th anniversary of the battle in which the Turks drove the Serbs out of Kosovo.

"He purged the main media to gain control and began projecting the myth of the Greater Serbia on television. Obsessive racism by the Serbs was fanned into mass criminality to claim more land from the Croats, Bosnians, Albanians and all other minorities."

Serb nationalist propaganda, he writes, contributed directly to the extremely violent civil war of the early 1990s and to the genocide which went with it.

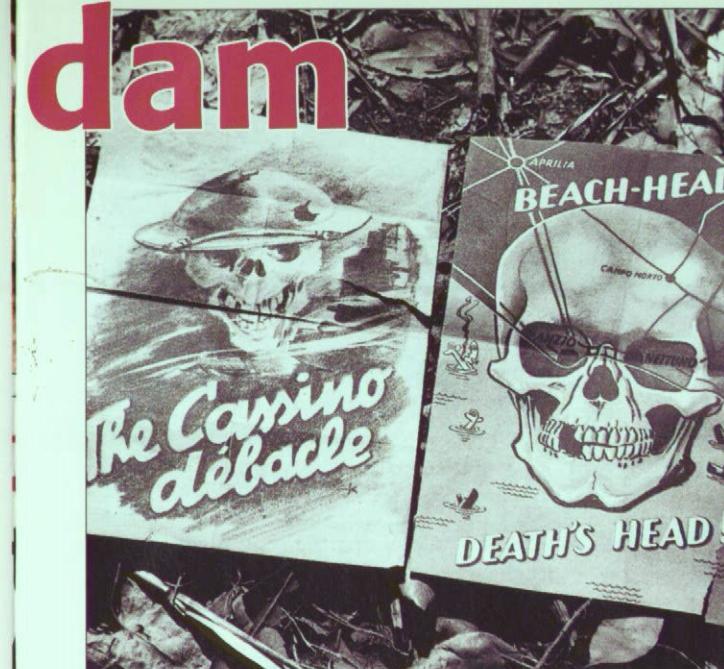
SERB PARANOIA

"Milosevic's tight control over the RTS state broadcasting service was crucial and his exploitation of conspiracy myths to form the paranoia of the Serbs was a clear derivation from Hitler, while Karadzic stole BBC equipment to set up Kanal S, a makeshift racist television station in Pale."

Television's immediate coverage of war, writes Philip Taylor, one of 16 contributors to *Propaganda*, has transformed the media's status in conflict from observer to participant.

During the Gulf War of 1991 reporters from enemy countries (notably CNN, with its global satellite transmissions) were, uniquely, permitted to stay in Baghdad. The ploy was repeated in Belgrade this year amid speculation that Milosevic has taken tips from the Iraqi leader, his supposed mentor in media manipulation.

"Saddam Hussein hoped to exploit pictures of what he anticipated to be widespread civilian damage, in order to



undermine public support for the war in western countries.

"Accordingly, he permitted western reporters to visit damaged civilian (but, significantly, not military) sites.

"Yet on the two most famous occasions when this happened – the 'baby milk plant' and the Al Firdos bunker – it failed to shift western public resolve."

Propaganda, once innocently denoting the spreading of religious information, has been given a bad name by arch-cynics like Goebbels ("If you tell the same lie often enough people will believe it").

Few would deny, however, that where your compatriots

IN BRIEF

SOE by M R D Foot. Second World War Army officer's classic study of the Special Operations Executive, 1940-46, reissued in paperback. (Pimlico, £12.50.)

I Am Well, Who Are You? by David Piper. The author, knighted for his services to art in 1983, was a "human shield" in the Japanese Army's leading truck into Singapore, after being captured in Malaya. The book includes a PoW diary. (Published by Anne Piper, available from Gazelle, 01524 68765.)

Who Was Who in the Second World War by Edward Davidson and Dale Manning. From Abetz to Zhukov. (Arms and Armour, paperback, £14.99.)

Gallipoli by Nigel Steel (£10.95) is one of three recent additions to the Leo Cooper "Battleground Europe WW1" series. The others are **Montauban, Somme**, by Graham Maddocks (£9.95) and **Delville Wood, Somme**, by Nigel Cave (£9.95).

Reuter Reporter in Divided Germany 1955-58 by Peter B Johnson. Includes descriptions of visits to British and American military units. Available at £6.95 inc from author at 47 Braeside, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1ST.

Colourful evocation of Hong Kong

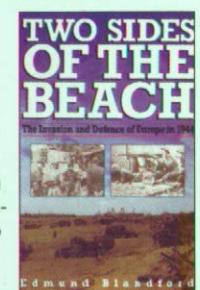
HONG KONG "veterans", particularly those involved in the handover to China, will find Jo and Neil Craig's *Black Watch – Red Dawn* (Brassey's, £29.99) a thoughtful and well-written evocation of the life and times of this former colonial outpost as well as a high-quality record of the events of 1997, with a particular emphasis on the role of the British Army.

Its 100 or so atmospheric colour photographs are a bonus. Neil Craig spent his National Service as a subaltern with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in Berlin.



Telling D-Day from both points of view

EDMUND Blandford specialises in telling Second World War history from both sides. His book on British and German airborne forces, *Green Devil, Red Devils*, was published in 1993. Now he has told the story of the invasion and defence of Europe in 1944 from the opposing standpoints. *Two Sides of the Beach* (Airlife, £19.95)

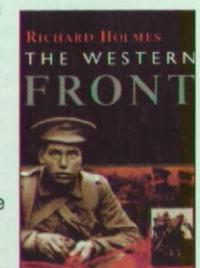


draws on many eyewitness accounts and is illustrated by more than 80 contemporary photographs. Modestly, the author, a former airman, says this substantial work is intended "as a contribution to existing literature".

All very busy on the Western Front

HOW does he do it? Apart from being the MoD's Director of Reserve Forces and Cadets, Brig Richard Holmes

is Professor of Military and Security Studies at Cranfield University and the Royal Military College of Science. Yet has already found time (not that anyone is complaining) to present two well-received TV series on War Walks and write the companion publications, as well as a dozen or so other military histories. His latest book, *The Western Front* (BBC Books, £17.99) accompanies a new six-part BBC2 series starting on July 15.



Mailbag

TA has more to offer than pay rewards

I FIND the letter from Capt Michael Blake ("Terrier gives up a lot to serve", June) perplexing. Is he suggesting that an annual bounty of £1,050 for a TA soldier with five years' service is not sufficient? Is he suggesting that a TA soldier such as himself, after serving for 21½ years (that is, a fortnight's camp coupled with a few weekends each year) should receive a gratuity at the end of it?

Surely the gratuity is in the shape of a bounty of more than £1,000 each year? Thus Capt Blake's gratuity over 21½ years totals more than £21,000 which, if invested over the years, would amount to considerably more. Not bad for the length of actual time expended.

FORTUNATE

When I was in the TA my thoughts were on how fortunate my comrades and I were to visit places at home and abroad we would never otherwise have been able to explore; on how fortunate we were to learn skills unavailable to civilians; to learn drill and deportment, discipline and teamwork, defence and humanitarian skills normally beyond us; to feel in some small way we were serving our country; to be privileged to serve with ultra-professional Regular soldiers, and to learn something of the ethos and purpose of the British Army.

If I might paraphrase the words of John F Kennedy, "ask not what the Army can do for you, ask what you can do for the Army". If Capt Blake is in the TA for pecuniary advantage, I would suggest he seek other avenues of reward. – Howard Robson, Carlisle.

Cartoons were 'a racist slur'

I DON'T normally get upset by articles or cartoon sketches or write to magazines, but feel I must express my umbrage at your "Chuckle with Chip" feature (Feb), and specifically the last two cartoons on the page. Surely any Scot should feel these sketches are a racist slur.

If your cartoonist had depicted one of these characters with a black, brown or female face there would have been uproar in your next edition. In today's military we have to be very careful when dealing with other soldiers, especially any from ethnic minorities.

As your publication is the soldiers' magazine, you must ensure that it is seen to be free of discrimination or national stereotyping. Would it really have affected the gag if the characters depicted were wearing trousers... or is it only jocks who get drunk?

I enjoy a joke but feel the points made in this letter are valid. – SSgt F Flood, Workshop REME, 4th Regt RA, BFPO 36.

TV licences edict unfair to livers-in

I READ *Soldier* (May) to discover that single living-in members of the Armed Forces are expected to be in possession of a TV licence. Rightly or wrongly, I have always been under the impression that TV licences bought for the various institutions within the barrack walls covered single accommodation as well.

If this is not the case, where are they going to draw the line? Does every individual who owns a TV have to buy a licence? Or will one per company or platoon do the trick?

In the worst possible case you could have numerous people in one room, each requiring a licence. Quite a little earner for the Government. Meanwhile, across the road, Mr and Mrs Civilian have four

teenagers, each with a television set, and they only require the one licence to cover their address.

Does the Home Office buy a licence for each prisoner where they have a TV in their cells? I suggest MoD strikes up a deal with the TV licensing authority so that each company-size unit buys a licence to cover the single living-in members of that unit. This would be a much fairer deal than the 40 single members of a company having to buy a licence for a TV which, for obvious reasons, they don't have much time to watch. – Andy Mallock, RPSI, The London Regiment, London.

● Further clarification of the rules appears in Page 40... plus an address to which you may care to forward these views. – Editor

What about the single soldier?

ISN'T it time single Servicemen and women received the same consideration as their married counterparts? It is no wonder that the divorce rate in the Army is so high when soldiers still rush into marriage to escape the barrack block.

It is blatant discrimination that only married Servicemen are entitled to a house, a removals service on posting and reimbursement for travel if they choose to live in their own property.

In this day and age many couples have

strong relationships without being married.

How many more soldiers must vote with their feet and leave the Service prematurely before the top brass stop saying that single accommodation is a priority and actually look at the aspirations of the modern single person? Apparently you have to be married before you can have someone to stand up for you... your spouse. – William Charles (ex-Army), Newbury, Berks.

Not-so-airborne personnel

In your response to K P Walton's letter (May) you wrongly compared the brave members of the wartime air landing brigades and the Glider Pilot Regiment to the current non-parachute qualified members of 5 Airborne Brigade. The wartime glider troops were all volunteers who received the same level of selection and training as their parachute-qualified colleagues.

The deeds accomplished by these men in all the major airborne operations of the Second World War testify to this fact.

In 5 Airborne Brigade there are a lot of personnel who did not volunteer for Airborne Forces and have no intention of becoming parachute-qualified. – Cpl Graeme Deeley, 41 (Airborne) Military Intelligence Section, Buller Barracks, Aldershot.

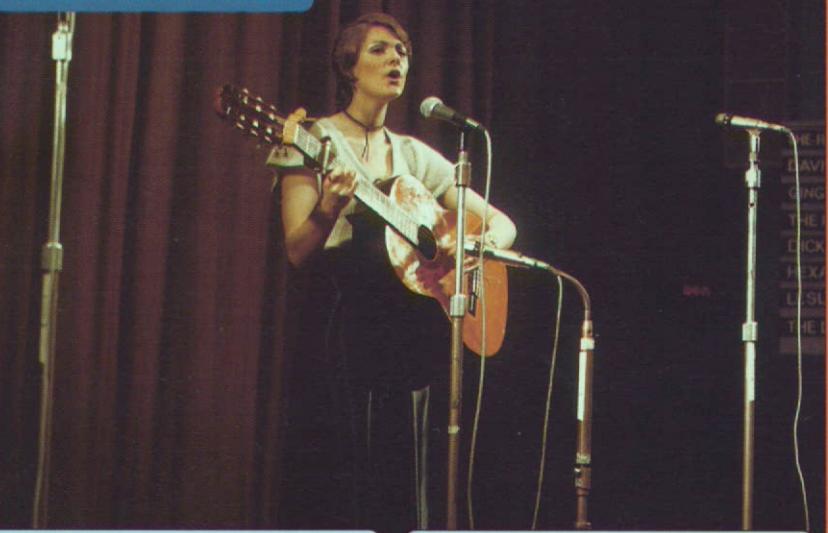
● Cpl Deeley's point is well made, but the fact is that wartime members of Airborne Forces who were not parachute-qualified were entitled to wear the maroon beret... a privilege which remains to this day for all who serve with Airborne Forces units. – Editor

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

A prize from the *Soldier* gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. So get writing! Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Write us a prize letter

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1949. The spotlight which has played on our overseas garrisons since 1945 has moved on. After Germany, Greece, Palestine, Egypt, India and Malaya, it now shines on our most distant outpost – Hong Kong, 33 days by troopship from Britain. While Chinese Communists drive southwards, British troops are on their way to the little colony.

25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, July 1974. Pte Lesley Clayton, pictured above at the BBC Playhouse Theatre, London during the Army music competition finals, started eight years ago by ex-Bdr Harry Secombe. Lesley (21), serving with 12 Coy, WRAC, won the singer title with a folk song. Best group was *Hexagon*, a three-man rock outfit from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

PS...

Food for thought

THE letter "Mess system is food for thought" (June) on Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) stated that "in an average month each member pays about £90 food charge", which works out at £2.90 a day over a 31-day month. Could anyone let me know where it is possible to get a full cooked breakfast, two-course lunch and three-course evening meal of various choices, with no restrictions on the amount you eat or how many visits you make to the hotplate? Even over 20 working days it works out at only £4.50 a day, still impossible to match in any commercial establishment.

And what about good old Tommy Atkins, who has spent all his money on wine, sports cars and mobile phones before the 15th of the month. He may be skint but at least he can get three square meals a day. Sounds like whingeing, bean-stealing, sour grapes to me. – WO2 (CSM) I J Dower, Mortar Division, ITC Warminster.

• COULD I suggest a compromise on Pay-As-You-Dine? How about breakfast as before with other meals PAYD, to be requested at breakfast time. Breakfast is, after all, the main meal. From experience I would suggest that the soldier will pay if he eats or not. With PAYD I suggest he will not. – R Whittaker, Burnley, Lancs.

Medal mania

RE the letter "Will we get a medal for Macedonia?" (June), the Army of today appears to be obsessed with medals. Where is the spirit of serving Queen and country anywhere in the world, medals or not? Can I ask the writer to spare a thought for the National Servicemen who still fight to gain recognition for service in the Suez Canal Zone? – P S Jones (27 years in the Army), Swindon, Wilts.

Die Hard III

FURTHER to letters on the origins of the Diehards (May and June), Col Inglis was not killed at Albuhera. He was badly wounded and Blaxland's history says he was the only officer above the rank of major to survive the battle. He served on after Albuhera and retired as Lt Gen Sir William Inglis KCB. He is buried in Canterbury Cathedral. The date of the battle was May 16, 1811, not May 13. It is said Col Inglis cried out "Diehard the 57th, diehard." – Maj R E B Morris, Secretary, Regimental Assoc, The Middlesex Regiment.

Time of change

A SUGGESTION to rename a German Army barracks after Winston Churchill has been condemned by many Germans. I welcome it, not only because the British Army has been in Germany for more than 50 years. Since the Wall disappeared, Germany has changed. What has happened to our friendship with the British Army after such a very short time? – M K P Kahlbow (ex-Locally Employed Civilian, BFPO 45), Reutlingen, West Germany.

I WAS interested to read (May) about the two new service awards approved by the Queen for all ranks of the Volunteer Reserve Forces. The Volunteer Reserves Service Medal (VRSM) will replace the Territorial Decoration (TD) and Territorial Efficiency Medal and, as I understand it, be awarded after ten years' efficient service, while clasps will be awarded for every five years of subsequent service.

I believe this review has missed an opportunity to address a number of issues. I have previously raised the question in *Soldier* as to why officers with a TA B-class commission are not awarded the TD. Why in this review did the powers-that-be not consider the service of those who work with the Army Cadet Force? To receive the Cadet Force Medal requires 12 years' service and eight subsequent years for the award of a clasp.

Many instructors in the ACF are ex-Regular or TA. Ask any about the amount of hard work and dedication required by the ACF and most will agree that it is not as easy as being a Regular or TA soldier.

The discrepancy between these awards has given me concern in the past. This latest announcement is proof that no consideration has been given to the dedication, hard work and many hours of unpaid work given by the officers and adults of the ACF.

It is difficult to recruit people willing to make a long-term commitment to the ACF, which makes it all the more important to recognise long service and effort. It now appears that much more effort and longer service will be required of ACF volunteers for the Cadet Force Medal than of the TA for the VRSM.

I live in hope that consideration will be given to ACF adults and officers being nominated for that other new award, the Queen's Volunteer Reserve Medal, to be awarded for outstanding service. I will expect to see a long list of recipients from the ACF in recognition of outstanding service to young people week in and week out. – Rev Gareth T Jones, Senior Chaplain, Angus and Dundee Battalion ACF, Perth.

Vox Pop

The regular feature in which we ask soldiers for their views on an issue

Army on the air

British Forces Network has recently completed a month's trial in the Bulford-Tidworth area aimed at producing a radio station tailored to the interests of soldiers based locally. We asked several whether they had heard of the station, had listened to it, and whether they thought it was a good idea. Those who had tuned in thought it was good.

Cpl Paul Walters, 22 Engr Regt



I listened to it every day... in the office, in the car and at home. My wife serves with the Environmental Health Team at 3 Div in Bulford and we both tuned in. I wished it could have stayed. I thought it was very professionally done. Although it was a radio station catering for everybody in the community, it was geared towards the Forces. They understood us, what we want and what we want to hear. It was a great success.

Tpr John Money, RDG

We have been aware of the radio station but I didn't listen to it. I think it's a good idea though to let people know what's happening locally. I think it would be good to have this here full-time.



LCpl Rob Hooper, 1 RHA

I tuned the car radio in and picked it up even when on exercise near Netheravon. I thought it was a good concept and the music was good. The concept of a Forces' network works because the humour that has developed within the Army is different and it was nice to hear that coming across the radio. Overall, I think it was a very good idea and I would like to see it established.



Spr Philip Bradley, 22 Engr Regt

I didn't hear the station myself, but I think the

LCpl Jason Jones, 1 RHA

I listened to the station and thought it was OK and on a par with normal BFBS broadcasting, which I think is quite good. They told us what was going on around us and it was good for the community.



Tpr Karl Pope, RDG

I wasn't aware of it but I think it's a good idea to have a station aimed at us.



Tpr Kevin Gaskell, RDG

I wasn't aware of the trial in the Bulford-Tidworth area but it sounds like a good idea. I think a station like this could attract listeners with good music and I would like to see it here on a permanent basis.



Spr Adam Holt, 22 Engr Regt

I listened to the radio station a few times

Interviews: Ray Routledge Pictures: Mike Weston

COMING SOON

At Fort Knox the Americans have built a town to train soldiers how to fight in an urban environment, both on their feet and in tanks.



Face of garrison radio: Presenter Neil Carter in the Tidworth-Bulford studio



LCpl Brian Lloyd, RDG

I was not aware of the trial at Bulford but have heard similar stations in Germany. I think it is a good idea for the married families as it enables soldiers to keep in touch when they go away on postings, which could be good for morale.

Spr Paul Harper, 22 Engr Regt

I had the station on in the car and at home and it was good to listen to. It was very professional. It was aimed at the younger person, but played music for every age. It would be a brilliant idea to have it here as a fixture.



● Garrison Commander Col Robin Faulkner expressed his delight at the trial. In a letter to Peter McDonagh, Controller of BFN, he said the trial had been a great success. "I cannot emphasise enough the welcome contribution that BFN has made to garrison life, the ease with which it rapidly became an integral part of our community plan."

Also:

The Army's web site has been judged one of the most effective in Britain. Read about the impact it has been having on recruiting... and on people with an interest in all things military.

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