

SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

Watching Becks's back

Grenadier Guards keep
an eye on Sven's men

Also:

Welfare
package helps
Telic troops

Canadian
adventures



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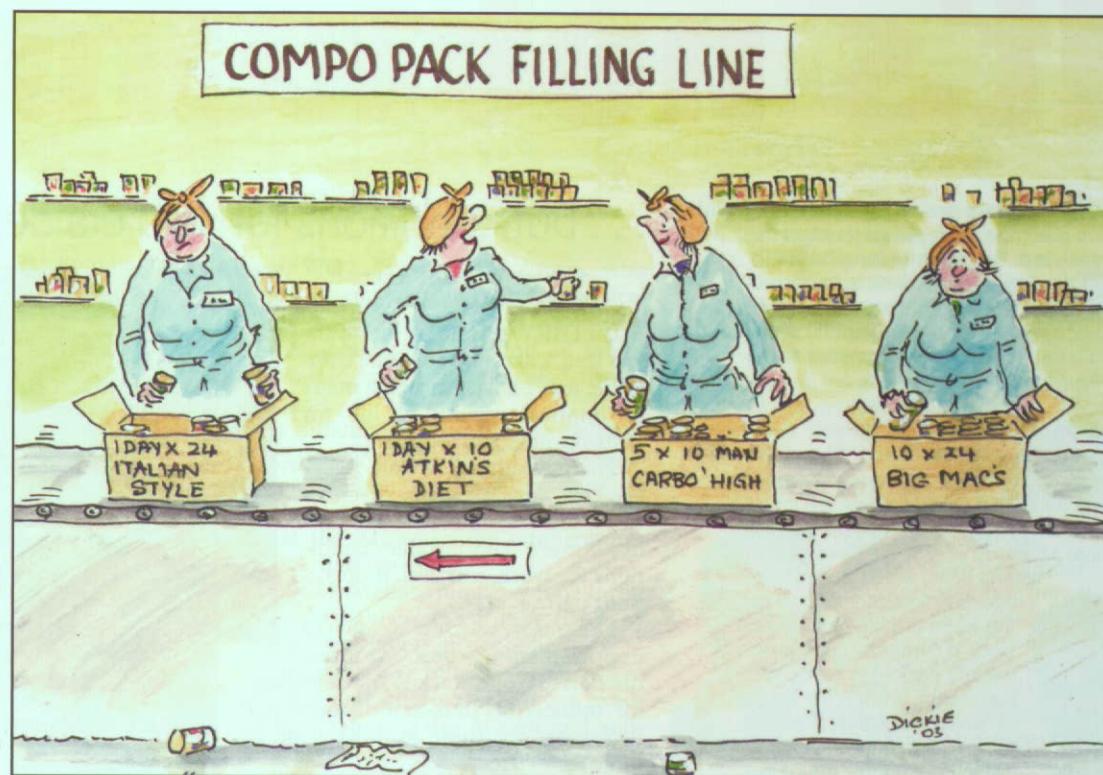
Cover picture

Real deal: David Beckham's return to Old Trafford for England's Euro 2004 qualifier against Liechtenstein last month went without a hitch thanks to a group of soldiers from Nijmegen Company, Coldstream Guards.

The guardsmen helped provide security at the high-profile international. See Pages 22-23.

Picture: Graeme Main

Food for thought: Was the new 24-hour ration pack to the taste of soldiers who sampled it? Answers on Page 27.



"And there's a novelty gift in every other packet . . ." New 24-hour ration pack – See Page 27

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'Not to be informed when people wish to enter my or another soldier's room while we are at work or on leave is unacceptable. Do we have any tenant's rights?' – Mail, Page 74

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It's not home sweet home . . .

SOME soldiers praise the operational welfare package, others feel it could be improved. But despite long hours in tough, dangerous conditions, morale in southern Iraq is high and soldiers appear to be enjoying the many challenges faced on a daily basis. Here are what some thought of the package...

**Tpr Paul Stafford,
Badger Sqn, 2 RTR**

I was on Op Telic 1 so this is my second time here. The postal service is a lot better. Satellite TV is a morale-booster and we have access to BFBS. We have air-conditioning units, which is also better than first time round. Cold drinking water is a big plus. Wives back in Germany put together welfare packages for us, with sun cream, shower gel and so on, which was appreciated. We have an outdoor swimming pool, which is a bonus, but I'd like more phones.



**Pte Chris Webster,
Somme Coy, 1 QLR**

My accommodation is clean and tidy but we're having a problem with the electricity, so the air-con is a bit faulty. I would like to have more time on my phone card every week because 20 minutes isn't enough. Getting a lot of post, e-blueys and e-mail is great.



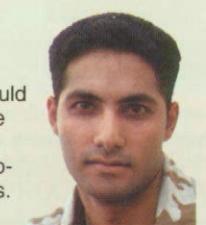
**LCpl Ian Fraser,
38 Engr Regt**

The Paradigm phones can be a bit unreliable, which is very frustrating when you don't have a lot of spare time to make calls.



**Pte Zeshan Khan,
21 Close Support Sqn**

The welfare package could be better. We need more phones and there have been a few teething problems with the ECI camps.



**Cpl Lee Bourton,
38 Engr Regt**

Phones can be a bit dodgy and we have to go to another location to get access to the internet. Sometimes the water can come in a bit late and there's no such thing as a cold shower here.



... but conditions for soldiers deployed in southern Iraq are becoming more comfortable

**Report: Andrea Frazer
Pictures: Mike Weston**

MILITARY locations in southern Iraq will never be home from home but efforts are being made to improve quality of life for British soldiers based there.

The operational welfare package has made huge advances since the war and soldiers now have more comfortable conditions for work, rest and, if operations permit, play.

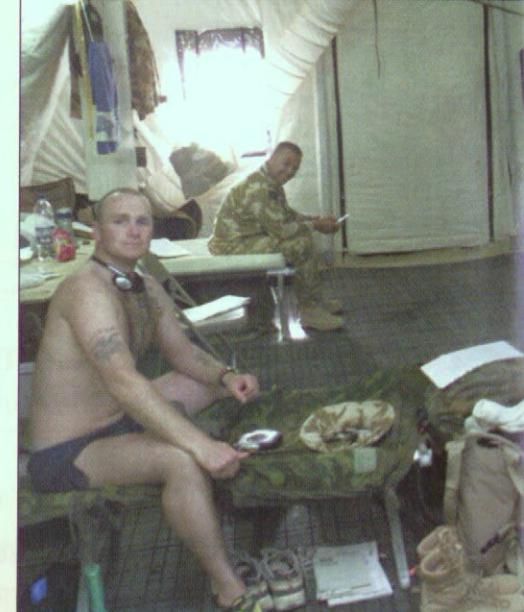
The most warmly welcomed improvement has been the introduction of a one-week R and R package for soldiers on four-month tours, and two weeks for those in-theatre for six months.

Capt Alasdair Halford-Macleod QDG, S03 G1 HQ 19 Mech Bde, said: "Having the chance to get home, rest and see family and friends has been a massive morale-booster. The package does take a percentage of our soldiers out of the operational line, but the net result is good. It is viewed as a key aspect in keeping the brigade combat effective."

A staff officer coordinates R and R and a help desk is manned round the clock.

Creature comforts at bases are limited but work is going on to improve the infrastructure. Standards vary, with a chasm separating the best and worst accommodation, but the plan is to have the majority of "enduring sites" (those to be used beyond Telic 2) up to a broadly similar standard by the end of next month.

About 20 per cent of troops live in well-equipped Temporary Deployable Accommodation (TDA) or Royal Engineer-constructed Expeditionary Camping Infrastructures (ECI). Many occupy reclaimed buildings throughout theatre while some still operate in field conditions.



Nearly two-thirds have access to shower blocks and the rest to RE-constructed temporary showers or shower bags.

A trip to the toilet can mean very different things depending on location. While one in five soldiers enjoy a stainless steel, fully-flushable experience, the rest make do with Portaloos and a hardcore few still use field toilets, relieving themselves via the tried-and-tested "desert rose" (a tube protruding from the ground) or latrines.

Air-conditioning is sporadic although established sub-unit locations have, at the very least, one rest area equipped with it. Spare moments – a rarity given the pace of operations – are spent sleeping, watching TV or in a gym. All units and sub-units have satellite TV offering

Cooling off: Air-conditioned coaches, left, have been placed around Shaibah airfield to provide respite from the heat

Main picture: TDA camps get a thumbs-up, in this case from 1 KOSB at Al Amarah. Climate-controlled living spaces mean the indoor temperature is 20C lower than outside. Up to ten soldiers share a room, and each bed space has a foot locker and power socket. Below: Outside view of the TDA and air conditioning unit. Left: Pte Chris Yates and Pte Robert Lockheart, front, and Pte Alan Kelly and Pte Adam Balmer, back, of C Coy, 1 KOSB, at their Al Amarah stadium base.



six channels of news, sport and light entertainment and free loan of up-to-date DVDs and videos.

BFBS is expanding its services and four CSE shows were performed late last month.

About £1.5 million has been spent on high-quality fitness equipment which would put many private gyms to

shame. WO1 (SMI) Mark Lewis, who leads an 11-strong team of Army physical training instructors in Iraq, said: "Every unit has access to a gym and all minor units should have been allocated fitness equipment.

"It's difficult to train in this environment. There are no formal PT sessions, so troops train individually. They must be sensible and use only the early and late parts of the day when the temperatures are at their lowest."

SSVC's welfare fund has done its bit to help soldiers keep their cool by paying for eight plunge pools.

An increasing number of Paradigm phones and internet cabins are available 24 hours a day at unit and sub-unit locations and everyone gets a 20-minute phone card issued once a week. Use of mobiles is allowed but not recommended because of the high cost. Welfare phones are available in emergencies.

Every effort is made to get compassionate cases back to the UK within 24 hours and individuals who need help are encouraged to ring 01980 615790, the compassionate helpline number.

"BFPO has provided an amazing service," said Capt Halford-Macleod. "E-blueys arrive within 24 to 48 hours. Even snail mail has been fantastic, blueys normally getting here within a week."

"Mail is a major issue because soldiers live for the arrival of letters and parcels, and the Postal and Courier Service does everything it can to keep it coming."

Naafi's EFI has expanded its operation, with stores at Al Amarah, Basra International airport and Umm Qasr. A shop-cafeteria was due to open at Basra Palace and a mobile shop will soon be doing the rounds.

"We know there have been teething problems with the welfare package and there are things that need improving," said Capt Halford-Macleod. "But you can't arrive in an operational theatre and expect everything to be perfect. It takes time to put things in place. Soldiers have been very patient. When 20 Brigade arrives facilities will be even better."

**Cpl Andy Nolan,
A Sqn, Light Dragoons**

We're based in a troop house and the facilities are non-existent. It takes good soldiering just to keep on top of your hygiene here. The toilet is a wooden hole in the ground and the shower is a hose pipe which is switched on twice a day. It's a case of first come, first served. Otherwise we use a jerrycan.



**SSgt Davey Watters,
Master Chef, Umm Qasr**

I'm very happy with the set-up of the TDA, which has a nice cool room to sleep in and nice showers. I was expecting sand everywhere but it's clean and tidy. The design of the first cookhouse was too small, so we've re-organised it. Good food makes a big difference to morale. It's my aim to produce the best scoff in-theatre.

**Pte Rob Franklin,
4 Regt RMP**

Facilities are great, especially when you consider where we are. Air-conditioning makes a big difference. I'd score the welfare package eight out of ten.



**Sgt Lee Parnell,
49 Fd Sqn (EOD) RE**

The food is great. You'd be proud of the standard of it in the UK, never mind in the middle of the desert. Washing facilities are very good – we have ISO containers with showers, sinks and toilets. There's a pretty good gym and most days we get the chance to use it.

**LCpl Chris Moore,
A Sqn, Light Dragoons**

We get fresh rations once a week and do our own cooking. The toilet is a Portaloo we made ourselves. The mail is spot on. When we are out on patrol for nine days at a time we bring a satellite telephone so we can use our weekly 20-minute phonecards.



**Sgt Joe Jones,
49 Fd Sqn (EOD) RE, Shaibah**

We've just had air-con come on line. I don't think a 20-minute phone card is enough. The accommodation we're in is OK. The tents have solar shields to reduce the heat. I thought it would have been a lot worse.





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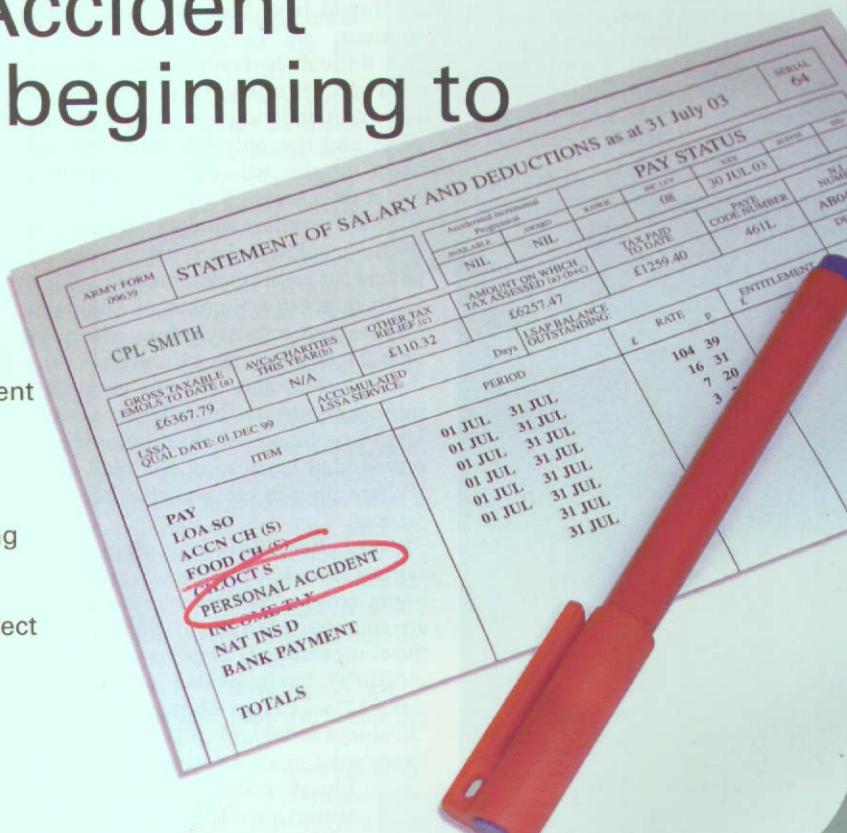


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Picture: Cpl Will Craig

Iraq-bound: Members of A Company, 2 LI check their kit at Alexander Barracks, Cyprus

Extra battalions head for Basra

AN extra 1,500 British soldiers have been deployed to the Gulf and more could be on the way.

Troops from the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry and the 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets were the first called forward to satisfy immediate requirements for two battalions.

Additional specialist personnel, vehicles and equipment were also deployed to fulfil the rapidly expanding range of tasks required of UK forces in the Multi-National Division (South East).

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said the decision had been taken "in light of the evolving security situation and the increasing military tasks arising out of the reconstruction efforts in the south of the country".

A review of force strength is under way and the full scale of the requirement is still being developed. There is the possibility that more troops will follow in the coming weeks.

Soldiers from 2 LI will join their company already in-theatre. Their role will involve supporting current operations, and offering additional protection to Iraq's interim government.

Supported by specialist personnel and equipment, 1 RGJ soldiers will be used to increase force protection, accelerate the training of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps and to improve the British Forces' information gathering capability.

Real progress has been made in southern Iraq over the past few months by the 11,000 British troops operating there. Coalition forces continue to support Iraqi leaders nationally and at a local level. The Iraqi Governing Council is becoming more effective and the recent appointment of Iraqi departmental ministers was seen as an encouraging sign.

Units deployed in Iraq include:

3 (UK) Armoured Division

HQ and 3 Division Signal Regiment; 3 Regt RMP; 3 CS Regt RLC; 3 CS Med Regt RAMC; 5 Bn REME.

Elements from 5 Regt RA; 7 Sig Regt; 14 Sig Regt; 30 Sig Regt; 3 GS Regt RLC; 4 GS Med Regt RAMC; EER; Tyne Tees.

19 (UK) Mechanized Brigade

19 Mech Brigade HQ and Signal Sqn; 1 QLR; 1 KOSB; 1 Kings; 40 Regt RA; 38 Engr Regt; 2 LI; 1 RGJ.

Elements from LD; 2 RTR; R Mon RE (M).

National Support Element

101 Log Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 27 Tpt Regt RLC, 9 Sp Regt RLC, 168 Pnr Regt RLC, 4 Regt RMP, 33 Fd Hosp RAMC.

Elements from 17 Port and Maritime Regt RLC, 29 Regt RLC, 11 (EOD) Regt RLC, 1 PC Service Gp.

Other units

4 Regt AAC; 33 Engr Regt EOD; 39 Engr Regt (AS); 42 Engr Regt (Geo); Military Works Force.

● **Op Telic reports in Pages 17, 18, 19, 21**

Four more soldiers die in Iraq

THREE Royal Military Police soldiers were killed when the vehicle they were travelling in was attacked by gunmen in central Basra on the morning of August 23.

Maj Matt Titchener, 32, OC 150 Provost Company RMP, CSM Colin Wall, 34, also of 150 Pro Coy, and Cpl Dewi Pritchard, 35, a TA soldier serving with 116 Pro Coy (Volunteers), were killed and another soldier was seriously injured.

Lt Col Bill Warren, senior RMP officer in Basra said: "I am deeply saddened by this tragic event. These soldiers have been a credit to the RMP and have made a significant contribution to the rebuilding of the local police force in the region.

"This incident will not deter us from our mission and we will continue to work closely with our Iraqi colleagues to seek out those responsible for this criminal act and bring them to justice."

In a separate incident, Fus Russell Beeston, 26, of the 52nd Lowland Regiment (Volunteers), was killed and another soldier wounded after coming under fire in the village of Ali As Sharqi following a successful arrest operation in southern Iraq on August 27.

The soldiers, part of a convoy of troops from the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, were returning to their base in Al Amarah when they were diverted through the village of Ali As Sharqi and confronted by a crowd. While attempting to separate the crowd and withdraw, the soldiers came under small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade attack. A quick-reaction force was flown to the scene by RAF Chinook.

Fus Beeston, a TA soldier in 52 Lowland, was attached to 1 KOSB. Acting CO Maj George Wilson said: "Despite receiving immediate medical attention from his comrades while under fire Fus Beeston died from his wounds. He was a well-liked and respected soldier, highly regarded by his peers."

The deaths brought to 31 the number of British soldiers killed in Iraq since the start of the war.



Maj Titchener



Cpl Pritchard



CSM Wall



Fus Beeston

Aldershot farewell



New home: Officers and men of the **7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery** raised their flag in Colchester last month after saying farewell to Aldershot, their base for the past 47 years. Led by commanding officer Lt Col Duncan Francis, they took their leave of the Hampshire town with a parade through North Camp and an 18-gun salute. The regiment, which will move into Kirkee and McMunn Barracks, vacated by 19th Regiment RA earlier this year, is part of 16 Air Assault Brigade, which has its headquarters and the majority of its troops in Colchester and East Anglia.

Moving into the Airborne Gunners' former home in Lille Barracks in Aldershot is the 1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards. Picture: Graeme Main

Underwater Belize



Deep thoughts: **Capt Chris Jarvill RE**, from the Defence Diving School at Portsmouth, hovers above the reef at Gallows Point, the outer part of St George's Caye off Belize, during a 17-day sub-aqua expedition by ten experienced divers.



New boys on the block: Maj Gen Peter Wall, GOC 1st (UK) Armoured Division, inspects soldiers of 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) at Waterbeach, Cambs. The new regiment was formed in January to provide an engineer capability for 16 Air Assault Brigade. Commanded by Lt Col Chris Tickell, the regiment has four squadrons, based at Waterbeach, Aldershot, Chatham and Ripon, which will provide command and control, logistic support, a recce capability, close engineer support and combat support.

Front-line support faces big overhaul

A STUDY of logistic support to the Armed Forces concluded that change is needed to better meet the needs of front-line operational commanders and the demands of expeditionary warfare.

Announcing the results of the The End-to-End Review, Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said operational experience, including the war in Iraq, had shown there was clear scope for providing better logistic support to Servicemen and women in the front line.

There is an acknowledgement that too often materials required in a theatre of operations have failed to arrive on time or in the right place.

Key points in the review include:

- Logistic support should be configured for the most likely operational scenario but must have the flexibility to cope with the most demanding.

- Support facilities should be concentrated where they can deliver the Armed Forces' needs as effectively, flexibly and efficiently as possible.

- The supply chain should be streamlined to reduce excess capacity and duplication.

- A permanent, joint operation should be set up to deliver a single supply chain for operations, driven by the priorities and requirements of the operational commander. The organisation would be responsible for ensuring the right things go into the supply pipeline in the right order and priority, and emerge in the right place in theatre.

- Deployed logistic support should be kept to the minimum necessary to achieve the task, drawing resources back to where they can be used most effectively.

IN BRIEF

● **Padre Brian Milson** has received the Canadian Armed Forces Peacekeeping Service Medal in recognition of his time in Bosnia with the Canadian Army. "We were lulled to sleep by the nightly serenade of Serbian gunfire," he said of his time in Visoko in 1993-94. On leaving the Canadian forces in 1998 Padre Milson joined the

RACChD. He and his family are now based with 9 Regiment RLC at Hullavington.

● Ambassadors from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen joined **Maj Gen Arthur Denaro** at the Tank Museum at Bovington for a first reunion with the crew mem-

Police team up on 'troop' line

Military and civilian forces will work to prevent anti-social behaviour, theft, terrorism around Catterick

ROYAL Military Police and British Transport Police in the north of England have joined forces to oversee a stretch of main railway line at the centre of one of the largest concentrations of troop movements in Britain.

Darlington-based BTP personnel and RMPs from Catterick have established links to make the East Coast line through North Yorkshire a safer place.

"This is about making sure Army personnel, particularly recruits at the Infantry Training Centre, can travel safely," said Sgt Brendan McMahon, who is with the crime reduction unit of 150 Provost Company, 3rd Regiment RMP. "We are also there to see that other passengers and rail staff are not inconvenienced by untoward or unseemly behaviour by soldiers.

"Many recruits assume that once they are out of the garrison area they are no longer subject to Army regulations. This helps to remind them that we have a national remit," said Sgt McMahon.

"When soldiers meet up on the station or train they often forget what's going on around them. Groups of soldiers are generally easily identified and can become targets for terrorists, thieves or other undesirable elements."

The terrorist threat is an ever-present consideration at Darlington, which is one of the BTP's Operation Alert stations, with a special counter-terrorist security regime in place. But the most immediate threat, said Sgt McMahon, was from opportunist thieves, who

often targeted young soldiers. Recruits and students are the victims in a quarter of thefts in Darlington.

"Many people are taking home uniform as well as military ID and personal possessions. They get on the train, stow their gear at the end of the carriage and leave it there. They just don't think it can happen to them, but it can and does."

Meanwhile, the British Transport Police are keen for Service personnel



Teamwork: Darlington-based Sgt Mick Turnbull, left, of the British Transport Police, and Sgt Brendan McMahon, of the Royal Military Police at Catterick Garrison, stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a new partnership to police the busy railways on the main East Coast line

using the rail system to feed intelligence via the RMP.

Joint patrols were trialled last Christmas at Darlington station. "The result was that over that period there were no complaints. Now we are mounting joint patrols on trains as well," said transport policeman PC Dave Meadowcroft.

● BTP freephone 0800 405040

bers with whom he shared a tank while commanding The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars during the 1991 Gulf War. Their Challenger 1, now restored to full working order, is part of the museum's extensive collection.

● Disabled teenager Gary Duggan from

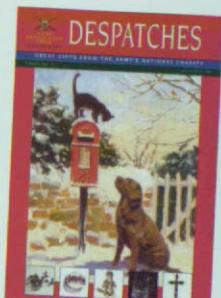
Newtownabbey in Northern Ireland travelled to Kent for a fun-packed day at 1 RSME, Brompton Barracks, Chatham. He and forces' favourite Nell McAndrew – were entertained by members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The day was organised by Sgt John Old of the Chatham careers office.

Carly's charity dive



Two's company: Carly Shaw was one of 21 wives and girlfriends of members of 9 Parachute Squadron RE who completed tandem jumps at Netheravon to raise more than £1,250 for the Army Benevolent Fund, BLESMA and the Breast Cancer Campaign. She parachuted in tandem with Flt Sgt Steve Thomas RAF, from RAF St Mawgan. The Army Parachute Association laid on the event at the Joint Service Parachute Centre at Netheravon. Carly's husband, LCpl Al Shaw, is serving with the squadron in Aldershot.

● The "new and improved" ABF gift catalogue, *ABF Despatches*, is now available and, as a special promotion for *Soldier* readers, the ABF is giving away a long-sleeved H&I thermal Windstoppers top by Gore-Tex, worth £44.99. The first 100 people to order the catalogue by phoning 01608 647451 or e-mailing abfe@btconnect.com (quote *Soldier*) will go in the hat. First name out wins the top, which is available in black, sand or green and in sizes s, m, l, xl and xxl.



Half-price ferry fares for D-Day vets next June

D-DAY veterans will be given half-price fares on P&O Ferries to help them travel to Normandy in June to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1944 landings.

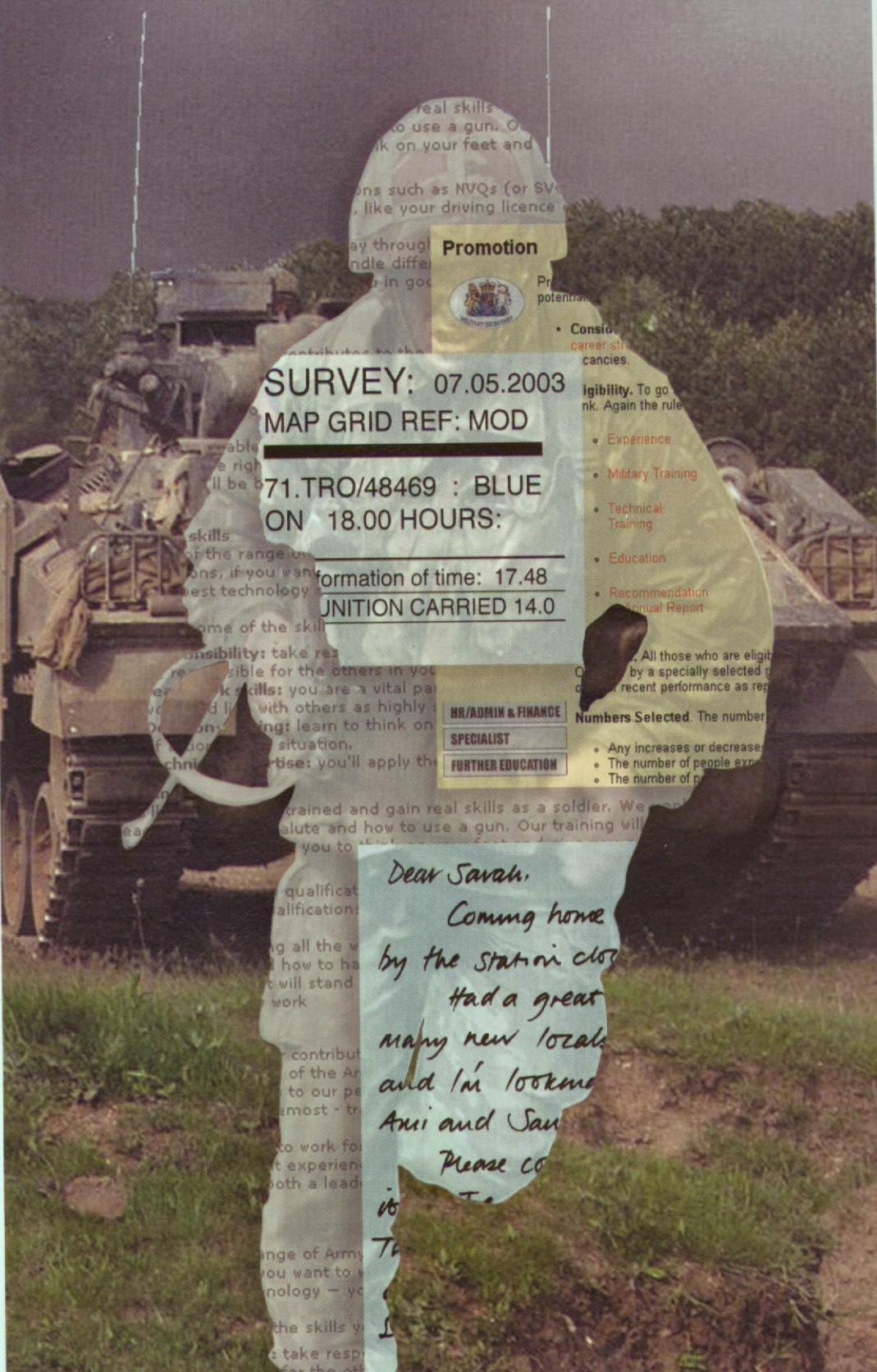
Free passports will also be available to veterans who want to go to the anniversary or other Second World War ceremonies.

The discount will apply to group passenger and coach fares on all Dover-Calais, Portsmouth-Le Havre and Portsmouth-Cherbourg services from June 1 to 15. It does not apply to on-board accommodation on overnight crossings.

Applications should be made on the appropriate veterans' association headed stationery to Terry Weller, Coach and Contract Services Manager, P&O Ferries Ltd, Channel House, Channel View Road, Dover CT17 9TJ or to him by e-mail to terry.weller@POferries.com

Details are also on www.POferries.com

Assaulting the objective was the easy part ...



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

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

Can you help?

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

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

If you have skills to share, and can offer your help -

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Big parade: More than 700 junior soldiers aged 16 and 17 marched in front of relatives and friends at Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate to mark their graduation from the Army Foundation College.

The parade, which is only exceeded in numbers by the Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards, was inspected by Maj Gen David Richards, Assistant Chief of the Gen-

eral Staff and marked with a drop-in appearance by the Red Devils parachute display team.

College commanding officer Lt Col Guy Deacon and his staff watched 714 students from Waterloo, Cambrai and Peninsula Companies parade under the command of JRSM Seth Taylor, 17, who escorted Gen Richards on parade.

Picture: Chris Barker

R Irish take to the waterways

SOLDIERS from the Joint Operations Support Platoon (JOSP) of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, have an unusual role. They are the only infantry unit to be equipped with Mk 2 rigid raider boats, usually the preserve of the Royal Marines and Royal Engineers.

The platoon is able to deploy rapidly across the Fermanagh lakelands, mounting long-range patrols to thwart terrorist movement throughout the county.

Capt Simon Holden, officer commanding the JOSP, said: "The terrorist threat demands an ability to deploy rapidly and in an unpredictable manner. We offer great variety – one day the troops could be

inserted via fast-roping from a helicopter, another they could be speeding across the Fermanagh lakes and rivers."

The boats are an invaluable resource not only for waterways patrols, but also for allowing troops to leap ashore onto adjacent roads to mount surprise "dolphin" checkpoints.

Soldiering remains a very serious business in Fermanagh, with the greatest threat emanating from dissident republicans. In February a device left outside Enniskillen town hall was followed by a significant arms find in Donagh. More recently a 1,200lb bomb was defused by the Army in Londonderry in 8 Brigade's area.

A for effort

BRITISH Forces Germany students outperformed UK pupils with their best-ever AS and A-Level results. They increased their pass rate to 96 per cent, against 95.4 per cent in Britain.

Pioneers on the range

SOLDIERS from 170 Pioneer Squadron, part of Support Battalion, HQ ARRC, have refurbished one of the oldest training areas in Germany. They demolished dilapidated parts of Haltern ranges before rebuilding it. The pioneers regularly use Haltern, so were happy to use their artisan skills to improve it.

Gurkha radio expands

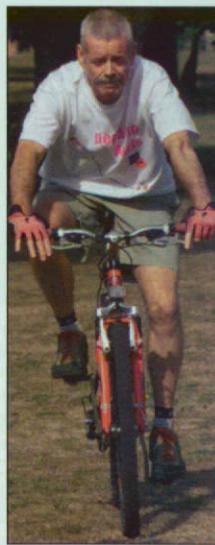
TWO years after its launch, the BFBS Gurkha radio station at the Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, has extended its boundaries by relaying live by satellite to locations as varied as Bosnia and Brunei. The service is also available on the internet. The local listening audience has been boosted by the arrival of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.

Dad's long ride is tribute to son who died in Iraq

THE father of a soldier killed in action in Basra in April is cycling 280 miles from London to Paris in memory of his son.

Curly Turrington, pictured, who works at the Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn, hopes to raise funds for the Royal British Legion in memory of 18-year-old Fus Kelan Turrington, who died in action in Basra on April 6 while serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Curly was being joined on his long ride by two Bassingbourn colleagues, Capt Adam Briggs of Templar Company, and civil servant Jamie Lidlow.



Forces radio to tackle issue of drinking culture

WHY is alcohol such a serious problem in the Army and society in general and what is being done to alter the drinking culture that has led to the death, from alcohol abuse, of 44 British soldiers in five years?

These controversial issues will be aired on Forces Action Focus on BFBS Radio 2 on October 8 at 1830 UK time.

The programme will also give the Army the chance to respond to Channel 4's "Squaddies on the rampage" programme, criticised by the head of Army media operations in Cyprus as "scurrilous and unbalanced" in the September issue of *Soldier*.

Farewell to Munster

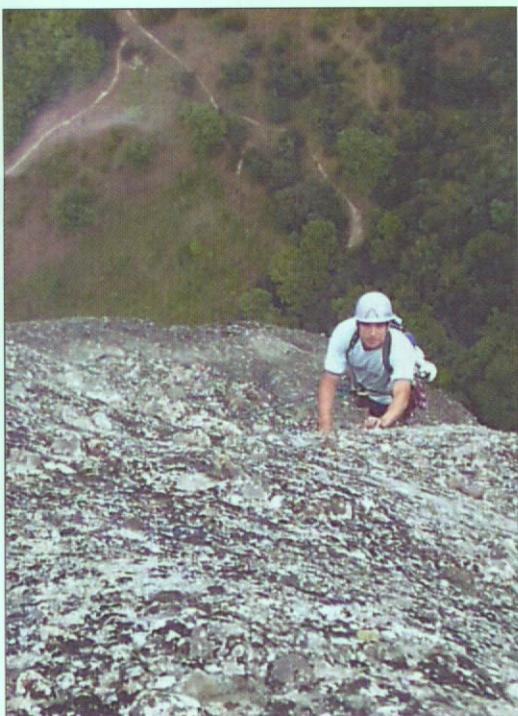
SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards bade farewell to Munster to mark the end of their five years in Osnabrück Garrison. The battalion, which will take up ceremonial duties in London after a short tour in Northern Ireland, is to be replaced by the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards.

ATR in strip search



Kit stop: Soldiers from the Army Training Regiment Lichfield and 30 Signal Regiment pose with Aston Villa stars Lee Hendrie and Jlloyd Samuel, centre, after picking up home and away strips to send to young Iraqi footballers. They have been collecting football shirts from clubs all over the country. Pictured with Lee and Jlloyd are LCpl Trev Reilly, Cpl Justine Graham, Cpl Aaron Reece, LCpl Leon Bradley, Spr Olly Rowell, LCpl Lee Jones and Sgt Eddie Gajny. Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis said: "I'm delighted we could play our part." Picture: Stuart Bingham

A long way down



Going up: A climber on an expedition completed by all 14 soldiers drawn from all ranks of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment scales the 1,000ft Heiliger Geist above the village of Kastraki in central Greece. The Meteora region boasts about 170 separate rock towers.



Conflict to conservation

A FORMER Army sangar, above, at a security force base in South Armagh is now serving an altogether more benign purpose... it has been turned into a research station for one of the province's top marine biologists.

Dr Sue Wilson, of the Saintfield-based wildlife group Seal Research, says that despite the military presence at Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinler, which includes a fully-operational firing range, the seals off its beaches are safer than anywhere else. "Ballykinler," she says, "is unique in Northern Ireland in that it offers the seals a habitat that gives little or no contact with humans."

Range liaison officer Maj Stewart Hudson, left, said the sangar would aid research into a host of creatures in addition to seals. The one pictured above, inset, is a gray seal photographed in the water off Ballykinler beach.



Armoured Land Rovers sail from Belfast to Iraq

ARMoured Land Rovers being held in reserve in Northern Ireland, or not currently being used in the province, have been sent to southern Iraq.

The 178 military vehicles, which were loaded on to a commercial ferry in Belfast port on September 11, will provide much-needed and potentially life-

saving protection to Army patrols deployed on Operation Telic.

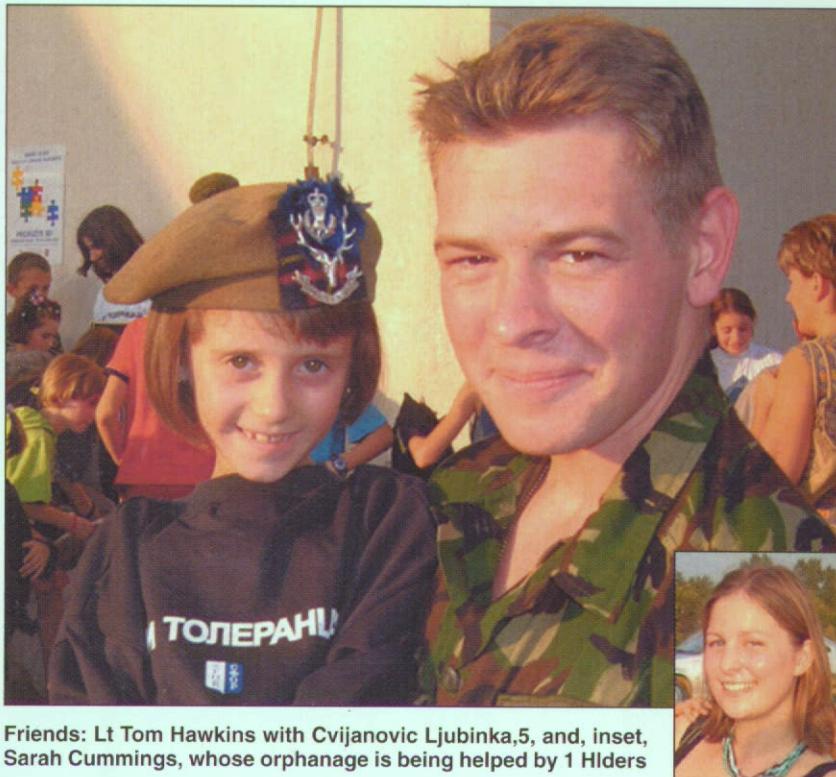
"We are pleased to help our colleagues serving in Iraq," said an Army spokesman. "A review and re-distribution of our vehicle stock in Northern Ireland has enabled us to release these vehicles."

IN BRIEF

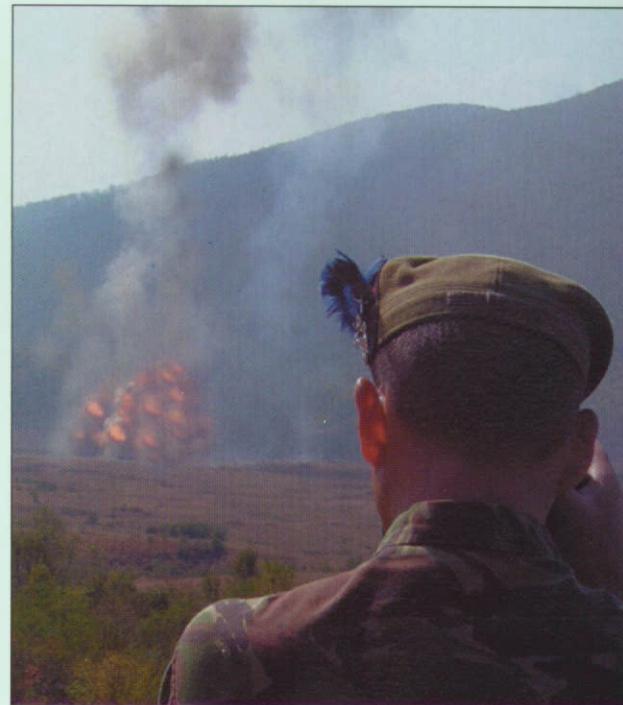
• SSgt John Gilbert, right, an instructor with Norfolk Army Cadet Force, retires next month at the age of 65 having spent 50 years in uniform, almost all of it associated with Norfolk. He joined the county cadets in 1953 and completed his National Service in The Royal Norfolk Regiment and The Suffolk Regiment. He then served in the Terri-

torial Army until the age of 55 before rejoining the cadets as an instructor. John was presented with a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate by **Brig Simon Carrafi**, Commander 49 Brigade.





Friends: Lt Tom Hawkins with Cvijanovic Ljubinka, 5, and, inset, Sarah Cummings, whose orphanage is being helped by 1 Hldrs



Going up: Lt Col Tim Lai, CO 1 Hldrs, watches as a tonne of confiscated high explosive is blown up

Midnight drama is all in day's work for Scots

THE sight of a pistol-wielding, blood-splattered civilian, supported by his distraught wife, staggering towards the main gate at the Bosnian base of 1st Battalion, The Highlanders presented Cpl George Smart with a midnight stag he will not forget in a hurry.

Deploying his reserve in the shadows while he assessed the situation, Cpl Smart quickly realised the man was badly-wounded.

A dispute over a garden boundary had escalated into a near-fatal shooting, an all-too-common occurrence in a country still awash with weapons.

Regimental doctor Capt Nick Jeffery was quickly on the scene at Mrkonjic Grad to stabilise the wounded civilian and transfer him to hospital. It was testament to the reputation built by 1 Hldrs and Capt Jeffery, who runs clin-

ics for local people, that the family had turned to the British Army for help.

Meanwhile, an orphanage run by Scottish VSO volunteer Sarah Cummings from Forfar has been helped by the Highlanders.

Seventy war-orphaned children from Babanovici were given footballs, pens, pencils, notebooks and two computers after troops drove past their building.

"We were on a routine route-clearance through the village when a very animated lass came running up babbling in a strange tongue," said Lt Tom Hawkins. "Luckily we had a few teuchars in the patrol who were able to identify the language as Forfarese."

"I can't thank the Highlanders enough," said Sarah. "These kids will always remember the soldiers from Scotland."



Cpl George Smart

Jocks intercept massive haul of deadly ordnance

SOLDIERS of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, who are due to return to Edinburgh this month after a tour of duty in Bosnia, signed off by finding and destroying a massive cache of illegal arms.

About 25 tonnes of war materiel was seized in dawn raids codenamed Operation Timberwolf. The swoops, on locations ranging from hill-top to urban lock-ups, followed months of painstaking intelligence work. Weapons, including artillery pieces, and 100,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,000 mortar bombs, 300 anti-tank mines and 1,000 rifle grenades were found.

The operation began as autumn set in, with Jocks spending two weeks living rough in the mountains to man observation posts.

Maj Chris Bremner said: "For some time we've been monitoring a network of extremists who just want to go back to the bad old days. Sfor has emasculated them, but they keep big stockpiles of weapons in the hills, waiting for the day the West goes home. It's those weapons we've taken out."

● The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, opened the **Worcestershire Soldier Gallery** in the City Art Gallery and Museum, Worcester. She was greeted by a fanfare from trumpeters of the Clive Band of the Prince of Wales's Division and by Pte Derby XXVII, the regimental mascot.

● A ceremony was held to mark the 60th anniversary of **660 Squadron**, a training unit of the tri-Service Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury in north Shropshire. Disbanded in 1994 and re-formed three years later, the squadron operates Squirrel helicopters to provide basic training for students at the flying school.

● Latest figures published by the Defence Analytical Services Agency show there were 13,990 full-time trained officers in the Army and 88,530 trained other ranks on July 1, a deficit of 280 officers and 4,490 ORs on the trained requirement. The figures do not include those in training. In each of the last five quarters the percentage of females has risen.

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WO2 Russ du Lieu, left, and WO1 Ron Watkins, of 7 Regiment, Army Air Corps (Volunteers), based at Netheravon, out-flew 39 other teams to win the British Helicopter Championships at St Neots, Cambs, over three days of competition between military and civilian flyers. Last year the two Territorial Army pilots finished second. They also won the Bronze Grouse Slalom Trophy for navigating a bucket of water on the end of a five-metre rope through a series of obstacles. Ron, the pilot, could not see the bucket and depended on navigator Russ for instructions. It was the first time a 7 AAC (V) team had won the title. Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble

Garrison Radio in line for prize

GARRISON Radio has been short-listed for an independent local radio award for a religious programme produced by its Catterick station.

The programme, titled "The Meaning of Easter", was produced by Chris Marsden with Padre Grant Ashton, senior chaplain with 19 Mechanized Brigade, currently on operations in Iraq.

The Easter on ILR (Independent Local Radio) awards encourage stations to broadcast a special feature on Good Friday. Since it was introduced nine years ago, the award has generated 2,500 minutes of contemporary Easter broadcasting. Chris Mars-

den said: "Just to get a nomination is an award in itself. Grant and I saw this production as a great way of placing religion alongside the British Army and I believe we achieved that... and will continue to do so every week."

"I also see it as a great pat on the back for Garrison Radio and the great job it does for the soldiers and families of the British Army."



Peru trekkers

High road: Four members of a 12-strong expedition from the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment prepare for three weeks of trekking in Peru, where they were planning to visit Machu Picchu.

Pictured are, top, Lt Michael Kearns, left, and Pte Danny Allen, and, kneeling, LCpl Mark Jones, left, and Pte James Rodden.

Tidworth-based 1 Staffords spent six months last winter on an operational tour in Kosovo.

Paper talk

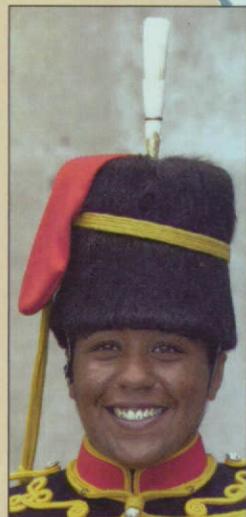
What the Press has been saying

● An urgent review of immigration laws could lead to former Gurkhas who served with the British Army being treated as special cases. The move comes as increasing numbers turn to the asylum system to claim naturalisation after their military service ends. — Times

● The true scale of American casualties in Iraq is revealed by new figures obtained by *The Observer*, which show that more than 6,000 American Servicemen have been evacuated for medical reasons since the beginning of the war, including more than 1,500 soldiers who have been wounded, many seriously. — *Observer*

● The use of private healthcare by the MoD has risen sharply over the past 15 months, underlining the severe shortages in the Armed Forces' medical services. — *Financial Times*

● Nineteen-year-old Gnr Janna Scantlebury, right, of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, overcame her fear of horses to join the Queen's mounted bodyguard. — *Sun*
(Picture: Arthur Edwards)



● One of the first Victoria Crosses to be awarded during the First World War is expected to fetch up to £90,000 at a London auction. It was won by LCpl Frederick Holmes of the 2nd Battalion, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on August 26, 1914. — *Daily Telegraph*

● Veteran comic Sir Norman Wisdom, 88, unveiled a Cheltenham Civic Society plaque at the Carlton Hotel, previously known as the Moray House Hotel, where he was billeted from 1943 to 1945 while serving as a soldier in the Royal Signals. — *Express on Sunday*

● Britain's nuclear bunkers are going on the property market as potential homes, with prices ranging from £5,000 to £200,000. — *Daily Express*

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Troops on volatile ground

British units operate in 'difficult' province

Report: Andrea Frazer
Pictures: Mike Weston

MAYSAN province, like most of southern Iraq, was badly neglected during the years of Saddam Hussein's rule.

Tribal in-fighting and feuds, which surface on a daily basis, have added to the region's problems, creating a demanding and dangerous operational environment.

As soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and elements from A Sqn, The Light Dragoons and A Coy, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment quickly discovered, the battle for the hearts and minds of people in this area is not easy.

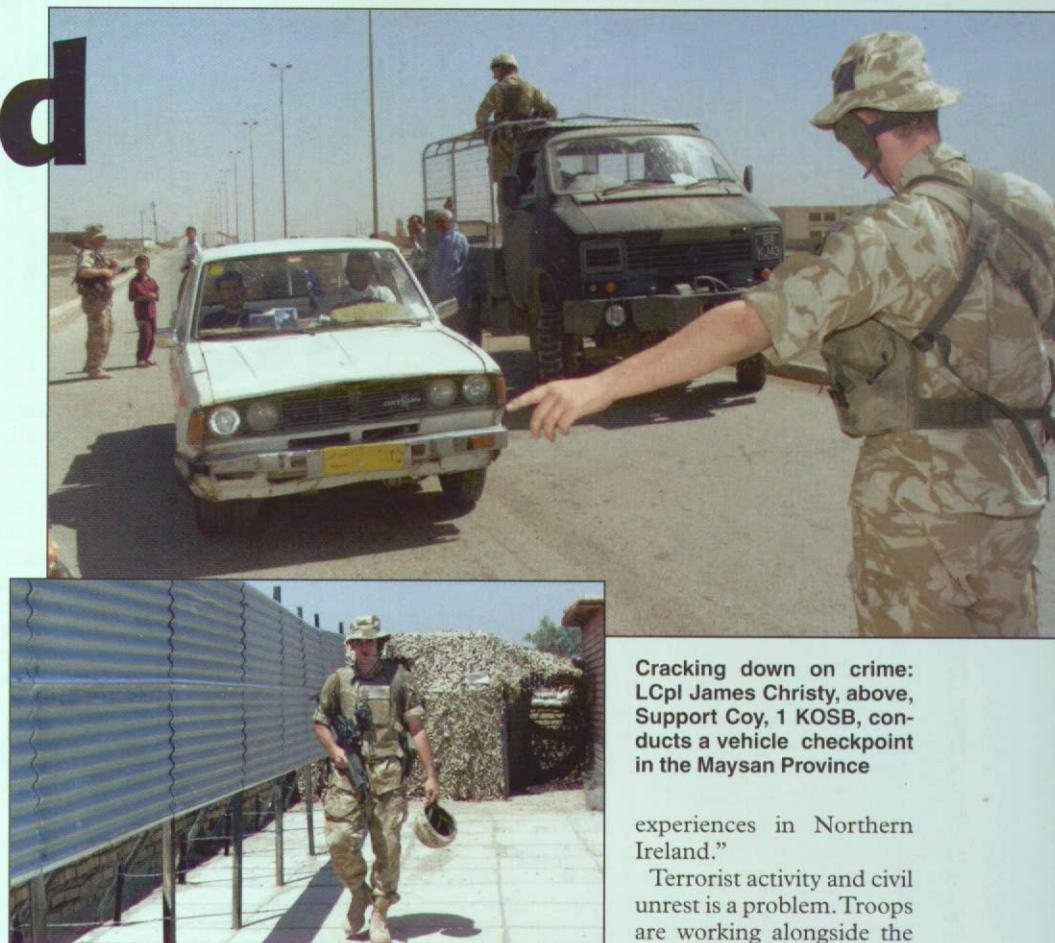
Lt Col Mark Castle, CO 1 KOSB, said: "The situation in Maysan appears benign on the surface but tensions in the area can be whipped up quickly. Commanders need to be close to the pulse of the population to detect any changes in atmosphere. It is a volatile society and situations can explode within minutes.

"We are slowly building relationships and encouraging people to alert us to issues before they get out of control.

"We need the goodwill and consent of



On the ground: Cpl Des Foster, Support Coy, 1 KOSB, on patrol in Ali Ash Sharqi. Troops' presence reassures locals



Covered from view: Kgn Jason Dane, 1 Kings, returns from guard duty at Al Majarr al Kabir. Additional force protection measures have been put into place by sappers

local people to do our job." Public services have been under-resourced for 20 years, infrastructure is broken and patience is running out.

"They see us as the nations which put men on the moon so naturally their hopes are high in terms of what we can achieve," said Lt Col Castle.

The job specification for British forces in southern Iraq is long and complicated. The sheer scale of the tasks ahead is immense and troops shoulder much weight in both G5 – civil and military cooperation – and G3 – operations and training – related tasks. They are expected to be all things to all people.

"Soldiers grow up very quickly here," said Maj Andy Pullan, OC A Coy, 1 Kings. "In a day here you can witness a whole tour's worth of

Cracking down on crime: LCpl James Christy, above, Support Coy, 1 KOSB, conducts a vehicle checkpoint in the Maysan Province

experiences in Northern Ireland."

Terrorist activity and civil unrest is a problem. Troops are working alongside the Iraqi police and the community to track down those responsible, making arrests, conducting searches and confiscating weapons and bomb-making equipment.

Joint patrols, vehicle checkpoints and a robust information operation campaign are being used in a crackdown on crime. Soldiers protect fuel tankers, power lines and other key elements of the infrastructure, while the training and monitoring of the Iraqi police force is ongoing.

British forces and the Coalition Provisional Authority work closely with town and city councils and the province's interim government. Encouraging local communities to take responsibility for themselves is seen as key to success.

Military government support teams are out on the ground, talking to people, identifying projects to re-build the infrastructure, provide employment, get the economy moving and help regenerate the region.

Maj Kevin Connor, 1 KOSB said: "We must not underestimate the challenge faced by the Iraqis in adapting to a democracy after years living under a dictatorship, and their difficulty in understanding the true meaning of freedom when all they really knew was fear."

Pivotal role for part-timers

Terriers prove they are much more than weekend warriors

TERRITORIAL Army and Reserve troops have been vital in the successes of coalition forces in Iraq. They account for a fifth of all British deployed personnel.

Brig Bill Moore, commander of 19 Mechanized Brigade, said: "The TA have integrated extremely well. Their operational experience gained in the Balkans and Afghanistan and, most importantly, the specialist skills and knowledge from their civilian jobs is invaluable."

"I have been very impressed at their professionalism and enthusiasm."

"This is just the sort of operation the TA should be used for and it has proven their value to the overall military cause."

Integrated at all levels of brigade and division, augmentees operate in a full cross-section of roles from staff officer to REME technician, from rifleman to medic and from driver to chef.

Their tour lengths depend on whether they are part of the brigade or are attached divisional troops. Brigade augmentees deployed in June and return to the UK in November. Divisional troops will remain until January. Numbers fluctuate from week to week as individuals are posted in and out.

Capt Alasdair Halford-Macleod, SO3 G1, 19 Mechanized Brigade, said: "There is no distinction between the TA and Regulars. Augmentees are not seen as TA but as part of 19 Mechanized Brigade. Operationally we are a one-tier army."

"Without the support of the TA, the brigade would be less effective."

The range of work undertaken by the TA in Iraq is staggering. Augmentees have taken the lead on the civil-military front and in some cases their civilian skills are being used to assist in rebuilding and regeneration work."

Bank role: Capt Ian Stott, C (PWRR) Coy, RRV, watches for signs of trouble from the Shatt al Arab as the banking and finance cell of the Coalition Provisional Authority resupplies Basra's central bank. Bankers, treasurers and auditors have been augmented to the cell and are working hard to pay Iraq's civil sector workers. Capt Stott, a G3 watchkeeper with 19 Mech Bde, works as an IT consultant in civvy street.



Maj Andrew Alderson
● Director of merchant bank
● Queen's Own Yeomanry, Coalition Provisional Authority (South)

"The CPA is the interim government. My role could be described as the temporary director for economic planning and development for the four provinces in southern Iraq.

"My remit covers anything from essential services such as oil, water and electricity, to trade and industry, to finance and culture."

"The CPA is the coalition's interface with the Iraqi people. Its role here to help put the Iraqi infrastructure back on its feet. Supporting the government is critical to economic development. We are here to advise, assist, facilitate and coordinate, empowering the local people to take responsibility for themselves."

"As soon as I start speaking Arabic, they can tell I am Lebanese, which helps to break down barriers."

"Apart from a week-long media course and one day's training in interview techniques, I had no previous media experience. It's been a huge learning curve, all of a sudden finding myself in front of the cameras."



Capt 'H' Halawi
● Project manager and Arabic tutor
● British Army spokesman for Arabic media
● Press Information Centre MND (SE), engaging with Arabic regional and national broadcast and print media and developing relationships.

"There is a huge interest among the Arabic media in what British forces have to say and it is vitally important for us to get our message across to the likes of Al Jazeera and Arabiya, which broadcast to Arabic audiences throughout the world."

"I am Lebanese and it helps to have a good understanding of the culture and the way people do things here. It's working well – the Arabic media now view me as their dedicated point of contact and they are listening to what we have to say."

"As soon as I start speaking Arabic, they can tell I am Lebanese, which helps to break down barriers."

"Apart from a week-long media course and one day's training in interview techniques, I had no previous media experience. It's been a huge learning curve, all of a sudden finding myself in front of the cameras."

On line: Sig Andrew Batten of 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn works on a distribution case with Sgt Bill Billiard, Cpl Matthew Bevan and Sig Pop Rivett, all telecommunication engineers in civvy street.

Fourteen engineers, managers and systems analysts have brought a wide range of experience from the communications industry to 81 Signal Squadron (V), the TA's specialist telephony unit augmenting 19 Mechanized Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron.

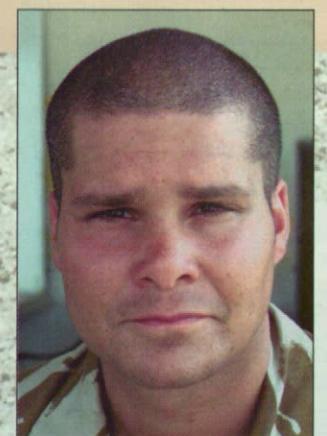
The signallers, who are responsible for the basic installation and maintenance of the military telephone system at Basra Palace, are regularly detached to support battle-groups and have also been working alongside the Iraqi public telephone staff to help install and upgrade the local phone system.



WO2 Jonathan Dyer
● Police officer/ former Regular soldier
● Civil Affairs Group
● 1 KOSB civil-military cooperation team, CIMIC, Al Amarah

"We are the shop-front for the British Army, acting in a government support role. We act as the military's interface with the local Iraqi community and provide a sign-posting service, advising them on where to get help."

"The job is massively varied. One minute we are being asked to help arrange an ambulance for a child with bullet wounds, the next we could be negotiating with a group of angry demonstrators. As a civil affairs officer, you use the civilian skills you've got and apply them to the military environment."



Pte Alex Daniels
● Police officer
● Driver augmenting 27 Regiment RLC

"I drive DROPS vehicles within the British area of operations, regularly covering distances of 600 to 800km a day. I spent ten days attached to the 19 Mechanized Brigade oil smuggling unit, patrolling the streets and petrol queues, trying to stop the black marketers, which used my skills from the police."

Sgt Paul Withers

● Facilities Manager
● Royal Engineers Bomb disposal team, 49 Fd Sqn EOD, Joint Force EOD Group

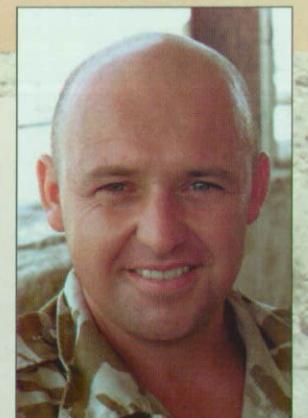
"The TA makes up a third of the overall strength of the group. We were mobilised in February and expect to be here for a year."

"We are working in a joint Service and multi-national environment. There are language barriers and different nationalities use different procedures, but it's working well."



Heavy gang: Soldiers of 2 Platoon, 5 Battalion REME recover the hull of an Iraqi tank for removal to a dump area. Giving hand signals is Sgt Geoff Hill, a police officer at Gatwick airport. He is supported Cpl Stuart Tribeling, a beer delivery driver, and Sgt Frank Moffatt, a Customs and Excise officer (150 Recovery Coy, 103 Bn). Sgt Stuart Ruffley (119 Recovery Coy, 101 Bn), who works as a service director in civvy street, is operating the crane.

Using Foden recovery vehicles, REME mechanics are deployed throughout southern Iraq to recover British military vehicles and clear the carcasses of Iraqi armour abandoned during the war.



Sgt Kevin Rogan

● Electrician
● Troop Admin Sergeant, 236 Sqn RLC

"I'm responsible for ensuring the soldiers' admin is squared away. I have also been using my civilian skills to wire the squadron HQ. Operating in this environment is a physical and mental challenge."

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View from Queen Victoria's Statue looking towards The Mall during the ceremony of Trooping the Colour of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Inset: WO2 (BGM) Tim Pallas, riding Constantine, leads the Band of The Life Guards down The Mall

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Flash to bang: Mortar Platoon, D (Manoeuvre Support) Coy, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, was called into action in Iraq for the first time since Korea in 1953. Their task was to provide illumination for a hostage-rescue operation. Three 432 mortar variant vehicles were loaded with ammunition and history was made as Kgn Simon Kelly became the first man in the battalion to fire an 81mm mortar round on operations in 50 years. The platoon has been involved in similar ops in recent weeks.

Pictured above from left are Kgn Lewis Royal, Cpl Mat Pennington, Sgt Gary Mayes and LCpl Mark Rowlands.

It's in the genes: Father and son Lt Gary Wilson and 18-year-old LCpl Shane Wilson of D Coy, 1 Kings, are serving in northern Basra. Missing from the photo, right, is eldest son LCpl Mark Wilson, who was on R and R. Youngest son Stephen, 17, joined the Army last month.



Check in: Personnel from 50 Movement Control Squadron, 29 Regiment RLC, operating the Air Transport Liaison Office at Basra International Airport, are responsible for processing about 1,100 military passengers and their baggage a week. Pictured above from left are Pte Anthea Toronibau, Pte Chris Jordan, Cpl Fiona Cherrett and Pte Paul Harris.



All angles covered: Every logistical asset in the British area of operations is comprised in 27 Composite Logistic Support Regiment based at Shaibah Airfield. Now the largest single British unit in Iraq, 27 Regt is a draw-down from the six logistic regiments originally in-theatre during Telic 1 and brings together 27 Log Sp Regt, 3 CS Regiment and 9 Sp Regt, and includes elements from 77 HQ Sqn, 8 Fuel Support Squadron, 93 Composite Supply Sqn, 236 General Transport Sqn, 32 Close Support Sqn, Postal and Courier Sqn, and the Joint Logistic Transport Force and Workshop.

Pictured above are Pte Richie Knevet, Cpl Laxman Tamang, Cpl Terry Pegg, Pte Ian Mulholland, Sgt Amanda Mattison, WO2 (SSM) Neil Whitewick, Pte Kofi Addo, Pte Karolina Filipi, Pte Chitra Gurung and Capt Lee Mears of 93 Composite Supply Sqn.



Exhibit A: SSgt Andy Connelly, left, of 174 Pro Coy search team, in front of a 10,000-tonne oil tanker, one of the biggest "articles" ever seized by the RMP. The ship, guarded in Umm Qasr port by 3 Troop, B Sqn, The Light Dragoons, was seized by a Royal Marines boarding party. Its crew was arrested for smuggling fuel.

Watchful eye: Sgt Tracey Bielby and Sgt William McCorkindale from 174 Pro Coy, 4 Regt RMP, supervise the British Forces Theatre Internment Facility, located at the US military establishment, Camp Bucca. Individuals who pose a threat to coalition forces are detained. Military police officers work with interpreters to register internees, supervise medical checks, conduct questioning, check numbers, and ensure there are no problems, following similar procedures adopted by MCTC Colchester.

Camp Bucca was named after a New York fire chief killed in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre.

Watching Beckham's back

Soldiers from Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards keep a close eye on Sven's men

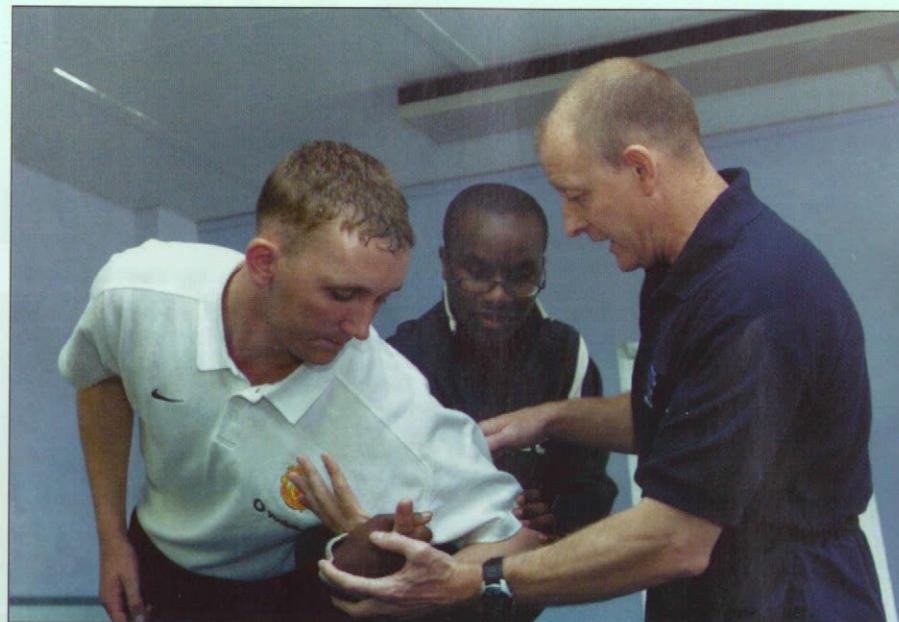
Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

WHEN Manchester United's most famous export returned to Old Trafford for England's crucial Euro 2004 qualifier against Liechtenstein last month, soldiers from Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards had a pitch-side view of the most famous name in world football... David Beckham.

But while most fans joined England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson in agonising over the prospect of his captain picking up a yellow card and subsequently missing the team's showdown with Turkey in Istanbul on October 11, the guardsmen had more pressing concerns than the tackling prowess of the Real Madrid midfielder.

Their presence in the stadium, dubbed the Theatre of Dreams by Manchester United fans, marked the final stages of a Professional Crowd Safety Security Operators Course run by Controlled Training Solutions (CTS), the sister company of Controlled Events Solutions (CES), who are managed by a team of former Service-men and provide security services to a number of Premiership clubs.

Having previously completed five classroom-based sessions, covering topics ranging from health and safety to control



Getting to grips with crowd safety: LCpl Antony Lorenzelli, left, and Gdsm Anthony Brown, centre, are taught control and restraint skills by CTS instructor Chris Robinson, former APTC

and restraint techniques, the soldiers were asked to put the theory of crowd management into practice and joined more than 500 other CES-trained security officers in and around Old Trafford.

With the international fixture taking place on the eve of the second anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks and attracting a sell-out crowd of 68,000 supporters, many of whom had spent the afternoon lubricating their singing voices with pints of lager, the match represented a suitably challenging assessment for the students.

"One hundred years of death and injury, culminating in Bradford, Hillsborough and Heysel in the 1980s, exposed the need for qualified and competent people to manage large crowds," explained Michael Halligan, formerly of the Royal Signals, who is now the director of training and development at CES.

"Our company's association and long-term contract with Manchester United means that in Old Trafford, the biggest club ground in the country, we have the best possible classroom for this type of course at our disposal.

"There is no substitute for hands-on experience and we can deliver that in abundance because we also have ties with other major venues like Aintree Race



Escorting England: LCpl Alan Parker, left, and LCpl Antony Lorenzelli, right, stand guard as David Beckham leads the national team on to the pitch

Course, Trent Bridge Cricket Ground and even Glastonbury.

"The course, which is awaiting BTEC approval, encompasses all of the modules of the Football Stewarding qualification, which has no official status outside of football, but is also designed to cover every sporting and non-sporting event you care to name," he said. "What we teach can be put into effect anywhere."

Before the big match kicked off, the guardsmen were charged with searching fans before giving them access to the ground and denying entry to any potential, alcohol-fuelled, troublemakers.

With supporters safely in their seats, the majority of the soldiers then took their match positions around the "bull-ring", the area separating the crowd from the playing surface.

While their colleagues kept their eyes peeled for any disturbances in the crowd or fans attempting to get on to the pitch, LCpl Antony Lorenzelli and LCpl Alan Parker took up positions in the players' tunnel – guarding the likes of Beckham, Wayne Rooney and Michael Owen, and

providing the stars with a trouble-free route to and from the changing room.

That things off the pitch went much smoother than they did for Sven's men on it (England laboured to a less than convincing 2-0 victory), came as no surprise to CES's managing director, former Royal Scot Henry Kirkland.

"Soldiers are ideal for this line of work," he said. "They turn up on time, dress smartly, listen to orders and act accordingly. "There is a certain level of discipline you buy into when you recruit or train a soldier.

"Being a security officer is all about giving direction, taking responsibility, using initiative and Service personnel tend to have those skills in abundance."

Indeed, Kirkland himself is testament to that fact and concedes that he still draws on the skills he garnered from more than two decades of military service.

"The security plan we employ at Old

There is a certain level of discipline you buy into when you recruit or train a soldier

◆ In addition to the Professional Crowd Safety Security Operators course, CTS also runs a Professional Close Protection Officer course. Anyone interested in further information on either course should e-mail admin@cts-group.org or visit the company's website, www.cts-group.org

Course critique

Gdsm Andrew Clarke

I saw the course as a good opportunity to pick up a very useful qualification that I would be able to put to good use if I ever decided to leave the Army. Security work like this is great if you're a fan of football or, like me, you enjoy providing members of the public with a valuable service.



LCpl Antony Lorenzelli

I'm a Manchester United fan so that was one of the reasons why I volunteered for the course. The qualification gives us the chance to put a bit of extra money in our pockets and is also something we can use when we leave the Army. It's been a bit of a steep learning curve but I have enjoyed it.



Gdsm Daniel Mitchell

The course appealed to me because I like football and there are very few jobs where you can get paid to watch sport. I also get a buzz out of looking after the security of people.



It is important to pick up as many qualifications as you can while you are in the Army and I feel that I have learnt a lot. Some of the control and restraint techniques we have been shown are good skills to have as a soldier.

Gdsm Lee Cope

The course gets a big thumbs up from me. I thoroughly enjoyed it and it is not every day you get paid to watch England play at Old Trafford.



In the future I can see myself doing some sort of security work in one form or another and this qualification should help me along the way.



LCpl Peter Bocock

Security comes as second nature to soldiers and I volunteered for the course to earn a bit of extra money. It is nice to know that on spare weekends, when I have got nothing else on, I can come and get involved in something like this. Having this qualification gives you the opportunity to be part of a big event.



LCpl Alan Parker

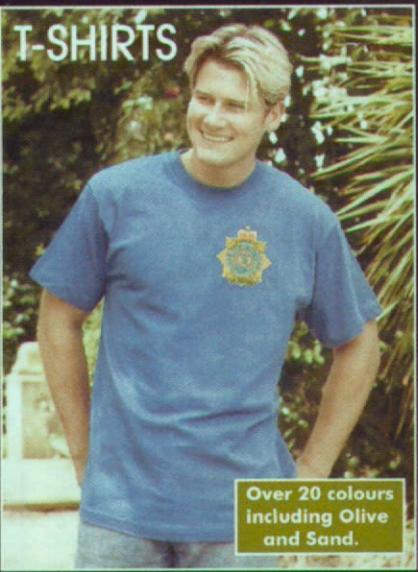
I'm a big sports fan and getting paid for watching a game of football can't be bad. I have learnt a lot and think it is great that the Army is beginning to think more and more about their soldiers acquiring civilian qualifications.



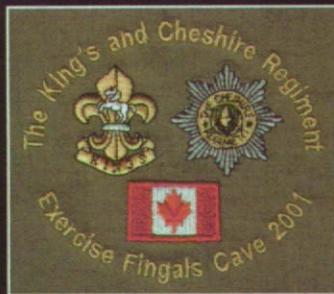
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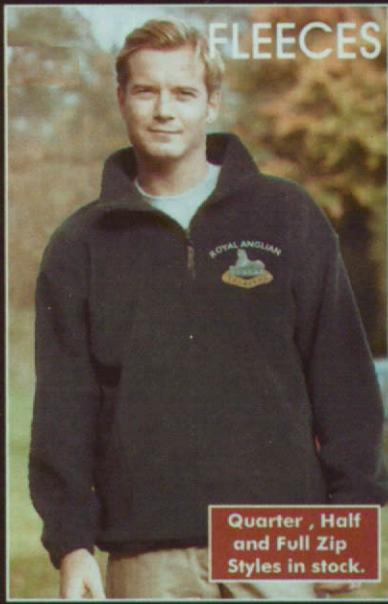


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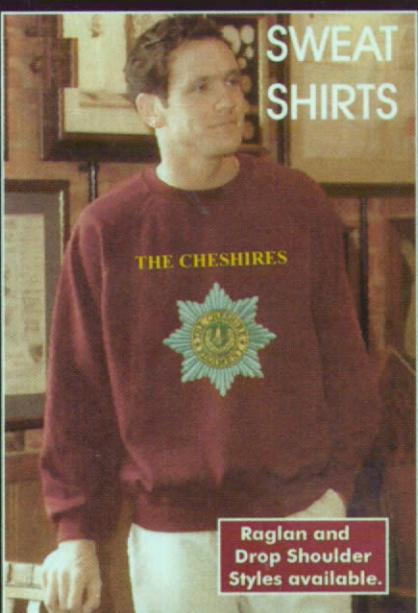
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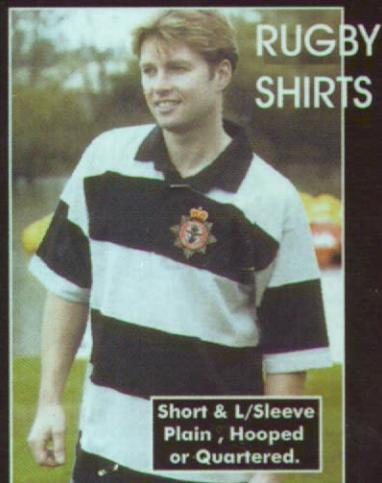
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Prairie power

THERE was a record entry of more than 50 images for the opening month of our photographic competition, which was won by Cpl Mick Dumbarton of 116 Provost Company RMP.

A permanent staff member at Batus in Canada, Mick's picture of a Queen's Royal Hussars Challenger 2 on a move-and-fire mission in May edged out runners-up SSgt Dave Turner, chief clerk of HQ (UK) NSE, with a shot of the sun rising over Umm Qasr in southern Iraq, and Capt John Roberts, of 28 Engr Regt, of a soldier on an exercise near Berlin.

Cpl Dumbarton's job as a VIP driver at Batus enabled him to get within 45m of the tank. Chief photographer Mike Weston said: "Although the image is not entirely sharp, this helps to create a feeling of movement, which is always difficult in stills photography. The Union flag adds an interesting splash of colour."

All pictures published in the magazine



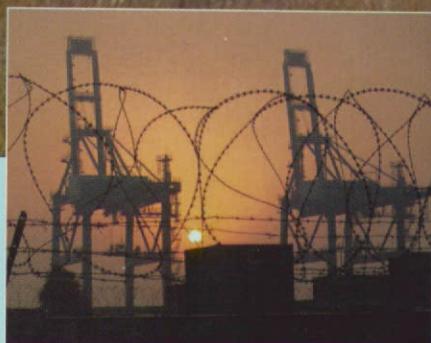
Winner: Cpl Mick Dumbarton's picture of a Challenger 2, above. Runners-up: Umm Qasr at dawn, right, by SSgt Dave Turner, and LCpl Cole RE carrying a GPMG on Klietz training area near Berlin, by Capt John Roberts, below

competition, which will run until February, will be judged for the £250 Soldier Award, one of the categories in the 2004 Army Photographic Competition.

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

Competition closing dates: November – October 6; December – November 3; January – December 1.

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



No way to pay off debts of £12,000

SHARON was the youngest of four children, all of them daughters. All she could remember was hand-me-downs.

She had never had new clothes and her toys had usually belonged to her elder sisters. Sharon was a bright girl, did well at school and was good with numbers.

It became clear when she met and moved in with Sgt J that she would manage the finances as it was an area in which he had little interest. In fact he left everything to her, leaving her to open the post and sign things she asked him to without knowing what he was signing.

As soon as she moved into the flat, changes were made. All that tacky old furniture had to go and a new DVD and television were essential. They could afford it on their wages, especially with all those cheap credit offers about. What Sharon did not realise was that all those "nothing-to-pay-for-six-months" offers soon came to the stage where things had to be paid.

Then she fell pregnant. She did not have an easy time and had to give up her job. She

Manage your money



Credit Action Director Keith Tondeur, will be pleased to answer, in confidence, specific questions addressed to the Editor.

had not taken out any insurance and so payments had still to be made. Despite this Sharon was determined that only the best would be good enough for her first child and so she bought an expensive pram and cot.

Soon after her daughter was born she was thinking about returning to the job held open for her when she was told the firm had gone bust. This hit very hard as she had been relying on the income to help her make the credit card and catalogue payments.

She added up what she owed and found it totalled more than £12,000. Sharon knew that there was no way she would be able to manage on her own.

Fortunately she had browsed through a copy of her husband's *Soldier* and recalled seeing an article about debt help. She read it again and rang the Consumer Credit Counselling Service number [0800 1381111] for help, which was provided free.

After filling in some forms and having another conversation she is able to make just one affordable payment a month to CCCS, who distribute sums to her various creditors.

The family is living within its means now. Sharon remembers with dread the pain of the debt and is determined not to put her family in that position again. She has decided that second-hand is certainly better than overspending on new and running the risk of losing everything.

• If you have any form of debt or money problems contact the Credit Action-CCCS helpline below for free confidential advice.

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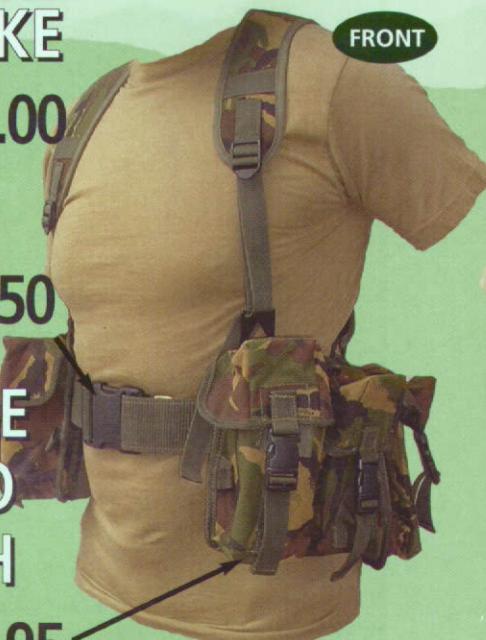
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Tastes good

Criticism of contents results in spiced-up 24-hour pack for that al fresco eating experience

Report Ray Routledge;
Pictures: Steve Dock

HERE'S proof that *Soldier* reaches the parts that other publications don't. As a direct result of a critical letter published in the magazine, the powers-that-be have revamped the operational ration pack.

Unveiling the changes during an exercise on Hankley Common, Surrey, Brig Jeff Little, late RLC, Director of the Defence Catering Group, said one of the reasons for reassessing the contents of the ORP was a critical letter in *Soldier*.

"We take those comments seriously and it is our job to make sure the rations are of the best quality, with a variety of menus,"

he said. "Like any other business, we respond to changing needs of our consumers and customers. Putting this latest pack together has been an interesting experience."

They may have been in uniform for only a few weeks, but soldiers from the Army Technical Foundation College certainly appreciated what was on offer.

Following changes to the ten-man packs (see *Soldier*, March 2003), Brig Little was showing off the latest one-man 24-hour pack. "We have adapted and changed the contents, flavourings and menus to make sure our consumers are happy with them," he said.

"In recent times, with all sorts of operations, I think we have got a pretty good record. We try to feed soldiers fresh rations whenever we can. Clearly that is not always possible so our second option is to feed from a field kitchen using ten-man rations. But there are times we have to revert to operational 24-hour ration packs. These each contain three meals."

Much thought went into the ORP. For example, it must be easy to break into, require little effort to prepare, be capable of being packed away without fuss, and be light. The new pack weighs just 1.8kg.

Rations must have a longish shelf life because they are often kept for up to two years in store and up to three years in total including deployment. They must be able to survive climate extremes, from northern Norway to the Gulf.

"They have to be robustly packed," added Brig Little. "It is no good if they reach the consumer smashed."

The new ORPs offer seven different

RATION packs are made up at HM Naval Base, Portsmouth and stored at Bicester. Defence Catering dispatched 2.5 million to Op Telic.

In addition each person in the Gulf required six litres of water a day, amounting to 1.7 million litres a week. "We were popular with the bottled water manufacturers," said Brig Jeff Little.



Smiles better: ATs Sarah Reynolds, left, and Cheryl Knox with the contents of the new pack

menus, plus specialist contents for operational theatres such as the Arctic. They cater for ethnic minorities, with Halal, Sikh/Hindu and Kosher variations as well as a vegetarian option.

They contain three basic meals: breakfast, a snack and a main meal, as well as

drinks and sweets. "That will provide the soldier with between 3,900 and 4,200 calories a day, which is more than the Nato requirement of 3,200," said Brig Little. "There is nothing more important for morale than giving soldiers a good bellyful of food in the field."

Pepper sauce hits spot

APPRENTICE Tradesmen Chris Warrior and Stephen Williams liked what they saw.

"The pack includes chicken and sweetcorn soup, sweets, oatmeal blocks, fruit dumplings and custard, Lucozade, a Yorkie bar, hot pepper sauce, and tinned tuna rather than pâté," said AT Warrior. "The main meal is still boil-in-the-bag like lamb stew and potatoes and there are still biscuits brown."

"They fit nicely into bergen," he added.

ATs Cheryl Knox and Sara Reynolds were also impressed. "The new ORPs are very good," said AT Knox. "They are easy to use and the tinned tuna is vast improvement on the pâté."

Capt Jimmy Dowling, REME, has served since 1974 and seen several changes over the years. "You are always going to get some negative feedback but generally they have improved," he said.

"This latest pack reflects what the guys would buy for themselves and that says something. Good moves are the inclusion of noodles, the different sweets and the hot pepper sauce."

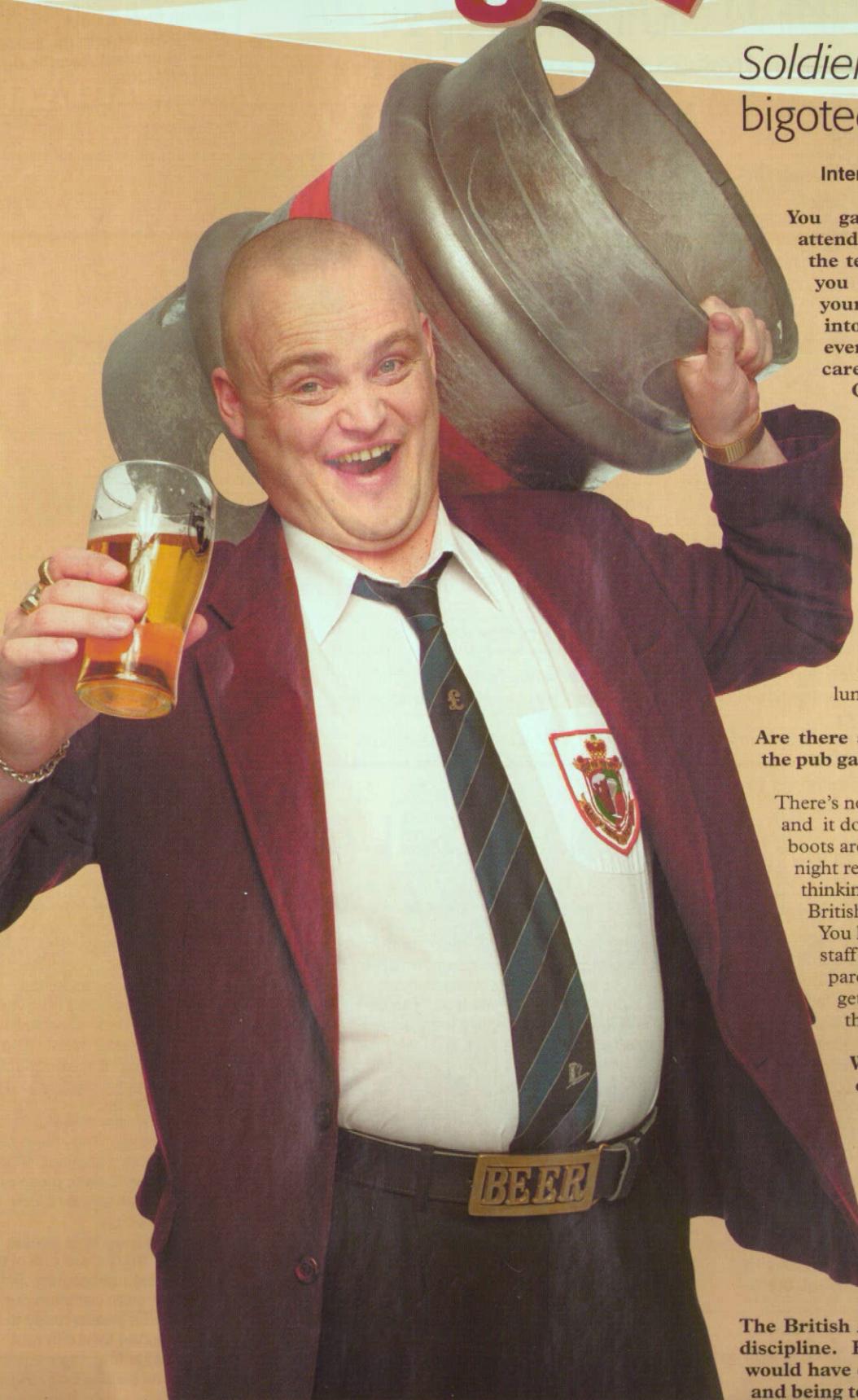
WO1 Chris Magee RLC works for the Defence Catering Group and was involved in producing the new packs as a member of the research team. "The ration has evolved with the soldier," he said. "Today's soldiers have a changed palate from those of 20 years ago. They have different expectations and we have to take those on and change the rations accordingly."

"Despite what people may say, we are one of the leading nations now. Soldiers often compare our packs to American MREs [meals ready to eat], but they are designed for a different role. Ours are one soldier for one day, whereas MREs are one soldier, one meal."



Evolving taste: Capt Jimmy Dowling, left, and WO1 Chris Magee

Serving Queen and Country . . .



Soldier shares a pint of lager and packet of pork scratchings with Great Britain's most bigoted barman, The Pub Landlord – comic creation of Perrier Award winner Al Murray

Interview: Andy Simms

You gained a scholarship to attend Landlord Academy at the tender age of seven. Had you always wanted to follow your late father's footsteps into the pub game or did you ever consider an alternative career, like serving your Queen and Country in the Army?

I did consider the Army and remember my time in the Army Careers Office quite clearly – all 15 minutes of it. Flat feet apparently. But we all serve in different ways and when I finally hand in my badge it will be with memories of pints poured and ploughmen lunched.

Are there any similarities between the pub game and a life in uniform?

There's no two-can rule in my gaff, and it doesn't matter how shiny my boots are, but last thing on a Friday night requires the kind of clear thinking and leadership that the British Army excels in.

You know, I never ask of my bar staff anything I wouldn't be prepared to do myself, but I still get them to do it. I think that's the main similarity.

What particular aspects of military life do you think you would have enjoyed?

I think being rude to a Para and then running away as fast as possible looks like it would be fun. For the adrenalin rush.

The British Army prides itself on its discipline. How do you think you would have coped with taking orders and being told what to do every day?

Have you met my brewery rep? She doesn't get it... if a snack won't sell a snack won't sell.

On most operational tours soldiers have to stick to a two-can rule each night. Could you cope with such stringent drinking restrictions?

Are you allowed to fill the two cans up again? If you could, I think I'd be fine. That or make them really, really big cans.

When I went to the Falkland Islands last year the bloke handing out the beer didn't seem to be very good at counting up to two. We drank an awful lot of second cans.

If you were the guv'nor of the Army for a day what changes to the rules would you make?

Well, obviously that two-can rule needs sorting out, but I think what I'd definitely do is make sure there were pork scratchings in the 24-hour ration packs. Morale would soar. Imagine it – you're closing on the enemy but you're peckish – what could be finer than the taste of a beautiful British pork scratching?

How would you feel if your son, Carlsberg, told you he was going to join-up?

I'd be very proud, obviously. And surprised, as he's only eight.

An Army marches on its stomach. What would you feed our soldiers if they popped into your pub one lunchtime?

Ploughmans. Classic. Sliced white bread – not french stick. Cheddar – not brie. Butter – not marge. Definitely not chutney. Pickle, thank you. Back off.

And if they're just feeling peckish we offer a full range of bar snacks.

The Army is big on boxing and has produced its fair share of prize-fighters. What makes us Brits so handy with our fists?

Boxing is a no-nonsense way of fighting, and the British are a no-nonsense people – it's not your martial arts. Punching someone in the face doesn't involve standing around in a dressing gown going "oooooo-wah!"

You are a staunch believer in "a pint for the fella and glass of white wine for the lady", with that in mind what are your views on port, and gin and tonic, the chosen tipplings of many a British officer?

I think it tells you everything you need to know about officers. Clearly the stress of command has got to the poor buggers.

They've got a lot to worry about, haven't they? Especially if the men don't have pork scratchings in their ration packs.

Where do you stand on the issue of having women on the front-line?

I'm amazed that the concept of having women in the Army works at all.

Uniform surely means they're all out there on parade saying "bitch, she's wearing the same thing as me".

On the whole I do not have a problem with the idea of women on the front line. As long as no one gives my wife a rifle it's fine.

There is a lot of talk about the formation of a European rapid reaction force. How do you feel about the prospect of Britain teaming up with its European counterparts?

Not sure about that. The main reason for the last war was to give the French a chance to win one for a change, and then the so-and-sos didn't turn up.

Many of our soldiers are based in Germany. What advice would you offer them in terms of living on foreign shores and preserving their Britishness?

The usual. Make sure you only speak in English to the locals – don't forget

that English is the natural language of the human being. If you shout loud enough in English their brain will reverberate in its original frequency and they'll understand your precise meaning.

Why, in your eyes, is the British Army the best in the world?

If you have to ask you'll never know... but mainly because it has a sensible system in place. Desert Rats for fighting in the desert, parachutists for parachuting, guards for guarding, and Greenjackets for wearing green jackets.

Finally, any message for our troops in Iraq?

You're all doing a marvellous job and thank God it's you not me. Oh and please take your glasses back to the bar.

◆ The Pub Landlord begins a 60-date national tour with his brand new show *Giving It Both Barrels* this month. For details visit www.publandlordlive.com

His first live video *My Gaff My Rules* is available to own on VHS & DVD from November.



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Zeroing in

Latest hi-tech cannon sights are now on trial

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

STATE-of-the-art thermal imaging equipment offering 24-hour visibility is to be installed in armoured fighting vehicles from next year, considerably enhancing their combat effectiveness.

Now being tested by the Infantry Trials Development Unit (ITDU) and the Armoured Trials Development Unit (ATDU), the imager will dramatically improve targeting.

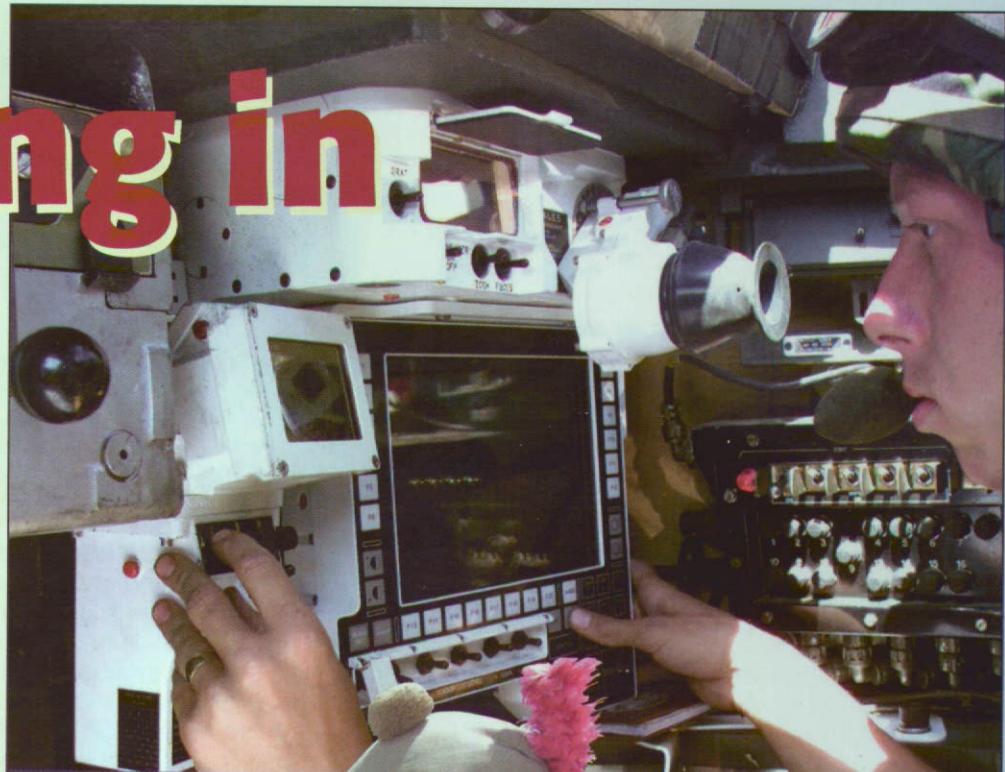
Soldier was given exclusive access to the trials at Bovington. Maj Tim Elliott BW, SO2 infantry mobility at ITDU, said variants will be fitted to Warrior, CVRT Scimitar, REME Warriors and Warrior observation post vehicles for the Royal Artillery.

"Warrior and Scimitar will have a new gunner's sight with thermal imaging and a laser rangefinder," he said. "The commander will have a monitor and a map display and the driver a navigation capability."

"The thermal imager detects heat, giving a very clear picture for targeting. The old image intensifier could only be used on a light night and not at all during the day. TI can be used 24 hours a day, and its capability is only reduced in heavy fog or intense rain. The TI has so far been successful at a range of 2km."

The image seen by the gunner looks like a black-and-white photograph. A colour surveillance camera is available to the commander, and another camera is attached to the laser rangefinder.

An operator on a fire mission puts cross hairs on the target, using the laser to get an exact location. The system calculates the direction, automatically providing



On sight: Cpl Lee Howdle, above, runs through the options on offer with the new thermal imaging system. Maj Tim Elliott, right, from ITDU

grid, bearing, trajectory and other data. This information is passed into the fire mission system, the operator fine-tunes and confirms it and sends it digitally to the fire-planning cell. The process takes seconds. The system also gives a grid reference that can be transmitted to friendly vehicles should intense fire be required on a target.

A GPS system enables the commander to lay in waypoints for the driver. The display will also give the driver route directions.

Thermal imagery is one part of a system dubbed the Trinity.

"That is three systems combined to be fitted to Warrior and CVRT," said Maj Elliott. "They consist of TI, the Platform Battlefield Information System Application (PBISA) and Bowman."

Bowman will give the high-capacity data secure radio, PBISA will provide the software for orders and digital maps, and TI provides sighting.

"It will all come into service in 2004, with the first regiments converting to TI probably in March."

Thermal imaging will also enhance the vehicle commander's situational awareness. He will

have a flat panel display with an overlaid digital map showing the location of his and other friendly vehicles. This will be updated through Bowman.

While the system will not dispense entirely with voice procedure, which itself will no longer need to be coded, it will speed up the tempo of manoeuvre warfare. Maj Elliott said soldiers on the trials had picked up the straightforward system in about a week.

User tests are on-going, with weapons confirmation trials and navigation examinations. Thales Optronics will supply 601 units and service support for 15 years in a contract worth £200m.

"Every vehicle should have it installed by 2006," said Maj Elliott.

'It gives us the edge'

VEHICLE commanders were impressed by the new TI system.

LCpl Kurtis McEwan, 1 Staffords, said it was straightforward. "This new system is easier to use than the old one. On the range you can pinpoint exactly where the round is going to hit the target."

LCpl Lee Howdle, also 1 Staffords, said it was simple "once you have got your head around it".

"It takes up less space in the cab than the old system," he said. "We go to Batus in Canada in August next year and should have this and Bowman by then. We will be fighting against old-style Warriors familiar with the terrain. That would normally give them the advantage. But this should give us the edge instead."



On target: Thermal imagery as seen through the vehicle commanders' camera, left

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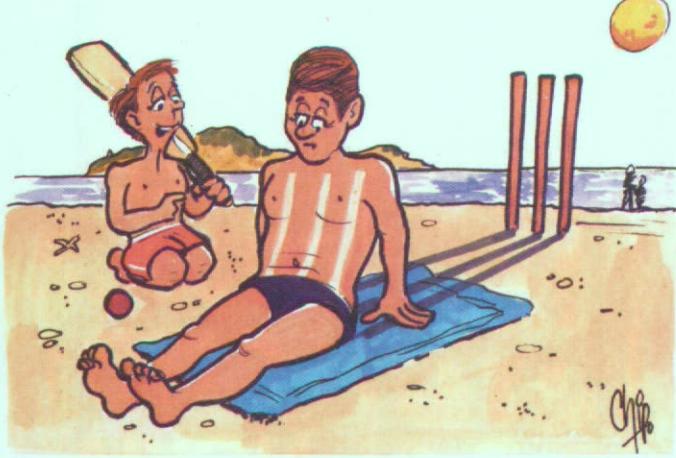


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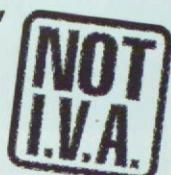
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Lost a lorry? Tiger will find it

'Temporary' asset tracker demonstrated in Iraq it has role on operations

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

YOU know the truck went to Marchwood to be shipped to the Gulf, but here you are in Iraq and there's no sign of it.

Is it still at the docks? Is it still at sea? Did it ever leave the UK?

Don't despair – perhaps Tiger can help?

Finding lost and mislaid vehicles is its speciality: during the hectic early days of Op Telic tenacious Tiger "discovered" a missing Scimitar and more than 100 containers packed with valuable supplies.

A recent review proved just what a valuable asset Tiger (or Theatre Information and General Equipment Register to give it its full name), is. The system is an auditing tool run by Territorial Army and Reserve soldiers.

Auditing – telling the National Audit Office and local HQ staff precisely what equipment is where – may sound dull, but Tiger soldiers found themselves in every corner of the battlefield on Op Telic.

Thirty-two are deployed in Kuwait and Iraq and ten in Bosnia and Kosovo. Capt Ian Bowers RLC, project manager for Tiger at HQ Land Command and the only Regular soldier in the team, said the asset management database was currently used only on operations.

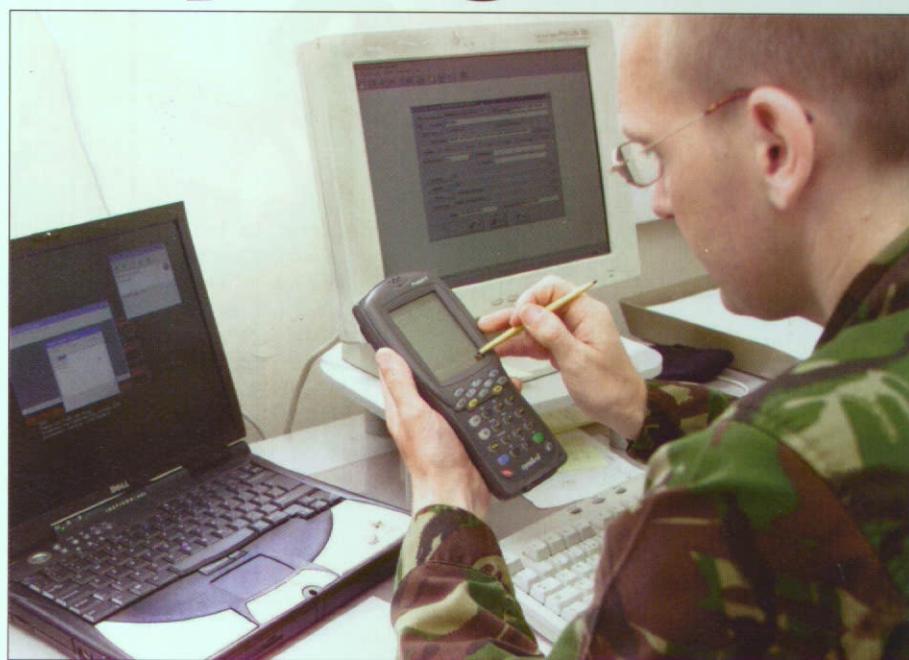
"Tiger was conceived in 1997 as a temporary measure in Bosnia," he said. "Its job was to audit equipment in the Balkans and to claw back money for the UK after the transfer of assets from the UN to Nato. We retrieved £75m in Bosnia alone."

"Organisations such as the United Nations and Nato expect nations to contribute equipment and troops. If not, the payment is financial," said Capt Bowers.

"So long as we are able to prove what had been sent to theatre, and Tiger has the auditing tools to do this, the British



Capt Ian Bowers



On the case: Cpl Dave Ferris, a Territorial Army checker in the Tiger team, uses a PDT 8100 barcode scanner to confirm details of assets recorded on the main audit computer system

Government should get paid accordingly."

WO1 Dutch Holland, R Signals, the project administrator, said: "Through its unit quartermasters the Army is good at accounting for equipment. But on operations assets do go astray, with items staying on in-theatre permanently and others being moved in and out by deploying units.

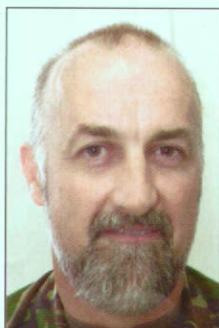
"The QM knows his kit was dropped off at the air or sea port of embarkation and expects to find it on arrival in-theatre. But things don't always go according to plan and in a war that can have devastating consequences.

"Commanders need to know just where their key assets, such as vehicles, flatracks and containers, are. That is where Tiger comes in."

On operations, where most of the equipment is critical to the mission, it is essential to keep track of every asset. During Telic, Tiger personnel found a mislaid ISO container of artillery spares just before an expensive replacement was ordered from the UK.

On another occasion, Tiger staff found a Scimitar command vehicle in Shuwaikh Port in Kuwait. It had arrived from the UK and been left on the dockside.

In all, Tiger checkers tracked down



WO1 Dutch Holland

more than 100 "missing" containers during the operation. "We can act as a trouble-shooting team and do what HQs don't have time to – locate equipment," said Capt Bowers.

The system uses laser scanners to read a bar code, each one of which is unique and located on the vehicle or container. Audit teams add information such as the owner, location and mileage, which is downloaded to a laptop computer and transferred electronically to Land Command.

The information is checked against Merlin, a database on the Tiger server. Each entry is verified by administrators at Wilton, which supervises more than 50,000 items held on the Tiger system. Once verification is complete, the database is amended.

For Telic, Tiger soldiers initially covered Emden, Marchwood and airports of embarkation such as RAF Brize Norton before moving into Kuwait and Iraq to continue the task.

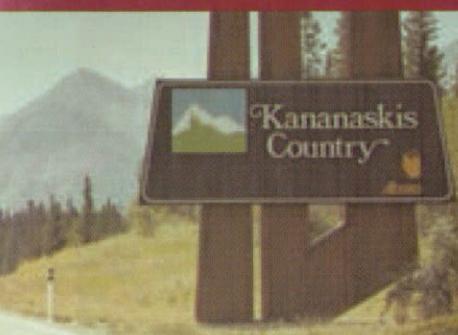
"Our work might seem repetitive," said Capt Jason Fensome, R Signals, o/c Tiger Iraq, "but our audit teams cover a wide area and in the Gulf we completed tasks from the ports in Kuwait to Umm Qasr, Basra and even Oman."

"Tiger can almost be described as a special operational capability for the theatre's Equipment Support Branch."

Now that Tiger has won its wings in expeditionary warfare, work is under way at Land Command to formally introduce it into service.

In the loop: Capt Julia Chandler RAMC drops a rope to a fellow climber

On top of the world



Canada's wild rivers and mountains put Army adventurous training expeditions to the test

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE vertical grey stone stretching into the sky looked impregnable. You would have to be mad to try to climb its sheer rock face.

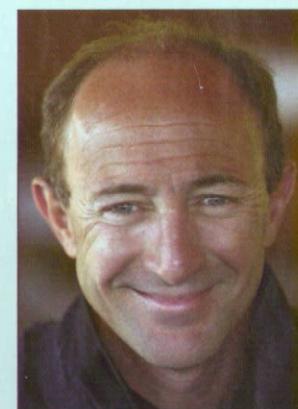
This summer 86 members of the Army Mountaineering Association headed for the Canadian Rockies intent on ascending more than 80 of the peaks over 3,000m listed in the Canadian Alpine guide book. And the "impregnable" rock face in front of them was merely a training run.

Based at Fortress Mountain in Kananaskis Country, about 90 minutes drive west of Calgary, the climbers spent a week of their month-long expedition acclimatising and doing refresher phase one training. *Soldier* caught up with them just before they set off on their 80-peak mission.

Expedition leader Maj Kevin Edwards, APTC, from HQ 2 Division, said Northern Challenge was the AMA's flagship project for the year. "Col Paul Farrar, commander of the newly-formed Adventure Training Group (Army), is very keen to see this sort of mass training taking place," he said. "Not only for experience but also the spin-off."

"One of the secondary aims of the expedition is to get people qualified to the highest level possible while they are here."

Col Farrar's organisation granted £8,000 towards Northern Challenge and the Berlin Infantry Brigade Memorial Trust Fund also gave financial support. Nevertheless, expedition members had to find £400 each to take part and many



Flagship: Maj Kevin Edwards

used up leave to be there. Everyone had to arrive with full (and expensive) kit.

"About a third of the team are almost complete novices to mountaineering and the trip is a first serious taste for them," said Maj Edwards.

They came from a variety of backgrounds, including the University Officers' Training Corps, the Territorial Army and the Land Army, and included men and women in ranks ranging from private to lieutenant colonel.

The 165 original applicants were whittled down through natural process and operational commitments to 86 and were then split into 11 teams, each with an experienced leader.

"We have a squad of highly-qualified trainers. Several work full-time in Joint Services adventurous training centres and I needed them here to give us the authorisation to run the qualification schemes that the team members want," said Maj Edwards.

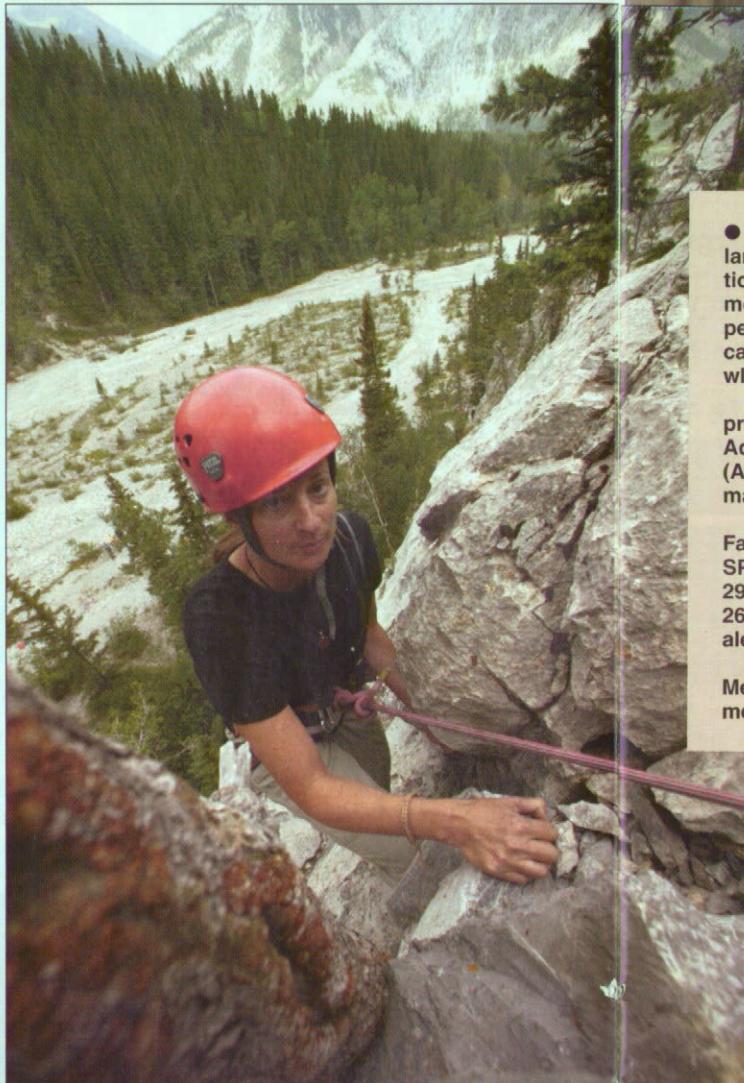
"I also hired a Canadian registered guide for the ski team and a civilian canoe guide from the National White Water Centre in Wales."

"Another is a TA soldier, Pte Rob Smith, who was with the British Antarctic Survey from January to the end of April and is a highly qualified and experienced group leader."

Soldier spent a day with a group led by Lt Col Duncan Strutt PWRR, who is shortly to join the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick. He is a veteran of expeditions to Everest, South America and the Alps.

His team were tackling rock faces which, to the untrained eye, seemed impossible to scale.

"We have several groups going out on



Hold tight: Cpl Janel Harris, 153 Workshop REME (V), aims for the top during training at Wasootch Creek

training days before we take them up on the high ridges and more exposed situations," he said. "We need to know they can handle the equipment, move safely in a group and have confidence in each other."

"There are times when you depend totally on other people and equipment. Unless you know what the teams' capabilities are you can't take it further forward. Underlying everything is safety. It is always our first concern."

"Sometimes military training can become repetitive and soldiers might find



● Northern Challenge was the largest combined activity expedition ever taken on by the Army, with mountaineers tackling 81 Canadian peaks of 3,000m and paddlers canoeing some of Canada's 300 white-water rivers.

Behind the organisation of the project was the newly-formed Adventurous Training Group (Army), based at Wilton and commanded by Col Paul Farrar.

You can contact the ATG(A) at Falaise Block, Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0AG; chief clerk on tel 94331 2959; or web author Chloe on 94331 2612 or e-mail her at alexanderchloe@hotmail.com

For expedition advice, contact Melinda on 94331 3496 or e-mail melindajwalters@hotmail.com

it tedious. Here we take them out of uniform, put them into a challenging environment and give them experiences we hope will hold them in good stead for their normal military employment.

"We give back to the Army qualified people who can take other soldiers out on adventure training, which develops personal characteristics such as courage, self-reliance and the ability to work together in a group."

Normal rank structures on expeditions don't apply in the mountains, said Lt Col Strutt. "If the private soldier is better qualified, he is in command on the hill."

The AMA is keen to bring on young, inexperienced climbers to generate a pool of future instructors and leaders.

"Some will leave here with a qualification and that allows them to lead ropes on Alpine mountain ascents."

Capt Julia Chandler RAMC, a physiotherapist at the Royal Hospital Haslar in Hampshire, climbed Annapurna in Nepal two years ago.

"I started climbing at Birmingham OTC and got the bug," she said. "Then I carried on with friends and the military."

On her first posting, to Cyprus, she took advantage of opportunities the island had to offer. "I got my rock leader qualification there," she said proudly.

"This expedition has meant a lot of revision and refresher training and is physically tough. I have never done high Alpine climbing before and I am excited about the prospect."

On their last day of phase one, another group set off for the peaks of Mounts Brock (2,902m) and Blane (2,993m). Half tackled the narrow but technically less demanding Brock while the others made for the nearby and more difficult Blane, which is high by British standards.

Fun it may be, a holiday it certainly is not. And when you look back at those rock faces, the inclination is to think these Army climbers really are all a bit mad.

Jargon buster

- The capital is Edmonton.
- Winter winds (chinooks) can raise the temperature by 40C in a day.
- It averages 2,000 hours of sunshine a year.
- Its highest peak is Mount Columbia at 3,747m (12,294 ft).
- It was named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, a daughter of Queen Victoria and wife of the Governor General of Canada.
- At 255,303 sq miles, you could fit Britain into it three times. It is larger than all US states except Texas and Alaska.

Breathtaking . . .

KANANASKIS Country, Alberta, is stunningly beautiful.

Its breathtaking mountains, lakes and streams lie south of the Banff National Park, on the east side of the Rockies, sprawling across 1,640 square miles of mostly wilderness.

If the name sounds vaguely familiar it's because downhill skiing events at the 1988 Winter Olympics were held there. More recently it became, for a while, the most secure place on earth when it hosted the 2002 G8 summit.

Teeming animal life includes black bear, cougar, bighorn sheep, elk and moose, while 340 species of bird have been recorded.

Fortress Mountain, the base for the AMA and ACU expeditions, offers spectacular views although the ski lodge is a little run down. It is home to the Canadian freestyle ski team.

Six things you may not know about Alberta



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This is wild, man

Army canoeists took on some of the toughest rivers in the Canadian Rockies

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Mike Weston

THE water – wild, cold and dangerous – raged across a river bed strewn with unforgiving rocks and boulders before crashing on down the valley.

It was one of many testing stretches faced by 12 members of the Army Canoe Union who set out to paddle as many of the 300 classic Canadian white-water rivers as possible during a three-week adventurous training expedition.

Before the paddlers – some of them novices – dropped their kayaks into the Kananaskis River to begin the acclimatisation and training phase, they listened to safety briefings and demonstrations on land.

“Some of these soldiers have never done this type of kayaking before and everyone has to know what to do in an emergency before they go near the water,” said Paul Mills, a civilian senior instructor at the Joint Services Training Centre at Ballachulish, Glencoe. He was keen to stress just how dangerous Canadian rivers can be.

“As British canoeists we are not used to the volume or the nature of this sort of water. It is going to be exciting.”

Paddlers had to jump into the swirling glacier-fed water to practise rescue drills and defensive swimming. “Getting into the water and learning how to get out of it improves confidence,” said Paul.

Despite its hazards, the Kananaskis is tame compared with the waters the group would tackle later on.

Expedition leader Maj Kevin Edwards, APTC, from HQ 2 Division in Edinburgh, said each had contributed £400 to

the cost of the trip and paid for personal insurance. Kayaks and paddles had been hired locally.

“This will go towards Joint Service adventurous training qualifications,” said Maj Edwards. “They are a strong group and some are already at five-star level, the top skills qualification. Others are not, so there is going to be a lot of improvement.”

“The next two weeks are about paddling as many rivers as they can and each day will be a progression in difficulty.”

The party camped overnight beside the rivers they were paddling, itself fraught with potential difficulties. Canoeing in Canada usually means that everything in between the point of getting onto the river and getting off again is wilderness, complete with bears, cougars and wolves. Support vehicles could only be at either end of the section.

“To get out of some of the rivers, just to get to a road, is a major undertaking,” he said.

Although the ACU primarily organises the sports aspect of kayaking, the expedition element is being developed. Maj Edwards hoped some of the Rocky Mountain canoeists would take it up as a sport.

Paul Mills reckoned all the paddlers would benefit. “At the end of the exercise, everyone will come out a different person,” he said. “And I think that justifies the support the Services give with

Riding high: Cpl Steve Robinson of 59 Cdo Sqn RE brushes up on paddling skills at Canoe Meadow, Kananaskis

time and finance, because participants can always relate their experiences from this to their work at unit level.

“This is all about how to work together. Adventurous training is seen as fun, and it is. But it is also challenging. It pushes people out of their comfort zones, including me. Everybody learns from that.”

What they thought of it

Capt John Matthews, RWF

“I started kayaking at school in Shropshire. I did some in the University Officers’ Training Corps but not much in recent times and so am rusty. It has been exhilarating and I’ve got very wet. I expected excitement and adventure. Some of them are here to get qualifications, but I’m just here for the experience.”



Cpl Steve Robinson, 59 Ind Cdo Sqn, RE

“I took up canoeing when I was 13, had a gap when I joined the Army because of training, then started again in Germany in the Harz Mountains and in Bavaria. Now I am posted to Devon so I do a lot of surf paddling.”

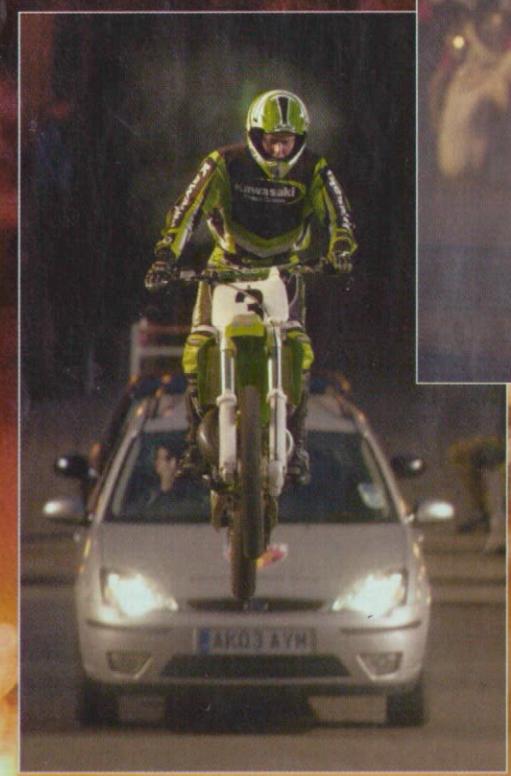
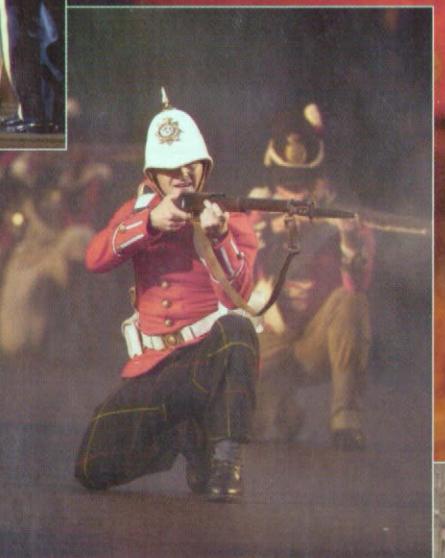
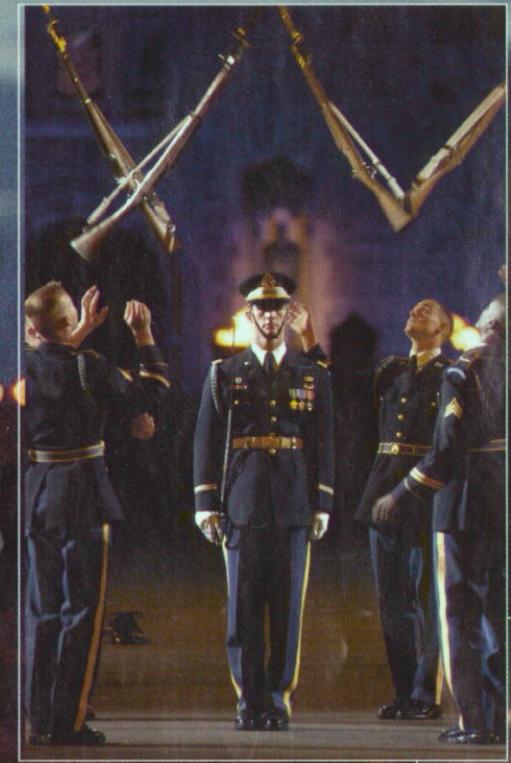


“It has been great coming here, especially since I have just come off Op Telic. I’d like to get a qualification from it but I am really here for the excitement and to get as much experience as I can.”

“Eventually I’d like to be an instructor and take it further and maybe run my own expedition one day.”

Seriously spectacular

Sell-out crowds thrill to pageantry of the 54th Edinburgh Military Tattoo



THESE photographs by Mark Owens capture the colour and excitement of the 54th Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which attracted capacity crowds to the castle esplanade to revel in a succession of brilliant performances by military and civilian musicians, dancers, motor cyclists, horsemen – in the shape of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery – and the breathtaking, bayonet-twirling precision of the US Army Drill Team.

A specially-commissioned fanfare, "Union of the Crown", written to mark the 400th anniversary of the joining of the English and Scottish crowns, began each performance of the three-week spectacular. It was composed and directed by Maj Stephen Smith, Director of Music, Royal Artillery, and the Principal Tattoo Director of Music.

Regimental musicians from The Scots Guards, Royal Scots, Black Watch, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Royal Gurkha Rifles, Royal Artillery, Royal Irish Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps and Adjutant General's Corps were joined by others from Australia, New Zealand, Bermuda, Switzerland, Korea and Oman.

Director of Army Bagpipe Music Capt Stuart Samson, main picture, in front of the Massed Pipes and Drums on the Edinburgh Castle esplanade. Other pictures, clockwise from far right, show fireworks raining down on the King's Troop RHA; members of the traditional band of the Army of the Republic of Korea; massed musicians; soldiers of The Royal Scots depict scenes from their five centuries of history; a Flying Gunner from the Royal Artillery Motor-cycle Display Team; and members of the US Army Drill Team juggle their bayonet-tipped rifles.



The decision is yours

New pension and compensation schemes on the way for Army

DETAILS of the new Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) and Compensation Scheme were announced in Parliament last month. The articles on these pages give you and your families the facts about the new schemes and shows how you can get more information.

The decision whether or not to transfer to the new pension scheme will be yours. If you choose not to transfer, your rights under the existing pension scheme will not be affected, including your entitlement to an immediate pension.

The only change to the current scheme is that any preserved pension entitlement earned after the date of change will now be payable at the age of 65 rather than 60. Preserved pension entitlement earned before the date of the change will still be payable at age 60.

When is it happening?

The new pension scheme should be introduced in April 2005 for new members of the Forces. Current members should have the opportunity to transfer to the new scheme by no later than 2007 but need not make a decision until nearer the time.

The new Compensation Scheme will be introduced in April 2005 for all members of the Forces. This will affect you if you are injured as a result of service after that date.



"Don't give up the day job just yet, luv."

Key differences

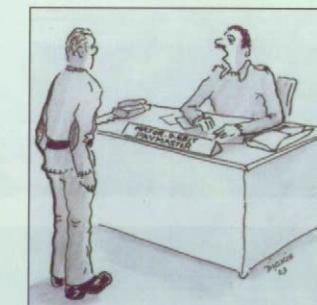
Benefit	Current scheme	New scheme
Basis of pension	Representative pay	Final pensionable pay (highest rate of pay in last three years of Service, excluding additional pay)
Age at which you start to earn a pension	Officers: Age 21 with full career pension after 34 years ORs: Age 18 with full career pension after 37 years	Counts from date of joining the Armed Forces for both officers and ORs providing a pension of 50 per cent of final pensionable salary after 35 years, with scope to earn more for those who serve longer
Preserved Pension (ie date at which pension paid if you leave before Immediate Pension (IP) Point)	Normally paid from age 60	Normally paid from age 65
Earliest age for IP/Early Departure Payment (EDP)	Officers: Age 37/16 yrs ORs: Age 40/22 yrs	IP replaced by new EDP at slightly lower overall value. Paid at age 40/18 yrs service for both officers and ORs
Widow(er)'s Pensions	Normally 50 per cent of spouse's pension but ceases on remarriage or cohabitation	Increased by 25%, worth 62.5% of member's pension paid for life irrespective of remarriage
Death-in-Service benefits	Normally a tax-free lump sum of one year's pensionable salary	Tax-free lump sum of four times pensionable salary
Unmarried partner benefits	None	Same benefits as married partners (includes same sex partners). Detailed rules on eligibility and registration to be issued in due course.
Resettlement commutation	Currently payable	None. Inland Revenue rules no longer allow this
Ill-health benefits	Level of pension based on length of service and normally enhanced	Three-tier system with minimum guarantees for more severely disabled. Those with minor injuries will be awarded a gratuity
Children's pensions	Provided, but not for children of post-retirement marriages	Provided. Now including children of post-retirement marriages

Where can I get more information?

Internet:
www.mod.uk/issues/pensions

Intranet:
www.defence.mod.uk/cr/content/pension.htm

More detailed information will follow as the scheme rules are developed. There will be a separate exercise to consult people on whether they wish to transfer and individuals will be given the necessary information to help their decision-making.



"I greatly sympathise with your desire for a new car, Pte Eccles, but an advance on your pension is not an option, even with two years in."

Who's involved? Everyone. Members of 7 Parachute Regiment RHA, rehearsing for their farewell parade in Aldershot (they are moving to Colchester), help us illustrate the point that all ranks should take an interest in the new arrangements. Picture: Graeme Main



Key features of the new compensation scheme

THE new Compensation Scheme will replace separate provisions under the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) and the current AFPS for all injuries or illnesses caused by service. It should be simpler to claim and awards will be focused more effectively on those who are more severely disabled.

● **Who is covered:** All Service personnel injured on or after introduction (even if you remain in current AFPS).

● **What do I get if I am injured in service?** A lump sum for pain and suffering (current maximum of £280,000) for Service personnel with injuries or ill-health due to service based on the severity of injury or ill health.

● **Where appropriate, a Guaranteed Income Stream (GIS)** will be payable for life to compensate for loss of earnings capacity. Level of payment will be calculated on the degree of loss of earnings capacity.

● **Lump sum awards** will be paid to compensate for pain and suffering where an individual is able to remain in Service following an injury due to service and for injuries arising from warlike activities and acts of terrorism.

● **What do my family get if I die?** With immediate effect, benefits are extended to registered unmarried partners (including same-sex partners).

● In the event of a **death due to service**, a widow(er)'s GIS will be paid.

● **For death in retirement** there is an additional widow(er)'s compensation lump sum.

● If there are **children**, there will also be a child's income stream.

● There will be a **time limit** to claim of five years from the event or after retirement where no particular incident caused the condition.

● All MoD decisions on awards will be subject to **appeal** to an independent judicial tribunal.

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Countdown to Athens

Soldier tracks the progress of the British Army's potential Olympians

Cut above the rest

Eye injury denies England's captain a shot at the gold

DESPITE being caught, and cut, above the left eye by a stray elbow during the first round of his opening fight of the Commonwealth Federations' Championships, LCpl Tony Davis (1 RRF) still returned home from Kuala Lumpur with a bronze medal, **writes Andy Simms**.

The British light-heavyweight champion sustained the injury within seconds of stepping in the Titiwangsa Stadium ring against Australia's highly-rated Steven Rudd, but still powered his way to a 22-7 points victory.

"There was no malicious intent behind the elbow by the Australian, but it did reopen the cut that I picked up during the finals of the Four Nations championships," explained Davis, who was recently selected for an élite England training squad ahead of the 2004 Olympic Games and captained his country for the second time in Asia.

"When you get cut in a bout it forces you to rethink your fight plan, so, instead of adopting my usual calculated approach, I came out for the second round with all guns blazing, broke his nose and boxed his head off."

With the ringside doctors satisfied that the bleeding from the gash, which later required two stitches, had been staunched, the 29-year-old was allowed to proceed to the competition's semi-finals and a showdown with India's Jitender Kumar.

Although Davis began brightly and was leading the contest on the judges' scorecards, his early-tournament eye injury returned to haunt him in the third round when, with the cut worsening, the New Zealand referee stepped in and stopped the fight.

"I truly believe it was the referee and not my eye that cost me a chance of fighting for the gold," a very disappointed Davis told *Soldier*. "Kumar clearly knew

about my injury and used some pretty dirty tactics to try and aggravate it.

"At one stage he headbutted me and then stuck a knee in my groin but the referee just stood back and did nothing."

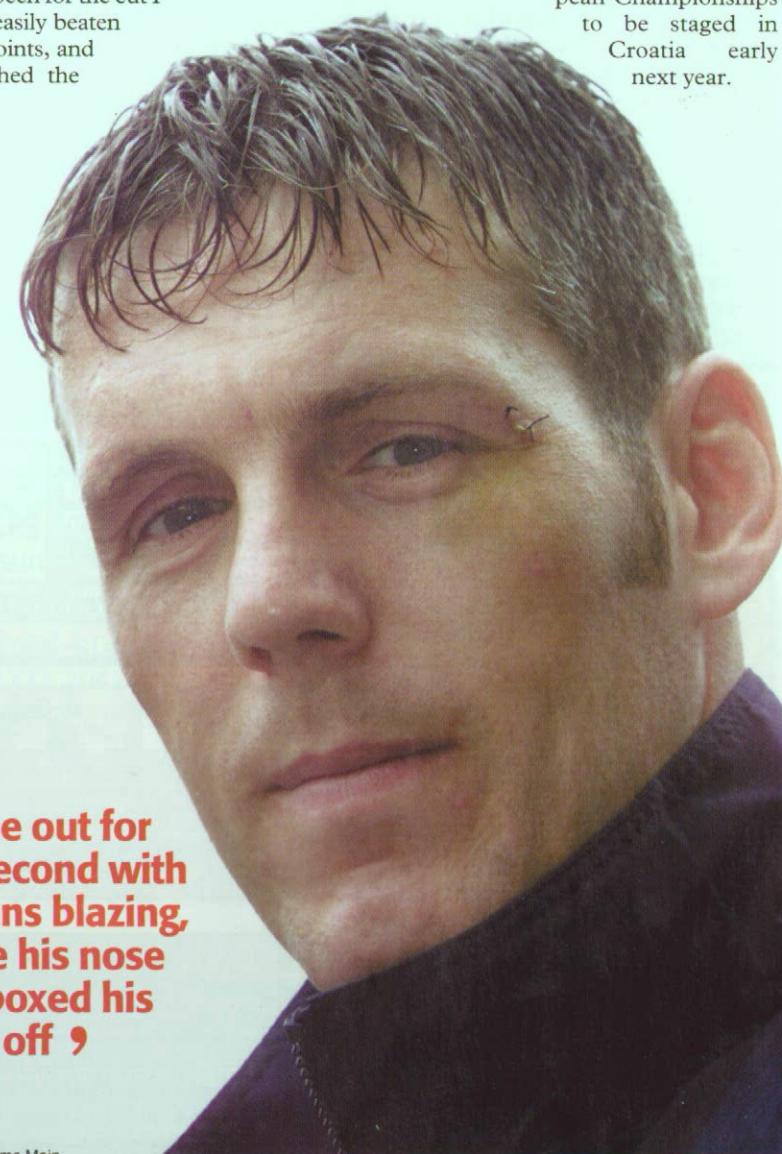
The injustice of having to watch from ringside as the Indian went on to win the gold was like having salt rubbed into the proverbial wound for Davis.

"It was there for me to win," he said. "If it hadn't been for the cut I would have easily beaten Kumar on points, and having watched the

final, can confidently say I would have gone on to take the title in Kuala Lumpur. Winning gold would have been a befitting thank you to my battalion for all their support."

Now back in full-time training with the rest of the seven-man England squad vying for Olympic status, Davis is focusing all his attention on qualifying for the

Games at the first attempt – by winning a medal at the European Championships to be staged in Croatia early next year.



'I came out for the second with all guns blazing, broke his nose and boxed his head off'

Picture: Graeme Main

Silver medal encourages old soldier to march on

COMMONWEALTH Games gold medalist Kelly Holmes reaffirmed her status as Great Britain's top female middle distance runner by overcoming a niggling injury to win silver in the 800m at the World Athletics Championships in Paris.

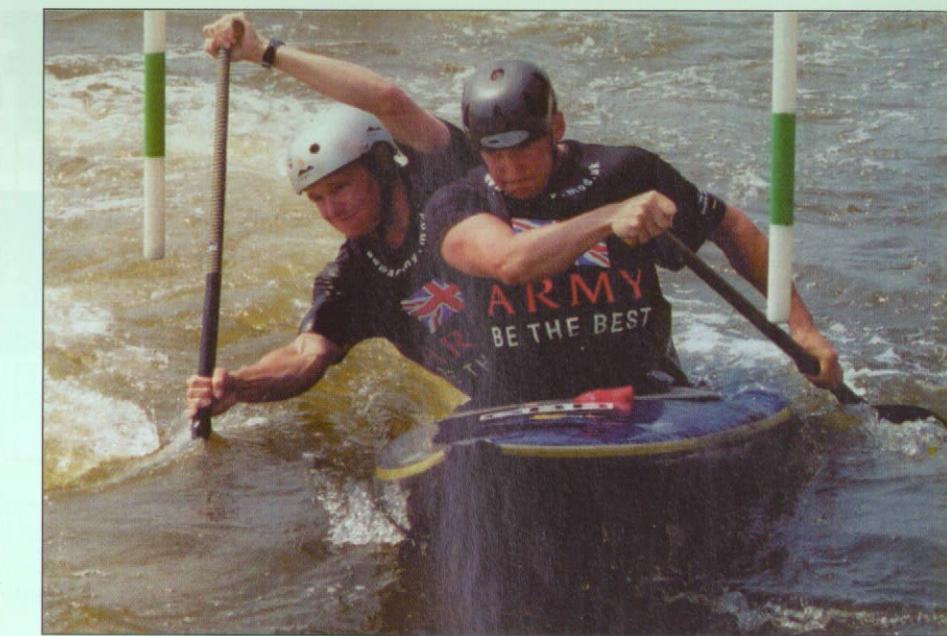
Having cruised through the qualification heats, the former AGC sergeant accelerated to the front of the pack at the start of the last bend in the final, but was overtaken on the home straight by her training partner and the defending champion Maria Mutola.

Holmes finished just 1.29sec behind the Mozambique athlete and was followed across the line by Russia's Natalya Kruschchelyova.

The 33-year-old had been suffering from calf problems during the summer and only decided to run the 800m when she arrived in Paris off the back of a disappointing display over 1,500m in Zurich.

"I amaze myself sometimes," Holmes said. "This year I have been emotionally, physically and psychologically very low. I was nearly going to give up because it's the lowest I have ever felt. I came here not knowing which event I was going to do. My training has been limited and I didn't think I had the ammunition to perform."

"I only made up my mind to do the 800m one day before the first heat, but you have to have a lot of passion and my heart is still in the sport. I am a championship runner and I go into a mode where these races are the be-all and end-all."



World Cup heroes: Great Britain's Lt Andy Nicholl (AAC), left, and Lt Alex Burt (AGC) in action

Paddlers join world's élite

GREAT Britain's canoe slalom team Capt Alex Burt (AGC) and Lt Andy Nicholl (AAC) climbed up to eighth in the world rankings with a string of first-class performances in the World Cup series.

On the Olympic course in Sydney, Australia, the Army duo beat the current world and Olympic champions to finish in sixth place, their best World Cup result, before clinching 13th in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Burt, who will captain the Army team at the Inter-Services championships at Grandtully in Scotland this month, told *Soldier*. "We are both now looking forward to the selection races for next year's Olympic Games in Athens.

"It is going to take a lot of hard work and sacrifice over the winter months, but we believe that come the summer we will be there or thereabouts."

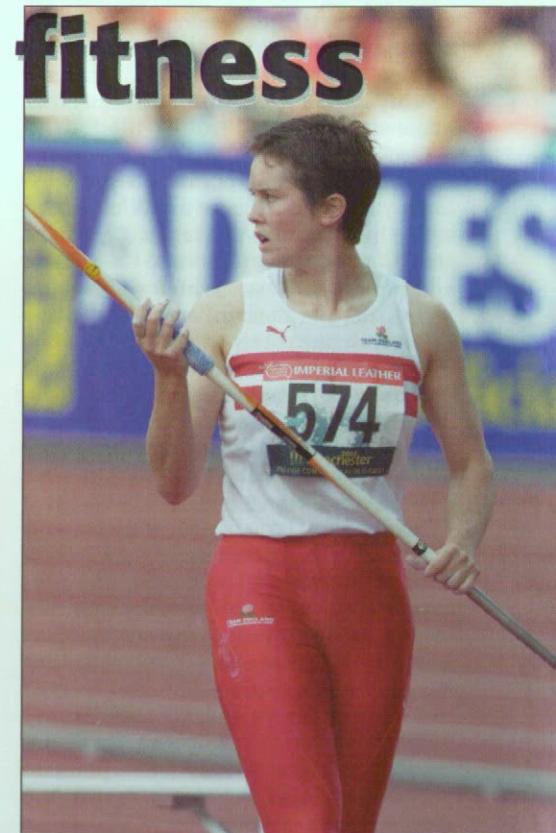
Fight for fitness

BRITISH javelin record holder Pte Kelly Morgan (3 CS Regt RLC) did not take part in the World Athletics Championships in Paris after making the difficult decision not to compete at all this season.

The 23-year-old, pictured right, is still struggling to overcome the shoulder injury that hampered her performance at last year's Commonwealth Games in Manchester despite having an operation last October.

"A successful shoulder operation has given way to a secondary problem which results in pain when I attempt to throw," explained Morgan. "Unfortunately the amount of time required to recover means that I must miss this season in order to give myself every chance to be all guns blazing for the Olympic year."

"Although I am desperately disappointed, the experienced medical and coaching support team around me is ensuring that the dream of next year becomes a very definite reality."



Brits battle for world title

Sporting rivals united by common enemy

THERE is not an ounce of love lost between Paddy Doyle and Mike Buss, writes Andy Simms.

Aside from having both served in the British Army, the two endurance athletes are cut from very different cloth.

Doyle, a former paratrooper, was born and raised in Erdington, Birmingham, where during his late teens and early 20s he earned a reputation for inflicting pain on both sides of the ropes of the boxing ring.

Although a three-year spell in the Army convinced him to start breaking records instead of noses and the law, at 38 Doyle remains as broad as he is tall and has lost none of his aggression and no-nonsense manner.

He trains for his endurance events in a gym, which, sparsely furnished with punchbags, loose weights and sporting a ring fashioned from old rope, is very much a "sawdust on the floor sort of establishment".

Nine years Doyle's junior, Buss represents a new generation of endurance athlete.

Medically discharged from the Royal Green Jackets after losing most of the hearing in his left ear in 1998, the former personal training instructor already has an agent and a string of big-name sponsors.

Decked from head-to-toe in Adidas clothing, Buss trains at the well-equipped Esporta Health Club in Wimbledon, where he has access to a team of specialist sports physiotherapists and masseurs, and can relax in a sauna after training.

But, despite their differences, the two Brits share one common goal – to become the world's fittest man, an accolade awarded to America's Joe Decker in 2000.

Decker, who served three years in the US Army's 10th Mountain Division, could soon be stripped of his bragging rights.

Having already completed 123 feats of endurance over a 16-year spell in events ranging from one-arm press-ups to non-stop freestyle fighting, Doyle is now just one fitness record away from becoming the first athlete outside America to hold the coveted title.

"Decker's days at the top are numbered," enthused Doyle, who plans to achieve his quest to become the world's number one next month by completing a



Head to head: Endurance athletes and former soldiers Mike Buss, left, and Paddy Doyle

25-mile hike over the Staffordshire Dales, while carrying a 40lb backpack, in less than nine hours.

"There is not a doubt in my mind that I will soon be top dog. I've known it for some time, but it will be nice to have it made official for all the world to see."

"Compared to what I've done in the past, my last challenge will be like a walk in the park, but I have no qualms about the manner in which I am taking the title," he said. "It will acknowledge my cumulative records and will be a befitting reward for 16 years of hard graft."

"In my opinion Decker never really deserved the title anyway – he won it on a technicality and I've already e-mailed him in America to tell him so."

If all goes to plan for Doyle on November 8, Buss is determined that the title will remain this side of the Atlantic for the foreseeable future.

Although yet to officially break a single

record, the 29-year-old believes that, with age on his side, he has the potential to become the best.

"Last year I ran the London Marathon carrying a 60lb pack in 4hr 52min 21sec, beating a world record set by someone carrying 5lb less by 12 minutes," he said. "Knowing that I had set a world record, albeit unofficially, and done something nobody had ever achieved before was an amazing feeling and convinced me to train for endurance events on a full-time basis."

As *Soldier* went to press, Buss was hoping to secure his first entry in the *Guinness Book of World Records* by setting a distance record for running on a tread mill for 24 hours with a 60lb bergen on his back.

"I intend to set six world records over the next 12 months," explained Buss, who has run 44 marathons since turning 18. "And next summer I plan to go to the Nevada Desert to run 100 marathons in 100 days, again carrying a 60lb pack."

Although yet to officially break a single

record, the 29-year-old believes that, with age on his side, he has the potential to become the best.

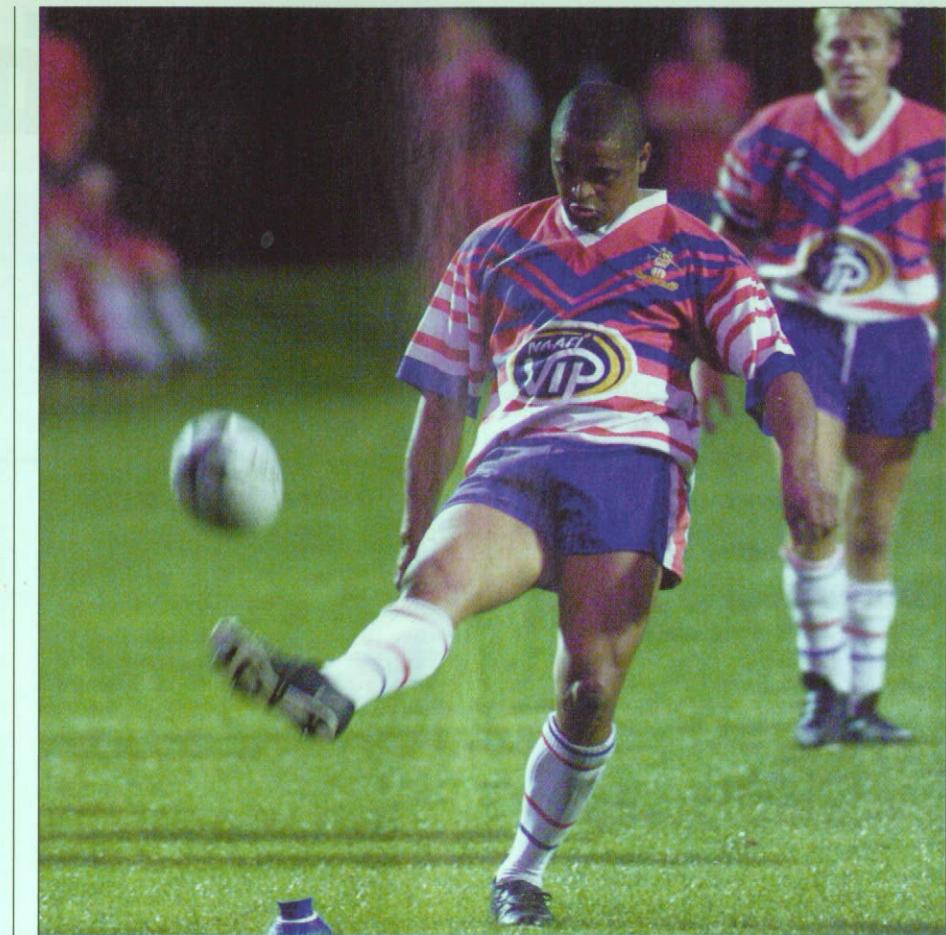
"When I was in the Army I used to love being boasted by the PTIs and I guess I am still intrigued by the idea of pushing my body as far as it will go."

"I genuinely believe that you don't have to be super-fit to do this sort of thing, just mentally focused and I am fully committed to one day holding the title of world's fittest man."

With a cushion of 123 records, Doyle remains unfazed by the words of his British rival. "I wish him all the best in his quest," he told *Soldier*. "But he has got a lot to achieve if he wants to beat Paddy Doyle."

"If he ever wants to find out if he can really take me on, he's welcome to come up to Birmingham and go a few rounds with me."

◆ **Anyone interested in sponsoring Paddy Doyle's bid to become the world's fittest man should e-mail** pdoyle3099@aol.com



Precision personified: Cpl Lee Innes (RE) converts a try against the RAF at Portsmouth

Picture: Graeme Main

Just boot-iful

THE unerring kicking of evergreen all-rounder Cpl Lee Innes (RE) ensured that the Army's Naafi-sponsored Rugby League team retained their Inter-Services crown at the United Services Ground, Portsmouth.

In the defending champions' opening fixture against the Royal Air Force, Innes, who lifted the Emerging Nations Rugby League World Cup with Great Britain and Ireland in 2001, and has also represented the Army in the boxing ring and the football field, rarely strayed from the thick of the action.

Reducing the deficit to just two points with a penalty and converted try, the Army stole victory in the dying seconds when Cpl Fanning found a route through the naval defence and dived across the line. Predictably, Innes then finished the tournament as he had started it, kicking the ball between the opposition's posts, a final action which secured the Army a 24-20 victory.

◆ **Skipped by Capt Emma Bowes-Crick (16 Med Sqn), the Army women's team were crowned Inter-Services champions after beating the RAF 16-10. The result marked the team's first victory over their rivals.**

◆ The Army's U23s beat their RAF counterparts 23-7, before falling to a 38-6 defeat at the hands of a strong Navy development side.

SHORTS

Signals expand fleet

SKYWAVE, an Elan 33 sailing boat, has become the latest member of the Royal Signals Yacht Club.

Built and launched in June 1999, *Skywave* is expected to remain in service for more than ten years and is one of three hulls now owned by the offshore section of the club, which provides signals personnel with cruising and racing opportunities.

Any members of military yacht clubs, or civilians with a Service connection, who are interested in chartering *Skywave* should ring Sgt Gale on mil 9380 65668 or e-mail rsigsyc@tiscali.co.uk

Further information can be found at www.rsignalsyc.info

Cool runnings

ENTRIES for the 2004 North Pole Arctic Marathon, provisionally scheduled for April 2, are now being taken and will be allotted on a first-come first-served basis.

The 26.2-mile event will begin at the drifting Russian base camp at the Pole. Running on the moving ice that overlays 12,000ft of Arctic Ocean, athletes will have to contend with terrain ranging from small hillocks to energy-sapping soft snow. In addition to male and female individual titles, teams of three are invited to compete for a team trophy.

The entrance fee is set at \$8,500 (approximately £5,400) and includes entry to the marathon, return flights from Svalbard, Norway, to the North Pole, heated tents and food, and a helicopter flight around the region. For more information visit www.npmarathon.com

Cutting-edge club

INTER-SERVICES fencing champion Capt Elisabeth McLellan (19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) has established a fencing club in Basra with the aim of introducing military personnel to her sport of choice.

A fencer for the past five years, Capt McLellan is vice-captain of the Combined Services Fencing and Army women's representative teams.

"It's something new for people to try if they have the time," she said. "Few can commit regularly because of work commitments, but I normally run three evening classes a week."

Marathon men required

SSAFA Forces Help is looking for soldiers to run the 2004 London Marathon in aid of serving and ex-Service personnel, and their families, in need. The deadline for entries is October 24.

Keen runners should contact Joanna Le Vannais on 0207 4639222 or e-mail joanna.lev@ssafa.org.uk

Hickling spoilt for choice

Services well equipped to battle Barbarians

COMBINED Services rugby coach Lt Col Andy Hickling has a healthy selection problem ahead of his team's Remembrance Day match against the Barbarians at Aldershot's Army Rugby Stadium (ko 1830) on November 11, writes Roger Thompson.

With Services' rugby boasting an unprecedented wealth of talent, the biggest dilemma facing the straight-talking boss is which of the star names to leave out of his starting 15.

From the Army's ranks alone, Hickling can call upon Scotland international Cpl Mattie Stewart (PWR) and Northampton Saints' prop Cpl Chris Budgen (RWF), as well as a host of Fijian talent such as Pte Emosi Naisaramaki and Pte Apolosi Satala (both RS), who are currently making their names with the Edinburgh Gunners in the Celtic League.

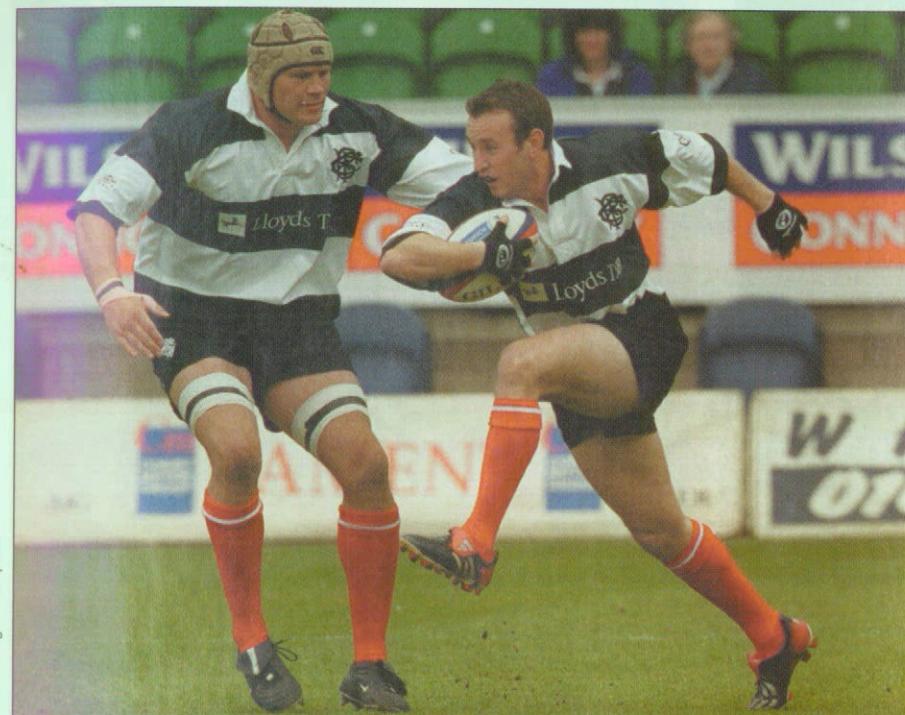
Hickling's side could also feature a number of "cross-dressers", with Gdsm Alfred Vakacokavanua (SG), Cpl Andy Smith and Army skipper Cpl Mal Roberts (both RLC) all having worn Barbarian colours this year.

The Royal Navy's scrum half, AEM Dave Pascoe, who plays his club rugby with Penzance and Newlyn, and winger Lt Cdr James Phillips have also announced themselves available for selection, while Sale Sharks' Flt Lt Jim Thorp and Newbury's Cpl Matt Cornish will be equally keen to fly the Royal Air Force's colours.

However, the Barbarians' field for selection is as equally mouth-watering. Although the current crop of internationals will be in Australia for the Rugby World Cup, those who just missed out will be looking to prove their respective national team coaches wrong.

It is worth remembering that after the World Cup the England team is likely to disband and emerging players will, in the midst of the media hype coming out of Oz, welcome the opportunity to strut their stuff for the Barbarians.

One certainty is that the Barbarians, still smarting from their first Services defeat last year, will be hell-bent on restoring their standing as the premier touring club in the world against a Services side whose edge, partially lost on the cusp of professionalism in the mid-1990s, has finally been restored.



Note the red socks: Cpl Andy Smith, left, and Cpl Mal Roberts in action for the Barbarians

Come match day defences are bound to be tight, but, in this traditionally high-scoring fixture, every opportunity will be taken by both

sides to play free flowing rugby in the Barbarians' coveted style.
◆ For pricing details contact the ticket hotline on 01252 334415.

Manager's runaway bride



AN Army husband-and-wife team helped Great Britain's orienteering squad to produce their best ever set of results at the World Championships in Switzerland.

Under the tutelage of team manager WO1 Dave Rollins (RLC), the national squad scooped a record two-medal haul, with Jamie Stevenson winning gold in the sprint race and the men's relay team collecting bronze after finishing behind pre-tournament favourites Sweden and Finland.

Britain's leading female orienteer, Capt Sarah Rollins (RAMC), pictured left, took ninth place in the women's sprint race before guiding the relay team to a podium finish.

"I knew I was capable of a top-ten finish and to get ninth in the sprint was all that I had hoped for," Sarah told *Soldier*. "The relay team came sixth, which is a podium finish in orienteering, so I got my chance to wave at the crowd, but as a team our sights are set higher still and we are looking for greater things at the World Championships in Sweden next year."

SHORTS

Preseason punishment

WALES'S premier rugby union team warmed up for their assault on the newly-formed Celtic League with a visit to Aldershot. Hosted by 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Cardiff Blues completed a military assault course, Land Rover pull and gun run.

Setting the standard

RHEINDAHLEN Youth Football Club (RYFC) has become the first overseas club to be awarded charter standard status by the Football Association.

Based at JHQ Rheindahlen in Germany and founded in 1994 with the aim of promoting Anglo-German relations, the club will now, in conjunction with the Army's football coaching and development officer Steve Stone, act as an advisor to other BFG youth football teams.

Anyone interested in finding out more about FA charter standards or RYFC should contact WO1 Andy Howe on mil 948723446.

Riverside recreation

ARMY angler Sgt Wayne Bramwell (19 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) has set up a Basra Palace fishing league for troops deployed in southern Iraq.

"It's something for the lads to do on a Sunday afternoon," he said. "The Shaat al Arab is a fresh and salt water river with plenty of catfish, sea bass and river birch to catch."

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to October ...

ATHLETICS: 1 – Hermitage 10k road race (Hermitage); 8 – 4 Div cross-country league meeting (Blackwater); 15 – 4 Div cross-country league meeting (Pirbright); 19 – Army marathon championships (Abingdon).

BADMINTON: 1-3 – AGC championships (Worthy Down).

CYCLING: 13 – RAF cross country championships (TBC).

EQUESTRIAN: 5 – Hunter Trials (Warminster Saddle Club); 19 – RMAS Hunter Trials (RMAS); 26 – Show jumping competition (Warminster Saddle Club).

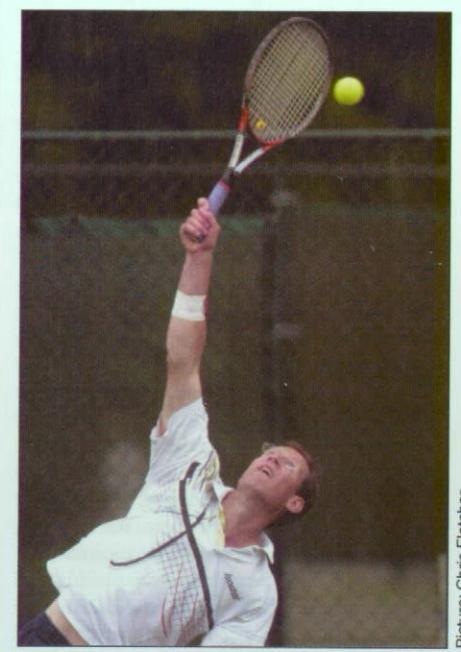
FOOTBALL: 11 – Cambridge University v Army Crusaders (Fenners, Cambridge); 25 – Army Crusaders v RAF Icarus (Aldershot).

GOLF: 2 – 2 Div (north west) autumn meeting (Delamere Forest GC); 4-5 – Cornish Piskey (Newquay GC); 6 – 4 Div (London district) autumn meeting (Finchley GC); 8 – Quill and club tournament (Temple GC).

NETBALL: 1 – Inter-unit championships (TBC); 2 – Inter-corps championships (TBC).

WINTER SPORTS: 18-Nov 1 – Novice ice sports camp (Lillehammer, Norway).

Hat-trick heroes



Picture: Chris Fletcher

Triple crown winner: Maj Nigel Watts (AAC)

TWO familiar names dominated the finals of the Thales-sponsored Army tennis championships in Aldershot, with Maj Nigel Watts (AAC) and Lt Sascha Macey (REME) each winning a hat-trick of trophies.

A losing finalist last year, Watts easily overcame Maj Daryl Amison (RLC) 6-2, 6-1 to win the men's singles titles for the 15th time, before teaming up with newcomer OCdt David Bozas (RMAS) and beating Maj Ralph Holah (RA) and Capt Max Lytle (AAC) 6-3, 6-2 in the men's doubles.

Watts completed his haul of silverware alongside Maj Bill Herlihy (AAC), defeating the RLC's pairing of Amison and Cpl Jamie Friend 6-2, 6-3 to win the Inter-Arms and Corps doubles for a sixth successive term.

In a repeat of last year's women's final, Macey lifted the trophy for a second time, surviving three match points to beat former champion Capt Nell Mead (RAMC) 3-6, 6-1, 7-5.

The finalists then joined forces to overcome Capt Sam Jennings (AGC) and Maj Zoe Chadderton (RLC) 6-4, 6-1 in the women's doubles.

A straight two-set victory alongside Friend in the mixed doubles final completed Macey's treble.

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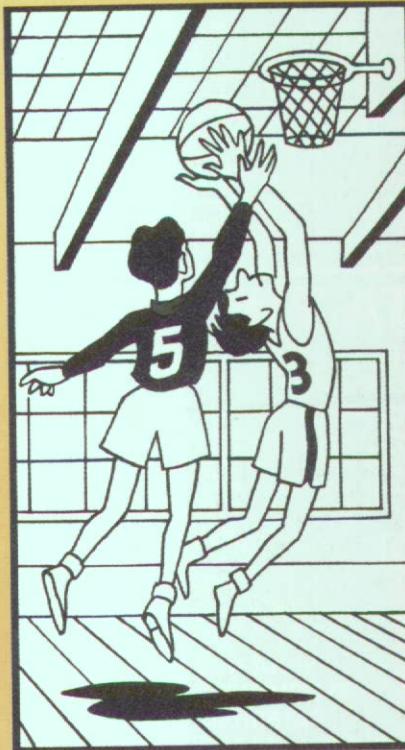
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No 743

How observant are you?



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TEN details have been changed in one of our archive drawings by Frank Finch. Circle the differences in the right-hand image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 743, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by October 31.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

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

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

August issue (No 741): First correct entry drawn at random was from Mrs C E Halsall, of Peterborough, who wins £100. Runners-up Cpl B R Lane, of 1 PWO, BFPO 804 and Lt Chin Thapa, C Coy, 1Bn, RGR, Folkestone, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: tree foliage and undergrowth; lead runner's hand; soldier's belt; No 18/19; soldier's raised hand; flag behind third runner; hairline and sock of No 3; E on awning.



Freeze frame

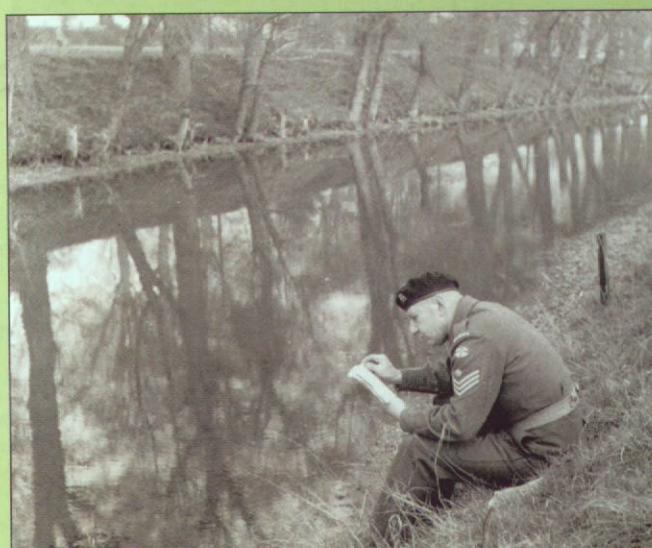
The exercise called for the platoon to camouflage themselves as trees. Then Sarge lost his place in the training manual . . .

Write a caption for the photograph, right, published in *Soldier* in April 1953. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply, entries to reach us by October 31.



WINNING caption for our August competition, left, is: "While taking the roll, Sarge noted that OCdt Bacon-Sandwich was missing", one of several ideas from Cpl Matt Sweetman, Armoury, 4 Squadron, JSSU (Cyprus)

Sgt Barry Botwright, of 21 Signal Regt at Colerne, offered: "The RSM said I would be working with a bunch of t'ts, but this is not what I had in mind"; while Sgt J Smith from



DNBCC, Winterbourne Gunner, sent in "The sarge took his duties as milk monitor very seriously".

The milk of human kindness also flows in Charles C Bernoski of Solihull, who suggested: "Sgt Wiseman was concerned that if this went on much

longer there would be nothing left for the colonel's guinea pig". We also liked the caption from Sgt Tam James SG, ACIO Glasgow: "If it's names the CO wants, it's names the CO gets - from left to right Menu A, Menu B, Menu C . . ."

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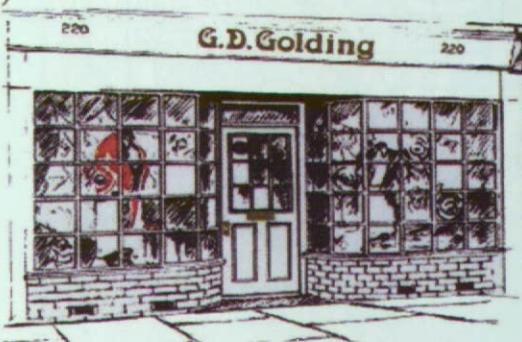
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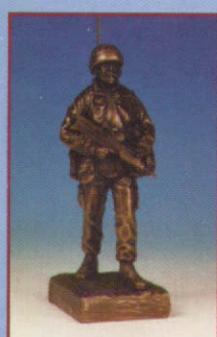
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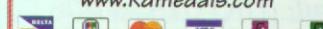
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PEN PALS

Sarah, (22), 5'1", with long brown/red hair. Enjoys pubs, clubs, cinema, psychology and the gym. Seeking pen pals, 18-30. P439

Helen, 5'2", blonde hair and blue eyes. Wicked sense of humour. Ex-WRAC, understands how Army operates. Intelligent and genuine, seeking replies from single soldiers, 35-43. P440

Paulina, (40), 5'4", long dark hair and blue eyes. Enjoys running, travel, cinema, theatre, reading, music, cooking, the countryside, the seaside and partying. Seeking pen pals to write to with similar interests, any age group. P441

Sara, (24), 5", brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys reading, writing, local clubs, the gym, music and decorating. Single mum with a four-year-old daughter, looking for friendship outside the normal social group. Seeking pen pals, 20-35. P442

Louise, (23), 5'2", long brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys clubs, tennis, swimming, travelling and socialising. GSOH, caring, ex-holiday rep, now student nurse. Seeking pen pals, any age group. Photo if possible. P443

Heather, (34), 5'5", dark medium length hair and blue eyes. Enjoys art, music, yoga, DIY, country pubs, evenings eating in or out, friends, family and enjoying life. Honest, considerate, caring, GSOH and loves to laugh. Seeking pen pals, 40-50. P444

Mandy, (36), 5'5", brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys walking her dog, cooking, reading and computer courses. Seeking pen pals, 27-45. P445

Donna, (37), 5", brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys reading, studying, pubs, meeting people and my children. Seeking Paras, Special Forces, Military Police to write to for friendship and must like children, 30-45. P446

Jillian, (28), 5'6", dark blonde hair and blue eyes. GSOH, single and no children. Enjoys music, clubs, eating in or out, swimming, reading, crafts, animals, travel, cooking and the theatre. Caring, supportive and fun loving. Seeking pen pals, 27-40. P447

Vicki, (37), 5'2", light brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys music, writing, visiting places, reading, having a laugh, animals, making new friends and her children. Not looking for romance and has a wicked sense of humour. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P448

Claire, (35), 5'7", dark brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys night in or out, theatre, cinema, concerts, and rugby matches. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P449

Pen Pal Replies

To reply to a pen pal, write a letter and send it to this address:
Soldier Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU

* The box number must be clearly written in the top left corner of all your replies.
* Replies should consist only of letter and photograph if requested.
* Replies received more than three months after the cover date, large, heavy or poorly addressed envelopes will not be forwarded.

Mandy, (41), 5'4", natural blonde shoulder length hair and blue eyes. Enjoys driving, country pubs, eating out, cooking, reading, animals and the cinema. GSOH, try anything apart from bungee jumping. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P450

Annette, 5", blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys walking, cinema and loves animals. Seeking pen pals, 25+. P451

Sarah, (30), 5'1", brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys music, reading and walking. A mum of one child. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P452

Gwyneth, (37), 5'9", slim blonde. Enjoys pubs, restaurants, holidays and the gym. Recently divorced and looking for mature, possibly divorced or separated pen pals to write to, 36-45. P453

Grant, (28), 5'11", brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys the gym, travel, pubs, clubs, sport, nights in and out. GSOH, soldier seeking female pen pals, 20-40. Photo appreciated. P454

Carol, (39), 5'2", blonde with brown eyes. Enjoys reading, romantic novels, singing karaoke, going out, music and movies. Seeking pen pals with GSOH and likes writing good letters, 35+. P455

Marilyn, (50), 5'6", blonde with brown eyes. Enjoys DIY, gardening, cooking, eating out and travel. Seeking pen pals, 40-50. P456

Toni, (32), long brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys the gym, swimming, travel, music, eating out, cinema and pubs. Single mum of one. Seeking male pen pals, 28-38. P457

Eileen, (40ish), 5'4", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys travel, dining out and having fun. GSOH and would love single tall pen pals to write back, 35-45. Photo appreciated. P458

Lee, (23), 5'8", with brown eyes. Enjoys surfing, swimming, rugby union, cycling, the gym, reading, cooking, cinema and travel. Seeking pen pals serving overseas with similar interests. P459

Natalie, 5'3", shoulder length brown hair and green eyes. Very bubbly, outgoing with a friendly personality, romantic and likes to have fun. Enjoys singing, socialising and meeting new people. Seeking pen pals, any age group. P460

Sarah, (39), 5'4", blonde professional female. Enjoys a few drinks and anything that involves fun. Seeking fun minded pen pals with a wicked sense of humour, 35-45. P461

Wendy, (36), 5'3", slim and fair. Enjoys clubs, walking and pets. Seeking pen pals, 30-43. P462

Solstice, (25), slim blonde. Single mum of two and seeking genuine caring and outgoing pen pals that love children and keeping fit. P463

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NOTICES

Charity Commission
REFERENCE: 249984

The Trustees of charities administered in connection with the former 3rd (Militia) Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment, Chichester, hereby give notice that they have passed a Resolution under Section 74(2)(b) of the Charities Act 1993 for the purpose of transferring the property of the Charity named above to the following charities:

271941 The Royal Sussex Regiment Museum Trust, Eastbourne, East Sussex;

305452 Sussex ACF Welfare Fund Charity, Brighton, East Sussex;

245669 3rd (Militia) Battalion The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) Charity, Canterbury, Kent.

Any interested person wishing to make representations regarding this Resolution may do so, quoting the Charity reference at the head of this notice, within a period of six weeks from the date of this notice by writing to the Charity Commission for England and Wales at: Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL.

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REUNIONS

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

660 Sig Troop (EOD)/EOD ECM operators: Reunion at Didcot Station Sgts' Mess on Oct 4. Contact Sgt Steve Bruce on 01235 513366 or 11eod660sgt@dlo.gsi.gov.uk

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

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

RADC WOs' and Sgts': Past and Present Annual Dinner to be held Oct 17 at Aldershot. Full details from WO1 (RSM) Wiles, DDA Support Unit, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LS or 01252 347780 or ordsgt@milnet.uk.net

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

5 Kings/2 T Force Old Comrades' Association: Annual reunion, Norwich, Oct 21-23. Contact K V G Moore, tel/fax 01692 651086.

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

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

Black Watch Association: Remembrance

Parade, at Horse Guards Parade on Nov 9. Open to all association members, volunteers still required. Regimental Colonel Lt Gen Sir Alistair Irwin is to take the salute. Details from Hon Sec Frank Bailey, 1 Brianson Avenue, Sneyd Green, Stoke on Trent, Staffs ST6 2NG or tel 01782 280912.

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

Royal Anglian Regiment and the Beds and Herts Regiment Association: Wreath-laying and reunion, Nov 16 at The Keep, Kempston. Contact John Baggardge telephone 01234 294853 or johnbaggardge@yahoo.com

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

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

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

MESS DISPOSALS

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



Showcase: Bdr Tim Davies of 103 Regiment RA (V) lets seven-year-old Garry Finney handle a 105mm shell on a military stand at the annual two-day St Helens show, one of the largest in the North West. In addition to Regular and Territorial Army support, cadets from the region took part. Picture: Maj Roy Bevan

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Cold Zero (Aug) winners: LCpl D Crighton, Op Telic 2; W Barbe, Milton Keynes; J O'Neill, Brentford, Middx; A Thomas, Norwich; S Matthews, Ramsgate, Kent; C Birmingham, Sittingbourne, Kent; R Rickard, Torquay; G Crandles, Edinburgh; Sgt Botwright, Colerne, Wilts; R Ward, Coventry. Answer: 16 Missions.

Jimmy Perry book (Aug) winner: R Covington, Lincoln. Answer: Butcher.

Colin McRae 3 PC (Aug) winners: C McDowall, Teignmouth, Devon; LCpl Rogers, 1 D and D; W Howell, Hounslow; J Donnelly, Bovington; R Gilbert Welwyn Garden City. Answer: Nicky Grist.

SEARCHLINE

Kiel Training Centre, 1990-91 personnel sought by Carol and Zippy, particularly Shuggy, Pat, Steve and Monster. Wendy Sissons, 10 Laughton Road, Hexthorpe, Doncaster DN4 0BT or wendi@zip1.fsnet.co.uk

Sgt Peter (Popeye) Packham REME AAC and his wife Mony, formerly of Arborfield, are asked to make contact with their old friend andrea_franklin@uk.ibm.com

Calling ex-RASC and RCT to swing the lamp with others at the Teesside Branch of the association's fortnightly meetings in Hartlepool. More details from Reg Kelly telephone 01429 291429 or regkelly40@hotmail.com

Johnny Wootton and other **National Service pals**, sought by Roger Bake who served with C Tp, 54 Bty, 25 Fd Regt RA 1958-60. Write to 43 Alton Road, Walisdown, Bournemouth, Dorset BH10 4AD or rogerbake@aol.com

Any ex-Inkerman Company, Sir John Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe May-Dec 1975 serving under Maj Lynch, also Plt Sgts Dunn, 1 Para and Causer, 3 Para. LCpl W M (Paddy) Ware, now with Balkans Sig Sqn, would like to make contact via michael_ware645@hotmail.com

Simon Oxley HQ Engineer Resources, Long Marston 1992, was best man at Spr Mal and Carol Walden's wedding. They would love to hear from him again at slopjocky@msn.com

Origins and history of the traditions concerning facial hair which may or may not be worn by British Army units is required by Sgt Justin Medcraft at langedtay@yahoo.co.uk

Any old comrades of **Jim Stafford, 2 Bn King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, 1939-42**, retreat from Burma via Bilin River and Sittang River, who wish to be reunited are asked to contact Jack Frost on 01483 769980.

Denmark 1945: Did you serve there, could you help with research for a possible book? Contact Ole Steen Hansen, Slaenbakken 7, 8250 Grenaa, Denmark.

Ex-RAOC 1965-88 pals of Sgt Tony Howard, particularly **WO2 (SQMS) George Brison**, are asked to contact Mrs Christine Howard on tel 01744 750342.

Where is G Paul Blakeley, 20 Regt RA Tampin, Malaya 1961-62? Any news please to former pal Gerry Garnham 01522 827767.

National Service Association, Blackpool Branch meetings are held every third Wednesday at the Territorial Army Centre, Parkinson Way, Blackpool. All ex-Services, including those recently discharged, are welcome. For more details, contact press officer M P Cocker, 10 Ellerbeck Road, Cleveleys, Lancs FY5 1DH.



The Queen meets members of the Glider Pilot Regimental Association at the "Not Forgotten" Association's garden party at Buckingham Palace. About 1,500 veterans, including serving soldiers from Headley Court Rehabilitation Centre and Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham, attended. The association helps disabled and wounded Service and ex-Service men and women.

Wounded soldiers enjoy royal tea at Buckingham Palace

APPOINTMENTS

Senior Appointments: Lt Gen Sir Cedric Delves, late D and D, currently Comdr Field Army Land Command, to be Deputy C-in-C Regional HQ Afnorth Europe, Sept.

Maj Gen C R Watt, late WG, currently GOC London District and Maj Gen Household Division, to be Comdr Field Army Land Command in rank of Lt Gen, Sept.

Brig S J L Roberts OBE, late IG, currently at the Royal College of Defence Studies, to be GOC London District and Maj Gen Household Division in rank of Maj Gen in Oct.

Brig A R E Stewart, late LD, currently Dir Overseas Military Activity, to be GOC MND (SE), Iraq, a newly created appointment, in the rank of Maj Gen, with effect from Jan.

Maj Gen A C Figgures, late REME, to be Deputy Comdg General Coalition Joint Task

Force 7 and Senior British Rep, Iraq, Sept. Maj Gen T Cross, late RLC, to be End-to-End Implementation Team Leader, Sept.

Maj Gen J D Moore-Bick, late RE, to be Special Defence Adviser Serbia and Montenegro, Nov.

Colonels: N M Fairclough, to be DACOS INT/SY HQ Land Command, Aug 7; G Gillott, to be Col Plans Army Primary Health Care Service, Aug 4; P Lilleyman, to be COS UN Mil Observer Sierra Leone, Aug 18; R W Barnes, to be Chief Deep Ops, HQ KFOR, Aug 22.

Auntie wants to fix you up with that ideal date . . .

A NEW dating game series to be broadcast on BBC 1 is looking for contestants. The producers are looking for fun-loving, outgoing single

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

● NEW history of **The Staffordshire Regiment**, being written to coincide with tercentenary in 2005, aims to tell story of the Staffords from 1959 and of South and North Staffords from 1945. Author requires personal contributions, pictures, documents, anecdotes from Regulars, TA, National Servicemen, friends South and North past and present, all ranks and anyone who may have worked with or have a story to tell.

Contact the author, Col Jim Tanner, via RHQ Staffords or write to him at LWCTG(G), BFPO 16 or jimbeantanner@hotmail.com

● Researcher in final year of BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies at University of Warwick is interested in the **impact of Army life on children** and their holistic development, and in particular the effect the current Iraq situation has had/is having on children and their families. She would like to hear from anyone who will share their or their child's experiences, no matter how small. Contributions treated with strict confidentiality. Write to Michelle Wilson, 26 Alma Court, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 6QQ or e-mail her at michellewilson31@hotmail.com

● The producers of a BBC drama on the **evacuation of Dunkirk** are anxious to trace relatives of soldiers featured. Personnel include **Tich Humphreys**, a 48 Div signals reservist; 2nd Warwickshire Regiment's defenders of Wormhout on May 28, 1940, namely **Sgt Stan Moore** and **Cpl Gill or Hill** and **Ptes Robert Garside, George Gould, Joe Short, Pat Kelly, Fox, Dutton and Hopper**; 2nd Coldstream Guards' Bergues-Furnes canal action participants notably **Capt Angus McCorquodale** (kia June 1940) and finally RASC **Col G H Whitfield**, based at Bastion 32.

Enquiries on the drama from Sarah Barton on 0208 576 1188 or sarah.barton@bbc.co.uk

Useful numbers

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

Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 433456

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

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

Career Transition Partnership 0207 766 8020 www.ctp.org.uk

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880

Germany 0800 1827 395

Cyprus 080 91065

Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999@thePINprompt

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com

Consumer Credit Counselling Service Free

Confidential Helpline 0800 1381111

Family Escort Service 020 7463 9249

Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065

www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk

Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575

Mutual Support (Forces Multiple Sclerosis support group) 01666 824709

National Gulf Veterans and Families Association Office (0900-1700) 01482 808730; 24-hour helpline on 01482 833812; www.ngvfa.com

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

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

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

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

St Dunstan's Home for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021; www.st-dunstans.org.uk

SAMA 82 (South Atlantic Medal Association) Falklands conflict veterans 01495 227577 e-mail: densama@aol.com

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90

Service Children's Education 01980 618244

Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358

SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783; www.ssafa.org.uk

SSAFA Forces Help Housing Advisory Service 01722 436400

Veterans' Agency (includes War Pensions Agency) 0800 169 2277 (from UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas); www.veteransagency.mod.uk

Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) in Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272

WRVS General enquiries 02920 739906; www.wrvs.org.uk

DATES

OCTOBER

12: Victorian Military Fair, National Army Museum.
31: ABF musical celebration of Wales (incl Band of WG, Aled Jones), Cardiff (02920 224488).

NOVEMBER

2: Parachute Regiment band in concert with London Ambulance Service Pipes and Drums. Chequer Mead Theatre, East Grinstead. Tickets (£9/£10) on 01342 302000.
15-16: Army Arts Society annual exhibition, Medieval Hall, Salisbury Cathedral, 1000-1600.
16: British Model Soldier Society Bristol show, The Pavilion, Bath. Details on 0117 9732067.

* YARMUK police station at Majarr al Kabir, southern Iraq, where six soldiers of the Royal Military Police were killed in June, has been renamed the Watchtower, after the regimental march, in their honour.

* REMAINS of five unidentified soldiers of the **York and Lancaster Regiment** have been interred at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Cassino in Italy. They died in action in January 1944 and lay where they fell, undiscovered until construction work uncovered the site two years ago.

* SIX members of the **15 (North East) Brigade** recruiting organisation ran the 264-mile York to Manchester and back charity relay in 18 hours to raise funds for Cancer Research and Broughton House for ex-Service personnel. **Maj Richard Boddy**, left, who has



been taking part in such events for more than 20 years, told us that at the age of 57 it was time to hand the baton to someone younger so he could concentrate on organising events.

He wants to thank the many soldiers, particularly gunners, who have kept him company over the years.

* PAM and Ken Linge are part of a team creating a visitor centre at the **Thiepval Memorial**, which commemorates those who fell during the First World War battles of the Somme. They are gathering photos and personal information on more than 72,000 men whose names are inscribed on the memorial.

E-mail photographs (300dpi or better preferred) can be sent to ken@klinge.dmon.co.uk or copies of prints (originals returned on request) to Pam and Ken Linge, Drystones, Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge, Northumberland NE47 6ND.

See also www.thiepval.org.uk



Active service is an art form

ENTRIES for the Chemring painting competition will be on show at the **Army Arts Society**'s annual exhibition in the Medieval Hall in the grounds of Salisbury Cathedral on November 15-16.

The subject for this year's event is active service, and the £300, £150 and £50 top prizes will be presented by **Gen Sir Mike Jackson**, Chief of the General Staff.

Arrangements have been made so that soldiers serving anywhere in the world can send works to the exhibition, making it probably the most wide-ranging military art show ever attempted.

In addition to the Chemring entries, there will be 200 other paintings, as well as carvings, bronzes and craft work, representing the talents of soldiers, spouses and members of Service families. The competition is sponsored by the Chemring Group, MBDA Missile Systems and Crest Publications.

For more details, e-mail secretary Marshall Kearney at armyartsociety@ukf.net or write to him at Long Cottage, Longstreet, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 6DD.

Read it again, Sam ...

OUR efforts to appeal to a wide cross section of ages and interests are obviously working – this is three-year-old **Sam Hayward**, who reckons he

wants to grow up to be a "marching soldier who lives in a tank".

Sam and his brother **Liam**, seven, live at Larkhill with their parents, **SSgt Nick and Michelle Hayward**. Their dad is serving with 34 Battery, 14th Regiment, Royal Artillery.



Gathering of Gregsons

THREE Territorial Army brothers from Lancashire found themselves serving in Iraq at the same time.

From left are **Maj Ray Gregson** RAMC, with 207 Field Hospital at Umm Qasr; **Graham**, a captain in 508 Specialist Team RE (Works) at Basra International Airport; and **Steven**, a sergeant with 150 Provost Company, 3 Regt RMP at the Basra Palace headquarters of 19 Mechanized Brigade.

Ray spent 24 years in the Regulars and in civvy street. Steven is a chief inspector with Lancashire Constabulary.



Gallipoli biscuit sales will benefit Royal British Legion funds

ANZAC biscuits, a national favourite in both Australia and New Zealand, have gone on sale in the UK. Makers Unibic, a small family business Down Under, will make a donation to the Royal British Legion from each packet sold. The bikkie dates

from the First World War Gallipoli campaign, when mums, wives and sweethearts baked thousands to send to their men in the trenches. It was also sold at home to raise funds for the war effort and has been a favourite in both countries ever since.

Legends of the regiments and corps

Then there were three

OFFICER Cadet William Follett, pictured left centre, became the third of three brothers to be commissioned into the Army when he marched on to the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in August.

He is flanked by older brothers **Capt Jeremy Follett**, left, OC Mortar Platoon, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and **Capt Rupert Follett**, adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry in Dhekelia,

Cyprus. Their father, both uncles and both grandfathers served in the Army.

William will join 2 LI after completing the platoon commanders' battle course.

● OCdt **Katherine Allt**, below centre, was commissioned into the Royal Signals 40 years to the day after her mother, **Jennifer**, pictured left. With them is **Maj Gen Ian Sprackling**, Master of Signals.

Katherine is the fourth generation of her family to serve and Jennifer was the first woman to command a signals corps.

● The Sword of Honour was won by **JUO Kady Leather**, who was commissioned into the Adjutant General's Corps (Educational and Training Services). She is the first former student from Welbeck College – the Army's Sixth Form College in Worksop, Nottingham – to receive the prestigious prize.

Pictures: Graeme Main



Moving cannon

SGT Glen Hodgkinson, left, and museum trustee Col Anthony Swallow with one of the two Crimean War cannon outside the New Walk Museum in Leicester. Territorial Army soldiers from Loughborough-based 203 Transport Squadron moved the 36-pounders, captured at Sebastopol, a mile or so across the city to their new home at the Newarke House Museum.

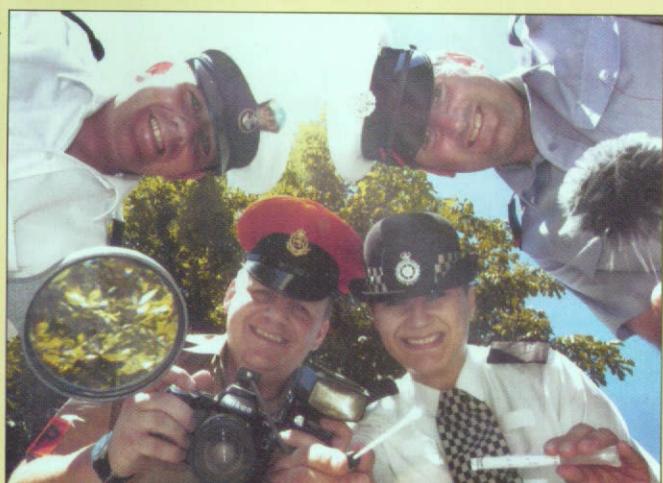
Re-siting the cannon will mark the first move in a £1.5 million scheme to set up a permanent Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum at Newarke House. Col Swallow



said the trustees and the city council were putting £250,000 each into the project and would be seeking a £1 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Leicestershire Regiment took the guns to the city in 1858.

Picture: Gareth Griffiths



All four Defence Police Forces were involved in the first truly "joint" course for Scenes of Crime Officers – SOCOs for short – at the Royal Military Police Training School in Chichester. Clockwise from left are **PO Paul Knight**, RN Regulators; **Flt Sgt Nick Harper**, RAF Police; **Constable Lindsay Cookson**, MoD Police; and **Sgt Andy Hilton**, RMP. It is run by Special Investigations Branch instructors.

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Switched on . . .



BOX OF TRICKS ▲

THE Archos Multimedia Jukebox is more than just an average MP3 player. As well as being able to store thousands of tracks on its 20GB hard-disk, it also has a full-colour LCD screen that can be used to review images taken on a digital camera or videos downloaded from the internet.

£350, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).

GET READY TO N-GAGE . . . ▼

LAUNCHING globally this month, the Nokia N-Gage is the first mobile wireless game deck to offer multi-player 3D gaming over Bluetooth and GPRS.

Besides gaming, the N-Gage features a digital music player (MP3/AAC), stereo FM radio, XHTML browser, e-mail and personal information management system, calendar and a tri-band GSM mobile phone.

Weighing in at 137g and measuring 133.7x69.7x20.2mm, the unit boasts a large colour screen with backlight (176x208 pixels) that can display up to 4,096 colours.

From www.n-gage.com



Game on . . .

SOCOM: U.S. NAVY SEALS, PS2

STRIVING to offer as realistic an experience as possible, this team-based conflict simulator from Sony Computer Entertainment Europe features a unique USB headset.

The superb innovation means that players, who assume the role of an élite commander in SOCOM (Special Operations Command), can direct their troops using a series of voice commands. In turn, team members will respond to the gamer through the headset with messages and progress reports, making the entire gameplay more immersive and intuitive.

As well as the Bowman-esque communications system, SOCOM: U.S. Navy SEALs boasts more than 30 different weapons, including sniper rifles, machine guns, grenades and explosives. Each of these weapons has been thoroughly researched and accurately rated for stopping and destructive power, range and accuracy.

Reproduced in painstaking detail, even down to the relative recoil each one generates, the equipment even affects the player according to its weight. The heavier the item is, the more fatiguing it will be to lug about and the slower the game's characters will move.

The gameplay itself is varied with some missions requiring stealth and precise timing, and others combat skills, cunning or endurance. Mission objectives vary from ambushes to hostage rescue, reconnaissance,



OUT NOW

night-fighting, building clearance and search-and-rescue.

In addition to the one-player game, SOCOM also has an online multi-player option for broadband users. By utilising Sony's network adaptor, up to 16 people per game will be able to play.

VERDICT: Cutting-edge gameplay. 9/10

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

THE former commander of the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia, Sir Gen Michael Rose, has condemned the use of licensed video footage recorded during the conflict in Iraq in a video game from US developer Kuma Reality Games.

The author of *Fighting for Peace* described the idea of a game using footage shot by real soldiers in a conflict situation as "bizarre". Rose told *MediaGuardian.co.uk*: "War is not a game and the moral issues involved in taking live footage and turning it into a game are questionable."

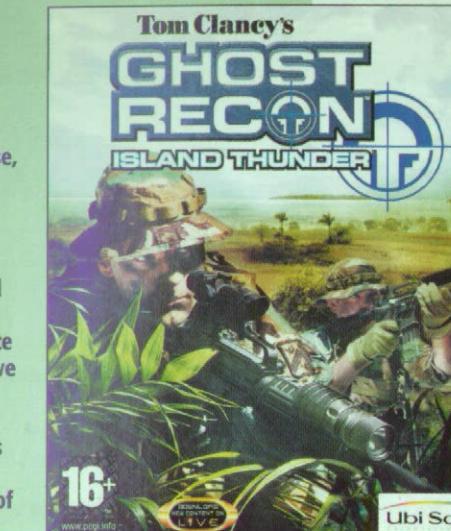
CONCERN that the saucy video of Kylie's new lingerie range would crash servers in companies up and down the country went unheeded as internet browser Lycos announced record downloads of the sexy cyber-show.

During its first two days online the undies ad was downloaded more than 100,000 times. "It is unprecedented, Kylie's pants are circumnavigating the globe in seconds," explained Lycos UK's managing director Alex Kovach. "Neither Justin Timberlake or J-Lo could dream of this kind of web exposure."

Visit <http://viral.lycos.co.uk/vroot/1822> to see Kylie in (almost) all her glory.

HOST RECON: ISLAND THUNDER, XBOX

OUT NOW



TRUE to form, Tom Clancy's *Ghost Recon: Island Thunder*, the first campaign disk for the Xbox, has a storyline more akin to a best-selling novel than a videogame.

Set in 2009, Ubi Soft's latest release, which does not require players to have a copy of the original game to enjoy, transports players to Havana, Cuba, where a power vacuum has been left following the death of Fidel Castro.

Subsequently, the Ghosts – an élite team of US Army Green Berets – have been deployed and charged with preventing a drug-funded warlord from sabotaging the island republic's first free elections in decades.

With gamers assuming command of a three-man squad, *Island Thunder's* gameplay is almost identical to that of its hugely-successful predecessor *Ghost Recon*, and has a focus on reality which gives it a distinctly different feel and pace to other first-person shooters.

Players can pick their team members individually or have the game auto-assign them, but either way these soldiers are their team and if they die they're gone for good. With

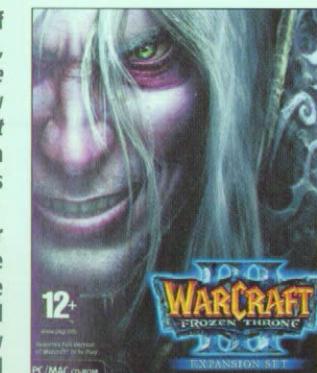
one bullet capable of ending a life there is no place for gung-ho *Halo*-style tactics here.

In addition to the eight single-player missions, the campaign disk has eight multi-player maps ranging from desert to city locations. Xbox live soldiers can also experience the intensity of the front lines side-by-side with other online gamers.

VERDICT: A virtual masterpiece. 9/10

WARCRAFT III, PC

OUT NOW

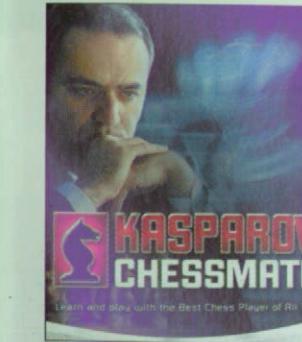


FOLLOWING in the tradition of previous Blizzard expansion sets, *Warcraft III: The Frozen Throne* provides gamers with a vast new chapter in the epic *Warcraft* series, which has sold more than eight million copies since its debut in 1994.

In the pack's four single-player campaigns and bonus RPG-style mini-campaign, gamers revisit the war-torn world of Azeroth and encounter a host of new characters. An enhanced world editor also allows players to create their own custom campaigns.

VERDICT: Eight million people can't be wrong – addictive. 8/10

KASPAROV CHESSMATE, PC, PDA OUT NOW

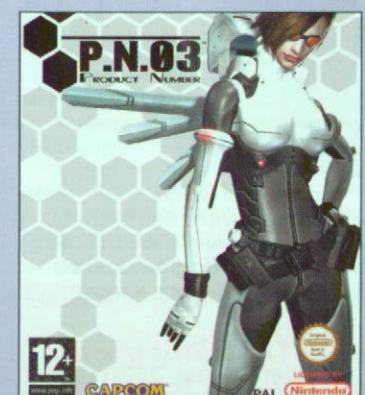


MINDSCAPE has teamed up with the world's best known chess master Garry Kasparov to produce this PC-based chess program that you can play anywhere, anytime.

As well as running on desktop and laptop PCs, you can also transfer matches in progress to Palm and Pocket PCs with all settings intact.

Designed using established chess engine Ruffian, which has an estimated rating of 2,600, *Kasparov Chessmate* is powerful enough to provide a realistic challenge to players of all levels.

P.N.03, GAMECUBE



OUT NOW

STARRING Vanessa Scheidner, a female mercenary who specialises in eliminating robots, this intense action game is set in a stark futuristic world.

When a colonial settlement turns into a killing field after a Computer Arms Management System goes haywire, it is up to Vanessa to destroy the legions of rogue mechanoids that have taken control. Extremely agile, the hired gun's moves resemble those of a dancer and players will need to constantly bob, weave and fire to complete the game's missions.

VERDICT: 25th Century Lara Croft. 7/10

EVERBLUE 2, PS2



OUT NOW

CAPCOM'S team of artists and designers have done wonders in capturing the natural beauty of life beneath the waves in adventure game *Everblue 2*.

Fully utilising the graphical power of the PS2, they have created gorgeous coral reefs, highly detailed tropical sea-life and schools of many different species of fish.

The gameplay revolves around exploration and utilisation of items found under the sea, and allows gamers to experience the thrills of playing with dolphins and evading great white sharks as they scour ancient shipwrecks.

WIN . . . WIN . . . WIN

SOLDIER has teamed up with Ubi Soft to offer you the opportunity to take command of the Ghosts.

For your chance to win one of five copies of Tom Clancy's *Ghost Recon: Island Thunder* for the Xbox, simply answer the following question:



Which three Hollywood actors have played the role of Jack Ryan, a character penned by Tom Clancy, on the silver screen?

Send your answers on a postcard to Ghost Recon: Island Thunder competition, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by October 31. Usual rules apply.

Canal Zone veterans give their accounts

THE long, successful campaign by 1950s Suez Canal Zone veterans to win recognition for their perilous and uncomfortable service has been well chronicled in the pages of this magazine.

Now, helped by hundreds of his comrades, Douglas J Findlay has pieced together the story of those days in *White Knees Brown*.

Knees and seeks to uncover the true fate of casualties officially said to have died by accident or from natural causes. *Soldier* readers can buy copies direct from Discover Press, 103 Henderson Row, Edinburgh EH3 5BB at £15.99 (p&p free) with £1 from each sale donated to SSAFA Forces Help.

Images from 150 years of war photography

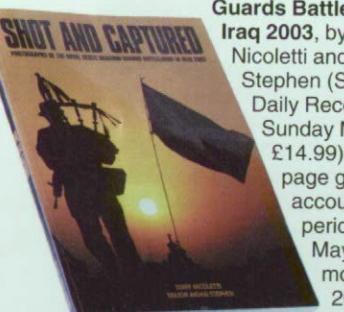
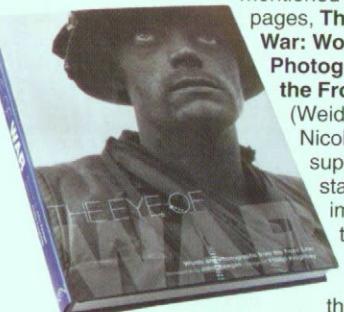
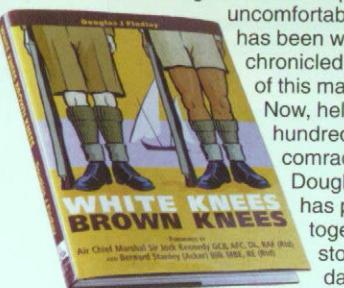
IF you are looking for an outstanding pictorial book you will be spoilt for choice at the moment. Like the others mentioned on these pages, *The Eye of War: Words and Photographs from the Front Line* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £30) is superb. Its 200 stark war images from the past 150 years come from the biggest

names in photojournalism, such as Robert Capa and Don McCullin, and take in this year's events in Iraq. Text is by Phillip Knightley and the introduction by Sir John Keegan.

Scots DG Battlegroup in action in Iraq

ANOTHER visually stunning book is *Shot and Captured: Photographs of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Battlegroup in Iraq 2003*, by Tony Nicoletti and Maj Aidan Stephen (Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Ltd, £14.99). This 164-page graphic account of the period March to May contains more than 200 high quality

pictures. The British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA) will benefit from profits made from sales of this excellent softback book.



Pageantry on the page



Images from *Pageantry & Performance*, clockwise from the right: misty and moody – an early morning ride in the park; captured in close-up – sheepskin blanket and battle honours forming part of the ornate saddlery; colour, movement and splendour – the Queen's Birthday Parade; golden glory – the State Trumpeters



Regiment celebrated by a photographer's art

Pageantry & Performance: The Household Cavalry in a Celebration of Pictures by Henry Dallal (published by the author; £45 from Waterstone's bookshops nationwide).

Review: Chris Horrocks

IF the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment epitomises British excellence and tradition, then this work of art in book form is a fitting celebration of its qualities.

And if you think it is a tad pricy, read on. The individually laminated images which grace its pages are more suited to be framed in gilt to adorn the picture gallery of a palace than lie idly on a coffee-table.

It is a book to be wondered at rather than just perused and those fortunate enough to open its covers will feel guilty not to be wearing silk gloves as they gingerly turn the pages.

Henry Dallal spent six years photographing the Household Cavalry from dawn to dusk and in this distillation of that painstaking work he has captured from every aspect the regiment's activities throughout a typical year, from ceremonial to operational (in its armoured reconnaissance role).

A son et lumière spectacle projecting his

photography, including images from the book, onto the walls of Windsor Castle, with an exhibition of his pictures, took place last month during the Windsor Festival.

Dallal writes in his introduction of his first visit to the regiment's home in Knightsbridge, home to 250 horses and 350 officers, soldiers and their families.

"The closer I looked, the more I realised what a rich and vivid world it was. Every detail on the uniforms and every piece of polished brass on the saddlery had a reason. Behind every minute detail there was a story

– and 350 years of the Household Cavalry's history was woven into crests, sheepskin blankets, gold outfits and helmets, for display to visiting heads of state or on ceremonial processions.

"My challenge as a photographer has been to capture something of this symbolism, to convey a little of my own love of horses and their individual personalities, and to explore the intricacies behind the scenes."

He has succeeded with flying colours.

● Books in brief – Page 71

Conspiracies make the world go round

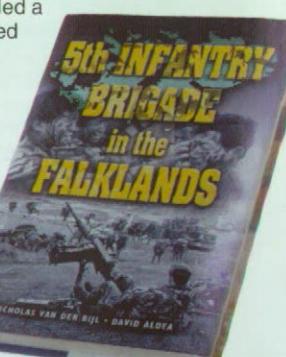
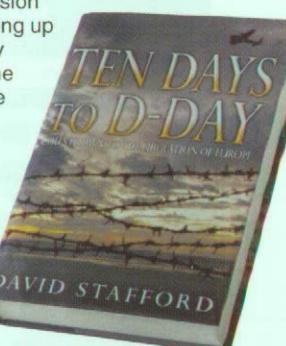
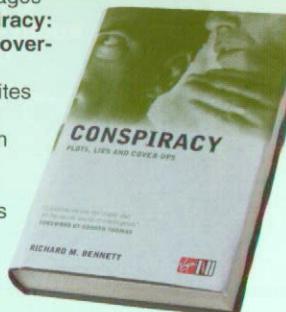
THERE'S nothing like a good conspiracy theory to excite public curiosity and keep the tabloid (and this case, book) pages turning. In *Conspiracy: Plots, Lies and Cover-Ups* (Virgin, £20) Richard Bennett cites scores of real and alleged cases from 2330 BC to the present, including the deaths of icons like Princess Diana as well as various cases involving the military. It's all very intriguing, but as the author says, the history of the world is a history of conspiracies – and he had to make hard decisions about which of them to leave out.

Ten people's stories of the D-Day countdown

TO achieve the maximum dramatic effect of a pacy novel in *Ten Days to D-Day* (Little, Brown, £20), David Stafford builds tension into the story leading up to the operation by telling it through the lives of real people who cannot anticipate the outcome. In researching the lives of the ten characters, including a young female secret agent, a middle-aged Jew and a young German soldier, Stafford was lucky enough to find some still alive, or relatives who helped him reconstruct their stories.

Filling a gap in history of the Falklands War

TWENTY-ONE years on, retired British army officer Nicholas van der Bijl and his co-author David Aldea have seemingly filled a gap in the published record of the Falklands War. In concentrating on the *5th Infantry Brigade in the Falklands* (Pen and Sword, £19.95) they comment on the brigade's composition and note that its commander was conspicuously overlooked in the post-war awards list. Photographs include several from the *Soldier* coverage of the war by Paul Haley.





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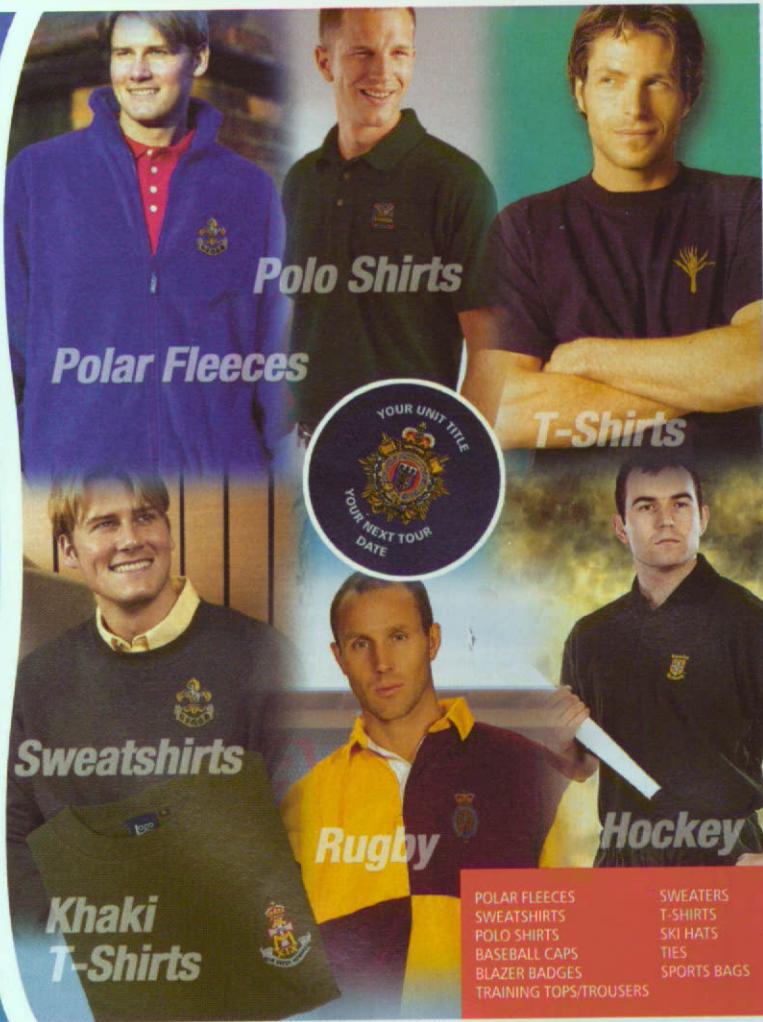
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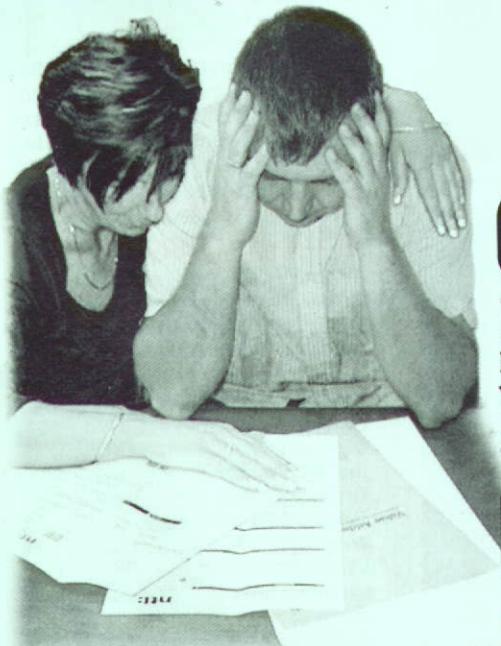


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MUSIC

Gordon Turner

Walton's wonder captured



Sir William Walton (SRC 107)

THE Specialist Recording Company continues to live up to its name and has issued a wonderful recording of music by Sir William Walton played by the Band of the Scots Guards.

Twenty tracks include the coronation marches *Crown Imperial* (1937) and *Orb and Sceptre* (1952), and music from the films *Henry V*, *The First of the Few* (*Spitfire Prelude* and *Fugue*) and *The Battle of Britain*.

● Available from Specialist Recording Company, 45 Crossway, Harpenden AL5 4QM, price £13.

Trooping the Colour (TRCD 231)

THE Queen's Birthday Parade, or Trooping the Colour as it is more popularly known, was recorded live and inevitably there are background noises.

As always there are a few new compositions and arrangements, most of which are from the pen of Maj Denis Burton, Grenadier Guards. These include *First Guards*, *English Folksongs* and *Soldier's Chorus*.

● Available from Droit Music Ltd, PO Box 2638, Eastbourne BN20 7HU, price £13.

Northern Salute (BNA 5180)

NORTHERN Salute, the latest offering from the Waterloo Band of the King's Division, is a concert programme featuring the music of the north of England.

There are numerous versions of old favourites *On Ilkla Moor*, *Lass of Richmond Hill* and *John Peel*. Also included are the theme from the TV series *Brideshead Revisited* and a handful of original works, *A Yorkshire Overture*, *Barnard Castle March*, *Three Dale Dances* and *Stephenson's Rocket*.

● Available from Discurio Ltd, 46 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1LD, price £13.

Remembrance Day music

IN answer to the requests for recordings of music suitable for Remembrance Day, I would suggest either of the following: **Music for Remembrance** (BNA 5014) by the Band of the Irish Guards, available from Discurio, price £13 (address above); and **Music in Remembrance** (TRCD 995) by the Band of The Light Division, available from Droit Music, price £13 (address above).

Bugle calls

RECORDINGS of the various Reveilles and the Last Post and Reveille are on **Bugle Calls for the British Army** (TRCD 224), also available from Droit Music.

If you have a query on military recordings or bands please write to me c/o *Soldier*.

VIDEO/DVD

Great War as it's never been seen

NEARLY 500 technicians using the latest computer-aided technology spent five months bringing rare black-and-white footage back to life so that modern viewers can see film sequences from the 1914-1918 Great War as it would have been shot.

The result is the **World War 1 in Colour**, a six-part series narrated by Kenneth Branagh and available in all good outlets.

Released on video (£19.99) and DVD (£24.99) by Fremantle Home Entertainment, the amazing documentary was woven from film found in archives around the world, including Russia, Germany, Italy and the Imperial War Museum in London.

Total running time for the video is 312 minutes, and 372 minutes for the DVD, which includes interviews with the series producers and a 50-minute insight into the battles of the First World War.

In conjunction with Fremantle Home Entertainment, *Soldier* has five copies of *World War 1 in Colour* to give away. To have a chance of winning one, tell us on a post-

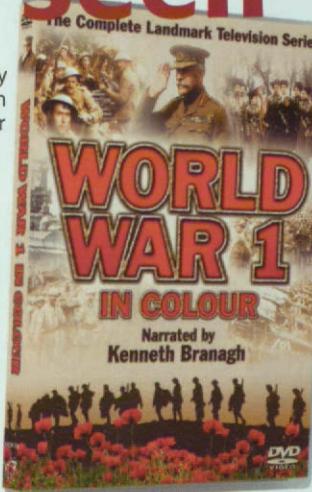
card the day and month on which the war ended.

Was it:

a) Oct 11
b) Nov 11
c) Dec 11?

First five correct answers received by October 31 will win the prizes. Remember to include your name and video/DVD preference. Usual rules apply.

● We will be giving away five copies of a companion book, *World War 1 in Colour*, by Charles Messenger (Ebury Press, £20), to be published on October 2.



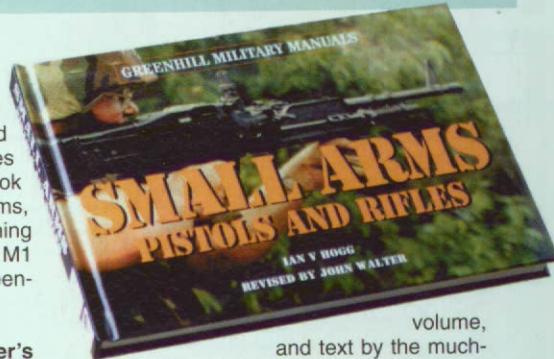
* Kenneth Branagh, narrator of *World War 1 in Colour*, is in the thick of the action in the Second World War drama *Conspiracy*, released by HBO Video on DVD (£15.99) and vhs £12.99.

He plays the part of Reinhard Heydrich in a depiction of the true story of the Wannsee Conference, the fateful meeting at which Nazi officials sanctioned the Holocaust.

* Also released at the same prices from HBO is *The Gathering Storm*, starring Sir Albert Finney as Winston Churchill. The award-winning feature film, set in the 1939 years as Churchill attempted to awaken Britain to the threat posed by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime, was watched by more than four million viewers when first shown on BBC1 in January.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Small Arms: Pistols and Rifles by Ian V Hogg. This latest edition (pictured right), revised by John Walter, updates three previous versions of the handbook first published in 1994. Pictures, diagrams, vital statistics, potted histories of everything from the Glock Model 17 pistol to the M1 carbine from the USA. Leo Cooper. (Greenhill Military Manuals, £14.99.)



The Battle of the Bulge 1944: Hitler's Last Hope by Robin Cross. Large format, superbly illustrated history of Germany's heroic but inevitably doomed winter offensive in the snow-shrouded Ardennes forest. (Spellmount, £20.)

volume, and text by the much-published former curator of the Tank Museum in Bovington. Picture research by Joanne King. (Carlton, £25.)

Machine Guns by Terry Gander. Pretty much everything you've ever wanted to know about machine-guns, which have been around since the end of the 19th century and had an enormous impact on battlefields around the world. (Crowood, £19.95.)

Germany at War by Lt Col George Forty. Unique collection of colour photographs of the Second World War in a large-format

Six Faces of Courage by M R D Foot. The true stories of six Special Operations Executive heroes of the Second World War. (Pen and Sword, £19.95.)

Nazi Gold by Ian Sayer and Douglas Botting. Gripping account into an investigation into what happened to bullion worth £2,500 million moved out of the Reichsbank by the Nazis as Berlin was pounded in the closing encounters of the Second World War. (Mainstream Publishing, paperback, £7.99.)

SOLDIER to soldier

Where do we start?

WHERE do you start when you begin the task of rebuilding a country?

With its power and fuel supplies? Its police and military forces? Its public utilities? Its banks and financial institutions? Or, perhaps, a refuse problem accumulated over years of neglect?

Not the most widely publicised aspect of the British Army's work in southern Iraq is its tackling of the mountains of domestic and industrial rubbish accumulated around Basra.

Hundreds of casual labourers were equipped with protective clothing, tractors, graders and shovels and tasked to remove detritus lining the main road west of the Shi'ite flats.



It was transported to a landfill site, buried and levelled. Another tick in the box . . . and a very popular one with people whose lives, literally, are cleaner and healthier for it.

Elsewhere, the stinking problem of inadequate sewage systems has been tackled. Sappers have repaired pylons and power lines, a team has traced the region's water pipelines, detecting and overseeing the repair of leaks, and soldiers have guarded petrol distribution centres to reduce the volume of fuel being stolen.

Iraq has a deeply embedded gun culture. Smuggling – fuel, copper cable, aluminium – is rife in the long-neglected south.



All this, and much more, in a region historically beset by feuds which can and do boil over into tribal warfare. There is an ever-present danger of patrolling troops being caught in crossfire.

For this incredibly complicated mission there are fewer British troops deployed in southern Iraq than there are based in Northern Ireland.

Why are more soldiers being sent to reinforce units already there? Because putting Iraq back on its feet is a monumental task. The actual business of soldiering is just the start of it.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

Your views are our evidence

IT can't be October already. I'm still running to catch up with where I should have been by now on the AFF publications schedule before Op Telic rearranged all our realities.

With luck we should finally have got our summary of "Families' Concerns 2002" published by the time you read this (if the Editor gets a wiggle on).

What, you may be asking, has that got to do with you? Well, if you live the Army life, and have a spouse, ex-spouse, partner or children, it has everything to do with you. "Families' Concerns" is one of the ways AFF assesses and publicises the concerns of Army families, and it's read by a lot of people who can help to change things for the better.

If you contacted AFF in 2002, your query has been included. AFF has spent a lot of time in the past year sorting out its statistics gathering, and "Families' Concerns 2002" reflects this with some interesting figures.

For example, more than 23 per cent of all calls and e-mails to AFF worldwide in 2002 were about housing, and 28 per cent of all calls were about topics grouped under the heading "Family Life and the Army". Hardly surprising, you may think. No. But without these statistics, AFF couldn't make that point.

Without statistics to prove it, we couldn't tell the policymakers that housing is the most important single topic to Army families.

They don't just take our word for it. Every time we raise an issue, we are asked how big an issue it is – we

AFF has launched its own survey on Ops Telic 1 and 2 to find out Regular and TA families' views on the support and information they received while their soldier was away.

So far, the response has been terrific. Many families, particularly those involved on Op Telic 1, welcomed the chance to put their views. And the more who respond, the greater the evidence



A personal view from Sue Bonney, Editor of the AFF Families Journal

have to have evidence to show that there are enough people with the same concern to warrant spending very limited resources on a solution.

This means that your input to AFF is more vital than ever. If only three people tell us there's a problem, that is reflected in the stats and it will come low in the pecking order. If 93 people tell us there's a problem, someone will take notice.

One of the ways we try to pin down what may be a general concern of the silent majority is to make it an AFF target issue and send out a questionnaire. We did this with accompanied service overseas this year and discovered that families' major concerns about going abroad on posting were separation from family in the UK and the effects on children's education and spouse employment.

Again, no particular surprises there. But the statistics are more revealing. For example, 28 per cent of respondents in Northern Ireland and 24 per cent in Germany felt the effects on their children's education was a disincentive to going abroad; whereas only 7 per cent in Northern Ireland and 11 per cent in Germany thought it an actual disadvantage.

So while you might worry about moving your child to a new school overseas, you may discover on getting there that it isn't as much of a problem as you thought. It could only cheer you to know, on the brink of a posting abroad, that many think it worth keeping the family together and enjoy the different lifestyle.

- A full report of the AFF Accompanied Service Overseas Survey was published in the September AFF Families Journal.
- If you would like a copy of the AFF Op Telic questionnaire, contact Central Office on 01980 615525, or visit the AFF website at www.aff.org.uk to print off a copy.

and the more credible the statistics.

If the questionnaire comes your way, don't

chuck it in the bin – fill it in, and become part of the percentages we quote at the policymakers. Your views do count, you see, when you tell AFF about them. As AFF's new slogan for our Conference in 2004 has it: "Use Your Voice – Voice Your Views"



Mag with muscle

◆ THIS morning I received a call from my regimental admin office confirming they have received a letter from your contact at Glasgow. They have agreed to pay the bonus to me. Thank you very much for your muscle power in this matter. – A very happy signaller.

◆ HUGH O'Pray tells us his appeal in the Searchline column (Aug) paid off when his former padre from Duisburg in 1970, Fr Karl Hartley, contacted him within days of the magazine being published. – Editor

Let's give our young recruits health options

IT was reported recently that 53 per cent of the UK's population is obese and that the current trend is for more eating and less exercise.

I am in a job which encourages a healthy lifestyle and regards fitness as an important part of the package, and I feel in the Army we could do more.

When a youngster joins up we should offer him or her only healthy options for eating and drinking, with no more high fat/high sugar content drink machines or high fat food options and we should not encourage alcohol consumption during the first months of training.

People may argue that this is against their human rights, but I believe it is in the best interests of our soldiers to give them every chance to change their habits and have a healthy lifestyle.

At the National Sports Centre, people pay to attend and eat healthily. There is no fried food or full fat option, only healthy food to promote a healthy lifestyle. If we really want a soldier who is fit, alert and active we must pay more attention to diet – and the time to influence them is during basic training. – SSgt (SSI) R J P Lowe, APTC, SEAE, Arborfield.

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please keep them as short as possible.

The more space you take up to get your point across, the less room there is for other letters, and we are anxious to use as many as we can.

E-mails should include your name and location at the bottom (not necessarily for publication).

Anonymous contributions will be binned. The Editor reserves the right to accept or reject letters, and to amend for length, clarity or style.

Please be brief

Do I have tenant's rights in my room?

I HAVE been posted to 14th Signal Regiment in South Wales. Over the past three months I noticed things had been moved in my room but assumed I had been mistaken.

One morning when I was not working, two civilian QM department workers, moving from room to room for no apparent reason, awakened me. They were not even being escorted by an accountable military representative.

Not to be informed when people wish to enter my or another soldier's room while we are at work or on leave is unacceptable.

We are being asked to be extra vigilant due to terrorist activities, and I find this laxity in security surprising.

Single soldiers' rooms are filled with CDs, computers and other valuables. It would be madness if a homeowner allowed a stranger access to their home without supervision. So why are we any different?

I phoned Norwich Union, with whom I have kit and room insurance, and was informed that for me not to be present when people are working in my room

Prize letter

PS2(A) responds: Assuming the facts surrounding this complaint are correct, this soldier has a reasonable right to feel aggrieved, although it is disappointing that *Soldier* is being used as a medium for expressing this complaint rather than the QM, who is clearly in the best position to respond.

In all issues where a grievance is felt, we advocate informal resolution at the lowest level and this is an issue which we believe can be resolved in such a way.

AGAI 53 has recently been revised and advocates that soldiers living in Single Living Accommodation (SLA) are entitled to the maximum degree of privacy which local cir-



"Tell the QM we might have a slight problem in B Company's accommodation."

invalidates my insurance. If work or inspections need to be carried out, the tenants should be informed so they can be present, at least as a matter of courtesy.

The only other people that should be allowed to enter rooms without occupants being present should be the RMP. Do we have any tenant's rights? – Name and address supplied.

cumstances, including local security, reasonably permit. Intrusions into that privacy must be reasonable and proportionate to their declared purpose – legitimate purposes include public safety, prevention of disorder or crime, protection of health or maintenance.

Within certain restrictions, soldiers are encouraged to treat their living space as their home.

So, it is incumbent on those responsible for such accommodation, wherever possible, to arrange for the occupant to be present, represented by someone acceptable to them, or at least informed that access to accommodation will be required so that personal belongings may be secured.

Any news about a medal for our operations in Afghanistan?

I AM a warrant officer based with a high-readiness unit. During 2002 all three troops within my squadron deployed to Afghanistan, covering a 12-month period.

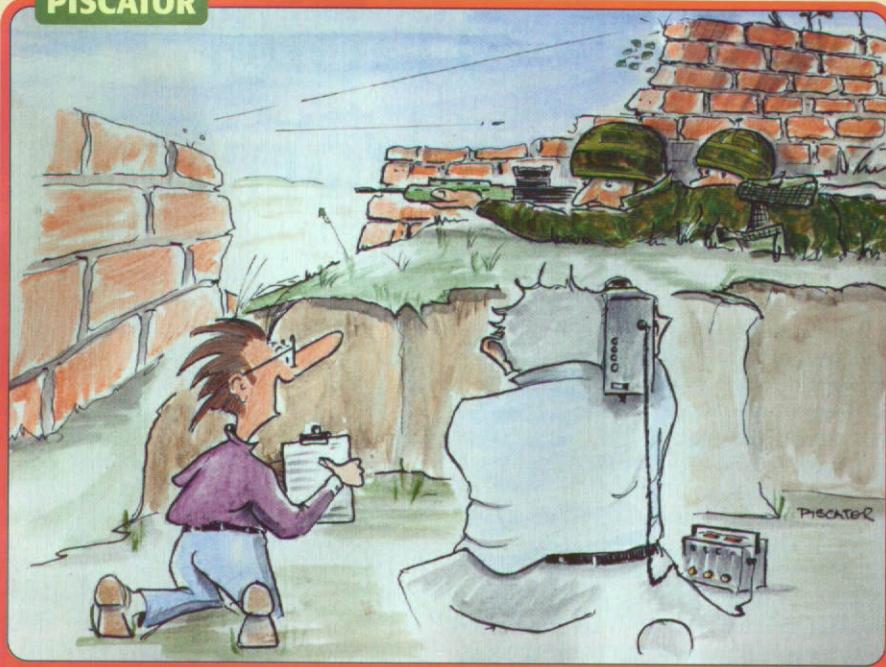
A number of my soldiers have asked if they would be receiving any recognition of their deployment. Some 18 months after the deployment, nothing seems to have been published regarding Operation Fingal although recently an operational service medal for Op Telic was given

Royal approval just weeks after the end of the conflict.

Can you provide any information for my soldiers? – Name and unit supplied.

● Service chiefs and the Secretary of State for Defence have cleared the submission from the Permanent Joint Headquarters for a medal for service in Afghanistan and it is now with the Honours and Decorations Committee for final approval. – Editor

PISCATOR



"Can you put a bit more 'Bruce Willis' into it this time ..."

The Army Benevolent Fund is YOUR national charity, committed to the welfare of soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need. To continue our work we are looking for dedicated people to organise and take part in fundraising events for us. For a fund-raising pack, please call 020 7591 2042 or e-mail enquiries@armybenevolentfund.com



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Previous rank affects my MPGS promotion chance

AS a former private, now a member of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), I was pleased to hear when I started that everyone had the same chance of promotion, regardless of previous rank.

But I was disappointed when a chance for promotion to lance corporal came up

in my unit and it went to someone who had previously been a staff sergeant because this person's experience counted.

If past service is taken into account each time promotion comes up, where does that leave me? – **Name and unit supplied.**

vious regular service. Many would say that he or she would be foolish not to.

Promotion thereafter is a matter for the annual AGC(MPGS) promotion board in Glasgow. Substantive lance corporals with at least 12 months' service and one confidential report recommending them for promotion are considered for promotion to corporal. Further promotion requires a positive recommendation and at least one CR in substantive rank.

The MPGS has existed for six years and 702 soldiers are serving. Your correspondent should be pleased to discover that 25 per cent of the JNCOs and 20 per cent of the SNCOs in MPGS hold ranks above that which they had held in Regular service. Promotion within MPGS is just and fair.

COS HQ PM(A) responds: Specific rules applying to promotion within the MPGS take account of its distinct character.

Two things make MPGS soldiers different. All have prior military service and all have signed up to a Military Limited Service Engagement (MLSE), contracting them to serve within a geographical area.

After initial training, every recruit arrives in his or her unit as a private soldier. The first promotion, to lance corporal, is a matter for the commanding officer of that unit. There is no length-of-service requirement. The CO is entitled to take into account not only a soldier's current service within MPGS but also the knowledge and experience gained in pre-

PS...

Whingeing Terriers?

Alexandra S Pullen took TA personnel to task for whingeing about service in Iraq (Mail, Aug). Here's what you thought:

I'M a former Regular now in a TA infantry unit. In the past year more than 35 members of my unit have been mobilised for Afghanistan and Iraq. Those in Kabul are being used as they should be, patrolling streets and helping to keep the peace. Those deployed on Op Telic 1 fulfilled roles including fighting with a battle-group.

Personnel mobilised for Op Telic 2 could not wait to do their job but are now asking: "Am I going to be a gate guard for six months?" Please, use them properly.

Whingers? No, just a desire to do a proper job. – **Name and unit supplied.**

AS a proud member of the TA Royal Signals, I'm aware of my commitment. Just because a few members complain, don't tar all of us with the same brush. I was called up for Telic 2 but my employer used the revocation process to stop me from being mobilised. I pleaded to go but my employer won. – **John Munford, (Sig), Manchester.**

WE in the TA are justly proud of our record in support of the Regular Army. I earned my medals in Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and on Telic. Most of the "cushy" camps I attended have been in places like Brecon and Cul-tybragan. A Pullen ("Whingeing Terriers", Aug) should accompany her local TA unit on a two-week camp to give her first-hand experience on which to base future TA comments. – **Cpl Brady, 1 QLR, Op Telic.**

I HAVE just returned from Iraq and encountered a mutual respect between the TA and Regulars. We had a job to do and got on with it. As for "cosy attachments", I've never been further than Scotland for a camp, and TA personnel have more sense on security issues than to tell "cool stories down the pub". – **Cpl J Park, Harlow.**

MY two TA platoons are working around the clock on guards and patrols in 50C heat and 90 per cent humidity, with the minimum of welfare on a tour of unconfirmed length. They are away from families for the first time and with major problems with their civilian employers on the horizon.

We chose to have civilian careers and stable family lives. We also chose to disrupt them for training nights, weekends, courses and annual camps, and there is always the chance that we might be mobilised. We've not "opted out" of the Army, as some bizarrely think – we've very much "opted in". – **Capt Charlie Barnes, Op Telic.**

A majority of the 40 TA soldiers with 2 R Anglian are from my battalion. Some were members of the call signs which responded to the bus bombing on the Jalalabad Road in Kabul (see *Soldier*, Aug). All dealt with the situation with great professionalism. This is no "cosy attachment" and any medals earned here can hardly be labelled as "easy to get". – **Sgt D Holley, 3 PWRR.**



Can class of 1989-91 please have their retention bonuses?

AFTER joining the Army in January 1990 on a six-year engagement and starting at my first unit in March 1992 I decided to commit to a full career.

I filled in the necessary paperwork at the unit admin office and went for OC's and CO's interviews to explain why the Army should allow me to extend my contract. Having impressed these officers, my contract was changed to a nine-year engagement.

Responding to the letter "Bonuses that cause resentment" (*Soldier*, June), PS10(A) stated: "When bonuses were introduced in 1991 for those on open engagement, they were only extended to



Maj Jacqui Davidson AGC(ETS), SO2a2 PS10(A) responds: SSgt Jeffs refers to the injustice and low morale of those who missed out on bonus payments due to changes in policy, which is similar to other queries presented to the AFPRB during visits to units and is equally applicable to concerns raised about other Financial Retention Incentives (FRIs).

There are a number of retention initiatives in place, of which commitment bonuses (CBs) is one. All FRI measures are divisive as they are management tools of last resort when recruiting and when retention issues cannot be addressed quickly enough by management initiatives. FRIs are introduced for a specific length of time and can be changed or withdrawn when the manning situation improves.

Notice Engagement (NOTENG) soldiers with less than nine years' service . . ."

This was not explained to me. Why was I allowed by the admin office and chain of command to commit myself to the Army for longer and change my contract from six to nine years when I would actually forfeit my five- and eight-years bonuses?

I understand, as PS10(A) points out, that bonuses have the purpose of retention but they can hardly argue that five- and eight-year bonuses have been a short-term measure aimed at key groups. These bonuses weren't targeted at key groups to solve a short-term problem but have been Army-wide for well over a decade. The

Every FRI has start and end dates and inevitably those who do not qualify will miss out. The MoD prefers to avoid such circumstances, but there are occasions when immediate financial action stems a problem more quickly than longer-term implementation of quality-of-life improvements. This type of action is also fairly common in the civilian market where companies use golden handcuffs to buy additional service commitment from their workforce.

CBs have been in place since 1991 and are not a short-term retention incentive. They were introduced for quite different reasons at the outset – to compensate for the difference in the increased scale elements of basic pay, removed under the Open Engagement. The CBs were extended to NOTENG personnel for a short period (until 1994) but now only

minority who missed them had their morale lowered through bad planning and poor management rather than manning requirements. Even those who received the bonus can see the injustice and wonder if and when they might be treated equally poorly. Paradoxically, the result is an adverse effect on retention.

Sgt Byrne (June 2003) rightly says that to give these retention bonuses in this way causes resentment and divisiveness.

Can those who joined from April 1989 to 1991 and are still serving have their retention bonuses please? – **SSgt 24860009 Alistair Jeffs, JSSU FI, BFPO 655.**

remain eligible to those on Open Engagements.

With the introduction of Pay 2000, where continued service is rewarded by annual incremental pay, it was proposed that CBs should be removed in their entirety and the money used to fund other Pay 2000 initiatives. In the current manning environment, where most soldiers still leave between four and eight years, it has been agreed that CBs should remain in force as they are proving to be effective retention tools and there are plans to improve the current CB structure.

This manning group is of concern as under-manning now could create potential problems in the longer term for the future NCO generation, and is the reason why high outflow at these points is still being redressed.

Pensions and 'Millionaire major'

CHARLES Ingram was asked by the MoD to resign his commission after he was found guilty of attempted fraud. I was horrified to read that he was to keep his gratuity of £40,000 and a pension of £14,000.

Why? When a junior rank has to leave the Army because of a civilian court case, he forfeits his right to a pension, regardless of length of service. It would seem that an officer can commit a civilian offence and retain his rights. – **J Mason, London.**



PS10(A) responds: This letter raises questions regarding the effect of disciplinary action on Service pensions in light of a recent high-profile case. Mr Mason is mistaken in his belief that any officer or other rank forfeits their right to a pension when discharged from the Army in any circumstances, disciplinary or otherwise; or that there is any disparity in the employment of current pension regulations for officers and

other ranks. Service pensions for both officers and other ranks are based on reckonable service and full pensions are payable at age 55 based on service up to a maximum 37 years service from age 18 for other ranks and 34 years service from age 21 for officers.

However, those who leave before reaching 55, but who have accrued 16 years' reckonable service for officers and 22 years' service for other ranks, receive immediate payment of accrued pension and terminal grant.

Those who resign or are discharged before completing the 16/22 years do not receive a pension at the time of leaving, but instead are awarded preserved pensions and terminal grants which become payable when they reach 60.

In cases where Service personnel leave through ill health or injury, invalidating pensions will be put into immediate payment.

Whenever an individual is discharged or retired from the Service, they still remain eligible to receive their accrued pension entitlement. An officer who retires for disciplinary reasons who has served in excess of 16

years' reckonable service is therefore entitled to receive an immediate pension and gratuity.

A soldier discharged for similar disciplinary reasons, on the other hand, will in most cases have served for less than 22 years. Consequently that soldier is not entitled to any immediate pension or gratuity, but will still receive a preserved pension payable at 60. Had an officer served for less than 16 years, he too would have received only a preserved pension at 60.

While entitlement to a pension and gratuity remains, officers and soldiers who leave the services for misconduct do not receive full pension rights. The pensions and gratuities of officers and soldiers discharged for misconduct are lower than those paid to individuals discharged normally at the end of their service.

Service pension regulations do allow pension benefits to be forfeited in the most extreme circumstances, however this is rarely invoked and only in respect of the most serious crimes against the state, for example, treason.

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1978: "I was recently accorded the distinct honour of being personally escorted around that spartan, sprawling cantonment known to most intelligent deserters as Aldershot. My Army career was not an illustrious one. My uniform was so ill-fitting I became a model for a burst frankfurter." – Late Les Dawson recalls National Service days.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, October 1953: Main picture: The new Caernarvon experimental tank designed to yield heavy tank production data. The War Minister said the perfected heavy tank would probably be the world's most powerful. Inset: The "Armadillo" suit worn by an American sergeant in Korea. It consists of an armoured vest and trousers and weighs about 24lb.

Sergeants' pay increase fails to break £1 barrier

HAVING just gone from sergeant level 3 to 4, I noted with some interest in the pay scales announced in April that I would be getting an increase of 97p, while all other increment raises for sergeant ranged from £1.51 to £1.91.

G PS10(A) responds: An examination of rates for the first three years of Pay 2000 shows the differential between sergeant higher range level 1 and level 7 has been of the order £8 to £9; whereas for corporal it has been £12 to £13 and for WO2 £12 to £14. Higher and lower pay bands have similar structures and the only difference between them is the pay rates recommended by the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body.

In its 2002 and 2003 reports, the AFPRB recommended changes to individual pay rates to correct anomalies, which have arisen

I also noted that the higher-range increments range from £1.47 to £3.17, so can somebody please tell me why a level 3 to 4 sergeant doesn't break the £1 barrier? – SNCO Tidworth, name and address supplied.

from the introduction of Pay 2000. It is recognised that the difference in value between the increments is not consistent – this is a result of the way Pay 2000 scales were derived from the old spot rate structure.

In preparation for the AFPRB's 2004 report, the MoD is reviewing the Pay 2000 structure. Although the review may recommend changes in certain areas, it should not be assumed that all incremental increases within a rank will be equal.

(A fuller version of this response has been sent to the letter-writer. – Editor)

Telic goodie bags

AS Chairman of the Fairford Branch of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank all those branch members who helped us put together comfort packages for troops serving in the Gulf in March. I received acknowledgements from grateful recipients. – Robert A Collister, ex-RMP, Chairman Fairford Branch, RBL, Glos.

Cassino refusal

IN the *Daily Mail* (Aug 15) there was an article about the Heritage Lottery Fund granting £39,500 for a gay heritage trail in Manchester while at the same time an application from some Cassino veterans for a grant to visit their former battle site was turned down. – Reg Kelly (26-year Army man), Hartlepool.

PS...

Suez medal delay

REFERENCE your August issue, Page 12, and the comment on the Suez Canal Zone medal taking up to two years to distribute. This is absolutely unacceptable. We have waited 50 years... isn't that long enough? We are dying off like flies and there will soon be none of us left to have the honour of wearing it.

Rules of vetting should be modified in these unique circumstances and the issue speeded up to meet the target date of Remembrance Sunday this year.

All Suez veterans should chivvy their MPs, who in turn should chivvy the Defence Minister to achieve this aim. – Ex-WO1 Charles Golder, Bolton, Lancs.

Korean casualties

YOU produce a very good magazine, which I still read at 81 years of age, but with reference to the article "War that never ends" (Aug) I would like to correct the casualty figures you published.

The official listing of casualties for the Korean War 1950-53 are: killed in action 1,078; wounded 2,674; PoWs 1,060; died in captivity 50. Not one of them is forgotten before God. – E J Howard MiD, CQMS Retd, Normandy and Korean War Veteran.

● Apologies. The figures we gave appeared in the national commemoration order of service. – Editor

Ferreting about

READING about the PWO ferrets in *Soldier* (June), I was reminded of my time with 503 Bulk Petrol Transport Company, RASC in Normandy in July 1944. I found a ferret while out foraging for firewood and brought it back to camp, where it soon became part of the company. We took it with us until we got to Kalken, Belgium in 1945.

Hector, as we named him, was featured in a *Daily Mirror* pets competition held in late 1944, and we won £5. I wonder if 503 Coy RASC were actually the first to have a ferret as a mascot? – Tom Nicholson, Liverpool.

Last man, last word

I HAVE a book entitled "All Bull: The National Servicemen", which states in its introduction that there is something of a choice as to who was the last National Serviceman. 23819209 Pte Fred Turner ACC, at the time attached to 13/18 Hussars, was discharged on May 7, 1963. Lt Richard Vaughan RAPC left his unit in Germany on May 4, 1963, but because he had to travel back to England he was not officially discharged until May 13. As to dates, then, Lt Vaughan has it; but Pte Turner had the latest number issued to a National Serviceman, so was certainly the last man from that point of view.

Based on these facts Lt Vaughan was certainly the last man to complete National Service. – Maj (Retd) Terry Cross, AGC Recruiting and Liaison Staff.

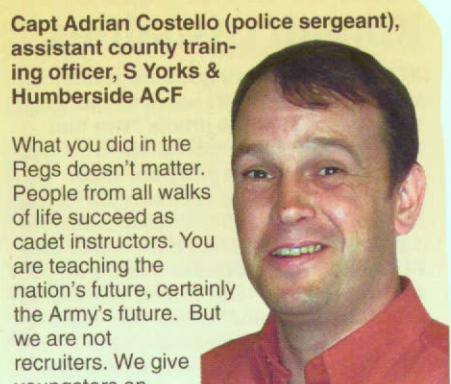
Vox pop

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



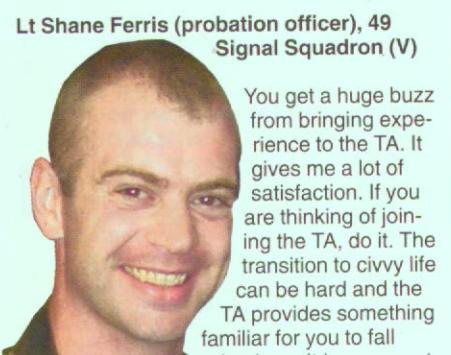
Brig David Shaw,
Commander 15
(NE) Brigade

Joining the Reserves having left the Regulars enables one to maintain Service links while also bringing experience to the Reserves.



Capt Adrian Costello (police sergeant),
assistant county training officer, S Yorks & Humberside ACF

What you did in the Regs doesn't matter. People from all walks of life succeed as cadet instructors. You are teaching the nation's future, certainly the Army's future. But we are not recruiters. We give youngsters an enjoyable way of life many don't get elsewhere. Helping them achieve their potential and develop as good citizens is the reward.



You get a huge buzz from bringing experience to the TA. It gives me a lot of satisfaction. If you are thinking of joining the TA, do it. The transition to civvy life can be hard and the TA provides something familiar for you to fall back on. It is a support network and the money can be a real lifeline. The TA offers so much that civvy life doesn't.

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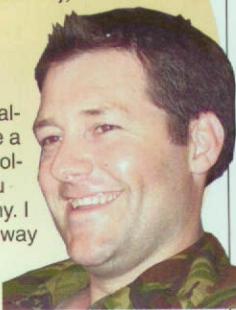
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Reserve judgement

Ex-Regulars often do not appreciate the value of their experience and how it can help others. Many lose contact with the Army after a year or two, just when they might be thinking of joining the Reserves. Here are some thoughts on the issue.

Capt Keith Williams (teacher),
2iC 49 Sig Sqn (V)



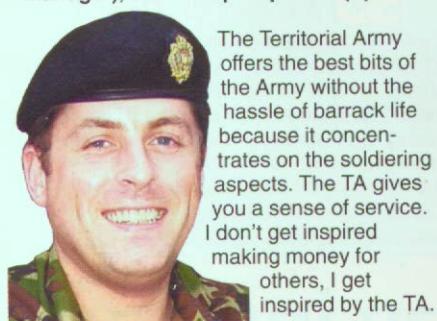
Life in the Regulars had become too routine. I loved it but needed a challenge. Also, you can't be a fully-committed career soldier and be married. You can in the Territorial Army. I joined the TA to pay my way through college. I've loved it and never left. Getting commissioned five months after I joined had a big impact.

Capt Richard Broadbent (property manager), OC 217 Tpt Sqn RLC (V)

I was a cavalry officer and wanted to do something completely different in the TA. I wanted to avoid comparisons. Basic skills and competencies are common and background doesn't matter. You mustn't feel constrained. It is important to get established in civvy life first. After that, join the TA.



Capt Chris Clegg (support services manager), 2iC 217 Tpt Sqn RLC (V)



The Territorial Army offers the best bits of the Army without the hassle of barrack life because it concentrates on the soldiering aspects. The TA gives you a sense of service. I don't get inspired making money for others, I get inspired by the TA.

Capt Sherri Took (police control room operator, now on FTRS), adjutant 101 Regt RA (V)



I left the Regulars as a local lance corporal and was an officer cadet in the TA the next day. I knew that I could succeed in the Army. The TA was the door. The great thing about the TA is that it allows you to develop natural skills and try different roles. I was in the RCT to begin with. A better opportunity came up with the gunners so I took it. You can in the TA.

Maj Mark Finch (teacher), OC 49 Sig Sqn (V)

I had been out for four years but in my heart I missed the camaraderie, the exercises and the soldiers. I hadn't really thought about the TA until a friend suggested it. The biggest challenge is adapting to the TA. You have an awful lot to offer, especially knowledge and experience. TA soldiers can be wary of ex-Regulars. To succeed you have to adjust.



Interviews and pictures: Maj Rod Flint, HQ 15 (NE) Brigade



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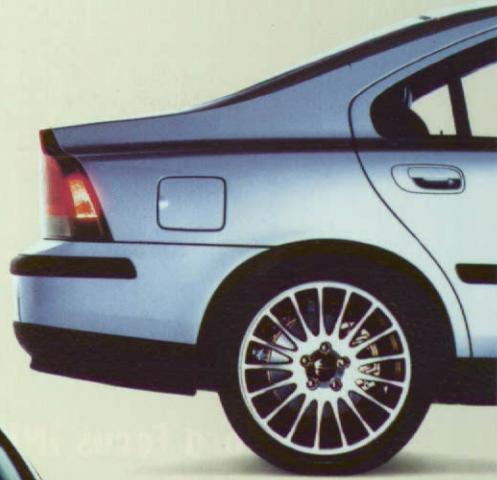
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