

SOLDIER



Soaking up the pressure

... as drawdown
in Balkans begins

Pages 4,
17 and 18

Also
Mechanized brigade
stretched on prairie

Page 40



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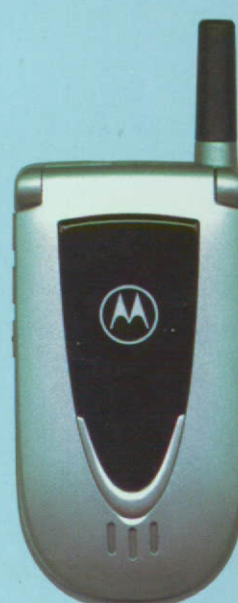
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Cover picture

Making a splash: Pte Damon Rides raises the tempo near Pristina. Soldiers of 1 PWRR have trained hard during their six-month deployment in Kosovo. See Page 17

Picture: Steve Dock



"After guarding his flaming church all this time you'd think he would skip the retiring collection!"

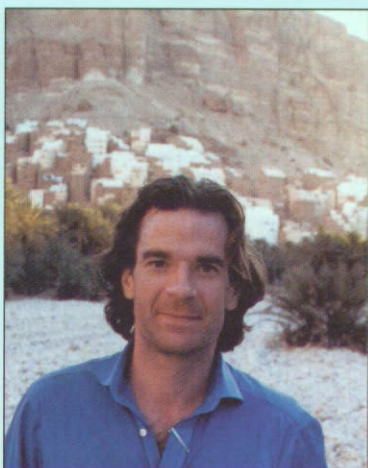
● Changing times allow drawdown of troops in Pristina – Pages 4-5

In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

We talk to the author who met the world's most wanted man – Pages 68-69

Interview with Peter Bergen, right



Services prepare for 'war' in RAF-led Defence 2003 extravaganza at Fairford – Page 33

If cap fits, let's wear it properly in public

'In recent months I have been irritated to see soldiers walking around in public in uniform and also by the misuse of green military transport ... military vehicles parked outside takeaways, supermarkets and banks.' – Talkback, Page 74

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Joint NBC Regiment deploys for the first time

Bowing out of the Balkans

Job (almost) done – now the troop drawdown begins after progress on the streets of Pristina

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Steve Dock

AN announcement that British troop levels in the Balkans are to be reduced by more than 1,800 is the latest signal that normality is returning to the volatile region.

By spring next year the current total of about 4,350 troops will have been slimmed down to 2,500, marking a further milestone in the long-running peace-keeping and stabilisation mission.

As a consequence of the reduction, Britain's main contribution will be a battle-group in Bosnia and an operational reserve battalion which will, for the moment, be based in Pristina with a remit to deploy in Bosnia or Kosovo as necessary.

The downsizing of forces in the area was signalled earlier this year by the Nato Joint Operational Review (JOAR), which advocated a regional approach to Nato's operations in the Balkans, treating Bosnia and Kosovo as a single theatre.

It is believed that smaller, lighter and more flexible forces will be able to meet the improved security situation in the region.

The UK will continue to provide lead HQ elements in the Bosnia stabilisation force, Sfor, but will cease, from next May, to provide a brigade headquarters for the Multi-National Brigade (Centre) in Kosovo. Instead, the UK will be part of a multi-national HQ involving Finland, its first lead-nation, Sweden and the Czech Republic.

About 1,500 UK troops will be based in Bosnia, with about 900 in Kosovo. Sfor is to reduce from 18,000 to 12,000 personnel and Kfor from 38,000 to 32,000. By June next year Kfor should be down to about 29,000 troops – a reduction befitting the remarkable progress made since British troops first arrived on the streets of Kosovo's capital in June 1999.

Later this month the last British armoured infantry in Kosovo, 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, will roll out of town after completing a six-month tour of Pristina.

"The Pristina we are leaving behind is in the main a calm and

peaceful city," explained the officer in command of B Company, 1 PWRR, Maj Andy Smith. "There are still incidents of violence, but the frequency of that violence is no greater than you would find in Brighton, Bournemouth or any other British city. The population is optimistic



Maj Andy Smith

about the country's future and a key indicator of that is the proliferation of new buildings and housing in particular.

"Locals are now spending money on their own property and on improving the city's infrastructure – a clear sign of security and confidence."

In an effort to encourage this rehabilitation process 1 PWRR, in line with Kfor objectives, pursued an aggressive risk-management programme during their tour, unfixing soldiers from previously

guarded positions. Among the high-profile focal points to have been relieved of a 24-hour guard within Pristina are the YU Project, a block of flats occupied by more than 80 Serbs, and an unconsecrated Serb church.

"Previously the YU Project had been manned by 12 soldiers at all times, but now we have removed the guard, the sangars and all the sandbags," said Maj Smith.

"Previously Kfor had provided a safe and secure environment by physically escorting this Serb minority everywhere, but that is no longer necessary.

"Our challenge has been to explain to the Serbs that they are now safe and wean them away from the perception that if they walk the streets on their own they will be killed.

"They're not particularly happy about what we have done, but we have got to prepare them for when troop numbers reduce and responsibility is passed over to the Kosovo Police Service (KPS).

"We have not forgotten about the flats. We still patrol around them, check up on them and maintain a presence, but it is no longer a permanent one."

Despite the voices of protest, the flat's tenants have not been shy about leaving their homes to go shopping or visit friends, and to date there have been no incidents as a consequence of the unfixing process.

The decision to remove the 12-man guard from the unconsecrated church has also been greeted with apathy from the Albanian population. Now protected by just barbed wire, the church, once feared as a target for Albanian extremists, has remained untouched.

Unfixing has not been confined to Pristina's city limits; The Queen's Royal Lancers have enjoyed similar successes in the northern province of Podujevo.

Lt James Scott, QRL, told *Soldier* that the number of fixed locations in the town had been reduced from 17 to just one, a Serbian church close to the

administrative boundary line, in the space of a year.

"Aside from our own camps, the church is our only other fixed location and we have begun to wind down our presence there as well," he said. "When we arrived in theatre there was a sangar at the church's rear and razor wire around the perimeter, both of which have now gone. We still have a four-man guard there but we are working things down gradually.

"The fact that we have been able to unfix from so many locations is testament to the advancements that have been made in a country effectively torn in half just two-and-a-half years ago."

This is a sentiment shared by the outgoing brigade commander, Brig Simon Mayall, who believes that unfixing should be seen as a vote of confidence in Kosovo's political maturity and a developing confidence in the country's own forces of law and order.

"The work done by 1 PWRR and QRL is reflected all around Multi-National Brigade (Centre)," he said. "We have driven down the number of fixed tasks from more than 600 to about 250, and that figure includes guarding our own camps, which are tasks we can not get away from.

"We have released a battalion's amount of manpower simply by pursuing this policy of unfixing. It requires something of a leap of faith, but it is not us taking risks with the population's security, it is us demonstrating our confidence in how secure the operating environment is.

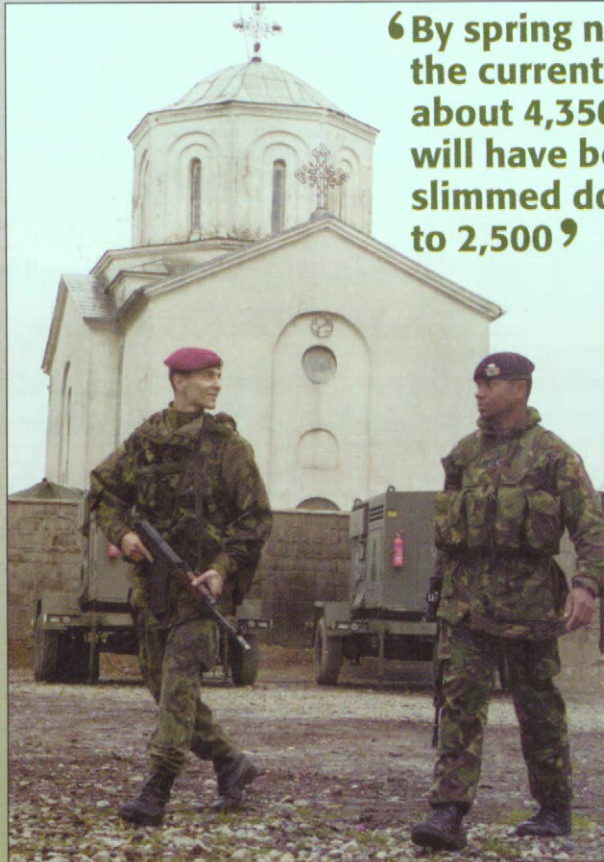
"We are trying to persuade the people of Kosovo that they should be relying on their own civil institutions.

"The KPS are now coming along well and our focus has shifted away from policing, which is why we are now in a position to bring in troop reductions.

"The situation in Kosovo is radically different from 1999 so quite rightly we need to be withdrawing troops. As far as an end state is concerned we are not there yet, but we are moving in the right direction."

● PWRR in Pristina – see Page 17

By spring next year the current total of about 4,350 troops will have been slimmed down to 2,500



Church service: LCpl Philip Niubalavu, right, on joint patrol with Czech troops at the last fixed location in Podujevo

Flat-footed: Pte Graeme Bowler (1 PWRR) leads a patrol past the YU Project in Pristina





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Brits join multi-national force in Münster

THE British Army is supplying officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs for the new Nato Higher Readiness Forces (HRF) across Europe. These newly-accredited headquarters will be able to replace long- and short-term deployed peacekeeping command HQs around the world.

The British contingent in the 1st (German/Netherlands) Corps, HRF, Ger-

many consists initially of a colonel, three lieutenant colonels, a major, two WO1s and a WO2, and will increase to 14 by early next year. They are spread across the multi-national headquarters in Münster and can expect to serve in places such as the Balkans and Afghanistan.

● A feature on the Nato Rapid Deployable Corps Italy, based at Solbiate Olona, near Milan, will appear in the next issue.



Water music: The dramatic sight of a 25-piece military band marching into a swimming pool had guests of the Alexander the Great Hotel at Paphos in Cyprus on their feet. The stunt by the Band of the Royal Corps of Engineers was a brainwave cooked up by the hotel's manager and Capt Ed Keeley, the band's director of music. Full dress uniforms were replaced by "pool undress" order and instruments held high as the musicians paddled to a rapturous reception from hundreds of holidaymakers.

Picture: Cpl Pete Mobbs

Tanks modified for desert fighting role

PLANS are being drawn up for the "desertisation" of 234 Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks.

The Commons Defence Committee was told the £90m preparations for desert warfare will equip the equivalent of two armoured brigades.

Maj Gen Rob Fulton, a senior capability manager at the Ministry of Defence, told MPs the proposed modifications would include "skirts" to keep out desert dust and improved oil and air filters, as well as some changes to the tanks' engines.

He did not comment on whether the modifications were linked to Iraq.

Gen Fulton said: "We are looking at a programme to provide limited desertisation. That will be considered alongside other elements in the equipment programme in the current planning round."

More than 60 tanks from 4th Armoured Brigade were sent to Oman last year for Exercise Saif Sareea, a joint exercise with the Omanis. Many British tanks suffered breakdowns after sand caused problems with their engines.

In a written answer in the House of Commons, Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said that, following Saif Sareea, it would be appropriate for all troops to be issued with desert combat boots for future deployments in such high temperatures.

Snap up £250

DON'T miss out on your chance to win £250 by entering Soldier's Photographic Competition. But you need to hurry. See Page 73 for details.

New Harrogate campus opened

A NEW campus at the Army Foundation College at Harrogate was opened on October 18 by the Duke of York.

The college began its work in 1998 in buildings which once housed the old Army Apprentice College. It has undergone a gradual rebuild as the premises in Penny Pot Lane has continued to operate.

Prince Andrew toured the state-of-the-art facilities, which include nine computer suites, 32 classrooms, a 604-seat lecture theatre, six football pitches, two floodlit all-weather pitches, a gym, a swimming pool, a library, church and medical and dental centre.

Before unveiling a plaque to formally open the new campus, the Prince inspected a passing-in-parade of 800 junior soldiers.

SaBRE's out to impress employers

A CAMPAIGN to help Reservists gain the support of their civilian employers has been launched by the Government.

SaBRE - short for Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers - is a multi-million pound drive, using direct mail, advertising, public relations and IT to get the message across that TA training is of benefit to civilian employers as well as to the Army.

A network of employer support executives is being recruited to spread the message face-to-face. Case studies will be used to impress employers.

New research by Leeds Business School has revealed that members of the Volunteer Reserves receive 12 times as much off-the-job training as an average employee.

● More details at www.sabre.mod.uk



Hats off for Ben



Headline news: Displaying the right hat-itude for the job, **Gnr Ben Young**, of 19 Regiment RA, shows off a selection of military head-dresses from Hobsons & Sons of Thundersley in Essex. The company has just won a £277,000 contract to supply the Services with 10,000 hats, chinstraps, spare peaks and badges over the next two years.

Faye steps off



Military mission: Former Steps band member **Faye Tozer**, above, got herself kitted out in Combat 95 gear for a four-day morale-boosting visit to troops deployed in Kosovo. The popular singer and dancer, who is now carving out a solo career, signed hundreds of autographs at 12 locations, patrolled with The Queen's Royal Lancers in Podujevo, drove a 432 with 3 Armd Engr Sqn, flew in a Gazelle with 656 Sqn, 9 Regt AAC, and visited the PWRR in Pristina, 6 Bn REME and 22 Engr Regt HQ. Picture: PO (Phot) Ros Harding

Sapper trio cited for saving lives

Picture: Cpl Pete Mobbs

THREE Royal Engineers who helped save lives in separate incidents have been commended at an investiture in Cyprus.

The trio, all serving with 62 Cyprus Support Squadron RE, are Cpls David Johnston and Paul Ansell and LCpl Rod Campbell.

Cpl Johnston received the Commander British Forces Cyprus commendation for saving an elderly man who fell into icy water at Poole Quay. The incident took place last November while he was in England attending a course.

Cpl Johnston heard a splash and saw someone in the water, about 15ft below the harbour wall.

The sapper jumped in and pulled the casualty, who was between 60 and 70, to the surface. Two instructors on the course gave first aid to the man, who was very cold and had cuts on his legs.

"There is no doubt that his quick thinking and bravery saved the man's life," said the citation.

Also awarded a commander's commendation was 30-year-old Cpl Ansell, a plant section commander in Dhekelia, who organised the rescue of a 58-year-old Cypriot feared to be having a heart attack in a snowbound hotel in the Troodos mountains.

Cpl Ansell co-ordinated the efforts of 62 Squadron's Troodos-based snow



Cited: Cpl Paul Ansell, left, Cpl David Johnston, centre, and LCpl Rod Campbell

clearance team to provide a safe passage for military medics trying to reach the casualty. This involved the sappers going out at night in freezing temperatures on steep mountain roads covered with snow drifting to 14ft.

The medics – Lt Sonia Loneygan, Sgt Alex Wright and Cpl Andy Dykes – decided to evacuate the patient to Limassol, which meant a second hazardous trip for the clearance team of Cpls Ansell, Ky Philp and Rob Hood, and Spr Rob Evans.

LCpl Campbell was presented with a commendation from the Commander Multi-National Brigade (Centre) for rescuing a woman and boy from a car in Kosovo. The 23-year-old was in a convoy approaching the Macedonian border when a car collided with a truck and was buried under its load of stone.

LCpl Campbell prised open a door to enable the driver to escape, then crawled into the car and opened a rear window to extract the boy. He went back in to remove a car seat to free the woman, who medics believed had suffered a cracked pelvis.

A good double act

WO2 Christopher Coates, right, of 215 Signal Squadron, serving with Sfor in Kosovo, and his wife, SSgt Alison Coates, QARANC, below, received their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals on the same day from Brig Simon Mayall, Commander Multi-National Brigade (Centre). SSgt Coates is serving in the ATR Pirbright Dental

Centre and flew to Kosovo to receive her medal at the same time as her husband.



IN BRIEF

● Maj Matt Hanson, right, OC of the new Cyprus Communications Unit (CCU), pictured at a parade at Episkopi to mark the merging of Army and RAF comms units to create an island-wide asset. It includes the Army's former 259 Signal Squadron and the RAF's No 12 Signals Unit.



Stay in your lane and I'll stay in mine

P&O's speedy Seacat had to make allowances for WO2 Tim Mayers of 47 Regiment RA while he was taking his turn in a relay swim across the Channel.

The Dover-Calais ferry took avoiding action to give Tim, pictured in the water, right, a wide berth during the 16 hr 21 min it took six gunners to complete the crossing from Shakespeare Beach near Dover to Shackburn Beach near Calais.

Also involved in the swim were Capt Chris Allen, project leader WO2 Gary Eydman, Sgt Greg Reeve, Bdr Mark Tansley and Capt Sean Lamb.

They were supported by medic Sgt Nigel Hogg, who had to dish out tablets to combat seasickness when the winds freshened to force six. The soldiers resisted pressure to abandon the crossing as conditions deteriorated and made it to the other side wearing plastic illuminating bands as the light faded.

As they neared Calais they were swept into a busy shipping channel. The Hampshire-based team want to apologise for the late arrival of P&O's Dover-Calais late evening sailing and say they were doing

their best to get out of the way. Cash raised by the Channel crossers will go to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA) and Get Kids Going, which helps disabled youngsters to take part in sport.

● As part of their training, the swimmers entered the tri-Service open-water championships at Lake Bala, Mid-Wales, in June. WO2 Mayers won the Army breaststroke medal and Gnr Dyer the freestyle.



Well, well . . . divers take on Kosovo task

ARMY divers from 22 Engineer Regiment were called in to inspect inlet valves at Jezero reservoir, which supplies 40 per cent of Pristina's water. The survey of the main pumps, which have been neglected for many years, was requested by the European Agency for the Reconstruction of Kosovo.

With the valves situated 19m below the surface, the team could work for 17 minutes at a time without the need for decompression stops.

In a second phase of the operation, divers will seal off the valves by encasing

the large inlet valves in a heavy-duty membrane bag, draining off the water and servicing the mechanism.

Divers were also called on to clear a deep well at Gnjilane in the American-controlled sector. After a bucket obstructing the well below the surface had been removed by LCpl Tony Bryan, the hole was found to narrow considerably 7m down. With LCpl Bryan too big to descend further, the slimmer Cpl Taff Stokes was sent down to reach the bottom at 12m and report that all was clear.

● Pte Joeli Suguvanu, right, of The Light Dragoons, pays his dues to Jane Pollard on Jeans for Genes day at Swanton Morley. Jane and Clare Amos patrolled the camp and fined



anyone not wearing jeans. They collected more than £340 for the charity from members of the regiment, which was in denim order for the day.

That covers it . . .



In the money: WO1 Clyde Morgan, QDG, left, and CSgt Duncan Doswell, 1 RGJ, have been rewarded under the MoD's GEMS scheme for an idea which will save the Army £20,000 over the next three years. They noticed the high turnover of Mk 4 EOD helmet liners used by students at the Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Wing at the Army School of Ammunition in Warwickshire – for health and hygiene reasons the liners had to be changed frequently – so did something about it. They designed a washable hygiene cover for the liner, which was duly signed up to by the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency. It will be used with the Mk 5 helmet coming into service.

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Cheeky chaps: Tpr Adam Ray, left, and Tpr Manasa Turaganivalu, both QRH, get to grips with top model and TV presenter Nell McAndrew during her visit to the Naafi in JHQ Rheindahlen to sign copies of her 2003 calendar. Nell was interviewed by *Soldier* earlier this year when she presented a series which starred Army boxer Gnr Alastair Morrison. Picture: Sgt Rick Elsworth

Kids' safety campaign reflects well on Mickey

Cats' eyes reflectors save young lives on streets of Pristina

A ROYAL Military Policeman has been given an international award for distributing cats' eyes reflectors to help to save the lives of children on Kosovo's roads.

While stationed in Pristina, Cpl Mickey McLean RMP was appalled by the number of youngsters killed and maimed on the city's unlit streets, a problem exacerbated by lack of crossing points and poorly maintained vehicles.

Last month he received a Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in the Corporals' Mess of 111 Provost Company RMP at Hohne Camp, Germany.

His plea to UK police forces for donations of reflective material was taken up by Gloucester City Council road safety team leader Gary Handley, who contacted the Nationwide Building Society. The Nationwide, which had launched a project to give

reflective cats' eyes to all primary school children in the UK, donated 20,000 reflectors. Fastened to coats and bags, they make the wearer visible at 150 metres in low-beam headlights, giving drivers up to five times the normal distance to react.

The reflectors were airlifted to Pristina by South Cerney-based 29 Regiment RLC and collected by Cpl McLean, colleagues in the Multi-National Police Force and members of the Kosovo Police Service. About 5,000 were handed out by troops from a Norwegian battalion to pupils at two Albanian schools and the remaining 15,000 were distributed by the Kosovo Police Service.

At the same time a safety awareness campaign organised by the Nato personnel was pivotal in changing children's attitudes towards their own safety.

Our photos rise to the challenge

SOLDIER Magazine photographers Graeme Main and Mike Weston swept the board in the MoD Media Challenge Competition, winning all three prizes in the stills photography section.

Graeme's picture of an armed DWR soldier playing football with youngsters in Pristina – runner-up in the Army Photographic Competition image of the year category – took first prize of £500, while a set of atmospheric black-and-white prints of amputees in Sierra Leone won him second prize as well.

Mike, our chief photographer, completed the clean sweep by taking third place with a photo of Afghan horsemen playing buzkashi near Kabul.

The competition is a celebration of the skills, talents and professionalism of MoD civilian media staff.

Meanwhile, Maj Peter Boxell, who has worked for the Directorate of Corporate Communications (Army) for the past three years, has been named internal communicator of the year by the Communicators in Business organisation for staff work on projects including the Army internet, Garrison Radio, sports promotion and recruit marketing liaison.

Peter, a former Great Britain hockey international, received his award at the Savoy on October 31. He is leaving the Army shortly to join a firm marketing and distributing educational IT products.



Graeme Main



Mike Weston



Maj Peter Boxell

Degree offer

MAJ Gen Robert Baxter, Commandant of RMA Sandhurst, visited Southampton University to launch a scheme offering technical degree places to students wishing to join the Armed Forces or MoD.

MoD in Sussex search

THE MoD's Defence Disposal Services Agency and US marine exploration company Odyssey have signed an agreement to search the western Mediterranean for the wreck of HMS *Sussex*, which sank in 1694. Lost in a violent storm with virtually all hands, she is believed to have been carrying tons of gold coins.

Signalling intentions

TERRITORIAL Army soldiers from all over the UK boarded ferries to Zeebrugge and Rotterdam for three weeks of setting up and testing communications networks. Exercise *Arcade Falcon* involved five regiments and two independent squadrons from 11 Signal Brigade.

Shipspace battery

SOLDIERS from 105 (Scottish and Ulster) Regiment RA (V) on an annual camp in Gibraltar cleaned up and painted the 9.2-in coastal artillery gun in O'Hara's Battery, on a 1,400ft peak overlooking North Africa. The gunners applied more than 100 litres of battleship grey paint to the gun and surrounding platform.



Under Big Ben

A digest of what's being said on Army matters in Parliament

Terror order renewed for reservists

A FRESH order, effective until September 2003, has been made to enable reservists to continue to be called out to support military operations relating to the campaign against international terrorism.

More than 500 have been called out since October 2001, many compulsorily. A written answer said: "The reservists are providing an invaluable contribution to the operations and we are most grateful for their continuing commitment and their employers' support."

D-Day 60th: The Government and Armed Forces will be represented at ministerial and senior officer level at parades and services in Normandy to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2004. The Parachute Regiment will provide a band for the event, being organised by the French Comité du Débarquement.

And I quote...

Our case is simply this: not that we take military action come what may, but that the case for ensuring Iraqi disarmament, as the UN itself has stipulated, is overwhelming. I defy anyone... to say that that is an unreasonable demand for the international community to make when, after all, it is only the same demand that we have made for 11 years and that Saddam has rejected."

— Prime Minister Tony Blair, speaking in the Commons debate on Iraq and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Lost missile: Searches for the pallet of an anti-tank missile lost recently in the Bristol Channel proved unsuccessful.

Mobile phones: No specific rules govern the carriage of personal mobile phones by members of the Armed Forces on operational duties, and the use of personal mobile phones during deployments and operations is at the discretion of the local commander. Commanders may restrict their use

in a geographical location or for a specific period for operational reasons.

Food sources: In the past 12 months, about 23 per cent of food supplied to the Armed Forces by the MoD's food supply contractors was purchased overseas. The figure includes foods not produced in the UK and others bought abroad for personnel serving abroad due to export or customs restrictions. Of food bought for use in operational ration packs, 14 per cent was sourced abroad.

Top three: The three biggest MoD contracts awarded since May 1997 were for provision of the Bowman communications system, the redevelopment of Main Building in Whitehall, and the Royal Navy's Type 45 programme.

Big guns back SA80-A2

Report vindicates reliability of modified rifle

LT Gen Sir Mike Jackson, Commander-in-Chief Land Forces, has given a ringing endorsement of the suitability of the modified SA80-A2, the Army's individual weapon.

Speaking at a press conference at the MoD in London, he said: "After pretty intensive trials and exercises we are confident that we have got the weapon we need and want."

"I am clear that the SA80-A2 lives up to, and in some cases surpasses, expectations, with the proviso the correct maintenance regime is followed. It does what it is designed to do and does it well."

Gen Jackson's comments followed the publication of a report into equipment failures in Afghanistan. The report's author, Col Frazer Hadow, RM, said problems encountered by

Royal Marines serving with 45 Commando were caused by not applying sufficient oil.

A team, including specialists from the Defence Logistics Organisation, the Infantry Trials and Development Unit and Heckler and Koch, which modified the rifle, was sent to Afghanistan in July. It conducted interviews, inspected weapons and staged field trials, including test firings under replicated operational conditions.

The team had been asked to investigate following three equipment failure reports. Two related to weapons damaged in transit.

The third concerned an incident in May when a patrol from 45 Commando, including members of the Brigade Reconnaissance Force, armed with a



Picture: Cpl Mark Ballantyne

Sand test: An SA80-A2 is coated in sand during extensive trials carried out in Oman

mix of SA80-A2, M16 and Minimi weapons, came under fire. During the exchange four SA80-A2s experienced stoppages. In each case this was rectified by manually cocking the weapon.

The failure report indicated that the rifles were not oiled and, as such, stoppages were to be expected. The majority of the other weapon types suffered stoppages during the contact.

There is currently a 100 per cent reporting requirement for all equipment failures on the SA80-A2 – normal practice for new-to-service items.

It is said to be significant that only

three reports have been received. Col Hadow consequently concluded that the SA80-A2 was a reliable weapon when correctly maintained and that it could be maintained in an operational environment.

The team found there were no engineering defects that would affect the functional reliability of the weapon. However the team identified three equipment problems – a number of safety plungers jammed; damaged magazines were not being replaced; and muzzle covers expanded to allow sand into the weapon.

Checklist

STEPS taken to address the report's recommendations include:

- Replacing missing or unserviceable magazines and items from weapon cleaning kits;
- Checking safety plungers regularly for wear damage that could cause sticking. The procurement of a modified safety plunger in a more resilient material is being considered;
- The weapon training pamphlet is being amended to highlight the importance of inspecting the top of the magazine for distortion and the priorities for cleaning and lubricating the weapon when operating in extreme hot, dry and dusty conditions. The pamphlet is also being amended to recommend a reduction to 25 rounds (from 30) per magazine in extreme hot, dry and dusty conditions;
- A replacement muzzle cover with a captive fit is to be designed and issued;
- A review is being conducted of weapon-cleaning tools to develop devices which are easier to use and more effective when employed in an operational setting;
- Information on an improvised weapon cover used by 3 Commando Brigade is to be made widely available.

Col Hadow has recommended that all users be reminded of the correct cleaning and lubrication regime for hot, dry, dusty conditions.

To raise confidence in the weapon a field-firing exercise was carried out in Oman. The aim was to demonstrate to selected personnel from all three Services that media reporting on the weapon was inaccurate.

As a result, a core of instructors have returned to their units with personal experience of the reliability and maintenance regime of the weapon.

The SA80-A2 successfully completed 94.54 per cent of battlefield missions in Oman.

Peaking in Peru

High adventure: Two members of a Defence Academy expedition to the Cordillera Blanca region of Peru climb from camp one to two, zig-zagging between crevasses with the south face of Hauscaran Sur in the background.

Team leader Maj Ian Comber RA, Maj John Tolan, WFR (V), Maj John Kerner RLC and Maj Simon Hutchings RLC, all from the Advanced Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham, took on the summit of Huascarán Sur, at 6,768m the highest peak in Peru.

Three succeeded in making a lightweight, Alpine-style ascent of the south (Sur) peak before descending in "white-out" conditions.

Eleven climbers have been killed on Hauscaran since June and most of the climbers encountered by the military party on the mountain failed to reach the top. The expedition had to abandon its plans to climb the north peak – Hauscaran Norte (6,655m) – because of particularly dangerous snow conditions.

Picture: Maj Ian Comber



Washington skirl

Capitol performance: Pipe Maj Rab Loyal plays in front of the Capitol Building during a short cultural visit to Washington DC by members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment. The battalion was taking part in a month-long exchange exercise with US troops and was based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, home of the 101st Airborne Division.

● 1 SG Pipers mark September 11 in USA – Page 65



IN BRIEF

● Troops from 516 Specialist Team Royal Engineers set up a ship-to-shore pipeline in Portland Harbour during an 11-day exercise which began with a logistic craft carrying the equipment from Marchwood Military Port near Southampton. When completed, the pipe system, which can be used to pump fuel ashore, lay on the seabed.

● SSgt Gavin Wood, right, teaches local students at the Banja Luka Catering College's cooking school. SSgt Wood, the regimental catering SNCO at the Metal Factory base, has been showing 180 young chefs how to prepare British dishes after an approach from the Bosnian baker who provides bread for Sfor soldiers in the town.



● Six members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) re-enacted the first parachute drop of women behind enemy lines. Among a party of 40 who travelled to France for the commemoration, the six jumped in tandem with French paratroopers. During the weekend, FANY members took part in a communications exercise with 71 (Y) Signal Regiment.

● Service personnel deployed in the Falklands contributed to a golden jubilee gift to the Queen from the people of the islands. The glass-top, wooden occasional table, with a tapestry depicting the Falklands' coat of arms, was taken to Buckingham Palace last month. It was made from 100-year-old ash and more than 300 stitchers created the tapestry.



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Kabul Tiger settles in at Colchester



Home at last: **Tiger**, the white mongrel puppy brought to the UK six months ago by soldiers serving in Afghanistan, has completed his quarantine period and moved in with new owner **Margaret Watson** and husband **Paul**. Tiger was found by troops serving with 216 Signal Squadron and Margaret is the squadron's tailoress.

Tiger shared a tent with WO Graeme Smith in Kabul after being adopted by 16 Air Assault Brigade troops as their unofficial mascot.

Army is prepared to cover fire strike

AS **SOLDIER** went to press an estimated 19,000 personnel from all three Services were ready to provide emergency cover if the first national strike by full-time firefighters went ahead.

Under a contingency plan code-named Operation Fresco, Armed Forces personnel have undergone a five-week training package at RAF Manston in Kent.

They will provide firefighting crews, breathing apparatus rescue teams, drivers and administrative command and control functions. Troops will also provide security at bases.

Plans drawn up by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister would see cover provided by 827 Bedford Green Goddess trucks kept for civil emergencies. The

trucks, introduced in 1953, were used by the Army during the last national strike in 1977.

The first walkout was scheduled to last 48 hours with others stretching to as much as eight days, with one ending on Christmas Eve and another the day before Bonfire Night.

Prime Minister Tony Blair reconvened Downing Street's emergencies committee, known as Cobra.

The committee, which meets rarely – most recently after the 11 September attacks last year – has prepared action plans for handling emergencies during the strikes.

Cobra was also convened for the foot-and-mouth crisis and the fuel blockade.

Cpl Francis Chipolina belts out Sinatra classics on stage at Ballymena Town Hall. He was accompanied by the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment and the Band of The Royal Gibraltar Regiment, which completed its annual camp in Northern Ireland. The Gibraltarians played at several functions as well as in many retirement homes around Ballymena.



● **FOUR** members of the 4th Regiment RA joined their twin French regiment, 1er Regiment d'Artillerie de Marine, for a firing camp at Suippes in Champagne, an exercise camp little changed since it was the scene of fierce fighting in the First World War.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● **Army chef Mark Simmons** has landed a staggering £164,776 windfall – with a soccer bet of just £4. **Doncaster Rovers** fan Mark, serving with 19 Regiment RA at Colchester, won what is thought to be the biggest-ever payout on one footie accumulator by predicting the winners of 18 games.

"It's a hell of a lot of money when you're on Army wages, but I won't be jacking the day job in. I love the Army life too much," he said. – *Sun*

● Thousands of Greek Cypriots protested against the presence of British military bases on their island and the prospect of the installations being used in an attack on Iraq. The protesters converged on the RAF communications base at Akrotiri. – *Guardian*

● **Delighted Prince Harry** has been promoted to the rank of lance corporal in the Eton College army cadets. He was presented with his stripe by the Combined Cadet Force's adjutant, **Capt William Prideaux** of The Royal Green Jackets. – *Sun*

● The prospect of war with Iraq is encouraging record numbers of young Britons to join up. Over the past six months 7,350 recruits have joined the Army, compared with 6,592 for the same period last year. – *Sunday Telegraph*

● **Thousands of British war graves** in Iraq have been desecrated in a reaction to the threat of renewed bombing raids against the country. Headstones have been smashed; crosses vandalised and memorial plaques torn down and smashed in a cemetery holding the remains of the dead from two world wars. – *Times*

● Britain's A-bomb tests blighted the lives of thousands of soldiers. Fifty years on, a legacy of death and disease is being passed on to their children and grandchildren. – *Sunday Mirror* front-page headline announcing a six-page investigation into health problems experienced by veterans of nuclear explosions in the Pacific.

● **Servicemen** were experimented on with Sarin, the deadly nerve gas, as late as 1983 at the Government's defence research centre at Porton Down, documents reveal. Previously the MoD has admitted to tests involving the nerve agent only during the Fifties and Sixties. – *Sunday Telegraph*

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Clearing out: Pte Anthony Rushforth on the alert during a house-clearance exercise

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Steve Dock

SOLDIERS from 1st Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment quickly discovered that being over-manned does not equate to being under-worked during their six-month tour of Kosovo.

Taking full advantage of their extra manpower and the new-found stability in Pristina, the battalion's officers kept troops on their toes with intensive in-theatre training programmes.

"As a battalion we are over-manned by 79 soldiers and that has brought with it a lot of opportunities," explained Maj Andy Smith, who returns to Tidworth with the rest of the battalion later this month. "We have been able to send a platoon to Northern Ireland and have completed a

large number of training cadres. As well as holding driver and NCO cadres, we are also the first battalion to bring a Warrior turret trainer to Kosovo and that has been critical for us ahead of our training year in 2003.

"Those on the gunner cadres have also been able to put what they have learned to the test during a multi-national live firing exercise in Krivolac, Macedonia.

"If we weren't fully manned we would not have been able to do as much as we have, and the fact that there is no longer a direct threat against Kfor has also helped our cause."

Training officer Capt Nick Thuilliez added: "Any slack there was from having extra men on the ground has been taken up by the training. Those not involved

with cadres themselves have had to work extra hard to release those who have.

"In total the battalion managed to complete five gunner refresher courses, four gunner introductory cadres, an NCO cadre and two driver cadres.

"The training has provided a welcome break from peace-support operations and being in Kosovo has really helped focus people's minds on the task at hand – there are no distractions here."

But it hasn't been all work and no play – more than 30 per cent of the battalion managed to escape the routine of peace-support operations and war-fighting training for a week of adventure training at Brac in Croatia.

● Easy ride for smugglers – see over



Splash down: Pte Aliposo Cokanalagi, above, keeps watch as a Warrior arrives at a cleared enemy position during a company training exercise near Pristina

L-plate: Pte Garry Bowles, below, takes part in one of the tracked-vehicle driving cadres held in Kosovo



On their toes in Kosovo

‘Any slack has been taken up by training’



Smugglers given an easy ride

British soldiers serving in Kosovo make an exception to their tough stance on crime

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Steve Dock

DESPITE being caught carrying contraband goods across the administrative boundary line by multi-national border patrols, some of Kosovo's most persistent smugglers have been receiving five-star treatment from troops based in Pristina and Podujevo.

Usually renowned for adopting a no-nonsense approach to fighting crime, British soldiers have been going out of their way to help the habitual law-breakers, giving up their free time to ensure that the traffickers' stay in custody is as comfortable as possible.

Thanks to the kindness of these volunteers, the felons have benefited from regular meals, expert medical attention, personal grooming and plenty of tender loving care.

Hardly the usual level of care awarded to prisoners – but then horses are not your run-of-the-mill law-breakers and Mirada Farm, just outside Pristina, is far removed from any prison.

"Smuggling remains a big problem in Kosovo and ponies and pack mules are used heavily by smugglers to carry anything that can be sold on for a profit," explained Capt Beth Wells, 3 RMP, an avid horsewoman and one of Mirada



Healing hands: A team of Kfor volunteers, above, tend to one of the farm's "inmates"

Hungry horses: Three of Mirada's ponies, below, stretch their legs after six weeks indoors

Farm's dedicated army of volunteers. "Horses make ideal accomplices for the smugglers because the locals use them on a daily basis for collecting wood up near the borders, and consequently they know most of the mountain passes.

"The beauty of using horses is that they can be loaded up with contraband goods

such as cigarettes, alcohol and weapons, and can be trusted to cross the borders and return home unescorted at no risk to the smugglers themselves."

In an effort to stamp this out, Italian, German and American Multi-National Brigade troops on smuggling interdiction operations intercepted a number of

smuggling trains and confiscated 21 ponies, two donkeys and a mule in July.

With no place for equines at Kfor's Bondsteel Detention Facility, responsibility for the four-legged offenders was passed on to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which in turn placed the animals under the care of local employees at the former pig farm at Mirada.

Although far from ideal, its buildings and 30 acres of pasture should have provided the animals with a comfortable temporary home, but sadly that was not the case.

"The locals who were supposed to be looking after the animals clearly weren't,"

'They were covered in excrement and many had open wounds'

said Capt Wells, who first visited the farm in July after being tasked to inspect the conditions in which the animals were being kept.

"Many of them were in a bad way when they were taken to Mirada, having been underfed by their owners or mistreated by smugglers, but they were not being looked after properly at the farm either.

"The first time we went to see them they were in a dreadful state. They had nothing to lie on, were covered in their own excrement, many had open wounds, and in the six weeks they had been at the farm none of them had been allowed outside."

Spurred into action by the obvious distress of the animals, Capt Wells organised working parties of volunteers, including soldiers of The Queen's Royal Lancers, and returned to the farm mob-handed and accompanied by a theatre veterinarian.

"It was heart-breaking to see the conditions these animals were living in," she



In good health: Capt Beth Wells, 3 RMP, leads a fit-again Boss into one of the paddocks

said. "When we first came here the horses didn't make a sound and were listless.

"A lot of them wouldn't be touched and it took us a whole morning just to coax them outside into the daylight. One was so bad that we had to lift him outside.

"Once we got them out in the sun we had to sponge the mess off them, and even with two or three people working on each animal it took four to five hours to get them clean."

As well as teaching the farm's six employees how to brush, feed and care for the horses properly, the volunteers busied themselves constructing two paddocks and fencing off large areas of pas-

ture for the horses to graze. "In the space of just two months we noticed a massive change in the horses," said Capt Wells. "Although some are still shy they can all now be handled and some of them could even be described as fat.

"They are now ready to be taken back out in to the community. This farm is not meant as a permanent home for them – the whole idea is to confiscate the animals, vaccinate them, nurse them back to health, tag them and then redistribute them to needy homes.

"The project is a bit like Robin Hood on the equine front – we take from the smugglers and give to the poor."





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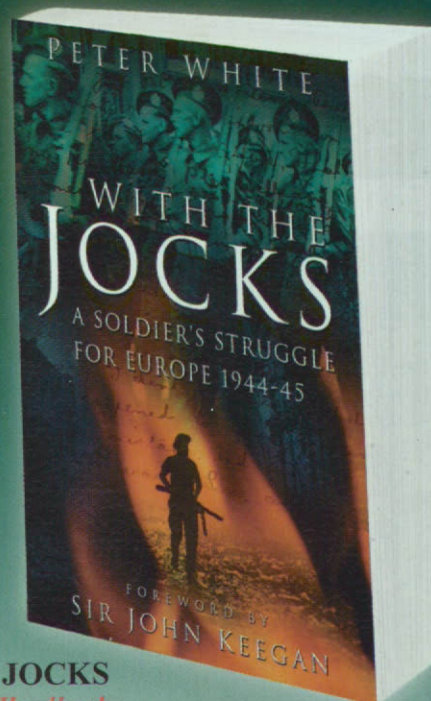
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Musical finale: Capt Jerry Young, Director of Music, conducts the Band of The Queen's Royal Lancers in the 1812, accompanied by live firing by AS90s

Picture: Cpl Grant Rivalin, CA

Explosive stuff by percussion section

1 RHA's B Battery brings gunners' eight years in Bosnia to an end

WITH a resounding boom the last round was fired in Bosnia and Herzegovina in a ceremony to mark the end of the artillery role in the Stabilisation Force (Sfor) mission, writes **Meghan Marsaw**.

In an entertaining departure from the usual style of military ceremonies, the event started with a traditional Kiwi *haka* war dance and climaxed in the guns firing to punctuate Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

The rendition by the Band of The Queen's Royal Lancers included the thunder of AS90s, one of the rare occasions that live ammunition has been used to accompany the 1812.

"It was difficult to co-ordinate because of the technicalities of using real artillery pieces," said bandmaster WO1 Guy Boothe. "This was how the piece was meant to be played. It was exhilarating."

British gunners have deployed in Bosnia since February 1994 and the current rotation will be the last.

"It's a pretty benign environment at the moment and heavy armour is not really required," said Capt John Le Feuvre, of B Battery, 1 RHA.

His unit has completed three major exercises during its tour and conducted operations as an infantry company, working with the Welsh Guards.

As artillery is no longer needed in Bosnia, the firing of the last round represented the massive progress that Sfor has made in providing a safe and secure environment for the people of this troubled country.

The final battery in theatre was made up of elements of the Royal Artillery, the Royal Horse Artillery, and a detachment from the Royal New Zealand Artillery.



In command: Brig Andrew Farquhar at the transfer-of-authority ceremony at Banja Luka

Change on way

BRIG Andrew Farquhar, late Green Howards, has taken command of Multi-National Division South West (MND(SW)) in Bosnia. His challenge will be to continue the force's mission with fewer soldiers.

As Bosnia stabilises, the division is reducing to a brigade and will be known as the Multi-National Brigade North West (MNB(NW)) from January.

More focus will be put on training local police to free soldiers for other operations. A continuing issue will be the return of displaced persons and refugees and the effects of economic realities.

"There is always the threat of strikes from one group or another," said Maj Paul Smith, G3 Ops for the division. "There will come a day when, unless their demands are met, they will go on strike."

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"Which cretin booked the Light Infantry band?"

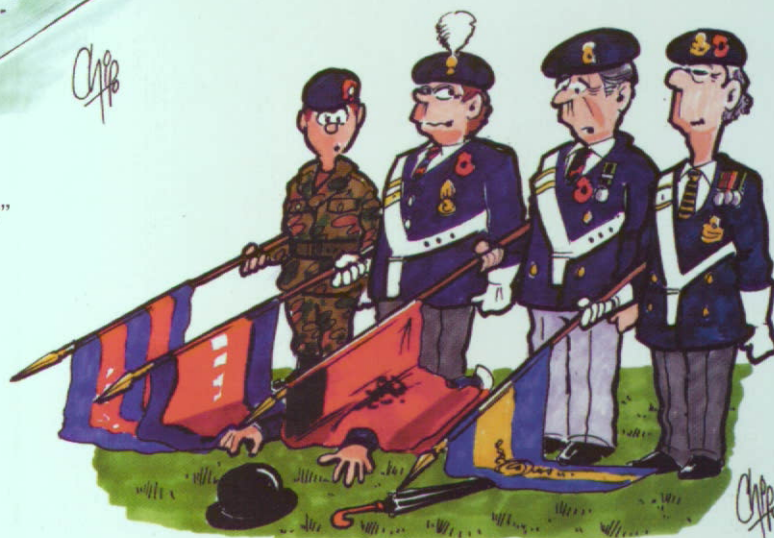


"Emily says that since the Brownies are older than the Paras . . . we should go first"



"Er, I don't suppose anybody's got a mouthpiece with 'em?"

Chuckle with Chip



Lest we forget

An affectionate look at
Remembrance Sunday



"Come on, young man . . . I'm going to show
you how we celebrated VE day!"

El Alamein remembered

"Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat." Sir Winston Churchill

Pictures: Mike Weston

HUNDREDS of former soldiers from both sides gathered in the searing heat of the Egyptian desert to pay their respects to the fallen at a moving ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the battle of El Alamein.

Joined by the Duke of Kent, veterans' minister Dr Lewis Mooney and Viscount David Montgomery, son of Fd Marshal Bernard Montgomery, the old soldiers, many in their eighties, paid tribute to their fallen comrades – and to the enemy.

Others attending included the New Zealand Prime Minister, Helen Clark, and Australian Governor-General, Peter Hollingworth.

At a service for Commonwealth Servicemen, Sam Bradshaw, chairman of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association, summed up the feelings of the Second World War heroes.

At one of the many cemeteries 60 miles

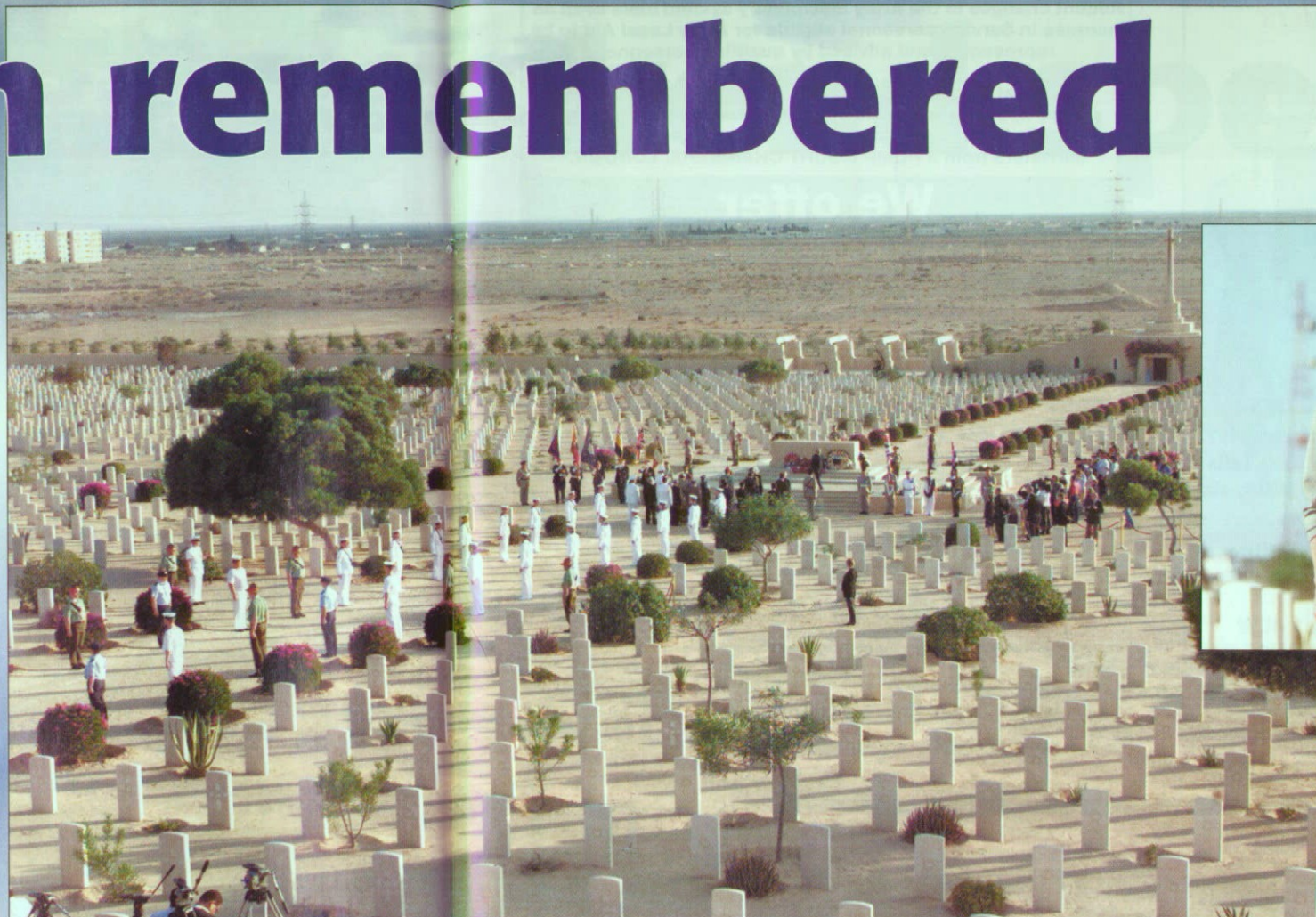
west of Alexandria, he said: "Looking for the names of those people I knew who never came back... it's a very sad, very emotional feeling."

Rolf Werner Volker, a German veteran who was a Panzer grenadier with the Afrika Korps, said the ceremony had been a moving experience adding that even while fighting the two opposing armies had held each other in high respect.

About 13,500 Allied troops were killed or wounded during the fighting, while Axis losses ran to tens of thousands.

● The 12-day Battle of El Alamein began on October 23 and ended on November 4. It marked a turning-point for the allied forces. It was also the only major land battle of the war that the Allies won without American participation.

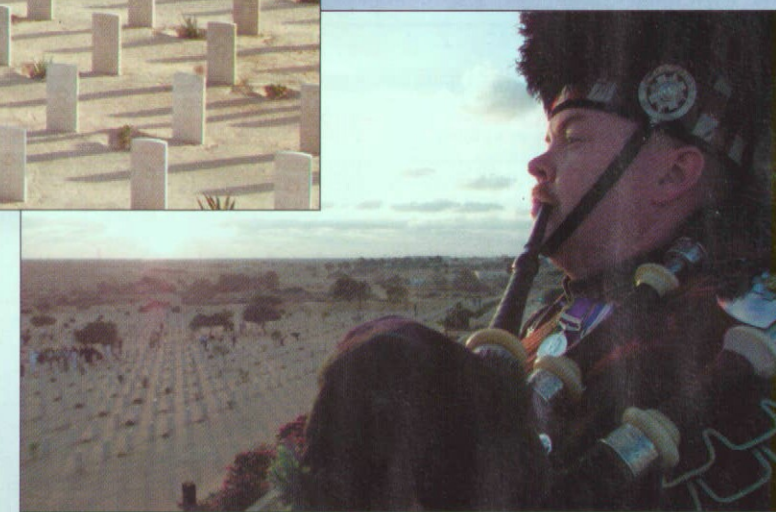
About 100,000 German and Italian forces commanded by Fd Marshal Erwin Rommel faced 150,000 Commonwealth and Allied forces under Fd Marshal Montgomery.



Final resting place: A reminder of the sacrifice of thousands, the Commonwealth Cemetery, above, at El Alamein



Search: Robert Brown, ex-239 Fld Park Co, 51 Highland Div, is joined by his wife Maria in a search for the graves of comrades



Tribute: Piper LSgt Neil MacRae, Scots Guards, plays a lament during the wreath-laying ceremony during the 60th Anniversary El Alamein service



Colours: The Union Flag carried by WO2 Andrew Butcher, Gren Gds, is escorted by WO William Nunn, RN and Sgt Brian Mannion, Queen's Colour Sqn, RAF. Other colours include the Commonwealth flag, 13 Regt French Foreign Legion and the Eighth Army Veterans' Association



Tank display: A British Crusader tank retrieved from the battlefield takes pride of place at the El Alamein museum

Poignant: LCpl Daniel Crossley, Band of The Parachute Regiment, left, plays an evocative and moving Last Post

Mark of respect: In searing heat, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, right, lays a wreath on behalf of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association at the stone of remembrance

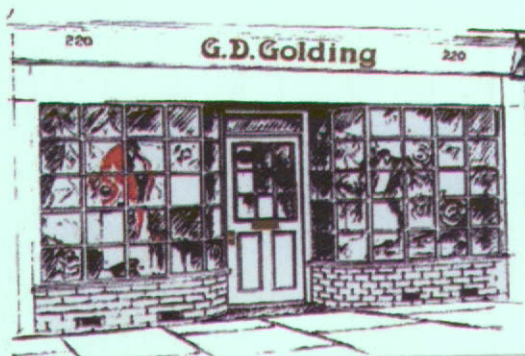




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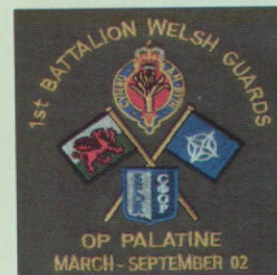
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Trend spotting

Results from the latest Continuous Attitude Survey reveal that officers are happier, but soldiers are less so

COMPARED with the Army's 2001 Continuous Attitude Survey (CAS), officers interviewed for this year's study tended to be more content in several areas.

In particular, they singled out the standard of Service children's education (up 12 to 59 per cent); amount of extra duties (up 11 to 66 per cent); involvement with decisions that affected them (up 11 to 54 per cent); opportunities to attend career courses (up 10 to 62 per cent); and quality of life (up 8 to 80 per cent).

Soldiers marking time

Among soldiers, however, there was little improvement in attitudes, with re-engagement intentions virtually the same and overall levels of job satisfaction unchanged since the first of the new-style surveys in May last year.

In some areas soldiers' satisfaction went down and dissatisfaction went up.

● **FINDING out what soldiers really think about Army life and then making the necessary changes is the best way of improving recruitment and retention – the idea at the heart of the Continuous Attitude Survey.**

Responsibility

The numbers of soldiers who felt happy about the amount of responsibility they exercised went down seven points to 59 per cent.

And there was a five-point drop in sense of achievement (down to 53 per cent), management by superior officers (down to 33 per cent) and those happy about the effects of Army life on their children's education (down to 22 per cent from 27 per cent).

Dissatisfaction with their ability to buy or rent their own home went up by eight points to 34 per cent. More soldiers were unhappy with career advice from their unit – up by seven percentage points to 49 per cent – and more soldiers were unhappy with overall pay, the numbers rising seven points to 33 per cent.

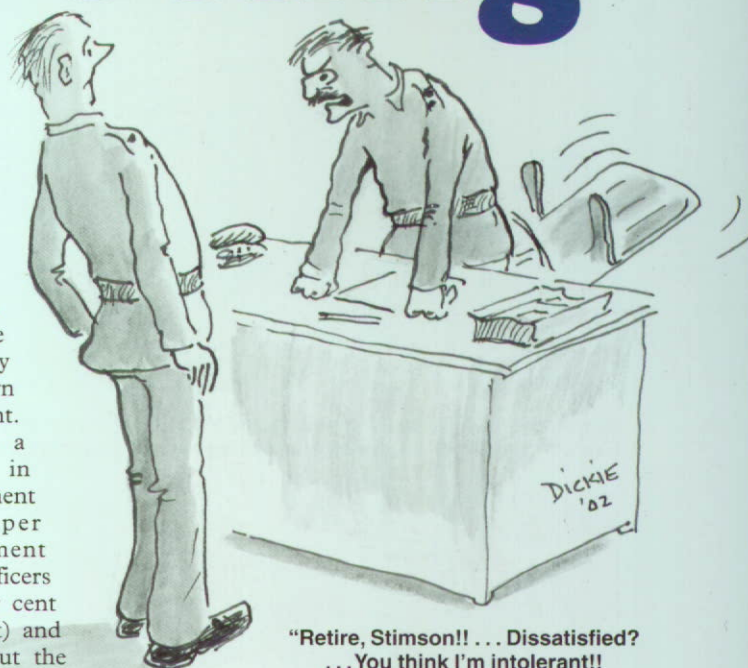
Improvements

There were areas where officers and soldiers have become more satisfied. Figures for both reflected an improvement in satisfaction with operational tours and routine postings, and with the frequency and length of postings.

Tour frequency

For soldiers, satisfaction with tour frequency rose by seven percentage points (to 36 per cent), while their contentment with tour lengths was up eight points to 43 per cent, and dissatisfaction with both the frequency and variety of routine postings reduced by a significant six points.

Among officers, 54 per cent, a rise of five points, expressed approval for tour lengths.



"Retire, Stimson!! ... Dissatisfied? ... You think I'm intolerant!! - I can't abide intolerance!!!"

HAVE YOUR SAY

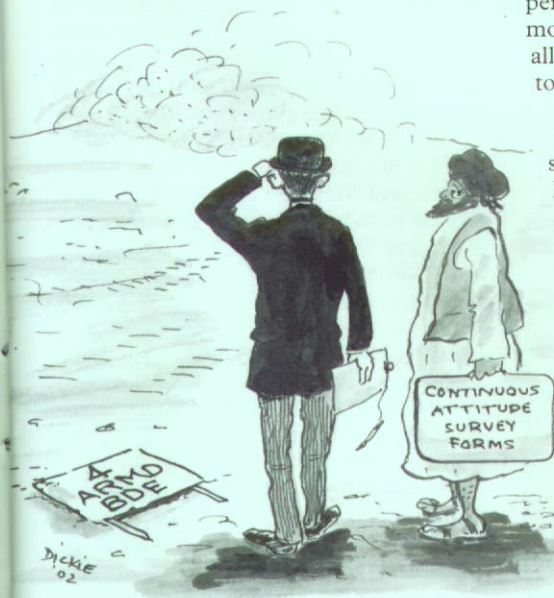
The survey was anonymous, with most questions requiring only a tick in the box. The number of replies was down, possibly because the survey coincided with the busy period surrounding the large-scale deployment of troops on Exercise Saif Sareea 2.

Nevertheless, more officers than soldiers responded, and the message from the CAS staff is loud and clear: if all views are to be represented, especially those of junior soldiers, it is crucial that people complete the questionnaires and give their opinions.

Fighting equipment

The CAS asked how much confidence people had in their fighting equipment. Of soldiers, 48 per cent reported that they were confident or very confident, up seven percentage points, which was also mirrored by officers.

But, 55 per cent of soldiers and 42 per cent of officers said they still found it necessary to buy additional kit – values virtually unchanged from the earlier survey. The responses in that questionnaire's comments box indicated that jackets, boots, torches and load-carrying equipment (for example, daysacks, bergens and chest-webbing) were the most common purchases.



"Dammit, they've moved again!"

What's changed?

● Initiatives that could be having an impact on attitudes include the review of officers'

career courses and changes in the commission structure. To bring similar benefits to soldiers, a study of non-commissioned engagements and career structures has

been launched, along with a programme to develop soldiers' command, leadership and management skills. This should have real benefits for soldiers during and after their

Army careers. On another front, the Army Personnel Centre at Kentigern House in Glasgow has been working hard to improve satisfaction with postings.



Big and beautiful: *Hurst Point*, pictured at Marchwood Military Port during Exercise Log Viper, shows off her loading ramp, above, and port side, right

First of her line

State-of-the-art ro-ro vessel in place to support military operations

Report: John Elliott
Pictures: Steve Dock

THERE was a very warm welcome for the newly-commissioned mv *Hurst Point* when she sailed into Marchwood Military Port near Southampton to play a part in the large-scale Log Viper logistical exercise.

The ro-ro cargo carrier is the first of a fleet of six procured by the MoD to add muscle to its "force-projection capability" – in other words to deliver its weapons,

vehicles and equipment to anywhere in the world they are required for military operations. Lt Jamie Burnham RN, project officer at the Defence Transport and Movements Agency at Andover, described the new vessels as a massive enhancement to the UK's strategic capability.

The 23,235-tonne, German-built ships can operate in relatively shallow water and boast a self-supporting stern ramp capable of taking a 150-tonne load. That

means a Challenger 2 could be driven off the ramp straight on to a Mexiflote, allowing the vessels to be deployed to shores without proper harbour facilities. Loading – and unloading – can also be achieved via a starboard side-ramp and an on-board crane. The *Hurst Point's* versatility was demonstrated during Log Viper when Chinook helicopters hovered over it to disembark equipment.

Four of the ro-ros, which are owned by AWSR Shipping, will be on more-or-less permanent MoD duty to support exercises and resupply overseas operations and garrisons. Two others, not yet in commission, will be on 20- and 30-days' notice to be taken up by the MoD. All will be ready by June next year.

Experience during the Gulf conflict a decade ago showed that it took at least a month for the military to acquire a ship from the commercial market.

Since her debut on Log Viper, the *Hurst Point* has been turned round at Marchwood with a consignment of stores and equipment bound for Thessaloniki, the port through which Operation Agricola in Kosovo is sustained.

The ship has a 18-man civilian crew of sponsored reserves who are capbadged to the Royal Naval Reserve. Loading and unloading her is the responsibility of Army specialists from Marchwood-based 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC.

While not exclusively an Army asset, *Hurst Point* and her sister ships will



Space galore: *Hurst Point's* upper deck, above, and the hangar-like capacity she offers below deck, left. In all the vessel has three decks capable of transporting 200 or more vehicles.

She and her five sister ships were built by Flensburger Schiffbau-Gesellschaft of Germany

inevitably be used for delivering military materiel. Under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI), they are contracted to provide the MoD with a service to move assets – for example, a lead armoured battle-group – overseas in 30 days.

In effect, the fleet has been designed to allow the UK to deliver as quickly as possible Joint Rapid Reaction force supplies and equipment ready for action.

The six ro-ros are scheduled to replace two ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, *Sea Centurion* and *Sea Crusader*, as well as the *Dart 10*, a commercial vessel, which have been performing the role since 1996.

Military personnel at Marchwood

said they had been very impressed with the *Hurst Point*. One senior NCO said the extra height on all her decks had made a huge difference to the task of stowing vehicles and equipment.

Ship's log

Hurst Point statistics:

- Nationality: British
- Port of registry: London
- Gross tonnage: 23,235 tonnes
- Nett tonnage: 6,971 tonnes
- Length overall: 193 metres
- Extreme breadth (bridge wings): 29m
- Engines (2): Mak 7M43
- Speed: 18 knots loaded
- Range: 1,500 miles

Target date is late 2004

A NEW generation of unmanned aerial targets is just over the horizon for the marksmen of all three Services.

Three consortia have been invited to bid for the Armed Forces' new Combined Aerial Target Service (CATS) in a contract worth up to £710 million.

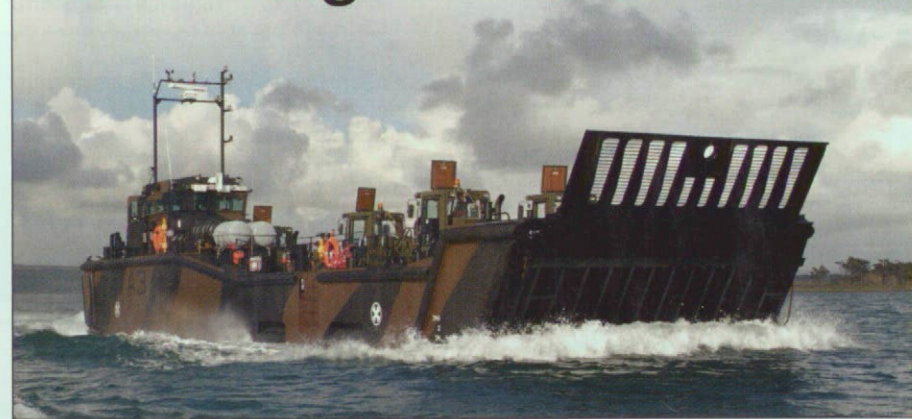
The winner will have to provide, own, fly and maintain the targets, ensuring they remain representative of the threat over the 20-year lifetime of the contract.

By the end of 2004 CATS will have replaced the Banshee, Falconet, Jindivik, Stiletto and Mirach target systems operated at ranges in the UK and overseas and at sea for the Royal Navy.

The system will emulate fixed-wing and rotary aircraft, unmanned air vehicles and missiles.

Invitations to bid for the contract, run by a special project team at the Defence Procurement Agency, are Team Firecat, led by Serco and EADS; BAE Systems Ltd; and QinetiQ.

'Lone rangers' take to water



Land ahoy: The first four of ten LCU (Landing Craft Utility) Mk 10 vessels in a £35-million contract have been delivered to the Defence Procurement Agency. They will be used to ferry Royal Marines from the Royal Navy's new assault ships, HMS *Albion* and HMS *Bulwark*, and are suitable for missions in both tropical and arctic conditions. Designed to operate independently for up to 14 days, they have a range of 600 nautical miles, bunks, a galley and stores. With bow and stern loading ramps, the new LCUs can carry a Challenger tank.

Win a ride in TA's 180-mph race car



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A great day out

WE'VE got a terrific prize to give away to two lucky readers... a day at Rockingham Speedway as guests of Torquespeed and the Territorial Army.

What's the TA connection with Britain's latest form of adrenalin-inducing motor sport? That's easy, the TA is sponsoring the Torquespeed ASCAR – short for American Stock Car Racing – team in this year's high-speed, ten-race series.

The £70-million Rockingham Speedway, situated between Corby and Kettering, is the UK's only purpose-built oval race course. It hosts four championship meetings, while the other six take place at venues in Germany and Belgium.

RIDE WITH DEREK

On offer to our winners is a ride in the two-seater TA ASCAR with ex-Formula 3 champion Derek Hayes, one of the team's drivers. The car can reach 180mph and the organisers tell us the ride won't go ahead if it's raining because of safety concerns. If that happens, the winners – who must be over 18 – will be given two vouchers for free rides in the next six months.

They will also spend time with the mechanics and engineers, get under the bonnet of the car, and have lunch in the Torquespeed suite with the TA team. Travel expenses to and from Rockingham will be refunded and winners must be available to take up the prize on a set day in the first two weeks of December.

To be in with a chance, tell us on a postcard where ASCAR originated. Was it:

- a) Abyssinia b) America
c) Afghanistan?

Usual rules apply and entries must be received at *Soldier* by November 25. Please include a day-time telephone number.

● Torquespeed have agreed to let our motoring man Syd Taylor loose on their precious Chevrolet Monte Carlo. Watch out for his next Wheels column.

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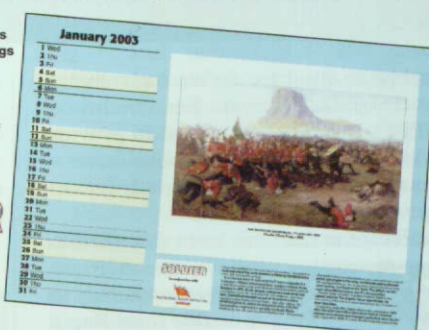
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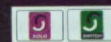
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Cyber security

United States shares lessons on preventing computer network attack

MAJ Gen John A Bradley is one of the senior US officers charged with protecting his country from cyber attack. As the deputy commander of Joint Task Force Computer Network Operations, his mission is to oversee the protection of all US Department of Defense computer networks, **writes Anthony Stone.**

"We also have another mission – computer network attack," said Gen Bradley. "If the President or Secretary of State for Defense tells us to conduct an attack we would be the organisation that plans and co-ordinates it. The network attack business is a classified area, so although we can say that we are responsible for it, we cannot go into any detail."

Founded in 1999, JTFCNO employs about 125 people including soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, Department of Defense civilians and civilian contractors. Staff numbers are set to increase next year.

"Great dependence and great vulnerability go hand-in-hand," said Gen Bradley. "There are great vulnerabilities out there. US military computer networks are widely used and we are very, very dependent on these networks, which are

pervasive to our military. Much of our personnel records, medical records, logistic systems and transportation are done on unclassified networks. There is proba-

bly not a country in the world more vulnerable, computer network-wise, than we are, because we are so dependent on it. We use computers for everything."

The director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has gone on record as saying he fears terrorists may use a cyber attack, in conjunction with a conventional attack, to disrupt emergency response teams. The scope for interference with America's infrastruc-

ture is as wide as it is potentially crippling. In countering the threat, the US is ahead of the curve.

"We have a lot of protective systems in place," said Gen Bradley. "About 99 per cent of our intrusions are preventable. We have a lot of attempts; most are not successful."

Simple preventive measures, such as password protection, can be effective but only if applied. Staff are sometimes responsible for allowing easy access to

hackers by "leaving the back door open". Once inside, hackers can scan material and install worms and viruses.

"They have to break through our firewalls which are not impenetrable," Gen Bradley said. "We know most of the time when someone gets in and we try and trace them."

Gen Bradley does not have a specialist computer background; his field of excellence is as an operational commander and fighter pilot. But he is surrounded by specialists on whom he can draw for technical advice.

JTFCNO recently completed a visit to the UK, where Gen Bradley was invited to speak to senior officers about protecting computer networks.

"We talked about our journey in the computer defence business and what we have learned, how we are organised and how we defend, so that they might learn from us and not make some of the same mistakes we made," he said.

The yardstick of success is how fast the organisation can react to new threats. It is relatively easy – a matter of training and discipline – to defend against something already out there.

"It is not an impossible job, but it is one that never ends," he said.



Maj Gen John A Bradley, USAF

Picture: Steve Dock

‘The yardstick of success is how fast the organisation can react to new threats’

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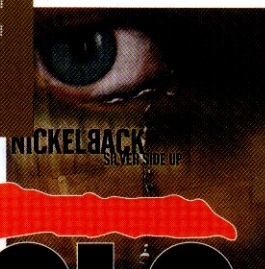
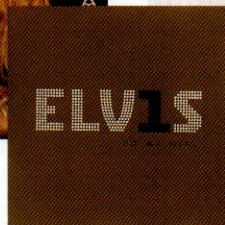
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Manage your money



David Mapes is Assistant Director of Credit Action and will be pleased to answer specific questions addressed to the Editor. These will be treated in confidence.

It's that time of year again

CHRISTMAS is approaching and TV and other advertising media are already encouraging us to spend, spend, spend.

Peer pressure makes it difficult for children because it's natural to want the same as your friends and they may well be talking about what they'd like to have now. If we don't discuss it, and bring some reality to the situation, they'll start talking as if it's what they're going to get.

All in all, it can be a pretty difficult time, especially if you are struggling to make ends meet. The whole thing can make us feel like Scrooge if we don't splash out on each gift.

If you are already stressed about what you owe on credit cards, store cards and catalogues it is even harder to make a decision when there is so much emotion about. Many feel they can't have a good time without getting into debt (or further into debt).

Stay stress-free

There is a way to enjoy Christmas and stay relatively stress-free, but it takes planning, honest talking, a little courage and the belief that quality of relationship is more important than what we spend on presents.

Gifts are not the only expense, of course. Food and drink hammer the budget and travel, heating (in Europe) and the telephone bill may well jump.

Budget for Christmas

List everyone you're going to send a Christmas card. Write down the names of everyone you're going to buy a present for, and how much you would like to spend. Add it all up. Then list possible travelling and catering expenses.

We all underestimate what Christmas costs. Often, we spend what we think we need to and count the cost in January, so let's make this year different.

Do we really need to send all those cards? Can we cut back on the cost of presents? Differentiate between "wants" and "needs". Talk to friends and family and let them know that money is tight. They'll understand. Resist buying on credit so as not to increase your debt. Try to stick to your budget.

Don't feel alone

Don't feel alone. If you want to talk to someone, call the Helpline below and a counsellor will talk through your worries. We have a booklet called "Money Saving Ideas" that may be helpful.

● If you have wider money issues you would like David Mapes to address in this column, please suggest them to the Editor.

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www.creditaction.com



It's war, but not as we know it



DEFENCE
2003
TAKING DEFENCE TO THE NATION

BRITISH forces will be "going to war" very publicly next summer in the next large-scale military extravaganza to hit these shores.

Riattica, rather better known as RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, will be a flashpoint for more than 200,000 visitors as trouble breaks out between the make-believe nation and its belligerent neighbour, Yegoba.

Defence 2003, hosted by the Royal Air Force within its famous annual Royal International Air Tattoo, follows in the successful footsteps of the Royal Navy's International Festival of the Sea in Portsmouth last year. The Army will lead the next "Taking Defence to the Nation" show, successor to the Royal Tournament tradition, in 2004.



Lt Col Simon Ward

About 1,500 personnel from three Services will be heavily involved at Fairford from July 18 to 20.

The first day, a Friday, is aimed at youth, and organisers expect 20,000 schoolchildren. Saturday and Sunday will be public days, with at least 100,000 visitors expected on each day of the weekend.

It promises to be a tremendous spectacle, with a choreographed war competing against the air show as the

most exciting display of Armed Forces' operation capability.

The home-made conflict will be settled on a 180-acre site turned into a forward mounting base as UK forces go to the aid of Riattica when it is threatened by its larger neighbour.

Big-screen coverage of the action will mean spectators miss nothing as air combat, sea power and soldiers on the ground come to Riattica's aid.

Defence 2003 will also feature an exhibition to mark the centenary of the first flight by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903 and covering each decade of flight since. Another area will feature non-operational assets including recruiting and arena events associated with the old Royal Tournaments.

Lt Col Simon Ward QDG, the Army member of the planning team, said: "It should be a busy day for visitors."

Ticket prices have not yet been announced but admission will be free for children aged 15 and under and there will be a £5 discount for early booking.

● Details on www.airtattoo.com



Bulford signallers sign off

SSGT Shaun Oliver, left, holds the Kiwi Trophy after winning the last of Bulford-based 249 Signal Squadron's annual march-and-shoot competitions in memory of the camp's New Zealand connections. After 26 years the squadron, which is roled to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land), is to disband early next year. For many years it has cared for a 128-metre chalk Kiwi carved into Beacon Hill above the camp by New Zealand soldiers based at Bulford during the First World War.

New Zealand High Commissioner Russell Marshall handed the trophy for the last time to SSGT Oliver and later took part, with Defence Attaché Commodore Alan Peck, in an act of remembrance at the military cemetery in Tidworth, where many New Zealand soldiers are buried.

Schooled in the art of war

He's taught at Sandhurst, written acclaimed military history books, advised Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, and is defence editor of one of Britain's top national newspapers

Interview: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

TUCKED away in an almost forgotten part of Wiltshire, the rustic village of Kilmington seems to sleep.

And in one of the apparently resting houses is a quiet, modest man who lives in harmony with his rural surroundings.

But don't be fooled by this calm exterior, because Sir John Keegan possesses one of the keenest minds in the field of British military history.

As well as lecturing many of the British Army's senior officers and tacticians, his views have been sought by the Prime Minister and a former US President.

Despite this expertise, Sir John Keegan never served in the Army.

"I was inside the Army, but not in it," he told *Soldier*.

The story begins at the outbreak of the Second World War when the Keegan family was evacuated to the West Country and the young John's interest in the military was first stimulated.

"By chance we were put down right in the heart of the American concentration area for D-Day," he recalled.

"From the beginning of 1943 until half way through 1944 we lived in an increas-

The night I dined in the White House

SIR John Keegan dined with President Clinton during a special visit to the USA in the mid-1990s.

"I got a call asking if I was going to be in Washington and if so would I go and have dinner with the President," he recalled. "He was coming to Europe for the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994 and had assembled a group of historians to suggest to him things he should mention when he was in Europe."

"There were five Americans and me. After the briefing we had dinner in the White House. I have the menu framed. As a result I can't think ill of Bill Clinton."

He added: "I have not been to dinner with Tony Blair but I have been to see him to discuss the war on terrorism."

ingly Americanised Somerset with hundreds of thousands of Servicemen. It was fascinating for a small boy.

"Although I wasn't aware of it at the time it was this early contact with the armed forces that kindled my interest in military matters. I had witnessed a great military expedition in the making and that has always stayed with me."

But all was not well with John. At the age of 13 he contracted orthopaedic TB and spent several years in hospital. The illness left him lame and meant military service was out of the question.

Eventually he went to Oxford and was surrounded by students who had completed National Service. Despite his lack of forces experience, he chose military history as a special study subject, concentrating on the Napoleonic Wars.

After Oxford he applied to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for a position as a lecturer and started on Leap Year's Day, 1960.

"I started not knowing anything about the Army or how long I would be there. But I stayed and stayed – for 26 years."

"There is nothing like it in England except the other Service colleges. It is a good way of life. Beautiful surroundings and nice company."

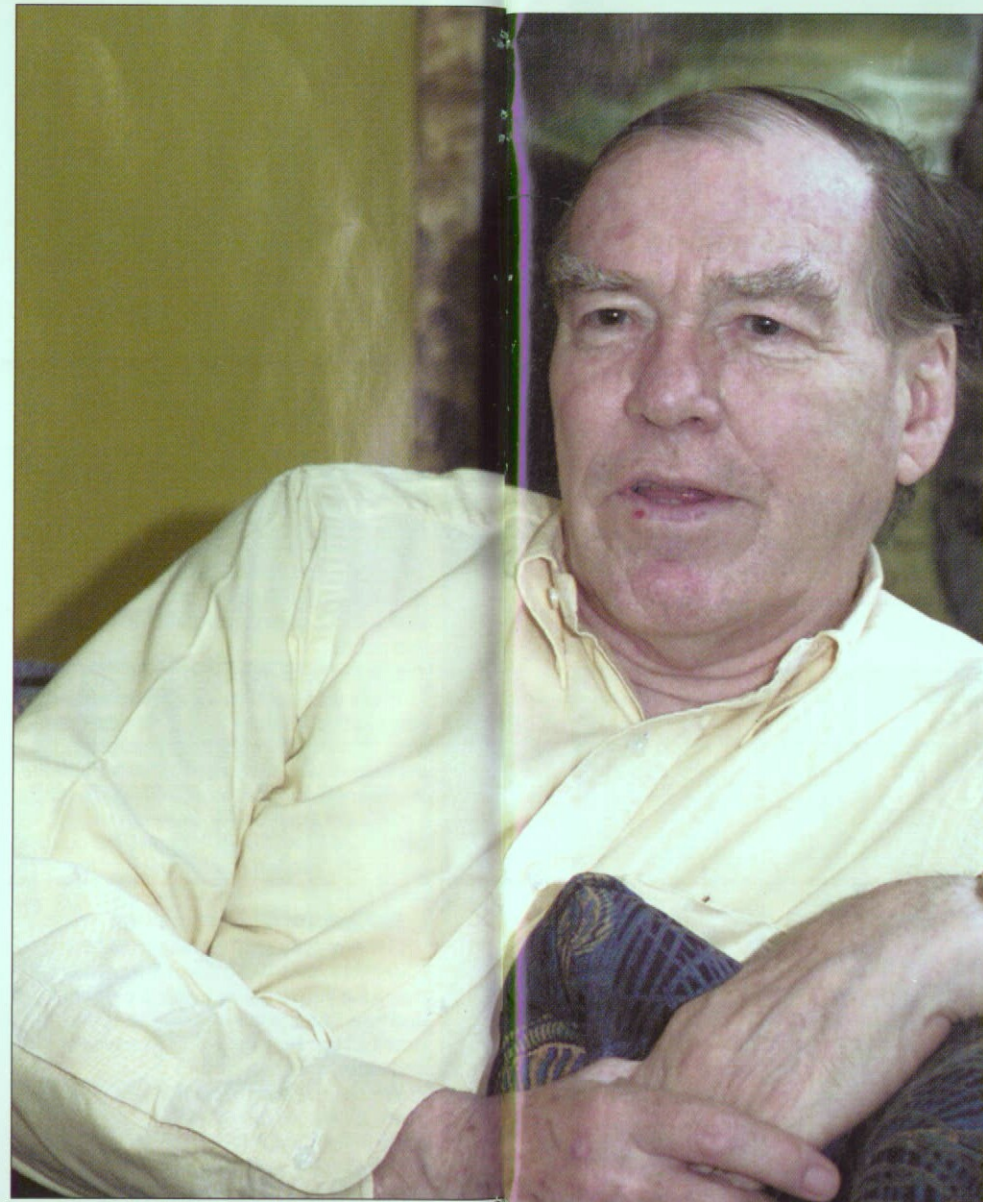
It was while at Sandhurst that he started writing, encouraged by Brig Peter Young, who founded the military history department at the college.

"He was a writer himself and introduced tutors to publishers. I had the incentive of having small children and a smaller academic salary and I foolishly believed I could improve my income by writing, which is a very difficult thing to do. I had no experience, was diffident, self-critical and couldn't find a subject or style."

He started writing magazine articles and short paperback books for publisher Barrie Pitt, who also encouraged him. He then came up with what he thought was a very good book idea, wrote it and had it published. It was a turning point.

Called *The Face of Battle*, it was a financial success and is still in print more than 25 years later.

"It was an attempt to see what the expe-



One of the keenest minds in the field of British military history: "I was inside the Army, but not in it"

rience of battle was like for the ordinary soldier at certain moments in history, and based as far as possible on contemporary first-hand accounts," Sir John said.

It was chosen as Book of the Month in America, which meant serious money. "It was a fantastic stroke of luck and the odds were against it."

Since then he has published more than 20 books on various aspects of warfare, but the period that fascinates him most is the Second World War.

"It's partly because I lived through it and partly because it was a great moral issue. I think the people who took part

felt so at the time and they certainly do now. They feel they did a great thing."

"And it's so interesting. Every sort of event happened during that war and we keep on finding out new things about it."

Sir John hasn't restricted himself to single wars. "I felt you couldn't get a complete understanding of the nature of warfare by reading about short periods and as I got older I kept on casting further back until I eventually found myself right back in the Bronze Age."

"In the end I wrote *A History of Warfare from 3000 BC to the Present Day*. I enjoyed doing it and I am glad I did it but whether

WIN

a signed Keegan book

FOR a chance to win a signed copy of Sir John Keegan's *The First World War*, one of his most acclaimed books, answer the following question:

Which US President did John Keegan advise about the D-Day anniversary?

- a) Ronald Reagan
- b) Bill Clinton
- c) George W Bush

Send your answer on a postcard to Keegan Competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by November 1.

I got near the heart of the matter I am not sure."

By 1986 Sir John felt it was time to leave Sandhurst and his good friend Max Hastings, then editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, offered him a job as defence correspondent. He later became defence editor, a position he still holds.

In his new role he covered the Gulf and Bosnian wars and has often met with senior officers who were former pupils.

"I have known Gen Sir Mike Jackson all through his career and I taught Lt Gen Sir Christopher Wallace, who is commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies, when he was a cadet."

Although he is still on the staff of the *Telegraph*, Sir John (he was knighted for his services to military history in 1999) restricts his travel, although earlier this year he did interview US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

He has just completed a book about intelligence operations from the end of the 18th century to the present day. It includes the story of the Enigma code-breaking operation of the Second World War, which prompted him to say he found Hollywood's rewriting of history annoying.

"The film *U571* turned a Royal Navy exploit into a US Navy adventure. I have met David Balme, who found the [Enigma] machine. He served in HMS *Bulldog*, not an American vessel."

Reflecting on his long career associated with the military he emphasised how much he had enjoyed Sandhurst.

"I never regretted not being in the Army," he said, adding with a twinkle in his eye: "I don't think I would have made a good soldier. I am too rebellious."

Preserving his options

Dealing with the dead will be all in a day's work for Sgt Geordie Johnson when he begins his new career

MEET Sgt Tony "Geordie" Johnson, a man who is planning an unusual – some might say macabre – career when he leaves the Army in three year's time, writes Ray Routledge.

Currently based at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, he is preparing to become an embalmer.

Geordie, who enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1982 and served as a combat medical technician, transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps (Military Provost Staff) in 1997. But, it

appears, he never lost his professional interest in anatomy and physiology. Instead of helping the living, next time round he wants to look after the dead. "I am seriously thinking about going into this line of work when I leave the Army in 2005," he said.

It's a business that requires some pretty special skills, and Geordie has had to obtain his qualifications via a demanding course set and supervised by the British Institute of Embalmers.

He has already completed the final theory exams and a successful result will give him the full qualification and membership of the Institute.

So, just what will he do? He sums up the profession in a few well-chosen words: "An embalmer receives into his care a deceased person and through the application of hygiene techniques, preserves and presents the body so that it can be viewed by loved ones in as natural a posture and pallor as possible."

"The aim of the work is to help the family get through the grieving process by giving them a positive final image of the deceased."

While some of us have been relaxing at the weekends Geordie has been working with a local undertaker to get experience.

He told us he would be happy to discuss the art of embalming with anyone brave enough to get in touch with him.

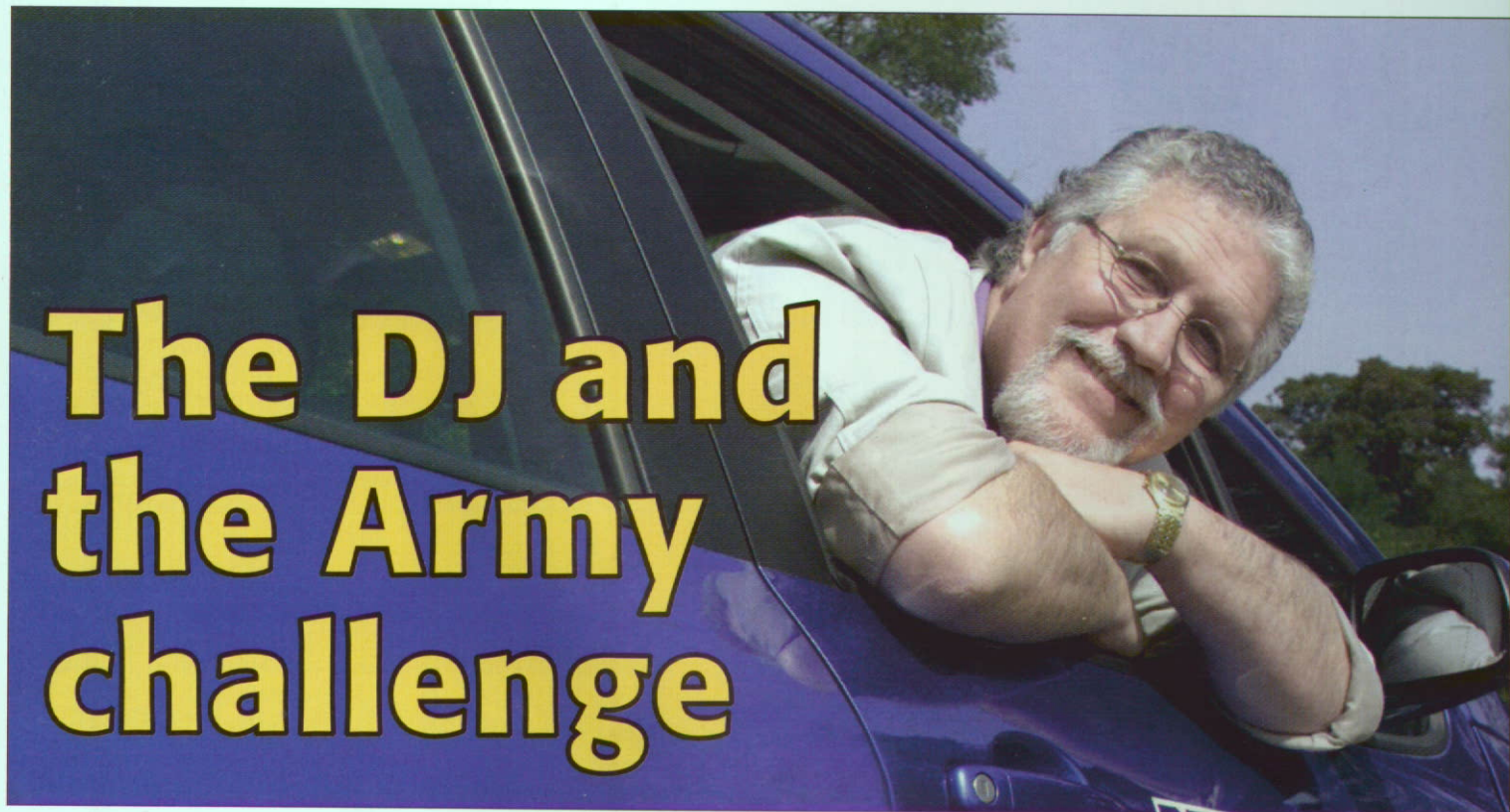
If you don't, next time you see him you might not be in a position to answer back.

● Do you have a second career that could inspire others? Write or e-mail: rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk



Embalmer: Geordie Johnson

The DJ and the Army challenge



New recruit: Dave Lee Travis at the Army sports news service launch

Millions used to tune in to DLT on Radio 1.
Now the Army is enjoying his wacky humour

Report: Ray Routledge
Picture: Steve Dock

THINK of disc jockeys from the golden age of pop radio and certain names spring to mind: Alan Freeman, Noel Edmonds, Stuart Henry... even Tony Blackburn.

And there among them was the giant figure of Dave Lee Travis, or the Hairy Cornflake to give him one of his many nicknames.

Now soldiers can tune in to his weekly Sunday show from 1000-1300 on Garrison Radio. Dave, whose humorous outlook on life is never far from the surface, explained that Mark Page, the man behind Garrison Radio, approached him about joining the Army.

"Fortunately, by that he meant doing a Sunday show for the Army," Dave explained at Garrison Radio's Aldershot studios. "It sounded a great idea so I agreed. It was obviously going to be a fun thing to do so I went for it."

The show is recorded at DLT's studio at his home in Buckinghamshire and sent to Garrison Radio via a computer link. "By all accounts people are enjoying the programme

and that is all you can ask of a radio show. We are not doing games at the moment but I am open to suggestions. The general idea is that we want to keep it rolling musically and maybe we'll add specifics to it at a later date."

As a former BFBS broadcaster, Dave is no stranger to Forces' radio.

"Many years ago I worked for BFBS and visited troops abroad," he said. "I was based in the UK but did manage a trip to Singapore."

DLT has a fascination with history and military memorabilia. Many years ago he collected old weapons, including flintlocks, but had to sell them.

"A few years ago I was in a shop that dealt with ancient arms and had the chance to buy a cavalry sword. It was engraved with the words: *Tpr Sgt Maj William Barker, 17th Lancers, Sebastopol, Inkerman and Balaclava*. He apparently rode in the Charge of the Light Brigade and I was holding his sword. I snapped it up and I have it at home."

● Garrison Radio can be heard in Tidworth, Bulford, Catterick, Aldershot and Colchester on 1287am.

Garrison Radio sports service

THE biggest names in Army sport gathered in Aldershot for the launch of a new service from Garrison Radio.

"Army Sports News will be a weekly bulletin," said Garrison Radio chief Mark Page. "We want to help promote sport and the new service will reflect the range of sports and at all levels."

The station aims to cover regimental and unit activities as well as Army sportsmen and women competing in civilian competitions.

Dave Lee Travis joined Chairman of the Army Sport Control Board, Maj Gen Simon Lytle, to launch the service.

Gen Lytle said the ASCB was responsible for 38 sports and associations, from beagling to cricket. "I would like to encourage all the associations to make use of this facility and we welcome it."

● Sports secretaries wishing to contact the Garrison Radio sports desk should ring Josette Lesser on 01252 327766 (mil 94222 8047) or e-mail j_lesser@msn.com



Maj Gen Simon Lytle



The DLT file

Born David Griffin, May 25, 1945, at Buxton in Derbyshire. Worked as a DJ at clubs in Manchester before joining pirate station Radio Caroline in 1965.

Worked on *Beat Club* on German

TV then the BBC for many hugely successful years, including hosting the *Breakfast Show*.

Left the BBC in 1994 and now presents syndicated shows on commercial radio.

Shock to the system

Royal Military Police officers deployed to the British Army Training Unit Suffield learn Canadian law-enforcement methods the hard way

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

THERE are 50,001 good reasons why soldiers looking to have a good night out in the Canadian town of Medicine Hat after a hard day's training at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus) should refrain from misbehaving.

"The police in Medicine Hat are far, far better armed to deal with the drunk and disorderly soldier than the UK police," explained Batus's Royal Military Police Detachment Commander WO2 Darren Lole, RMP (Special Investigation Branch). "The Canadian Police are all issued with tasers, which can be used to fire 50,000 volts through someone's body, and pepper spray. Both are incapacitating weapons and both hurt a lot."

And like all the RMP officers deployed at Batus, WO2 Lole is more than qualified to talk about the two pieces of kit, having experienced their effects first-hand.

One of the RMP's main roles at Batus is to conduct joint patrols of Medicine Hat's many pubs and clubs with officers from the town's police service, and although they take to the streets carrying only body



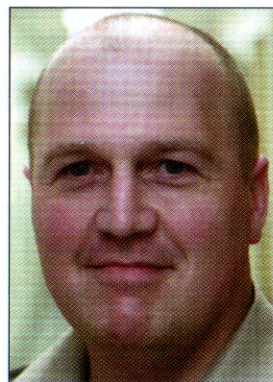
Batus Six pages start here

armour, extendable batons and speed cuffs, occasions may arise where they are called on to use their Canadian counterparts' shotgun, taser or pepper spray.

"As part of their training I send all my NCOs to be pepper-sprayed in the face and shot with a taser," said WO2 Lole. "It is a pretty drastic thing to go through and it does hurt – in fact there is no pain like it, but once you have done it you have the ultimate respect for a piece of equipment that you may have to use on someone else."

"Pepper-spray could equate to someone pouring boiling water direct into your face. It stings like hell, closes your eyes slowly and interrupts your breathing cycle. It is far worse than CS gas and the only cure is lots and lots of water – in training we have barrels of water right next to us, but if you're arrested there is no such luxury in the back of a police

Electrifying display:
Taser – Medicine Hat
Police Service's
"outstanding law-
enforcement tool"



There's no pain like it:
WO2 Darren Lole

wagon and if someone has been sprayed they are going to suffer."

Being zapped with a taser gun, which fires two darts connected to copper wires up to 21-feet before delivering its high voltage charge, is an equally uncomfortable experience.

"The bigger you are the more the taser effects you," WO2 Lole continued. "It incapacitates your muscles by tensing them all together so that you literally just fall over – there is absolutely nothing you can do. The gun delivers a five-second burst of 50,000 volts and if an assailant is still fighting after that then you just need to squeeze the trigger again to deliver more of the same. "There is simply no defence to it – you are going to fall over if it hits you. It really is a nasty piece of kit, and an outstanding law-enforcement tool."

"It was pretty hard to take in training and made all the worse because you knew it was coming. The Canadian instructors took great delight in showing us the effects of placing the gun's two probes on different parts of the body."

Having lived to tell the tale, the RMP then put their first-hand knowledge to good use, offering all British soldiers on exercise at Batus some words of advice about what to expect if they do misbehave downtown. Subjecting soldiers to the same pain that they themselves have had to endure is the last thing the RMP have in mind.

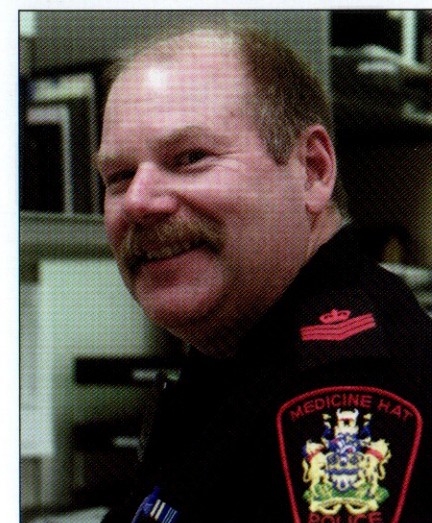
"We are here to facilitate the training on the prairie and we would not be doing that if we were throwing soldiers in jail every night," WO2 Lole added. "If we are bringing them home and making sure that they are safe then we are doing our job properly."

To that end the RMP has put a system in place whereby soldiers who do not have enough money to pay for their taxi fare home can go to the police station at Batus for a 48-hour loan.

Despite the forces' different rules of engagement the British military police have forged an excellent partnership with



Joint arrest: Constable Gerald Sadlemyer, Medicine Hat Police, left, and Cpl Mark Bembeck, RMP Batus, apprehend a suspect



SSgt Don Girling; Medicine Hat Police

the Medicine Hat Police Service through their joint patrols, and with the Canadian Forces Military Police. "The relationship we have here is outstanding and better than any other I have seen anywhere else

in the world," said WO2 Lole. "It is based on complete trust and respect for one another and consequently everything runs smoothly."

It is a sentiment shared by SSgt Don Girling, of the Medicine Hat Police Service. "There are obviously differences between the way we do things, but our methodology to policing is fairly similar," he said.

"The RMP are an extremely thorough and professional force and I have never had cause to complain about their work. It can be steep learning curve for those of them who patrol the streets with our officers as they are expected to attend all crime scenes – regardless of whether they are military related or not – but they all rise to the challenge."

"We have also learned a lot from them, particularly with regard to counter-terrorism."

"Some of the measures they have mastered in Northern Ireland are things that previously we would not have thought about. They bring a truly international flavour to us as a force."

Spray away: Constable Sadlemyer, below, draws his pepper-spray ready for action



Wagons roll!

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

THERE is nothing unusual about the sight of a fleet of Challenger 2 main battle tanks tearing across the Canadian Prairies.

For 30 years soldiers have used the sprawling expanses of the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus) in Alberta to hone battlefield tactics and sharpen their fighting edge, and have become an almost constant feature of the otherwise desolate landscape.

However, even the usually disinterested prairie dogs will have raised an ear when 19 Mechanized Brigade rolled into town for Exercise Iron Anvil.

The two-month live-firing and simulation exercise, the climax of the Catterick-based brigade's year-long build-up to high-readiness status, was the biggest military deployment in Canada since the end

of the Second World War. More than 4,000 troops from across England and Germany, backed by a further 1,000 in support groups, were joined on Batus's rolling 1,700 square-kilometre range by 845 vehicles, which arrived at the training area on board trains totalling six miles in length.

But despite the unprecedented scale of Iron Anvil, Batus, which covers a larger area than Luxembourg, was anything but crowded, allowing the whole brigade to deploy into the field and operate against a live opposition force.

"Batus is the only training area we have where you could do that," said Lt Ed Fraser of A Coy, 1 Kings. "You certainly couldn't get a whole brigade on to Salis-

bury Plain with any sense of realism. By the time you had everyone spread out you would be stretched from Warminster to Tidworth.

"At Batus you can come to bits of the prairie you have never seen before and because of the space available there is a lot more scope for the more imaginative use of weapon systems.

"Exercises like Iron Anvil give brigade headquarters the opportunity to practise what they could only normally do around the map-board.

"From an infantry point of view it instils a sense of confidence in the soldiers – they can go back to the UK having thoroughly practised their core business and with the knowledge that we are the equal of any

'I have full confidence in my troops that they are more than ready to provide the appropriate response'

other infantry battalion in the British Army."

Also grateful for the abundance of space were the brigade's gun batteries. Capt Mick Tobin of 137 Bty, 40 Regiment RA explained that Batus proved the ideal environment in which to road-test the AS90.

"You can fit all of the training areas we have in the UK and Germany into Batus," he said. "Having a large area allows us to adopt a more realistic approach to how we use the AS90 and its manoeuvre capabilities. In the UK exercises tend to be low-key whereas at Batus the live-firing and manoeuvring is fast and furious – it is probably just as good as the real thing."

It is an experience that Brig Bill Moore is aware could prove vital for his brigade over the next 12 months, especially with the prospect of conflict in Iraq looming.

"The whole purpose of the training year prior to adopting the high-readiness status is to train and prepare yourself for that call to arms," he said. "As a brigade we have to be ready to respond to the wishes of the UK government. I would be failing in my duty if that were not the case.

"Any decision to deploy will be a political one and that decision has not been taken. No one wants to go to war but if my brigade is called upon to act I have full confidence in my commanding officers and their troops that they are more than ready to provide the appropriate response."

Ready to rumble: Soldiers from 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment demount from a Warrior during the exercise



Challenging terrain: Batus's rolling 1,700 square-kilometre range presents soldiers from 40 Regiment, Royal Artillery with the chance to hone their aim with the AS90, above, and provides an ideal environment for 2nd Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment to road-test the Challenger 2, right





Chemical reaction

Joint NBC Regiment
deploys with British
troops for the first time
since its formation

Report: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

NEWSPAPER headlines back home were prophesying an imminent return of British forces to the Gulf. Talk of Iraq's chemical warfare capabilities was rife.

Little wonder then that thousands of troops from 19 Mechanized Brigade involved in Exercise Iron Anvil were happy to share the Canadian prairies with members of the Joint Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Regiment.

The two-month exercise marked the first time the regiment, based at RAF Honnington, had deployed with a British formation since its conception four years ago, and the 44-man detachment spent much of its time in Canada trying to dispel the natural fears of the soldiers.

"In the past NBC training has been regarded as something of a black art," explained Joint NBC troop leader SSgt Malcolm McGillivray. "Soldiers have never liked exercising in their respirators, but in the current climate they are beginning to understand that we as a regiment have an increasingly important role to play."

"NBC is just like anything else – if you are uneducated you don't have a proper understanding of the hard facts. We have been stressing to the soldiers that although the effects of a chemical attack can be terrible, they are not necessarily lethal or long-lasting."

"The British Army trains to mask up in nine seconds and if you can do that then you are virtually bomb-proof."

"When educated, soldiers soon realise that NBC is just another hazard like artillery, shrapnel or sniper fire and that if they take the appropriate measures they will be safe."

"When they walk away from us soldiers are enlightened, more confident and less scared."

As well as holding briefings and demonstrations for the benefit of other units, the Army and Royal Air Force assets used the exercise and freedom of the prairies to practise their own drills and put four of the 700-man strong regiment's Fuchs vehicles through their paces.



Prowling the prairie: One of the Joint NBC Regiment's German-made Fuchs chemical reconnaissance and survey vehicles out on patrol

Specially laminated to protect their shells from toxins in the atmosphere, the all-terrain chemical reconnaissance and survey vehicles, donated to the British Army by Germany at the end of the Gulf War, are pressurised to isolate their occupants from the outside environment.

Equipped with on-board science labs used to identify radioactive, chemical and biological material, the Fuchs can be sent into areas where an NBC strike is suspected, or has been reported, to collect samples and assess the threat to troops without endangering the lives of their crew.

This information can then be used by the Joint NBC team to calculate precisely the area at risk from a strike's fall-out.

"By inputting the wind speed, air pressure and wind direction into BRACIS (Biological, Radiological and Chemical Information System) we can provide the chain of command with a digital map of the contaminated area," said SSgt McGillivray, a retrained tank commander



Eliminating fear: SSgt Malcolm McGillivray

from the 1st Royal Tank Regiment. "NBC strikes can be used for area denial, but we can identify the extremities of such

an attack allowing the battle group to bypass it and return to normal dress state as soon as possible.

"In that respect being part of Exercise Iron Anvil has been a very valuable experience for us – it allows us to put our assets in the shop window and lets the commanding officers of other regiments see exactly what capabilities we have, what we can add to their logistics and what we can do to help them overcome various problems that they may incur."

"Ironically the British Army has gone from being the only Nato country not to have NBC capabilities to one of the best equipped in the space of four years."

"The fuchs are very reliable, fully air-conditioned, have an excellent heating system, are very roomy, very comfortable and very, very fast. I have not got a bad word to say about them."

"We have been hammering them across the prairies all exercise and the only fault we've had was when an air conditioning unit failed – and we have two of those in each vehicle anyway."

Clean sweep: Tpr James Orton, Joint NBC Regt, checks a vehicle for traces of contamination

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Evennett aims for Athens

Army star hopes to emulate the Olympic success of 1988

Interview: Andy Simms
Picture: Graeme Main

THE Olympic Games in Athens may still be two years away, but it is a tournament that England hockey international Lt Jon Evennett (2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry) has been preparing for since the summer of 1988.

Having first picked up a hockey stick at the age of seven, Evennett was already playing county-level hockey when, as a 12-year-old, he sat glued to his television set as his childhood idol Sean Kerly scored Great Britain's third goal against West Germany during the men's final at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.

Britain's eventual gold medal and Kerly's subsequent emergence as hockey's first superstar cemented Evennett's resolve to emulate his hero and compete on the international stage – an opportunity he seized with both hands three years later.

"I won my first junior international cap for England when I was 15 in a game against Wales in Cardiff and haven't looked back since," explained Evennett. "I managed to maintain a place in all of the junior international teams from that point on and played for England in the junior world cup."

"It is every kid's dream to play for his country – everyone wants to be the next David Beckham, Johnny Wilkinson or in my case to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Kerly, Steve Batchelor and Robert Clift – so to actually do it was great."

Despite being an ever-present in the England under-21 defence, Evennett decided to put his sport temporarily on the back-burner when he joined the Army in 1997.

It was a decision

that effectively ruled him out of the Sydney Olympics, but one that he does not regret.

"Over the first few years of my military career I concentrated on work rather than hockey and as a result it took me until a year-and-a-half ago to get back in the England setup and win my first senior cap," said the burly defender.

"The opportunities that the Army gives people in sport seemed obvious to me and that is why I joined. I wanted to stay outdoors, wanted to live an active lifestyle and the Army fitted that bill in every way."

"It has been everything I hoped it would be and the Army has allowed me the flexibility to carry on competing," said Evennett, who will play his domestic hockey alongside former Para Ian Jennings and Army team mate Capt Guy Fordham (4 GS Med Regt) at National League Premier Division side Guildford this season after signing from Canterbury in the summer.

"Like anything else in life it is not easy juggling the two careers, but my battalion and regiment have been exceptionally

"I really have my heart set on being part of 2004"

supportive and I am very lucky that my commanding officers have backed me 100 per cent.

"People who say that your sport will suffer as a result of the Army could not be more wrong."

"I am a classic example of how it hasn't – I won my first full international cap while I was in the Army and some of the things it has taught me about discipline, hard work and seizing opportunities has really helped me develop on the hockey field."

Now 26, the Army and Combined Services player is once again a regular in the national side and with more than 30 caps to his name looks well on track for a place in Great Britain's 2004 Olympic squad.

"I hope to be involved in the European Cup next year and after that the team's selectors will already be beginning to think about the Olympic qualifiers," he told *Soldier*. "Going to Athens is my number one goal – I really have my heart set on being part of the 2004 Games."

"I will be 28 when it comes round and close to the end of my international career and I can't think of a better high to finish on."



Flying the flag: WO2 Wayne Owers (6 Supply Regt RLC), left, and Capt Ali Bunting (RADC)

Best of British

RUNNING partners WO2 Wayne Owers (6 Supply Regt RLC) and Capt Ali Bunting (RADC) claimed joint second place in the 25.2km Danish Multinational March in Mitrovica, Kosovo.

The pair, two of 101 Brits to complete the gruelling march carrying 10kg bergens, crossed the finish line in a time of 2hr 24min – just five minutes behind race winner Adj Hegenauer (French Army).

A jubilant WO2 Owers said: "It was a very tough race and after 17km I was suffering from severe cramp, but we just kept going and it's nice to have beaten the infantry at their own game."

Cpl Andy Brown (1 PWRR), who led the 1,150 field for much of the race, was the next British soldier home, finishing in fourth place with a time of 2hr 29min.

RESULTS SERVICE ... RESULTS SERVICE ...

CANOEING: Inter-Services slalom championships – 1, RAF; 2, Army; 3, RN. Other results, men's K1 – 1, Lt Alex Burt (AGC). Open C1 – 1, Lt Andy Nicholl (AAC); 2, Maj Paul Hepworth (RLC). Open C2 – 1, Burt and Nicholl. Women's K1 – 2, Cpl Sam Peake (Int Corps). Men's K1 team – 2, Burt, Nicholl and LCpl Mark Stafford (R Signals). Women's team – 1, Peake, Lt Emma Smith (RA) and Lt Morag McGowan (AGC). C1 team – 1, Burt, Nicholl and Hepworth. C2 team – 1, Burt/Hepworth, Nicholl/Peake, LCpl Steve Davis (REME)/WO2 Tony Harris (RA).

CRICKET: MCC (104-4) beat Combined Services (102) by six wickets.

FOOTBALL: Massey Trophy – AAC 3 CA Mus 0; RLC 5 AAC 4; RLC 5 Int Corps 1; Infantry 11 CA Mus 0; AAC 3 AMS 2; CA Mus 3 AMS 2; RE 1 APTC 1; APTC 0 Infantry 9; RA 3 AAC 2.

GOLF: RTMC Golf Society autumn com-

petition at Oakmere Park Golf Club, scratch winner – Maj Seddon (WFR) 80pts. Scratch runner-up – Mr Thacker (civilian) 91pts. Medal winner – CSgt Meekins (Para) 73pts. Medal runner-up – Sgt Owen (LI) 74pts. Stableford winner – Sgt Bennett (9/12 Lancers) 35pts. Stableford runner-up – Sgt King (RE) 31pts. Longest drive – Sgt Bennett. Nearest to pin – Capt Farquharson.

RUGBY UNION: Army U21 tour to Canada – Army 36 Niagara Region Senior XV 20; Army 21 Ontario U21 13; Army 3 Eastern Canada Rugby Academy 15; Army 30 Canada U20 16.

Krusevac International sevens competition – Maidstone ARFU 48 Krusevac Wolves 0; Maidstone ARFU 29 Sofia RFC 27; Maidstone ARFU 14 RBKV 21; Maidstone ARFU 7 Yugoslavia 38.

WINDSURFING: Inter-corps championships – 1, REME; 2, RE; 3, RA; 4, RLC; 5, R Signals; 6, AAC.

SHORTS

Walk in the park

ARMY runners took part in the annual Cin Cool Park 10km road race while on Exercise Iron Anvil in Canada.

Having dominated proceedings from the start, Capt Tim Crossland (3 CS Regt RLC) took first place in the event, which was contested by several prominent Canadian triathletes. He was followed across the finish line 30 seconds later by SSgt Jock Castle (3 UK Div & Sig Regt). In the women's race 2nd Lt Jo Kesley (3 CS Regt RLC) recorded a convincing victory.

Promotion party

AFTER narrowly missing out on a second successive promotion last year, Colchester Garrison Cricket Club cruised to the Osborne Garages league division four title this season – losing just four games and finishing the 2002 campaign unbeaten at home.

The team's skipper, Sgt Tony Stoker (10 Tpt Regt RLC), led the way to the silverware with 310 runs and a 31-wicket haul, with other significant scores coming from Sgt Ian McVicker (10 Tpt Regt RLC) and Lt Col Brian Davenport (HQ Colchester Station). SSgt Al Turner, Pte Shreebarna Gurung (both 10 Tpt Regt RLC) and Cpl Steve Smith (2 Para) led the side's bowling attack.

Underdogs triumph

A BETTING man would have got excellent odds on the AGC winning the Army Rugby League inter-corps title – the Lawson Cup – at the start of the season.

Competing in the tournament for only the second time and dismissed by many as serious contenders before a ball had been kicked in anger, the AGC proved all their doubters wrong by reaching the final and defeating reigning Army champions, the Royal Engineers, 22-20 to lift the silverware.

The underdogs secured their passage to the final with wins over R Signals, AMS and REME.

FOOTBALL TABLES

MASSEY TROPHY

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Infantry	2	2	0	0	20	6
RLC	2	2	0	0	5	6
AAC	4	2	0	2	2	6
RA	1	1	0	0	1	3
CA Mus	3	1	0	2	-13	3
RE	1	0	1	0	0	1
APTC	2	0	1	1	-9	1
AMS	2	0	0	2	-2	0
Int Corps	1	0	0	1	-4	0

*Results up to and including October 18

Army un-Locke Brazilian defence

Honours even in international clash

British Army 1 Brazilian Armed Forces 1

WITH memories of the World Cup still fresh in the minds of both teams, this exhibition match at Aldershot's Military Stadium was always going to be keenly fought.

Unfazed by the pedigree of their opponents, the Army, coached by Capt Alan Higgins, took control from the first whistle but were continually frustrated by a well-organised Brazilian defence. With the Army back-line in equally frugal mood efforts on goal were in short supply and the closest either side came to scoring was from an array of speculative free-kicks.

The second half began as the first had ended with the Army on top, but despite their dominance it was the visitors who finally broke the deadlock on 57 minutes.

Cpl Joao Bosco Pereira supplying the finishing touch to a neat passing move, which began deep inside his side's own

half, with a shot that ricocheted off the inside of Cpl James Panier's (RE) right-hand post.

Encouraged by the breakthrough, the South Americans then began to stamp their authority on the game, commanding the midfield and pushing forward in numbers in an effort to increase their lead.

However, thanks largely to good work on the left wing by LCpl Thomas McCormick (RE) and some clever touches from former Southampton star Pte Neal Bartlett (2 PWRR), the Army survived the barrage and began to make headway of their own.

Their resilience and determination was rewarded in the 81st minute when LCpl Jamie Locke (Kings) rose well to head home a cross from the right flank.

Cue a nine-minute onslaught from a Brazilian side desperate to record the first victory of their UK tour, during which Cpl Marcelo De Lima hit the crossbar and Cpl Edson Andre Da Silva had an effort cleared off the line.

◆ LCpl John Stevenson (R Signals) and Pte Michael Brown (3 Para) both scored a brace in the Army's 4-2 win over Ryman division one high-flyers Carshalton Athletic at Aldershot.



Samba style: LCpl Jamie Locke dances through the Brazilian defence

Picture: Graeme Main

SHORTS

Tigers roar to victory

TAKING a break from peace-support operations in Pristina, Tidworth-based 1 PWRR Tigers won the inaugural International Rugby Union Cup at the US Army's Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.

Sporting a big Fijian contingent, the Tigers overcame the French Tirailleurs Regiment in a hard-fought 40-5 opener before convincingly dispatching 22 Engineers with a fine display of running rugby. Pte Sakeasi Butadroka and Pte Timoci Matanavou both recorded a brace of tries in the 36-0 victory.

The final against a Kosovo Internationals XV, which featured a core of vastly experienced Fijian UN policemen and former Fijian international Joe Volabula, proved a much closer affair and remained in the balance until Tigers' fly-half Pte Matanavou scored late on to take the final score to 19-5.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to November...

ATHLETICS: 2 – World triathlon championships (Cancun, Mexico); 6 – Army cross-country inter-unit relay championships (Tweseldown Race Course, Aldershot).

CANOING: 2-3 – Land Command and 5 Div championships (Barnard Castle), Inter-Services surf championships (St Mawgan); 23-24 – Inter-corps championships (Llangollen).

CLIMBING: 8 – Army cadets indoor championships (The Rock Face, Birmingham).

EQUITATION: 4-8 – Beginners' jumping (Warminster Saddle Club); 18-22 – Improving flatwork (Warminster).

FOOTBALL: 5 – Army v Essex FA (Aldershot); 9 – Army youth v Gloucester FA (Aldershot); 13 – Army women v Prison Service (TBC); 18 – Army v Middlesex FA (Aldershot); 19 – Colchester United v Army development (Away); 23 – Army youth v Gwent FA (Aldershot); 24 – Army youth v Army Crusaders FC (Daly Ground); 28 – Combined Services women v Netherlands (TBC); 30 – Army development v Great Britain U21 deaf squad (Denison Barracks, Hermitage).

ICE SPORTS: 1-2 – Training camp (Lillehammer, Norway).

ORIENTEERING: 6 – RE championships (Perham Down); 6-7 – R Signals championships (Blandford); 16-17 – Inter-corps/Army individual night and day championships (Bramley).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 1 – British Army v New Zealand Army (Leigh Miners ARLFC, Leigh).

SHINTY: 2 – The Highlanders v Edinburgh University (Home).

SWIMMING: 25 – AGC championships (ATR Winchester); 26-27 – Inter-corps championships (Aldershot).

Historic victory

THOSE of you who follow the sport of rallying will be familiar with the names of Richard Burns, Carlos Sainz and Colin McRae, but are probably unaware that the Army has its own team.

The Lex-sponsored outfit may not compete in such highly tuned cars as Burns and company but it has been involved in rallying at national level for the past ten years.

Although the team's origins can be traced back to the Sixties when Army drivers took part in the Royal Scottish Automobile Rallies in Scotland, it was not until the early Nineties that six GS Army Land Rovers were made exclusively available to the team for competition.

Each vehicle is built to standard MoD specifications but sports a safety roll-cage, fire suppression system, trip-meter and rally safety belts.

Competing in its own class in the British Rally Championships, the team attends high-profile race meetings across the United Kingdom, including the Rally of Wales, Pirelli International

Rally, Scottish Rally, Yorkshire Rally, South of England Tempest stages and for the first time this year the Manx International Rally on the Isle of Man.

The Army team marked their debut on Isle of Man soil by claiming the top five places in the event's historic class. Maj Alan Paramore (DPA, Abbey Wood) and co-driver Cpl Mark Burton (3 RSME) took first place, finishing seconds ahead of Cpl Gary Mitchell (REME) and LCpl Tomo Thomas (REME).

◆ Crew members are selected at the beginning of each season and must have taken part in British Armed Forces Motoring Association (BAFMA) driver training exercises. Both drivers and co-drivers are tested for car control, map reading, administration and hands on technical skills.

Anyone interested in joining the team as a crew member or as part of the service organisation should contact Maj Chris Bowler on Mil 94552 8525 or 0151 7242242.



Night drive: Sgt Anton Mitchell (REME) and LCpl Tom Hardie (REME) race through Ramsay, Isle of Man during stage 15 of the Manx International Rally

Picture: Steve Dock

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Keeping a low profile: Lt Sarah Rollins (RAMC) was an integral member of Great Britain's Orienteering World Cup squad this summer

Sarah maps out future

Interview: Andy Simms
Picture: Graeme Main

WHILE the British sporting media obsessed over England's every touch of the ball in Japan and Korea this summer, athletes from all corners of the globe assembled in Chiny, a town in southern Belgium, for the opening race of the 2002 Orienteering World Cup in virtual anonymity.

"Not being a household name does not bother me in the slightest," explained Lt Sarah Rollins (RAMC), one of the 12 runners selected to represent Great Britain in the ten-race World Cup series, which began in June and reached its climax in the Czech Republic last month.

"I compete at orienteering because I enjoy it but am more than aware of its low profile – my own parents are only just coming round to understanding what it is all about."

"The problem is that so few people have actually tried orienteering and it is not until you do that you really get a feel for how physical and exciting it can be."

"However, it would be nice to see more media coverage for the sake of the sport as a whole – it desperately needs it."

Indeed, a lack of column inches in the national press has hit the sport hard in the

UK, with the British Orienteering Association finding it increasingly difficult to secure government funding and commercial sponsors as a consequence.

Fortunately for Rollins, who was part of the British women's relay team that won gold at the World University Orienteering Championships at Varna, Bulgaria in August, the Army does not share the media's disinterested stance on orienteering.

"The Army are very keen on orienteering and it is actually considered as military training as well as being a sport," she told *Soldier*. "They have been very supportive of my orienteering career and it was the Army that introduced me to the sport as a 19-year-old officer cadet."

Since winning the TA championships six years ago, Rollins has enjoyed an expeditious rise through orienteering's ranks. Now 25, she was selected for the England squad after just two years of competition, and a year later made the Great Britain team.

"I picked up the sport pretty quickly," she said. "I started running seriously when I was 16 and found that because I was fit and there weren't that many women in British orienteering it was quite easy to do relatively well early on."

"But obviously the nearer I got to the

top the harder it became. Most people in orienteering start when they are much younger, but because I am a good map-reader and am prepared to put in the hours of fitness training needed I have managed to get where I am today."

"I still lack some technical experience that I could have built up when I was younger, but that will come with time."

Rollins finished 24th in a field of 94 at this year's World Cup but is adamant that despite being a veteran of two World Cups and one World Championship her best is yet to come.

"There are loads of things I still want to achieve in this sport," she said. "I want to finish inside the top ten at a World Cup and get on to the winners' podium at the World Championships. A lot of the best orienteers are in their early 30s, so time is still on my side."

"I have got the desire to win and believe that top ten international finishes are well within my ability. I'd also love to see orienteering become an Olympic sport before I hang up my running shoes – if ballroom dancing is being considered as an Olympic sport then orienteering definitely should be."

Perhaps then Rollins and her GB teammates might finally get the share of the sporting headlines they deserve.

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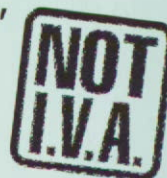
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No 732

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

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September issue (No 730): First correct entry drawn was from Mr Charlie Carruthers, Museum of Flight, East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian, who wins £100. Runners-up Jasmine Abson, of Sheffield, and Mr M Staylor, of Banbury, each win a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: mirror; wash-basin; plumbing; hair; arm; coat-tail; hand; towel; trainer heel; end of toothpaste tube.



Freeze frame

**"By my reckoning we should be outside
Pizza Express in Piccadilly Circus."**

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in December 1997. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by November 30.



OUR prize for September goes to Wendy Bird, of Aldershot-based South East Reserve Forces and Cadet Association, for her very topical suggestion: "Aaaaaargh . . . no en suite . . . must find Type Z rooms".

We also liked (but not enough to send him a prize) "Get yourself back here at once Private Bloggs . . . it's only a bloody spider", from SSgt G E McLorie, EHT, Med Branch, HQ 5 Division. Pte James Reid RLC came up with a similar caption.



Best of the rest included "Phew, that was a close call. Nobody told me she was dating the RSM" from Sig Munford, 81 Sig Sqn (V), Manchester; "Tom's really fed up with next door's

cat" from Bill McCarthy of Brixham; and "Fortunately for Private Clegg, the ornamental fish pond broke his fall" from Mike Scott, Graphics Officer, 5 Trg Regt RLC, Grantham.



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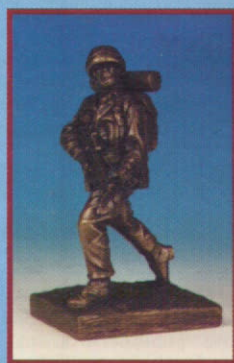
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PEN PALS

Wendy, (31), 5'1", slim brunette with brown eyes. Enjoys pubs, football matches, listening to music and eating out. Seeking pen pals, 28-48. P200

Pauline, (47), 6', slim brunette. Enjoys gardening, gym, youth hostelling and holistic therapies. Seeking lonely soldiers to write to, 40+. P201

Trish, 5'9", slim blonde with blue/green eyes. Enjoys music, socialising, films, reading, history, chilling out and having a laugh. Seeking pen pals with similar interests. P202

Emmeline, seeks male pen pals with an evil sense of humour. Forces only please, home or abroad. A singer-songwriter, into Indie-rock, advanced canoeing and the outdoors. Looking to make some good friends, so reliable, genuine lads only reply. P203

Sam, (39), 5'4", medium build with light brown hair. Enjoys fast cars, Formula 1, fun, exciting nights out and quiet nights in. Seeking pen pals with a broad sense of humour, 35-45. P204

Martina, (44), 5'4", with long brown/fair hair. Divorced with grown-up children, two of whom are partners of soldiers. Enjoys clubs, pubs, cinema and spending weekends away from home. Would like to hear from soldiers, 30-45 who find her ad appealing. P205

Sharon, (34), looking for a rough and ready action man, must have a great sense of humour, movable parts, own hair and teeth an advantage. P206

Melica, (23), 5'3", with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys reading, writing, watching TV/films, pubs, some clubs, playing pool, football and playing games online. A special needs assistant. Seeking pen pals of any age group will reply to all letters. P207

Beverley, (44), 5'8", with fair/blonde hair and blue eyes. Seeking male soldiers who are around the same age for friendship and maybe more. P208

Sue, (38), 5'10", slim with fair hair and green eyes. Enjoys cycling, badminton, travelling, music, cinema, fashion, cooking, old pubs, sightseeing and writing letters. Seeking pen pals of any age group. Will reply to all letters received. P209

Sarah, (36), 5'4", with red/brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys cooking, home life, eating out, cinema, DIY and reading. Single working mum seeking pen pals with similar interest and GSOH, 32-45. P212

Catherine, (25), 5'8", with fair hair. Enjoys music, walking, nights out, art & crafts and gardening. Single parent seeking pen pals, 25+. P210

Pauline, (49), 5'2", small/med build with straight blonde hair and green eyes. Enjoys dancing, music, yoga, cinema, theatre, painting (paint and pencil), socialising and holidays. Kind, honest and reliable seeking sincere pen pals, 45-55. P211

Chloe, 5'4", slim build with short dark hair, dark eyes, pierced lip and tanned. Enjoys clubs, films, favourite films are The Green Mile and Monsters Inc. Studied animal care for two years and hopes to follow in the industry. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P222

Maria, (40), 5'7", blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys cooking, swimming, dress making, 60s and 70s music, cinema, eating out or nights in. GSOH, seeking pen pals, 35+. P213

Neil, single male mid thirties, 5'10", fair hair and green eyes. Ten years ex-service member now in TA. Enjoys walking, team sports, football, movies, cinema, nights out, good food and up for adventure. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P214

Karen, (39), 5'5", with brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys keeping fit, walking, taking photos, shopping, cinema, theatre and loves animals. Seeking pen pals, 38-45. P215

Paula, (33), 5'2", blonde with hazel eyes. Enjoys pubs, clubs, eating out and socialising. Single mum of 2 seeking pen pals, 28-38. P216

Gabrielle, (29), good looking, tanned, down-to-earth and fun to be with. Enjoys varied music taste, clubs, socialising, homelife and travelling. Seeking genuine, easygoing pen pals with GSOH, 22+. P217

Angie, (42), 4'11", with short fair hair and green eyes. Enjoys listening to music, going out with friends, reading, writing letters, cinema and theatre. Divorced with two children, 13 and 16. Seeking pen pals, 25-45. P218

Susan, (45), attractive blonde graduate, with a son in the Army. Enjoys antiques, Cordon bleu cooking, eating out, cat lover, fast cars and good clothes. Would like to hear from male pen pals with compatible interests and GSOH, 43-49. P219

April, (32), 5'6", attractive bubbly blonde. Enjoys outdoor activities, horse riding, cycling, socialising, swimming, movies and eating out. Seeking fit and interesting soldiers off plus, 27-35. P221

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THE COLONIAL NEW ZEALAND WARS by Ryan and Parham. Published New Zealand 2002. This excellent 237 page pictorial history of the Maori Wars 1845-7 and 1860-72 (containing 75 colour plates and 290 illustrations) has now been reprinted and is available at £28.99 including P&P in the U.K. only from (at time of press) KSMHB, 15 Bodiam Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex, TN40 2LS. Tel. 01424 217156. 11/02

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NOTICES

HEROES OF TELEMAR. 60-year anniversary "Sabotage Action" on the hydro-electric plant at Rjukan Telemark Norway, 27 February - 2 March 2003. Brian Desmond Destination Setesdal Tel. 004737930125 004790140857 Email: briandes@frisurf.no 11/02

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A copy can be seen for the next month at **BENSON CLEGG, SOLICITORS, 32 WILKINSON STREET, SHEFFIELD, S10 2GB** or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to **The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL**, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

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£££ ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS £££

14 SEPT. 2002

1ST - (673 runs, £4,500): Spr BP Evans, 32 Engr Regt, Hohnhe
1st - (673 runs, £4,500): Sgt GT Sherry, 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh
3rd - (670 runs, £2,000): Sgt MW Clowes, 160 (Wales) Bde, Brecon
4th - (665 runs, £1,450): WO2 BJ Marley, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln
4th - (665 runs, £1,450): WO2 S Spafford, 5 Trg Regt RLC, Grantham
6th - (641 runs, £1,000): Fus JF Lediard, 1 RRF, Celle
7th - (639 runs, £700): LCpl GJ Roberts, 34 Fd Hosp
8th - (636 runs, £250): Capt RM Doliczny, HQ TSC (G), Sennelager
8th - (636 runs, £250): WO1 GM Green, RDG, Munster
8th - (636 runs, £250): Sgt MB Kenny, 158 Pro Coy RMP, Bulford
8th - (636 runs, £250): Cpl AS Ohara, 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, Bulford

With effect 21 September 02 the lottery has returned to football results in accordance with the rules, the only exception being that, if on 21 September, Rule 10 applied (No prize of £50 or more), results were based on the cricket scores from 14 September.

21 Sept 2002

2-way tie for 1st Place (19 Goals, £4,500 each)
Sgt JF Nicholson, 2 RTR, Falling-bostel; Maj SEJ Redman, QRH, Sennelager
10-way tie for 3rd Place (18 Goals, £760.00 each)
Cfn LT Campbell, 5 Bn REME, Catterick; SSgt M Dukes, 1 R Irish, Canterbury; WO1 MA Lawrence, 106 Regt RA (V); Pte RSS McCann, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Lt Col DJ Norton, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot; WO2 NB Pritchard, HQ DEMA (A), Arborfield; Cfn JT St Pierre, 16 Signal Regt, Krefeld; Capt PP Thacker, RDG, Munster; Cpl FP Valentine, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Capt BWD Whishaw, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone

With effect 21 September 02 the Lottery has returned to football results.

28 Sept 2002

22-way tie for 1st Place (23 Goals, £754.55 each)

LCpl LJ Ashton, KRH, Tidworth; WO2 D Bagnall, 151 Sp Regt RLC (V); LCpl JP Black, QRH, Sennelager; Cpl JJ Carr, MRS Dhekelia; Sgt PRS Carrington, 16 Signal Regt, Rheindahlen; WO2 IS Day, Royal Army of Oman, BFPO 747; SSgt GR Egglestone, 3 RHA, Hohnhe; LCpl JJ Flood, 22 Engr Regt, Andover; Cpl BW Hellyer, 3 RSME Regt, Minley; SSgt JR Hutchinson, SEME, Bordon; Cfn SA Jenkins, SEME, Bordon; Sgt AD Lamb, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; LCpl SD Leigh, 1 GS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; WO1 NPG Mott, ITC Catterick; WO2 KL Rolfe, Camp Comdt (AD), London; WO1 R Rowley, 1 RGBW, Ballykinler; WO2 K Sheldermine, PUHQ; Cpl AJ Smith, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbostel; Capt PF Talbot-King, RAS & Larkhill Garrison; LCpl DE Thrower, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippenham; Pte GA Veale, 8 CS Coy REME, Colchester; Capt PJ Ward, 1 RRF, Celle

05 October 2002

3-way tie for 1st Place (24 Goals, £3,666.67 each)
Pte K Agnew, 1 KORBR, Episkopi; SSgt CS Fletcher, UKSU SHAPE; Cfn JM Guess, 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh; 11-way tie for 4th Place (23 Goals, £509.09 each)
CSgt SM Bateman, ITC Warminster; Sgt WA Burton, FI Admin Unit, Falkland Islands; Lt Col PR Butler, Sennybridge Trg Area, Brecon; Maj MK Cannon, RMCS, Shrivenham; Sgt P Giles, 1 CSMR, Munster; Sgt JFJ Hill, 10 Tpt Regt RLC, Colchester; LBdr S Holmes, 22 Regt RA, Kirton in Lindsey; LCpl JM Lee, 2 Trg Regt AAC, Middle Wallop; Pte IM McCann, 1 RS, Ballykelly; Capt JJ McMenamin, UKSU Heidelberg; Capt MJ Moore, 32 Regt RA, Larkhill.

12 OCTOBER 2002

Owing to the non-participation of Premiership clubs on 12 October 2002 the following Third and Conference clubs take their places on the lines shown:
28 Boston, 29 Bristol Rovers, 31 Carlisle, 32 Chester, 33 Darlington, 37 Doncaster, 38 Gravesend, 2 Hartlepool, 3 Hereford, 6 Leyton Orient, 8 Lincoln, 9 Macclesfield, 10 Morecambe, 11 Northwich V, 13 Oxford, 20 Southport, 21 Swansea, 22 Torquay, 24 Yeovil, 25 York.

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Junior Leaders, Royal Signals, Kohima and Iron Troops intake 1991-92, reunion planned. Contact **DEANSTUARTOWEN@aol.com** or look at <http://members.lycos.co.uk/juniorleadersreunion>

Pte SE21463 Henry Johns RAVC was a member of **9th Mobile Veterinary Corps** attached to the **Royal Scots Greys** during Second World War. His grandson seeks a history of the units at that time and photographs of his grandfather. Contact Brian Jones, 10 McConnell Lane, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada L3Y 7M1 or brian.jones6@sympatico.ca

Anyone who recalls **Leslie Frank Tett, ex-Commando No 4**, who served with Special Forces in Normandy and later in North Africa, is asked to contact his daughter Linda Gray, 143, Arundel Drive, Carleton, Lancs FY6 7TZ.

Association of Ammunition Technicians is looking for more members, both serving and retired. For details call Paul on 01235 513371.

Ardennes Platoon, A Coy, RAOC, Apprentices' College, Deepcut from June 1983. For details of 20th reunion planned for next year, contact Ian (Jock) Brown at ian96@aol.com

All ex-68 Sqn RCT reunion 2003 see website <http://communities.msn.com/68sqnrct>

Steve Hooker, who was at Bulford in 1975, is asked to contact Mark Neal on 07967266208 or mark@7five.co.uk

2 Bn London Irish Rifles, H Coy, 1943-44 Italy: Information and photos sought, particu-

larly any concerning the then CSM J Long. Contact G Long on 07980 541809.

Leslie H Freedman, 128 Light Field Amb (attached 32nd Guards Brigade) during the Second World War, is keen to hear from anyone else who was there. 1111 Montezuma Drive, Bradenton, Florida, 34209 USA.

Phil (Fred) Rogers and other **Firth Park Comp, Sheffield**, school pals of **Stephen Davies** ask him to contact them for news of school reunion, phil@killmarsh.fslife.co.uk

Any news of **John Edward Southwell, RAOC** and Horncastle, Lincs, 1960s to foxysouthwell867@hotmail.com

Any news of **Sandra Rolt, ex-Cpl PTI HMS Tamar, Hong Kong 1984** is sought by ex-Leading Seaman Don Russell (HMAS *Stalwart*), donald.russell@defence.gov.au

www.palacebarracksmemorialgarden.org website showing memorials to those who lost their lives in Northern Ireland, the Falklands and other locations.

Far East Veterans' Association for all ex-Service men and women who served in the Far East from the Second World War until the handover of Hong Kong. Details of nearest branch from Mr J R Bavier, 93 Westmorland Avenue, Luton, Beds LU3 2PS.

Ex-18 Field Regiment RA, Hong Kong who remember Phil Appleby are asked to contact him at 8 Lindsfarne Road, Priestfields, Middlesbrough TS3 0HZ.

Aug 28; P Chaganis, Asst Dir Trained Pers-Def Sec Care Agency, Aug 27; P M Davies, Comd 12 (Air Sp) Engr Bde, Aug 26; M C Frostick, Dir Al Hussein Project, Aug 19; N St J Hall, Military Attache UK to the UN, Aug 19.

M G Hickson, Comd Log Sp 1 (UK) Armd Div, Aug 19; C J W Nelson, Col Army Estate Plans, Aug 27; S D Rowland-Jones, DCOS HQ Dir Army Aviation, Aug 19; A C Sheppard, ACOS Engineer HQ Germany/Netherlands High Readiness Force, Aug 26; J N E Watson, ACOS G1 HQ Spanish High Readiness Force, Aug 26; P R C Flach, Asst Dir (Army) Def Exports Service Org, Sep 30; J C Sims, Dir Central Writing Team JSCSC, Sep 30.

Lt Cols: S J D Absolon RA, to PJHQ (UK), Aug 27; B P Clesham RGR to UNAMSIL, Sep 27; P C Dyer RLC to LARO, Aug 12; R J C Eaton RDG to HQ MND (SW), Jan 13; R J Jordan WFR to JDCC, Sep 23; C E Kitchen, Gren Gds to JSCSC, Aug 12; S J May RTR to DCEE, Aug 30; G H F Nickerson SG to HQ ISAF, Jul 8; H C Northam AAC to HQ MND(SW), Jul 17; G G Orcheston-Findlay to JSU Northwood, Feb 2.

R J Rider RE to BLO Germany, Nov 11; R P Sartain LI to HRF (TU), Aug 29; E A Smyth-Osbourne LG to HQ Land, Sep 2; C R M Stagg, Scots DG to HQ Fd Army, Sep 1; K P Stratford-Wright RE to HQ ARRC, Aug 19; D P Turner AAC to DLD, May 20; S A B Ward QDG to DASD, Jun 1; N Welch RGBW to JSCSC Aug 27; I R Woodbridge, 9/12L to NDC, Aug 28.

RADC WO's and Sgts' Past and Present Dinner Club: To ensure you are contacted to join the 2003 dinner, please pass your details to SSgt Anderson, Dental Centre, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2LS. Phone 01252 347870 or send e-mail to ordsgt@milnet.uk.net

David Welsh, ex-15/19 King's Royal Hussars 1961-70, would like to hear from old mates, receive news of the unit's recent history and hear about reunions being planned. Reply to prune.bloom@btopenworld.com

Calling **Ex-6 Armd Wksp, Munster 1985-92**, reunion planned for early 2003. Details from russell.heatley@btopenworld.com

Squad 90, Int Corps, 22nd anniversary of enlistment reunion planned for April 2003. Past or serving members should apply for details to WO2 Jez Tippet, HQ SMIU (NI), BFPO 825 or JeremyOtter@aol.com

George Brawn, who did his National Service with the Buffs 1955-57 in Wuppertal, Germany, is sought by ex-pal **Paul Dupont**, who lives in Australia. Any news please via derekbull@ntlworld.com

"Duke of Earl", ex-Sgt Earl, RAOC attached to REME, served in Wainwright, Canada 1982, sought by Chuck and Lana Reece, ex-Canadian forces on reece45@rogers.com

Ex-members of **210 Signal Squadron, 24 Inf Bde, Kahawa Barracks, Kenya 1961-64** are asked to contact **Ray Gill**, now living in North Wales at moray@gillm.fslife.co.uk

ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORS

2nd South Lancs Regiment: Prolific military author researching material for a new book would like to hear from anyone who has knowledge of (or served in) the 2nd Battalion, The South Lancashire Regiment between 1940 and 1945.

He is particularly interested in those who went on to serve in the 13th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Please write to Charles Whiting, 11 St Olave's Road, York YO30 7AL.

BBC Dublin journalist wishes to make contact with **Pte John Larter**, ex-Royal Anglian Regiment, from Suffolk; **LCpl Howard Bancroft**, ex-16/5 Lancers, from Nottingham; and **Tpr Walter Edwards**, from Shropshire, for assistance in documentary research. All three men served in Northern Ireland during the 1970s. Please contact Edel McAllister, BBC Dublin, 36 Molesworth Place, Dublin 2, Ireland, e-mail edel.mcallister@BBC.co.uk or ring 00353 1 6693704 for further details.

Airborne Household

Evening lecture: Maj J N P Watson and Sgt D E Morgan are to give a talk on troops of the Guards (Independent) Company in the Airborne Forces at the Airborne Forces Museum in Aldershot on the evening of November 19 (1900 for 1930). Tickets, £6.50, available by telephoning 01252 349619 or Aldershot mil (94222) 4619.



Picture: Cpl Will Craig

That's cracked it: **SSgt Tom Spalding RE**, right, wields a 20kg sledgehammer and makes **Sgt Paul Fowler's** eyes water. Paul, an RAF instructor at the Ayios Nikolaos Martial Arts Club in Cyprus, was attempting to make his mark in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Tom, a colleague of Paul's at the Joint Service Signal Unit at Ayios Nikolaos and one of his kick-boxing students, smashed the sledgehammer down on a pile of concrete slabs held on his friend's chest during the British Forces fête on the base.

Paul, the world's number two in the kick-boxing discipline of *kata*, survived the bashing with just a few aches and pains and a fat lip caused by a chunk of flying concrete.

The two men attempted a similar feat at last year's fête, but found that it could not be ratified because they did not have official verifiers to prove its authenticity. This time they asked

Commander British Forces, **Air Vice-Marshal Bill Rimmer** and **Lt Col Bob Sharp**, CO JSSU, to select the slabs, mark them and check that they were the ones used in the record attempt. The smashing spectacle was also recorded on video.

Paul is now aiming for the record for smashing curb stones with his forearm.

SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

Prisoner of War (Sept) winners: J Campbell, Ramsgate; B Huddart, Washington; J Radge, Hull; N Phillips, Ripon; M Burgess, Doncaster; L Bonfield, Chepstow; M Dye, AFC, Harrogate; A Mansell, Birmingham; D Hayler, Liss; Pte C D Green, Op Palatine. Answer: Captain.

Capcom Vs SNK Pro (Sept) winners: R E

REUNIONS

South Notts Hussars Association: Annual remembrance dinner at TA Centre, Bulwell, Nov 9. E-mail G E Aldridge at gill.aldridge7@ntl-world.com or ring 0115 9135708.

Royal Anglian Regiment and Beds and Herts Regimental Association: Wreath-laying and reunion on Nov 17 at The Keep, Kempston. Contact John Baggaridge on 01234 294853 or johnbaggaridge@yahoo.com

16/5 Lancers, 17/21 Lancers QRL, Battle of Aliwal: Reunion dinner, Jan 25 at Telford Golf and Country Club, £18, details from Maj W J Cook, tel 01952 632928 or fax 01952 632924.

E & F Sqn (1963) JTR/ACC: 40th anniversary dinner, to be held at Officers' Mess, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot on Feb 28. Ring 01977 730874, email petermurthick@hotmail.com

RE Freedom of Gibraltar 2003, full weekend of events to be held Mar 28-30. First come, first served. Details and information pack from WO1 J Noble 00350 55372 or WO2 H Kernahan 00350 55172 or MES Works, HQ British Forces, BFPO 52.

4 Coy, 3 Bn Coldstream Guards (1950-55): Reunion dinner in Derby on April 12. For details contact Harry Westgarth, 49 Rokeby Park, Hull HU4 7QE, ring 01482 503649 or e-mail harry@westgarth.karoo.co.uk

2 Coldstream Guards (Malaya) and former 2 Bn members: Final reunion to be held Sept 5-6 next year in Bristol. For details contact Reg Counsell, 76 Bradley Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5HR or telephone 01179 699667.

Smith, Preston; J Willis, Fleet, Hants; P Harding, Worcester; K Robinson, Blaby, Leics; J Grant, Nottingham. Answer: 15.

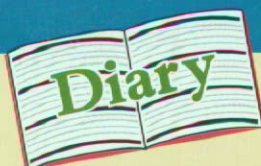
We Were Soldiers (Sept) winners: E Bradbury, Burntwood, Staffs; Pte R Hanton, Hounslow; T Southern, Melksham; LCpl T L Whitney, Upavon; SSgt McGill, BFPO 47; Capt Endean, BFPO 808. Answer: Mad Max.

and women 020 7723 5021; www.st-dunstons.org.uk
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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

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000; www.armybenfund.org
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569
Army Welfare Service 01722 433456
Army Families Federation 01980 615525; www.aff.org.uk
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 1124; www.blesma.org.uk
Confidential support lines:
UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0800 1827 395
Cyprus 080 91065
Bosnia 0800 731 4880
Others UK 1980 630854
Operations worldwide Paradigm Homelink Access Number *2999@thePINprompt
Ex-Service Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 01372 841600; www.combatstress.com

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



DATES

NOVEMBER

6: Winchester Cathedral jubilee concert for ABF (01962 877 977).

DECEMBER

11: Royal Hospital Chelsea carol service for ABF (020 7591 2055).

* ONE of the best-known figures in The Green Howards, **Lt Col Neil McIntosh**, below, has retired after



45 years with the regiment. For the past 17½ years he has been regimental secretary and curator of the Green Howards Museum in Richmond. Guests at a dinner in the museum to

mark his departure included the Colonel of the regiment, **Maj Gen Richard Dannatt**, who had served in Northern Ireland under Neil, and **Lord Inge**, former Chief of the Defence Staff, who joined the Green Howards during Neil's first posting to Hong Kong.

* ANOTHER to hit the 40-year mark in uniform was **SSgt Charlie Giblin**, below, who retires this month. He is the last of 212 Fijians who joined the British Army in 1961.



Charlie enlisted in the 16/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers and served on operations in Aden, the Radfan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Libya and Malaya. As a WO2, his final tour was with

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry. On leaving the Regulars in 1984 he joined 72 Ordnance Company RAOC (V), which subsequently re-rolled to 123 Ammunition Sqn RAOC (V) and later 123 Combat Supplies Sqn RLC (V).

* FROM two veteran soldiers bowing out to a young one just starting his career.

Pte Christopher Taggart, left, serving with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC at Marchwood, was one of three short-listed for the BBC-sponsored Youth Volunteer of the Year award. The 18-



year-old was a member of the Lepe-based Venturers search-and-rescue organisation from the age of 14. He still gives up free time to instruct junior Venturers and is a rescue-boat coxswain.



Bob's high order

AN officer who completed 3½ years of loan service with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces has received a rare and unusual decoration from the hands of the Sultan. **Maj (Retd) Bob Williamson**, left, was presented with the Darjah Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Yang Amat Berjasa (or Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa or SLJ for short) in a ceremony at the palace.

Bob, who left the Army in April after 31 years in the Royal Corps of Signals, believes the last such award for loan service was made to an RAF wing commander who helped reorganise the air force more than 16 years ago. He tells us the SLJ, right – which is equivalent to a CBE and one below a Bruneian knighthood (or *dato*) – was hung around his neck in the throne room, to which he was escorted by 16 guards in traditional dress.



Although the honour, which marks Bob's contribution to the Sultan's Armed Forces, was announced last year while he was still in uniform, the presentation was delayed until the Foreign Office had approved it.

Mark's marathon attraction

TERRITORIAL Army soldier and marathon runner **Pte Mark Dabbs** was perturbed to learn that his home town of Walsall had one of the worst records for fitness in the UK – so he decided to do something about it. He became a health promoter and unofficial ambassador for the town, taking gifts to present to civic leaders.

Mark, right, who has run marathons on six continents (best time a tad over three hours), has been rewarded by being named Walsall's Sports Personality of 2002.

A staff nurse at the town's Manor Hospital, he serves with the Ambulance Train Group and says the spirit and values taught by the Army have been invaluable in his quest to share his enthusiasm for sport and good health. Mark has crossed the finishing line at marathons in Melbourne, Boston, New York, Cape Town (during which he met President Mandela), Bangkok, Berlin, Moscow, Dublin, Helsinki, Lisbon, Madrid, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Vienna, Brussels, Sao Paulo and, of course, London.

This summer Walsall chose him to carry the Queen's Jubilee Baton on its journey to the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

Now he wants to run in Antarctica...



Berwick tattoo helps forces

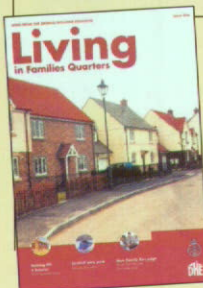
BERWICK's annual **military tattoo** raised the princely sum of £10,000 for SSAFA-Forces Help and has now given to charity more than £60,000 since the first show at Berwick Barracks nine years ago. This year's tattoo, which also benefited a local day hospice and the Citizens Advice Bureau, featured the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division, the Band of The Tyne Tees Regiment, the Pipes and Bugles of The Royal Irish Regiment as well as a host of other entertainers. Among the performers were acts from the Old Moscow Circus.

● **GARRISON Radio in Colchester has moved to a new home. The station is now broadcasting from purpose-built studios at the Holmefield Road Naafi.**

Star and Garter as history

RICHMOND upon Thames is paying tribute to the Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled Servicemen and women in an exhibition which opened in the borough's museum last month. Exhibits include recently discovered material from the home's archives as well as objects from the museum's collection in Old Town Hall, Whittaker Street (www.museumofrichmond.com).

The original Star and Garter was a tavern built in 1738. It prospered and grew into a hotel patronised by the rich and famous (Charles Dickens was a regular guest) until fire destroyed it in 1870. Although rebuilt, its glory days were over and it lay empty for many years until the First World War created an urgent need for a refuge for soldiers, sailors and airmen injured in battle.



Married patch mag returns in a bright new format

THE first edition of a revamped Defence Housing Executive magazine for Service families should be dropping through your married quarter letterbox soon.

And the editorial team at CS Publicity are keen to learn what you think of it. Published at least twice a year, **Living in Families Quarters** will have a print run of 44,000. Feedback

to editorial team Vince Duquemin, Martin Day and James Blackman at CS Publicity, DHE, Room 8/65, St Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1 0TD



Silhouetted against the Manhattan skyline, Pipe Maj Paul Selwood, above, of the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, marks the September 11 anniversary by playing a lament on the rooftop of New York's Arsenal Building. On the right, Piper David Barnett struggles with the gusty conditions and the high emotions of the day during a 9/11 memorial service on board the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*, a floating museum in New York Harbour.

The carrier was turned into an operations centre in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack.

Twenty-four members of the 1 SG Pipes and Drums, who were on a two-week tour of the United States, were invited to mark the first anniversary by the American Scottish Foundation. The musicians had already appeared in San Francisco and Denver.

While in New York, the pipers played at spirit-raising and patriotic concerts in Battery Park, Central Park and Madison Square, and the Pipes and Drums played on the *Intrepid* before taking part in a parade and memorial service at Seaford, a Long Island community that lost ten people in the attack.

Pictures: American Scottish Foundation



Tribute to Alamein

A WEEKEND of special events at the **National Army Museum** marked the 60th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein last month.

Lectures, children's workshops and desert warfare vehicles were included in the presentation and visitors were able to meet soldiers who took part in a more recent desert conflict – the Gulf War of 1990-91.

● Elsewhere, the anniversary was marked by the **Imperial War Museum**, which has opened a permanent exhibition on the life of Fd Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

Telemark's heroes

OPERATION Freshman, the first Airborne Forces attempt to land commando demolition experts by glider in Norway in 1942, is being commemorated at a ceremony at Skitten, near Wick in Caithness, on November 20.

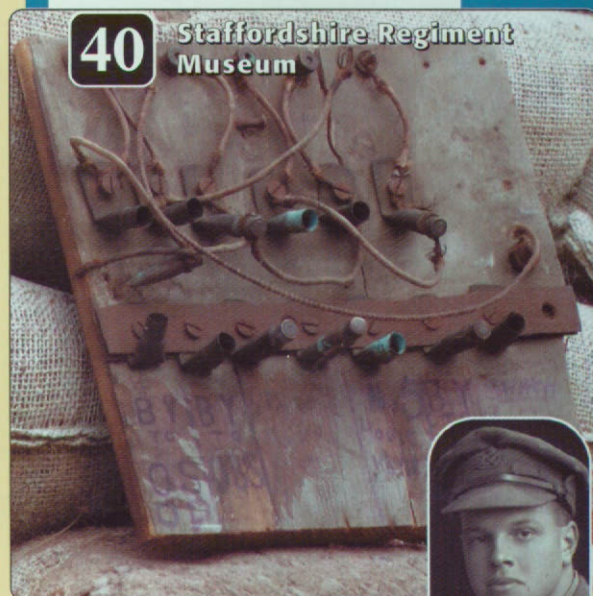
The commandos set out to destroy Hitler's source of "heavy water", essential in his programme to build an atomic bomb. Forty-one lost their lives, with survivors being executed by firing squad on Hitler's direct orders. The plant was subsequently destroyed in a second raid made famous by the film *The Heroes of Telemark*.

Narrow boat: Combined Cadet Force members from Liverpool College and Calday Grange, left, use local transport while trekking in Nepal as part of the gold-level Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. They visited Kathmandu and Bhaktapur and climbed to Annapurna Base Camp. From Pokhara they visited the British camp and the Gurkha Welfare Centre at Kaski.



Legends of the regiments and corps

40 **Staffordshire Regiment Museum**



It's for you: The switchboard, above, and Capt Highfield-Jones, inset



Making a connection

A SOLDIER gathering bits and pieces from a battlefield is nothing new – shell casings, enemy helmets and weapons perhaps. But a telephone switchboard?

Yet that is one of the more unusual items on display at the Staffordshire Regiment Museum at Whittington Barracks near Lichfield.

The improvised switchboard comprises two pieces of wood, with the connections made from bullets attached to wires and the flattened ends of cartridge cases completing the circuit.

PLUCKED FROM TRENCHES

It was picked up from trenches on the Western Front during the First World War by Acting Capt Philip Highfield-Jones, who went on to win a Military Cross and was later Brevet Colonel and commander of the 6th Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment at the outbreak of the Second World War.

The device was probably used in a dugout by a forward observer. Notations on the board suggest it was connected to two artillery batteries and the HQ. But why Highfield-Jones, who died in 1951, picked it up is a mystery. His diary, housed in the museum along with his medals, makes no mention of it.

Visitors can make up their own minds as to the origin of this unusual piece of telecomms equipment.

The Museum of the Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield (tel 0121 311 3229) open all year Tues to Fri, 1000-1600, and weekends, bank holidays April 1 to Oct 31 from 1230-1630. An exhibition entitled "Anzio 1944: the unexpected fury" is open until early January.

www.armymuseums.org.uk



Above: The bullet-torn and scorched battle standard of the 2nd North Staffords, which flew at Anzio, is on show in a special exhibition.

Switched on . . .



WEATHER WATCH ▲

JOHN Kettley, Francis Wilson, Michael Fish – your days are numbered.

This long range weather forecaster from Oregon Scientific has a built-in thermometer, humidity comfort level indicator and a pressure trend indicator.

① £79.99, from www.oregonscientific.co.uk (0871 2221966).

CAUGHT ON CAMERA ▼

EVEN James Bond would be impressed with this gadget – the first commercially available wireless camera within a pen.

Just click the top of the pen and it will transmit live, full colour images and sound to a television, video recorder or PC within a 100-metre range (a capture card or RCA input is needed for the PC option).

The pen barrel conceals a pinhole colour CMS lens and transmitter – see cross-section below.

① £600, from www.gadgetshop.com (0800 7838343).



ENTERTAINING TOY ▲

EQUIPPED with Intel's latest 2.8 GHz chip, a 120GB hard disk and packed with 512MB of memory, this powerful ixtreme 9701 represents the ultimate entertainment experience.

It allows users to watch television, DVDs, edit and listen to music, and enjoy the most advanced PC games on the market.

① £1,699, from www.packardbell.co.uk

Game on . . .

TOCA RACE DRIVER, PC

THE latest in the near four-million-selling TOCA series, *Race Driver* delivers a game packed with 42 real touring cars, 13 championships and 38 internationally renowned race circuits.

The game's 14-car races are powered by a progressive physics engine and utilise a new damage system which uses the technology that models real-life crash tests and produces the correct movement and crumpling of car body parts on impact. The system authentically recreates the effect of damage on metal, plastic, alloy, glass and rubber.

Detail continues in the real-life race locations and championships. The game features more licences than any previous game in the series, enabling players to race in championships such as Germany's DTM, Australia's AVESCO V8 Supercars and the UK's TOCA Tour.

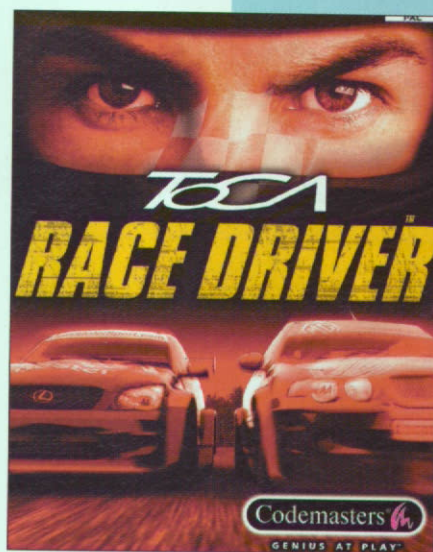
Somewhat unusually for a racing title, the game's high-speed action revolves around a murder plot. Players assume the role of Ryan McKane, an aspiring touring car driver hell bent on avenging the death of his father – a former racing champion killed in suspicious circumstances.

As the player wins races with McKane, new managers will attempt to poach him – moves which may lead him to his father's killers.

VERDICT: A real smash-hit.

9/10

OUT NOW



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

COURTESY of Codemasters, *Soldier* has five copies of *Toca Race Driver* up for grabs. For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

What is the name of *Toca Race Driver*'s lead character?

Send your answer on a postcard to *Toca Race Driver* competition, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU by December 2. Usual rules apply.

BYTE-SIZE NEWS

FOLLOWING its triumphant four-month run at London's Barbican Gallery, the *Game On* videogame art exhibition has moved to the Royal Museum, Edinburgh.

On show until February 2, the exhibition explores the creativity and influence of computer gaming on contemporary culture. For information and ticket bookings call 0131 2474422.

SPORTS Interactive has announced its first title based outside the world of football.

Set inside the frenetic world of ice, sticks and pucks, *Eastside Hockey Manager: Franchise Edition* will put players in charge of any one of hundreds of hockey teams throughout the world. The title, which is set for release in 2003, will offer a detailed game world in which gamers draft, trade and manage players throughout various hockey leagues and trophies.

RESPONDING to Sony's landmark price drop for PlayStation 2, Microsoft has hit back by cutting the price of the Xbox to £159 – half what it cost in March of this year.

Rivals Nintendo have held firm in the face of the price cuts and confirmed that the GameCube will remain at £129.99.

ONIMUSHA 2: SAMURAI'S DESTINY, PS2

THIS highly anticipated sequel to last year's award-winning and multi-million-selling blockbuster *Onimusha: Warlords* blends actual historical accounts of 16th century feudal Japan with fictional characters and storylines.

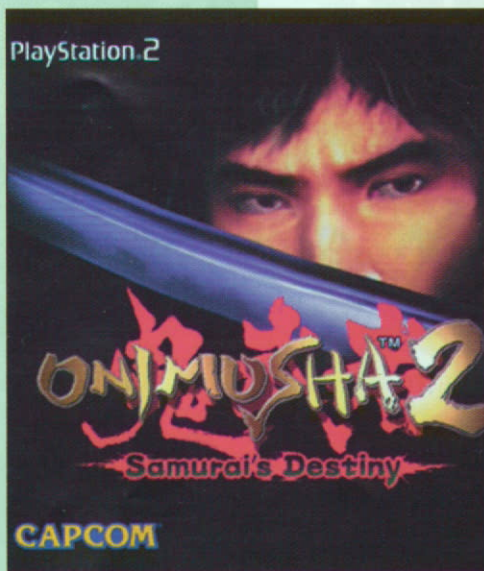
Following a brutal attack on a village by the infamous warlord Nobunaga, players take control of Yagyu Jubei, a young warrior and master of the Yagyu Shinkage sword fighting style, who seeks to exact revenge.

Jubei's quest for justice immerses players in many diverse settings, including the lively gold-rush town of Imashou, the mysterious Ogre Island with its legions of demons, foggy canyons, hidden forests and caves.

The game's designers have introduced a new battle system which allows gamers to gain access to the fighting styles of not only the main character, but up to five unique sub-characters. The revised system also allows players to easily execute a new set of moves with Jubei's sword, which is capable of dealing devastating combinations.

Just like its predecessor this title sports extensive cinematics, and, in a revolutionary use of technology, *Onimusha 2: Samurai's Destiny* brings to life the late Japanese actor Yusaku Matsuda, who

PlayStation 2



starred alongside Michael Douglas in the 1989 film *Black Rain*, as Jubei.

A host of other entertainment professionals with expertise in writing, special effects and motion capture lent their talents to the project, including famed Japanese film director, Keita Amemiya.

VERDICT: *Onimusha 2* offers little in the way of new features, but then why change a winning formula? **8/10**

OUT NOW

WIN...WIN...WIN

SOLDIER has joined forces with Capcom to offer you the opportunity to master your sword-fighting skills.

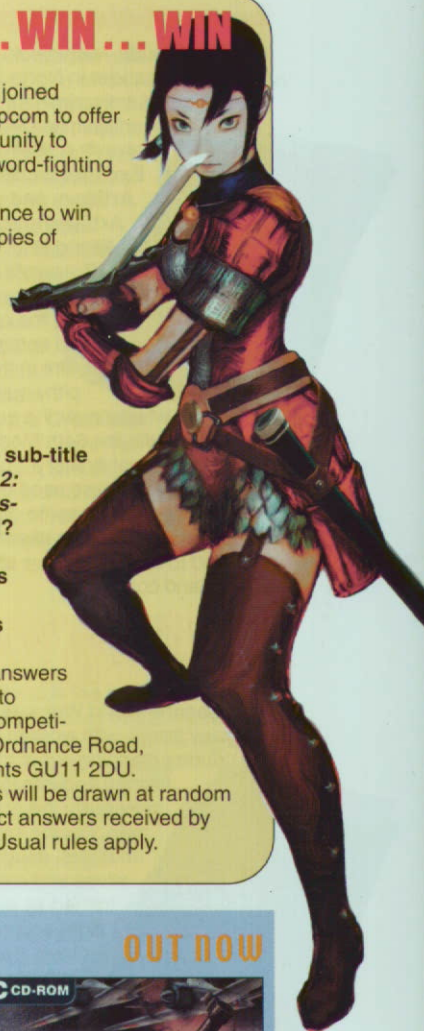
For your chance to win one of eight copies of *Onimusha 2: Samurai's Destiny* for the PlayStation 2, simply answer the following question:

What was the sub-title of *Onimusha 2: Samurai's Destiny's* prequel?

- a) Warlords
- b) War
- c) Warriors

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

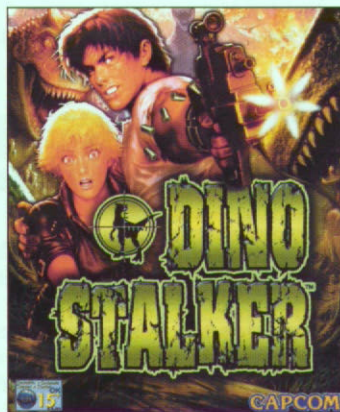
The winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by December 2. Usual rules apply.



DINO STALKER, PS2

PLAYERS assume the role of Lt Mike Wired, an American fighter pilot who finds himself stranded on a dinosaur-infested island after being shot down during a dog fight over the Atlantic, in this fast-paced first-person shooter from Capcom.

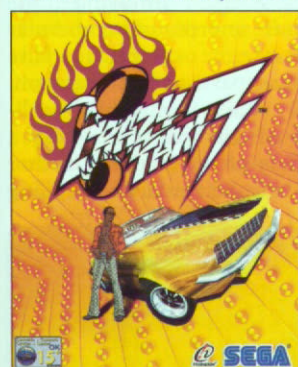
Best played using the *G-con 2* light gun, the game's main objective is simple – escape or be eaten. What sets *Dino Stalker* apart from its competitors is the game's free-roaming levels, which allow players to dictate exactly which route they take to safety.



VERDICT: Not much fun without a gun. **6/10**

OUT NOW

CRAZY TAXI 3, XBOX



VERDICT: Worthy of a tip. **8/10**

THE original king of crazy driving is back – and this time it's hitting the streets of party capital Glitter Oasis.

As well as featuring a whole new city to explore, *Crazy Taxi 3* also boasts four new characters, each with their own trademark attitude and distinctive set of wheels.

Players will need to throw out the rules of the road as they cruise around popular locations in the city, pick up wacky customers and take devious shortcuts, if they are to succeed in their quest to amass the highest amount of tips.

OUT NOW

BATTLEFIELD 1942, PC

BATTLEFIELD 1942 puts players on the front line, allowing them to choose from 16 famous battle sites, including Omaha Beach, Stalingrad and Wake Island, from the four main theatres of the Second World War.

With the ability to control more than 35 authentic Axis and Allied vehicles and select from five distinct character classes, gamers are faced with incredible choices in this first-person conflict simulator.

The game also features a unique, robust multi-player component that supports up to 64 players on certain maps.



VERDICT: A truly epic release. **8/10**

OUT NOW

BLADE 2, PS2 & XBOX



VERDICT: Top movie spin-off. **9/10**

ARMED with an arsenal of deadly weapons and over-the-top martial arts moves, *Blade II* is without doubt one of this year's best console releases.

As *Blade*, the half-vampire, half-human superhero who lives to rid the world of vampires, players must stop the vampire underworld from farming humans for their souls in this action/adventure combat fest.

A 360-degree combat system allows the gamer to obliterate enemy vampires with blood churning visual effects, such as severing body parts, from all angles.

Artillery account lands heavy shots on target

GEN Sir Claude Auchinleck, the British commander in North Africa, is the subject of a discriminate barrage of criticism in Denis Falvey's **A Well-Known Excellence: British Artillery and an Artilleryman in World War Two** (Brassey's, £20).

But the general is not the only target to come under fire in these pithy memoirs

which cover the author's time spent with the 64th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. The title comes from a phrase used by Fd Marshal Erwin Rommel to describe the Royal Artillery – an asset he believed to be the decisive arm in British land combat.

What did you do in the war, Mummy?

THE Second World War was fought on many fronts, with women across the country stepping out of the kitchen and into jobs

previously the preserve of men. For the first time mothers, daughters, wives and sisters trained as pilots, flight engineers, joined the Land Army or drove ambulances.

Wartime Women

by Sinclair O'Neill (Cutmill Books, £7.99) is a collection of 40 of their stories. Parts of the proceeds from the book will go towards The Memorial to Women of World War Two Fund, a charity to erect a lasting reminder of the role women played in six years of fighting.

Hour-by-hour record of the longest day

FAILURE by the Paras to achieve any of their key objectives immediately after the Allied invasion on June 6, 1944 could have had catastrophic

consequences for Operation Overlord. Here in detail, in the words of the men who fought the battles, is the story of **The Day the Devils Dropped In:**

The 9th Parachute Battalion in Normandy – D Day to D+6, The Merville Battery to the Château St Côte (Pen and Sword, £19.95). Neil Barber's account includes a list of the fates of the men mentioned in the text.

Face to face with bin Laden

We talk to the author who met the world's most wanted man

Interview: Anthony Stone

FOR good reasons, bin Laden's minders were paranoid about security. The leader of al-Qaida had been the subject of concerted assassination attempts and the CNN film crew were thoroughly searched. No watches were allowed, for fear of tracking devices, and the interview itself, which took place about 6,000ft up an Afghan mountain, was shot on al-Qaida's own camera.

At first sight "the most wanted man in the world" did not impress Peter Bergen. "Bin Laden is about 6ft 4 or 5 inches tall and walks in a slightly hunched way with the aid of a cane," the award-winning journalist said. "He is quite thin and did not strike me as particularly charismatic."

During that 1997 interview, his first televised broadcast to the English-speaking world, bin Laden's words were full of rage, although his manner was mild. He might as well have been talking about the electricity bill, Bergen recalled.

"But one thing that struck me was he was

pretty serious," he said. "He could have been sitting in his palace in Saudi Arabia. Instead he was wandering around the Afghanistan mountains and that is hardly a picnic."

"He told me he had declared war on the United States military and I remember thinking, how are you going to do that when you are sitting on an Afghan mountainside?"

How and why bin Laden brought the war to the West is told in Bergen's authoritative *Holy War, Inc – Inside the secret world of Osama bin Laden* (see *Soldier Books*, September).

When *Soldier* met Bergen – before last month's Bali atrocity – his short-term security assessment of al-Qaida, "the base" in Arabic, was downbeat.

"My concern about war in Iraq is that it takes our eyes off al-Qaida, which has been severely disrupted but is not out of business," he said.

"These people have an extremely long time line. It took them three years to plan September 11 and five years to plan the US embassy attacks in Africa. The fact that we have not heard from them for more than a year is neither here nor there."

"If bin Laden magically departed this planet tomorrow it would be a blow to the organisation."

"But al-Qaida is somewhere between a cult and a mass movement. Usually when the leader of a cult dies the cult dies with him, but

al-Qaida will continue without bin Laden being around."

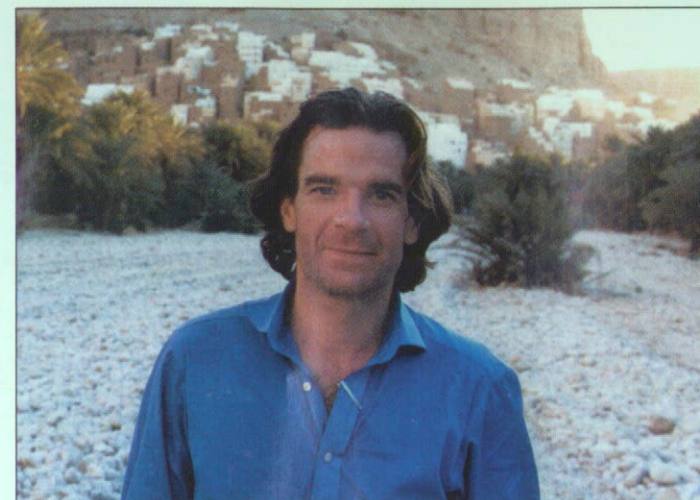
However, it is important to keep the threat in perspective, according to Bergen, who maintains that while Nazism and communism were threats to our very existence, bin Laden is not.

"On a scale of one to ten, with Stalin and Hitler ten, bin Laden is maybe two," he said.

"Still, he is the biggest threat that has come down the pipe for 50 years. The guy and his movement are people who don't take holidays

or weekends off and they believe God is on their side. They want to kill Westerners. They can't be bought off and you can't negotiate with them. They are very patient and are not supported by states like Iraq or Iran. They are completely self-sustained and are a formidable adversary. They will be around for some time. But I don't think in ten years from now we will be talking about them."

Peter Bergen is clear about the best way to deal with the threat. The solution, he says, is



Terror trail: Bergen outside bin Laden's village in Hadramawt, Yemen

eradication. "September 11 was a very big deal but with very little resonance in historical terms. I don't think bin Laden is going to attract a huge mass movement to his standard. I think he will be viewed as a loser."

"The war in Afghanistan was basically a tremendous success. Unfortunately the end game was not."

● *Holy War Inc.* by Peter Bergen is published in paperback by Phoenix at £7.99.

So who really won Normandy?

For once, an unbiased account of the battle

The Battle of Normandy, 1944 by Robin Neillands (Cassell, £20)

Review: Brian Jewell

IT is in the nature of things that heroes should be belittled some time after their death. So it has been in the case of Bernard Law Montgomery.

Much, but by no means all, the criticism has stemmed from the USA: accusations of poor planning and of hesitancy in Europe have undermined his reputation and are never far from the surface when histories of the Normandy landing are compiled.

Robin Neillands's declared intention in *The Battle of Normandy, 1944* is to expose and correct the myth that the success of the Allied campaign in Normandy was due largely to US involvement.

Films such as *Saving Private Ryan* have

reinforced this myth and Neillands points out the only reference to British and Canadian participation in the landings is "thirty seconds shoe-horned into 162 minutes of screen-time, a conversation between two American officers, one commenting that nothing much was happening as 'Monty had yet to take Caen' and the other replying, 'That man's overrated'."

Sadly a campaign involving the deployment of such enormous numbers as this must inevitably be subject to false assessments and even partisan interpretation.

However, in this formidably well-researched book of 456 pages covering a scant three months of warfare, the author comes as near as anyone could to compiling

an unprejudiced account of the roles played by the US, British, Canadian and other Allied forces.

His detailed references to the units involved, with personal accounts from the dwindling numbers of combatants, bear witness to the author's thorough investigation of every aspect of the campaign.

If there are any important errors or omissions, this reviewer has been unable to find them. Little-remembered details such as his reference to the withdrawal of Allied barrage balloons over the Normandy beaches "as these provided German artillery oncomers with something to aim at" add considerably to the immediacy and impact of Neillands's narrative.

Setting out especially to present an unbiased history of the part played by the much-criticised British Second Army in the Battle of Normandy, June 6 to September 1, 1944, Neillands clearly demonstrates that all the Allied armies (and the German armies) had problems during that campaign but he is by no means prejudiced against the

Americans and gives full credit to their contribution.

He is also unsparing in his admiration for the German forces, particularly in their defence of the Normandy bocages which presented the invaders with new problems in terms of difficult fighting terrain.

Of course there were mistakes, as in every enterprise, but in most cases the commanders and men of all armies recovered magnificently.

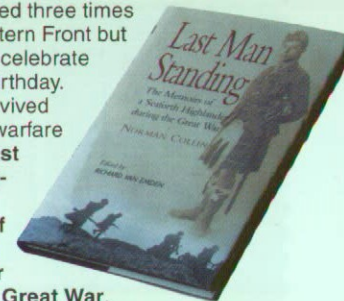
As Neillands concludes, due credit should be paid to all who took part in the fighting. "They gained the eventual victory and this subsequent haggling for glory by national historians surely demeans their common sacrifice," he writes.

"The glory of the Normandy victory – in so far as there is any – must go to the men who fought there, young men from all the Allied nations, old men now, and to those of their comrades who lie in the earth of that now peaceful part of France."

See Books In Brief, Page 71

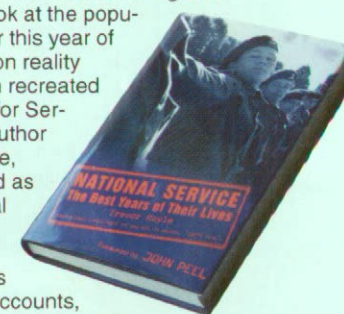
Standing firm through Great War and beyond

NORMAN Collins was newly-commissioned when he led a platoon during the Battle of the Somme. He was wounded three times on the Western Front but survived to celebrate his 100th birthday. How he survived the trench warfare is told in **Last Man Standing: The Memoirs of a Seaforth Highlander during the Great War**, edited by Richard Van Emden (Pen and Sword, £19.95). Using Norman's own words and photographs taken at or near the front, this is a personal story, simply told, and all the more powerful for it.



Remembering the best years of their lives

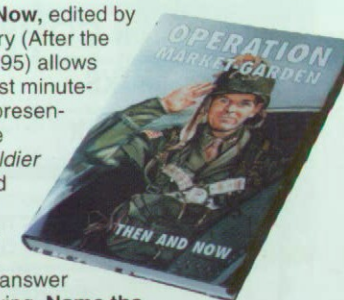
EVEN though the last conscript was demobbed in May 1963, interest in National Service shows no signs of waning. Look at the popularity earlier this year of the television reality show which recreated conditions for Servicemen. Author Trevor Royle, who worked as an historical consultant on the series, uses first-hand accounts, official documents and interviews to present an entertaining account of the conscription years in a timely re-issue of **National Service: The Best Years of their Lives** (Andre Deutsch, £17.99).



Market-Garden: win this two-volume boxed set

WITH more than 2,300 photographs and exhaustive detail, the two-volume **Operation Market-Garden**

Then and Now, edited by Karel Margry (After the Battle, £34.95) allows for an almost minute-by-minute presentation of the actions. *Soldier* has a boxed set to give away to the reader with the correct answer to the following. Name the Allied Supreme Commander during the operation. Answers on a postcard marked "Market-Garden Competition" should be received at *Soldier* by December 2. The winner will be drawn at random from correct entries. Usual rules apply.



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MUSIC

Gordon Turner

Calls of the CD


Bugle Calls of The British Army (TRCD 224)

IN years gone by a soldier's life was governed by the sound of the bugle. *Reveille* or *Rouse* told the men to get out of bed, *Cookhouse* summoned them to breakfast, *Fall-in* for parade ... and so on until the final call of the day.

One disc of this double CD contains all the official bugle calls of the British Army while disc two has been produced for use at remembrance services and includes the *Last Post*, the two-minute silence and Infantry *Reveille*. Tracks two and three are the same sequence with *Rouse* and Charlie *Reveille* replacing the Infantry *Reveille*.

● **Bugle Calls** is available from Droit Music Ltd, PO Box 2638, Eastbourne, BN20 7HJ (price £13 incl p&p).

Music from the Presentation of Colours, 1 D and D (Soundline SLB 4023)

THE 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment recently received new Colours and this music was recorded in advance by its Corps of Drums and the Band of the Prince of Wales's Division (Clive). It includes 37 tracks ranging from such old faithfuls as *The Great Little Army*, *Galanthea* and *Sons of the Brave* to folk tunes, film themes and regimental marches.

● Available from Soundline Recordings, 27, Moreton Close, Church Crookham GU13 0LQ.

Music from Beating Retreat (TRCD 221)

THE Massed Bands of The Household Division performed their annual Beating Retreat ceremony in June and included a mixture of good, solid military, film and show music. Even the violin was featured in an arrangement of *Lord of the Dance*. The Corps of Drums and the Pipes and Drums had their own spots and the finale is *Summon the Heroes*.

● This studio recording is available from Droit Music (price £13).

Trooping the Colour TRCD 222

THE Queen's Birthday Parade (or Trooping the Colour as it is more popularly known) was recorded live and inevitably there are background noises of horses neighing (and sometimes relieving themselves) and crowds showing their appreciation by clapping.

A recording brimming with atmosphere and good music. The inspection music featured a new work composed by Pipe Maj Selwood, Scots Guards, titled *Do'n Bhan-Righ* (To the Lady King) and dedicated to the Queen.

● Available from Droit Music Ltd (price £13).

Save £6: *Music from Beating Retreat* and *Trooping the Colour* are available to readers from Droit at the special price of £20. If you have trouble obtaining recordings or any queries on military music please write to me c/o *Soldier*.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The First World War: An Illustrated History by John Keegan. This large-format paperback version of the author's classic *The First World War* (see interview and competition, pages 35-35) contains many vivid photographs, paintings and other illustrations to complement the abridged narrative. (Pimlico, £20.)

Soldiers: Fighting Men's Lives 1901-2001 by Philip Ziegler. The life and soul of the soldier, revealed in interviews with nine In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. (Pimlico, paperback, £10.)

Life Behind the Wire by Tony Southall. The author joined a TA yeomanry regiment to ride a horse in London and spent four years in PoW camps. (Stockwell, 71pp, paperback, £5.50.)

In Enemy Hands by Malcolm Hall. More Terri-

torial PoW experiences – this time from the Great War. Captured at Ypres in 1915, the author's father Alfred endured forced labour in Germany. After the Armistice he worked with the Red Cross. (Tempus, paperback, £14.99.)

The Mammoth Book of Heroes (ed, Jon E Lewis). Inspiring stories from the past 3,000 years encompassing the Crucifixion, Rorke's Drift, the Imjin River and the Firemen of New York. (Robinson, paperback, £7.99.)

On War and Leadership by Owen Connelly. The words of "the best combat leaders the world has ever known" – from Frederick the Great to Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf. Subjects include Lawrence, Montgomery, Slim, and Nick Vaux, CO of 42 Cdo in the Falklands. The author is a former US Army Ranger. (Princeton University Press, £19.95.)

VIDEO/DVD

Win Jim's DVD

JIM Davidson marked his 25 years in showbiz by recording a special stand-up show in Edinburgh during his nationwide tour. **Jim's Silver Jubilee** is not for the faint-hearted.

The untamed Forces' favourite funnyman does not disguise his admiration for the military, not least in an anecdote concerning a party attended by him and two mates, Simon Weston and Denzil Connick, whose senses of humour were undamaged by grievous injuries suffered during the Falklands War.

Released on November 11, the video/DVD is rated certificate 18 and runs for 73 minutes (price VHS £15.99, DVD £19.99).

In association with Universal Pictures, we've got three videos and three DVDs to give away. To have a chance of winning one, tell us on a postcard the name of Jim's current snooker-based TV game show. Is it:

a) Big Bruise b) Big Sprain c) Big Break?

Entries, marked "Jim Davidson Competition", to reach us by November 29. Specify VHS or DVD. Usual rules apply.

If you believe a military patrol on exercise in darkest Scotland could fall foul of werewolves, you'll enjoy **Dog Soldiers**, a fang-and-bullet bloodfest featuring Sean (Cold Feet) Pertwee, Kevin (Trainspotting) McKidd and Liam (The Abduction) Cunningham and now available to rent.

Watch out for the skeleton-in-the-cupboard gag in this energetic, all-British horror story.

To have a chance of winning one of five DVDs from Pathé Distribution Ltd, tell us on a postcard the Latin name for a wolf. Is it:

a) Lupin b) Lupus c) Lulu?

Replies (marked "Dog Soldiers Competition") should reach us by November 29. Usual rules apply.

The great defeat

LOOK out for **Isandlwana: Zulu Battlefield** (VHS, £12.50), the script for which was written by Ron Lock and Peter Quantrell, authors of the excellent new book **Zulu Victory: The Epic of Isandlwana and the Cover-Up** (Greenhill, £19.95).

Video film and commentary centre on the battlefield over which one of Britain's worst military defeats unfolded. Available from Battlefields Africa, 80 Hollingbury Park Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 7JF; tel 01273 301935; e-mail lee@lstevenson.fsnet.co.uk New titles from DD Video include:

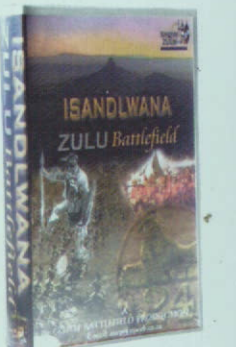
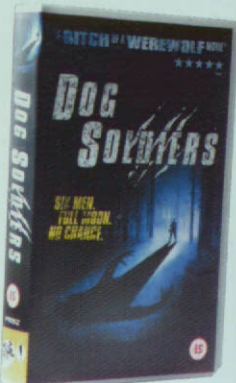
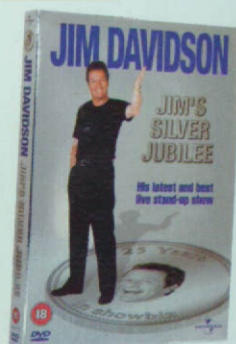
● **Invasion**, the complete BBC History series as a video double pack (price £16.99).

● **The American Civil War**, the full-length film by Ken Burns, of which an abbreviated version was screened on BBC 2, now available as an 11-hour, three-disc boxed DVD set, with 36-page booklet (£49.99).

● **Keep Smiling Through**, which examines the realities of war for people on the home front in Britain during the early years of the Second World War (£12.99).

● **The Defeat of the Nazi War Machine** (video double pack, £16.99).

DD products are available from retailers or direct via credit-card hotline 01829 741490.



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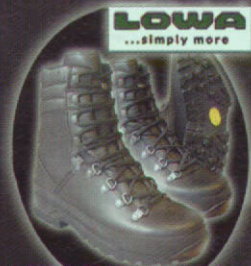


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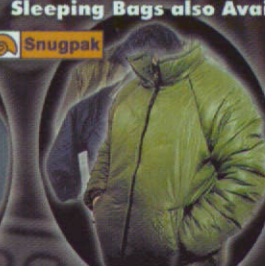
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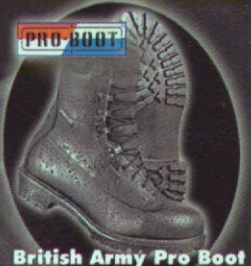
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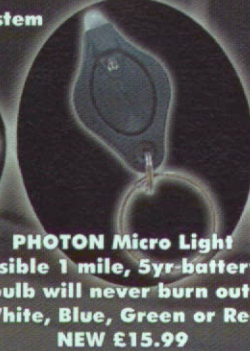
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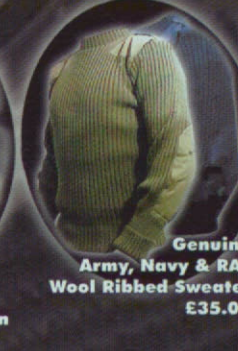
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SOLDIER to soldier

You could win £250

CALLING all photographers – especially the amateurs. You could see your work published in *Soldier* and get the chance to win £250.

For the next three issues we are inviting readers* to send us pictures taken after February 9, 2002.

Each month our judges will select a winner which will appear in the following issue with any others considered worthy of publication.

But please hurry – the closing date for the December issue is **November 14**. Entries received by **December 6** will qualify for the January competition. To make the February issue, get your pictures to us by **January 6**.

♦ ♦ ♦

The three winners will receive a £25 photographic voucher and, with any others published, will go forward to the Army Photographic Competition's *Soldier* Award category, which carries a winner's prize of £250.

The Army Competition prizewinning is planned for March 14 at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, where the successful entries will be put on show.

Winners of all categories except the *Soldier* Award will go forward to a new Tri-Service Photographic Competition, details of which will be announced in due course.

♦ ♦ ♦

*The *Soldier* Award is open to all readers in the following categories: Army, TA and dependants; CCF, ACF and UOTC staff and cadets; MoD civilians; and MoD contractors who work directly for the Army.

Entries, preferably prints up to A4, should be sent to the Chief Photographer, *Soldier*, Parsons House, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Please include a suitable self-addressed envelope if you would like your entries back. Alternatively they may be e-mailed to phot@soldiermagazine.co.uk indicating "Soldier Photo Comp" in the subject box.

Soldier rules apply. *Soldier* query line: 01252 347357 or Ald mil 2357.

Army Photographic Competition queries to DCC(A) SO2 IC Media on 020 7807 8653 (Mil 9621 78653).

Home truths

Sue Bonney

AFF needs to hear from you

AFTER the Army Families Federation Conference in July, I expressed the hope in this column that the extra money going to the Defence budget might find its way to the fabled "purse for people" (I am beginning to regard this mythical and wonderful object as our very own Holy Grail) and speed up such things as the upgrade of DHE quarters in England and Wales and improvements to single-living accommodation.

It would seem I was being a tad optimistic, at least as far as the upgrade is concerned. True, the Minister wasn't exactly encouraging at our Conference about achieving completion by the already postponed date of November 2005. We now understand that, unless the DHE suddenly discovers a pot of gold at the end of an MoD rainbow, the upgrade is highly likely to be moved back again and at least a third of quarters in need of new kitchens and bathrooms and the like will still be in need by 2006.

AFF feels another delay in upgrading Service homes in mainland GB will have a major impact on Service personnel and their families. We know that the standard of their housing is one of the most important factors in Service family life and there are far too many families out there living in houses they feel to be well



Sue Bonney is
Editor of the AFF
Families Journal

below the normal standard for the 21st century. But, judging by the lack of resources coming the upgrade's way, the powers-that-be are not as convinced of its importance.

There's only one thing AFF can do – we must emphasise to the policy-makers the true impact on families of the delay in the upgrade. But we can't do this without evidence from YOU, the families who live in those houses.

So if your house is on the list for an upgrade, and you are still waiting for that shower, let AFF know!

Help us to relay your views on the state of your housing, and how it affects the way you feel about Service life, to the people who make the decision as to whether you get that shower sooner rather than later.

Housing isn't the only issue, of course. From your e-mails, letters and calls to AFF around the world, we assess which issues are concerning Army families and then target two or three on which to gather more evidence.

Currently AFF's "Target Issues" are overseas accompanied service and 18+ children – check out our website at www.aff.org.uk or contact AFF Central Office, to obtain a copy of our questionnaires on these issues so that you can fill them in and let us have your view.

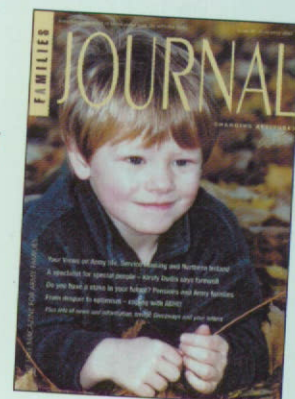
Coming your way soon, maybe

YOU can, of course, always write to the *AFF Families' Journal*. The November issue should be with all units by the end of the month and hopefully with all families soon after that, thanks to those lovely unit welfare officers out there.

But I have my fingers firmly crossed (not easy when you're typing). It never ceases to amaze and frustrate me how difficult it can be sometimes just to get the *AFJ* to units. In these days when internal communication is recognised as a vital part of good management, you would think that getting a magazine full of news and information to its readers would be of some importance. Yet time and

again, the system falls down. As I said in a recent interview with Garrison Radio, my remaining ambition is to send the *AFJ* direct to every quarter in the UK, upgraded or not, and to everywhere else within two weeks of publication, rather than two months.

Surely an organisation that can work out the logistics of warfare should be able to help me achieve that?





Measures in hand to give U-18 service equal value

IN the October edition, a soldier who had joined the Army in 1997 as a 16½-year old questioned the logic behind the fact that he had qualified for a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal but not a five-year bonus ("Just how long have I been in this Army"). The following response was received from PS10(A):



▲ Eligibility criteria for allowances, pay and awards differ according to the requirements of each specific aspect. For the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (QGJM), eligibility was based on effective and continuous service, however accrued, whereas eligibility to commitment bonuses is based on reckonable service under pay and pensions regulations.

The treatment of service prior to age 18 and 21 has long been a source of discontent within the Army. This has been recognised by the MoD and work is under way to treat all service from the date of enlistment equally.

Age-related pay for soldiers under 18 is to be phased out over the next three years. The new Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) is forecast for implementation in 2005 and officers and soldiers will begin to accrue pension benefits from the date of enlistment, rather than from age 21 and 18 as currently.

All personnel serving on the existing AFPS terms will be offered an opportunity to transfer to the new scheme, should they wish to.

Kenya calling...

CONDOLENCES to Cpl Smith ("No swanning about on posting to Kenya", Oct). It's always difficult when we actually have to work for our wages. I assume before leaving he investigated the financial implications. He'd have been advised to sign up with a telecom provider offering calls to Kenya at around 15p a minute, not £3 as he states. – **WO1 (SSM) T F Attoe, PJHQ Northwood.**

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

If cap fits, let's wear it properly in public

THERE is a need, as there has always been, for individual discipline. It remains the backbone of Service life, whether on operations, exercise or in barracks.

In recent months I have been irritated to see soldiers walking around in public in uniform and also by the misuse of green military transport.

I fully support soldiers being seen in uniform in public. It is, in modern jargon, good corporate identity, but those who relax their own individual discipline while on off-duty walkabouts are letting down the company image. I include wandering around with no head-dress, mixed dress, hands thrust deep into pockets and (what prompted me to write) smoking.

I have also noticed an increase in the

number of military vehicles parked outside takeaways, supermarkets, banks and other public places. Can they all be on authorised journeys?

When you put on your uniform you are representing more than a really large company. Our image is being eroded by the mindless who obviously and clearly have no individual discipline or respect when left to themselves. In harsher times RMP and provost staff patrolled garrison towns to correct offenders. Modern soldiers are responsible for their own discipline.

When out in public remember that if the cap fits, wear it... and drive to the chippy in your own car. – **Capt A J Stephens, RLC DTMA Andover.**

Prize letter

Loan rules mean this is an exclusive club

Only a 'slack handful' can fulfil LSAP criteria

IN 1995 I bought a house in Plymouth, which I occupied until posted in 1997. Rather than sell the house I decided to let it.

Last year I was posted back to Plymouth and, since my family had outgrown the house, decided to sell it. We moved into a married quarter and began a lengthy process to remove tenants, sell the house and locate a new one.

As my 35th birthday was before the completion date I decided to apply for a Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) because, in the current housing market, a further £8,500 free of interest would be handy, to say the least.

Time was tight so I spoke with HMS Centurion and faxed the details for an eligibility assessment. They promised, and delivered, an answer within a couple of hours. My application was rejected on the

grounds that I had "within 12 months of the application sold a house within a 50-mile radius of the new house".

I had not lived there since 1997 and I would not have owned it for so long if I had not had to use the courts to evict the tenants. While I understand that there must be criteria for the advance of my gratuity I fail to see what my previous property has to do with this application, and indeed why the 12-month/50-mile rules are necessary.

Not having familiarised myself with the rules may have been my downfall, but bearing in mind the criteria which must be fulfilled before an advance is made, I doubt that there can be a slack handful of people in the Army entitled to it. Good luck to those who think they are. – **WO2 (AQMS) S P Firth REME, Plymouth.**

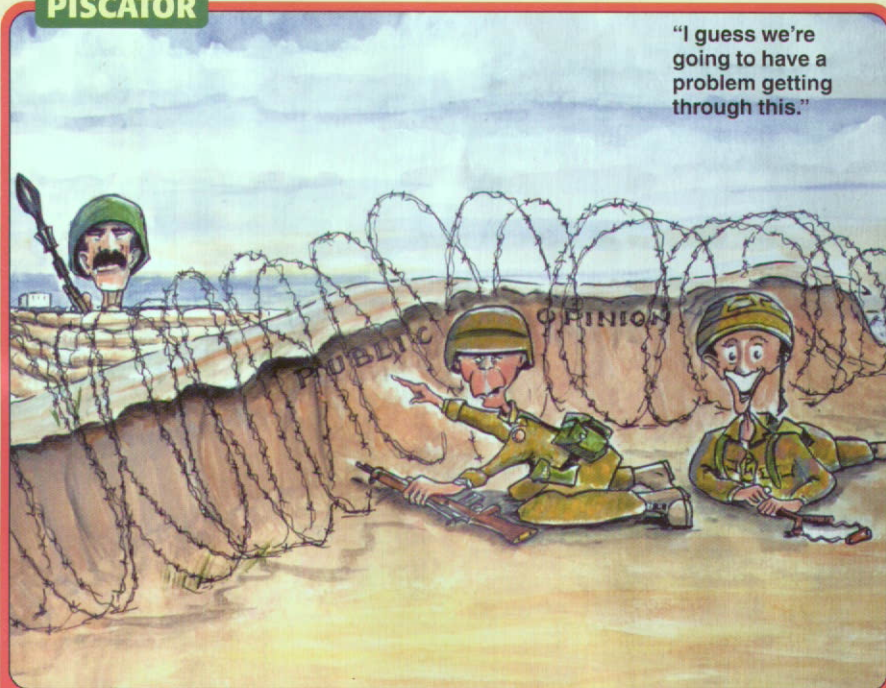


▲ **PS10(A) responds:** The aim of LSAP is to assist personnel to enter the housing market and help meet housing needs arising from changing Service or domestic circumstances. This means the applicant must show a requirement for an interest-free loan from the MoD, which in this case, having made a profit, could be called into question.

The 12-month time limit and the 50-mile rule are incorporated to prevent personnel from using the interest-free loan to help them move up the property ladder. Again the spirit of the law applies. However, if an applicant can show how they had outgrown an older property then there may be grounds to purchase within the 12-month/50-mile rules. The onus of proof is on the individual to show extenuating circumstances.

LSAP is tax-payers' money and is therefore targeted at those in most need of these funds and not necessarily at those who have sold one property and wish to acquire another one, albeit for sound domestic and long-term financial reasons. (Ref: Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges – Chap 10, Sect 12. Paras 10.528-10.531.)

PISCATOR



A hero's legacy: Making a will ensures your loved ones are taken care of. When you remember family and friends, we ask you not to forget the Army family. A legacy to the ABF will help us to continue looking after members of our family when they need us. Contact Susan Berrington at the ABF on 020 7591 2054 or send an email to sberrington@armybenevolentfund.com



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A bit of privacy isn't too much to expect

WITH reference to "Moaning singlies" (Oct) in response to the earlier letter asking for more respect to be given to single soldiers' accommodation, I am disappointed that a fellow SNCO would not consider the effort that goes into preparations for any inspection.

Has he forgotten what it was like? Even if the singlies' place is clean and tidy, a higher level of cleanliness is expected by the inspector, and so it takes longer to attain that level.

As a single sergeant in the mess, I appreciate the privacy I am afforded, as we are considered adult enough to be left alone.

Married personnel rarely have their accommodation inspected (unless it is

march out) or their free time taken away so easily.

WO1 (SSI) Gary Miller expressed "surprise" that soldiers aren't asking for four-bedroom houses. They aren't asking for them because all they want is somewhere decent to live.

In my unit there is a 31-year-old NCO who has 13 years of service under his belt. He lives in a room that only just accommodates a single bed and has little floor space left over.

He is now applying to live out as there will be no inspections, no one calling for replacement guards, no one treating him as a child and, most of all, he will have his very own privacy. – SNCO (name and unit supplied).

PS...

Poor exchange rate

FOLLOWING the letter on boots ("Stitch in time saved the MoD £122.50", Sept), why is it so hard to get clothing exchanged? There are fewer than 100 soldiers where I am stationed and the clothing store is allowed to issue only two pairs of kit a month.

We have to pre-order, which takes in most cases longer than three weeks, and we can swap only one item at a time.

Changing boots and trainers is even harder. On trying to exchange a pair of boots at the end of March I was told there were none in the system and to use my second pair. Eight months on and my second pair need replacing.

On a recent visit to a TA unit in our area, there were shelves full of kit, including at least 200 pairs of boots. – Cpl RLC, name and address supplied.

Balancing the books

THE introduction of Pay-As-You-Dine (PAYD) is long overdue as it will allow military personnel to eat when they want it, rather than enforcing rigid dining times. But the question of the nutritional value of food offered is a red herring.

We should be asking what effect the introduction of PAYD might have on the military salary. As the salary of serving personnel was always abated to account for the "free" food provided, an uplift in pay will be required. I'm sure the bean counters will have a good reason for why any question of a pay uplift should be treated with contempt. – A J Hodges, ex-RN, Hill Head, Hants.

Rapid firing Bren

MAJ Sturvant's comments ("Machine-gun lessons of the 1945 are long forgotten", Sept) forgot to include that the low rate of fire of the superb British Bren .303 light machine-gun could be enhanced by removing a striker spring from a Mills bomb and adding it to the Bren's return spring – 1,000 rpm at a stroke. – Iain Leggatt, Carnoustie.

Degree of caution

AN Open University course is a fantastic way to broaden your horizons (and the tutors provided here in BFG are first rate). However, the Army has a habit of doing the unexpected, no matter how well you forecast your personal life to allow for study. You can continue to study out-of-theatre, but who is going to give you an excess baggage allowance to take your books on operations or exercise.

Two years ago I paid out the money for a course with the understanding that when I finished I could claim back a percentage through the Army's Individual Learning Scheme. Due to last-minute exercises, including Oman, I lost £140.

In the present climate we are never sure where we are going to be from one month to the next. – P Collinson, Gutersloh.



Those room figures are even better

I AM writing to correct statistics about Project SLAM – the single-living accommodation modernisation programme – which appeared in *Soldier* (Oct).

It is currently planned to deliver up to 2,000 beds of junior ranks' Z-type and 600 beds of ATRA's training accommodation each year. Officers' and SNCOs' accommodation will be delivered at the rate of 200 beds each year.

This is considerably more than the figures quoted in the article and is further enhanced by parallel projects in Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus, plus major private finance initiative projects at Colchester, Aldershot and on Salisbury Plain.

The overall Army figures are therefore double those quoted and, on average, from 2004, about 4,000 juniors' Z-type rooms will be occupied each year for a period of ten years.

Pte John Faversham's wish (Vox Pop, Oct) is therefore being met and the excellent accommodation recently completed in Northern Ireland will become more widespread. It will take time but the first physical evidence will be available next year when work will be in progress at 35 Army establishments. – **Col Glyn Taylor, Head Customer Focus Team, Project SLAM.**

My 'bonus' was just a misprint

AFTER 15 years in the Royal Signals I left in July last year to pursue a civilian career. Things did not work out so I made the decision to re-enlist. This went without a hitch and I rejoined in May.

It was pointed out to me that I should be entitled to a re-enlistment bounty (REB), something I had not heard of, so I decided to investigate.

Under Pay and Allowances in the TACOS handbook (AC 63804 2002), the REB is clearly defined as a "recruiting initiative aimed at soldiers who have left the Army. A taxable payment of £1,400 is made to specific trades of the Royal Signals and other corps if they re-join the Regular Army."

I asked my pay staff whether I fulfilled the criteria (I am a sergeant systems technician), only to be met with blank looks and be given an unsatisfactory answer to the effect that the paragraph in the TACOS was a misprint.

If this is the case fair enough, but I would appreciate an explanation as to who exactly fits the criteria for the entitlement, if it actually exists, rather than be left with the unpleasant feeling that I have been fobbed off. Could someone in the know please clear this up for me and, I am sure, quite a few other re-enlistees. – **Sgt TC McSween, R Signals.**



DM(A) responds: Sgt McSween's admin office is correct in stating the TACOS handbook contains a misprint. Both re-enlistment bonuses (REBs) 2 and 4 involve a payment of

£1,400 (gross) to encourage invited ex-soldiers to rejoin the Regular Army. To receive a REB, soldiers have to be invited to rejoin the colours, they must meet set criteria and they must also be from a targeted trade. Although criteria are fixed, the trade list is subject to change to target specific employment shortfalls. The trade Royal Signals "Systems Tech" has never appeared on the list of eligible trades.

Criteria to rejoin under REB 2 and 4 are: no more than 36 months since transfer to the Reserve; must have left under own accord; medical category PES of FE; aged under 30; less than six years' reckonable service; character assessment exemplary, very good or satisfactory; and there must be a vacancy in which the soldier can be employed.

A DSPS(A) instruction will be issued to all admin offices to alert them to the error.

Readers may also like to know that re-enlistment schemes 2 and 4 will be replaced with a rejoining bounty (RJB). The aim of the RJB is to make a payment of £6,000 to ex-soldiers in operational pinch-point career employment groups to encourage them to join. There will be 330 bounties available in the first year and clearance is awaited from the Armed Forces Pay Review Body before the scheme can begin. The aspiration is to start it in April to relieve some critically undermanned trades.

Bonuses depend on scheme you joined

SOLDIERS nowadays are getting three-, five- and eight-year retention bonuses. When I joined on August 31, 1988 I was told I'd get five- and eight-year bonuses, a scheme which stopped shortly before I was due to benefit from it.

A few months later a similar scheme started up. When I asked my pay sergeant at my last unit if I was eligible I was told

that I wasn't because I joined under a different scheme and that as I was a C scale-paid soldier that over 22 years the small amount I was paid extra each day would eventually equate to the bonus amount.

Fair enough, but with Pay 2000 now meaning we are all paid the same, surely we should get the bonuses due to us. Some of us who joined in my year are

marking time in the pay increment we are in so others, who have joined since, can catch up. Yet most of the others are about to receive their second or third pay bonus while we receive nothing.

I'd like to have the two bonuses I was supposed to get or at least a proper explanation as to why I don't deserve them. – **LCpl (name, address supplied).**



▲ PS10(A) responds: The writer is mistaken in believing that there are three bonuses. There are currently two commitment bonuses in place, payable at the five- and eight-year points for an additional year's commitment at four or seven years.

The five- and eight-year commitment bonuses were introduced for the Army in 1991 on the introduction of Open Engagement (OE), in which soldiers received scale A rates of pay and were not entitled to higher scales or Length of Service Increments (LSIs).

Unfortunately the sender is not eligible to receive either bonus, as correctly advised by

his pay sergeant, because he joined under the Notice Engagement (NOTENG), which provided higher rates of pay (scale B and C rates) subject to the number of years an individual had committed to his service as well as LSIs for additional time served over the nine-year point.

Under Pay 2000, the sender has transitioned at higher rates of pay than his OE counterparts and, subject to seniority, will continue to receive these higher rates. He is right in stating that soldiers who received their first bonus will receive a second, but this cannot be paid to those soldiers who are not on an OE and who have now passed the

qualification period. The five- and eight-year bonuses, which were originally introduced to equate to OE soldiers' pay with that of the NOTENG soldiers, now exist to address retention problems at four- and seven-year service, and the sender has passed this point. The Armed Forces Pay Review Body will review the existence of, or the level of, these bonuses (which are also in place for RN and RAF personnel), in response to future manning requirements.

● The writer's ID was passed, with his permission, to PS10(A) so a full answer could be provided.

THEN AND THEN



25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, November 1977: A packed theatre at RAF Gütersloh saw LCpl Brian Morris, of 50 Field Squadron RE, presented with a silver trophy by Geoff Love, the composer and arranger, for winning the 1977 Services' folk composer of the year competition. Brian, who is stationed at Maidstone in Kent, entered the contest through BBC Radio Medway.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, November 1952: When the American Army recently allowed the world a first glimpse of its latest big gun, the weapon, pictured above, made the headlines principally, and deservedly, as the first gun designed to fire atomic shells. Whether it has actually fired any was not disclosed, but the authorities are firm that it can and will do so.

Regiments asked to help with plaques to the fallen

THE Government has decided that the proposed memorial to all Servicemen and women killed since the Second World War will be sited at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield, and the Royal British Legion is in talks about taking over the site.

Within the arboretum is the Ulster Ash Grove, where 719 saplings have been planted – one for each of the Servicemen and women killed in Northern Ireland. The arboretum, a charity, has provided the trees and attached to each a plastic label giving the details of the person in whose remembrance it stands. Permanent plaques are available at £100 each.

Although some families will be able to afford to pay for these plaques, I believe they should not be expected to, as their loved ones have already given so much. The Government does not pay for memorials, which have to be raised through public subscription. The MoD suggested

that if families could not afford the cost they should ask their regiment for financial help, but I fear that some of those killed may not have surviving relatives.

I am writing to suggest each regiment pays for plaques for the men it lost in Northern Ireland, which would save relatives having to go cap-in-hand.

If a regiment/corps does not have sufficient funds or its rules prevent them being used in this way, a special fund could be set up to which donations by serving members could be made. Any surplus could be used to pay for the trees, which cost £50 each and which were provided from the arboretum's funds.

I hope readers will visit the arboretum to see the Ulster Grove and other memorials there. It is a peaceful place where one can remember with pride those, like my son Stephen, who gave their lives in defence of our Queen and country. – Rita Restorick, Underwood, Notts.

PS...

Can we go to ball?

CAN someone please explain to me so that I can finally explain to the TA members of my unit, why they and their spouses must find their own transport to and from our forthcoming Christmas Ball while Regular staff members, their spouses and invited Regular officers are entitled to be driven there and back. – Mike Donnelly, MT SNCO (NRPS), Cardiff.



HQ AG Media Ops responds:

Entitlement for transport to mess functions is laid down within JSP 341 Defence Road Transport Regulations, at par 3.029. In the past this permitted officers and SNCOs to be conveyed at public expense to formal mess dinner nights. Policy on this is determined by the Service Personnel Policy Branch, which reviewed the entitlement. As a result, the scope of the paragraph was increased to include all Regular Forces, their spouses and dependants. It excludes girlfriends and boyfriends and Reserve Forces, the latter having a lesser entitlement contained within their regulations. It would be difficult to provide similar entitlements to Reserve Forces, not least as units, sub-units and members are often separated by large distances.

Threatening times



AS a Suez veteran, I would like to add my contribution to the campaign for a medal and enclose a photocopy of a flyer I picked up from among some scattered outside our tents one morning at Tel-El-Kabir. That was a camp to beat all camps – ask other veterans who were stationed there. – Brian F Swan, Alvechurch, Birmingham.

● The dedication of a plaque in memory of members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who died on duty in the Suez Canal Zone from 1947 to 1954 is to be held in Larkhill Garrison Church on December 1.

RAF won first VC

SECOND Lt Richard Annand (Diary, Sept) was the first soldier to win the VC in the Second World War, not the first man. That honour went to Flying Officer Donald Garland RAF, killed in Belgium, on May 12, 1940. – M J Kearney, Wirral, Cheshire.

Vox pop

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

Training time

Over-exercised or fit to fight? We asked soldiers deployed on Exercise Iron Anvil at Batus in Canada whether they thought the British Army dedicated the right amount of time to field training and operational exercises

LBdr Steve Riley, 137 Bty, 40 Regt RA

We could do with a lot more training like Exercise Iron Anvil. Our secondary role is as an infantry unit but Batus is the only place we get to fire live section attacks. The only other training area I have used is Salisbury Plain and Batus is much better because there is far more space.



Gnr Richard Sheldon, 137 Bty, 40 Regt RA

I am new to my regiment and Iron Anvil has been my first live-firing exercise. The guns fascinate me and getting the opportunity to actually fire them is one of the reasons I joined up. It would be great if soldiers got to come to Batus once a year – it is a massive area and there is not a lot you can't do here.



LCpl Paddy Hilson, Joint NBC Regt

As far as the Joint NBC Regiment goes we have too much training and go on too many exercises – we are never at home and don't get to see our wives and children as often as we would like. Part of the problem is that every brigade wants



to exercise with the Joint NBC Regiment.

Cfn Richard Haswell, 5 Bn REME

The Army has got it spot-on – it is not until you come on an exercise like this that you realise how much the British Army actually spends on our training. I have been on six exercises this year and I think they get the amount about right every year.



JUO Edwin Kelly, Leeds University OTC

Getting to go on exercises in places like Canada is one of the reasons I want to join up. I think exercises are quite well rewarded when there is adventurous training or R and R attached to them.



Cpl Gary Etherington, 5 Bn REME

The REME needs to undertake more trade training so that if there is a conflict we have the necessary expertise to support it. More exercises like Batus would be great – it is a perfect training environment.



Sgt Paul Smythe, Joint NBC Regt

Exercises on the scale of Iron Anvil are very few and far between. It would be nice to do brigade-level exercises more often as they offer the best training a soldier can get. However, I realise that commitments make it very difficult to have such a large number of troops available at any one time.



Pte Adam Spooner, RAMC

Exercises offer medics excellent training – so the more the better. As well as dealing with play casualties you often have to treat real-life injuries in the field and you learn more from doing that than you ever would sitting in a classroom.

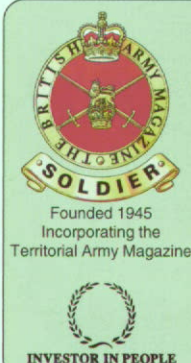


Capt Robert Driver, 1 Kings

The British Army has got the balance right. I personally enjoy going on exercise and it is, after all, what we are paid to do. I am aware that there are a lot of cost constraints but it would be nice to do more overseas exercises as these allow soldiers to train in varied environments.



Interviews: Andy Simms Pictures: Graeme Main



SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU
Distribution and enquiries: 01252 347353 (or Aldershot mil (94222) 2353)

Fax 347358 (2358)

E-mail:
mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

Visit our website on
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Managing Editor Chris Horrocks 01252 347355 (Aldershot military ((9)4222) 2355)
Editor John Elliott 347356 (Aldershot mil 2356)
Assistant Editors Anthony Stone 340462 (5462), Ray Routledge 340753 (5753), Andy Simms (Sport) 347362 (2362)
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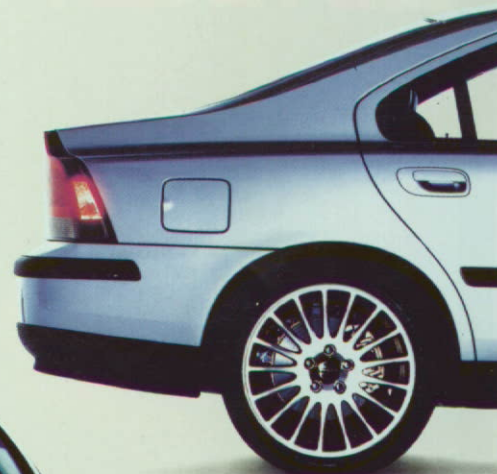


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