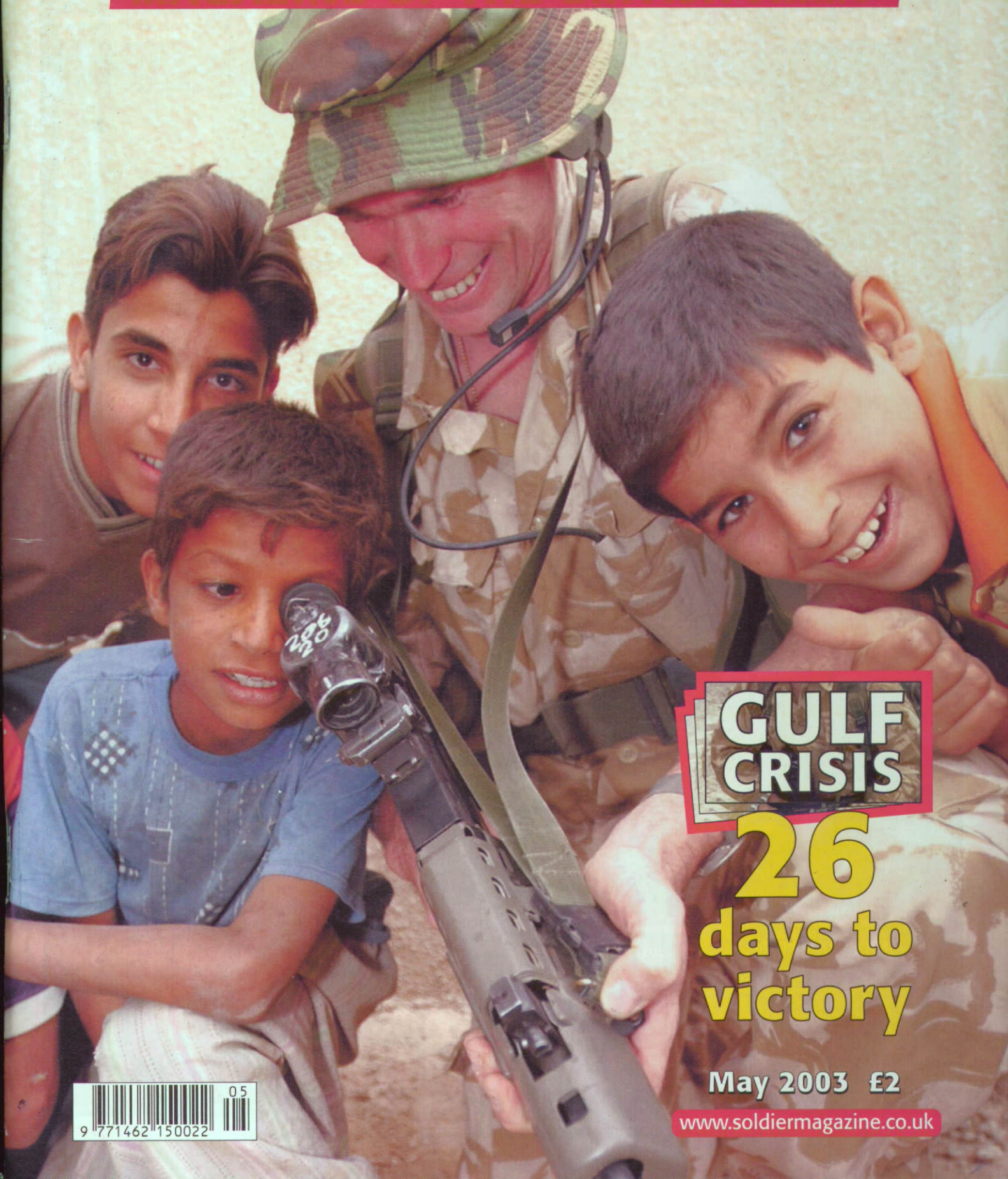


# SOLDIER

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## Cover picture

Cpl Colin Smith, serving with 206 Squadron, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, chats to Iraqi children in the streets of the southern port town of Umm Qasr.

He and his colleagues patrolling the area ditched their helmets in favour of soft hats in a clear sign to local inhabitants that they were in town to restore peace and normality.

The strategically-important port has played a critical role in enabling the coalition to ship in hundreds of tons of much-needed humanitarian aid.

Picture: Cpl Paul Jarvis RLC



"Sorry to disappoint you, Frobisher, but this is only one of his doubles" – Scots DG topple Saddam monument in Basra

## In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

**MUCH** of this edition is given over to events in Iraq and war-related issues on the home front.

This means regular columns and several long-planned features have been held over. Apologies if a story you were expecting to read in this issue hasn't appeared, but we will use it as soon as space allows.

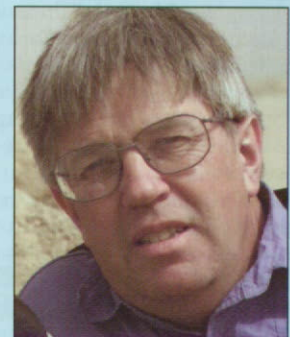
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## Our team in Iraq



Writer: Andy Simms



Photographer: Mike Weston

## Additional photographs by:

WO1 Giles Penfound RLC, left, Cpl Paul "Jabba" Jarvis RLC, right, both from Media Ops, HQ Land Command, and Capt Angus Beaton. Their pictures appear on Pages 8-9 and 40-41



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# Twenty-six days to victory

## Fall of Tikrit without a battle signals end of war-fighting in Iraq

THE conclusion of the main war-fighting effort in Iraq was signalled on April 14 when the Pentagon announced its troops had met little opposition while securing Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's home and the last major town to fall to the coalition.

The British Government said it was scaling back its forces in the region by withdrawing the aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal*, the nuclear-powered submarine HMS *Turbulent* and other Royal Navy warships, field hospital units and Royal Air Force assets including Tornado F3s.

Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram said: "It would not make sense to keep personnel in the region any longer than is necessary. Some have already returned and some will return shortly."

A stabilisation process has begun, with British land forces working to provide a



Picture: Sgt Paul Brownbridge

**Support:** President George W Bush talks to soldiers from 5 Regiment, Army Air Corps at RAF Aldergrove during a two-day visit to Northern Ireland last month. The President, who met Prime Minister Tony Blair at Hillsborough Castle to discuss the war and the Northern Ireland peace process, took time out to meet and talk to the families of Servicemen in the Gulf



Picture: Graeme Main

**Support:** Prime Minister Tony Blair, escorted by the Commandant, Maj Gen Andrew Ritchie, inspected cadets at the 141st Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military College Sandhurst on April 11. Nearly 450 officer cadets were on parade, of whom 202 commissioned into the British Army. The Sword of Honour and Queen's Medal were won by JUO Damian Flanagan LI

## Diary of the war – Pages 38-39

secure environment within their area of operations. Incidents of looting, crime and public disorder within the south-east were becoming more isolated, although there were still trouble spots and brigades had experienced occasional shootings.

As this issue went to press British units had moved into what was described as Phase 4 of operations. Army spokesman Lt Simon Hill RDG, speaking from Kuwait City, said: "We are moving through a transition period between the end of the conflict phase and the recon-

struction of Iraq. It's a fluid situation and troops have remained flexible in reacting to requirements on the ground."

Troops were working with Iraqis to establish order, with British soldiers opening police stations, training personnel and conducting joint patrols with Iraqi police in Basra, Umm Qasr and Al Faw.

They were conducting groundwork to assist aid agencies and specialists to restore the infrastructure. Aid distribu-

tion points had been set up, the power station in Basra was operating again, 60 per cent of the water distribution system had been re-established and 400,000 litres of tankered water and 50,000 litres of bottled water were being delivered to Basra daily. The Umm Qasr-Basra railway line was reopened and basic fuel and medical supplies were available.

Capt Crispian Cuss RDG said: "We are working with the Iraqis to enable them to

administer themselves and start to get on with their daily lives. No one is underestimating the tasks and there is a huge amount of work to do but we are witnessing significant steps forward every day.

"Shops and markets are opening, children going back to school and public officials returning to work. Our troops have experienced a positive reaction, and the vast majority are pleased to see us."

Service in the Balkans and Northern

Ireland ensured British soldiers were well schooled to move quickly from war-fighting to a peace support operation. "They have shown a high degree of diligence and duty and have coped extremely well with the challenges faced," added Lt Hill.

The majority of land forces will remain in place until a decision is taken regarding the cycling through of other units.

Meanwhile, Maj Gen Peter Wall, Chief of Staff to the National Contingent Com-

mander in the Gulf, has been replaced by Brig Barney White-Spunner. Gen Wall will take over later this month as GOC 1st (UK) Armoured Division from Maj Gen Robin Brims, whose appointment as Deputy Chief Joint Operations was announced last year.

Further signs that the conflict in the south had been concluded could be found in a speech to more than 1,000 Desert Rats of 7th Armoured Brigade by Lt Col Piers Hankinson, CO of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. He told them: "You are all heroes. You have fought damn hard and you have fought damn well. I am extremely proud to be able to call myself your colonel. There are many here today who, over the past month, have proven themselves to be men. Be proud of what you have succeeded in doing."

The bodies of military personnel killed in the Gulf were flown home to RAF Brize Norton, where their Union Flag-draped coffins were accorded military honours and met by families and friends, senior Government ministers and high-ranking officers.

The Duke of Kent signed a book of condolence in memory of 18-year-old Fus Kelan Turrington, of Y Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, during a visit to the unit's base at Celle in Germany and placed a floral tribute at the guardroom. He also called on The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards at Fallingbommel and spoke to a trooper who had been wounded in Iraq. He met wives of both regiments.

The Duke is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots DG.

## Basra and Az Zubayr fell to my soldiers' courage, determination and flexibility

DESERT rats commander Brig Graham Binns has extolled the professionalism and "flexibility of mind" shown by his soldiers in the Gulf.

In an exclusive interview, 7th Armoured Brigade's commanding officer heaped praise on the conduct of his troops during the fight for control of the southern town of Az Zubayr and Iraq's second city Basra.

"They displayed tremendous courage and, when they were required to, they fought with tremendous determination," he said. "As their commander I am enor-

mously proud of what they have achieved. Our intent was to secure Basra with a minimum of fighting and that is what we have done. If I am honest I did not think that it would take nearly 15 days to do so when we first entered Iraq, but the battle we ended up fighting was remarkably different to the one I expected. The Republican Army did not put up much of a fight and instead it



Proud: Brig Graham Binns

was groups of militia, essentially armed men in civilian clothes, that put up the serious resistance in urban areas.

"This caused us to take a deep breath and adjust the style in which we were operating. It took us some time to work out how to deal with them because we did not want to create another Stalingrad. We had to be careful in our targeting and precise

in our application of force. It was a learning experience and one we took in bite-size chunks. Az Zubayr fell in the space of 48 hours and was a highly-successful operation, but one should not underestimate the amount of combat that actually took place there, some of it hand-to-hand.

"Basra was the next challenge and represented something of an oddity in that one battle-group could find itself fighting militia, conducting routine checkpoints, delivering humanitarian aid and putting out fires all within the same kilometre grid

square, and the soldiers demonstrated great flexibility of mind in dealing with that.

"We bided our time until we had the intelligence to launch precise attacks and conducted raids to test the strength of the opposition, and then, when the timing was right, we attacked decisively.

"The protection offered by Warrior and Challenger gave us the confidence to push hard and take risks, and it was that, and the willingness of junior commanders to exploit opportunities, that resulted in

the rapid collapse of the resistance."

Brig Binns highlighted the part played by others in liberating the key Southern city. "Although 7th Armoured Brigade were the main effort in the fall of Basra, what we did was enabled by the operations of 3 Commando Brigade and 16th Air Assault Brigade on our flanks – so credit must go to the division as a whole.

"This operation has demonstrated the flexibility of the British military in that three of the biggest brand names in the British Army can come together and work so well."





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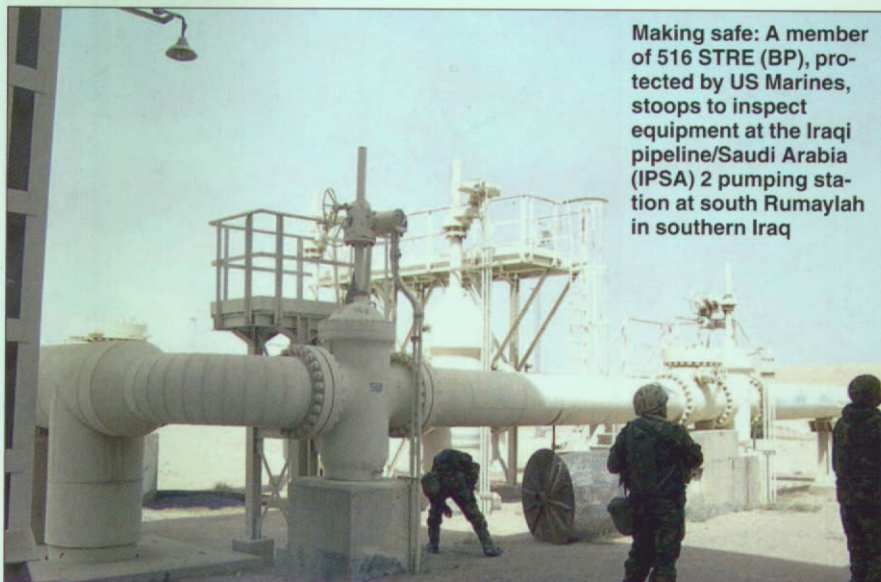
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Picture: Capt Dave Rowlands RE



**Making safe:** A member of 516 STRE (BP), protected by US Marines, stoops to inspect equipment at the Iraqi pipeline/Saudi Arabia (IPSA) 2 pumping station at south Rumaylah in southern Iraq

# Sappers in daring mission to save oilfield hardware

## Nottingham specialists join US Marines to shut down pumps

A TEAM of highly-skilled sappers took part in one of the most vital – and potentially hazardous – operations of the war.

In the first hours of the ground operation 17 members of a 27-strong 516 Specialist Team Royal Engineers (Bulk Petroleum) “embedded” with combat teams of the 5th and 7th Regiments of the US Marine Corps shut down key oil installations in southern Iraq.

At the same time, two members of the STRE (BP) attached to 3 Commando Brigade carried out a similar role, while the rest of the group remained in Kuwait to provide back-up where it was needed.

Pumping stations at Az Zubayr, south Rumaylah and Al Faw, and four gas oil separation plants (GOSPs) were identified as critical, with secondary objectives including a pumping station north of Rumaylah and four further GOSPs in the same area.

Oil experts had predicted that if Iraq’s petroleum infrastructure was not sabotaged it could function unattended for up to two days. After that, storage facilities and pipelines would become packed and begin to rupture at weak points. The

mission of 516 STRE (BP), part of the Military Works Force based in Nottingham, was to prevent that happening.

Working on crude oil installations, while unusual for team members, was well within their capabilities. Their normal role is to provide the design, construction and maintenance expertise of the permanent and expeditionary fuels infrastructure for the Armed Forces.

The bulk petroleum specialists exercised with US Marines on sand models of the installations they planned to secure, and followed the combat troops across the border on the night of March 20. Explosive ordnance disposal teams cleared predetermined routes before the 516 troops moved in to shut down pumps and valves into a safe mode.

In addition to all their primary and secondary tasks, the specialists shut down a well-head in the southern Rumaylah oilfields to isolate a burst pipeline which was flooding a supply route with crude oil.

Five days after the operation began the 516 team was back in Kuwait, its mission completed. The most important oilfields had been captured and shut down with minimal damage, ready to provide much-needed revenue for the regeneration of the new Iraq.

● “Blown” bridge is no barrier to air assault engineers – Pages 30-31

# Roll of honour



LBdr Evans



Sgt Hehir



SSgt Cullingworth



Sgt Roberts



LCpl Stephen



LCoH Hull



LCpl Brierley



SSgt Muir



Fus Turrington



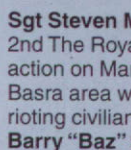
LCpl Malone

**LBdr Llywelyn Karl Evans** (24) and **Sgt Les Hehir** (34), 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery, died on March 21 when a US Marine Corps CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed south of the Kuwait border. Eight personnel from 3 Commando Brigade died in the accident.



Spr Allsopp

**SSgt Simon Cullingworth** (36) and **Spr Luke Allsopp** (24) of 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD) killed in action on March 23 after an attack on British military vehicles in southern Iraq.



**Sgt Steven Mark Roberts** (33) of the 2nd The Royal Tank Regiment killed in action on March 24 near Az Zubayr in Basra area while attempting to control rioting civilians. On the same day, **LCpl Barry “Baz” Stephen** (31) of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch killed in action near Al Zubayr.



Cpl Allbutt

**Cpl Stephen John Allbutt** (35) and **Tpr David Jeffrey Clarke** (19) of the Queen’s Royal Lancers died when their Challenger 2 tank was hit by another Challenger 2 during a period of multiple engagements with Iraqi enemy forces on March 25.

**LCpl of Horse Matty Hull** (25), of The Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry Regiment, killed in southern Iraq on March 28.

**LCpl Shaun Andrew Brierley** (28), 212 Signal Squadron, 1 (UK) Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, died in a road accident in Kuwait on March 30.

**SSgt Chris Muir** (32), Army School of Ammunition RLC killed in southern Iraq during an explosive ordnance disposal operation on March 31.



LCpl Shearer

**LCpl Karl Shearer** (24), The Blues and Royals, Household Cavalry Regiment, killed in an accident involving a light armoured vehicle on April 1.

**Fus Kelan John Turrington** (18), 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, killed in action in Basra on April 6.

**LCpl Ian Keith Malone** (28) and **Piper Christopher Muzvuru** (20) of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, killed in action in Basra on April 6.



# Images of war



Going in: Troops of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers prepare to go "over the top" into Iraq. They were covering sappers breaching the berm on the border



Hand-over: Above, D Squadron, Household Cavalry Regiment, equipped with Scimitar armoured reconnaissance vehicles, passes responsibility for the Basra area, in the south-east of Iraq, to soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in their weapon-mounted Land Rovers

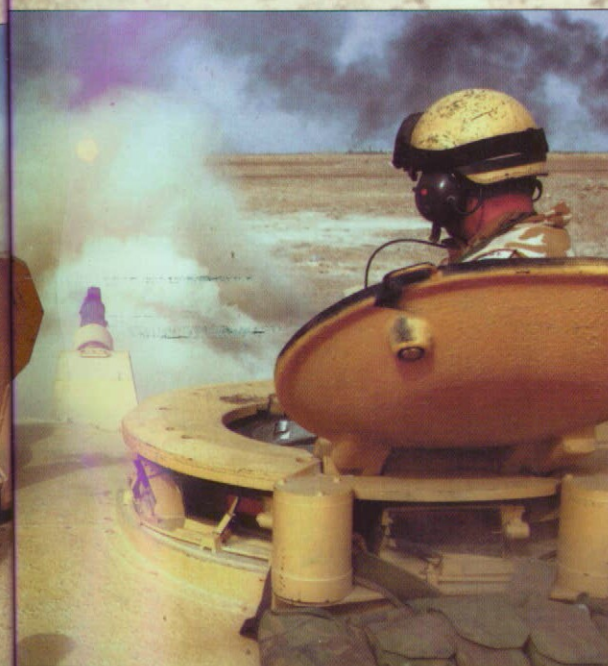
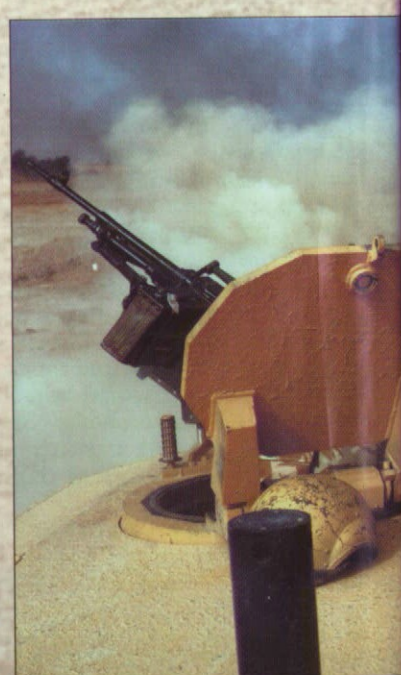
Open fire: A Challenger 2 main battle tank of B Squadron, The Queen's Royal Lancers, right, fires on a T55 tank abandoned by the Iraqi army at Basra airport. Standing in the turret is Cpl Ian Claye



Where are they? Troops of No 1 Company, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, look to one of their commanders for the location of Iraqi militia firing at them. The soldier in the



Warrior turret had removed his helmet to hear what they were saying. The troops were manning a checkpoint outside Basra when they came under fire from two Iraqi positions



Outgoing: LCpl Gav Williamson, right, of Y Coy, 1 RRF, and Pte Daz Wright, of 1 PWRR attached to W Coy, engage targets near Basra after intense incoming fire



Come on down: A Queen's Royal Lancers Challenger 2 is guided over a bridge by a 32 Engineer Regiment sapper as it crosses an obstacle into Iraq





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Soft hats, warm smiles: Sgt Noel Pearson of A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, leads a patrol in a village in the Rumaylah oilfields. The company swapped helmets for caubeens

to impress on local people that they were liberators, not invaders. Inset, top right, A Company soldiers patrol in Supacats; below right, Maj Robbie Boyd: "Winning trust will take a little more time"

# Iraqi eyes are smiling

## ... with a little help from the Royal Irish

WHAT a difference a week and a company of Irishmen can make to a small community which has suffered more than two decades of oppression at the hands of Saddam Hussein's ruthless regime.

Daily life for the citizens of a secluded village nestled between the gas and oil separation plants that dominate Iraq's Rumaylah oilfields has been transformed by the arrival of soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment in the neighbourhood.

After an absence of 15 years the call to prayer can once again be heard echoing through the village's narrow streets, and plans to build a mosque, prohibited by the Iraqi dictator, are now afoot.

Rather different methods of upholding law and order than those endorsed by Hussein's henchmen have been enforced by soldiers from 156 Provost Company, RMP.

The local school has been re-opened and in the centre of the village the Ba'ath party headquarters, a symbol of tyranny,

is now home to a force for good, a CIMIC – civil-military cooperation – team led by Maj Mike Parnell. The changes, welcomed enthusiastically by 2,000 local people, were initiated by A Company in just seven days.

Within hours of moving into the area the company conducted household raids, displacing militia and arresting senior Ba'ath party members, one of whom was described as "the executioner" by locals.

"We acted quickly on the intelligence information we had and swooped on key personnel," said A Company's OC Maj Robbie Boyd. "In one of the houses belonging to a senior Ba'ath party officer we recovered nearly four million Iraqi dinars and weapons – it was like walking in on a major drugs bust.

"The operation was a big success and effectively removed Ba'ath party influence from the village without us having to fire a single shot.

"We were also quick to impose some authority on the local elders, putting in place a weapons amnesty that led to more than 100 AK47s and rifles being handed to us," he said. "The people have seen the firm but fair way that we conduct our business and realise that we are here with

their best interests at heart. They have greeted us accordingly."

Welcomed on the streets as liberators and not invaders, the men of A Company were soon conducting foot and vehicle patrols through the village wearing their caubeens instead of combat helmets, and were regularly approached by civilians volunteering information on the movements of rogue operatives.

Despite the level of cooperation given to the British troops, villagers still refused to be photographed or identified for fear of reprisal. Many were still not convinced that Saddam's long reign of terror was over in Iraq.

"There is still a slight fear that there might be a repeat of the first Gulf War 12 years ago when the Americans arrived in the village only to hand out food and water before leaving just days later," said Maj Boyd. "It will take a little more time for them to trust us fully, but in this village we are far and away ahead of the rest of Iraq.

"I truly believe we have liberated a people here and I have no qualms whatsoever about the ethics and morality of this war after seeing the joy in these people's faces."



# One hell of a morning

Scots DG soldiers describe how they came under mortar attack – and how they dished it out

A BEST-selling author could not have penned as dramatic an introduction to a conflict as the one experienced by the men of A Squadron, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards during the early hours of March 29.

This frenzied morning began under heavy mortar fire and ended with a daring dawn raid into Iraq's second city.

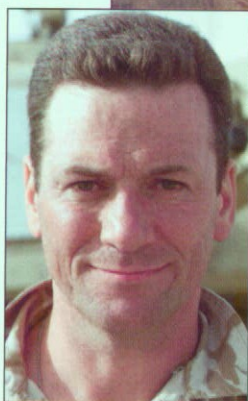
Having previously encountered only minor resistance in and around the town of Az Zubayr, the soldiers of Scotland's cavalry were left in no doubt that they were engaging a determined enemy when militia attacked their position on the outskirts of Basra with mortars shortly before midnight, destroying a truck and leaving two British soldiers in need of medical care.

Less than six hours later, A Squadron, supported by two infantry companies from 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, switched from defensive to offensive and stormed into the centre of Basra.

During the 20-minute operation the squadron's 11 Challenger 2 main battle tanks toppled a monument to Saddam Hussein, destroyed a television and radio transmitter and levelled a suspected Ba'ath party headquar-



Mission success: Challenger 2s of the Scots DG return to 7th Armoured Brigade's base, above; inset, Maj Tim Brown, officer commanding A Sqn



ters with some "very good gunnery".

"Just as light was coming up we crossed the bridge where we had assembled and headed straight into Basra on the main dual carriageway," said Maj Tim Brown,

squadron leader, A Squadron. "The targets we had been tasked with engaging were by far and away the farthest into Basra any British forces had been, and

following the mortar attack we suspected that we would come under fire.

"Sure enough, two to three kilometres from the bridge the RPG and sniper fire began and remained fairly constant throughout.

"A couple of our tanks did take hits, but fortunately the rounds struck the side armour and caused only minimal damage. It was pretty scary stuff, but nothing compared to the mortar attack we woke up to – it was a miracle that no one was killed."

**Andy Simms caught up with A Squadron, Scots DG soon after their charge into Basra. Here, in their own words, are the recollections of what one trooper described as "one hell of a morning". Pictures by Mike Weston**

## Tpr Stuart Herkes

"It is impossible to explain the feeling in my stomach as we waited on the bridge before rolling into Basra. We were told to expect incoming fire and my nerves were building as we got closer to the off.

"As a driver I could not really see much of what was going on around us as we charged into the city, but I could see rockets flying across in front of us and the tank in front taking a lot of incoming. As soon as we were moving the adrenalin just

took over, but I was glad that we had the guys in the turrets doing their thing and doing it well.

"This sort of thing is definitely what I joined the Army to do – the feeling of elation as we hit our targets and pulled back was a real buzz.

"It is hard not to feel a bit low when it is all over – you have been on the biggest roller-coaster ride of your life and all of a sudden you have to get off and the adrenalin just stops flowing."



War damage: Lcpl Paul Musson and Cpl Craig Brown inspect tank track hit by a rocket-propelled grenade during the Basra raid



Hot shots: The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards crew from A Squadron credited with destroying a television transmitter in Basra. From left to right are Sgt Stewart Watson, gunner Tpr Vince McLeod (who brought the mast crashing down with three rounds) and Tpr Stuart Herkes

## 'I could hear RPG shells whooshing past'

### Sgt Stewart Watson

"ON a fear factor of one to ten, being mortared definitely warrants an extreme ten. In all honesty we just never expected anything like that would happen to us. We knew that they had mortars and artillery; we knew they were capable of using them, but we never imagined we would be on the end of them. The Iraqis could not have caught us at a worse time – we were all curled up sleeping in our beds.

"Some of the rounds landed less than 20 metres away from me and God only knows how someone was not seriously injured or killed. God willing, the two guys who were hurt will be OK and that we all get to go home in one piece.

"During the raid itself I experienced an almighty adrenalin-rush and my training just took over completely. All I was focused on was doing my job – loading as many rounds as I possibly could and as quickly as I possibly could. Fortunately, as the operator I couldn't see all the incoming fire, but I could hear it over the net and hear the small-arms fire and RPG shells whooshing as they came past."

### Tpr Vince McLeod

**CHALLENGER 2** gunner Tpr Vince McLeod was credited as the crack-shot who felled the television transmitter.

"All of the tanks were putting fire on the mast's base," he said, "but it was having

no real effect at all. So I decided to aim for its four stanchions. My first round hit one of them, and although the tower stayed up, I could see that I had blown a big chunk of the metalwork away. Two more shots and the whole thing came tumbling down.

"The whole crew were buzzing when it fell and it was such a great feeling – talk about job satisfaction."

### Lcpl Paul Musson

"HEARING rockets whizzing past was a wee bit frightening, especially because as an operator I could not really see what was going on for myself. Being involved in the raid was a major buzz, but you experience a mas-

sive come-down when you get back and realise that you could have been killed. At the time you don't think about the dangers because you are so focused on your job, but you have plenty of time to contemplate what might have been after the event."

### Cpl Craig Brown

"AFTER being attacked I really wanted to get into Basra and get on with things. There was a lot of incoming fire and our tank was hit by a RPG round. I felt the thud inside the tank, but was too busy concentrating on doing my job to worry about it. It was not until after the raid that we discovered the round had mangled the bottom of the track."

## Woken up by exploding mortars

Tpr Callum Hope was asleep on top of a Land Rover when the first mortar rounds exploded around him. "I sat up in my sleeping bag and remember thinking to myself that some poor bugger was taking a pounding, but as I lay down again there was an explosion 30 feet away, and a further three close by after that.

"Everyone raced to get their body armour and helmets on

and dove into the nearest tank ditch. Then we had to sit and wait, which was the worst bit. Sitting there listening to the thuds was terrifying.

"When I joined the Army I never actually thought that I would be at war and that attack was certainly a rude awakening to where I was.

"For now I just want to get home without losing any of our guys."



Tpr Callum Hope





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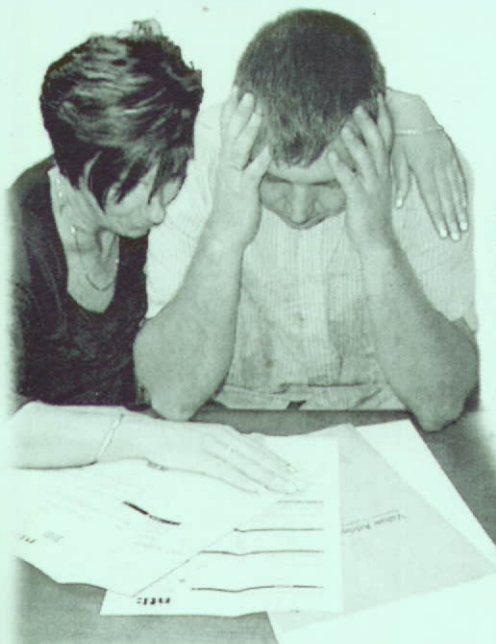
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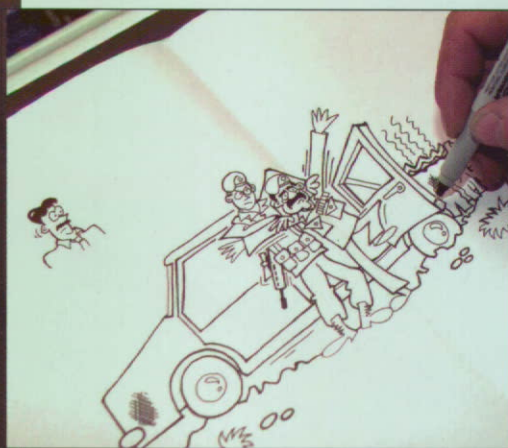
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Winning hearts: LCpl Jim Wyatt, above, with a finished cartoon on his computer screen and, above right, the work in progress. Meanwhile, in the Nahrain FM radio broadcast tent, Lt Col Colin Mason, standing, and his son-in-law, Capt Matt Munro, Hldrs, prepare a running order for programmes to be put out

## Psyops team quick on draw

Cartoons and Bee Gees help win hearts and minds in Basra

AVETERAN of operations in Macedonia and Afghanistan, LCpl Jim Wyatt can draw his gun in a split-second – but admits that a caricature of Saddam Hussein takes him a bit longer.

The British Army's only combat cartoonist, LCpl Wyatt is one of 15 members of the 15 (UK) Psychological Operations Group deployed in Iraq. The unit is a potent weapon in the battle to win the hearts and minds of the people of Iraq's second city of Basra.

Armed to the teeth with colouring pencils, sketchpad and 60-watt light box, the professional graphic designer has illustrated thousands of leaflets and posters promoting key coalition messages.

"The group's role is to help influence the attitudes and behaviour of the population in line with military objectives," he said. "Through words and pictures we can explain to the people of Basra why the British Army is here, what we are here to do and reassure them that we mean them no harm."

Printed in Arabic and English, and distributed by troops on the ground, one flier asking for help to identify Ba'ath party and paramilitary figures features a car-

toon of a smiling British soldier shaking the hand of an Arab and reads: "People of Basra, we are here to liberate the people of Iraq. Our enemy is the regime and not the people. We need your help to identify the enemy, to rebuild Iraq. We will stay as long as it takes."

Jim is confident the print campaign, subtler than the threat of bombs, will produce the desired results. "In Macedonia and Afghanistan we used cartoons to great effect – promoting weapon amnesties and encouraging civilians to lay down their arms," he said.

"Companies invest millions in marketing campaigns such as this, which is an indication of how effective they can be."

"People love cartoons and you do not have to read or speak a language to understand their message. In Afghanistan I was able to chat with locals and explain to them exactly where in England I lived just by using my sketchbook. Cartoons provide a universal way of communicating."

The conciliatory messages presented by Wyatt's artwork are echoed over the airwaves by the tri-Service unit's state-of-the-art radio station – Nahrain FM – on which they are dropped into a mix of Arab music and Western hits by artists such as Jennifer Lopez, Abba and the Bee Gees.

Named after Iraq's two main water-



ways, the Euphrates and Tigris, Nahrain ("two rivers"), is beamed across Basra – home to more than 1.5 million people.

Station controller Lt Col Colin Mason said: "The set-up here in the desert is similar to what you would find at any commercial radio station in the UK. We have CD players, cassette players, reel-to-reel tape and, at the heart of the system, a digital audio delivery system, which enables us to broadcast music, news and public information around the clock."

"We have enlisted the help of three Arab speakers to act as presenters and are aiming at people aged between 15 and 45. We hope that the station will be of help to them during a very difficult time."

An experienced broadcast journalist, Lt Col Mason added: "We have been able to provide the people of Basra with vital information – warning civilians to stay away from areas of military action and advising them of aid distribution points."



# **THE Sun**



Dear Sir / Madam

As you read this, our courageous Servicemen and women are putting their lives on the line and doing their duty in the highest traditions of the British Armed Forces, the finest in the world.

As always in war, there have been casualties. Maybe they are from your family, or are friends, or are from your local community.

At The Sun, the thoughts of everyone are with Our Boys and Girls and the loved ones they have left at home.

We know how important it is for newspapers to give unstinting support to our Forces and to the war effort. Those in the media who carp and criticise, or who swallow propaganda of the enemy, are doing a huge dis-service to the nation.

The Sun's support for Our Boys and Girls has never wavered. We are truly the Voice of the People.

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Yours sincerely

*Rebekah  
Wade*

Rebekah Wade  
Editor, The Sun





Evacuation squadron: From left are Cpl Tim Kellman (240 Sqn RLC), LCpl Bri Taylor (5 Gen Spt Med Regt), Sgt Ian Willgress (254 Fd Amb), Pte Carley Williams (5 GS Med Regt), Pte Mark Evans (3 Close Spt Med Regt), and Sgt Stewart Fegan (5 GS Med Regt). They make up two crews for the battlefield ambulances attached to 16 Close Support Medical Regiment

## Medics who risk all for friend and foe

BATTLEFIELD ambulance crews of 16 Close Support Medical Regiment risked their lives to save others in southern Iraq.

With no protection other than their SA80 rifles and the red crosses emblazoned on the sides of their soft-skinned vehicles, the paramedics extracted casualties, often at the scene of fighting or incoming mortar and artillery fire.

"Some of the things the guys are asked to do are quite demanding," said ambulance troop commander Capt Andy Lane RLC. "They have to drive across open desert at night with no lights and with pockets of enemy moving round the battlefield."

Cpl Marcus King said there was little time to think of the dangers of their role

or of the horrific scenes of battle. "There is an element of risk involved, but we've got a job to do and have to be focused on saving other people's lives," he said. "Any hesitation on our part could mean the difference between life or death for the casualty."

The crews also provided first-line medical care to Iraqi soldiers. "Our first call was to an Iraqi who had sustained gunshot wounds to the leg and shoulder," said Cpl Brian Armstrong. "The Royal Irish medics had done a good job of patching him up, but he still needed medical attention and we did our best."

Two Air Assault Surgical Groups (AASG), which between them have a fleet of 14 battlefield ambulances, also treat cases from both sides. Geared up to receive serious casualties, the groups have their own bio-laboratory, X-ray, ultrasound, resuscitation and intensive therapy unit facilities, and are capable of performing basic surgical operations.

"The surgery conducted by the AASGs is known as damage control surgery, in essence life- and limb-saving surgery," said Maj Mark Elliott. "Ideally it is done within the golden hour of a patient being wounded and is designed to stop any bleeding, clear airways and stabilise individuals for rear evacuation to a field hospital. It is basic intervention but it works and we have been saving lives in range of enemy artillery."



Maj Mark Elliott



Col Barry Smith

## Everything but the waiting list

Field hospital offers the full works in war zone

STAFFED by personnel from across the medical services, 202 Field Hospital is an exemplary by-product of the compulsory mobilisation of Territorial Army personnel to the Gulf.

Situated close to the Iraqi border, the 200-bed, air-conditioned facility serves a military population of more than 45,000 and is run almost entirely by reservists from 202 Midland Field Hospital (V) in Birmingham.

Complete with operating theatres, a resuscitation area, laboratory, x-ray department and physiotherapy facility, it is equipped to give wounded soldiers the highest quality medical care.

Col Barry Smith, CO of 202 Field Hospital, said: "Basically this hospital provides all of the services you would expect to find in a district general hospital, without the long waiting lists."

The hospital boasts the only collective protection (colpro) unit in theatre.

Colpro – an airtight bubble in which soldiers exposed to chemical or biological attack can be cared for – uses a system of airlocks and blowers to create a sterile environment, enabling dedicated medical teams to decontaminate, treat and operate on NBC casualties free of protective clothing.

Col Smith said: "It's essentially an annex to the hospital complex with its own resuscitation and surgical facilities."

"Contaminated patients can be taken there before being moved, when safe, to a normal ward."

Even before troops became engaged in fighting to the north, the hospital's 630 staff had been far from quiet. Beds were being used for soldiers suffering from illness, cases of appendicitis and victims of minor road traffic accidents.

From the field hospital, patients were being returned to their units in the field, flown to Cyprus for further rehabilitation or evacuated to the United Kingdom.



Close support: Pte Howard Hylton in front of Cpl Marcus King and Cpl Brian Armstrong who recover battlefield casualties



# G-Force under fire

Men of 7 Para RHA found themselves in the thick of the fighting

**CREDITED** with firing the first rounds of the land war in Iraq, the long barrels of 7 Parachute Regiment RHA's 105mm guns scarcely had a chance to stop smoking while hostilities continued. After engaging enemy mortar positions on the opening day of the ground war, the air deployable gunners completed a constant stream of fire missions, firing on average 400 rounds a day during the first two weeks of the campaign in support of British and American-led operations. The men of G Battery in par-

ticular rarely strayed from the sharp end of the action, helping the US 2nd Marines Corps to secure key bridge crossings over the Euphrates River at Nasiriyah and assisting the rest of the regiment to repel enemy mortar and artillery positions north of the Hammar canal in Rumaylah.

Talking to Andy Simms at their gun line in southern Iraq, members of G Battery recounted their personal experiences of the fighting.

SGT Dave Thomas, G Battery's troop commander, described the tension as his gun crews approached Nasiriyah, the scene of some of the fiercest resistance encountered by coalition forces in Iraq.

"When we found out from the Americans that they had been contacted the previous night and had lost ten of their guys and had another 50 or so injured, it really brought home the fact that we were now in a very real situation and that this was not just another training exercise.

"Before we started to move forward we all had five minutes alone to collect our thoughts and think of those back at home.

"Personally I was very apprehensive and would compare the feeling to how I felt before a fight when I used to box years ago. The feeling of apprehension, nervousness and anxiety that you get as you climb into a ring and wait for the opening bell was exactly how I felt on the road to Nasiriyah.

"I have been in the Army for 20 years and that was the first time I have ever felt that way on an operation.

"Fortunately the bell did not toll for us in Nasiriyah and at the eleventh hour we were told that we would not actually be going through the town, but we did climb up the steps to the ring itself and stood outside the town providing the Marines with artillery support.

"We were positioned less than 1km from the south of the city and the scene was nothing short of dramatic. It was dark, but the fires silhouetted the town. You could hear F18s flying above and although you could not see them, you could see the flash of their bombs as they exploded.

"It was far removed from any training exercise back on the range at Sennybridge or Larkhill because you could actually see the destruction with your own eyes.

"Fortunately all the training comes to the fore and, if you believe in yourself and your crew you are able to get on with your job and do it successfully.



Proud: Capt Jock Barclay, front, in the battery command centre. With him is Sgt Dave Thomas

## So proud of my battery as Iraqi rounds rained down

**BATTERY** captain Capt Jock Barclay praised the courage displayed by his men when they came under 155mm artillery fire as they moved into position along the Hammar Canal.

"We have a lot of young fellows with us who have just joined the Army and some who have come here straight from training," he said.

"When we came under fire just past the Hammar canal we all climbed into the mudflats to shelter from the bombardment and it struck me then that there were a lot of young, very white faces around me who looked unsure of exactly

what was going on. When the order came to get our own guns in action, to a man they all got out from under cover and got on with the task at hand, which impressed me more than anything I have seen during my military career.

"The discipline to do what they did under that sort of fear – and you could see pure fear in a lot of their eyes – was nothing short of admirable.

"I was, and am, immensely proud of the battery. The guys have been outstanding. They have been on some pretty sticky wickets and it is amazing that we have not had anyone injured or killed."

In constant action: The 105mm light guns of 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery's G Battery scarcely stopped smoking during early engagements with Iraqi forces. They supported US Marines who secured key bridges across the Euphrates at Nasiriyah



## First tour, first time abroad, first war for young gunners

**AMONG** the battery's "young faces" experiencing conflict for the first time were Gnr Gwyn Martin, Gnr Paul Challoner, Gnr Steve Simnett and Gnr Matthew Stephenson.

"War has been a mixture of excitement and fear," said Gnr Martin, who joined the battery just before Christmas. "When you come under incoming fire you just want to get your own rounds down to stop any further attacks."

Gnr Challoner, who turns 19 on May 25, suspects he will be celebrating his birthday in Iraq. "This is my first tour and first time I have been abroad with the Army. In Nasiriyah we saw a lot of American vehicles that had been attacked, with bullet-holes through the windows and that made me think about my own safety and that it could be me next time," he said.

"When you are put on sentry out on exercise you feel like falling asleep, but here you do not even think about sleep because you know there are people out there who want to kill you."

Gnr Simnett, who joined the regiment two days before it deployed on Op Telic, said: "This is the sort of thing I joined the Army for, I just never expected something like it to happen so soon in my military career."

"There have been times when I have felt very nervous here, but that is something you just get used to and there are other times when it has been a real buzz."

Gnr Stephenson added: "When the



Young guns: Gnr Gwyn Martin and Gnr Steve Simnett, back, and Gnr Paul Challoner and Gnr Matthew Stephenson, front, of G Battery, D Sub from 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery

artillery shells landed just short of our position I was scared and after the event wrote letters home saying how I prayed as

the fire was coming over. It does not take very long to work out that you are not on a training exercise."



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# We must make this a two-way commitment

CGS tells of pride in 'remarkable' Army – and sets out a vision for the future

By Chris Horrocks

PRAISING the achievements of "the most remarkable and capable Army on this globe", the Chief of the General Staff has flagged-up his determination to maintain its postwar operational edge – and has spoken of his wish to improve the lot of soldiers and their families.

In an interview with *Services media*, including *Soldier*, as the coalition forces surged forward in Iraq, Gen Sir Mike Jackson said: "We give great attention to maintaining the fighting edge of the Armed Forces so that if and when they are called on, they are ready to do it. We have been so called."

But although the Army was rightly heavily committed in the Gulf he did not forget soldiers engaged elsewhere, such as the Balkans, Northern Ireland and those with the "frustrating task" of being on standby to provide cover in the event of renewed strike action by fire-fighters.

"The Army is working very hard and I am very appreciative for the wilco way in which everyone sets to, whatever their task may be.

"We can't maintain this level of com-



Gen Sir Mike Jackson: 'The country demands a lot of its Servicemen and women. It's a two-way street in my view'

mitment over any lengthy period. We are in a one-shot window at the moment... but my thanks go to everybody."

Gen Jackson said he was thinking of the future as much as the present: it was essential not to forget to lay the foundations for future operational edge, which meant getting formations trained now for high readiness next year.

He said: "I believe that person-for-person, pound-for-pound spent, we have

the most remarkable and capable army on this globe.

"It is something of which I am obviously personally hugely proud. I am determined to maintain that and, if possible, improve it.

"But that's not all of it, either. It's not all about operational training, operational commitment."

The Army relied also on the commitment and sacrifices of soldiers and their families.

"But they do have their lives to lead and wherever we can improve that as well, that will be very much in my mind, because the country demands a lot of its Servicemen and women. It's a two-way street in my view – so we must look to that side of life as well."

Gen Jackson, who took over as CGS in February, spoke of how deeply he felt the "agony" suffered by families who suffered the loss of loved ones.

The veteran of operations in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo said: "I have been in the Army for 40 years and sadly I have had to live through such occasions far too often.

"It is very poignant, of course, when they are on operations. It is of course agony for their families and I feel that very deeply. They have my personal sympathy, but I know they have the sympathy of the nation as well."

It was always a difficult time for all families when their loved ones were deployed, especially when deployed into danger.

"I would just like to thank them for their huge patience, their forbearance, their tolerance, their understanding."

## With people like this, anything is possible

What Gen Jackson said about...

**The British soldier:** "The cheerful commitment of the British soldier never fails to leave me with an extraordinary sense that, with people like this, almost anything is possible."

**The media's saturation coverage of the war:** "The media and the now extraordinary technology available to it are a fact of life. There is no point in me or anybody else in uniform, frankly, coming to the conclusion that it would be far better if they weren't there. That is just not a sensible position to hold and I

don't hold it. Far from it.

"We live in an open democracy. If the Government requires its soldiers to do its bidding in circumstances such as the Iraq War, it seems to me the nation is entitled to be informed about that. The one crib I might have is the lack of being able to interpret, by some journalists, what they are seeing

and hearing. It's not their fault – they've not been in uniform.

"But when minor technical pinpricks are described as 'a gloomy setback for the coalition' it is frankly nonsensical.

"In Normandy in 1944, after a hard day's fighting, a battalion may have taken 200 casualties.

"We need a sense of proportion."



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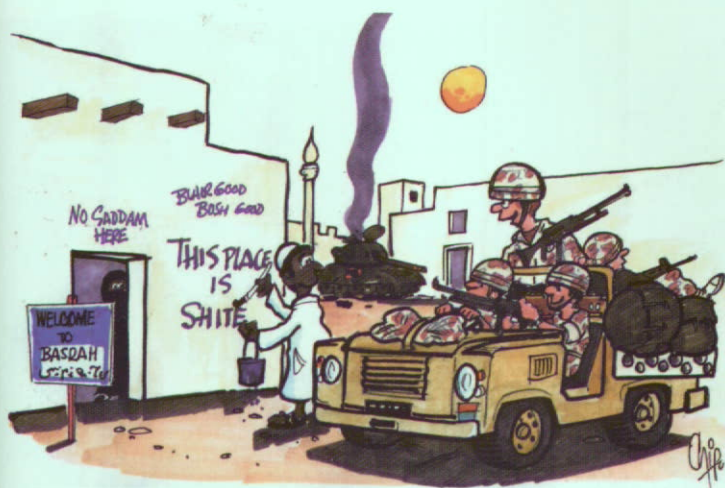


"Hygiene, hygiene! Tell me you're not about to slice that corned beef on a poultry board!"

# Chuckle with Chip



"There's obviously more to distributing humanitarian aid than saying 'Just take what you need mate'."



"I may be wrong, old chap, but I think you mean Shi'ite... with two I's."

# Back in the Gulf

Cartoonist Chip Wood, who served in the 1990-91 Gulf War, puts his own spin on current events



"I don't know about you but I think that was a relatively warm stare."



"This lad is a member of the Special Republican Guard, while the other one in the shocking pink number is from the extra special élite Republican Guard."





# Dukes' hazards

On their guard: Pte Shane Brady, left, and Pte Peter McKinley give an Iraqi driver the all-clear

## DWR company keeps road to Basra open

RUNNING north from the border with Kuwait, through the southern town of Safwan and into the heart of Iraq's second city, the Basra road has been vital to the success of British-led operations in the Gulf.

Continuously used by coalition forces, the pot-holed, four-lane highway was much in demand to re-supply with fresh water, fuel and ammunition the 7th Armoured Brigade's battle-groups deployed at Az Zubayr and Basra.

The task of ensuring safe passage for these convoys and their precious cargoes rested with soldiers from Alma Company, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

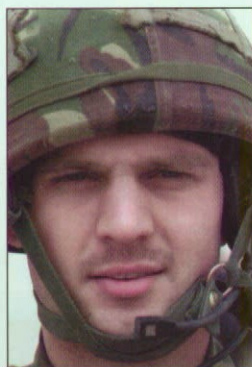
Using tactics honed during tours of Northern Ireland and Kosovo, the 96-man infantry company was conducting counter insurgency-style operations, including foot and vehicle patrols, and regular vehicle checkpoints (VCPs) along the stretch of the main supply route (MSR) south of Basra. "The major threat in this area at the moment is from acts of terrorism – lone gunmen or small groups of militia looking

to take opportunistic potshots at British or American targets," said 2nd Lt Andy Shard, 1 DWR. We also suspect that this road is being used to traffic arms in and out of the major towns and have already found a number of weapons in the back of vehicles.

"Our VCPs and patrols should not only stop that flow, but also help to reassure the civilian population that we are here for a reason, and here to help provide security for them as well as ourselves," he said.

"Generally they seem pleased to see us and we are being well received, but there is still a hard line of militia working in this area trying to intimidate people and stop them from speaking openly with us."

The need for a security presence on the Basra road was highlighted by the company's discovery of a cache of more than 250 mortar and 30 rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) rounds in an old shell scrape not far from the highway – weaponry which could have been used to ambush British troops.



VCPs: 2nd Lt Andy Shard

# AS90s deliver shock and awe

CAPABLE of firing three 155mm, 95lb rounds every ten seconds, the AS90 guns of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Horse Artillery and 26 Regiment, Royal Artillery would have no difficulty in single-handedly delivering the "shock and awe" effect favoured by President George Bush.

Firing in support of 7th

Armoured Brigade and 16 Air Assault Brigade operations in southern Iraq, the four British batteries engaged enemy targets in and around the towns of Az Zubayr and Basra, and the oilfields of Ar Rumaylah, on a daily basis.

But as this issue went to press the gunners had not yet been required to "give it their all".

"With a total of 32 guns in theatre and the ability to fire day and night and even during a sandstorm, we certainly have the potential to lay down a lot of fire to shock and awe the enemy," said battery captain Capt Tony O'Rourke, 16/17 Battery, 26 Regiment RA.

"However, our fire missions have generally been done at a rate of two

rounds a minute – a more considered approach that reduces the risk of collateral damage, but does not make us any less effective.

"The guns have been firing air-burst bomblets and, believe me, for the Iraqi troops in tanks and bunkers on the receiving end it will certainly feel like a fair dose of shock and awe."



Air-to-ground: Bdr Mick Tiller, above left, assembles an air defence alerting device (ADAD) while fellow 21 Air Assault Battery colleagues LBdr Dougie Scott and Gnr Kevin Park prepare the lightweight multiple launcher in the background. In the absence of a credible threat from the air, the gunners took on an infantry role

## Break for the news

Radio times: D Sub gunners serving with 17/16 Battery, 26 Regiment RA catch up on the news during a respite from the war in southern Iraq.

LBdr Natalie Sullivan is holding the radio while Bdr Andrew Par, Capt Tony O'Rourke, Gnr Arron Buttress, LBdr Steve Hancock, Gnr Kevin Cooper, Gnr James Shelton, Gnr James Conner, Gnr Tomabi Sueunanua and Sgt Jock Campbell listen in.

# Air gunners keep vital roads open

## Infantry role for anti-aircraft battery

ALTHOUGH coalition forces effectively secured air supremacy on the first day of the conflict, soldiers from 16 Air Assault Brigade's air defence battery did not rest on their laurels in Iraq.

With no sightings of enemy aircraft, the 55 men serving with 21 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Air Assault Battery RA, part of 47th Regiment RA, set aside their lightweight multiple launcher (LML) close air defence system and air defence alerting

devices (ADAD) and took on an infantry role.

Capt Jason Stones, the troop commander, said: "We have provided force protection for the 3rd Regiment AAC in the Rumaylah region, manning vehicle checkpoints (VCPs), patrolling main supply routes, and recovering arms caches. We have also taken more than 200 prisoners-of-war.

"This sort of role is not alien to us and, after conducting similar operations in Afghanistan, we are quite adept at it."

Information gathered by the air defence gunners from Iraqi travellers passing through one of their VCPs led to a precision American air strike on a Ba'ath party stronghold in the town of Suq ash Shuyukh.

Despite their success on the ground, Capt Stones insisted his team was ready and waiting to revert to type if required.

"We have not completely discounted the threat of an air strike," he said. "There is still a fear that Iraqi forces could still use smaller aircraft to drop chemical munitions."

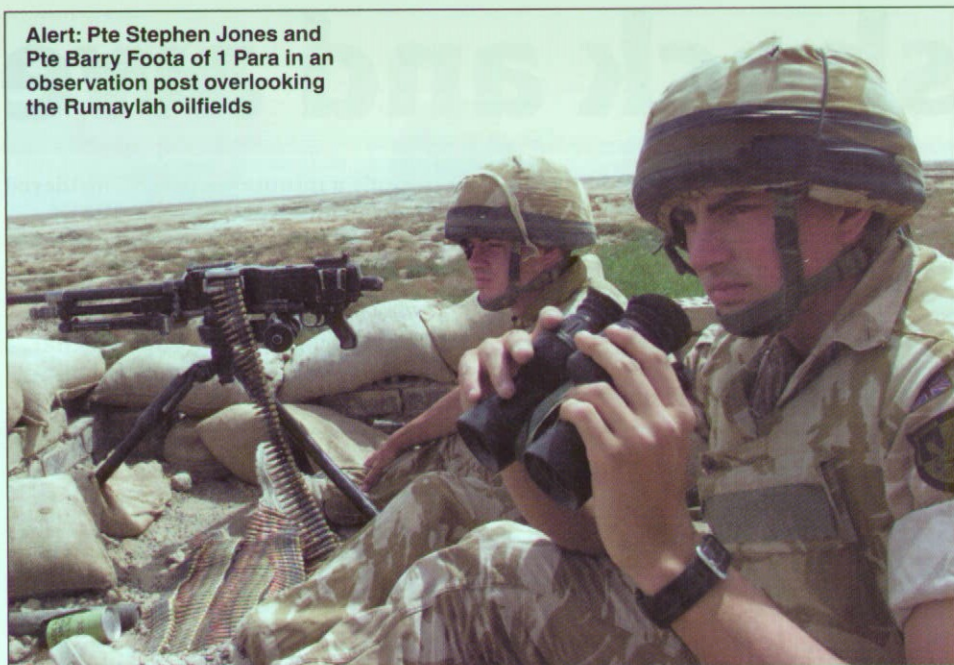


Adept: Capt Stones





Alert: Pte Stephen Jones and Pte Barry Foota of 1 Para in an observation post overlooking the Rumaylah oilfields



## Strong links forged with US specialists

THE overwhelming success of the high-tech surveillance matrix used to degrade enemy positions in northern Rumaylah reflects the strong working relationship and friendships British troops forged with their American counterparts during the Gulf crisis.

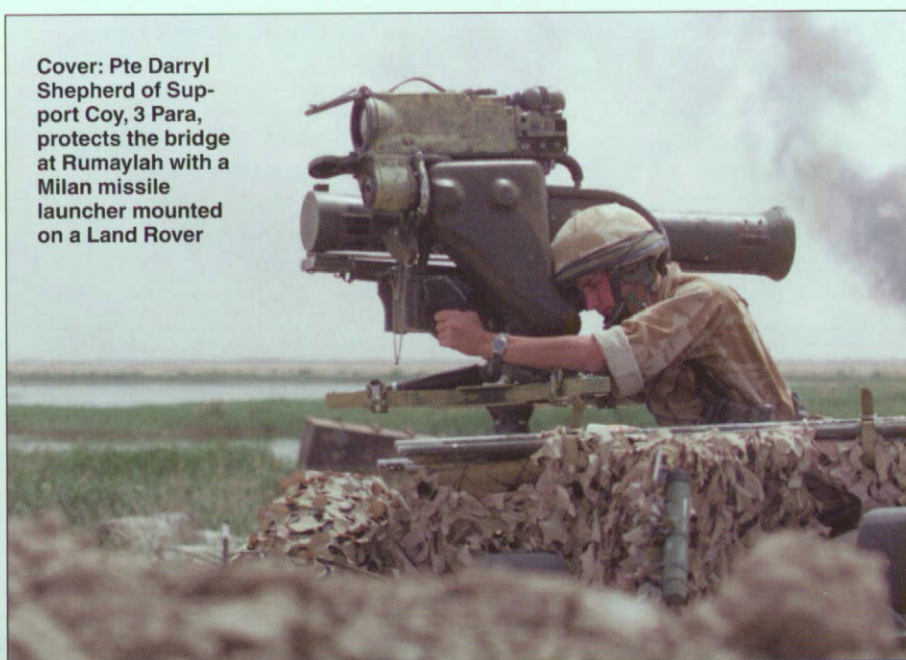
Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and 7 Parachute Regiment RHA manning observation posts (OPs) around the region's gas oil separation plants (GOSPs) shared information – and stories – with American Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Companies (ANGLCOs), the US Army's indirect fire specialists.

Using binoculars, night-vision goggles and 7 Para's man-portable surveillance and target acquisition radar (MSTAR) to detect opposition forces in the area, the joint asset had the capability of calling in overwhelming firepower.

Bdr Richard Toseland, 7 Para RHA, said: "Information on anything we spot is passed to both a battery of AS90s from 3 RHA and to US close air support, so if a target is positively identified it can be destroyed in a matter of minutes."

"The Americans are very professional and it has been great fun working with them – some of the guys we met have been real characters and invited us to stay with them in California. One of the ANGLCO sergeants is a Hollywood stuntman and appeared in *We Were Soldiers*, *Men in Black* and *Austin Powers 2*," he said.

Cover: Pte Darryl Shepherd of Support Coy, 3 Para, protects the bridge at Rumaylah with a Milan missile launcher mounted on a Land Rover



Eagles have landed: Soldiers of 4 Platoon, B Coy, 3 Para about to board a Puma helicopter for another patrol over southern Iraq; inset left, the patrol takes up positions on a main supply route

## Paras swoop like Eagles to protect main supply routes

ACCUSTOMED to dropping in on the enemy, soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment patrolled the skies over southern Iraq in Royal Air Force Puma helicopters to help preserve the security of the country's expansive oil fields.

Used to good effect in Northern Ireland, it was hoped that the tactic of deploying helicopter-borne troops on "Eagle" vehicle checkpoints (VCPs) would bring to an end to all enemy activity in the Rumaylah region and protect coalition convoys from possible ambush.

Swooping from the air during their 90-minute sorties, the paras conducted spot-checks on vehicles using the area's main supply routes, searching for weaponry and unconventional Iraqi forces.

"Eagle VCPs are a tried-and-tested way of dominating an area of operation," said Capt Dan Jarvis.

"They enable us to move quickly, check out areas of suspicious activity and let enemy forces know that we can appear anywhere at any time."

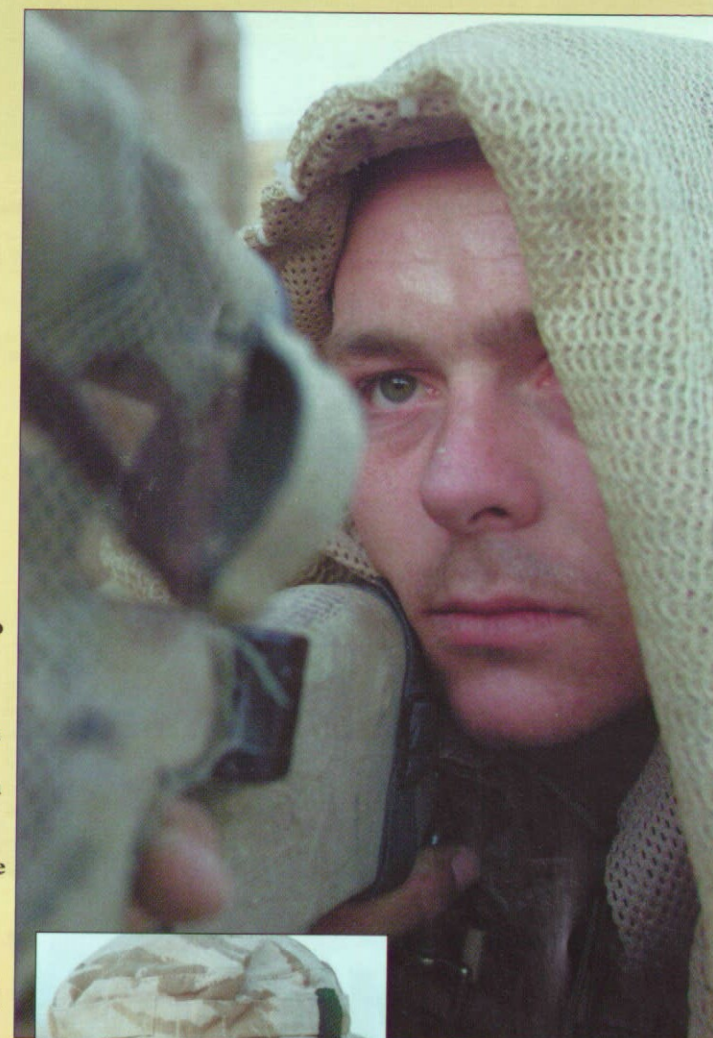
**STALKING** in packs of three and moving into position under cover of darkness, British snipers played a key role in protecting coalition troops from enemy mortar and artillery fire in Iraq.

As connoisseurs of covertness, the sharpshooters hunted down Iraqi forward observation posts attempting to bring down fire on British and American locations in the Rumaylah region.

Equipped with .338 bolt-action rifles and capable of killing a man at 1,500 metres, the snipers deployed in forward areas for 48-hour periods, lying in wait and reporting enemy activity.

"A sniper can be a hindrance to an opposing force without having to pull the trigger – we are an asset that can be used in various roles," said sniper commander Sgt Iain Illidge, 3rd Bat-

## Snipers hunt down Iraqi gun-spotters



Snipers: Pte Paul Armstrong, above; inset, Sgt Ian Illidge. Both men are members of 3 Para's D Coy sniper platoon



talion, The Parachute Regiment. "Snipers can be attached to a company as a defensive screen and used as an early warning system, and can also work as forward observation post officers, adjusting artillery fire as it falls and pinpointing enemy positions for air strikes. In the

event of an assault, an accurate, well-trained sniper can be employed before an attack to eliminate the opposing force's hierarchy, targeting officers in the hope that other soldiers may then lay down arms, or to eliminate the crews of machine-guns or anti-tank weapons."



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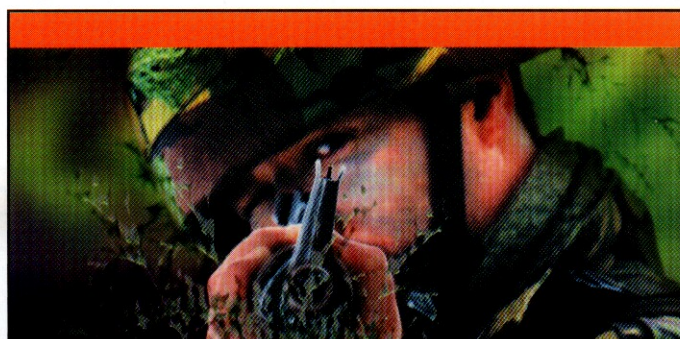
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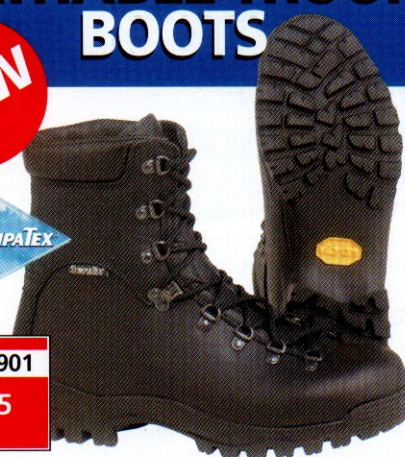
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It's all here: Sgt Paul Beddow, a supply specialist, makes a pre-selection of 105mm ammunition for the 7 Para RHA battle-group. Driving the JCB in the background is Cpl Mark Jackson



**Mr Fix-its:** LCpl Simo Simpson and LCpl Wildy Wilde, above, both of 13 Regt, attempt to repair the fuel injector pump from a Foden recovery vehicle

## You want it . . . we'll deliver it

HAVING collectively clocked-up more than 450,000km during the first six weeks of Operation Telic, drivers from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC do not need reminding that there is no such thing as a short cut when it comes to feeding, fuelling and arming a brigade.

Acting as an umbilical cord for units within 16 Air Assault Brigade, the hard-working loggies provided a non-stop supply chain from Kuwait City International Airport right up to an ever-advancing front line.

"We are responsible for lifting and shifting everything the brigade needs to survive and operate, which has so far equated to 2,000 tonnes of supplies," explained 13 Regiment's CO, Lt Col David Wicks. "By the end of the

tenth day of hostilities we had shifted 150,000 ration packs, 310,000 litres of drinking water and well over 120,000 5.56mm rounds. Those figures give you some idea of the immense task we are facing."

As well as tending to the needs of the rest of the brigade, the 460 members of the regiment in Iraq also have to find time to look after themselves.

"We deliver combat supplies direct to the front line and our camp itself is within Iraqi artillery range, so we have had to arrange our own force protection," Lt Col Wicks said. "To that end we try to make our convoys look as robust as possible and regularly mount our own vehicle and foot patrols."

**We deliver:** Lt Col David Wicks, right





# Litter of weapons threatens children

Discarded Iraqi tanks, grenades, missiles are a lethal legacy

REMNANTS of a fleeing Iraqi army litter the scattered farms and small hamlets that characterise the barren desert of southern Iraq.

In one abandoned trench system a discarded pile of military helmets lay beside a cast-iron kettle, the only evidence of enemy occupation, but elsewhere the retreating troops had been far less considerate.

Discarded rifles, live grenades, primed missile systems, rows of artillery pieces and fully-fuelled and armed Soviet T55 tanks represent a lethal legacy for the curious children who use the desert as their playground.

Before the war began the area was saturated with air-dropped leaflets advising Iraqi soldiers that their best option was to disappear, said Maj David Casey, OC 29 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 28 Engineer

Regiment. It appears they heeded that warning, lay down whatever they were carrying, put on civilian clothes and headed north, leaving a vast amount of weaponry and ammunition behind.

Given the abundance of weapons and a plentiful supply of live ammunition, the scope for tragic accidents is enormous, he said. Not only could it be used by militia against British soldiers, but it also posed a considerable danger to local people, particularly children playing around it.

In a bid to avert needless loss of life, Maj David Casey's 174-strong squadron began the lengthy task of "denying" the discarded arsenal — explosively.

Although to date there had been no evidence of booby-trapping, the sappers enlisted the help of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams

from the Joint Forces Security Group to clear a safe route to the items on their hit list. Assured of no nasty surprises the team then set about attaching plastic explosives to the vehicles or equipment before destroying it with controlled explosions.

"With the T55s, we look to destroy the armament of the tank, placing explosives inside the gun barrel, on the optics to prevent anything from being sighted and on any of the mechanical devices inside the turret," said Maj Casey. "Our job is to render it useless so that the locals can carry on with their everyday lives without risk."

Despite the tireless efforts of his men, Maj Casey conceded that it will be a long time before the region's children can once again play safely in the sand. There is so much ordnance lying round that even if his men dedicated every minute of every day to the task, they would be doing it for years to come.



Legacy of danger: A shot-up T55 Iraqi main battle tank lies beside the road near Az Zubayr

# Blown bridge at Rumaylah is no barrier for air assault engineers

SOMEONE should have warned the retreating Iraqis that "a bridge too far" is not a term with which the sappers of 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) are over-familiar.

In a desperate bid to slow the advance of the coalition forces on the northern reaches of Iraq's main oilfields and Baghdad itself, enemy troops used high explosives to send a 30ft stretch of the Rumaylah bridge crashing into the waters of the expansive Hammar canal below.

But their efforts to deny access to the vital passage were quickly thwarted by 16 Air Assault Brigade's specialist sappers.

"Hats off to the Iraqis, who did a pretty good job of creating an obstacle for us," said WO1 Ian Smith of 23 Engr Regt. "We found a large quantity of high explosives attached to the bridge's pillars above and below the water line. Fortunately it had not been detonated and had to be cleared by our EOD squadron."

"Because of the way the roadway collapsed we had to do a bit of demolition work



Re-bridged: WO1 Ian Smith

of our own. Once it had been blown for a second time it was possible to re-bridge the gap using a 34m general support bridge (GSB) for the first time in anger."

The whole process took a little over eight hours to complete and ensured the highway north was open.

Aside from their important reconstruction task, members of the regiment, which was formed only in

January, were also heavily involved in securing the future prosperity of Iraq by ensuring the safety of the area in and around the Rumaylah oilfields' gas oil separation plants (GOSPS).

"The GOSPS represent the wealth of this country," said WO1 Smith. "If you wanted to set an oilfield alight the GOSPS would be the place to do it."

"Since arriving in Iraq we have been working on making them safe. A number of improvised explosive devices have been found and from that you can surmise the Iraqis intended to booby-trap them but didn't have the chance to do so."



Access assured: Spr Robbo Roberts and Spr Tom Laurie of 9 (Para) Sqn, 23 Engr Regt (Air Assault) at work on the Hammar canal bridge

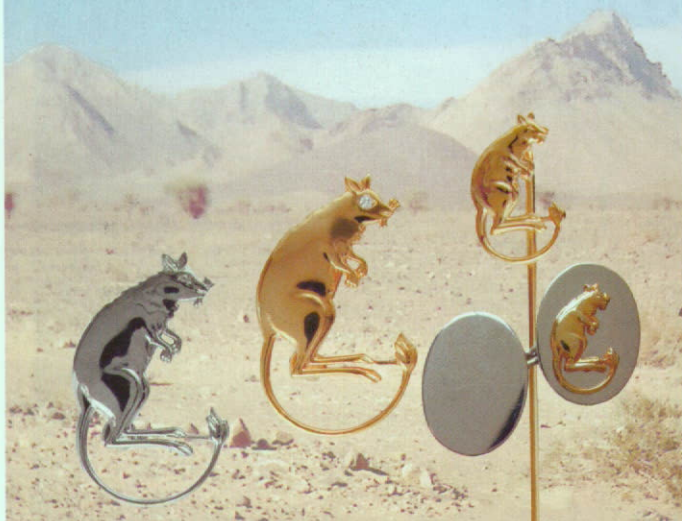




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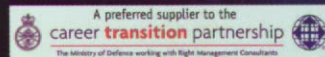
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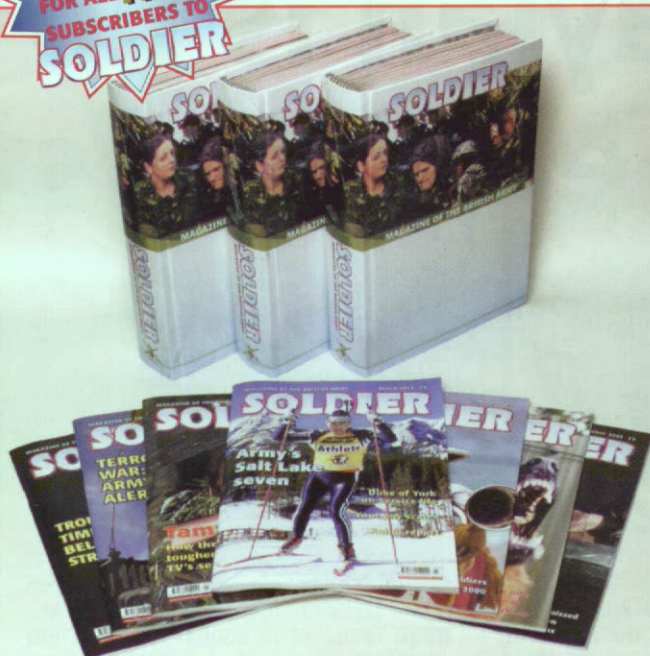
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## NBC vehicles have been here before

### Fuchs protect force round the clock

AS veterans of the last Gulf campaign, the Joint Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Regiment's fleet of Fuchs vehicles had no problem readjusting to life in the desert.

Donated to the British Army by Germany following the liberation of Kuwait 12 years ago, the all-terrain chemical reconnaissance and survey vehicles have been in use round the clock since returning to the region, supporting both British and American operations.

And as during their previous visit to the desert, the Fuchs, which have been specially laminated to protect their shells

from toxins in the atmosphere and are pressurised to isolate their occupants from the outside environment, have been used to collect data from areas where NBC strikes or threats were suspected.

Although the Fuchs themselves are retracing familiar tracks in the sand, Operation Telic represents

a first for most of the vehicles' crews.

"It has been a very challenging deployment for us because this is the first time that the regiment, which was formed just over four years ago and comprises the 1st The Royal Tank Regiment and 27 Squadron RAF Regiment, has deployed on a full-scale operation," said Maj Anton Gash.

"We are being supported in-theatre by A Squadron of 1 RTR and two squadrons from the Royal Yeomanry, which is providing a decontamination facility for us. But despite all those firsts and the challenges of the environment, things are going very well.

"Wherever there is something going on in-theatre we have representation there."

Maj Gash said the joint asset, usually based at RAF Honington, had been deployed to perform two key functions – manoeuvre support and the constant monitoring of the environment for rogue chemical or biological agents.

"In each case our job is to go out looking, sniffing and identifying," he said. "We can tell commanders with a high degree of confidence when any potential hazard has passed. Without our capability soldiers would have spent a lot more time in their respirators and protective gear."



First: Maj  
Anton Gash



Over there: Cpl Des O'Connor of the LSSU directs a candidate for the Umm Qasr workforce

## Small unit with a giant mission

### Team aims to restore normality where possible

WITH the UN oil-for-food programme disrupted by the outbreak of war, Coalition forces moved swiftly to avert a humanitarian disaster in Iraq, according to HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division's SO1 G5 Lt Col Alan Butterfield AGC.

"Iraq represents something of a unique role for the British Army because, unlike in the Balkans, where we simply escorted aid convoys, here we are having to be the humanitarian aid distributors," he said.

"This is a country of 26 million people and 60 per cent of that population is dependent on the oil-for-food programme and a state supply of water – a system which has been interrupted.

"A lot of aid agencies waiting to come into the country can not do so because of the hostilities, so what we are faced with is a period of perhaps 35 to 40 days in which we need to plug the humanitarian gap.

"Until the conditions are secure enough for the international organisations to assist in feeding and watering the country, we need to ensure that in the first instance the population survives and secondly that their standard of living does not drop any further."

British and American soldiers worked tirelessly to re-open Iraq's deep-water port of Umm Qasr, a vital inlet for overseas aid, and distributed bottles of water,

food and limited medical supplies. With Kuwaiti assistance, the British Army opened up a pipeline through which 800,000 gallons of drinking water a day could be siphoned and delivered.

The fact that the people of Iraq require such aid is an indictment of Saddam's reign. It seems ironic that the basic necessities of life are in such short supply in a country which has 70 per cent of the world's oil reserves.

Members of the Army's Labour Service Support Unit (LSSU) are already addressing the issues, encouraging Iraqis to take charge of their own resources.

One of the first projects tackled by the 13-strong team, led by Maj Allan Poulson, was to recruit a locally-based workforce to run the port of Umm Qasr.

Maj Poulson said: "We are trying to employ as many of the port's previous employees as possible. Around 1,000 worked at the port in its heyday and that is our eventual target – giving people their jobs back is a big step on the way to restoring normality."

Vetting applicants for connections with the toppled Ba'athist regime and orchestrating a series of job interviews, the LSSU hired a small number of Iraqi civilians to help support the Army's own infrastructure.





**Burning news:** A female soldier destroys a bluey from home before the start of operations as part of the sanitisation process

## Sanitised (just in case)

Family details and mobile phones could be used against prisoners-of-war

ALL land troops crossing Kuwait's northern border were ordered to "pack light" for their stay in Iraq.

Stripped of mobile telephones, wallets, passports, photographs and letters from home, the only personal items carried in the pockets and bergens of British soldiers in Iraq were an emergency morphine injection, issued medicines and an identity card, which includes a list of the laws of armed conflict and details of the Geneva Convention.

"This sanitisation process was enforced by sergeant majors and platoon sergeants," explained Maj Andrew Taylor RWF, 1 (UK) Armoured Division's SO2 G1. "Soldiers were cleansed of any personal information just in case the unthinkable happened and they became prisoners-of-war."

"Items such as personal letters can easily be exploited by interrogators. The mention of your wife or child's name during interview would come as a huge psychological blow and could cause someone to divulge more than the permitted big six – name, rank, number, date of birth, blood group and religion."

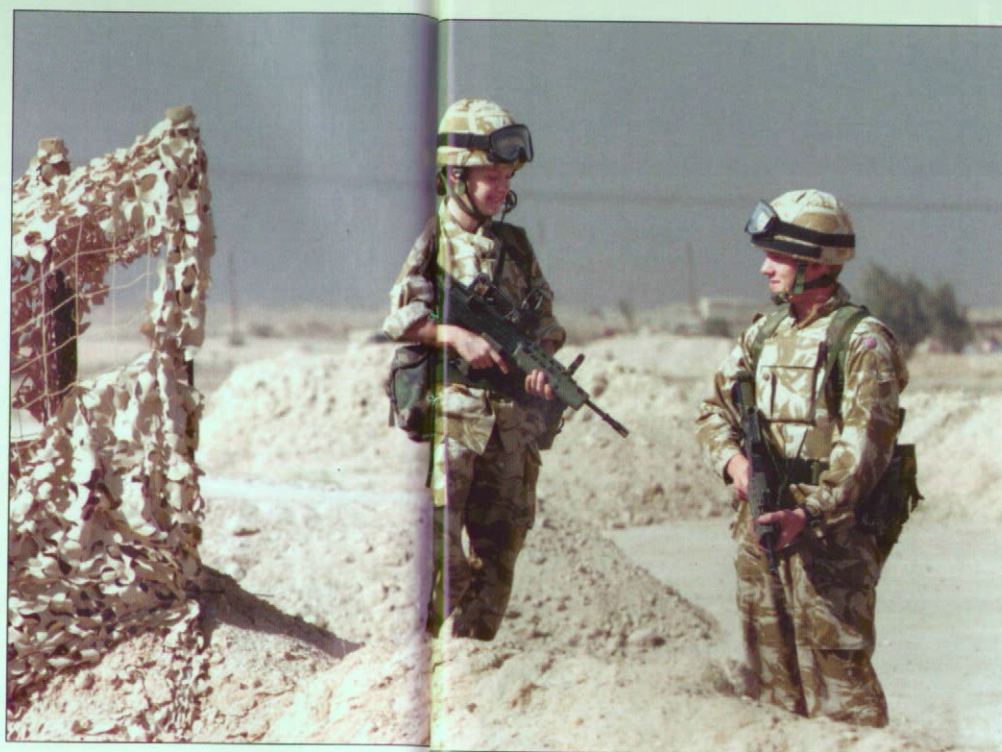
"It is vital mobile phones are not carried because most store the last ten telephone numbers of received or dialled calls and people tend to keep their phone books stored on them," he said. "The last thing we want is for friends and family back home to receive a text message or a telephone call saying their loved one has been captured."

Personal belongings were placed in sealed envelopes and held at a rear location, to be reunited with their owners when "the job was done".

Some soldiers in battle-groups in Iraq were still receiving blueys and e-blueys. "Where possible we will still strive to get post forward," added Maj Taylor. "But once read the letters have to be destroyed."



**On line:** Linesmen from 211 Signal Squadron run out a communication cable at HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division. Sig Riv Phoenix is in the foreground, with Sig Chad Chadworth and Sig Craig Poulton, right, at the rear. They provide communications for Gen Brims's headquarters



**Ptarmigan force:** Sig Katy Harbron and LCpl Gareth Reason, above left, both serving with 204 Signal Squadron, stand guard at outside the Division Support Group, for which they provide communica-



tions. Pictured, above right, are two soldiers from 216 Signal Squadron who were with US units which raced to take strategically important oilfields. They are Cpl Russ Sharp and Sig Dan Seager

## General's right-hand men vital link for commanders

**TASKED** with giving Maj Gen Robin Brims the means to command and control his troops in the Gulf, soldiers from 211 Signal Squadron, 1

(UK) Armoured Division Signal Regiment know all about responsibility.

Augmented by 15 Territorial Army signallers, the 100-strong unit was

## Colchester signallers among first across line

**CHARGED** with setting up a forward re-broadcasting station for 16 Air Assault Brigade, two soldiers from 216 Signal Squadron were among the first contingent of British troops to enter Iraq.

Less than eight hours after the first shots of the conflict were fired, Cpl Russ Sharp and Sig Dan Seager joined an armoured American convoy and, to the accompaniment of heavy artillery fire, headed north for the epicentre of Iraq's economic wealth, the Rumaylah oilfields.

"We always knew that we would be among the first to cross the border, but it still came as a bit of a shock when we

received orders to move so soon after the American marines had entered Iraq," explained Cpl Sharp. "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little nervous and when we were told we may encounter some resistance by-passed by the Americans it certainly gave us plenty to think about."

Sig Seager added: "There was artillery fire going over our heads in both directions, but I was too busy concentrating on the road to worry too much about anything else."

"We were travelling in darkness with no lights and the thick black smoke from burning oil made driving pretty difficult."

among the first to arrive in theatre.

It supplied Gen Brims and senior staff at HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division's nomadic camp with the means to communicate instantaneously with the MoD in London, brigade commanders and Coalition counterparts.

Without them, orders issued by Maj Gen Brims, Commander British Land Forces, could have taken hours instead of seconds to reach their destination.

"Our primary job is to provide a workable headquarters for the general – a role which comes with a lot of pressure and responsibility," said 211 Signal Squadron's 2iC, Capt Matt Bosworth.

"As well as providing and maintaining the communications network, we are also in charge of feeding, sleeping and force protection on the camp, which is home to some 600 personnel."

"Despite the workload things are going well, with equipment maintenance being the only considerable strain."

## Ageing Ptarmigan likes the desert air

ALTHOUGH senior in age to many of the British troops it serves, the Ptarmigan field radio coped well with the demands of desert warfare.

Soldiers from 204 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals based with 1 (UK) Armoured Division's Support Group in Southern Iraq, heaped praise on the performance of the ageing system, which is due to be retired when trials on the Bowman system have been completed.

"Unlike most other bits of equipment, the Ptarmigan seems to work better in the desert," said Sig Lacey Moran.

"The high water table, flat terrain and warm temperatures help the radio waves to travel long distances and as a result we have not had any real problems with communication."

This was welcomed by the 119-strong squadron, which is responsible for providing senior staff at the Division Support Group (DSG) with the means to speak to other brigades in-theatre.

Cpl Charlie Forsyth said: "The logistics chain would grind to a halt without the secure telephone – it enables the DSG to ensure that all units are fed,



**Ptarmigan calling:** Sig Tony Richard

watered and bombed-up. If our kit does not work the staff at the DSG cannot work, which in turn means that the soldiers on the ground cannot fight. I suppose you could say that we've been under a fair amount of pressure."



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# Blue letter day

Army posties have been overwhelmed by mail from UK and Germany

THE mountain of mail which has been passing through the Services' postal headquarters at Mill Hill, north London to the Gulf has been staggering.

In the first three months of Operation Telic, the military posties dispatched 605,751 blueys, 357,878 e-blueys and 61,900 bags of letters and small parcels. Although the packages were limited to less than 2kg each, their combined weight amounted to a formidable 494,310kg.

As this issue went to press, two dedicated mail flights a day were being made to the Gulf. As an example of the volume of business handled by Mill Hill, on April 11 – by no means the busiest day – 22,500kg of mail was flown out.

"With the launch of the new free Royal Mail parcel scheme (see Page 44), we anticipate a surge, but we simply don't know how much," said BFPO information manager Chris Banks.

"We have constructed a prefabricated building just to house the parcels when the Royal Mail starts delivering to us."

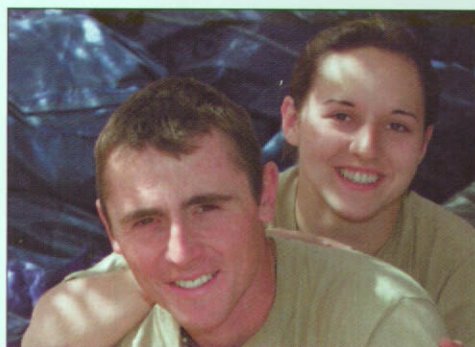
Another 80 staff have been recruited in

addition to the 50 Territorial Army soldiers and two officers already drafted in to help with the enormous throughput.

Days before the ground war began, *Soldier* writer Andy Simms reported that the six members of 98 Postal and Courier Squadron, 1 General Support Regiment RLC based with 1 (UK) Armoured Division's Support Group in the Gulf were already sorting more than 1,600 kilos of letters a day.

Every postbag delivered by them testified to the immense popularity of the blueys and e-blueys available free to soldiers and their families.

But the dedicated 98 Squadron team was so busy sorting the mail its members rarely had the time to write home themselves. They were responsible for delivering classified mail to British and American battle-groups as well as administering all incoming and outgoing post for units within the Division Support Group (DSG).



**Good sorts:** Pte Catherine Pullen, above left, and helpers Sig Gary Hill and Cfn Euan McIntosh unload another delivery of mail

**Together:** Happy couple LCpl Keith Rix and Pte Catherine Pullen, left, both members of 98 Postal and Courier Squadron RLC, are engaged to be married

"It is impossible to put a precise figure on the number of letters we receive from the UK and Germany each day, but it must run into the hundreds of thousands," said detachment commander Sgt Manny Mansbridge. "On average we have been getting 160 bags of mail, which equates to five to six hours of sorting time and means that on top of courier duties we are very busy."

"E-blueys make up 50 per cent of the mail coming in and if sent at the right time, to coincide with our runs, they can reach their destination within 24 hours. Generally speaking e-blueys are in the hands of soldiers no later than 48 hours after being written," he said.

"The traditional hand-written blueys take a little longer with an approximate turnaround time of four days."

The posties have also been inundated with boxes of "emergency" rations stuffed with chocolate bars, sweets, pot noodles and toilet rolls. Moving in the opposite direction was a huge amount of green kit, sent home by soldiers who had been issued with their desert fatigues in theatre.



**Post man:** Sgt Manny Mansbridge



## WAR DIARY – day-by-day, March 20 to April 14

### March 20

War against Iraq begins hours after the US deadline for President Saddam Hussein expired. Coalition air attacks are launched against targets in Baghdad.

### March 21

Cruise missiles hit targets in Baghdad as the main land offensive begins. Coalition forces advance across Kuwait-Iraq border. Two battle-groups of 7th Armoured Brigade provide flank protection against stiff resistance.

Units of 3 Commando Brigade make an amphibious assault on the Al Faw peninsula. Oil infrastructure secured.

Elements of 1 (UK) Armoured Division push towards Basra. US Marines close on Umm Qasr port and Royal Navy minehunters begin to clear waterways.

The 3rd US Infantry Division strikes north. US troops and British specialists secure oilfields around Basra. US warships and RN submarines launch Tomahawk missiles at targets in Baghdad.

RAF Tornado GR4s attack key facilities and Harrier GR7s provide air support. Eight Royal Marines from 3 Cdo Bde and four US troops die in helicopter crash in Kuwait.

Ground forces, including units of 3 Cdo Bde move on Umm Qasr and nearby naval base, while 42 Cdo is flown to a blocking position north of Al Faw. US forces reach Nasariya on the Euphrates, where they face Iraqi resistance.

US begins escalation of its aerial campaign, described as "shock and awe".

### March 22

Air campaign launched, with 3,000 air sorties aimed at targets throughout Iraq. RAF's Storm Shadow missile is used for first time on operations. At Basra, Iraq's 51st Mechanized Division surrenders as US Marines and Desert Rats secure the area. US troops secure Euphrates bridges in a rapid advance on Baghdad.

RN and US Navy minehunters continue operations to allow supplies into Umm Qasr. RFA *Sir Galahad* stands by to deliver humanitarian aid.

Two RN Sea King Mk 7 airborne early-warning helicopters collide. There are no survivors among the six British and one US crew members aboard.

### March 23

Operations to secure Umm Qasr continue. US troops resisted at Nasiriyah, where 12 US troops are reported missing. Captured US soldiers appear on Iraqi state TV. Sporadic resistance continues at Umm Qasr.

A PoW camp is under construction to accommodate hundreds of Iraqi troops who have surrendered in the area.

An RAF GR4 Tornado aircraft returning from a mission is shot down near the Kuwaiti border by a Patriot missile battery. Both aircrew are killed.

### March 24

US forces advance beyond Nasiriyah,

while aircraft attack Republican Guard formations near Baghdad. Mine-clearance operations progress at Umm Qasr. Two British soldiers reported missing after an attack on UK military vehicles in southern Iraq. In a separate incident, a British soldier is killed in action at Al Zubayr, near Basra.

### March 25

More air attacks against Republican Guard formations. British forces secure Umm Qasr. US forces advance north of Nasiriyah. British artillery destroys Iraqi mortars and guns which fired on civilian areas in Basra. Elements of 3 Cdo Bde, supported by helicopters and US and UK aircraft, defeat a tank attack, destroying 19 T-55s.

A Black Watch soldier is killed in action at Al Zubayr. In a separate incident, two more soldiers are killed when their Challenger 2 tank is hit by another Challenger 2 during an engagement with Iraqi forces. Sandstorms delay advance.

### March 26

British troops raid paramilitary forces in Basra area. US forces in significant engagements near An Najaf and Nasiriyah. Ba'ath Party headquarters in As Samawah destroyed. Iraqi tanks advancing from Basra destroyed and targets in Baghdad attacked.

### March 27

Discovery of two mines close to the swept channel leading to Umm Qasr delays the arrival of the *Sir Galahad*. US airborne forces land in northern Iraq. Scots DG squadron eliminates Iraqi tank unit and infantry positions near Basra.

### March 28

US forces defeat paramilitary counter-attacks north of An Najaf. *Sir Galahad* delivers first major consignment of aid. A soldier from D Sqn, Blues and Royals dies in an incident in southern Iraq.

### March 29

British forces move to interdict northern routes into Basra. Major oil refinery at Basra secured. US helicopters attack the Republican Guard Medina Division near Karbala.

### March 30

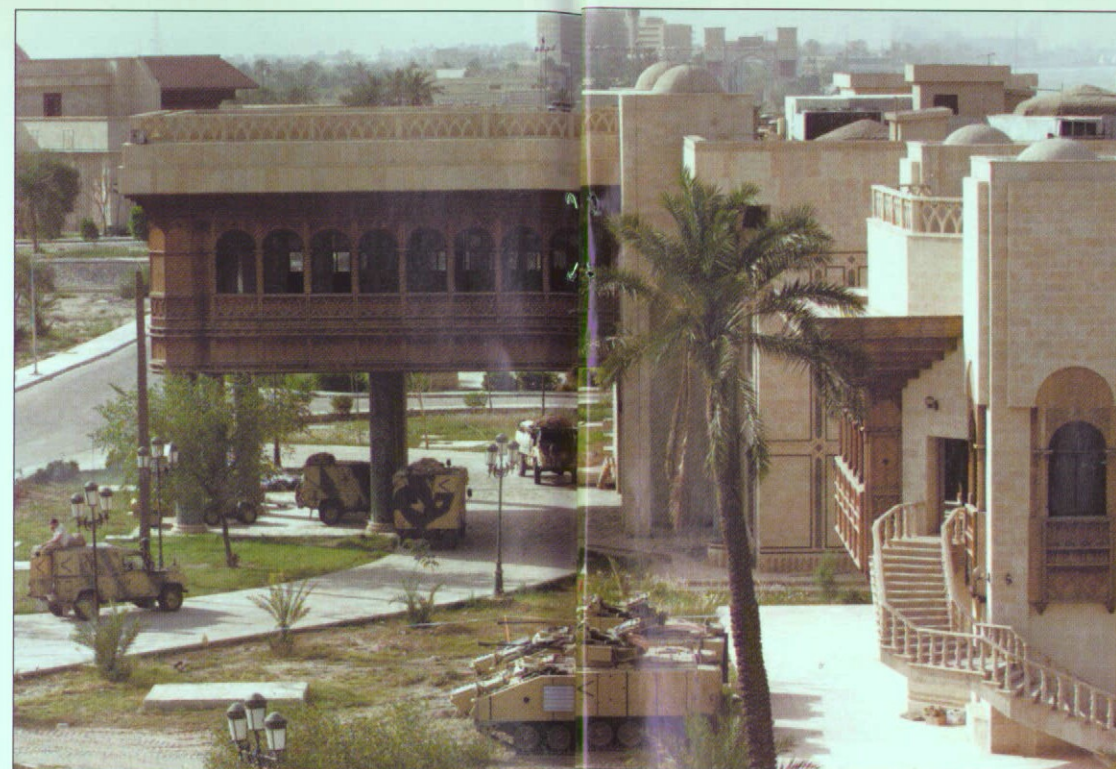
Aircraft attack air defence, command and control and intelligence facilities in and around Baghdad. Units of 3 Cdo Bde launch offensive near Basra to secure Abu al Khasib. Royal Marine killed in action on the Al Faw peninsula, and a Royal Signals NCO dies in a road accident in Kuwait.

### March 31

US forces capture major Iraqi ammo dump in central Iraq. British soldier is killed in southern Iraq.

### April 1

US 173rd Airborne Brigade completes



Grand surroundings: Saddam Hussein's unlivable summer palace at Basra, taken over by Desert Rats signallers

## Des res for Rats

WEEKS of discomfort in the desert became a distant memory for 7 Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron troops who took up residence at the presidential palace complex in Basra.

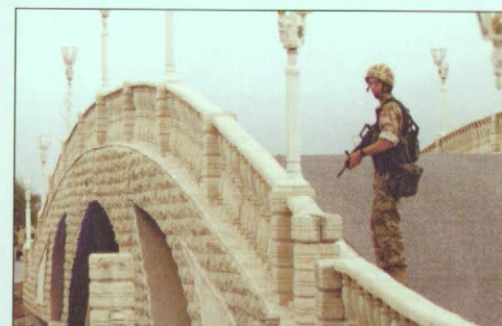
Set within a square mile of palm-lined avenues and ornate waterways in the south-east of Iraq's second city the palace on the bank of the Shatt al' Basra canal offers field conditions unfamiliar to the average British Tommy – and a stark contrast to the poverty that lies just beyond its grand gates.

It is believed that the toppled dictator, whose name adorns many of its ceilings, never occupied the summer palace, built ten years ago. Although the buildings lack final fixtures and fittings, they represent an oasis of luxury for the Desert Rats.

Cool marble floors, carved mahogany stairways with intricate gold-leaf designs, mosaic ceilings and gold-plated taps in countless bathrooms, make a welcome change for soldiers more accustomed to desert dust.

"This is by far and away the best headquarters location we have ever had," said palace commandant and *Soldier's* tour guide, Maj Chris Ford. "Within these grounds are four very large palaces and about 20 other smaller buildings, probably intended as staff quarters, which would be considered as mansions in their own right in the UK."

"There was hardly any furniture here when we arrived so soldiers are still having to sleep on the floor or on their cots, but when you have spent



Ornate: LCpl Chris Douce in the palace grounds

weeks living in the desert that is no hardship."

Local contractors were being approached to get the palace's own power station running and to connect plumbing, so troops were hoping to enjoy flushing toilets and hot-water showers.

Maj Ford said the location was not selected for its grandeur. "This is a great site from a security point of view. There is a huge wall that runs round three sides of the area and there are only two main access points, which makes it a very easy site to guard."

"Our only real concern is the Shatt al' Basra waterway that runs along one side of the estate, but we have established good observation posts and the Marines have been regularly patrolling the waterway in their boats."

its deployment into northern Iraq. Air attacks continued on Republican Guard divisions around Baghdad and Tikrit. V Corps attacks at Al Hillah, Karbala and As Samawah.

Black Watch battle-group rescues two Kenyan civilians taken prisoner at Al Zubayr. British forces destroy an armoured force north of Basra. A British soldier dies in an accident involving a light armoured vehicle.

### April 2

US troops rescue female soldier. At Al Hillah, US Marines capture two Al Samoud II missiles. British troops destroy Iraqi artillery and missiles near Basra. US Marines drive back the Baghdad Division of the Republican Guard at Al Kut. V Corps engages Medina and Nebuchadnezzar Divisions at Karbala, and confront paramilitary forces in An Najaf.

### April 3

US troops drive back the Medina Division close to Baghdad and secure another Euphrates crossing. US forces on outskirts of Baghdad. 101st Air Assault Division in operations at An Najaf, while 82nd Airborne Division strikes at As Samawah. In northern Iraq, air strikes called in against Iraqi 15th Mechanized Division. American FA-18C shot down.

### April 4

US inflicts more destruction on Baghdad and Al Nida Divisions. Southern approaches to Baghdad secured and international airport is captured. British forces engage paramilitary forces in and around Basra and capture ballistic missile battery near Al Zubayr.

### April 5

US 3rd Infantry Division units reach southern outskirts of Baghdad and push through to international airport. British forces expand area of control northwards from the main southern oilfields near Basra.

### April 6

US forces consolidate positions around Baghdad and the international airport. Operations continue at Karbala, An Najaf and As Samawah. British forces advance into Basra. Soldier from 1 RRF killed in action.

### April 7

British forces establish control over much of Basra. Elements of 7th Armoured Division, 3 Cdo Bde and 16 Air Assault Brigade involved in fight for the city. Royal Marines and Desert Rats enter presidential palace; 90 Challenger tanks and 80 armoured vehicles estimated to be inside the city. Two British soldiers killed in action.

US 82nd Airborne Division conducts humanitarian operations around As Samawah, while at An Najaf the 101st Air Assault Division continues to pound enemy positions. Noose tightens around

Baghdad as US troops take palaces and 3rd Infantry Division takes suspected Special Republican Guard headquarters. City still in Iraqi hands.

RFA *Sir Percivale* delivers humanitarian aid to Umm Qasr.

### April 8

US troops hold positions in central Baghdad, while US marines push into city from south-east, taking Rasheed airport. British forces complete sweeps of Basra, removing pockets of regime resistance. US troops in combat east of Karbala.

### April 9

US forces extend control over Baghdad. World watches as Saddam's towering statue in centre of Baghdad is toppled. Minimal resistance encountered near Al Amarah as Marines push into south-east Baghdad. Spanish vessel delivers aid and field hospital to Umm Qasr.

### April 10

All major routes into Baghdad are secured as US troops continue to eliminate resistance.

Elements of 1 (UK) Armoured Division push north from Basra towards US positions around Al Amarah. Ar Rutbah declares itself open to coalition forces.

### April 11

Coalition troops take Abu Gharib prison complex in Baghdad. University of Karbala cleared of regime forces. Coalition and Kurdish forces occupy Kirkuk. Cease-fire brokered with Iraqi 5th Corps near Mosul.

### April 12

Looting rife in Baghdad and many parts of the country. Operations completed around Al Qa'im in western Iraq and 15 Iraqi combat aircraft captured at Al Asad. Units of 1 (UK) Armoured Division and US Marines link secured areas around Basra and Al Amarah.

### April 13

US forces use air patrols over Baghdad for first time to improve security. Seven US military PoWs are rescued and Australian C-130 flies medical supplies into Baghdad.

In Basra, local police patrols resume duties under supervision of British troops. Normality is returning to Mosul as US patrol the streets but clashes erupt on outskirts of Tikrit between US troops and Iraqi forces.

### April 14

US forces secure Tikrit. Efforts to restore order in Baghdad are stepped up. Maj Gen Stanley McChrystal, Vice-Director of Operations of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, says that major conflict in the country is essentially over. Two US aircraft carriers in the Gulf ordered to leave.

Exploratory talks begin on formation of a post-Saddam government.



# Friendly forces



In print: Soldiers from the Black Watch battle-group, above, distribute copies of a specially-produced newspaper to the citizens of Basra. The publication contained news of events in the city and in Baghdad

Flowing: Cpl Julian "Taff" Hoskins, right, of 522 Squadron, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, supervises a civilian tasked with distributing water to local communities. Royal Engineers tapped into a pipeline stretching all the way from Kuwait to make the water available free to the population

First aid: LCpl Tilley Tilcock, below, an RLC chef, hands out much-needed medical supplies at a health centre in Basra. The boxes were found by Black Watch soldiers among a hoard of weapons in a captured Ba'ath Party headquarters building

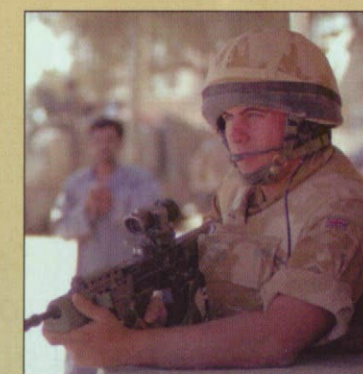


Sign of peace: Sgt Peter Comiskey, C Coy, 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, wears the regiment's famous tam-o'-shanter and hackle instead of a helmet while on patrol in Al Zubayr



Protection: Soldiers from No 2 Coy, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, above, help a family of Iraqi civilians coming under fire from Iraqi positions outside Basra. The troops were manning a checkpoint

Smiling: Sgt Gareth Hughes, APTC attached to 2 RTR, enjoys a chat with youngsters while patrolling the eastern town of Al Zubayr, below




Vigilant: LCpl Dean Bradley of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, patrols the streets of Al Zubayr





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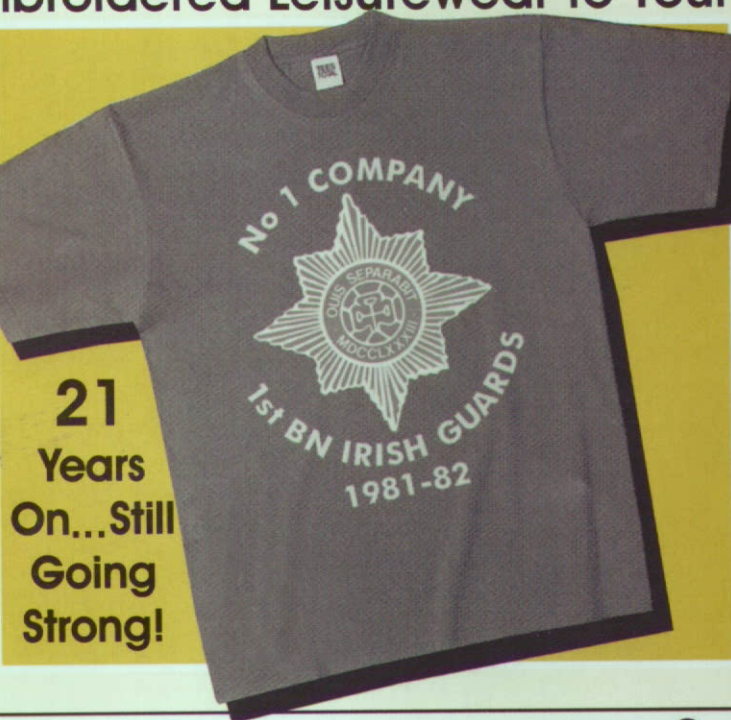
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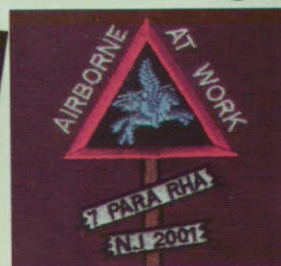
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# Compassion and care

Speed and accuracy vital in informing relatives of casualties

TO the great relief of the Army's Casualty Compassionate Cell at Upavon, the media has cooperated by not releasing details of soldiers killed and wounded in Iraq until families have been informed, writes Ray Routledge.

It is the delicate task of the small unit to organise the notification of the desperately sad news to dependants' families.

So far its staff have processed 52 Army battlefield casualties, including 13 dead. Another 450 have been sent home as non-battlefield casualties, with anything from broken legs, to appendicitis.

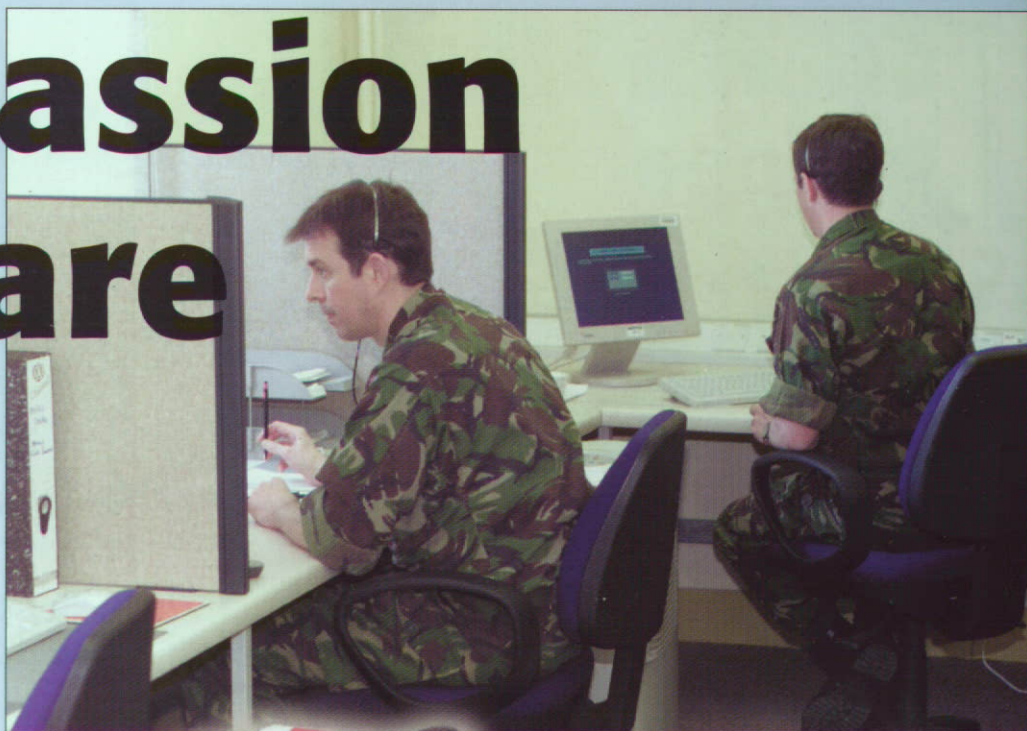
Speed and accuracy in informing families is vital because TV news – even colleagues of the casualty in the Gulf – can contact an unknowingly bereaved relative first, causing great distress.

A family is usually informed via the compassionate cell in two to three hours. It withholds the release of names and details for up to a further 12 hours so that other relatives can be informed.

"We cannot hold beyond that because stories have a way of leaking out," said Col (Retd) Hugh Welby-Everard, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the cell. "However, the press generally have been very cooperative and are aware of the sensitivity."

"The cell is the focal point for the Army for the notification of all listed casualties, including very seriously ill, seriously ill, and incapacitating illness or injury," he said.

In preparation for the war, procedures were rehearsed, more phone lines installed, a comcen created and extra staff brought in. Mercifully, at the time of writing the cell has not needed its full capacity, although four duty officers worked



Call centre, above: Maj Tony Leadbetter RLC, left, and Maj Erwin Moore AGC (ETS) handle questions from the anxious friends and relatives of soldiers serving in the Gulf  
Picture: Steve Dock



Homecoming: Soldiers of The Black Watch, left, carry the coffin of LCpl Barry Stephen, 1 BW, off the aircraft at RAF Brize Norton  
Picture: Cpl Max Ballantyne RLC

before a family is notified.

Follow-up calls are made by a casualty visiting officer to console, offer advice and assistance, and find out what sort of funeral the family want – private or military. The visitors also raise financial issues, offering advice on gratuities and pensions.

"We keep in touch with the casualty visiting officer the whole time. Whereas it is a divisional responsibility to ensure this process goes well, they have us sitting over them to coordinate and facilitate," said Col Welby-Everard.

All deaths become the subject of a coroner's inquest.

As we went to press the cell had handled high-priority emergency flights home for 31 soldiers after notification of the imminent death of close relative – wife, husband, child, parent or sibling. That was in addition to 86 repatriations where a death in the family had already occurred.



"Cell is Army focal point": Col Hugh Welby-Everard

round the clock and major incident plans were in place.

Regional divisions in the UK and Germany have the delicate job of actually informing families of a death or injury.

"We always go to the primary emergency contact first. It is most important that we have an efficient process to inform families and that we get it right."

To ensure there are no mix-ups, the cell has access to the Worthy Down mainframe computer to check all records



## New war appeal launched

A SPECIAL UK Forces Gulf Fund has been launched to provide additional welfare support to troops deployed in the Gulf, accompanying civilians and their dependants.

People eligible for aid from the fund may include, for example, those who have lost a loved one and require short-term financial help before receiving pension benefits, and those who suffer a disability and would benefit from special equipment.

To make a donation to the fund you can use a debit or credit card at [www.ukforcesgulffund.org](http://www.ukforcesgulffund.org) or call 0800 107 0200. Postal donations can be made to UK Forces Gulf Fund, FREEPOST TN2257, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA.

Donations should be made using the website if possible.

Similar funds set up during the last Gulf campaign and the Falklands War raised £3 million and £17 million respectively.

● The Army Benevolent Fund is the national charity for all soldiers. Cheques can be sent to it at 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR (tel 020 7591 2000). Find out more at [www.armybenfund.org](http://www.armybenfund.org)



Location, location, location: LCpl Stu Riggott, of 13 Sqn, 42 Engr Regt, runs off more maps

## Hi-tech maps make battlefield safer place

MAP-making specialists from 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) deployed in Iraq offered commanders in the field far more than a "you are here" guide to the battlefield.

Their hi-tech maps contain detailed information without which troops could be in real danger.

The print room at Hermitage in Berkshire produced 180,000 maps of Iraq in four 12-hour shifts, and sappers from the regiment are embedded at every HQ, from brigade level upwards to refine the service.

Data technicians, terrain analysts and production technicians worked round the

clock to supply accurate overviews of the ground for commanders and troops.

"Geographic personnel collect, collate and exploit geographic information and intelligence," said Col Angus Cross, commander Geographic Engineer Group.

"We enhance the basic topographic mapping in the field with value-added information such as enemy minefields and unit dispositions and can advise on the best routes to use."

"Our work enables those in the front line and those hitting the enemy from the rear to do so with greater accuracy and efficiency and in more safety than they could do otherwise."

## Thanks for the wonderful backing, but please don't swamp us with packages

A FREE postal service to the Gulf came into effect on April 17, allowing family and friends of Service personnel to send letters and packages of up to 2kg to BFPO addresses in the region at no cost.

The free service, for packets addressed to named individual Servicemen and women, is supported by the Royal Mail Group and is in addition to the free-of-charge airmail bluey and electronic e-bluey schemes.

Meanwhile, the Army has thanked members of the public for their massive support of troops in the Gulf... but appeal for them to stop collecting gifts. Across the country there have been many

instances of people collecting large quantities of stationery, sweets and other items to send to soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait, although it is impossible for the Service

### Free parcel service launched

supply system to transport such large welfare consignments to the Gulf.

Col Tony Barton, commander of Colchester Garrison, home of 16 Air Assault Brigade, said: "We are very grateful for the huge public support, but our troops already have adequate food, clothing and welfare items and the system is

now focusing on delivering essential supplies, including humanitarian aid.

"The only way to send out parcels at present is via the British Forces Post Office system to a named soldier." Packets addressed to a named individual, with full unit details and a BFPO number, will be accepted by post offices and forwarded to the Gulf by BFPO. They will be delivered to troops as soon as the operational situation allows. Priority is still being given to essential stores and equipment.

The Armed Forces Bulletin Board, on which e-mail messages can be left, can be found at [www.bfpo.org.uk](http://www.bfpo.org.uk)



## 'Thanks to all you Tommies'



More Mail on Pages 74-77

I WOULD like to express my thanks to all the Tommies serving with our GIs and Leather-necks in Iraq. You are doing a very professional and truly magnificent job.

I would like to correct a statement from the story "We need to win US confidence," (Page 24, March). I am confident the US Armed Forces do not consider the British Army to be a junior partner. You are in every way their equal partner.

My deepest sympathy for your casualties and their families and friends. I am especially saddened by the incidents of "friendly fire" and other tragic accidents. — **Willard M McCoy, USA.**

I WANT your brave guys to know how thankful we are that they are fighting with us. When I watch the news and see how hard your guys are fighting out there, I feel very honoured. It makes me feel very appreciative and proud to have you as an ally. — **Julie Vasquez, USA.**

I DON'T know how to get a message to the lads in the Gulf, but thought you might be able to pass it on. My wife and I have no connection with the military but we want to say how proud we are of them and how much we support what they are doing for us. — **Brian O'Ready, e-mail.**

WOULD you please convey to your troops how much we here in the States appreciate your service in this war against the evil of Saddam Hussein. Thank you for standing by our side when we needed a friend so very much. The UK is very dear to our hearts. — **Jean Starkey, USA.**

I LISTENED to two senior citizens in my local library discussing the state of the UK: law-and-order, lack of discipline and the spirit which made Britain great being watered-down. Later, at home, I listened to the news of events in Iraq on the radio and realised how wrong those two gentlemen had been. Our boys and girls in the Gulf have it. I cannot pretend that my heart was not bursting with pride at the thought that there are still British men and women who will fight for our way of life. — **Tony Davy, Gainsborough, Lincs.**

I PRAY for you every day, give thanks for your lives and wish you the best. God bless and love to all. — **DeeAnne Patton, Appleton, Wisconsin USA.**

I FOUND no mention of 204 Signal Squadron in your list of units deployed in the Gulf, so please could you set the record straight. We are here in the Gulf, flying the 4 Brigade colours with pride. — **Cpl Scott, BFPO 645.**

IN your April issue you incorrectly titled 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE as 50. — **Cpl J McKee, Blackwater, Camberley.**

YOU missed 22 Field Hospital from your list of deployed units. — **Capt E A Hardaker, 2iC Clinical Sqn, 22 Fd Hosp.**



It's good to talk: Army Families Federation staff members Teresa Hamlet, left, and Angela Brooke have been busy offering advice and information to hundreds of Op Telic families

# Support begins on home front

## Key role for Army Families Federation

TELEPHONE lines at Army Families Federation (AFF) branches have been red-hot since March, with staff in Upavon, Germany, Cyprus and Northern Ireland fielding hundreds of calls and e-mails from concerned relatives of Op Telic troops, **writes Andrea Frazer.**

"We've experienced a 100 per cent increase in enquiries over the period," said Lizzie Iron, the AFF chairman.

"Staff on the telephones have noticed that the majority of callers are relatives of Territorial Army personnel or Reservists and others not connected to a traditional Army community, where information is already being provided.

"We have had a lot of contact from mums and dads of soldiers, unmarried partners, and dependants living off-camp who are feeling quite isolated and need to talk to someone who can understand how they feel.

"It's our job to reassure these families and dispel rumours by providing up-to-date information on the situation and guidance on where they can go for further help." Apart from providing a sympathet-

ic ear on the telephone, the AFF has also provided the latest possible information and advice on its website.

Lizzie and her colleagues say that the 24-hour news coverage of the conflict increased the stresses and strains felt by those back home.

"Many families are reluctant to switch the TV off in case they miss something crucial but the continuous coverage actually adds to the feeling of separation and makes it almost impossible to keep the reality of war away from the children."

The two-way communication service provided to Army families by the AFF during an operational situation such as Op Telic is vital.

Branch staff and co-ordinators, all members of the wider Army community, agree that no one understands military life like another Service family member.

The AFF website at [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk) contains the latest information on Op Telic and links to other Army support websites. For further help and information, contact the AFF on 01980 615525.

● **Sue Bonney's Home Truths** — Page 73



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[www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

National charity for limbless and ex-Service men and women, their dependants and widows.

[www.ngvfa.com](http://www.ngvfa.com)

The National Gulf Veterans and Families Association website.

[www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

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[www.armybenevolentfund.com](http://www.armybenevolentfund.com)

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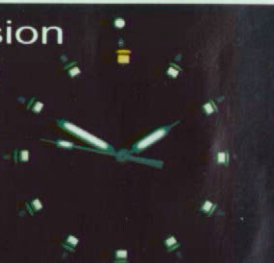
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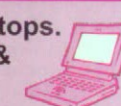
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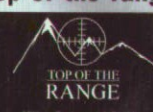
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# Power and courage

British Army downhill skiers complete a dramatic and successful season

ARMY skiers have smashed their way to Inter-Service Alpine titles in Austria at the conclusion of a dramatic season.

And in the Norwich Union-sponsored Army championships, held at Serre Chevalier in France, there was a gripping finale as 8 Transport Regiment RLC won the Army Alpine championship by just two seconds.

The loggies faced stiff competition from the Queen's Royal Hussars, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, 19 Regiment Royal Artillery and 1st Battalion, The Highlanders.

It was in the last race that the RLC stole the crown by 86 race points, just two seconds on combined time.

Their effort was even more remarkable given that they came from behind after finishing a disastrous seventh in the team giant slalom.

Ski conditions could not have been better. The six-race team and individual programme was run with fast snow injecting fear and excitement into competitors, who reached 80mph.

The fierce competition of the team event was reflected in the individual championship, where Capt Ian Large (1 RRW), Cpl Tony McGill (8 Regt RLC) and Capt Gavin Angell (1 Hldrs) skied consistently well. Maj Jamie Clarke (RLC), who returned to the event after a four-year break, chased them hard.

Again, the results went right down to

## ARMY ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

**Alpine Team Combination** – 1, 8 Tpt Regt RLC; 2, QRH; 3, 1 RRW; 4, 1 Hldrs.

**Alpine Individual Combination Men** – 1, Capt Ian Large (AGC); 2, Cpl Tony McGill (RLC); 3, Maj Jamie Clarke (RLC); 4, SSgt Hutch Hutchinson (RLC) (Also Army Veteran champion).

**Alpine Individual Combination Women** – 1, Lt Hannah Jennings (RA); 2, Capt Emily Keats (RA); 3, Lt Anna Cliff (AAC); 4, Cpl Jo Hammick (HQ 101 Log Bde).

**Indiv Giant Slalom Men** – 1, Cpl Tony McGill (8 Regt RLC); 2, Capt Ian Large (1 RRW); 3, Capt Gavin Angella (1 Hldrs).

**Indiv Giant Slalom Women** – 1, OCdt Emily Sarsfield (WM UOTC); 2, Capt Emily Keats (19 Regt RA); 3, Lt Hannah Jennings (16 Regt RA).

**Indiv Slalom Men** – 1, Capt Ian Large, (1 RRW); 2, Capt Dan Walker (1 Coldm Gds); 3, Maj Jamie Clarke (HQ DRLC).

**Indiv Slalom Women** – 1, OCdt Emily Sarsfield (WM UOTC); 2, Capt Emily Keats (19 Regt RA); 3, Lt Hannah Jennings (16 Regt RA).

**Indiv Super G Men** – 1, Pte Chalky White (1 RGBW); 2, Capt Ian Large (1 RRW); 3, Cpl Tony McGill (8 Regt RLC).

**Indiv Super G Women** – 1, OCdt Emily Sarsfield (WM UOTC); 2, Lt Hannah Jennings (16 Regt RA); 3, Lt Anna Cliff (4AAC).

**Indiv Downhill Men** – 1, Capt Ian Large (1 RRW); 2, Capt Gavin Angella (1 Hldrs); 3, Cpl Tony McGill (8 Regt RLC).

**Team Giant Slalom** – 1, QRH; 2, 1 RRW; 3, 1 SG.

**Team Slalom** – 1, 8 Regt RLC; 2, 1 Coldm Gds; 3, QRH.

**Team Super G** – 1, 8 Regt RLC; 2, QRH; 3, 1 RRW.

**Team Downhill** – 1, 8 Regt RLC; 2, QRH; 3, 1 RRW.

the last race, in which Capt Large secured his first Army Alpine title.

Notable performances also came from Capt Dan Walker (1 Coldm Gds), who achieved second place in the slalom, and Pte Chalky White (1 RGBW), who won the Super G.

Meanwhile the peoples' favourite was champion veteran SSgt Hutch Hutchinson (8 Regt RLC), who finished a notable fourth overall.

As a result he was selected for the Army

team for the first time in his 14 Army ski-racing seasons.

The women's competition was fought out between Lt Hannah Jennings and Capt Emily Keats (both RA), with Lt Jennings finally securing the individual Army title.

Some of the male skiers were seriously embarrassed by OCdt Emily Sarsfield (WM UOTC), who, despite not being eligible to win any of the prizes, put on a fine display of quality skiing and posted times which were faster than several of the men.

## Split-second finish for Army seven

WITH the Army championships over, attention turned to the Inter-Service Alpine competition for which both the Army men's and women's teams travelled to Saalbach Hinterglemm in Austria.

The nine-strong Army men's team and seven women's team members competed against the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, Australian Defence Force and Italian Alpini squads.

Once again, close and exciting races treated competitors and spectators to dramatic sport.

The RAF men's squad, aided by their full-time British team skier, Roger Cruikshank, pushed the normally dominant Army team to the limit throughout.

The Army took the downhill and giant slalom events, but a superb slalom result



An alpine ski-racer must be competitive, physically fit, strong, courageous, able to think quickly and make decisions at high speeds and under pressure. Have you got what it takes?

Top man: Capt Ian Large (AGC) shows his skills by taking the Army individual combination title on the slopes of Serre Chevalier in France

## INTER-SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

**Men's Team Combination** –

1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, R Navy.

**Womens Team Combination** – 1, RAF;

2, Army; 3, R Navy.

**Men's Individual Combination** – 1,

P/Off Roger Cruikshank, RAF; 2, Maj Jamie Clarke, Army; 3, Capt Ian Large, Army.

**Womens Individual Combination** – 1, Flt Lt Sophie Paul, RAF; 2, Lt Hannah Jennings, Army; 3, Flt Lt Sally West, RAF.

## Trio fare well against odds

DESPITE lack of international ski-race experience, three members of the Army Alpine team put in some creditable performances when they represented the Combined Services in the British national ski championships at Tignes in France.

Maj Jamie Clarke, Capt Ian Large and Lt Ross Haines (RA), all short of international ski-race starts, did not find it easy to ski to their full potential with start positions of more than 100.

They showed up relatively well, however, with consistent top 30 and several top 20 results against an international and professional field.

### BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

	Downhill	SuperG
Maj Jamie Clarke (RLC)	19	25
Capt Ian Large (AGC)	18	24
Lt Ross Haines (RA)	21	26

	GS	SL	Comb
Maj Jamie Clarke (RLC)	31	DNF	DNF
Capt Ian Large (AGC)	33	21	23
Lt Ross Haines (RA)	34	25	27



Through the gates: Cpl Tony McGill (RLC) races to the Army giant slalom title in France



## SHORTS

### Up and under

LCPL David Mossop (SG), from Whitehaven in Cumbria, is to sign a professional contract with the London Broncos. It could be worth £50,000 a year.

He beat 1,700 other hopefuls to finish in the top five of a nationwide amateur rugby league competition.

### Race the sun

ONLY enter if you think you are hard enough. That's the message from the organisers of a new challenge set for September in the Lake District.

Starting at dawn from Penrith and finishing at sunset, it involves a 25-mile bike ride, a run to the top of Helvellyn and back, and a gruelling canoe challenge on Lake Thirlmere.

Entry is for teams of four and funds raised will be for Action Research, a charity that has been making medical breakthroughs for more than 50 years.

Contact Gay Rose on 01462 634646 or [events@actionforcharity.co.uk](mailto:events@actionforcharity.co.uk)

### Half an iron man?

THE 2003 Gatorade Half Ironman UK is to stage this year's Inter-Services long course triathlon championships.

Army, Navy and RAF athletes will go head-to-head on a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1-mile run at Sherborne at the end of August. Call 08700 112811 or e-mail Maj Mark Freeman at [MtriFreeman@hotmail.com](mailto:MtriFreeman@hotmail.com)

### Essex going great guns

ARMY PT instructors from Colchester's 19 Regiment RA put Essex cricketers through their paces on a military skills training day designed to help the squad prepare for the county season. Essex head coach and former England skipper Graham Gooch said: "We came to Colchester Garrison last year and enjoyed it so much that the players were very keen to return."

### Guy on target for Army

FORMER Sheffield Wednesday and Portsmouth striker Guy Whittingham scored twice as an Army veterans' side beat their Royal Navy counterparts at the Victory Stadium, Portsmouth. The big striker, who also played for Aston Villa and Wolves, put the Army in front after 20 minutes. The Army led 3-2 at half-time before Whittingham headed the winner in the 67th minute.

### Ride the waves

FOR details of the 2003 Windsurfing Forces UK open even at Hayling Island, Hampshire, on May 7-9, contact Sgt Doyle at the Thorney Island Water Sports Centre on (mil) 94295 8315.



Left: England international Capt Guy Fordham RAMC, sweeps into the D as the Army attacks the RAF goal in the men's inter-Services tournament at Portsmouth

Right: Cpl Sharon Stones, left, the Army player of the year, attacks the RAF during the women's inter-Service match at Portsmouth

Pictures: Roger Thompson



# Four-tune favours the brave

Goals rain in as Army hockey team achieve clean sweep at Inter-Services tournament

THE Inter-Services hockey festival in Portsmouth resulted in a clean sweep for the Army, writes Roger Thompson.

Despite the operational deployment most of the players were available and the standard of hockey was extremely high.

In the men's senior competition the Army fielded England internationals Capts John Evennett (LI) and Guy Fordham (RAMC), who also acted as coach. This produced a very high standard of teamwork, the ball moving harmoniously between players in both attack and defence.

The midfield distribution of Cpl Mark Ison (2 PWRR) was matched by tireless sprinting on the flanks, especially by Capt Richard Forsyth, who has represented Scotland. Moving the ball from wing to

wing frequently drew the opposition defences apart, allowing Fordham to attack the D with Evennett and Maj Tim Wood (Royal Signals) striking for goal.

Against a brave but outclassed Royal Navy side the Army won 5-0 to set up a revenge match against the Royal Air Force in the final rubber.

The Army again showed a pronounced cohesion, especially when they unexpectedly went an early goal behind. That counted for little once the Army had tuned its antennae. Players not in contact ghosted into space to allow Fordham and Wood time on the ball. Both ran elusively, twisting and turning the direction of each forward surge, which left the RAF players gasping for oxygen. As an alternative ploy the Army used the long lobbed pass to tremendous effect.

Make no mistake, this was a good RAF side. The air defence had its radars on, and the RAF goalkeeper pulled off a series of magnificent saves against a savage and sustained Army onslaught. The mere sight of Evennett, who looked like a rugby player and surged forward in the same mould, suggested another goal was imminent. His shots raised plumes of spray from the watery surface before stretching the roof of the net.

The 4-1 scoreline did not flatter the Army, who were commendably patient before creating some passages of sublime stick play to secure the title in style.

## WOMEN SCORE 11

The Army women's team also had a good day, scoring 11 goals without reply. They built patiently from defence and attacked powerfully at every opportunity.

Gone are the days when helicopter pilots spent hours hanging around for the next "fare". Maj Ruth MacGill and Capt Becky Frater (both AAC) constantly appeared in the thick of the action. Ruth MacGill's spectacular goal, described in gymnastic terms as "pivot, spin and explosive tuck" was the champagne moment of the tournament. Cfn Amanda Potgieter (REME) showed superb skills

and work-rate, to complement the creative running of Cpl Sharon Stones and the thundering charges of Sgt Cheryl Campling.

In attack the Army collected the ball well, producing short and long passes accurately when it counted most. This was not just jolly hockey-sticks but a passionate display from a team who knew their game. Victory in the circumstances was almost inevitable.

The U-23 and veterans teams each won both their games, the vets beating the RAF with a last-gasp goal from Capt Aubrey Smith (RLC).

## RESULTS SERVICE...RESULTS SERVICE...RESULTS SERVICE...RESULTS SERVICE...

**ATHLETICS: Inter Services cross-country championships (sponsored by Naafi):**  
**Men (junior)** – 1, Pte Michael Sanchez (Army); **(senior)** – Cpl Kevin Sheppard (Army); **(vets)** – Maj John Rye (RN).  
**Women** – Lt Jo Kelsey (Army).

**Inter-Services half-marathon: Team results, men** – 1, Army; 2, RAF; 3, RNAC-RN; **vets** – 1, RAF; 2, Army; **women** – 1, RN; 2, Army; **individual men**: 1, Capt Tim Crossland (2 CS Regt RLC); 2, Mne Wayne Dashper (RN); 3, Gp Capt David Blore (RAF); **vets** – 1, Gp Capt Blore (RAF); 2, Capt Mark Gamble-Thompson (19 Regt RA); 3, Flt Sgt Rob Payne (RAF); **women** – 1, Std Kelly Wharton; 2, Sgt Lisa Yates

(ATR(P)); 3, PO Lindsey Gammon (RN).

**Army half-marathon championships:**  
**Team, men** – 1, 3 Div; 2, 3 CS Regt RLC; 3, HQ 4 Div; **women** – 1, RMAS; 2, SEAE; 3, SEME; **individual men** – 1, Capt Tim Crossland (3 CS Regt RLC); 2, Cpl Ian Smith (3 UK Div and Sig Regt); 3, Sgt Chris Busby (RMAS); **women** – 1, Sgt Lisa Yates (ATR(P)); 2, OCdt Jennifer Hands (RMAS); 3, Lt Katy Badham-Thornhill; **veteran men** – 1, Capt Mark Gamble-Thompson; 2, Maj James Wood (HQ 4 Div); 3, Maj Douglas Brisco (DLO Andover); **veteran women** – 1, SSgt Dani Thwaite (243 Sig Sqn); 2, SSgt Pauline Cappleman (243 Sig Sqn); 3, Sgt Tracy Hetherington.

## FIXTURES

### Your sporting guide to May...

**ATHLETICS:** 7 – London District championships (Battersea); 14 – 5 Div championships (Tidworth); 27 – BF(G) zone A championships (Sennelager); 28 – 4 Div championships (Tidworth); 2 Div championships (Catterick); BF(G) zone B championships (Sennelager).

**CRICKET** 1-2 – Army indoor cricket festival (Dummer Indoor Cricket School); Army women's trials (Larkhill).

**FOOTBALL:** 7 – Royal Navy v Army (TBC); Men's six-a-side competition (Aldershot); 9 – Int Corps women v R Signals women (Chick-sands); 21 – Army v Royal Air Force (TBC).

**GOLF:** 11 – Army v Pyle & Kenfig (Pule & Kenfig GC); 12-16 – Army championships (Royal Porthcawl); 21 – 2 Div (North-West) spring meeting (Childwall GC); 30 – Graham Butler Trophy (Ferndown GC).

**ORIENTEERING:** 7 – 4/5 Div relay championships (Firth Hill).

**RUGBY LEAGUE:** 3 – Army v Prison Service (TBC); Army v GB Students (TBC); 7 – Lawson Cup second round ties (various).

**RUGBY UNION:** 3 – Army v Navy (Twicken-ham); 14 – Army 7s (Aldershot); 22 – City 7s (TBC); 26-30 – International floodlit tens tournament (RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus).

**SHOOTING:** 14 – 4 Div Clay Target (Pir-bright).

**WINDSURFING:** 7-9 – Forces open event, Hayling Island.

Got a date for the diary? E-mail the details to [fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

THE Army Football Association is running a series of UEFA-accredited coaching courses for Army personnel. Course dates include: Level two – May 12-23, June 9-20 and July 7-18. For further information contact Steve Stone on 01252 347962 or mil 94222 2962.

THREE male British Army Training and Support Unit Belize (BATSUB) teams were beaten by a female crew in the gruelling three-day 174 mile Ruta Matu Canoe Race in Belize.

**MARTIAL ARTS: Army martial arts open championships:** President's Cup, Fus Gareth Emery (RWF); Mejin Shield, O/Cdt Jenny Pugh (RLC).

**SQUASH: Inter-Service championships:**  
**Men's U25** – Army 0, RAF 5; RN 4, Army 1; RN 3, RAF 2; **men's vets** – Army 4, RN 1; RAF 5, RN 0; RAF 4, Army 1; **women** – RAF 5, RN 0; Army 5, RN 0; RAF 4, Army 3, RAF 2.

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Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 738, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by May 30.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn

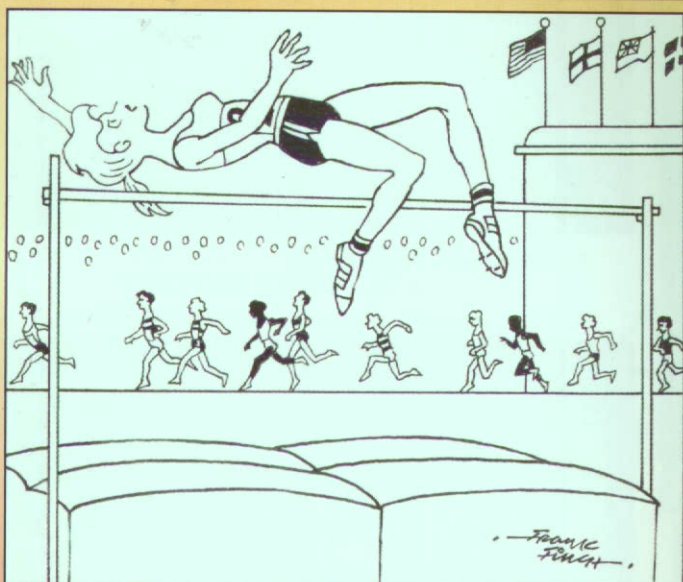
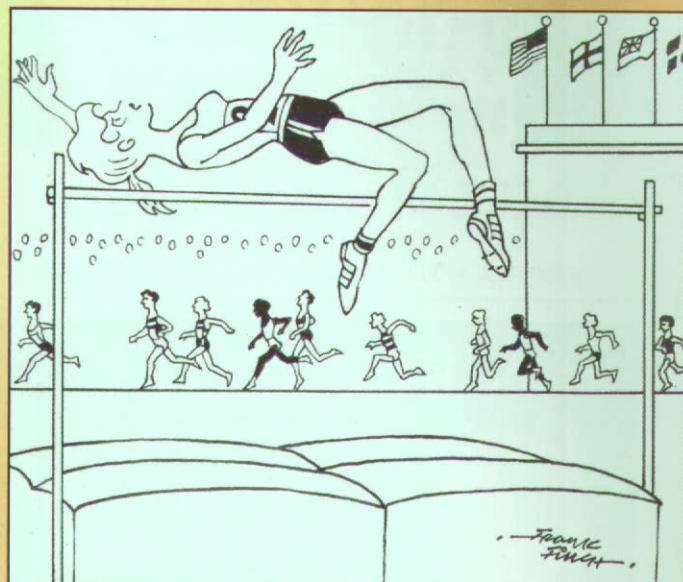
after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £10 gift vouchers. No correspondence of any kind can be entered into.

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

Name: (Give initials and rank or title)

Address:

March issue (No 736): First correct entry drawn was from LCpl Indra, 2 Signal Regiment, Op Telic, who wins £100. Runners-up Sgt C Gaskell, UN Forces Cyprus, and J R K Welsh, AWS (WM), Venning Barracks, Donnington, each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: leaves; truck on bridge (two); soldier on tree; cow; soldier hanging from rope crossing; ripples in water; duck's tail; crocodile's teeth; water-splash near crocodiles.



## Freeze frame

**"The Bay City Rollers were disappointed with the size of the crowd"**

Write a caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in June 1954. The best, in the Editor's opinion, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply, entries to reach us by May 30.



OUR prize for the March competition, left, goes to Sgt Kev Joyce, QM's Department, CCU, Episkopi, for his suggestion: "And just think, two years ago I won the Gold Cup at Cheltenham".

On a similar theme, Simon Harrison of Ludgershall offered: "Never mind the Grand National, this lot would struggle across the Melling Road".

We also liked "Get through the water or you'll get my foot



up your ass" from WO1 J C Morris, ATR Pirbright; "Just my luck - my brother has a starring role with John Wayne and I end up with Sergeant Bilko" from Graham Drew, LSA Wing, Army School of Ammunition, Marlborough Barracks, Warks; "Budget cuts were having a profound effect on driver

training" from WO1 John Mill, 1 AMAT, HQ MAS(A), Camberley; and "No, I spoke to the Quartermaster myself and I definitely said 30 pack meals", from Sgt Paul Cooper, RMP Training School, Chichester.

Thanks also to the 6 Supply Regiment REME Workshop lads in the Gulf for their suggestions.





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Hants GU11 2DU

Or visit *Soldier Magazine*  
online at:

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Email: [hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:hshekyls@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

All pen pal adverts must be prepaid

**Michelle, (29), 5'9"**, brunette with green eyes, one tattoo and no piercings. Enjoys horse-riding, gym, netball and hockey. Seeking outgoing GSOH pen pal who is preferably into sport, 20-30. P319

**Geraldine, 5'7"**, with brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys reading, model making and walking. Seeking pen pals, 35+. P320

**Bhavini, 5'**, large build with brown eyes. Enjoys writing letters, music, cinema, computers, crafts, aromatherapy cooking and many more. Would like to hear from lonely soldiers for special friendship, 30+. P321

**Sara, (26), 5'1"** with blonde hair and blue eyes. Enjoys horse-riding, swimming, keep fit, clubs and reading. Non-smoker who is single. Seeking male pen pals in the military, 26-31. Will answer all letters. P322

**Josephina, (48), 5'2"**, auburn hair and brown eyes. Enjoys reading, drawing, music, motor rallying (taking part), writing letters and nights out or in. Seeking pen pals, 45-55. P323

**Cpl Neil, 5'9"**, athletic build, brown hair and blue eyes. Enjoys fitness, motorbikes, travel and much more. Outgoing, confident, loves life and having a laugh, wanting ladies to write for fun and friendship, 20-35. Photo appreciated but not essential. P324

**Julia, (38), 5'6"**, blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys cooking, sports, music, chilled glass of wine, video, pizza, travel and lots of other hobbies. Seeking honest pen pals with GSOH, 38-40. P325

**Sally, (37), 5'5"**, dark hair and brown eyes. Enjoys animal shows (dogs), various music tastes, walking in the countryside, TV and travel. Ex-nurse, single, genuine with GSOH and faithful. Seeks officer/soldier pen pals, 30-45. P326

## Pen Pal Replies

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

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

**Annie, 5'3" + 2-3"**, with heels, current hair colour dark brown. Enjoys the theatre, reading, walking three manic dogs on the beach, DIY and keep fit. Down but not out, 2003 motto is I can and I will. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P327

**Anne Marie, tall Irish blonde** seeking pen pals. Enjoys travel, cinema and music. Seeking outgoing tall man in uniform aged 37-45. P329

**Linda, 5'4"** brunette nurse. Enjoys adventure. Seeking NCO/officer, take action write now, 35-45. P330

**Tracey, (25), 5'6"**, brunette with green/blue eyes. Enjoys films, music, cosy nights in and fun nights out. Seeking pen pals, 25-35. P331

**Kate, (34), 5'9"**, long dark curly hair and brown eyes. Enjoys gym, dancing, pubs, clubs, wine bars, making soaps, creams, lipbalm, embroidery and earrings. A graduate no children, non-smoker seeking pen pals, 28-39. P332

**Claire, (33), 5'8"**, intelligent, witty fun blonde with blue eyes. Enjoys working out, reading, music, films, learning French, football (Man. Utd fan) nights out with the girls and cooking for friends at home. Would like to help brighten up a soldier's day. P333

**Linda, (47), 5'5"**, brown hair and brown eyes. Enjoys reading, eating out, walking the dog, cinema, bowling, swimming, soul music and following local bands (groups). Single parent with 15 year-old son, non-smoker, own home and car. Seeking pen pals, 40-50. P334

**Jacqueline, (32), 5'3"**, long fair hair and blue eyes. Enjoys music, sport, cinema, nights in or out and driving. Divorced mum of two and disabled. Seeking pen pals, 25+. P335

**Carole, (40+), 5'3"**, slim blonde with green eyes. Enjoys languages (French, Spanish, Italian, Greek), swimming, dancing, walking, dining, conversation, gardening, the outdoors and in-depth debates on interesting subjects. Seeking pen pals, 40+. P336

**Claire, (28), 5'4"**, fair skin and brown hair. Enjoys going out with friends, pubs, cinema, eating out, keep fit and Playstation games. Seeking pen pals, 28-30+. P337

**Emma, (21), 5'7"**, slim with light brown hair and dark brown eyes. Enjoys going out with friends, clubs, hip-hop, R'n'B, swimming and sunbathing on hot beaches. Training to be a hairdresser and works part-time. Seeking pen pals of any age group. P338

**Janet, (40), 5'4"**, slim build with dark hair and green eyes. Enjoys socialising, cinema, reading and lots of different kinds of music. GSOH, sincere and caring. Seeking single/divorced male soldier/officers serving aboard or in the UK, photograph appreciated, will reply to all letters received, 35-45. P339

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

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The prize money in the Army Sports Lottery has now gone up to £17,400 per week with a top prize of £6,400.

### 08 March 2003

1st place (20 goals, £6,400); Pte DR Ellis, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate

7-way tie for 2nd place (19 goals, £1,571.43 each); Sgt EE Brown, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld; Tpr CJ Parker, Scots DG, Fallingbommel; Sgt JW Price, HQ Episkopi Garrison; WO2 JFL Prior, HQ Land (G3), Wilton; SSgt I Radford, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Wimbish; LCpl IA Richardson, 39 Engr Regt, Cambridge; 2Lt N Streetley, 30 Signal Regt, Bramcote

Only 8 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies.

### 15 March 2003

7-way tie for 1st place (17 goals, £2,485.71 each); Sgt PA Betts, Arborfield GSS, Arborfield; Sgt DM Crooke, HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen; Pte SJ Gaffney, 3 Bn REME, Paderborn; LBdr FE Gray, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Maj DA Hodgson, HQ RM, Portsmouth; Pte DB Kendrick, 1 LI, Paderborn; SSgt KH Morton, Scots DG, Fallingbommel

Only 7 prizes this week. Rule 9 applies

### 22 March 2003

2-way tie for 1st place (25 goals, £4,800 each); Cpl SW Mahon, LD, Swanton Morley; Sgt SR Temple, Army School of Ammo.

21-way tie for 3rd place (24 goals, £371.43 each); Pte RE Barrass, ITC Catterick; Capt G Brown, 3 RSME, Minley; SSgt G Cowell, Army Foundation Coll, Harrogate; Sgt MA Garbe, ATR Winchester; WO1 J Gillie, 1 KOSB, Catterick; Cpl HM Glen, 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, Londonderry; WO1 AF Hands, 20 Cadet Trg Team; Sgt CM Henley-Hunter, HQ TSC (G), Sennelager; Maj WIM Jones, 29 Regt RLC; Sgt HG McAfee, SEME, Bordon; Lt Col MP Rayner, OPTAT, Shorncliffe; Pte JR Reed, 1 WFR, Chester; Pte G Rowbotham, 2 R Irish, Belfast; WO2 M Sheridan, KCR; WO1 MC Sibley, AMF (L) CSS BN, Bulford; WO1 SG Small, APDO, Edinburgh; Cpl DRA Stephenson, 1 PWO, Omagh; Cpl CJ Stock, 7 Tpt Regt RLC, Bielefeld; WO2 GM Vincent, 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh; Cpl LM Welch, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln; LCpl LR Wright, 39 Regt RA, Newcastle upon Tyne

Due to the non-participation of Premiership clubs on 29 March 2003, the following Third Division and Conference clubs will take their places on the lines shown:

21 Boston

22 Bristol Rovers

24 Carlisle

25 Chester

26 Darlington

30 Doncaster

31 Gravesend

35 Hartlepool

36 Hereford

39 Leyton Orient

01 Lincoln

02 Macclesfield

03 Morecambe

04 Northwich Victoria

06 Oxford

13 Southport

14 Swansea

15 Torquay

17 Yeovil

18 York

### 29 March 2003

1st place (22 goals, £6,400); WO2 MA Kelly, 22 Regt RA, Kirtin in Lindsey

37-way tie for 2nd place (21 goals, £297.30 each); Capt IM Ballantyne, HQ RM, Portsmouth; SSgt WT Brindle, RHQ AFNORTH, AFCENT; Capt H Cameron, 2 CS Regt RLC, Gutersloh; WO1 AW

Carnochan, 33 Engr Regt (EOD), Wimbish; Cpl JM Crinnion, 1 Bn REME, Osnabruck; LCpl MS Cummings, WDSU, Worthy Down; Capt JL Day, HQ Ashchurch Str; Sgt G Dodds, UKSU SHAPE; Sgt S Doherty, JSSU Oakley, BPO 2000; WO2 WM Fury, HQ Osnabruck Station; Pte JJ Gibson, ITC Catterick; Capt GM Green, RDG, Munster; CSgt I Grimes, Leeds UOTC; LCpl T Hamilton, WDSU, Worthy Down; Tpr RP Harris, ODG, Catterick; Cpl CI Heale, 26 Regt RA, Gutersloh; Maj AGR Hoensch, 11 Signal Regt, Blandford; Maj K Jackson, Const Engr School, Chatham; Cpl TM Kenny, 7 Signal Regt, Krefeld; WO2 GG Kinghorn, HQ DI TRG POL (A), Upavon; Maj GA Levene, RHQ AFNORTH, AFCENT; Cpl A Lewis, 23 Pnr Regt RLC; WO2 BJ Marley, 9 Regt AAC, Dishforth; Cpl JP Norton, UK Bde HQ, BPO 559; Cpl AS Ohara, 3 (UK) Div Sig Regt, Bulford; LCpl MS Pridhick, 200 Signal Sqn, Sennelager; Lt AJH Porter, QRH, Sennelager; Sgt IP Potter, 203 (W) Fd Hosp (V); Sgt AD Ralph, 5 Trg Regt RLC, Grantham; SSgt SJM Robbins, 101 Pro Coy RMP, Rheindahlen; WO2 DE Sutton, HQ Medical Gp, York; WO2 RP Tarr, HQ Episkopi Garrison; LSgt WL Turner, 1 Gren Gds, Windsor; WO2 RA Wagland, REME Wing RSA, Larkhill; Sgt RF Whiteside, 2 Bn REME, Fallingbommel; Cpl AY Williams, 4 GS Regt RLC, Abingdon; Pte M Winsper, 23 Pnr Regt RLC.

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## ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

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## REUNIONS

**Combined Cavalry Old Comrades' Association:** 79th annual parade and service takes place at Hyde Park, May 11. Comrades to assemble on Broad Walk East from 1000, parade 1100.

**Cancellation of RAMC/RADC WOs' and Sgts' Mess Past and Present Dinner Club.** The dinner planned for May 31 at 34 Fd Hosp, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, York, has been postponed to November 3. Details will be sent out in September.

**Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association:** Annual reunion at Worcester Rugby Club, Sixways, Worcester **June 7.** Details from RHQ Worcester on 01905 354359 or [rhq\\_wfr@lineone.net](mailto:rhq_wfr@lineone.net). Also annual pilgrimage to Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire on **July 6.** Gates close at 1430 for service starting at 1500. Details from RHQ Nottingham 0115 946 5415.

**Queen's Royal Regiment and associated regiments:** Reunion meeting to be held June 14, 1500-1700 at Weymouth Pavilion. Wives and partners welcome. Details from Harry H Stewart, 1 Evenlode Avenue, Cheltenham GL52 5NR or 01242 239121.

**QRH, QRH Regimental Band:** Reunion to be held June 14. Contact Bill and Andrea Hurley for full details on 01777 703923 or e-mail [williamhurley@music83.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:williamhurley@music83.fsnet.co.uk)

**3 R Anglian (Eagle and Garter) Dinner Club:** 11th annual dinner for serving and retired officers and SNCOs of the former Pompadours, July 19, ATR Bassingbourn Sgts' Mess. Contact Maj Bob Potter on 01206 573498/782165 or [bobandkathleen@hotmail.com](mailto:bobandkathleen@hotmail.com)

**43 Battery (Lloyd's Company) RA:** Waterloo reunion weekend July 18-20, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island. Contact WO2 (BSM) Dridge [sdridge@bsm43battery.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:sdridge@bsm43battery.fsworld.co.uk)

## SEARCHLINE

**Bernadette Williams and Trevor Smith** from the Telford area were the birth parents of a male soldier who served recently in Belfast and may now be in Bosnia. Please contact Neeta Seth on 0161 283 2788 or 07761 706 948.

**Tony (Ginge) O'Keefe ex-2 Bn, Royal Irish Rangers 1977-86** in Cyprus, Berlin, Tidworth and Dover with A Coy and HQ Coy as a medic, before joining 1 Regiment, The Foreign Legion in 1988. Now in Canada, Tony wants to hear from any old mates via [olinifidel@aol.com](mailto:olinifidel@aol.com)

**Second World War veterans of Malaya** who served with 9 Heavy Regiment RA, 30th Heavy AA RA or 3rd Heavy AA RA, or anyone who recalls 1427246 Gunner Bill Smith, who died at 114KM Camp in November 1943, are asked to contact Mrs R Stott, 48 Moss Park Road, Stretford M32 9GR or phone 0161 8644886.

**Capt Peter Francis**, formerly of Weston Road High School, enlisted 1994, is sought by schoolfriend [sallyhubble@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sallyhubble@yahoo.co.uk)

**Glosters, Royal Berkshire, Wiltshire, DERR, RGBW Regimental Association:** Reunion to be held on July 26-27 in Reading. Telephone 01722 414536 for details.

**Queen's Own Buffs:** Remembrance Service and grand reunion, Aug 3. Parade at 1200, Cathedral Service at 1300 followed by reunion at Howe Barracks. Details from H Delo 01227 765867 or [henry.lyn@freeserve.co.uk](mailto:henry.lyn@freeserve.co.uk)

**10 (Assaye) Battery:** Reunion to mark 200th anniversary of Battle of Assaye, Aug 15-17. All former and serving members welcome. Visit [www.10battery.co.uk](http://www.10battery.co.uk), write to Assaye 22 Committee, 10 (Assaye) Battery, 47 Regiment RA, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island, Emsworth PO10 8DH, phone 01243 388233 or e-mail [assaye200@10battery.co.uk](mailto:assaye200@10battery.co.uk)

**King's School Chester:** Reunion dinner for past and present members on Aug 30 at the school. Ladies welcome. Details from 2nd Lt D Joseph, The King's School, Wrexham Road, Chester, by phoning 01244 689508 or e-mail [diane.joseph@chester.ac.uk](mailto:diane.joseph@chester.ac.uk)

**AAS Chepstow (53 Group):** 50th anniversary reunion for ex-apprentices of Beachley Camp at the Beachley Old Boys Association, Chepstow, Sept 19-20. Details from John Furlay (BOBA) on 01291 630491, Malcolm Hay (53A) on 01980 591132 or Alex Bench (53B) on 01923 463723.

**336/19 Coy (Tank Transporters) RASC Ranby Camp 1952/65:** Reunion on Sept 20 at Melton Mowbray Royal British Legion. Training Wing PS and REME personnel also welcome. Contact Frank Strange, 7 Kennedy Close, Brigg, Lincs DN20 8DG or telephone 01652 654890/01664 566446.

**67 and 5 Battery (19 Regt RA) Old Comrades' Association:** Reunion for those who served in the 1950s, 60s or 70s is to be held

Oct 10-12 in Derby. Call 01332 605093 or visit <http://67battery.members.easyspace.com>

**Glosters Band and Drums:** Reunion in Cheltenham planned for Oct 11. For details, contact Jeff Hinchcliffe, 3 Madeley Road, Havercroft, Wakefield, West Yorks WF4 2HU or phone 01226 701375.

**49 (Inkerman) HQ Battery:** Reunion Nov 7-9 at Allenbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe, N Yorks. For details e-mail [Terryjwalton@aol.com](mailto:Terryjwalton@aol.com)

**RAMC United 2004:** Reunion open to all ex-members of the RAMC. Spouses and partners also welcome. To be held at Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool from Feb 6-9, 2004. Send sae for full details to Mick McCran, 132 Nightingale Crescent, Lincoln LN6 0JZ or e-mail [michael.mccran@ntlworld.com](mailto:michael.mccran@ntlworld.com)

## SOLDIER COMPETITIONS

**IGI Covert Strike (Mar)** winners: SAC Bradley, APOD, BFPO 649; LCpl Piper, BFPO 805; Cfn Hernandez, QRL, BFPO 647. Answer: Ultimate Force.

**Hearts Of Iron PC (Mar)** winners: 585 Cpl Wallace, BFPO 645; 687 Spr Commis, BFPO 635; 151 Cpl Dorritt, BFPO 660; A Choonara, London; A Fowler, Woodbridge, Suffolk; Sgt Watkins, BFPO 804; J Gannon, Wemyss Bay, Renfrewshire; D Bray, Aldershot; Sgt Paling, BFPO 664; Cpl Baker, South Cerney. Answer: The Second World War.

## APPOINTMENTS

**Major Generals:** W R Rollo CBE, late RHG/D, to be Deputy Adjutant General and Director General Service Conditions (Army) in April 2003. A R D Shirreff CBE, late KRH, to be Chief of Staff Headquarters Land Command in June 2003.

Bordon. E-mail [jackwheelnz@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jackwheelnz@yahoo.com.au)

News of ex-soldier **Tony Cole**, formerly of The Art Shop, Goring, Reading, sought by WO2 (SSM) Tony Kriehn RE, tel 01252 514069.

Any ex-D Company, 2 Wessex (V), Brock Barracks Reading **1982-90** please contact Russ Meades who is keen to initiate a Wessex website. E-mail [russmeades@shaw.ca](mailto:russmeades@shaw.ca)

**National Service Veterans Alliance** members will be celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. They invite all ex-National Service men to join them in the annual Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph. Further details from National Chairman and Secretary Alan Tizzard, Robin Cottage, 220 Kingsground, Eltham, London SE9 5EW. Telephone 0208 8508378 or [alantizzard@nsva.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alantizzard@nsva.fsnet.co.uk)

News of **William (Dick) Haines (Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry)**, Berlin 1964-65 is sought by Ted Chapman, BX497, 1137 O'Grady Street, Manotick, Ontario K4M1A5, Canada.

# Kabul force's prayers for Iraq



A British soldier kneels at Camp Souter in Kabul during a service of prayers for peace in a time of war.

The service, led by the Rev Hector Wanless of the RACHD, was held as military operations began in Iraq.

Col Mark Theobald, Commander British Forces in Afghanistan, asked his troops to lend their thoughts to the soldiers involved, their families and friends, and to the ordinary citizens of Iraq.

Earlier, a signal was sent on behalf of the 300-strong British contingent to Maj Gen Robin Brims in the Gulf, wishing his forces well and assuring them that they were being held in thought and prayer. Lessons and readings were made by Lt Col Angus Menzies, RAMC; Maj Michael Snook RRW; Capt Gary Hawker RLC; and Maj Simon Etherington, R Anglian.

## ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORS

**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)** is the subject of research by ex-Army wife and screenwriter Pippa Dannat. Areas of research include health, relationship and behavioural issues, disability, flashbacks, sleep problems and homelessness. All information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Please write in the first instance to Pippa Dannat, 12 Haig Close, Bristol, BS9 2PT.

**Stalag VII B** recollections and memories required by author, in particular regarding Royal Artillery officer John Uttley, who was captured in Sicily in 1943 and held in Stalag VII B in Germany until liberation. Any information considered vital in author's research for biography of John Uttley's mother, Alison Uttley. Please contact Simon Miller, 52 Brookburn Road, Manchester M21 8FE. Tele 0161 881 2841; mob 07714520008; e-mail [simonmiller7@aol.com](mailto:simonmiller7@aol.com)

Contributions sought from **Japanese PoWs** by PhD researcher Patricia Clements, author of *Sticky Dew*. Items most required include poetry, lyrics, verse, sketches, autographs and any mementoes which could help illustrate life as a PoW of the Japanese. Please write to Patricia Clements, Tynewydd Sbon, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen SA32 8SE. Telephone 01558 669070 or e-mail [patscats@onetel.net.uk](mailto:patscats@onetel.net.uk)

# Professional body for security sector

FOLLOWING recently-enacted legislation, a professional body has been formed to bring all close security professionals in the specialist sector under one organisation.

The British Institute for Close Protection and Specialist Security provides a route for advancement, with an entry-level certificate leading to more advanced qualifications.

Further details about the institute can be found on its website at <http://www.bicp.co.uk/>. The membership secretary can be reached on 020 7073 0435.

## Useful numbers

**Army Benevolent Fund** 020 7591 2000; [www.armybenfund.org](http://www.armybenfund.org)  
**Army Families Advice Bureau** 01722 436569

**Army Welfare Service** 01722 433456  
**Army Families Federation** 01980 615525; [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

**British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association** 020 8590 1124; [www.blesma.org.uk](http://www.blesma.org.uk)

**Confidential support lines:**  
UK 0800 731 4880  
Germany 0800 1827 395  
Cyprus 080 91065  
Bosnia 0800 731 4880  
Others UK 1980 630854

**Operations worldwide** Paradigm Homelink Access Number \*2999@thePINprompt  
**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress)** 01372 841600; [www.combatstress.com](http://www.combatstress.com)  
**Consumer Credit Counselling Service** Free

**Confidential Helpline** 0800 1381111 0800-2000 hours Mon-Fri  
**Family Escort Service** 020 7463 9249  
**Gulf Veterans Association** 0191 230 1065 [www.gulfveteransassociation.co.uk](http://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](http://www.ngvfa.com)

**Regular Forces Employment Association** 0207 321 2011; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)  
**Royal British Legion's Legionline** 0845 7725 725; [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)  
**RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre** 01622 717202/718484; [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk)  
**ESHRA Ex-Service Homes Referral Agency** 020 7839 4466 [www.eshra.com](http://www.eshra.com) or [eshra@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:eshra@britishlegion.org.uk)

**St Dunstan's Home** for blind ex-Servicemen and women 020 7723 5021; [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk)

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

**Samaritans** 08457 90 90 90  
**Service Children's Education** 01980 618244  
**Services Cotswold Centre** 01225 810358  
**SSAFA Forces Help** 020 7403 8783; [www.ssafoa.org.uk](http://www.ssafoa.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](http://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](http://www.wrvs.org.uk)





## DATES

## MAY

12: Lecture on "Rome, rivers and bridges: the war in Italy 1943" by Prof Richard Holmes in aid of Friends of War Memorials charity. RMA Sandhurst, 1900. Tickets £12 (£6 for RMA cadets) from Deidre Nicol on 01256 862044 or deidrenicol@hotmail.com

13-14: 2003 A Military Odyssey. World's largest multi-period re-enactment event, Kent County Showground, Detling, nr Maidstone. Tel 01892 730830 or www.hands-on-history.com

14-18: 60th Royal Windsor Horse Show to include a celebration of the horse's role in Second World War. Ticket office 0870 121 5370. (www.royal-windsor-horse-show.co.uk)

27-28: Massed Bands of Household Division Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, 1900 (see "Horse Guards spectacular" on next page).

## JUNE

11: Army Families Federation Northern Ireland conference. Tickets 028 9226 6875.

19: Evening lecture on service with the Gurkha Independent Parachute Company, by Brig David Morgan. Airborne Forces Museum, Aldershot (tel 01252 349619).

28: Manchester Military Tattoo, Manchester Evening News Arena. Tickets on 0870 169 6888.

28-29: Merseyside Military Show, Walton Hall Park, Liverpool.

## JULY

18-20: International air tattoo, RAF Fairford (www.airtattoo.com)

## AUGUST

1-23: Edinburgh Tattoo (tattoo office 0130 225 4783).

\* The **Army Medical Services Museum** in Aldershot is to be redesigned with the help of a £292,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant. And the **Adjutant General's Corps Museum** is to receive £235,000 from the fund to help fit out its new museum in the 19th century guardroom of Peninsula Barracks, Winchester.

\* A bronze memorial plaque to **Stanley Boughie VC** has been unveiled at the purpose-built Scout Museum at Waddecarr Scout Camp in Lancashire. Stanley Boughie, a former scout, joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers and won his VC posthumously while serving as a second lieutenant against the Turks in Palestine on December 1, 1917.

\* Army food is the subject of a special activities weekend at the **National Army Museum** over the weekend June 7-8.

## Greetings from Sir Cliff

**PROMPTED** by his message of support to British troops recorded for Combined Service Entertainment, we asked Sir Cliff Richard if he would give us an interview for our My Army series.

But following a world concert tour and an intensive recording schedule, Sir Cliff has promised himself a lengthy spell of well-deserved rest.

However, in sending his apologies, he asked his secretary to add: "This reflects no lack of support in principle for the work of encouragement and information that your magazine must provide for our soldiers, particularly at this time."

## That's what we call a result

HUNDREDS of football-daft kids in Sierra Leone are wearing some very smart Scottish club strips thanks to the efforts of **Maj Bill Austin**, a Territorial Army officer serving in the Royal Logistic Corps.

While on a six-month tour as a United Nations military observer at Port Loko in Sierra Leone, Bill was impressed by the children, many of them living in appalling conditions. From 0700 every morning they would gather on any empty piece of ground to play non-stop games of football until last light.

Sporting ragged tops of every nationality and club, the barefoot youngsters would play happily for hours, despite the abject poverty brought on by years of civil war.

The idea of obtaining football strips for the local Port Loko teams came from a similar gesture by Bill's local team, Kilmarnock, when the Killies played a UEFA Cup tie

in Sarajevo. Bill asked Kilmarnock FC if they had any old kit to donate, and received a positive reply from PR manager **Raymond Montgomery**, captain of the Killies' 1997 Scottish Cup-winning side.

While back at home on leave, Bill was entertained by the club during a cup match and presented with the shirts and a number of footballs.

More strips were presented to him by Queen of the South (for whose under-15 side Bill's 15-year-old son William turns out); by Greystone Rovers, a Dumfries youth team; Queen's Park FC of Glasgow (who threw in T-shirts, boots and sweat shirts); and Tynecastle Boys Club of Edinburgh.

And to complete the project DHL flew the gear – enough to kit out 15 complete teams – to West Africa free of charge.



Over to you: Maj Bill Austin receives strips from Kilmarnock Football Club's PR manager Raymond Montgomery, former cup-winning club captain

Picture: Sandy Ferguson, Kilmarnock FC

## Action art from Afghanistan

MORE than 400 framed works and sculptures and several hundred unframed works will be featured in the 69th annual exhibition of the **Armed Forces Art Society** to be staged at the Mall Galleries in The Mall, London from July 9-12 (1000-1700) and on July 13 from 1000-1300.

It is hoped that this year's show will include an action painting by a Parachute Regiment company sergeant major, depicting a rescue mission in Afghanistan in which he took part. It was painted soon after the action on the only surface available – an MFO crate lid. Most topics are non-military.

Pictorial records executed by Service artists and their families, quite apart from war artists' works, have always played a vital part in the recording of events and operational areas.

For more information about the AFAS, contact chairman Alix Baker on 01264 720715 or afas@alix-baker-militaryart.com or visit the website at www.afas.org.uk

## Painting prizes on offer

PRIZES worth £500 are available to serving members of the British Army who take part in the **Chemring painting competition**. The subject is "Active service in 2003" and up to four items may be submitted by each individual. There is no fee.

The competition will be held in Salisbury in November as part of the Army Arts Society exhibition, and entries may be sent through the post. The Chemring Group plc has put up a first prize of £350, with runners-up prizes of £100 and £50. All painting and drawing mediums are acceptable. For details contact armyartssociety@ukf.net or ring the secretary of the AAS on 01980 670140.



## Fire one ... Col David leaves the Rock with a bang

**LT COL David Arthur RA**, right, was seen off in style when he left HQ British Forces Gibraltar at the end of 37 years of service. To mark the occasion

he was presented with an engraved 105mm shell case by Commander British Forces, **Commodore Richard Clapp**, left, and invited to fire a one-gun salute to himself

on a 105mm gun of HQ Company (Thomson's Battery), The Royal Gibraltar Regiment. David began his Army career in the ranks of the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

## Over ...

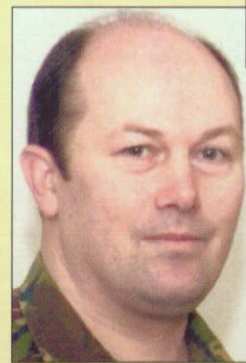
**BRIG Val Batchelor**, right, has handed over the appointment of Director Staff and Personnel Support (Army) to **Brig John Wolsey**, below, at Worthy Down.

Brig Batchelor, who was awarded the CBE in the New Year Hon-



## ... to you

ours, joined the Women's Royal Army Corps in 1966 as a private soldier and was commissioned three years later. She retired from the Army last month after 36 years' service.



## And the winner is ...

TOP gun for public relations in the North West is **103rd Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers)**. The TA gunners were selected by a panel of judges for producing the best media and publicity portfolio. CO **Lt Col David Iffland** was presented with a trophy, a bottle of bubbly and a cheque by **Maj Gen Nick Parker**, GOC 2nd Division.

## Horse Guards spectacular

YOU can enjoy the magnificent spectacle of the Massed Bands of the Household Division Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade on May 27 and 28 ... if you're quick.

Ring the credit card line on 020 7839 5323 to make bookings. Tickets are £10 and £7, with half-priced seats available for children aged 12 and under in the £7 stands only.

The salute on May 27 will be taken by the Princess Royal, Colonel of the Blues and Royals, and on the following evening by the Duke of Abercorn. Spectators should be seated by 1845.

Two hundred musicians drawn from the five bands of the Foot Guards, 50 mounted musicians from the Bands of the Household Cavalry, plus members of the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards and the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, will make it a memorable evening. Guns of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery will also play a part.

## Chris's Regular command

**MAJ Chris Edwards**, pictured, is claimed to be the first Territorial Army officer to command full-time Regular troops from other nations on an operation in a foreign country.

Chris is taking over as officer commanding **98 Balkans Signal Squadron**. His unit includes Canadian and Dutch troops.

Back in the UK, Chris is second-in-command of 35 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) in the Midlands. His day job is that of a food lecturer in Nantwich, where he is a training manager for the food industry.

He and his signallers will provide a headquarters troop at Banja Luka and a further troop for operations.



## A brief Second World War history of the 107th Regiment

A 52-page **History of the 107th Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (King's Own)** has been reproduced by the King's Own Royal Regiment Museum in Lancaster. Copies of the A4, stapled publication cost £5.80 each, including p&p, from the museum at Market Square, Lancaster LA1 1HT. You can ring the curator on 01524 64637 or e-mail him at

kingsownmuseum@iname.com

Written by an officer of the regiment and first published in 1946, it traces the history of the regiment during the Second World War period from June 1940 to February 1946.

It includes citations of awards and lists of officers and other ranks killed in action, died of their wounds, or otherwise missing.

## Defence chefs lay on gold service for national contest

A TOP team of chefs from defence caterer **Eurest Defence Support Services (EDSS)** was judged best in class overall in the senior parade team grand prix event at the national Salon Culinaire event staged at Bedford College, Bedford. They also won two gold medals.

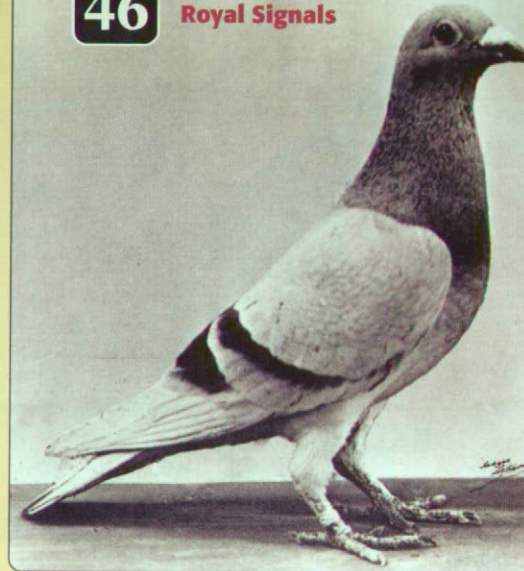
The team members were **Richard Bowden**, executive head chef at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham; **Chris Bull**, RAF College Cranwell-based EDSS executive chef for the North of England; **Robert Kennedy**, chef manager at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; and **Rob Donachie**, executive chef for the South of England and based at Arborfield Garrison, near Reading.

Guest chef **Steve Taylor**, who looks after the group's North-West business, also competed.

## Legends of the regiments and corps

46

Museum of the Royal Signals



Noble bird: William of Orange

## William, hero of Arnhem

THE almost complete failure of communications at the Battle of Arnhem during the Second World War in no way included the heroic efforts of Pigeon NS 15125 William of Orange, whose endeavour under extreme conditions was faultless.

Homing pigeons trained to avoid enemy fire were used for many reasons, usually by agents behind enemy lines or ditched airmen. They were the responsibility of the Army's Pigeon Service, run by loftmen (the trade disappeared in 1946) of the Royal Signals.

## FLEW FROM ARNHEM

Released at Arnhem at 1020 on September 19, 1944, William flew more than 250 miles to his loft in England, reaching it at 1455. His was one of the few dispatches to get back to the UK.

Subsequently awarded the Dicken Medal, the animals' VC, William was bred by Sir William Proctor Smith of Cheshire and trained by the Army Pigeon Service.

After the war Sir William bought him back for £185 and ten years later reported: "Although now retired, he is the grandfather of many outstanding racing pigeons." Lady Smith presented the Dicken Medal to the Royal Signals Museum in 1965.

The Royal Signals Museum is in Blandford Camp, Dorset. Tel 01258 482248 or www.royalsignals.army.org.uk/museum Open weekdays 1000-1700, weekends 1000-1600 February to October.

www.armymuseums.org.uk

ON LINE: You can access all the military museum websites via the address below left



## Retail reconnaissance

# Switched on . . .



## BRIGHT SPARK ▲

THE Streamlight Junior torch, weighing in at just three ounces (including 2xAAA batteries) and measuring just 14cm, packs a punch up to 2,000 per cent brighter than other torches.

Available only in black, the Junior comprises a machined aluminium case and polycarbonate lens with an adjustable spot-to-flood focus built in, and a push-button tail cap switch.

① £16.95 (plus p&p) from [www.traser.com](http://www.traser.com) (01202 487757)



## MAKING TRACKS ▲

THE Churchill, one of the best-known tanks of the Second World War, is one of three limited edition diecast models from Corgi's collection.

The 1:50 scale versions feature the MkIV taken from the eastern campaign during its time with the Soviet Army in 1943; the Mark III Cheetah as used by the Canadian Army during the raid on Dieppe in 1942; and the NA75 that featured with the British Army during the allied push into Italy in 1944.

All three models have historically accurate liveries and battle scarring.

Each limited edition model has a numbered certificate.

① Available from June at £39.99 from good military enthusiasts' retailers.

## WHAT'S THE TIME? ▼

LATEST in the exclusive Sportura range from Seiko is the World Timer watch.

Featuring a dual analogue and digital dial, the chronometer can display time, day and date in any one of 28 cities worldwide.

It also houses a fully automatic calendar to 2050, a daylight saving adjustment and a world time alarm. To top it all, it's 100m water-resistant.

① RRP £350. Stocklist from: [www.seiko.co.uk](http://www.seiko.co.uk) (901628 770988)



# Game on . . .

## RESIDENT EVIL ZERO, GAMECUBE

SET in 1998 before the events of the first *Resident Evil* game, the latest game is a prequel with action set in Raccoon City, a small town in the American mid-west.

There have been several incidents of people being eaten by a strange creature and a special task force is set up to investigate. The helicopter transporting them crashes and although they survive, their nightmare is only just beginning.

*Resident Evil Zero* features two main characters, rookie cop Rebecca Chambers and Billy, a framed convict, and gamers can switch between the two. But be warned if either character runs out of health, it's game over.

Although the controls leave a little to be desired, this game is just about perfect.

Sound and especially the graphics are sensational, adding to the atmosphere of what is a scary, gory game.

Pre-rendered backgrounds combined with special graphical effects result in spectacular visuals.

Lighting is excellent and in real time, and shadow effects have to be seen to be believed.

*Resident Evil Zero* was first announced for launch on N64 but has been moved exclusively to Gamecube.

This is a must-have game.

VERDICT: Go get it.

10/10

## OUT NOW

## BYTE-SIZE NEWS

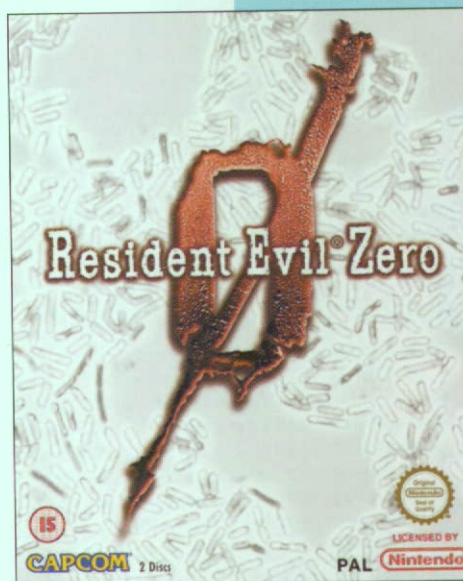
INFOGRAMS' best-selling game to date is revving up for an appearance on the silver screen.

A film version of their mission-based driving game *Driver* is being produced by Impact Pictures under the direction of Paul Anderson, and is reportedly already well along the road to our cinemas.

ELECTRONIC ARTS' *Battlefield 1942* scooped four gongs at the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences' (AIAS) annual Interactive Achievement awards ceremony.

The conflict simulator won the "game of the year", "online game of the year" and "computer game of the year" titles, and picked up the "innovation in computer gaming" award.

Nintendo also enjoyed their share of success, managing a total haul of seven awards – three of which went to the as yet unreleased in Europe GameCube title *Animal Crossing*.

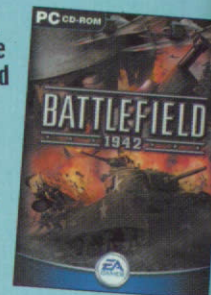


## WIN... WIN... WIN...

COURTESY of Capcom, *Soldier* has three copies of *Resident Evil Zero* for the GameCube up for grabs.

For your chance to win, simply tell us the names of the game's two main characters.

Winners will be drawn at random from the correct answers received by May 30. Usual rules apply.





## DEVIL MAY CRY 2, PS2

IF you were impressed by the original *Devil May Cry*, hold on to your seats because demon fighting hero Dante is back.

It has a lot to live up to as the original was widely regarded as setting a top-drawer standard.

*Devil May Cry 2* comes on two discs, each with a separate adventure. The first sees the return of Dante with 18 missions, and the second, a new playable character called Lucia with 13 missions of her own.

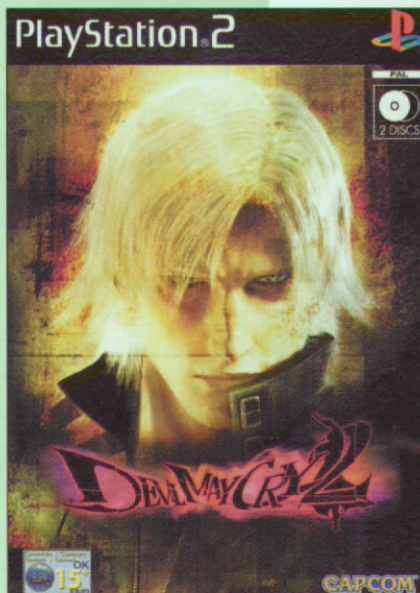
While our hero and heroine share a common cause, their focus is different.

The game has a gore warning to unnerve players who must complete their missions as quickly as possible to gain status.

*Devil May Cry 2* features a host of new, creepy enemies and special powers that players gain through collecting amulet stones. Attention to detail and overall animation are top-notch.

Of course the good guys have lots of new skills and abilities – and they need them as they face these new foes.

*Devil May Cry 2* has a great gothic feel and locations are packed with



detail and shed-loads of atmosphere.

The only negative point is that the storyline itself is, at best, bland.

After the original was held in such high regard, much was expected from the sequel and while the action sequences are great, version 2 is let down by the storyline.

**VERDICT:** Not quite as good as the original 7/10

OUT NOW

## WIN... WIN... WIN

*SOLDIER* has teamed up with Electronic Arts to offer you the chance to put your command skills to the test and win a PS2 games console and a copy of *Devil May Cry 2*.



For your chance to win simply answer the following question:

**What is the name of the original hero of *Devil May Cry*?**

Two runners-up will each receive a copy of the game.

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

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

## THE SIMS, PS2

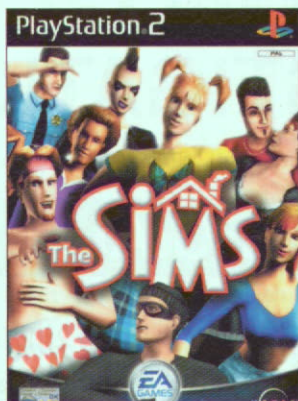
ONE of the top-selling games on PC has made the transition to PS2.

It's life simulation – potentially boring yet strangely addictive, like a reality TV game show.

This version is not just faithful to the original, but harnessed with the power of PS2 controlling your Sims (and indeed the world), is a snip.

Start with living in a hovel and build up to the perfect Sims home with all the big moments in life that such a rise brings.

It's just good fun.



**VERDICT:** Family fun 8/10

OUT NOW

## APE ESCAPE, PS2

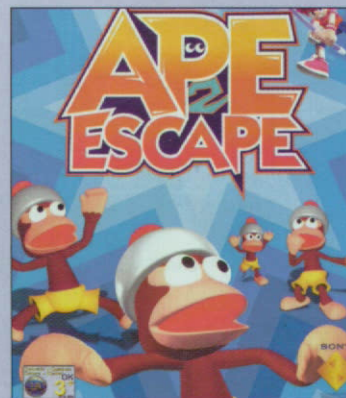
TIME to monkey around again as the world's favourite chimps are back in town.

If you liked the original *Ape Escape* you will love this sequel. Led by the troublesome Spector, the apes are out to control the world and it's up to you to stop them.

Naturally the monkeys have naughty antics to thwart you.

Covering 20 huge levels, it has great graphics combined with sometimes-bizarre gameplay.

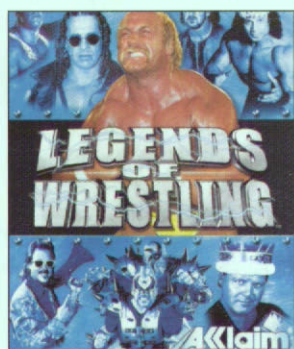
This game is crazy – you will love it.



**VERDICT:** Funky gibbons 9/10

OUT NOW

## LEGENDS OF WRESTLING, PS2



**VERDICT:** Grapple with wrestling heroes from the past 6/10

*LEGENDS of Wrestling* is the first-ever wrestling game to take the greatest superstars of all time and throw them into one game to find out who is the true king of kings.

Out-of-the-ring action – waving and baiting the crowd – isn't so hot, but in the ring it's more enjoyable. Players can also create a legend, to customize a fighter.

Addictive game play but it suffers from limited moves and some of those are jerky.

For all that, it is enjoyable and that's what it's all about.

OUT NOW

## PHANTOM CRASH, XBOX



**VERDICT:** Eastern promise 9/10

OUT NOW

THE year is 2025 and in order to deal with the massive amount of air pollution, the Japanese government transfers the capital to "Neo Tokyo" a dome city built on the Tokyo Harbour.

Old Tokyo becomes the battleground for "Rumbling", where players fight for fame and fortune with "Scoobies", highly-mobile armoured land vehicles.

Rave reviews have accompanied this game and they seem well deserved.

A well laid-out arena, good graphics, in four battle areas both inside and outside buildings.

Go get 'em.





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Smokescreen: A soldier with 1 IG looks for Iraqi positions through the "fog" of war as sappers move in on a burning oil well near Basra  
Picture: WO2 Giles Penfound

# Fate emerges from the fog

How chance can upset even the best-laid plans

**If By Chance: Military Turning Points That Changed History** by Maj Gen John Strawson (Macmillan, £20).

Review: Chris Horrocks

NOISES of battle from TV's saturation coverage of Baghdad and Basra provided a surreal background to the writing of this review.

Gen Strawson, who fought with the 4th Hussars in the Middle East and Italy in the Second World War, is the latest recruit to the "what if" school of military history.

His stimulating book focuses on the part played historically by quirks of chance or fate, rather than by grand design, in upsetting some of warfare's best-laid plans.

Napoleon famously said "Give me lucky generals", yet as we are reminded here, "his choice of generals for his last battle was about as unlucky as it could have been".

Taking as his cue John Milton's lines about Chaos confounding the course of a battle, while beside him "high arbiter Chance governs all", the author writes: "Those of us who have been privileged to take part in a full-scale battle will probably agree with Milton.

"During the battle's conduct we will have been conscious that chaos reigned and that chance played a goodly part in the game.

"All the clear, precise orders which we have received from our immediately superior commanders and which we have passed on in appropriately modified form to our immediate subordinates will have gone for nothing.

"We have discovered all too soon what von Moltke meant when he declared that no plan survives contact with the enemy. The point was admirably made by Michael Carver in his account of El Alamein when he recalled that to the soldiers taking part, whether infantrymen, tank crews, sappers clearing mines, or gunners, the whole affair 'seemed a chaotic and ghastly muddle'."

In that "fog of war", the element of chance, fate, luck, opportunity, whim – whatever it may be – could prove crucial.

The author coaxes the reader into performing mental somersaults as he speculates on hypothetical alternative outcomes of pivotal battles such as St Vincent, Marengo, Waterloo and Balaklava. And, he asks, what if Hitler had not halted his panzer forces before Dunkirk – or reinforced the Afrika Korps instead of invading Russia?

To which today's observer might add: "And what if we had pushed forward and finished the job against Saddam in 1991?"

At the time of writing the increasingly effective use of advanced technology, satellite intelligence and precision weaponry in warfare would appear to be consigning the "chance" theory firmly to history.

It might be unwise for us to be any more definite than *would appear to be*. Chances are, we might become hostages to fortune...

## Soldier ordering service

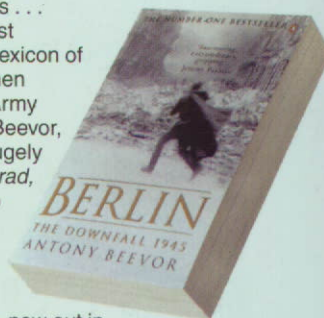
All books mentioned on these pages are available from Helion & Company, who can also supply 14,500 in-print military books and operate a free booksearch; p&p is extra. All major credit/switch cards taken. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Helion & Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, England (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 4075). E-mail: [books@helion.co.uk](mailto:books@helion.co.uk) Website: <http://www.helion.co.uk>

## Nothing left to say... except read it!

FASCINATING, brilliant, startling, compelling, harrowing, powerful, masterful, authoritative, devastating, the stuff of epics...

reviewers almost exhausted the lexicon of superlatives when former British Army officer Antony Beevor, author of the hugely popular *Stalingrad*, romped back to the top of the best-sellers last year with

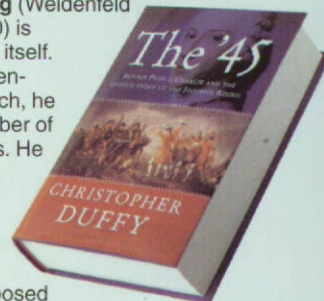
**Berlin: The Downfall 1945**, now out in paperback (Penguin, £12.99). Like its predecessor it is being translated into 24 languages and like its predecessor it has all the pace and page-turning drive of a well-written novel – but it's all chillingly true.



## Revolutionary view of the Jacobite rising

CHRISTOPHER Duffy's fresh account of **The '45: Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Untold Story of the Jacobite Rising** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) is revolutionary in itself.

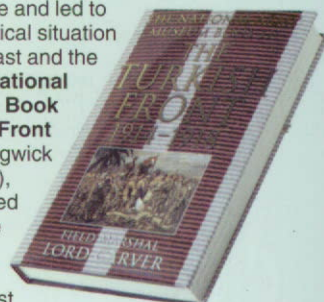
Adopting an even-handed approach, he debunks a number of long-held myths. He has discovered that British support for the Jacobites was wider than previously supposed and has unearthed evidence of conspiracies within the British Army. In this important work the author, who formerly taught at Sandhurst and the Army Staff College, also assesses the campaign from a military point of view.



## Soldiers' experiences of war against Turkey

THE campaign against the Turks in the First World War had unforeseen repercussions. It crushed the Ottoman Empire and led to the current political situation in the Middle East and the Balkans. **The National Army Museum Book of the Turkish Front 1914-1918** (Sidgwick & Jackson, £30), the last published work by the late Fd Marshal

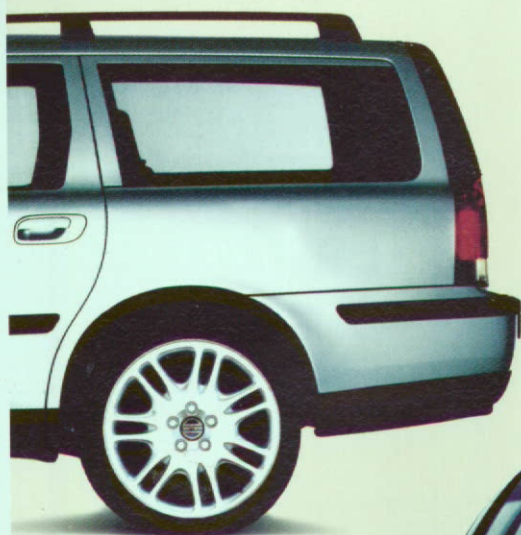
Lord Carver, is hailed as the first book to cover Palestine, Mesopotamia and the Balkans as well as Gallipoli. Drawing on museum archives as well as personal letters and diaries, it is particularly strong on soldiers' experiences.







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MUSIC

Gordon Turner

# Lucknow Band at the Proms



**A Night at the Proms (BNA 517)**

PROMENADE concerts have been popular in the British Isles for 150 years or more. In the mid-19th century music lovers flocked to the promenade concerts given in London by the French conductor-composer Louis Julien.

The Band of The Prince of Wales's Division (Lucknow) has recorded a programme of music that will please band enthusiasts, opening with the coronation march *Crown Imperial* and ending with a shortened version of the *Fantasia on British Sea Songs* and the National Anthem.

Fifteen-year-old Prudence Black sings the *Habanero* from "Carmen" with maturity and style and also joins in with *Rule Britannia*. Four tracks feature the bagpipes played by William Cooper (son of Capt Tim Cooper, the band's Director of Music).

Appropriately the ever-popular *Post Horn Gallop* – written by Herman Koenig and first performed at the Julien Promenades around 1844 – has been included.

**A Night At The Proms** is available from Bandleader Ltd, 46 High Street, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1LD. Price £13 incl p&p.

**Gibraltar**

THE Band and Drums of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment are not regular musicians but they have over the past few years reached a high standard.

Their first compact disc, aptly titled **Gibraltar**, is basically a concert programme that features the military band, corps of drums and bugles and also a piper. The opening track *Post Horn* and *Echoes* is a wonderful showpiece for the bugles and it is good to have it on disc once more.

Marches include *Radetsky*, *Gibraltar*, *Swing March*, *Mechanised Infantry* and the regimental marches. There are tributes to the Carpenters, Frank Sinatra and 007, a flute and clarinet duet *Lo Hear the Gentle Lark* and, again, *Highland Cathedral*.

**Gibraltar** is available from Droit Music Ltd, PO Box 2638, Eastbourne, E Sussex, BN20 7HJ. Price £13 incl p&p.

**Bandstand Favourites**

THE Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers is offering Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of its **Bandstand Favourites** for £25, including p&p. For further details please send a stamped addressed envelope to Royal Engineers Band, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, ME4 4UG.

● If you have difficulty obtaining recordings, or any queries on military music, please write to me c/o *Soldier*.

VIDEO/DVD

# Classic humour from the 4077th

We've got five sets of the original series to give away

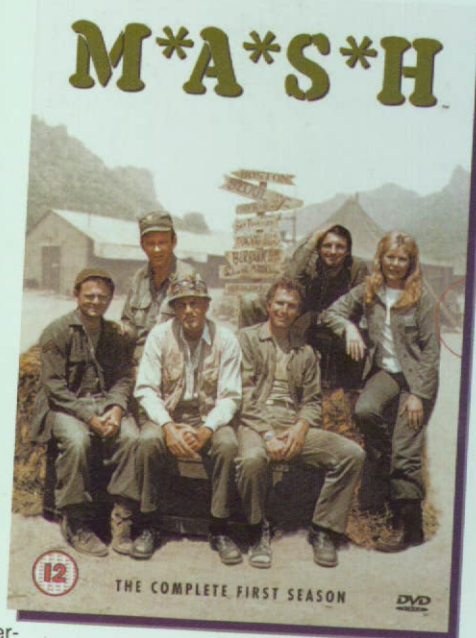
HAWKEYE Pierce, Trapper John, Hot Lips Houlihan, Radar, Klinger, Colonel Henry Blake and the guys and girls from the 4077th are back in town... in the form of a three-disc DVD set capturing all 24 episodes of the first season of the classic **M\*A\*S\*H** series.

*Soldier* has five boxed sets to give away in association with Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment. The first season goes on sale on DVD and VHS on May 19. Recommended retail price for both formats is £29.99.

Developed for television from Robert Altman's 1970 film, the stories of the US Army's Mobile Army Surgical Hospital ran from 1972 until 1983 – four times longer than the Korean War it depicts – and brought the sometimes overlooked conflict to the attention of a younger generation of TV-watchers.

The activities of the 4077th's manic medics, most of them just trying to stay sane in an insane world, became one of the most watched TV series of all time, winning numerous awards on the way.

To have a chance of winning this great prize, tell us on a postcard, to reach *Soldier*



by May 30, who played the part of Hot Lips Houlihan. Was it:

a) Loretta Swift b) Loretta Swit  
c) Loretta Switch?

Mark your entry "MASH Season One" and include your name and address. First five correct answers drawn from the hat win the DVD boxed sets. Usual rules apply.

# Great films from the 50s

SEVERAL classic British war films re-issued as part of multi-box sets have, or are about to be, released individually.

John Mills's ***Ice Cold In Alex*** (1958) is among the best. Based on the true story of an ambulance commander and his efforts to transfer two nurses across enemy-occupied North Africa under the gaze of a German secret agent, it co-stars Harry Andrews, Sylvia Sims, Diane Clare, and Anthony Quayle. Out from May 12, price £12.99.

***The Colditz Story*** (1954), starring John Mills, Eric Portman, Ian Carmichael and Bryan Forbes, is based on the true account of how allied PoWs planned their escape from Colditz. From May 12, price £12.99.

***The Battle of The River Plate*** (1956) is available now, price £12.99. Starring John Gregson, Peter Finch, Bernard Lee and Anthony Quayle it tells of the hunting down of the German Pocket battleship *Graf Spee* in the early months of the Second World War.

More ship's biscuit is served with ***The Cruel Sea*** (1953), also out on May 12, price £12.99. Based on Nicholas Monsarrat's

best-selling novel, it captures the human cost of waging war at sea.

***The Dambusters*** (1955) is the story of 617 Squadron and its mission to destroy dams in the Rhur using the amazing bouncing bomb invented by Barnes Wallace. Available from May 12, price £12.99.

On the documentary front, ***War in Colour***, price £29.99, was released last month. At 360 minutes, it is pretty hefty and provides yet more proof to younger generations that the Second World War did not take place in black-and-white.

***British Campaigns: Western Desert 1939-1943***, a 156-minute documentary, was also released last month, price £19.99, as was ***A Year to Remember: The War Years***, price £49.99.

Other re-released classics include ***Zulu*** (1964), the story of 100 men of the South Wales Borderers fighting off 4,000 Zulus at Rorke's Drift, price £15.99, and ***Lawrence of Arabia*** (1962), on T E Lawrence in the First World War, price £24.99.

Of rather more recent vintage is the BBC series ***Blackadder goes Forth***, £19.99.



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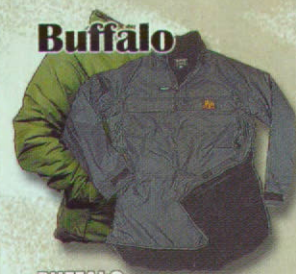


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## SOLDIER to soldier

# Add it to your cv

ALTHOUGH it doesn't take a war to bring out the best in a British soldier (they are pretty special most of the time, we reckon), crisis situations certainly ram home the fact that this nation is fortunate to have the Armed Forces it takes for granted most of the time.

Soldiers looking to boost a cv might slip in these references from some formidable judges of character.

As Gen Sir Mike Jackson, the Chief of the General Staff told us: "The cheerful commitment of the British soldier never fails to leave me with an extraordinary sense that, with people like this, almost anything is possible." Read his remarks in full on Page 21.

♦ ♦ ♦

Or the Desert Rats' commanding officer, Brig Graham Binns: "They displayed tremendous courage and, when they were required to, they fought with tremendous determination. As their commander I am enormously proud of what they achieved.

"... it was the willingness of junior commanders to exploit opportunities that resulted in the rapid collapse of the resistance."

Or Lt Col Piers Hankinson, CO of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment: "You are all heroes... there are many here today who, over the past month, have proven themselves to be men. Be proud of what you have succeeded in doing."

♦ ♦ ♦

Or Tony Davy of Gainsborough, Lincs: "I cannot pretend that my heart was not bursting with pride at the thought that there are still British men and women who will fight for our way of life." (His letter appears with others of appreciation on Page 45.)

Let's face it, not many sections of our community – the police and other emergency services apart – will ever hear heartfelt praise expressed in such memorable phrases for simply getting on with business and doing the job they were trained to do.

## Home truths

Sue Bonney

# So hard to take 24-hour news

I HAVE been shouting at the radio again. Nothing new for me, especially as the years advance, but it's got a lot worse lately.

Since Op Telic began, in fact. And it's not just the radio. I shout at the TV, too. And toss newspapers into the bin. As my job is about communications, this is not a good sign.

The problem is, when you know a bit about the way something operates, you realise how inaccurate reporting can be. I tend to think the Army knows what it's doing when it comes to operations, and that there were probably reasons why we didn't rush down the road and invade Baghdad in the first five minutes. This was not good enough for some "embedded" journalists.

In fact, nothing ever is. For the first fortnight they shook their heads and worried about the military's tactics

It didn't seem to them that we had a plan, or if we did have a plan, then there was almost bound to be another plan far more appropriate. Whatever that nice Al Lockwood said in his calm, direct manner, they weren't having it.

The Iraqi information chappie, now that was different – until it became a little too obvious that he wasn't quite dwelling in reality. He'll probably pop up on a satellite channel soon as a host on "Spot the guy who's lying through his teeth" or some such quiz show.

And now when it seems as though we are on the home straight, and much of the news from the military angle is good, there is what Him Indoors calls the PEP factor. The Pessimistic End Piece.

In other words, never let a report go out that might suggest we've done something right – always add a hint of doubt, question the future, suggest all the things that might go wrong next. Any report on military activity closes with a PEP.

We've gone from doubt about tactics, to doubt about success, to doubt about how long it would take, to doubt about winning hearts and minds, to doubt about controlling riots, to doubt about distributing aid, to doubt about the



Sue Bonney is  
Editor of the AFF  
Families Journal

future for Iraq. Positive reporting? They don't do that any more. Giving things time and allowing people to do their jobs? Not good enough. Instant solutions only please.

Had they had this kind of reporting around in 1940, it makes you wonder just how long the nation's morale would have held out.

There hasn't been much concern about the effect of all this on the public and especially Service families back home – except to report that as another story. It's not surprising that many families switched off the relentless speculation of the 24-hour coverage.

But the press still wanted emotion – how did families feel, how did wives feel, how did parents feel, how did children feel? Unforgiveably, a few even tried to find out how bereaved spouses and families felt. On the receiving end of some of the more bizarre media requests and

**How did families feel, how did wives feel, how did parents feel, how did children feel? Unforgiveably, a few even tried to find out how bereaved spouses and families felt**

story suggestions here at AFF, it did leave me wondering if my colleagues hadn't perhaps lost sight of the purpose of their profession.

It used to have something to do with factual, unbiased and well-researched reporting. Now it seems to be about drama, quick emotional fixes and winning those ratings and TV remote switch battles.

The press would say that we only have ourselves to blame. This is what sells newspapers, boosts ratings. Is it? Or do we buy/watch because that's all there is on offer? I'd love to know what the switch-off rate has been from the news on one channel to the movie on Channel 5. Thank God for Channel 5.

Of course, all this too will pass. Tommy Atkins will cease to be of interest and fade once more from the spotlight. It's already begun to happen – a photographer friend of mine offering a story on military families coping with their soldiers' absence was told by a national newspaper that now things were calming down, there wasn't the interest...

Perhaps we should all be grateful. How's that for an optimistic endpiece?





WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU  
 ● E-mail: mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk

## Gulf commander's words were so inspiring

I READ in *Soldier* (April) an article about Lt Col Tim Collins, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, addressing his soldiers before the battle started in Iraq.

A similar article was published in the German newspaper *Welt* at the end of March and I wrote a letter to the editor expressing my sympathy

with that commander.

I would like to express similar sentiments through your magazine.

Lt Col Collins is a very good example of highly-qualified, professional leadership and I would like to express my great respect for him, not only for urging his troops to fight with courage, but also, and this is very important for me, giving

them clear guidance to respect the enemy and the civil population.

I know British troops a little from exercises and from very close co-operation in Kosovo, so believe many of the other British commanders acted in the same manner.

May I offer my deep respect and congratulations on the way British Forces are fighting in Iraq.

From all my heart I wish all troops success, good luck and may they return home in good health.

I'm not in a position to criticise my own government but I'm very much in favour of doing those jobs together, shoulder-to-shoulder. In my personal opinion it is really a pity that Germany does not. – Hartmut Kaufmann, Lt Col, GEAR, Nato HQ, Brussels.

# Pay 2000 leaves me trailing behind my junior colleagues

I WAS commissioned in May 2000 from WO1 (RSM) Band 6 just as the pay system was changing from the previous one to that of Pay 2000. Since that time I have been amazed to find that my salary has always been behind that of my newly-commissioned, and thus junior, colleagues.

This is because they were Band 7 under the old pay system, or benefited from the implementation of Pay 2000. I fail to see, or can be convinced in any way, that this is fair

### Prize letter

to me and other disenchanted Late Entry (LE) colleagues. I understand that all warrant officers who are commissioned receive a five per cent pay rise. Surely when we enter commissioned service and do similar jobs we should all start on the same rate of pay.

This situation will, I believe, also have an effect on my pension.

Can someone from PS10 clarify this for me? – Capt M J McKenna, Op Telic.



**Response from PS10(A):** It is possible for LE officers to be in receipt of different rates of pay depending on individual circumstances. Primary factor in determining an LE officer's rate of pay on commissioning is length of Other Rank (OR) service.

Starting pay for LE officers is higher for those with longer OR service, in recognition of their greater experience. However, some highly-qualified senior warrant officers, primarily in the Higher Pay Range, are already paid equivalent to, or greater than, these starting rates.

If LE officer pay on commissioning was calculated on length of OR service alone, some individuals could receive a pay rise of more than 30 per cent, with others receiving a pay reduction. Selection for a commission is a significant milestone in a soldier's career and no individual should be financially worse off as a result. Therefore it is reasonable that every LE officer should receive a minimum financial reward for achieving a commission, currently a five per cent pay rise on their previous OR rate of pay.

By applying this rule, the very highest rates

of pay as an OR can create higher rates of pay on commissioning, regardless of seniority. Consequently, it is possible for a newly-commissioned WO1, with three years' seniority in the Higher Pay Range, to receive a higher rate of pay than a WO1, with six years' seniority in the Lower Pay Range, who was commissioned earlier.

It is essential that the Army's best soldiers aspire to become the warrant officers of the future. Current policy, by offering a graduated incentive, linking financial reward to OR experience and qualifications, provides this.

YOUR letters provide a real insight into the issues at the top of your agenda... but please

### Please be brief

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.

## You can have double medals

THERE may have been a policy of "one medal one tour" (Mail, March) since Korea, but it has not always been adhered to. In December 1962, troops in Brunei received both the old GSM with clasp "Brunei" and the present GSM with clasp "Borneo" for the same tour.

More recently, those serving on a UN tour of Cyprus during the first Gulf War received the UN Cyprus medal and the Gulf Medal without clasp for the same tour. In 1995, when Ifor replaced Unprofor, personnel in Bosnia received both the UN medal and the Nato medal with clasp "Former Yugoslavia".

Double standards as well as medals? – Maj V R Kent-Payne, Banja Luka.



**PS12(A) responds:** Maj Kent-Payne has missed the point. What double-medalling means is you can't count any given segment of service in any particular theatre more than once (with the exception of the ACSM, which is primarily Northern Ireland-focused).

That apart, if a Serviceman or woman qualifies with enough independent service for two medals then they get both medals. The key is that service must be independent, or in plain speak, a simple question more often than not of "what colour beret did I wear on the day"? Thus, a soldier serving with Unprofor before the termination of the UN mission in 1995 with correct minimum number of days of service and staying on in-theatre under the new Nato mission, with again the correct minimum number of days of service, would get both medals. But such examples are not the norm.



## PISCATOR



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# Level playing field is all we are asking

HAVING read the points made by WO1 Harvey ("Time to act as the professionals we all are", Feb), I would like to make the following observations.

A fair and level playing field is all that singles and those in long-term relationships ask for. Getting married and serving accompanied is not the solution with regard to relationships with partners.

My girlfriend is in a reasonably well-paid, highly-qualified job. But we choose not to get married; instead we have our own house, with a mortgage, and as it is 50 miles or so away from my duty station I choose to live in the mess during the week, paying full food and accommodation charges, and commute back to our home at weekends.

The reason I say choose, is because I would not be eligible for Recompense in Lieu of Relocation (RILOR) if I commut-

ed daily. I am, however, entitled to claim the Get You Home (Posting) (GYH(SA)) allowance once a month – a step forward, I must add.

In comparison, the married men who live next door to me only pay the abated food charge and no accommodation because they choose to serve unaccompanied and also receive GYH(P).

If my partner and I were to be married and I was to serve accompanied overseas, she could not pursue her career. This is because of the nature of her chosen vocation and the difficulties of having to learn a new language to a high technical level.

I believe that I am not the only one who has a partner with a very good career, who if they were to be married would put both the partner's career, and indeed the relationship, in jeopardy. – **Name and address supplied.**

PS...

## Enamel badges

IN your March issue you stated that The Queen's Lancashire Regiment would be the only regiment in the Army authorised to wear a coloured enamel badge. This is incorrect.

The Royal Mercia and Lancastrian Yeomanry (RMLY) is an amalgamation of the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry and the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, brought together in the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) of 1992, since when we have also welcomed the Cheshire Yeomanry squadron from the Queen's Own Yeomanry.

We retain the double-headed eagle of Mercia and Mercian Crown, mounted on top of the Lancashire Rose and Coronet. All parts of the Lancastrian Rose are enamelled. The badge produced at the time of SDR was cloth but since 1993 we have been wearing the metal version.

Although the QRL badge is not unique in its coloured enamel finish, I believe that the RMLY badge is the only one in the Army sporting two crowns. – SSgt R Marsh, SQMS A Sqn RMLY.



THE King's Division Normandy and Waterloo Bands wear an enamelled badge, which was first issued in 1995. I must stress that we are "Divisional" and not a regiment, but we represent the QLR and all other King's Division regiments. – S Graham, Musician, The King's Division Normandy Band, Preston.

## On a roll for credit

WITH regard to Mr Lambourne's problems obtaining credit (*Soldier*, March), I was advised to get my name on an electoral roll as soon as I was 18. I did this and have never had problems with any company. – Cpl S Baird, Northern Ireland.

## Shocking suspender

ONCE again perusing another excellent example of *Soldier*, I was struck by a nice photograph of ceremonial on Page 43 of the March edition. It shows the firing troop of 40 Regiment RA firing a 21-gun salute, commanded by a very fetching lady officer.

However, horror of horrors, she is incorrectly dressed. She is wearing the canvas belt for the sword suspenders outside her jacket, over her waist. As we all know, this belt is worn under the jacket so that the long suspender hangs down the back and the shorter one outside the left leg. A shame that someone did not check she was correctly appraised before the parade.

I am sure I won't be the first old retread to remark this error and that the adjutant will take note and ensure this does not occur again. – Maj (Retd) J H S Thompson, HQ ATE, Wilts.



**Mail**

WRITE TO: SOLDIER, ORDNANCE ROAD, ALDERSHOT, HANTS GU11 2DU  
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# Criticised garrison mess is best I've been in

I TAKE umbrage at Sgt Mark Holland's letter ("Worth being demoted to get a Type-Z room", March). As a senior NCO advising his junior NCOs and soldiers on Project Allenby-Connaught (A/C), he needs to get his facts right.

Apart from the new builds in Aldershot, all the WO's and Sergeants' Mess living accommodation is in a poor state and in most cases worse than that of the Garrison Sergeants' Mess. Examples are the messes in Montgomery Lines, being tackled as a priority under Project A/C.

There are soldiers in antiquated accommodation in the garrison, such as that built by Poulson, who would gladly swap places with Sgt Holland.

As the Presiding Member and at present living-in, I want to inform readers that the Garrison Sergeants' Mess in Aldershot is the best I have been in. The manageress and staff are outstanding, reacting positively to every request by members.

The bar and dining areas, furniture and fixings are of a high standard, achieved by a mixture of the Army supply system and members' hard work – so, no more whinges, Sgt Holland... and volunteer for house member! – **WO1 (Garrison Sergeant Major) JJ Fairbairn, Aldershot.**

## It's not all gloom and doom

AS an SNCO in an infantry regiment and the supervisor of a WO's and sergeants' mess in Catterick Garrison, I would like to respond to Sgt Holland.

As an SNCO it is his duty to look after soldiers under his command and not to



Proud to be a member: WO1 Joe Fairbairn outside the mess

show weakness as I feel he has done by writing this article. We all have our crosses to bear.

Living in the mess should be enjoyable and not a place to sit and mope around in. We all pay mess bills and contribute to the good and benefit of our messes, and if things need to be done to improve Sgt Holland's time in Aldershot he should vote them in.

He slated the standard of washing machines. If they are contracted they should be repaired. If not, the property member should be approached and new ones purchased. Be proactive.

Sgt Holland said it would make more sense to transfer to an infantry unit and demote himself by three ranks just to get a better standard of room. Maybe he should become a GPMG gunner or mortar man so he could get a better night's sleep and not have to worry about

the responsibilities of a SNCO. – **Sgt Gerry O'Neill, KOSB, Catterick.**

## Type-Z isn't just for junior soldiers

THE Project Slam (Single Living Accommodation Modernisation) team would like to reassure Sgt Holland that the accommodation covered by *Soldier* (Feb) is not just for junior ranks.

All new accommodation, from junior to senior ranks and officers, will be Z standard – single room *en suite*. In respect of room sizes for SNCOs, the scaling has recently been changed from 14m2 to 19m2 of living space, the same as the junior officer's room.

The SNCO's Z-standard room will be 19.5m2 under Slam.

We would like to invite Sgt Holland to our mock-up in Aldershot, where he can see for himself the plans of the SNCO Z-standard bedroom and look at the junior bedroom, which, while smaller, demonstrates furniture, fittings and storeroom that will be same regardless of rank.

He may wish to note that his current SLA is being addressed by the Project Allenby-Connaught private finance initiative, which will deliver a similar standard of accommodation to Project Slam.

Information regarding Allenby-Connaught can be obtained from Frances Howarth, Communications and Liaison Officer, on 01252 355033. – **Amanda Collett-Mold, Project Slam.**

# Parity of treatment no problem for civvies

SGT Sumner's letter ("Rules don't help me see my kids", Jan) strikes a familiar chord. Yet again, the official response asks us to consider the costs involved in providing similar benefits and allowances to both married and unmarried personnel.

PS4(A) does not comment on the cost of arbitrarily providing allowances to married personnel, regardless of need.

In refusing to grant parity of treatment for Service personnel, the MoD claims "it would be terribly difficult for them to enquire into whether a relationship between a man and woman which was not

one of marriage was permanent."

Strange, then, that no such difficulty exists with the private lives of its civilian staff. The MoD Civilian Transfer Manual provides guidance for those wishing to be considered as a Single Officer With Equivalent Responsibilities (SOWER) to those of married staff.

Applicants are asked to provide information including relationship of dependant(s), state of financial dependency and child benefit payment details. If the Armed Forces displayed such a modern attitude towards their personnel, it might

help to dispel the myth that discrimination is still rife within the Services.

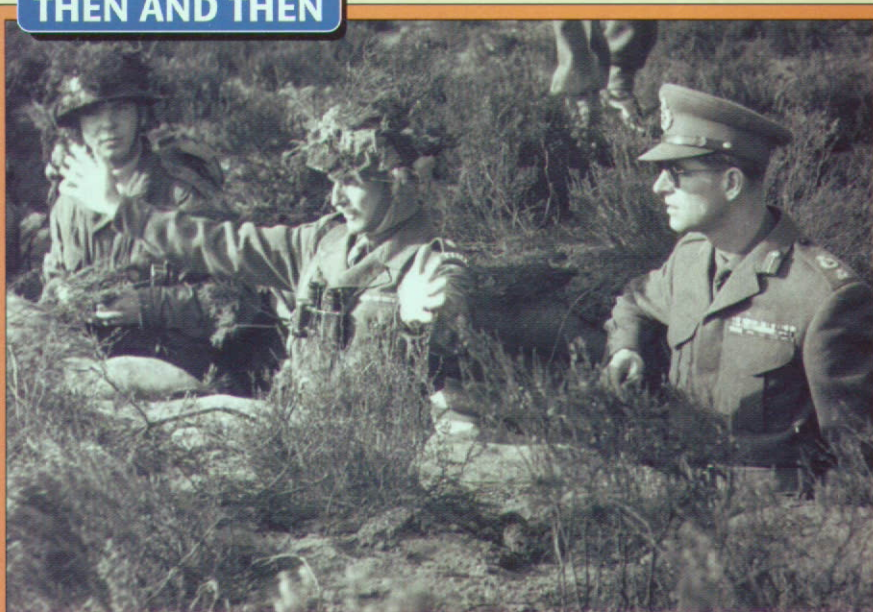
If the Pay-As-You-Dine saga is any measure, however, then a speedy and satisfactory outcome to the current tri-Service review of allowances policy is not to be expected. – **Sgt S Moncrieff, Air Warfare Centre, RAF Waddington.**



**SO21 Emp Pol replies:** All three Services are actively involved in work to examine the extent to which unmarried Service personnel living in partnerships should receive further benefits similar to those received by married couples.



## THEN AND THEN



## 25 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1978: The jerboa, the famous little desert rat, has bowed out after 38 years' service with the Army. Adopted in 1940 as the sign for the 7th Armoured Division in North Africa, it led to the nickname "The Desert Rats". The passing of 7th Armd Bde from the order of battle sees the majority of the reorganisation of the British Army complete.

## 50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, May 1953: From a trench, an officer of The Essex Regiment explains his field of fire and the siting of his men to the Duke of Edinburgh, above right, who was making his first visit to the British Army of the Rhine since being appointed Field Marshal. During his tour, Prince Philip fired the 20-pounder in a Centurion tank of the 17/21st Lancers.

## Please, Worthy Down, may I have my money?

I HAVE been paid incorrectly for the past six months because my pay incremental level was knocked down to two due to a pay anomaly when it should be on four and shortly move on up to five.

My pay is administered by SEME Bordon and I have no doubt they have attempted to resolve the problem since I highlighted it in October, nearly seven months ago. But I am given to understand that the problem can only be solved at Worthy Down.

Why should I have to chase my tail on this matter? – SSgt J Casey, RMP.



**DSPS(A) responds:** We are aware of problems associated when an individual moves from the Lower Range to the Higher Range. The policy regarding incremental level on a pay range has been clarified and individuals should move across at the same level. Work has to be carried out by computer programmers to ensure that this happens in all cases.

This particular problem is being taken forward under a package known as "P2K Follow-On Work" and it is hoped that a resolution can be achieved as quickly as possible. However, at the present time resources are being diverted to support current operations.

## I want to be a Regular, not spare part

I AM a Territorial Army soldier and recently inquired about joining the Regular Army. I was told was that, because I am 31, I would have to apply for an S-type engagement, which has a maximum service of 12 years, and would lose my rank of corporal.

I appreciate my age is against me, but when the Army has recruitment and retention issues, would it not be an idea to allow TA personnel to join up for a proper career and not be treated as spare parts? I

am aware of the back-door route offered by Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS) and maybe being able to sign on permanently, but this doesn't really give me any sort of career security, and neither does a 12-year S-type engagement.

The explanation I was given was that the Army do it this way in case we (the TA) don't like it after our taster and so can leave after the engagement time. Are new recruits told this? Surely there would be more chance of someone like me suc-

ceeding than a youngster as I already have six years' experience. And why should I lose my rank? If I gamble on an S-type I would go back to basic training and sit through lessons, some of which I have taught Regulars while on attachments.

The TA is said to be an integral and important part of the British Army, so why can't I simply join my Regular counterparts, with my hard-earned rank, and serve until I am 55? – RAMC (V) soldier (name and address supplied).



**DM(A) responds:** The Regular Army has always encouraged those with previous military experience to consider a full-time career and attracts many applicants from the TA. Each case has to be taken on merit and applicants and recruiters should refer to DCI (A) 103 2002, which followed a fundamental review of the process and aims to cut bureaucratic delays and the need for unnecessary retraining.

All applicants have to meet Regular Army age criteria, though some over-age applicants may be accepted if certain conditions are satisfied. For them, S-type engagements will be offered, 12 years being regarded as secure employment.

Your correspondent is incorrect in assuming a career to 55. Individuals who fulfil the criteria can enlist on a 22-year engagement and may, if vacancies exist, be allowed to continue

beyond the 22-year point, with the possibility of serving in periods of five years up to 55.

Rank in the TA does not take into account the career structure and training of Regular counterparts. An assessment has to be made as to previous service and experience and appropriate training given. Successful TA applicants will be made an offer regarding Terms of Service, rank and seniority.

Older personnel joining the Regular Army, particularly those holding TA rank, have to be aware that they are competing against their peers who will have had substantially more experience in that rank. Mobilised and FTRS service fill specific posts at specific ranks and have shown that the TA is extremely competent at filling such posts.

It is not a simple case of transferring to the Regular Army and carrying on at that rank as it adversely affects both the applicant and his

Regular colleagues. The applicant will simply not have the variety of courses, experience or reports and recommendations to allow him to compete on equal terms for posts.

Conversely, the Regular may find his long-term career aspirations and planning fouled by an unplanned increase in numbers of his rank at a point where available posts are few.

Finally, it is a myth that FTRS is a back-door route into the Regular Army. FTRS serves a specific role in permitting TA and Regular Reserve soldiers to serve with the Regular Army in posts that otherwise would not be filled, without having to leave the TA/Reserve.

At the end of FTRS service, the individual returns to his TA employment or back to the Reserve. However, those applicants serving on FTRS or mobilisation will be given priority in order to ensure there is no break in service in transferring to Regular service.



# Vox pop

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

## A taste of America

BOASTING 24 different menus, a self-heating system, miniature bottle of Tabasco sauce and host of chocolate treats, the American MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) supplied to coalition forces in the Gulf are far removed from the British Army's own ration packs. We asked British soldiers serving in Kuwait how the two compared.

**Cpl John Gould, 211 Signal Squadron, 1 (UK) ADSR**

The MREs are easy to use and get a big thumbs up just for having sweets and different snacks in them, but their puddings do not come close to ours in the taste department. One thing they have got in common with the British ration packs is that you soon get sick of them when you have to eat them every day.



**Sgt Philip McNeilly, 211 Signal Squadron, 1 (UK) ADSR**

American rations are completely different in taste from ours, some are a lot better, but equally some of the menus are pretty dire. I personally think that the MRE self-heating system is great and saves a lot of needless messing round with a stove, but the Brit ration pack scores well on the puddings front.



**Cpl Sharon Astor, AGC (SPS)**

The design of the American ration packs is great, particularly the way in which the food can be heated without a stove, but the main meals leave a lot to be desired – they need some good old-fashioned British ingredients added to them.



**LCpl Garry Kerr, 98 Postal Courier Squadron, 1 GS Regt RLC**

British soldiers are better off because our breakfast and main meals are far tastier than the American ones – you just can't beat Lancashire hotpot followed by chocolate pudding. However, the cakes and sweets in the MREs beat things like the biscuit browns hands down.



**Cpl Marc Sturrock, 98 Postal Courier Squadron, 1 GS Regt RLC**

The American rations are a lot better than ours. The self-heating bags mean that you don't have to waste time waiting for water to boil and taste-wise they are not bad at all. Generally, the

MREs deserve a thumbs-up, but I will always be a big fan of the Lancashire hotpot from the British ration pack.



**Cpl Robert Osborn, 211 Signal Squadron, 1 (UK) ADSR**

When I first got here I thought the MREs were a lot better than the British ration packs, but you soon get sick of them. The American rations come with loads of sweets and chocolates in them and seem to be orientated more to civilians than military use.



**LCpl Mike Girvan, 211 Signal Squadron, 1 (UK) ADSR**

You get some nice grub in the America ration packs, but you don't get a brew kit in them, which is definitely a bad thing. I'm not a fan of the vegetarian options but the meat meals are generally pretty tasty.



**Sig Craig Barton, 211 Signal Squadron, 1 (UK) ADSR**

As far as I am concerned the MREs are a lot better than our rations – you get more sweets and goodies in them and better quality meals. The British ration packs offer a limited



choice and, put bluntly, are disgusting.

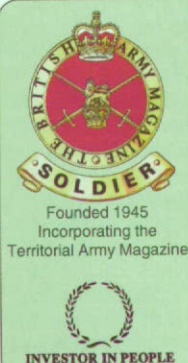
**Cpl Chris Foster, 74 (HQ) Sqn RLC**

Some of the American menus are really good and there is plenty of variety. If you do get stuck with one of the less tasty meals you can always disguise the taste with the bottle of

Tabasco sauce that comes in each pack. My personal favourite is the beef teriyaki – it makes my mouth water every time. As a whole I think the MREs have got the edge, with their one drawback being that if you needed a day's rations you would have to carry three packs.



Interviews: Andy Simms Pictures: Mike Weston



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