

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

February 2000 £2

SOLDIER

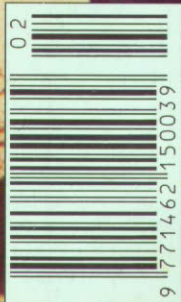
**SAPPERS 'SORT IT'
UNDER KENYA SUN**

**Separation:
£1,000 bonus**

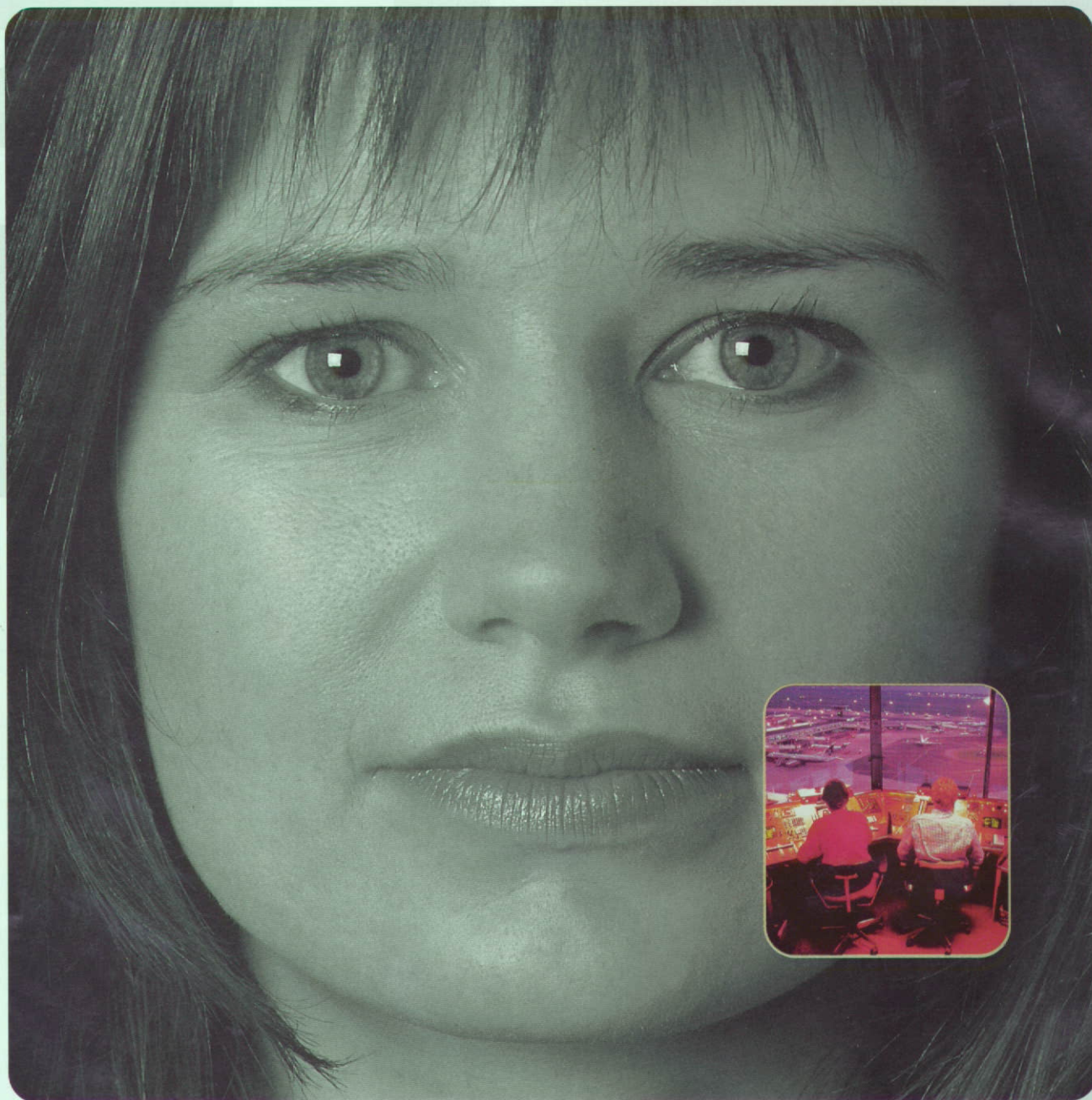
**South Africa
team's sword**

**Army drive
to cut out
smoking**

**Why I'll never
reveal I'm gay
—see letters pages**



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● A Traser glow-in-the-dark watch worth £129 – Page 28

● Win a copy of the hilarious *Spit and Polish and Other Stories* by Sustainer – Page 66

● £100 HOAY competition – Page 53

Home truths – Page 43

"Is it too much for soldiers and their families to expect a good consistent standard of housing... rather than making the best of whatever shambles they are presented with?"

– Introducing a new families column by Sue Bonney

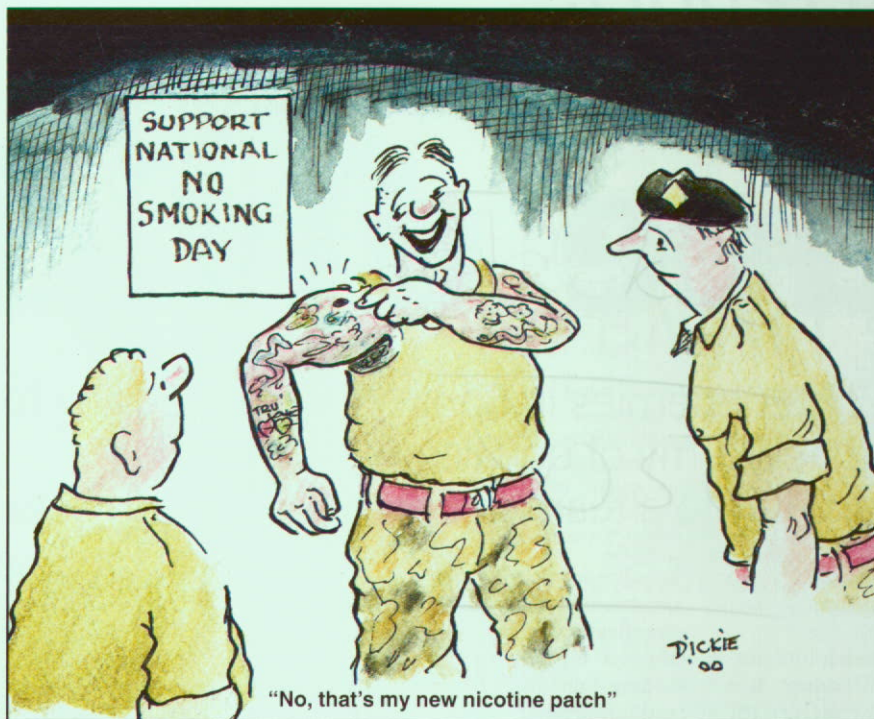


36 Cover story

Barrow boys: Spr Andy O'Donnell, serving with 1 Troop, 34 Field Squadron (Air Support), gives young James Mdowa a lift while working on a school project in Kenya. The Royal Engineers were in the area to revitalise the infrastructure of a run-down game reserve.

Picture: Kevin Capon

How to contact *Soldier*
– see Page 70



In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine

4 Special report

How British soldiers helped to unify South Africa's army

15 Quarry soldiers

Sappers take on huge excavation project in Kosovo

16 Tankies to techies

Introducing the new Joint NBC Regiment

18 Carry on up the Volta

Soldiers complete unique African river expedition

20 Making things better

Focus on the G1 Personnel Department at Wilton

23 To the glorious memory...

Falklands War dead remembered in Pangbourne chapel

24 No Smoking Day

Eleven tips on how to put the boot into that habit

32 My Army

Anita Newcourt: Heathrow's red-carpet lady

34 What you think of us

News and views from our readership survey

70 Vox pop

You answer the big No Smoking Day questions

PLUS 28 Kitstop 32 Cartoons 38 Museums guide 42 Issues 44 Winners 25 Westminster 46 Sport 53 £100 competition 62 Diary 64 Bulletin board 66 Books 68 Mailbag

SOLDIER to soldier

In pursuit of effective operations

TWO starkly different issues dominating the headlines in recent weeks were linked by a common thread – operational effectiveness.

First on to the nation's front pages was criticism by two senior officers involved in the advance into Kosovo last June of perceived weaknesses in the chain of command and inadequate equipment.

The seriously-out-of-date Clansman radio showed its age, with one in three sets said to be on the blink. Not for the first time, reliability of the SA80 rifle and light support weapon was called into question. Insufficient satellite-linked GPS sets were available and a lack of camp cots and shower units did nothing to improve domestic tranquillity among troops.

The leaked documents were part of the assessment process which follows every major operation. SA80 was given a dreadful hammering after the Gulf War, not least from the House of Commons Defence Committee, which has been told modifications are on the way (see Page 31).

BAN LIFTED

The other BIG story was the Government's widely-anticipated decision to lift its ban on homosexuals joining the Armed Forces.

With immediate effect, sexual orientation is a private matter and on Page 7 we report on the code of social conduct signed up to by the Chiefs of Staff.

Described unofficially as a policy of "don't fear it, don't flaunt it", the code lays down broad-brush rules about behaviour that will not be tolerated. It applies equally to hetero- and homosexuals.

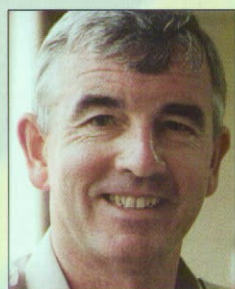
Underpinning the code is the collective determination of the Chiefs of Staff to protect operational effectiveness, against which all anti-social behaviour will be measured.

Peace dividend

Once bitter enemies in South Africa are uniting to form a new army of equality. It is happening thanks partly to a team of British military advisers

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

IMAGINE Irish terrorists being integrated into the British Army. You cannot. It is impossible and absurd. Now picture the terrorist leaders assuming command of the new-style army. That is even more inconceivable; so outrageous that the mere suggestion probably has your blood pressure rising.



African way must be respected: Brig John Keeling leads the 16-strong BMATT team

This is, however, the remarkable analogy that members of the 16-strong British Military Advisory and Training Team South Africa (BMATT SA) use to illustrate the task that they are helping the South African armed forces to achieve. Not only are they thinking the unthinkable, but they are doing it. Only a few years ago about 70,000 white-dominated regular forces were locked in a bitter struggle with an estimated 20,000 black guerrillas in two unconventional armies. Now, with apartheid a distasteful memory, many of those black fighters ("non-statutory forces", as BMATT staff diplomatically describe them) are being trained as conventional soldiers and integrated into the regular forces. They are standing alongside and even above whites at every command level.

DARED HOPE

Few dared to hope that the process would work, at least not without major strife. But several years on even the cynics (and there are plenty) have to admit that progress is being made.

It helps that those who were unable to accept the sea-change in South African politics have voluntarily returned to civilian life. But most of the old enemies are overcoming their differences with pragmatism and the support of BMATT adjudicators, go-betweens and referees.

British involvement began soon after the country's first multi-racial elections in 1994. Britain alone was asked to provide

an advisory team; a fact which BMATT's commander, Brig John Keeling, considers significant. "We were perceived as having a good reputation in Africa," he said, adding that this perception is still intact and important.

Priority for the team (then almost twice its current strength) was to supervise the mustering of the two irregular armies and the verification of their claimed membership. During the guerrilla struggle, few personnel records had been kept, and it was important to identify those who were eligible for demobilization payments or places in the new army, navy and air force.

That work has now been done and 16 British Service men and women, 13 of whom are Army ranks, are now supervising the re-training packages needed for provisional roles allocated to one-time guerrilla fighters to become substantive.

Suspicion and prejudice fostered over several decades can still surface and it is up to the BMATT team to ensure that fair play is maintained.

British officers sit in on meetings,



Market forces: Lone rangers Maj James Coward and Maj Moira Horsfall shop for African crafts near their Pretoria base

courses and interviews at all levels. They monitor, advise and even veto decisions if necessary. They do not hesitate to use their powers.

According to Brig Keeling, who commands BMATT from his offices in the South African National Defence Forces (SANDF) HQ in Pretoria, it is work which demands a high level of diplomacy, total neutrality and sometimes a robust attitude.

NO CLOSED DOORS

Maj Moira Horsfall, a nurse who works exclusively with the SANDF medical services, stresses that no doors are closed to the team. "We can walk into any classroom or office we want. The fact that we are BMATT is good enough."

The key is trust. "We are," said Brig Keeling, "the fair-play agency, the honest brokers."

It would, however, be a mistake to believe that the Brits understand every facet of this complex society. Operatives, which the brigadier calls "lone rangers", visit military bases across this vast country (it is larger than France, Germany, Holland and Belgium combined) and are often surprised by the situations they face.

GOATSKIN BANGLE

A story is told of a soldier from one of the country's many ethnic groups who had been ordered to remove his goatskin bangle by a senior officer from another group. The junior man said that the ornament held special powers and he would die without it. But the order was maintained, and, bangle-less, the soldier became dangerously ill.

A BMATT officer intervened and suggested that the bangle could be worn under the soldier's watch strap. He was soon back on his feet.

Maj Giles Timms, a lone ranger whose beat is around Johannesburg and Pretoria, knows his limitations. "I don't have the tonic for all problems, but I can ensure that problems are addressed correctly."

Intriguingly, Brig Keeling believes that South Africa's passion for sport helps his team. "We are, essentially, referees," he



At the sharp end: Maj Giles Timms with the Wilkinson Sword of Peace Special Award

explains, "and all South Africans understand that concept. They know that you may not always like the ref's decision, but as long as he is seen to be just as tough on the other side, you accept his judgement. The people here treat us in the same way."

Barriers can drop as if by magic if there is a common interest in rugby, football or

cricket. The new Chief of the Defence Force is a keen Manchester United fan, while the Deputy Minister of Defence supports Arsenal equally passionately. During their monthly meetings with Brig Keeling - who happens to be an avid Newcastle follower - the three men can slip into what the brigadier calls

Special accolade for BMATT soldiers

FIVE years of delicate work brought BMATT(SA) a Wilkinson Sword of Peace Special Award in 1999. In the citation, the many soldiers, sailors and airmen who have served in the team were commended for "great tact and diplomacy".

The citation continued: "The widespread and ready acceptance of BMATT rulings by all sides is testimony to the reputation and esteem in which BMATT is held."

"They have contributed disproportionate assistance to the peaceful transition of the South African Armed Forces."

Their contribution has also been recognised with gratitude by the South African Government. All who serve with BMATT are awarded a medal commemorating the unification of the country's armed forces, which they are authorised to wear along with British and United Nations decorations.

South Africa's common language: sport.

The reorganization of South Africa's forces remains a huge challenge. It is behind schedule and being conducted against a backdrop of huge budget cuts. There may yet be serious dissatisfaction when an inevitable process of redundancy begins. Residual bitterness can re-surface suddenly. Last year a former guerrilla bearing a grudge shot and killed several white soldiers before he himself was killed.

But with the British monitors watching, listening and talking, the process is moving more smoothly than many had dared hope. Perhaps this is because most South Africans know that the changes they have achieved over the past few years are too valuable to risk losing.

THE MIRACLE

Brig Keeling describes these changes as "the miracle of South Africa". With evident sincerity, he says: "I don't know of anywhere else in the world where people have come together from such disparate starting points and managed to work together."

He echoes Maj Timms's point about BMATT being unable to provide a cure-all and cautions against the arrogance of assuming that the British way is always the best. What he calls "the African way of doing things" must be respected. After all, Africans have to live with the outcome of their decisions.

The brigadier finds inspiration in the words of T E Lawrence (of Arabia), a British officer who also worked with sometimes feuding tribes. He quotes easily from Lawrence's *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*: "Better let them do it imperfectly than to do it perfectly yourself, for it is their country, their way and your time is short."

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Homosexual ruling

KEY TO CODE OF CONDUCT IS OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Don't fear it, don't flaunt it

FOLLOWING the lifting of the ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces, new guidelines have been issued in the form of a Code of Social Conduct that applies to all serving personnel, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, rank or status.

Acknowledging that the process will "represent a challenge to us all", the Chief of the Defence Staff and the three Chiefs of Staff have jointly told commanding officers that the key requirement is to maintain operational effectiveness with the minimum of disruption to unit life.

With immediate effect, the Chiefs say, sexual orientation is considered to be a private and personal matter and knowledge of an individual's sexual orientation is not a basis for discrimination.

AUSTRALIAN EXAMPLE

The code bans public displays of affection between colleagues – homosexual or heterosexual – in what has been called a "don't fear it, don't flaunt it" policy drawing on the experience of other countries, Australia in particular.

Gen Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, said: "The key to implementation is a sensible application of the revised code of conduct, which is intended to cover behaviour generally. The code is designed to sustain operational effectiveness and I am committed to its successful implementation."

The Services will look sympathetically at applications from former members discharged for being gay or lesbian.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon said a European Court of Human Rights judgment in September had made it clear that existing restrictions were "not legally sustainable". Mr Hoon told MPs he realised the revised policy could cause

concern in some parts of the three Armed Forces. "There will be those who would have preferred to continue to exclude homosexuals but the law is the law. We cannot pick and choose the decisions we implement. The status quo is simply not an option."

TRUST, LOYALTY

Touching on the "unique role" of Service personnel, who "cannot choose the people they work and live with, often in difficult, cramped conditions and for sustained periods", the Secretary of State acknowledged that operational effectiveness depended on team cohesion and the maintenance of trust and loyalty.

"As a result, standards of behaviour are imposed on members of the Armed Forces that can be more demanding than those required by society at large. That is why we need a code of conduct," he said.

The MoD has been advised that individuals have no legal right to refuse to share accommodation and facilities with a homosexual, and that courts would view a refusal to do so as an act based on prejudice.

It has been told that neither the European Convention on Human Rights nor the UK's own Human Rights Act provide legal support for such a refusal.

DUTY TO OBEY

All personnel, COs have been reminded, have an obligation to obey lawful orders regarding the allocation of accommodation and facilities, which are made without regard to sexual orientation.

In common with unmarried heterosexual couples, gay partners will not be allowed to live together in Service married quarters.

Commanding officers have been given guidance on a wide range of issues anticipated by the introduction of the code of social conduct, including advice to mess

The code

EXAMPLES of behaviour which can undermine trust and cohesion, and therefore damage the morale or discipline of a unit and its operational effectiveness, are defined as:

- unwelcome sexual attention in the form of physical or verbal conduct;
- over-familiarity with the spouses or partners of other Service personnel;
- offensive displays of affection;
- behaviour which damages or hazards the marriage or personal relationships of Service personnel or civilian colleagues within the wider defence community;
- taking sexual advantage of subordinates.

It is important, says guidance on the code, to acknowledge in the tightly-knit military community a need for mutual respect and a requirement to avoid conduct which offends others.

SERVICE TEST

Any case of alleged social misconduct – heterosexual or homosexual – has to be measured against the Service test: Have the actions or behaviour of an individual adversely impacted or are likely to impact on the efficiency or operational effectiveness of the Service?

Commanding officers will be expected to apply the Service test through the exercise of good judgement, discretion and common sense.

The seriousness with which misconduct will be regarded will depend on the individual circumstances and the potential for adversely affecting operation effectiveness. Misconduct involving abuse of position, trust or rank, or taking advantage of an individual's separation, will be viewed as being particularly serious.

The revised policy on personal relationships involving Service personnel applies equally to members of the Regular and Reserve Forces.

presidents should gay members wish to take their partners to semi-official functions such as guest nights. Function organisers will also be asked to consider the circumstances should same-sex partners wish to dance together.

A lance corporal writes: I WILL NEVER REVEAL I AM A GAY SOLDIER – see Mailbag, Pages 68-69

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

● Sgt Stefan Robert of 11 EOD Regiment was killed when his parachute failed to open during a jump at Weston-on-the-Green, Oxfordshire. Married with a young daughter, Sgt Robert (30) was based at Didcot.

● Lt Gen Christopher Drewry succeeded Lt Gen Sir Mike Jackson as commander of the

Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) during a military ceremony at the corps headquarters in Mönchengladbach, Germany, on January 31.

● British Forces Radio went back on the

The New Year Honours are on Page 41

air at Catterick last month on 1287 AM in a trial which will continue until the end of the year. Meanwhile, a further 28-day trial is being run in Colchester on 107 FM.

● Academic results achieved by Service schools throughout the world in 1999 were in general well above the UK national average.

Your chance to star with Tom Hanks

STEPHEN Spielberg is looking for men aged 18 to 35 with military experience to act as extras in a ten-part TV mini-series, *Band of Brothers*, to be filmed in the Greater London area between April and December.

An open casting day is being held in London over the weekend February 19-20, and anyone interested should contact the Casting Collective Ltd on 020 8962 0099 as soon as possible. Good rates of pay are promised but candidates must have a clean police record.

Band of Brothers, which will star Tom Hanks, is based on Stephen Ambrose's non-fiction best-seller about a Second World War US Army unit.

First winterised quarters handed over in Kosovo

THE first three of 13 British military camps in Kosovo to be equipped with Corrimex-type accommodation were due to be handed over to soldiers as this edition went to press.

It follows months of hardship for many troops deployed in the area who have had to endure conditions ranging from extreme cold to deep mud while living in tented camps.

Hunting Engineering, which won the contract to provide cold-weather quarters, was unable to complete the task before the onset of winter. The hard standings for the accommodation were constructed in the autumn by Royal Engineers.

- Sapper quarrymen – Page 15
- Our freezing tents – Page 69

Royal Scots chill out in the Rockies

SOLDIERS from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots have begun a six-week training package in Alberta which will test their winter warfare skills in temperatures as low as minus 32C.

Experts from the Canadian Forces have been drafted in on Exercise Showshoe, in the shadow of the Canadian Rockies, to teach 110 soldiers from Colchester the specialist art of surviving and fighting in extreme cold.

Company commander Maj George Lowder said: "This type of training is completely new to us. We are the first British troops to try this exercise, so it's a steep learning curve."



Picture: Cpl Steph McGuiness

Best foot forward: Soldiers from the Cyprus-based 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers parade in front of the Chief of Staff, British Forces in Cyprus, Air Commodore Paul Robertson, at the end of an intensive seven-week course for potential junior non-commissioned officers. The Chief of Staff told the 25 soldiers on the course it was one of the best turnouts and drill displays he had ever seen

Bosnia force down to 2,000 by end of year

A FURTHER 1,300 British troops are to be withdrawn from Bosnia by the end of this year, reducing to 2,000 the number left in theatre.

Announcing the reduction during a visit to units deployed in the Balkans, Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon said it would be in addition to the early withdrawal of one of the UK's two battle groups, comprising 900 troops.

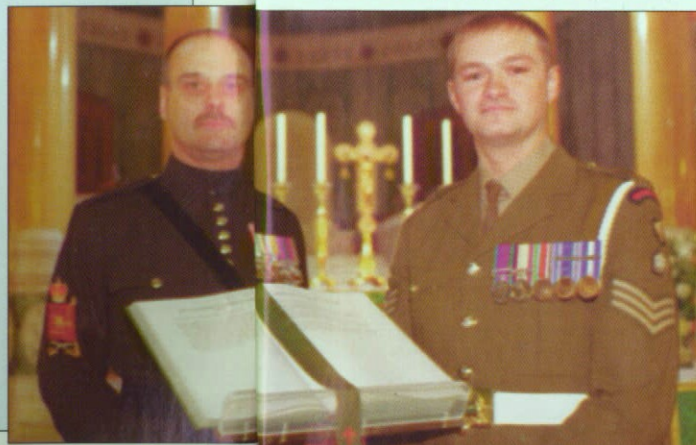
The measures follow Nato's decision to reduce the size of its stabilisation force (SFOR) to about 20,000.

"I am delighted that we will be able to make these reductions," said Mr Hoon. "I am proud of the deployments undertaken by our Armed Forces but I am well aware of the demands being placed on them and am keen that we take every opportunity to bring them home when it is sensible to do so."

● Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, received their Kosovo medals at a parade at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, on January 25.

Soldiers worldwide mark birth of Christ

DRILLSgt WO2 Paul Cunliffe, WG, left, and Cpl Dean Goodall, RHG/D, who both read lessons in Guildford Cathedral, were among thousands of Regular and Territorial soldiers, cadets and veterans in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands who took part in simultaneous cathedral services to mark the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. Chaplains of the RACHD led the worldwide celebration, which included Westminster Cathedral.



Picture: Graeme Main

IN BRIEF

● RFA Fort Grange, the 23,000-tonne stores ship which has played a crucial role in supporting British troops deployed in the Balkans, returned to the UK last month from the Croatian port of Split, her base since April 1997. Her departure on January 6 brought to an end a seven-year period of RFA ships supporting UK forces ashore.

● Maj Andrew Reid of the Adjutant General's Corps, right, picked up two top diving awards in London. Currently OC of the Army Education Centre at Lisburn, Northern Ireland, he received the British Sub



CASH BOOST WILL COMPENSATE FOR SEPARATION TURBULENCE

£1,000 bonus to make up for away-days

PRE-tax bonuses of £1,000 for soldiers who have had to cope with sustained operational tours away from their families are among a package of allowance improvements announced by Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon.

The new Longer Service Allowance (Accumulated Turbulence) (LSSA(AT)) will compensate married and single Service men and women who experience the most separation. It is a taxable lump sum of £1,000, payable to anyone who has received LSSA for 280 days or more in a two-year period.

Individuals who receive LSSA for 365 days or more within the same two years will be eligible for a second taxable bonus of a further £1,000 – to be known as LSSA(AT+).

Both will be payable to qualified personnel as from December 1, 1999, with a baseline of December 1, 1997.

Bonuses will be paid on an individual rolling two-year basis so, if a soldier received his first day of LSSA payment on, for example, January 15, 1998, his

first two-year period would not have ended until January 14 this year.

Because systems and procedures need to be put in place, the first bonus payments are unlikely before March or April. Details of claims procedures will be made available from regimental admin officers as soon as possible.

As a further concession, the initial qualifying period for LSSA is to be reduced from three years' service to 18 months, effective from April 1. Anyone who has completed 18 months' service on or after that date will be eligible for the allowance, but there will not be any retrospective payments.

The accumulative effect on personnel of frequent short absences from barracks has also been recognised. Until now, posts involving regular trips of fewer than ten days did not qualify for LSSA, but this is to change. Under a measure which addresses what was seen as a gaping omission in the separation allowance coverage, personnel in designated posts – to be called on-the-road (OTR) posts – will be eligible for the LSSA.

OTR posts will be those with an established and continuing requirement for frequent and repeated absences in consecutive periods of at least four days and totalling at least 55 days during each successive period of six months.

Because it will take time to identify OTR posts, the start date for LSSA payment has yet to be announced.

The enhancements are a significant addition to the Army's welfare package and recognise the heightened stress of operational commitments shouldered by Service personnel during the past two years.

range of small-to-large calibre ammunition.

● Soldiers from Keighley, Yorkshire, who fell in wars over the past 100 years have been commemorated with a special stone millennium plaque unveiled on the town's war memorial last month. The plaque came from an old drill hall in Barnoldswick.

Balkans search



Missing: SFOR divers based at Mrkonjic Grad, Bosnia prepare to search for a body in a freezing river on Route Gull between Banja Luka and Mrkonjic Grad. The team was called in several days after a local policeman went missing when a car crashed into the Vrbas river. The British team – Maj Paddy Fuller, Capt Chris Holt, Cpl Rab Craven, Cpl John Mason and LCpl Chris Green – spent eight hours diving in extreme conditions but were unable to locate the missing man's body.

Moose's the man



A very good Samaritan: Big-hearted Sgt Paul Collinson decided to make a difference when pictures of Kosovo refugees began to fill our TV screens last spring. "Moose", as he is known at HQ Royal Engineers, 1 (UK) Armoured Division in Herford, Germany, collected 170 bags of tinned food, toys and other goodies which he delivered to the German Red Cross for distribution in Kosovo. Since then the donations have continued to roll in and Moose, with help from a group of Bundeswehr soldiers based in Essen, has been involved in sending nine tonnes of aid to the Balkans as well as many boxes of food and clothing to Turkey's earthquake victims. They also collected parcels for former Soviet Union countries.



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People, places, events

Short-range radio ready by end of 2001

A SHORT-range non-secure tactical radio for use at section level is planned to be delivered from the end of 2001, ahead of the main Bowman system.

The early arrival of the Personal Role Radio, seen as a key improvement to front line communications, follows a review of the Bowman project.

Eventually Bowman, which is running

years behind schedule, will provide the Armed Forces with a new tactical combat radio communications systems to replace the aged Clansman system, which has been in service since the mid-1970s. Since last June, the Defence Procurement Agency has been working with Archer Communications Systems Ltd (ACSL), the MoD's preferred supplier

for Bowman, to produce an acceptable solution which will provide an effective war-fighting capability. ACSL's original proposal was judged to be too expensive and carried too much risk.

The MoD now expects to place an implementation contract in late 2000, leading to a revised in-service date in late 2003 or early 2004.

Dartmoor group in limelight

ARMY conservationists based at Okehampton Camp, Dartmoor, have landed a top prize in a prestigious national park competition. It recognises their work in the identification of wildlife and historical interest.

Second place in the Edward Morehead Award, made biennially for significant conservation contributions to Dartmoor National Park, was won by the Willsworthy Conservation Group, re-formed in 1987 and now under the chairmanship of Maj Denis Mills, range commandant at Okehampton Camp.

Composed of 13 soldiers, MoD civilians and representatives from English Nature the group covers all the specialisations needed to conserve and manage the 1,395 hectares of land on the western slope of Dartmoor.

"The land ranges from grasslands to blanket bog on the plateau top," explained Maj Mills. "And there is a richness of archaeological features which illustrate that man has occupied Dartmoor since 8,000 BC."

"It is very pleasing to know that the work of the conservation group does not go unnoticed."

The prize of £150 will be put towards future conservation projects.



Lancers' Millennium Challenger: The arrival of five new Challenger 2 tanks at the Osnabrück barracks of The Queen's Royal Lancers heralds a new era for the regiment. The first instalment of the QRL's new main battle tanks are being kept under the watchful eye of Lt Marcus Mudd and his troop of selected soldiers and instructors, all of them fully trained on the tank. The regiment is currently working flat-out to convert to Challenger 2.

Sappers put new Antrim line on track

ROYAL Engineers based at Antrim in Northern Ireland have helped to put a favourite tourist attraction back on track.

The sappers were called in to remove a steel bridge on the Giant's Causeway to Bushmills line to make way for a new narrow gauge railway track.

They cut the 120ft-long bridge into manageable sections so that a heavy-lift Chinook from RAF Aldergrove could remove it from the site.

The three-span Victoria Jubilee Bridge at Bushfoot, Co Antrim is on the route of the old Giant's Causeway and Bushmills Railway. Originally constructed in 1887, it was replaced as a footbridge by the Army in the 1970s.

The new railway, due to be completed in the summer, will carry passengers along a two-mile stretch of Co Antrim's famous North Coast.

City 'frees' Army maritime specialists

THE ARMY'S seagoing specialists from Marchwood were given the freedom of Southampton during a parade on January 26. Officers and soldiers of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC were joined in a parade through the streets by the ship's company

of HMS *Southampton*, the Royal Navy warship which received the honour on the same day. The Band of HM Royal Marines led the marchers through the city to the Civic Centre, where they received caskets containing the freedom scrolls.

IN BRIEF

● Three polar sundials commissioned from the Royal Engineers to mark the millennium have been unveiled at sites on St Paul's Walk, Blackfriars, on the north bank of the Thames; within the Millennium Village, Greenwich, on the south Thames river walk; and at the RE Museum, Chatham. The dials were made under the direction of Lt Col Ian Ogden, chief instructor at the Civil Engineering Wing, Royal School of Military Engineering, by sappers from throughout the corps.

● Soldiers from 28/143 Battery, 19 Regiment RA based at Colchester have deployed on a six-month tour to Sanskirmost, Bosnia, and Banja Luka, with the Nato Stabilisation Force (SFOR).

● Three hundred soldiers of 7 Signal Regiment paraded at Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld to receive medals for service in the Balkans. They were inspected by Maj Gen Ashley Truluck, Executive COS SHAPE. And

110 soldiers serving with Colchester-based 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC have also been presented with Kosovo medals.

● Pte Danny Bray (17), of 2 Transport Squadron, 1 GS Regt RLC (1 (UK) Log Regt), won a Driver of the Month accolade for operating four-tonne trucks from Macedonia. His skills stood him in good stead during a difficult 17-hour trip to Albania when refugees tried to steal rations from the vehicle.

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People, places, events

Gutersloh's Gazelles make way for Apache

GUTERSLOH said farewell to its Gazelle helicopters with a five-aircraft formation flight led by Lt Col Paul Edwards, commanding officer of 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps.

The general-purpose helicopters, first introduced into service with the British Army in Germany in 1976, will be replaced by Lynx aircraft, which are making way for the state-of-the-art Apache. Eighty Gazelles will continue to

operate worldwide, but no longer in front-line roles.

Gutersloh-based 1 Regiment is already well focused on becoming an all-Lynx unit.

For the past five months aircrew not already qualified to fly Lynx have been learning to do so.

The regiment, which currently has 118 aircrew, will reduce to 63 Lynx pilots.

After taking the Gazelle for a

final spin before members of 7 AAC (V) flew them to Netheravon, Lt Col Edwards said: "I have 1,800 hours of fond memories of Gazelles. It's done a really good job

and is still able to provide a credible military capability. The bigger picture is that we are introducing the Apache and so the Army has to reorganise itself.

"We are now looking to the future and the important role we have to play as an integral part of 1 Division's fighting capability."

More Gulf illness papers published

THREE new studies on Gulf War illnesses have been published by the MoD department charged with investigating poor health among veterans of the conflict.

A report on the implementation of the immunisation programme against biological warfare agents goes into detail about its provision and administration.

A second of three reviews looking at reports of specific chemical alarms during the conflict pulls together evidence relating to an incident at Al Jubayl on January 19, 1991. The third paper is the MoD's response to an independent audit of the medical assessment programme based at St Thomas's Hospital in London and open to all Gulf veterans.

MoD says studies on the health of sheep-dippers and organophosphates (OPs) provide no evidence which would cause the department to reassess its view of the possible role of OPs in relation to Gulf veterans' illnesses.

All three Gulf Veterans' Illness Unit papers are available on the Internet at www.mod.uk/policy/gulfwar/index.htm

Homes saving scheme to be terminated

NO new savers will be accepted into the Service Homes Savings Scheme (SHSS) from April 1. Existing members may continue to save, but savings made after March 31 will not attract the Home Savings Allowance (HSA) top-up to which Service personnel were entitled.

Introduced in December 1992 to encourage Service families to save towards home-ownership, SHSS offered HSA as an equivalent to MIRAS tax relief, to

which Service personnel would have been entitled had they already bought a house.

With the demise of MIRAS on April 1 the basis for the HSA payment will be removed because financial institutions in the scheme are unwilling to give preferential interest rates to new savers.

Existing members will have until March 31, 2005 to qualify for and claim the HSA they accrued up to March 31, 2000. DCI JS31 1998 contains details of how to claim.

Guy's goal



Picture: Steve Dock

Rising to the occasion: Pompey (and former Army) football stars **Guy Whittingham**, left, and **Lee Bradbury** push 16-year-old **David Brown** towards a military career. The two professional sportsmen teamed up with staff at Portsmouth's Army Careers and Information Office to encourage youngsters to sign on the dotted line. The latest recruiting drive is aimed at the lower end of the Army's 16 to 28 target audience and gives those who join up a chance to win a holiday in Kenya.

Coll Sgt Minor

College Sgt Maj **Andrew Needham**, above, led 200 of his colleagues on the graduation parade at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate. The 17-year-old gave the words of command and escorted the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, the inspecting officer, on parade. More than 500 youngsters joined the college last month to form a new company, Alamein. The previous intake went into Burma Company, and another two companies are planned this year as the foundation college expands to 1,344.



IN BRIEF

● A £2 million production facility for the Army's WAH-64 **Apache** has opened at GKN Westland Helicopters in Yeovil, Somerset.

● Nine British military teams took part in the **Berne March** in Switzerland, held annually in recognition of the troops who crossed the hills during the Second World War with food and water for people cut off by road.

● Soldiers in Yorkshire and Humberside will be able to study for promotion at the new **2 Army Education Centre** in York. Re-located from Ripon, it was formally opened by Brig Alan Deed, Commander 15 (NE) Brigade.

● A memorial stone was dedicated last month to **Pte Bernard McQuirt VC** in Donaghcloney, Northern Ireland. He won his

medal during the Indian Mutiny of 1858 while serving with the 95th Foot (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment). The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, currently based in Omagh. Pte McQuirt died a pauper 30 years after the mutiny and was buried in a common grave in Belfast's city cemetery.

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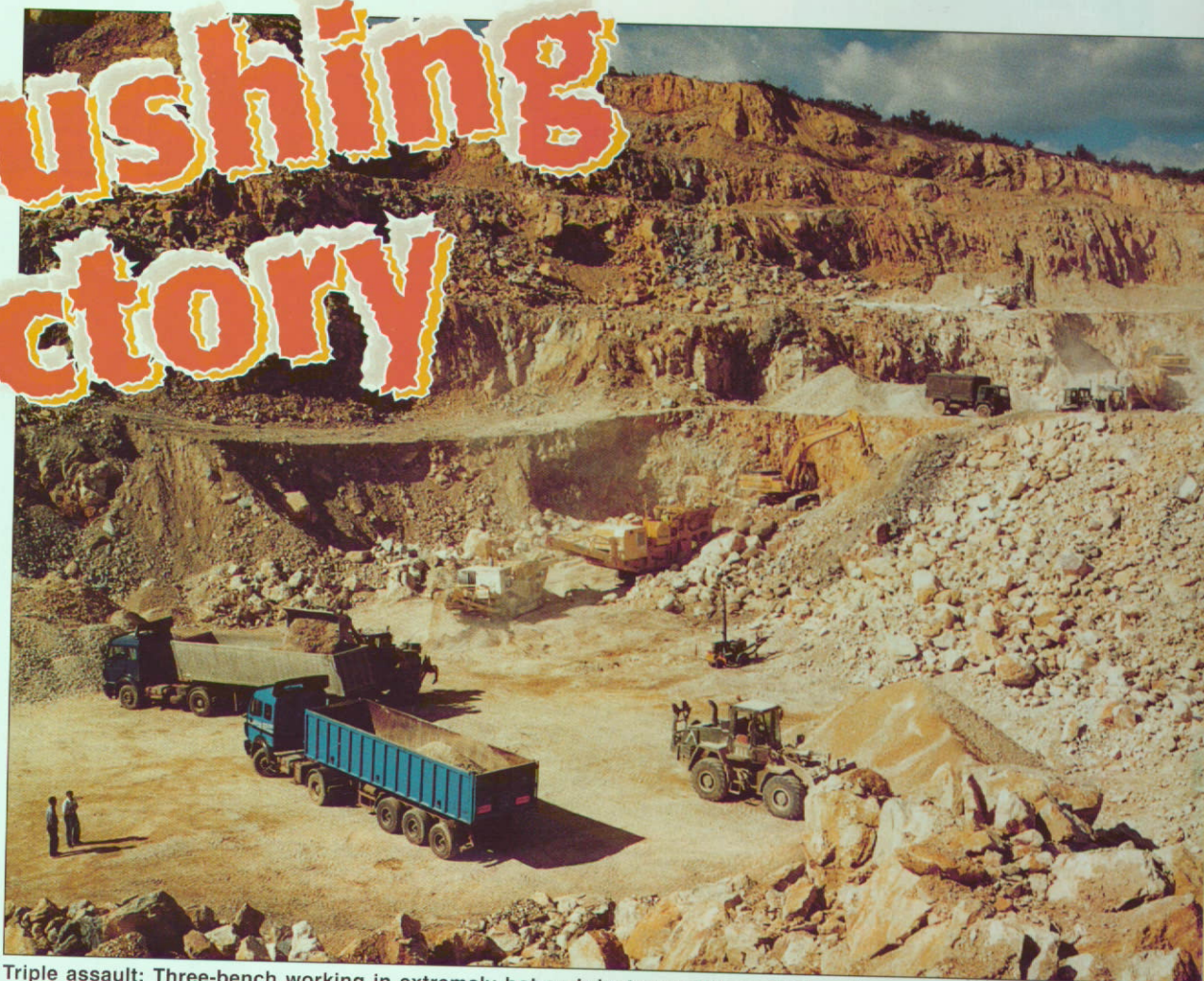


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Crushing victory

Hard-core sappers were open all hours to start Kosovo quarters off on right footing



Triple assault: Three-bench working in extremely hot and dusty conditions at Caravica quarry in Kosovo

Report and pictures:
Maj Gen (Retd) Edward Fursdon

SOLDIERS from 38 Engineer Regiment Group in Kosovo found themselves running the huge Caravica quarry, 20km west of Pristina, in the Army's first quarrying operation since the construction of the new Falkland Islands airfield at Mount Pleasant in the early 1980s.

Their top priority was the provision of temporary field accommodation (TFA) for KFOR's British troops before the onset of the bitter Balkans winter.

The regiment was tasked with completing on deadline the necessary "enabling works" of hardstanding and water supply at sites in the Multinational Brigade (Centre) area of responsibility.

Civilian contractors were poised to move in to complete the "vertical" work, the erection of living and office accommodation, workshops and hospital, ablutions, cookhouses and other essentials.

Key to the TFA project lay in stone produc-

tion . . . centred on Caravica quarry. Operating three "benches" in the quarry, 32 HQ Squadron's Lt Darren Hoban and Military Plant Foreman SSgt Carl Clay ran two teams, each working nine-hour shifts, seven days a week, to produce 2,000 tonnes of crushed stone a day.

With insufficient qualified plant operators to man the teams, sapper tradesmen volunteers were trained on the spot while Royal Pioneer Corps soldiers were shown how to operate the stone crushers, which they did most successfully.

The blasting-shot holes were drilled by TA soldier and ex-infantryman LCpl Nigel Caton-Sharp, a supermarket man-

ager from Torquay. SSgt Clay, the only British Serviceman in theatre licensed to fire quarry explosives, primed and fired all the shot holes, a task no local civilian quarryman would be allowed to do in the current operational situation in Kosovo.

Teams worked flat-out in shifts – 0600 to 1500 or 1500 to midnight – drilling, charging, blowing and loading the stone crushers by heavy crawler excavators. During the day the work was carried out in very hot and dusty conditions. Crushed stone was then loaded on to a constant convoy of civilian 50-tonne and RLC 8-tonne tippers for delivery to the TFA sites.

Finally, RE Squadron bulldozers and graders spread it on site to the required spec of depth and finish.

An unusual task demanding meticulous planning and tight control, it was a test of determination and dedication, flexibility and adaptability, cheerfulness under pressure for long hours in difficult and dirty conditions, and teamwork . . . everything that the British Army does best.



Flat-out: A squadron grader spreads crushed stone at the temporary field accommodation site on the outskirts of Pristina



In charge:
Quarry managers Lt Darren Hoban, top, and SSgt Carl Clay of 32 HQ Sqn RE

From tankies to techies

A new regiment based on former tank soldiers is now ready to provide front-line defence for Joint Rapid Reaction Force troops facing nuclear, biological or chemical attack

Report: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

"GAS! Gas! Gas!" was a screamed warning that chilled the hearts of British soldiers in their trenches during the First World War, when tens of thousands of men were killed or incapacitated by mustard gas and phosgene.

Yet despite almost universal international repugnance for, and rejection of, chemical warfare, it remains as much a threat today as it was in 1915. Most recently, it has been a brutal reality for unknown numbers of Iranians and Kurds who died horrible deaths from chemical and biological attack at the hands of Saddam Hussein.

In reserve
THE Royal Yeomanry, the Territorial Army unit which supported a Joint NBC Regiment squadron at Ali Al Salem airbase last year, gained valuable experience during the Gulf War. Two squadrons of Yeomanry based in Swindon and London are ready to provide additional NBC defence capability. There are also plans to involve the RAF Auxiliary.

So seriously is the threat taken that it has led to the formation of the new Joint Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Regiment. Indeed, the danger is assessed as so real that a squadron was deployed six months before the regiment became operational on December 31.

Commanding officer Lt Col David Eccles said the deployed squadron was involved in the search for and investigation of possible biological agents at the Ali Al Salem airbase in the Gulf. It included soldiers from The Royal Yeomanry, the Territorial Army's NBC specialists.

Based at RAF Honington, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, the new NBC unit was formed by merging the 1st Royal Tank Regiment and 27 Squadron, RAF Regiment. The first truly dual-Service front-line unit, its birth at the dawn of a new millennium seems appropriate.

"We are part of the Joint Rapid Reaction Force and provide detection, surveying and decontamination services aimed at improving nuclear, biological and chemical defence," said Lt Col Eccles.

The regiment has been assigned a

first-class array of equipment, and when on operations its highly-trained personnel will work in the sealed environment of their specialised vehicles. The regiment has close links with Porton Down, which provides scientific support.

Its work is broken into three elements. Nuclear and chemical survey is concentrated in the state-of-the-art Fuchs vehicle; biological detection takes place in the Prototype Biological Detection System (PBDS) truck; and decontamination is carried out with a multi-purpose system, popularly known as the "car-wash", in which the operators wear protective suits and breathing apparatus.

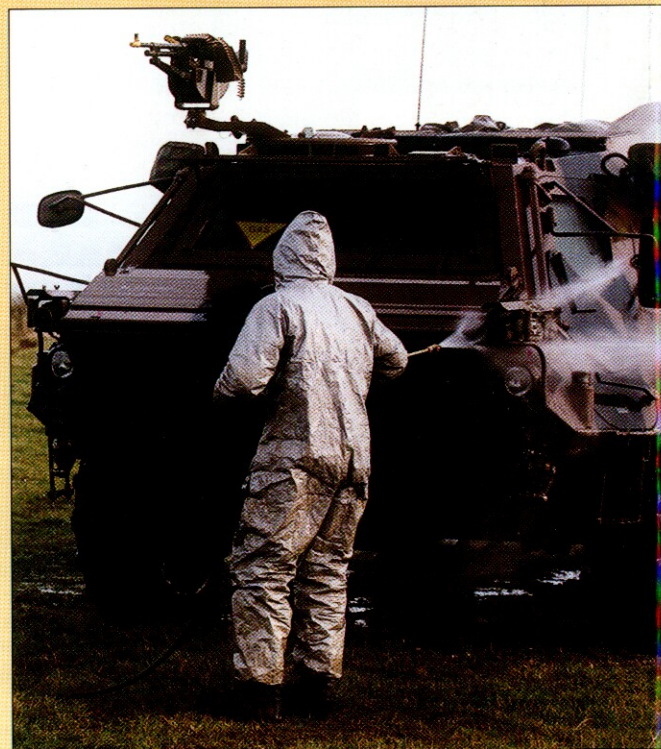
"The advanced technology and procedures that we use in the PBDS mean we lead the world in biological agent detection," said Lt Col Eccles.

The regiment was given just a few months to get itself up to scratch for operations, so the learning curve has been steep. While a number of the regiment's REME soldiers went to Germany to learn to maintain the German-built Fuchs vehicles, some 1 RTR soldiers were instructed in PBDS technology.

"They've gone from being tank soldiers and changing tracks to microbiology lab technicians," said Lt Col Eccles.

One of those soldiers, SSgt Steve Barrett, reckoned the transition took some getting used to. "It was a totally new concept for us. We had to learn to come at things from a completely different angle. It's not like driving a tank."

He said the soldiers and airmen who make up the regiment were trained to work on different chemical and biological



Car-wash: The Fuchs element of the Joint NBC Regiment consists of 11 German-built vehicles, proven in combat during the Gulf War. First used by The Royal Yeomanry when it was entrusted with the NBC role, the vehicles have been passed to the new regiment.

The six-wheeled amphibians each have a crew of four and a primary mission to provide early detection of nuclear and chemical attack. A mid-life improvement is planned for 2003



High-tech: Former tank soldier SSgt Steve Barrett monitors external contamination in his new role with the Joint NBC Regiment



Box of tricks: With a six-man crew, the Prototype Biological Detection System (PBDS), above, is basically a four-ton box body with a chemistry microbiology laboratory on board. The sophisticated set-up is due for an enhancement in two to three years' time which will expand its capability five times

In the lab: Cpl Alan McFarlane, below, testing for suspected contamination



itive frame of mind. The regimental strength is currently nearly 300 and the Army element outnumbers the RAF by three-to-one, a ratio that will remain constant.

Although the regiment is integrated, personnel retain their individual Service



In charge: Lt Col David Eccles



Spray it: Multi-Purpose Decontamination Equipment provides one of the three main capabilities of the Joint NBC Regiment. The Karcher kit was bought for use during the Gulf War and constructed on DROPS flatbeds. The disinfecting gear will be used primarily to decontaminate high-value assets such as command and control and the Fuchs vehicles

identities and cap badges, albeit with a new NBC shoulder-flash.

News of their impending role in the formation of the Joint NBC Regiment was greeted with initial disappointment by some 1 RTR soldiers, who were at the time in the process of converting to the new Challenger 2. Nevertheless, integration with their RAF counterparts has gone well.

Although now part of the Armed Forces' newest regiment, the soldiers have not forgotten their traditions and invited RAF colleagues to share their annual commemoration of the Battle of Cambrai, when British tanks attacked Ger-

man lines on the Western Front in 1917. Sqn Ldr Andy Osman, OC 27 Squadron, RAF Regiment, said he was pleased with the way the amalgamation was going. "The guys are still settling in with the tankies. It is new for everyone and we are all keen to make it work."

Although based at RAF Honington, the regiment is investigating the option of moving to Winterbourne Gunner, near Porton Down. Lt Col Eccles feels that by concentrating regiment and scientists, the new base could be turned into a centre of excellence in the fight against the horrors of nuclear, chemical and biological warfare.

Adventurous training

Carry on up the

Kent sappers follow Ghana's mighty river all the way to the Atlantic Ocean

Report: Capt Benedict Toomey
Pictures: Cpl John Skillen

FOURTEEN British soldiers have completed an epic 700-mile voyage down one of Africa's legendary river systems.

The expedition, mounted by Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment and led by Capt Matthew Wilkinson, used native fishing canoes to navigate the White Volta in Ghana, West Africa.

Their six-week journey – believed by local experts to be the first recorded descent – took the sappers through savannah and jungle from Ghana's northern border to the Atlantic Ocean.

Daily dangers posed by hippopotamuses, snakes and rapids were amplified by the constant threat of the river washing over the gunwales of the relatively unstable canoes, built to carry two fishermen and their nets rather than two soldiers and all their expedition equipment.

Capt Wilkinson, who was brought up in Africa, said: "I have always wanted to return with some of the soldiers I have bored over the years with stories of this magnificent continent."

IMPRESSED

Spr Neil Stephenson was suitably impressed. "The most beautiful sight I have ever seen," he said, "was the first morning on the river. As we were eating breakfast and the sun was rising over the river, you could see steam rising off the surface. I would not have missed it for the world."

Tribesmen along the river praised the courage of the sappers while questioning their sanity. In addition to the more obvious hazards they faced, malaria and bilharzia – a chronic water-borne disease endemic in Africa's rivers – meant their fight with the elements was as important as the need for personal hygiene.

Lt Alexander Eade said: "Although we were aware of the river's dangers we had to wash and cool down after a day's canoeing. As long as we remained vigilant and sensible about where and when we washed, it wasn't a problem."

On top of their adventurous training

objectives, the expedition carried out scientific research projects for the University of Ghana, the Ghana Wildlife Society and the Ghana Wildlife Department. This involved collecting and testing water samples for oxygen content, nitrates, pollutants and so on to assess the effect on the environment and animal population.

IMPORTANT

Lt Mike Beecham, the team's science officer, explained: "Water-quality testing is very important to the wildlife department as the dam on the Volta has affected the indigenous wildlife along the river system. As a result of the increase in flooding and erosion, there appears to be a decrease in the large animal population and an increase in plant, bird and fish populations."

"The university asked us to survey as we canoed towards the coast so they can persuade the Department of the Interior not to build another dam which could wipe out the animal population completely."

With temperatures soaring to 45C, a two-man shore support party had to travel from village to village to ensure a supply of fresh fruit, vegetables and water. Those on the shore patrol rotated with the canoe crews so that everyone had an opportunity to meet local people and travel inland.

MUCH-NEEDED BREAK

It also gave the paddlers a much-needed break. As LCpl Mo Moreland said: "Once you'd been on the water for 100 miles you needed a change of scene and the chance to rest fully."

"Having done both, I can appreciate the difficulties involved in maintaining

equipment at the same time as providing supplies on time and at the correct grid reference. I found it a real challenge, both physically and mentally."

To keep the weight down, river and shore parties met every two days at a predetermined place along the river. Satellite phones were used if circumstances caused a change in plans.

Typical menus consisted of pasta, rice, tuna fish and vegetables. Local meat was



1 Soap opera: Lt Alexander Eade cools down

2 All mod cons: LCpl Rich Camm relaxes "at home"

3 Grub's up: Spr Kevin Littler prepares dinner

4 Take me to your leader: Capt Matthew Wilkinson leads from the front

5 Half-way there: From left are Spr Kevin Littler and Capt Matthew Wilkinson, SSgt Nigel Strong and LCpl Rich Camm (131 Indep Cdo Sqn), and Lt Mike Beecham

6 Shopping trip: LCpl Mo Moreland, left, and Spr Philip Westaby barter for fruit along the way

7 Local knowledge: Scientific officer Lt Mike Beecham checks out wildlife with river people on the White Volta

Volta

intrigued by the paddling strangers. "Loading up could take forever once the children got involved," said LCpl Mark Gotsell. "Ghanaians are the friendliest people you could want to meet. Wherever we landed, we were surrounded within minutes by hundreds of children eager to help."

SSgt Bob Strong, the senior NCO, was responsible for monitoring the routine. "All the guys have experience of operations and exercises so my job wasn't too difficult. But the heat can make you sluggish and lazy about personal hygiene, so our routine was to get up at five, breakfast

by six and be on the water by seven, allowing us to complete most of the day's miles before the midday sun."

Hygiene became ever more important as the expedition closed on the more densely-populated southern end of the Volta, where the cleanliness of the water and surrounding banks could not be taken for granted.

Martin Barry, a civilian expeditionary instructor from the Land Command School of Adventure Training, accompanied the party, while Rich Camm gave valuable advice on long-distance canoeing techniques.

avoided because its source was unknown and, according to expedition chef Spr Kevin Littler, "it only takes one fly to ruin your day".

A regular feature at rendezvous points was the enthusiasm of local villagers

Making your life a bit easier

A new integrated G1 Personnel Branch at HQ Land Command promises far-reaching changes for all soldiers

Report: Ray Routledge

SHORTER working weeks (or longer weekends), exercise timetables planned to improve the quality of home life, and the chance for more soldiers to go on leave when their children or civvy mates are on their summer holidays.

Sounds good, but who's kidding whom?

No one, actually. These are real measures being looked at by the G1 Personnel Branch at HQ Land Command, which already has an impressive list of in-service lifestyle enhancements to point to.

"Our soldiers are our best advertisements and we have to look after them," are grand words being put into practice by Brig Brendan Lambe, ACOS Personnel at Wilton.

His message is part of the continuing effort to ensure that soldiers have a defined career structure within the Army, are prepared for the day they leave, and that their health, welfare and education is given priority while they are serving.

"The concept, called 'Building a Career of First Choice', has the intention of adding value to soldiers' lives," Brig Lambe said.

It is focused on further education for soldiers, helping them to gain skills for their current jobs and recognised civilian qualifications for the day they leave the Army. It is also examining ways of improving standards of peacetime and operational welfare, an area in which it has already achieved some successes.

Two examples are the introduction of post-operational tour leave (POTL) and better scheduling of the R and R flights from Kosovo.

"With so many soldiers coming from the north of England and Scotland, we arranged to make two of the flights direct to Teesside Airport to cater for them," he said. In the past, troops returning to their homes in the north have had to start the final leg of already lengthy journeys from airports in the south.

"These are examples of the start of a new era, with MoD, HQ Adjutant General, Land, HQ Northern Ireland and other

"When a person joins the Army, he or she is a volunteer. We instil the discipline, give them a sense of duty, a sense of responsibility.

"We train them on how to become soldiers and we should be giving the wherewithal to be a good soldier. We should encourage that soldier to be outward-looking and to take on NVQs and other qualifications.

"The Learning Force Initiative matures and educates them. In the USA, the attitude is if you want to better yourself, join the Army - and we want to do that here. The extra money in the form of learning credits will encourage people to go on and get recognised civilian qualifications.

"Many of our soldiers are very bright but have not had the benefit of good or further education. Now they have that opportunity." - Brig Brendan Lambe.

agencies dedicated to building an attractive career for soldiers and to removing some of the needless hassle."

G1 Personnel Branch is not about to rest on its laurels. Other initiatives in the command have included quarters march-out trials at Paderborn, Germany using contractors to take some of the pressure off families going through this much-loathed procedure.



In tune: Pte Sarah Brown hears news of welfare initiatives on garrison radio

"This initiative by HQ Paderborn Garrison has tremendous potential," Brig Lambe said. "We realise that moving out can cause great anxiety for families and we are looking at ways of tackling the problem.

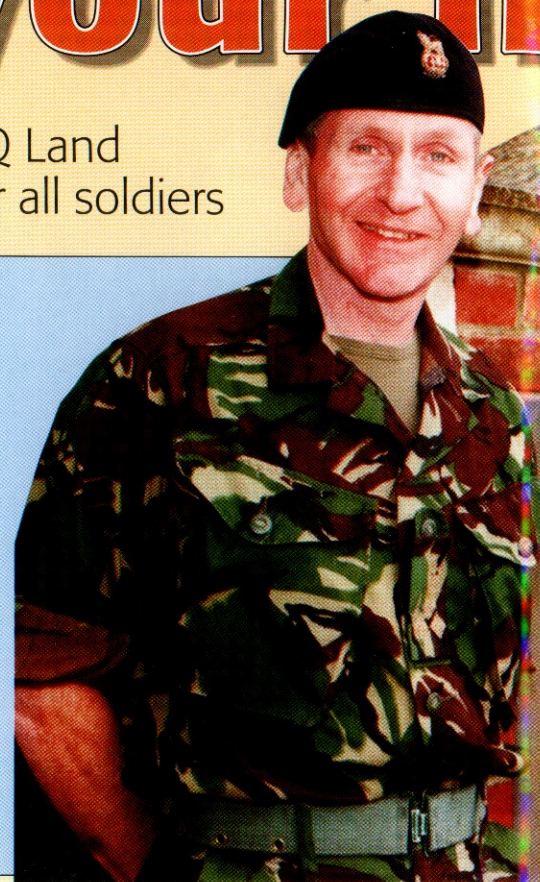
"We know the Army is not perfect and that there are many things that irritate soldiers and their families and we are now trying to sort these out. And we are looking at a standard package of operational welfare so soldiers know their entitlements before they deploy and, once in theatre, making sure they get them."

Other areas include concerns

over uniforms, pay and allowances, terms and conditions of service, and family housing and there are moves afoot to improve communications through garrison radio stations and increased distribu-



"It was Sam, from Kosovo, using one of his free calls to say he's just read in one of the free newspapers the unit's tour is extended and to cancel the holiday and the extra warrant"



ensure that facilities achieve an equal standard across all the major garrisons, with a similar model for sports halls and associated equipment. An additional £12 million of extra welfare money is being added to the system as part of the Army's Millennium grant.

Territorial Army soldiers have not been forgotten in the process. As Brig Lambe was keen to point out, "As far as I am concerned, TA soldiers are indistinguishable from Regulars."

He is wary of building false hopes. "We are spending a lot of time and effort in looking at ways of improving operational and peacetime welfare, but we don't want to build up expectations in areas where we can't deliver."

Successes so far

- ✓ Contractor cleaning trials at Paderborn to improve move in and out of married quarters.
- ✓ Publicly-funded operational fitness equipment available in Kosovo and Bosnia.
- ✓ Additional money from non-public funds for troops on operations.
- ✓ Publicly-funded TV and video equipment in operational areas.
- ✓ Increased funding of welfare equipment in Northern Ireland.
- ✓ Internet access in some operational areas and HIVEs and libraries in Northern Ireland.
- ✓ INMARSAT telephones installed in some areas in Bosnia and Kosovo.
- ✓ Welfare telephone allowance increased to 20 minutes a week.
- ✓ Common leave allowance
- ✓ Restrictions on family travel from Germany eased.

tion of *Soldier*. More radically, G1 Personnel are encouraging units and formations to look at the working week and options for soldiers to report for duty later on a Monday and finish earlier on Friday to enable them to spend more time with their families when in barracks.

"We could start and finish exercises midweek, instead of always on Mondays and Fridays, to enable soldiers to improve the quality of the home life," Brig Lambe said.

"We are also setting up a system to monitor separate service.

"How much time does a soldier spend away from his bed on guard duties, exercises, on courses and so on? No one really knows."

He posed the question: "When operational deployments allow, why can't more soldiers take leave in July and August when their families and civilian mates are on holiday?"

The G1 Personnel branch is anxious to

He feels things are moving in the right direction and says that for the first time in years soldiers are not complaining about boots, combat kit, equipment, vehicles or food. "In Kosovo, everyone agreed that the unsung heroes were the chefs," he said.

Brig Lambe is enthusiastic about the Learning Forces Initiative, a £140 million scheme designed to give soldiers the skills they need to make the best possible contribution to the Armed Forces and equip them to return to civilian life.

"We need to improve the awareness of people who can become very cynical. We are making efforts to improve their quality of life.

"We know we haven't cracked it yet but we are focused. Our watchword is: 'Treat everyone the way you would wish to be treated yourself'. If we stick to that, we won't go far wrong."

● If you have anything to offer to "Adding value to the Army", including queries and good ideas, please contact Lt Col Leo Callow, HQ Land Command, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, SP1 0AG (tel: 01722 433888 (mil 94331 3888); fax: 01722 433534 (mil 94331 3534)).

Reasons to be cheerful

EIGHTEEN welfare items specific to Operation Agricola in Kosovo have been introduced and will be used as a template for future operations. There will be variations to the items, depending on the theatre.

Here are seven examples of the measures introduced in recent months:

● **R & R:** One period of R & R during a six-month tour, 13 nights at home, two days of travel. R & R flights out of Pristina to Brize Norton, Teesside and Paderborn as appropriate.

● **POTL:** Based on six-month tour, post-operational tour leave is adjusted proportionally for shorter or longer tours. POTL "grant" does not come out of annual leave entitlement.

● **Additional carry-over of 15 working days' leave (three weeks):** If you cannot take all your leave due to operations, the carry-over period may be extended.

● **Extra family travel warrants for UK-based families:** Two travel warrants, or mileage allowance claims, during the tour to permit spouses to visit close relatives within the UK.

● **Extra family travel for Germany-based families:** Two return journeys for a six-month tour from point of departure in Germany to destination in the UK. These may be either air travel or mileage allowance, including ferry or Eurotunnel costs. Travel allowance may also be transferred to close relatives for reverse travel.

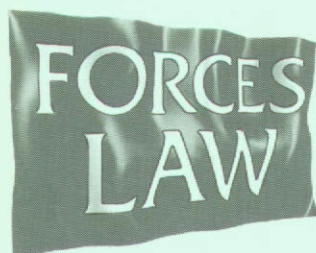
● **Newspapers:** Daily and Sunday newspapers delivered into theatre (newspapers are usually three days old on arrival in theatre).

● **BFBS Radio:** Transmitting on FM frequency, 24 hours a day. Currently there is 97 per cent radio coverage in Kosovo.

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Healing focus

Falklands families and veterans have inaugurated a remarkable new chapel to the memory of those who died in the South Atlantic

Report: Graham Bound
Pictures: Mike Weston

SOUTH Atlantic veterans and families of the 255 Servicemen who died in 1982 gathered at Pangbourne College near Reading to dedicate a newly-built church to the memory of their loved ones and friends.

Among the ex-soldiers and a few who still serve there was a feeling that, at last, their fallen comrades have a suitably beautiful and dedicated "living" memorial which will give comfort to those who mourn and a cathartic focal point for veterans who continue to live the war in their minds.

Although the strikingly modern church is built in the grounds of the college, the public will have unimpeded access. Students will use it for almost daily worship and the Falklands Families Association is likely to hold its regular remembrance services there.

Designed to evoke powerful memories of the brief but violent conflict, the chapel's unique ambience also offers reassurance and comfort to those who cannot forget.

High semi-circular walls come together at each end, creating a form reminiscent of a ship. Some visitors are also reminded of a pair of hands gently clasped to protect something valuable.

Within the building, white walls are illuminated by light streaming down from concealed skylights, and a dominant stained-glass window, paid for by the people of the Falklands, depicts the grey South Atlantic and the craggy moors of the islands.

Vicky Eley, the widow of Capt John Hamilton of the SAS (who is buried in the islands) and one of the hundreds who attended the ecumenical dedication service led by the Bishop of Reading, was

impressed by the building's evocative power. "The cross and the stained-glass give the cold feeling of the South Atlantic," she said. "It says it all about how they must have felt, and it makes my eyes well up with tears."

The chapel also has an important educational role. Maj Gen Julian Thompson, who commanded 3 Infantry Brigade during the war, was responsible for creating two adjacent rooms in which art work, photographs, videos and inter-active computer screens are used to tell the story of the campaign.

Uniquely, the rooms give access to a "virtual" garden of remembrance – the South Atlantic Medal Association's website which carries personal details of every

British Serviceman who died in the campaign.

Families have personalised the site

with photos, recollections and even extracts from letters received from sons, brothers and husbands. By typing a name into a computer terminal, a visitor can experience a poignant insight into a life cut short.

Representatives of the veterans' association clearly feel the new chapel also offers them a helpful focus for sometimes troubled emotions. Veteran Denzil Connick, who still suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, said: "This is a comfort and a focus. We can't look in on a cemetery in the Falklands, but being here is the next best thing."

The Rev David Cooper, 2 Para's chaplain at Goose Green, said the time was right for such a memorial. "We required a period of time to reflect, and to identify the gravity of our needs," he said.

Looking at the church around him with obvious satisfaction, he added: "This is just the beginning."



"This is just the beginning": Falkland veterans Denzil Connick and the Rev David Cooper share memories in the chapel dedicated to their war

Boat-like form or cradling hands: The modern design of the Falklands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne



Cut it out with Army No Smoking Day

The first Army No Smoking Day – on Wednesday, March 8 – will give soldiers who want to stop smoking their chance to do so alongside the million or so civilians expected to take part in the national event

STOPPING smoking makes sense for everyone, but soldiers have more reasons than most. Everyone knows about the long-term health risks: heart disease, cancer, strokes and many other ailments – but these don't seem so important when you are young. The reality is that there are many risks and problems that affect you now.

Operationally, smoking causes real problems. When the body is breathing in tobacco's cocktail of poisonous gases instead of oxygen, its performance is impaired – stamina is markedly reduced and no matter how fit smokers think they are, they can get much fitter when they stop.

Smokers suffer more injuries. Night vision is reduced, reaction times affected. The light from a match or cigarette-end can give away a position from miles away, especially with night-vision equipment, and so will the tell-tale smoker's cough, or the smell of smoke in the air.

HIGHER RISK

Poorer circulation means it is harder to keep warm, leading to a higher risk of cold injuries such as frostbite, and slower wound-healing if you are injured.

On a personal level, soldiers who smoke need to know that they are twice as likely to get sick as non-smoking colleagues. They'll need more trips to the dentist for tooth and gum problems, and they might even start getting complaints from their partners. Impotence is much more common in smokers. Again, it's the circulation (or lack of it) that causes this problem.

The good news is that stopping smoking is always worthwhile – most of the health risks disappear when a smoker stops, and some of the benefits start right away. Within a day of stopping, nicotine is almost gone from the system (although withdrawal symptoms last a little longer).

Highly poisonous carbon monoxide is cleared within a day, improving circulation and putting less strain on the heart.

Most obvious is the fact that the pockets start filling up with cash – for a 20-a-day

IN the days leading up to March 8, and on the Big Day itself, soldiers will be able to find out more about how to stop smoking... and how to get support if they want to cut it out.

Research indicates that two-thirds of soldiers would like to give up the weed; Army No Smoking Day is designed to help them do so.

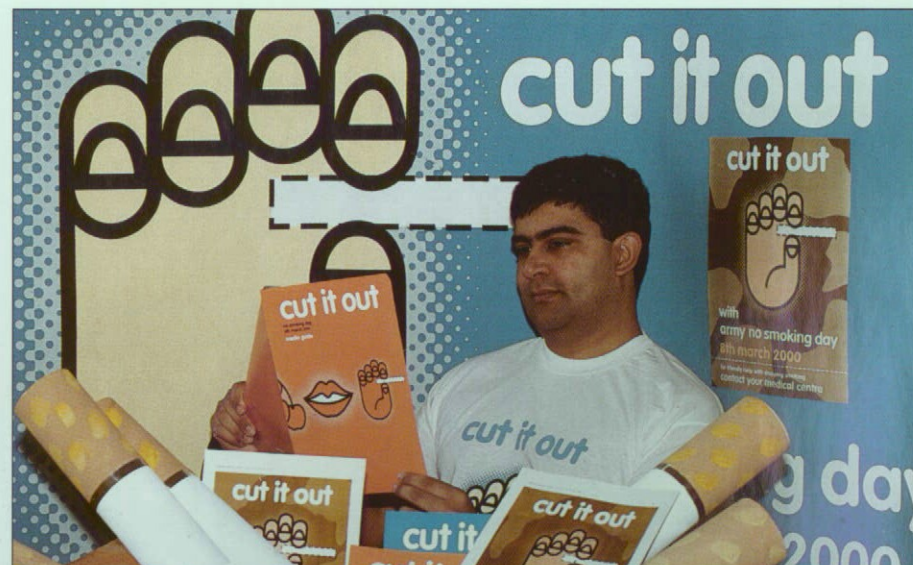
Army No Smoking Day organisers have devised relevant materials and activities to suit soldiers and their families. There is even a "Quit and Win" competition as an extra incentive. Smokers who stop on the day will be eligible to enter the contest if they are smoke-free for a month to the end of May and they could win £1,000, with £100 going to their supporter.

Look out for contest details from March 8.

smoker, it's like a £30-a-week pay rise. Army No Smoking Day on March 8 will be the first time the whole Army has taken part in the national campaign. Many units and individuals have joined in previous drives, but 2000 is the first year that the Army has its own special programme.

Maj Ricky Bhabutta RAMC, who has

spearheaded the drive, said: "Army No Smoking Day is designed to help all those soldiers who would like to stop smoking by providing advice and support wherever they are. I hope that as many units as possible will participate in the day and give their soldiers as much support as possible."



Stop it: Maj Ricky Bhabutta with some visual aids to help soldiers give up the deadly weed

Eleven tips to help you give cigarettes the boot

NO ONE claims that giving up is easy, but it is possible and many thousands of people do so each No Smoking Day. Here are our top tips to cut it out.

1. Make a plan to stop; it's like any military campaign and the better you plan the greater your chance of success. Set a date a few weeks ahead to allow you to plan properly. March 8 is a good one since lots of other people will be stopping too, but whichever you choose, stick to it.

All the following points are part of your plan. Some people find it helps to have a written contract with themselves, their friends and partners.

2. Think about what smoking means to you. Make lists of what you hate about smoking, what you will gain when you stop and also what you actually like about smoking. Think seriously about these lists and ask yourself what really matters to you. Few people have much positive to say about their smoking and lots of good reasons to stop.

3. What is it that makes you smoke? Is it after food, or with alcohol, or at work? Keep a smoking diary for a few days to see when you smoke, what you are doing and how you feel with each cigarette. You'll often see patterns that are important in helping you to stop.

If you always smoke with coffee, why not drink orange juice instead? If it's with alcohol, maybe it would be easier to avoid the pub for a while after you stop, or go to a smoke-free place instead. If it's boredom, make sure you have a "To Do" list and get on with all those jobs you've been meaning to tackle.

4. Talk to people who can help. Your medical and dental centre and the gym might be good places to start. In the UK you could ring the Smokers' Helpline (0800 169 0 169).

5. You can reduce the cravings by using nicotine replacement products. They seriously increase your chance of stopping, but they do cost money. It is still far cheaper than smoking and money well spent. Speak to your medical officer, practice nurse or pharmacist about this.

Many people use other techniques, such as relaxation, deep-breathing exercises, fiddling with elastic bands, drinking cold water and so on when they have cravings. Use whatever feels right for you, but remember that in most cases cravings last only a few moments at a time.

6. One mistake many people make is using sweets instead of cigarettes. If you

replace each cigarette with a chocolate bar, is it any wonder that you put weight on? People worry a lot about gaining weight, but if you avoid sugary or fatty foods and carry on with a reasonable fitness regime, this will not be a problem. If you want food, use celery or carrots, or even sugar-free gum.

7. Reward yourself for staying "stopped". It is important to have something positive to look forward when you stop, so use the money that you save to treat yourself. Remember that you are saving around £30 a week, so in a year you will have saved more than £1,500. Think what you could buy with that.

8. The night before you quit, smoke your last cigarette while concentrating on everything you hate about smoking. Once you have finished it, throw away anything to do with smoking, such as cigarettes, lighters and ashtrays. You will never need them again. Have a long relaxing bath to wash out the smell of stale smoke and put your clothes in the wash. You'll soon notice how much better everything smells.

9. Your planning will help you as you stop. Hopefully you will have thought about every possible problem and will know how to deal with them. But no matter how easy or hard it may seem, there is always help for you. If you're tempted to have one, don't! Think of all those reasons why you have stopped and how one cigarette will undo all the effort you've put into it. Go and do something where you can't smoke. Keeping busy definitely helps.

10. The withdrawal cravings get less and less as time passes and it gets easier to stay stopped, but do not relax and just have one, because all of the work will have been wasted. The rewards become important here.

If you are saving up for that tropical holiday, remember that it will simply go up in smoke if you start again. Keep reminding yourself of the reasons that you have stopped smoking and why you want to stay stopped.

Most people get benefits soon after they stop. Within days their chest feels lighter, they can smell again and food begins to taste good again (but not too much of it, remember). Over the following months and years massive changes happen within your body as it recovers from all the harmful effects of smoking, but it does recover.

11. Some people don't succeed at the first, second or even subsequent attempts to stop, but slip up somewhere along the way. Don't worry because this is normal and all part of the process of stopping. You have succeeded in stopping for a certain period, and just because you didn't succeed this time, don't believe that you can't stop. The next time you will be more experienced, and more successful.

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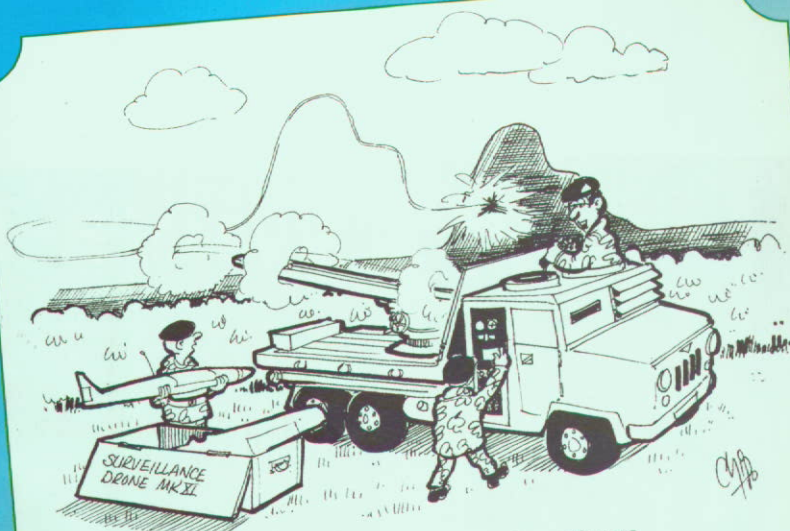


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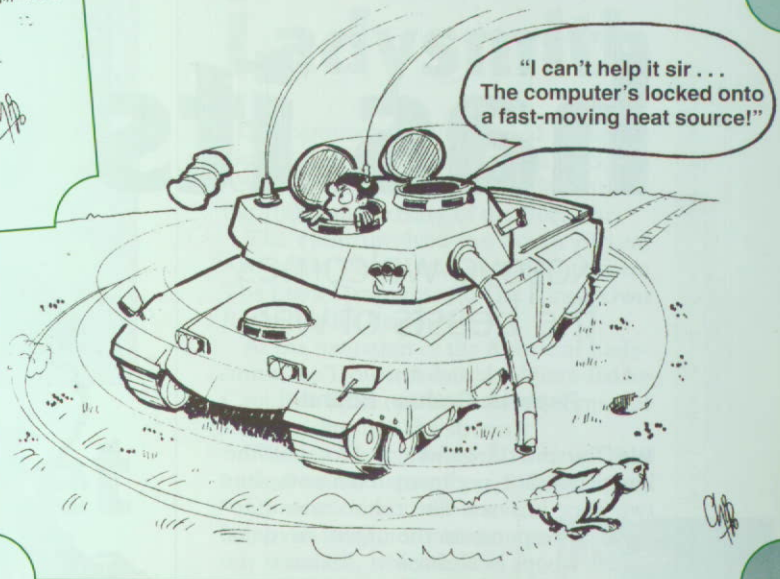
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Groundhog has its day

Kosovo welcomes the beasts of war

Reports: Graham Bound

BISON and Groundhog? No, not the latest fragrant regimental mascots, but two very business-like robots manufactured in response to the urgent needs of British troops in Kosovo.

Three Bison-Groundhog teams are at work with EOD units in the Balkans. The first was designed, built and delivered by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) within 12 weeks of the sappers placing their order.

Bomb-disposal experts soon found that Wheelbarrow, the remotely-controlled tracked robot designed for use in Northern Ireland, could not cope with the rough terrain of the rural areas of Kosovo. What they required was a more robust tool with large wheels capable of rolling happily over rocks, through ditches and across mud.

DERA designers cut down production time by using off-the-shelf hardware, but there was no scrimping on the scientific side. The latest generation of TV and lens technology is incorporated.

The result is a mix-and-match collection of vehicles that normally operates as a unit. Deploying into the danger area first, Groundhog, the recce vehicle, uses its cameras to locate and identify bombs, mines or any other ordnance. Pictures are transmitted to operators a safe distance



Roving robots: Bison (left) and Groundhog make a potent team in the rural danger areas of Kosovo

Picture: DERA

away, and only then is the much larger Bison armed and deployed.

As the 210kg machine rumbles into action, equipped with its own TV camera, Groundhog remains on station, providing a second view of the target.

Suspect objects are dispatched quickly

with demolition charges laid by Bison or its integral shotgun. One well-directed blast, and another risk to civilians and soldiers in Kosovo is history.

Win a Traser watch

TRASER, specialist manufacturers of watches and map-reading equipment for military users, have become well-known for their pioneering use of improved glow-in-the-dark technology.

Both their map-reading lens (reviewed last month), a low intensity torch, and the S3001P watch, pictured right, use gaseous tritium, a chemical which generates more light than conventional luminous substances, without the need for re-charging exposure to conventional light.

The result is reliable, green-tinted light that should not compromise a

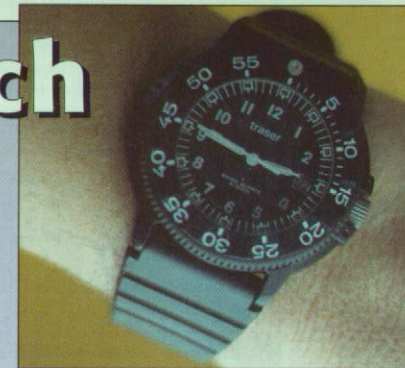
user's security in operational conditions.

Traser watches have a one-way rotating elapsed-time bezel and a water-tight casing that is secure to 100 metres. The watch has the rugged good looks of a diving instrument.

Normally priced at £129, it is discounted to £99.95 for military customers. Enquiries to 07000 872737.

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Fine-fettle jacket

A NEW, privately-designed pile jacket is being marketed to soldiers who want to augment their standard issue kit when the weather gets really miserable.

With a water-repellent, olive green outer shell, the Permar jacket certainly looks suitably martial. And, thanks to its filling of light-weight artificial fibre (which the manufacturers insist remains evenly distributed even after repeated washing) the jacket does seem impressive.

Military surplus and outdoor clothing retailer Stuart Bird, who designed the Permar jacket in response to customer feedback, says that his winter warmer incorporates innovations that make it stand out from the crowd.

Among them, a "fishtail" protrudes low over the bottom, helping to ensure that there is no hint of "builder's bum", never a good idea when bent low in the snow. A fleece band around the inside of the high collar means that the zip does not rub uncomfortably against the chin and that whiskers do not chafe away at the synthetic shell.

Elastic draw cords fitted with slightly over-size toggles can be adjusted with

the cold fingers of just one hand. The Permar has a looser fit around the arms than similar jackets, and the designer says this will help wearers using weapons or tools.

Several willing soldiers have been wearing and testing the garment during the winter. Their feedback is generally good. The manufacturers say the garment will be continually refined as further comments are received from customers.

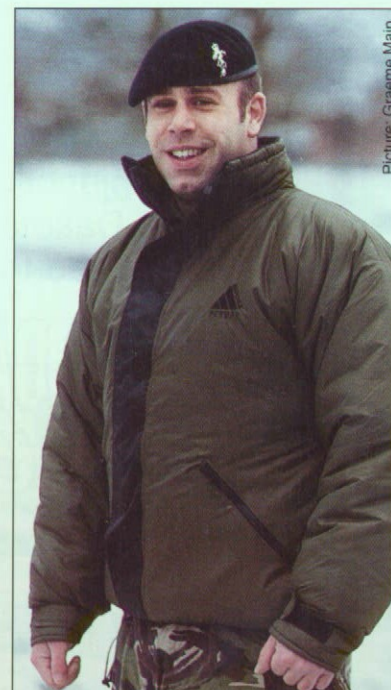
At £75, it is not cheap, but the price tag is about right for this kind of kit.

Someone who has been testing the jacket for a number of weeks is Cpl Rick Mayall. His namesake might be a joker, but the soldier is very serious about his outdoor gear and he said he was impressed.

The Permar's greatest test came during a miserable day on Otterburn

ranges. "My combat jacket was wet through," Mayall recalled, "but although the surface of the Permar was wet, the water didn't get through and I stayed warm."

● Inquiries about the Permar jacket to Armex Worldwide Surplus on 01388 775659.



Picture: Graeme Main

Snow coat: The new Permar jacket, modelled here by LCpl Morski Moor

Dragoons parade in Ladysmith

SIX members of The Royal Dragoon Guards travelled to Ladysmith in South Africa to join a military parade marking the 100th anniversary of the Boer War.

The event involved the South African Army and Navy, and contingents from The Light Dragoons and The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

At the invitation of the Mayor of Ladysmith, the Tidworth-based soldiers, led by Capt Ben Ryan, paraded their regimental standard through the streets.

"We felt very privileged to have been invited to take part," said Capt Ryan, "and even more so for being allowed to parade our standard, which bears the battle honours won by our antecedent regiments in the Boer War."

Two officers who served in South Africa with the Inniskillen Dragoons, an antecedent, went on to win international acclaim. Lt Col Robert Baden-Powell, who organised the defence of Mafeking, subsequently founded the Boy Scout movement, while Capt Laurence Oates achieved immortality as the epitome of British valour for sacrificing himself on Scott's ill-fated 1912 Antarctic expedition.

The visitors toured battlefields in Natal and laid wreaths at regimental memorials. They met members of the South African Armoured Corps and forged links with their School of Armour in Bloemfontein.



In memory: RSM (WO1) - now Capt - Robin McAllister at a memorial to the 5th Dragoons at Ladysmith



Altogether now: RDG visitors, including Capt Ben Ryan, front right, line up for the camera on a South African fighting vehicle at the School of Armour in Bloemfontein

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From Westminster to Wapping

A monthly digest of what's being said in Parliament and the Press

SA80 'to be modified'

MODIFICATIONS to the SA80 rifle are likely after criticisms of its reliability.

The move was indicated by Defence Secretary Geoffrey Hoon on January 19 following observations in a leaked report by senior officers after the Kosovo operation.

Criticisms of the rifle have been voiced over several years, particularly at the time of the Gulf War.

Questioned by the Commons Defence Select Committee, Mr Hoon said the rifle was "exceptionally accurate" but "unreliability problems" had been left unresolved "for far too long". He made clear the SA80 would need modification.

Homes upgrade to cost more: Completion date for the upgrade of married quarters in mainland UK has been put back two years at a cost of an extra £112 million.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar told Robert Key MP in a written answer that when Annington Homes bought the estate in 1996 it was assessed the refurbishment would cost about £470 million over a seven-year period.

Additional work identified later, including structural and utilities improvements, will extend the work from 2003 to 2005.

Gurkha pensions doubled: Retired Gurkha soldiers will get twice their current pension from April, Armed Forces Minister John Spellar announced.

The increase follows a major examination of Gurkhas' pension and gratuity arrangements and will range from £750 a year for below corporal to £3,700 a year for a major. Pensions will continue to be reviewed in the normal way and will benefit from annual cost-of-living increases.

Revised terms and conditions of service were introduced in 1997 when the UK became the home base for the Brigade of Gurkhas



after withdrawal from Hong Kong. There are now about 3,500 Gurkhas in the British Army, 65 in Nepal, 945 in Brunei and the rest in the UK. They have served in peace-keeping roles in Kosovo and East Timor.

Defence medicine: University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust has been selected as the host for the new Centre for Defence Medicine.

The centre, described by Armed Forces Minister John Spellar as "an important landmark in our new strategy for the Defence Medical Services", will provide a professional focus for military medicine. It is expected to be open by April 2001.

Sky tanker for helicopters: Air-to-air refuelling is being considered for part of the future support helicopter fleet, Defence Minister Peter Kilfoyle said in a written answer.

Requirements for the Future Large Transport Aircraft, on which a decision is due soon, include a capability for re-rolling as an air-to-air refuelling tanker, possibly for helicopters.

Tank training: Royal Ordnance has won a contract for the development and initial production of CHARM 3, a 120mm training



Accurate but unreliable: The SA80 is to be modified following operational criticisms

round for the Challenger 2 tank which offers realism of live-firing with reduced environmental impact.

TA mobilisation: A study has concluded that compulsory mobilisation of the TA is feasible in both legal and practical terms, enabling it to make a major contribution to front-line operations, though it is not necessary at the moment.

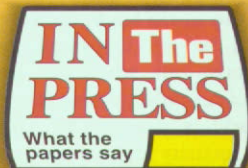
DVA move: The relocation of Defence Vetting Agency headquarters staff to Imphal Barracks, York, is expected to be completed by early next year. More than 180 local employees will augment 130 investigating officers across the UK, working from home.

Wilkinson Sword of Peace: Army units receiving the community relations award, 1992-98, were: 1992, 7 Sig Regt (Albania) and 1 Cheshire Bn Gp (Bosnia); 1993, 21 Engr Regt Bosnia; 1994, 1 KOBR (Londonderry); 1995 Gurkha Welfare Scheme, Nepal; 1996, 36 Engr Regt (Bosnia/UK) 1 RMP (Bosnia/Germany); 1997, HCR (Bosnia/UK); 1998, 8 R Irish (Tyrone).

● The advance by British forces into Kosovo last June highlighted problems with unreliable radio communications below battalion level, the light support weapon and the chain of command, according to confidential reports by two senior commanders. — *Widely reported in all national newspapers*

● Britain's defence spending has fallen behind that of France for the first time in decades. — *Sunday Times*

● British troops serving overseas do not get enough free telephone calls home or television channels to watch, members of the Commons Defence Committee claimed. They said it was unfair that troops in the



Falklands had to pay £1 per minute for telephone calls when those in Bosnia and Kosovo had 20 minutes of free calls per week. — *Financial Times*

● The Army is trying to recruit a companion for one of its most unusual troopers — the Indian black buck antelope

mascot of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Keepers are concerned that 15-month-old Bobby will become lonely unless he has the companionship of a fellow member of his species. — *Sunday Telegraph*

● Once again the Services' Cotswold Centre — a haven for families in crisis as well as a transit centre — is under the threat of closure. — *News of the World*

● Britain is holding out against international moves to raise the minimum age limit for the recruitment and deployment of soldiers to 18 despite strong pressure from the UN and consensus among developing and developed countries. — *Guardian*

Hostess of Heathrow

Hillary Clinton is charming and lively and Jiang Zemin, President of China, is rather 'jolly'. Anita Newcourt, VIP host at Heathrow, TV personality and TA officer, knows because they are just two of the world leaders she has met

Report: Graham Bound

"GIVE the Duke of Edinburgh's nose a rub when you get a chance, please Derek."

Now, if there is one thing guaranteed to raise the ire of the Duke it is a severe rubbing down by a man with a can of Mr Sheen. So, if only for Derek's sake, it was a relief to learn that the nasty smudge bothering Anita Newcourt, as she checked the Royal Suite at Heathrow Airport, was not on the real Prince Philip, but on a large framed photograph hanging next to that of the Queen.

Smudges are not tolerated here. Not that this king of lounges – and any of the other three suites used by ministers, diplomats and VIPs nominated by the Foreign Office – are luxurious. As Anita, the ebullient manager of Heathrow's VIP visitor facilities and star of TV's fly-on-the-wall docu-soap *Airport*, explains, the lounges are understated but tasteful; rather as the Foreign Office would like Britain itself to be perceived.

NO QUEUES

"You can't buy your way into these lounges," explained the hostess of Heathrow, "although plenty would like to. In any case, most will get more luxurious service in the first-class lounges. The big difference here is that there are no queues and crowds, and immigration and customs officers come to our guests, rather than the other way round."

Above all, however, the VIP lounges

provide cast-iron security. Set well apart from the walkways, departure gates and duty-free shops, the biggest movers and shakers in the world know they are safe.

It should be good enough for most mere mortals, but whenever President Clinton and his wife use the Royal Suite, Anita's world is overrun by up to 100 American security guards and officials, who have a tendency to try to take over. "It's a potential nightmare if you don't know how to handle it," said Anita.

In such circumstances, her military training can come in handy. Although she was a little hurt when one TV critic described her "performance" on *Airport* as "officious", the Army Air Corps Territorial Army major believes that a carefully-applied military demeanour is useful.

"I have to be a little sergeant major-like sometimes, otherwise people walk all over us."

In the TA, Anita is adjutant to the Media Operations Group (Volunteers) at HQ Land Command. She reckons her military experience in public relations has a lot to do with her progress to her current high-profile job.

BRISTOL OTC

She joined the TA in 1983 following four years in the Officers' Training Corps at Bristol University (where she read Russian) and was recently awarded the Territorial Decoration.

"I went on more exercises and did more soldiering in those four years than at any time since. It included attachments to 30



Everyone's favourite: The late King Hussein of Jordan, above, always made the time to chat

Overwhelming security: But, according to Anita, Hillary Clinton, top left picture, is charming and lively

Welcome for Nelson: Anita joins the greeting party for South Africa's president, left

Uniform approach: Anita Newcourt, right, a major in the AAC(V), ensures that heads of state enjoy a warm welcome and, above all, a safe transit through Heathrow



world leaders and royals have trained at Sandhurst, or in their own country's military equivalents, and it gives her some common ground with those for whom the red carpet is rolled out. For many of them, flying is also a common reference point; Anita has a private pilot's licence for fixed-wing aircraft.

Skills acquired in the TA also came in handy during last year's state visit by President Jiang Zemin of China. The embassy phoned to say they intended to have 300 people on the tarmac to greet the President.

"Excuse me!" responded Anita. Decoded, the message was: "You'll have just as many people as we say you can have." The Chinese settled for 150 flag-wavers and Jiang Zemin did not seem to mind. "He was," said Anita, "quite jolly."

A shared interest in things military may have been the key to her warm relationship with the late King Hussein of Jordan. "He was our favourite visitor," Anita said. "The King was always friendly, and if someone in our team was holding back, he would make the effort to go over and talk to them." When the monarch died, Anita was invited to his memorial service in London.

QUIET MAN

Encounters with the Clintons are fascinating. The President, says Anita, is surprisingly quiet – unlike Hillary. "She is so lively and charming. I have a lot of time for her."

Nelson Mandela is equally easy-going. Visitor and host had a little time to chat and she told him about her plans to visit South Africa. "I asked him for his advice, and he said 'my dear, I think you know my country better than I do'."

John Major is another charmer. "The first time I met him," recalled Anita, "we chatted about families and I mentioned that my mother had 'flu. A few months later, he passed through Heathrow again and immediately said: 'Hello, Anita. How's your mum?'"

Thanks to the phenomenal popularity of *Airport*, Anita is herself something of a celebrity. She has made guest appearances on two other TV shows, strangers recognise her in the street and she receives a steady trickle of letters requesting autographs.

She is not about to eclipse any of the world leaders she cares for, but the extent of her fame often delights her. "I've even had VIPs say 'I've just seen you on TV'," she said with unconvincing pride. "Now that is really nice."

and 21 Signal Regiments and was great fun." After university, her first Army job was as the PR officer with 5th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, then forming up and expanding in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Stints with 10 Para in London and London District followed, the latter giving her an insight into major events such as the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Royal Tournament and the Queen Mother's 90th birthday celebrations. "It was a privilege to be behind the scenes," she recalls.

The experience stood her in good stead when she joined the Civil Service and landed a post in the busy Scotland Yard Press Bureau ("my first 'proper' job").

Although born in Britain, Anita has

strong connections with Poland, her parents' homeland. Her earliest "militarisation" came when she joined the Polish Scouts, who have a tradition of drill, uniforms, discipline and character-building.

Her father was an officer in the artillery and during the Second World War served with the 2nd Polish Corps in Italy under British command.

COMPARISON

"As a TA person, you can often take a civilian situation and compare it to a military one before you make your decision. That can be really helpful."

Her Army experience is particularly useful in the Heathrow job... as an "ice-breaker" with the high and mighty. Many

Read on . . . this is about YOU

According to our poll our typical reader is young, loyal, well-informed, reads most, if not all, of every issue and then passes it on to his mates

FASCINATING facts about you, our readers, and what you think of *Soldier* have emerged from the results of our big question-and-answer survey.

Researchers have studied the wealth of information you gave us in thousands of questionnaires returned from our September edition and have gauged just how effective *Soldier* is in communicating with its target audience.

The results have also given us the first professional "opinion-poll" verdict on the changes we have made in the past year.

Our questions had several objectives in mind. We wanted to find out:

Who reads *Soldier* in terms of rank, age, and location? Where and how do you obtain your copy? How many people is your magazine passed on to?

How do you read the magazine? Do you look at all of it or only certain parts? Which sections do you like best and which are the most informative?

What do you think of the new format? Do you find the magazine a good source of useful information or do you look elsewhere?

As we reported in January, the survey told us clearly that *Soldier* is good at getting across useful, current information about the Army and is the magazine of choice for the professional soldier.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our survey assessors also tell us that:

- 40 per cent of *Soldier* readers are aged between 19 and 34 and 20 per cent between 35 and 44.
- 50 per cent are privates or NCOs.
- 55 per cent have been reading *Soldier* for more than ten years.
- 64 per cent of magazines circulating each month are read by between two and ten people and 11 per cent by 11 or more.
- 80 per cent read all or most of each issue.
- 89 per cent keep their copy of *Soldier* or pass it on rather than bin it.

Questionnaires were included in 64,000 copies of the magazine, 50,000 of

Good listeners, good readers: In a survey into the effectiveness of garrison radio broadcasts at Catterick, 84 per cent of soldiers and 24 per cent of wives said they also read *Soldier*.

which went to the Regular Army, TA, Army Cadet Force, and families.

Apart from these, respondents included ex-Service and other civilian postal subscribers and members of other Services. Some replies even came from members of other nations' Armed Forces.

It was no surprise, however, to find that most questionnaires were sent by British soldiers based in the UK and Germany.

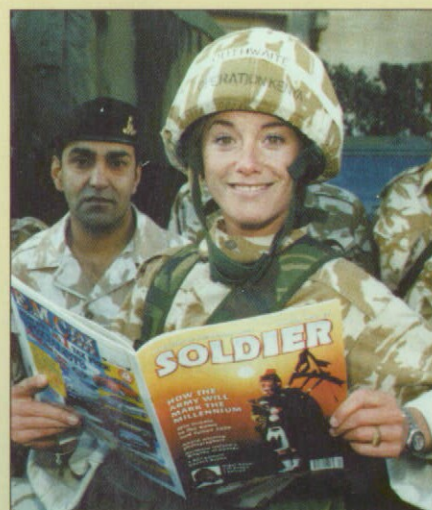
What you like and what you don't . . .

SO FAR, so good. But what do you actually think of the magazine and its content?

By far the majority of respondents in our survey – 98 per cent – agreed that *Soldier* contained current news and 90 per cent considered the length of articles to be about right.

You were given a list of 32 regular and occasional features and asked to indicate how interested you were in each.

Our special reports (lead feature-stories, usually exclusive) were favourite, with 89 per cent of you registering your approval. The "Soldier to soldier" column, extended articles, news pages (People,



Learning about the Army: TV's Tamzin dips into the magazine and likes what she sees

Ahead of the game

OUR survey asked when you received your copy of the magazine and bearing in mind that many are passed around, sometimes by post, and some have to travel vast distances, distribution is prompt.

While 78 per cent of you said you received *Soldier* at some time during the month of publication, 17 per cent actually receive your magazine before the cover-date.

Places, Events), pictorial features, Kit-stop, Mailbag, cartoons, historical items and annual pay-scales list also all attracted a high level of backing.

For unstated reasons, your responses showed a distinct lack of interest in video reviews, and our Pen Pals classified section registered the highest negative vote even though replies to advertisers run into hundreds each month.

EMBARRASSED?

"However," reported our assessors, "there may be some element of embarrassment among respondents about claiming an interest in pen pals."

Generally, attitudes were very positive, with three-quarters of you agreeing that "Soldier is the magazine for the professional soldier"; 83 per cent confirming we keep you in touch with what's going on in the Army and 89 per cent endorsing the statement that the magazine is good at getting across useful information.

Although news, features and sport are paramount in *Soldier*, the magazine values its strong advertising support. However, although the number of non-editorial pages are deliberately limited to less than a third of the total, 32 per cent of you thought even that was too many, with 37 per cent non-committal. By contrast, a hefty 54 per cent of you said you found the advertising useful.

The survey data was analysed by NOP Numbers Ltd for the Central Office of Information.



Picture: Steve Dock

And the winner is . . . Cpl Phil Clarke. *EastEnders* star Tamzin Outhwaite makes her selection from thousands of survey forms

History lesson

IN addition to the question-and-answer nature of the survey, readers were given the opportunity for free comment, a device to draw out criticisms and suggestions for change or improvement.

Few took the opportunity, but three per cent called for more historical articles and two per cent each for more information on the TA, for more photographs and for more articles on Army Cadets.

Subscriptions go up by 37 per cent

STOP PRESS: Since February 1999, when *Soldier* went all-colour and distribution to the Army increased, postal subscriptions to the magazine have risen by 37 per cent.

Magazines distributed to the retail trade have also increased, by a substantial 15 per cent – more than 1,000 copies per month.

● Subscribe and save – see Page 53

Mel goes 'up West' to pick our winner

OF all the many *Soldier* readers who responded to our autumn 1999 survey, *EastEnders* star Tamzin Outhwaite picked just one . . . named Phil.

Not Phil Mitchell, you understand, but Cpl Phil Clarke, currently serving with the Army in Northern Ireland – who is £100 winner in our survey prize draw.

Tamzin, who plays barmaid Melanie in the soap hit, selected Phil's completed questionnaire at random from thousands of entries in London's West End last month.

Looking very much the part in Army combats, the bright and bubbly TV star then dipped into the pile and drew two more – signed by WO2 (Supvr R) Marchant, of JSSS Chicksands, and Roger Williams, of London, who win con-

solation prizes of Army tankards. Tamzin was on duty with boxer Prince Naseem Hamed at the Covent Garden launch of the Army's new recruiting drive, Operation Kenya, which involves a competition to spend a week in Africa with the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment.

The aim is to encourage young people to find out about the Army by talking to soldiers or visiting the British Army website (at www.army.mod.uk) to get the answers to questions printed on 1.5 million entry forms distributed nationwide.

"When you mingle with the soldiers and talk to them you realise it's not all about the front-line," said Tamzin. "There are loads of trades within the Army and it is really important to find out about it properly."

Building bridges

Lion-hearted!

Wildlife at a game reserve in Kenya can live in relative safety thanks to a sapper squadron's efforts

Words: Dennis Barnes
Pictures: Kevin Capon

AN unexpected confrontation with a large troop of baboons was one of the local hazards faced by a group of British sappers on exercise in Kenya – but they were relieved to escape an uncomfortable meeting with a huge lion.

Soldiers from 1 Troop, 35 Squadron, 39 Engineer Regiment, were in the country to help restore the long-neglected road and bridge network in the Mwea national reserve and, in their spare time, to build a classroom for a local school.

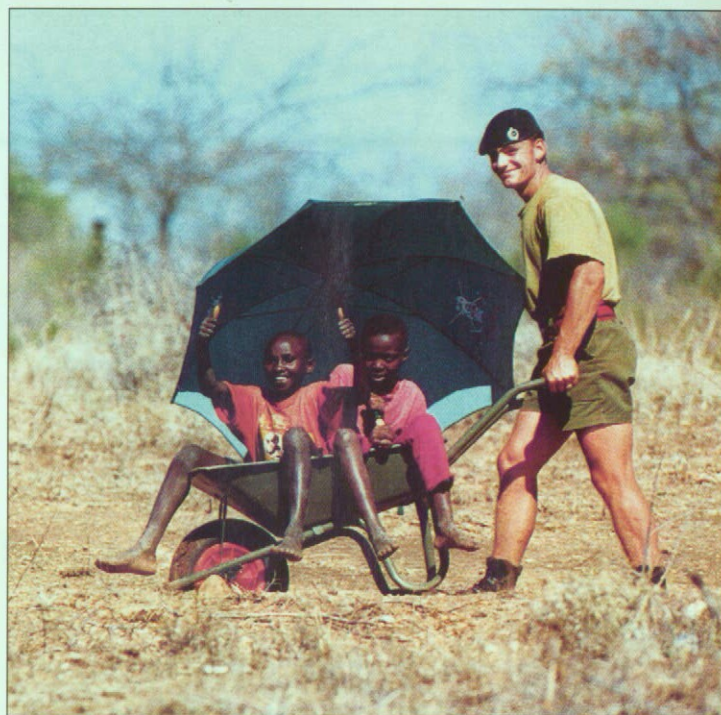
A small park by African standards, it was once so well stocked with big game that elephants were moved to build up numbers in other areas. But 20 years of neglect, encroachment by local farmers and poaching had left it in a sorry state.

Mwea was not fenced and its fertile soil was ploughed by farmers to grow maize. Local people regarded it as their own personal larder and poaching increased to such an extent that some species disappeared. Giraffe, zebra and antelope that once thrived in the semi-arid scrub and overgrown woods became just a memory.

No game meant no tourists ... and no revenue. The reserve, caught in a vicious circle, declined to the point where it was considered a burden on the impoverished Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

All that changed when Mwea was given a £4m grant by the World Wide Fund for Nature to erect an electric fence, completed in August. With the remaining animals safe at last, the sappers volunteered to renovate 40km of impassible road and to reconstruct three rotten bridges.

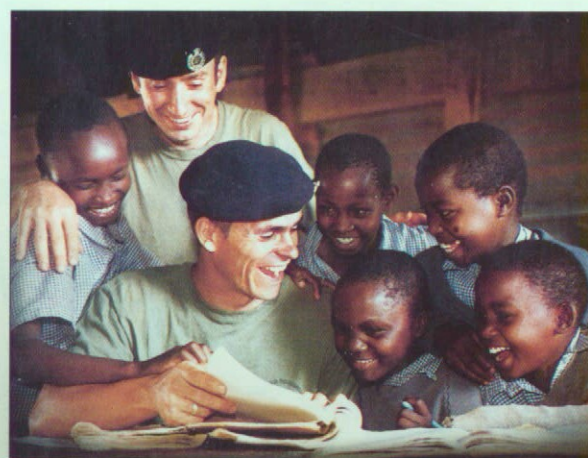
For six weeks, the 45 soldiers lived in a



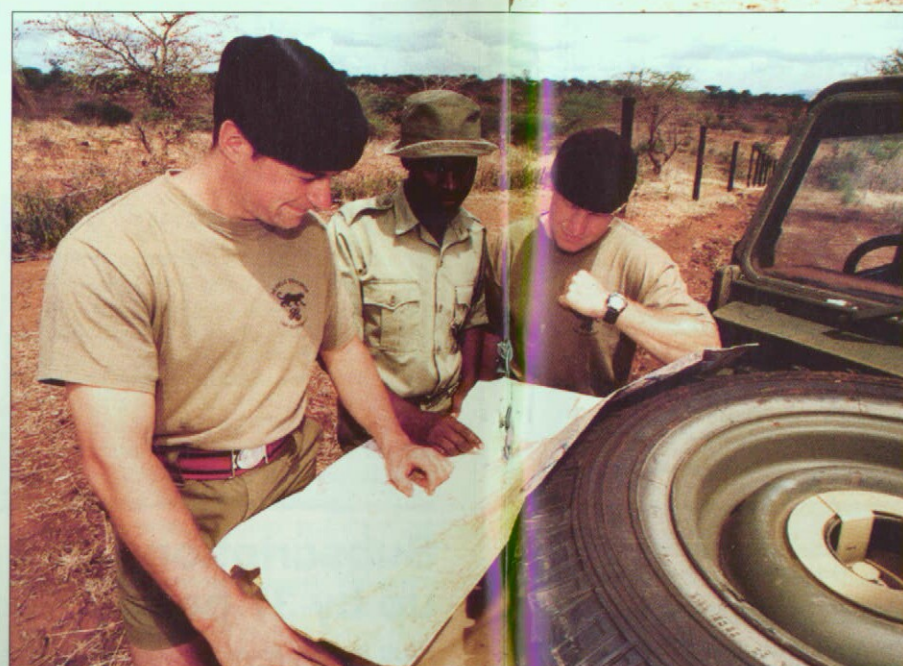
Mad dogs and ... Spr Michael Gallagher, left, gives two children a lift across the schoolyard

Hot work: Sappers, right, manhandle an 18ft solid wooden beam into position on one of the new bridges

Fenced in: Lt Jonathan Scott, below left, ranger Frederick Chegi, centre, and SSgt Paul Phillips check the boundary of the park on a map. Behind them, the electric fence deters wild animals and people



Laugh-in: Cpl Mark Johnson, seated, and LCpl John Marley share a joke with pupils in a classroom at Namuri



he was relieved that a huge male lion called Simba would be released in the reserve only after he and his men had left.

Because of the poor quality of local building materials the sappers often had to improvise to complete tasks.



Level playing field: More than 40km of road were graded by 1 Troop as part of the renovation of Mwea

The bridges had six-metre spans, with steel girders replacing the old timbers. Beams had to be carried (a process described as "sapper-power" by one soldier) because access was difficult.

Away from the roads and bridges, the

soldiers found facilities at the Namuri primary school begged description. The school catered for almost 200 pupils in three buildings divided into classrooms by corrugated iron sheets. The pupils had no pens and paper but Cpl John Johnstone

was impressed by their attitude in the face of these difficulties. "They have a uniform of sorts and are as cheerful as any kids in the world," he said.

The troops read to the children, helped them with homework and joined their dancing lessons.

Cpl Paul Cooper said the spirit of the children was amazing. And Spr Gareth George added: It was "an unbelievable sound" when he heard the entire school singing traditional songs. "They are only five or six years old but they harmonise like a Welsh choir," he said.

British engineers once again proved that their unique skills can be used anywhere, from Kosovo to Kenya. Now that Mwea's main roads are open again, the reserve will quickly be restored to health.

Ranger Frederick Chege summed it up. "Without their skills it would be impossible for us to move around the park. They have done a brilliant job."

If they could talk, Simba and his mates would probably agree.

Regimental museums

Cornwall

MILITARY MUSEUM at The Keep, Bodmin

The history of a famous County Regiment, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Fascinating displays of uniforms, weapons, medals and much more. Open during normal business hours and on Sundays during July and August 10am - 5pm or by appointment at other times.

Tel: 01208 72810
Adults: £2 Children: 50p

Dorset



This museum tells the remarkable story of those who have served in the regiments of Dorset and Devon. Their courage, humour, traditions and sacrifice are all brought together in an exciting, colourful exhibition for visitors of all ages.

The story is told using IT and creative displays of the Infantry, Cavalry and Artillerymen of the counties of Dorset and Devon. The diversity of articles shown allows the visitors' imagination the freedom to recreate the world of these soldiers and their families from 1685 to the present day.

There are also activities for children to take part in and win prizes. These activities help the younger generation to understand the courage and sacrifice their grandparents made.

A final bonus to one's visit to The Keep is the spectacular views from the battlements showing all the main areas of Dorchester and its countryside.

Mon-Sat 9.30 - 5.00 Sunday opening July - August
Small admission charge

The Keep, Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1RN
Telephone: (01305) 264066 Fax: (01305) 250373
A registered charity that educates the public in our regimental histories

Essex



The Essex Regiment Museum

Chelmsford & Essex Museum
Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street,
Chelmsford. Tel: (01245) 353066

Open: Monday-Saturday
10am - 5pm
Sundays 2 - 5pm

Admission & parking free

Expenditure on the Dome has caused great debate throughout the land but it serves as a timely reminder that other, less costly venues are also worth a visit.

Hampshire

VISIT WINCHESTER'S 5 MILITARY MUSEUMS

open daily from 10am to 4pm, open daily from 10am to 4pm, open daily from 10am to 4pm, open daily from 10am to 4pm, open daily from 10am to 4pm.

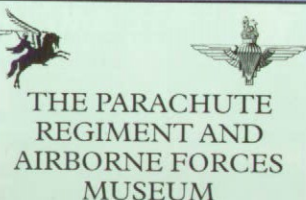
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* Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, SO23 8TS * Series House, Southgate Street, Winchester, SO23 9EG

- * The King's Royal Hussars
- * The Light Infantry
- * The Gurkha Museum
- * The Royal Green Jackets
- * The Royal Hampshire Regiment

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Browning Barracks
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU
Telephone: 01252 349619

See the history of
Airborne Forces
from their formation in 1940
to the present day.

Open Mon to Sun 1000 - 1630.
Last admission 1545 hrs.
Special group visits can be made by prior arrangement.

Admission:
Adults £2.50. Children, senior
citizens, serving/ex-members £1.00
Groups by arrangement please.



ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS MUSEUM

c/o ASPT, Fox Lines,
Queens Avenue
Aldershot, Hampshire
GU11 2LB Tel: 01252 347168

APTC history since 1860
including development of
physical training in the Army,
APTC international and
Olympic sportsmen, evolution
of athletic equipment and
instructors' dress, etc.

Open Mon to Thurs 0900-1600
& Fri 0900-1230.
Weekends and Bank Holidays
by appointment only.
Closed during leave periods, Easter,
Summer, Xmas-Please call to check.

Kent

MUSEUM OF DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE CHICKSANDS, SHEFFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE

SG17 5PR. Telephone 01462 752342
Incorporates Intelligence Corps Museum, showing the history of British Military Intelligence from Queen Elizabeth I to the present day, and the Medmenham Collection which displays the history of aerial photography from its origins in World War I up to modern times.

Enigma machine as seen on TV!

Open Wed, Thurs & Fri 0900 - 1500
1st and 3rd Sunday each month 1300 - 1700
Some flexibility in opening hours.
Prior phone call is essential.

Kent



THE PRINCESS OF WALES' ROYAL REGIMENT AND QUEEN'S MUSEUM AT DOVER CASTLE

Open all year 1000 - 1600 winter
1000 - 1800 summer
Over four centuries of living history, over 200,000 visitors last year. Exhibition includes: WW1 trench experience; interactive videos of WW1; medal display and the story of the Victoria Cross (56 awarded); one of the largest portable drum displays in the army for hire; the story of the 12 forebear regiments of the PWRR. Entrance fee as per Dover Castle. Entrance to museum free.
Join our Friends - contact Mr A Booth on 01227 595542



THE QUEEN'S LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

Incorporating the collectables and archives of
The East Lancashire Regiment,
The South Lancashire Regiment,
The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire),
The Lancashire Regiment, Militia,
Volunteers and Territorials.

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Telephone: 01772 260362
Open Tuesday - Thursday 0930-1630
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THE FUSILIERS MUSEUM, LANCASHIRE

Discover the history of this famous British Regiment from its foundation in 1688 and its connection with Wolfe, Wellington and Napoleon.

Open: 0930 - 1630 everyday except Wed & Sun Closed Christmas & Easter. Open Bank Holiday Mondays
Admission: Adults £2.00, OAPs & children £1.00
Wellington Barracks, Bolton Rd, Bury BL8 2PL
Telephone: 0161 764 2208

Surrey



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Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey
Tel: 01252 340871
Mon - Fri: 1000 - 1600 Sat: 1000 - 1500
Closed Sundays and Public Holidays
Free admission. Fully accessible to the disabled with special parking.

Sussex



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS MUSEUM

Sussex Combined Services
Museum, The Redoubt
Fortress, Royal Parade,
Eastbourne BN22 7AQ
Tel: 01323 410300

Open April - November, 0930 - 1730
Admission: Adults £2.00,
Family ticket (2+2) £5.50,
Under 16/over 60s £1.00

For further information phone:
Major P J Timmons 020 7414 8782
Website: www.eastbournemuseums.co.uk



ROYAL MILITARY POLICE MUSEUM

Roussillon Bks, Chichester,
W Sussex (on A286 Midhurst Rd)
Open
April - Sept: Tue - Fri
10.30 - 12.30 & 13.30 - 16.30
Sat & Sun: 1400 - 1700
Oct - Dec & Feb - Mar: Tue - Fri
10.30 - 12.30 & 13.30 - 16.30
www.rhqrmp.freemuseum.co.uk
museum@rhqrmp.freemuseum.co.uk
Free Admission Tel: 01243 534225

Wales

Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Castle and Regimental Museum Senior Regiment of the Reserve Army Monmouth's Early Defences Medieval Herb Garden 2 - 5 pm daily in summer 2 - 4 pm weekends in winter



at Monmouth Castle
Free entry 01600 772175



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Telephone: 01874 613310
Website: www.rwb.orq.uk
E-mail: swb@rwb.orq.uk

300 years of history.
Zulu wars. Large medal collection and armoury.
Open: Oct to Mar
(weekdays only)
& Apr to Sept (daily)
0900 - 1300 and 1400 - 1700

Warwickshire

THE QUEEN'S OWN HUSSARS MUSEUM



Lord Leicesters
Hospital, High Street,
Warwick CV34 4BH.
Tel: 01926 492035
Open: Summer 1000-1700
& Winter 1000-1600

Closed Mondays and
Christmas Day
Admission to the
museum is free

For further information phone:
Major P J Timmons 020 7414 8782

Yorkshire



GREEN HOWARDS MUSEUM

Trinity Church Square, Richmond,
North Yorkshire DL10 4QN
Tel: 01748 822133

This famous North Yorkshire Regiment was founded in 1688 and its campaigns from 1690 onwards are illustrated with original uniforms, gallantry awards medals, Regimental silver and many other relics, including interactive video of WW II and CD ROM. Also some of Richmond's historic plate.

1 FEB - 31 MAR: Mon-Fri 10.00 - 4.30pm
(Sat & Sun closed)
1 APR - Mid MAY: Mon-Sat 9.30 - 4.30pm &
Easter Day 2pm - 4.30pm (Sun closed)
Mid MAY - 30 SEPT:
Mon-Sat: 9.30am-4.30pm & Sun: 2-4.30pm
1 OCT - 31 OCT: Mon-Sat 9.30 - 4.30pm
(Sun closed)
1 NOV - 30 NOV Mon-Fri: 10am-4.30pm
(Sat & Sun closed).
Open at other times by appointment. Closed
DEC - 31 JAN

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum

Churchill subscribed to the view that the further back we looked, the further forward we would see. This being the case, he would surely have approved of the recent major investment made to retain and enhance the past at The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum, The Castle, Caernarfon.

First established in Caernarfon Castle nearly 60 years ago, the museum was showing distinct signs of wear-and-tear as it neared pensionable age. Wooden showcases, out-of-date display techniques and inadequate interpretation made change essential but "cosmetic surgery" had its price - a massive £1.6m.

Of this, £1.1m was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with the remaining £.5m raised heroically by an appeal committee formed on behalf of the museum. The money came from a variety of sources - donations, covenants, businesses and associated trusts and charities, to name a few - and in July of last year the new face of The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum was proudly unveiled.

With the encouragement of Welsh Heritage (CADW) who run the Castle, the museum has been expanded to occupy a second tower. The consummate skill of the designer ensured a modern museum in a medieval castle without detracting from the magnificence of the building.

The displays incorporate an innovative, environmentally-controlled system and of the four galleries within the museum, three chronologically illustrate the regiment's history since 1689. Combined with outstanding graphics from the Drawing Room, the overall effect is sure to be stunning.

For further information please contact the museum direct on 01286 673362.

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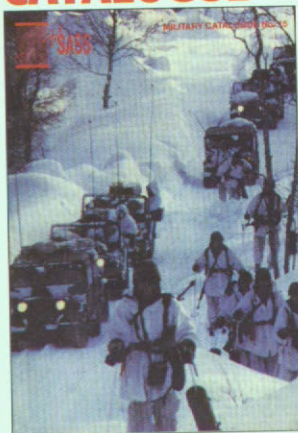
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Awards

New Year Honours

GCB

Gen Sir Michael Walker, KCB, CMG, CBE, ADC, late R Anglian.

KCB

Lt Gen M A Willcocks, CB, late RA.

CB

Rev Dr V Dobbin, MBE, QHC, RACHD; Maj Gen D J M Jenkins, CBE, late QOH.

CBE

Col M O'Donoghue, late AAC; Col D H R Stephenson, late LI; Brig C R Winfield, late RAMC.

OBE

Lt Col R L Barrons, MBE, RA; Act Col C D A Blessington, Sussex ACF; Lt Col G J Cary, R Signals; Lt Col G A Douglas, A and SH; Lt Col D C Eccles, RTR; Lt Col W J Heminsley, RE; Lt Col A D Knyvett, RA; Lt Col A J E Malcolm, WG; Lt Col T C R Moore, AGC; Lt Col P M Naylor, RE; Lt Col J R W Pullinger, Para; Lt Col J G Y Radcliffe, TD RY; Lt Col M A Straker, LD; Lt Col J N Taylor-Firth, RTR, TA; Lt Col R H Williams, RE; Lt Col A Workman, REME.

MBE

Capt D C J Amlot, AAC; Maj J J Ashwell, R Signals; Maj J L Atherton, RLC; Maj K Bell, R Signals; Maj A D Bellingall, RE; Maj A J Betteridge, REME; WO1 K Blake, AGC; Capt T E Brown, RLC; SSgt S D Bushnell, REME; Sgt S H Cocks, AGC; Act Lt Col F M F Cox, Middlesex ACF; Maj N C Crawshaw, AAC; Maj C W N Crewdson, 9/12th L; Maj J N A Crichton-Stuart, SG; LCpl R Croker, RLC, TA; Capt M F Cross, RAMC, TA; Act Maj D A Davies, Hereford and Worcester ACF; Maj M Davis, R Signals; Maj A J Deas, RLC; Capt W R Donald, RE, TA; WO2 M P Feehily, RAMC, TA; Maj R A Forrest, BW; WO2 M P Fox, Coldm Gds; Capt J W L Frost, R Signals, TA.

WO2 D M Fullman, REME; Maj D Gagen, REME; WO1 P Goodwin, CA Mus; Capt C M P Gosling, RE; Maj M P H Gouldstone, RGR; WO2 D I Grassick, Gren Gds; Capt S T Griffiths, East of England Regt, TA; Lt Col D N Hamilton, RE; WO2 A F Hands, RGJ; WO2 N M Harrison, 9/12th L; Act Maj A Henderson, QOH ACF; WO2 G C Hendrickson, APTC; WO1 B J Hitchings, BEM, Hldrs; Maj R H Horner, RA; WO2 C D Howitt, AGC; Maj S G Hutchinson, R Signals; Maj M C Jones, RLC; Act Capt P F Kingston, Shropshire ACF; Act Lt Col A J Ley, Devon ACF; Maj I P Licence, REME; Capt C H Lomas, BEM, RLC; Capt S T Lonnen, RLC.

Capt H M Loughborough, Int Corps; Spr C J Mann, RE; Maj S D Marcham, Gren Gds; WO2 M E Mason, RRW; Maj D Masters, RLC; LBdr M J McDermott, RA; Cpl A C McGuire, RLC, TA; Maj G I Mitchell, REME; WO2 M C Mogford, RE; WO1 M J Morgan, RR Vols, TA; Maj A W Murray, AGC; SSgt T F O'Grady, RE; WO2 D Osborne, RLC; Maj R M Owsley, RLC, TA; WO1 P A Padley, REME; WO2 R M Parr, Para; CSgt D J Pearson, R Anglian; Maj R C



GCB: Gen Sir Michael Walker, C-in-C Land

Perrett, REME; WO2 H L Platts, QGM, Int Corps, TA; Act Capt S E Pratt, Norfolk ACF; WO2 S I Prowse, REME; Maj L T Quinn, RE; Capt F A Ralph, R Anglian; Capt B D Ransom, RA; WO1 A D Robinson, AGC; Maj A W Russell, PWRR; Capt C J Sayer, RY; Maj K Seddon, BEM, WFR; Maj H A Simpson, AGC; Maj M J Smart, RA; Capt A E Smith, IG; SSgt F A Thomas, RA; Lt Col I G Tritton, RWF; Maj T D Vaughan, RE; Maj A J Wakeman, RE; Maj J A H Welch, RE; Capt A Whittle, AAC; Maj A E A Wilkinson, RLC; Rev J S Williams, RACHD, TA; WO2 M J Williams, RTR; Capt D Wilson, BEM, LI; Maj T G W Woodman, RLC.

QVRM

SSgt L J Clark, AGC, TA; Lt Col A C C Lapsley, TD, R Signals, TA; WO2 D Lowry, AGC, TA; WO2 D Y Smith, R Signals, TA; Brig A P Verey, TD ADC, late R Signals, TA.

● John Keegan, one of Britain's foremost military authors, *Daily Telegraph* defence editor and former senior lecturer RMA Sandhurst, received a knighthood

KOSOVO/MACEDONIA

CB

Maj Gen J G Reith, CBE, late Para.

CBE

Brig C C Brown, late RA; Brig T Cross, late RLC; Brig W R Rollo, late RHG/D.

OBE

Lt Col I C Alexander, RLC; Lt Col R C L Clifford, MBE, RDG; Lt Col S D Crane, RGR; Lt Col G A Nield, RE; Lt Col J J Powe, KRH; Lt Col J F Rowan, RAMC; Lt Col G Taylor, RE.

MBE

Maj J M Barrett, Para; Maj M A P Carleton-

Smith, IG; Capt S M Crofts, 9/12th L; Sgt C T David, WG; Maj A T Davis, RLC; Maj B C Farrell, IG; Capt A P Ferris, R Signals; WO2 J P Gaughan, BEM, RE; Maj P D P Hankinson, QRL; Maj D J Hudson, RA; Capt G A Jenkins, RLC; Capt A P Lambert, RLC; Maj J C Petrie, AGC; Maj G C Price, RA; WO2 A L Roberts, AGC; SSgt J T Sorbie, AGC; WO1 N C Stanton, RLC; Maj R K Tomlinson, RE; Cpl K Y Turner, R Signals; WO2 S L Willett, Int Corps.

QCVS

Maj C C Benfield, RE; SSgt R M Cannon, AGC; SSgt P J Carney, REME; Col N A Clisitt, late RA; WO2 J F Cross, RLC; Maj Gen F R Dannatt, CBE, MC, late GH; SSgt M C Duff, R Signals; Brig A R Freer, OBE, late Para; Maj P J Fuller, RE; Col R I Harrison, OBE, late RLC; Lt Col S J D Harrison, MBE, RTR; Lt Col M G Hickson, RLC; Maj A T D Jackson, Para; Sgt K D Jamieson, QARANC; Maj I D Jeffries, MBE, Int Corps; Sig D P Kirby, R Signals; Sgt J A MacLachlan, AGC; LCpl G A Mallett, AGC;

WO2 R F Mercer, RLC; Brig D W Montgomery, late RDG; Lt Col J G Mullin, MBE, RE; Cpl D J Nelson, RE; Maj A D Norris, RE; Lt Col A W Phillips, MBE, RLC; Capt J M Pilgrim, QARANC; Maj S P Simonini, BEM, RE; Lt Col I R Sinclair, RA; Maj C N R Skeat, RE; WO2 J C St Mart, Para; Capt M T H Tomlyn, Int Corps; Capt M P Walton-Knight, RE; Maj R P Warren, RA; Maj D Wilson, RE; Col J N Wolsey, OBE, late AGC; Maj A M Wright, Para.

In support of operations in Kosovo

CB

Maj Gen A R D Pringle, CBE, late RGJ.

CBE

Col C W Tadier, late RA.

OBE

Lt Col C R M Stagg, Scots DG.

MBE

Cpl W R Bale, RE; Capt G S McLane, RLC; Maj J G Wilford, Para.

Joint Commanders' Commendations - Kosovo and Macedonia

Capt G V Baker, RE; Cpl D Balloch, RE; Maj J Bentley, RLC; Capt S A Betty, RA; SSgt A F Bloomfield, REME; WO2 R L S Bonner, IG; Sgt A Byrne, REME; Capt I J Church, RE; Cpl G Collins, RLC; Maj J M Copinger-Symes, Para; Maj A S Ferrie, RLC; Maj A D Firth, RWF; Sgt P Francis, RGBW; Cpl M R Gale, Para; Rfn J Gurung, RGR; WO2 T Gurung, RGR; Capt J Hall, LI; Cpl M D Hellicar, REME; Cpl D A Holmes, RLC; Act SSgt A M Jones, RE; LCpl S A Kew, Para; Capt L D Lines, QARANC; Maj J N McAvoy, REME; Bdr N D R G Manuel, RA; Cpl C Newbrook, RE; Cpl S Page, R Signals; Capt C A Robson, RA; Maj S J Shirley, RLC; Gnr D Sobey, RA; SSgt P A Sullivan, RE; Maj C L Tickell, RE; Maj C F Warren, RGR; Maj M R Wills, Para.

A word in your ear

New year, new debt

Cari Roberts answers your questions

Dear Cari We have seriously overspent on Christmas and I'm worried that we're not going to manage without borrowing more money, which will just make things worse. – UK wife.



Cari replies: Borrowing more money may well make things worse. Make a list of all your outgoing and outstanding bills. Then plan regular payments to reduce what you owe slowly and in small amounts.

If you think this is going to be beyond you, make an appointment to talk to someone at your bank who can give you detailed advice. Whatever you do, don't leave it and hope it'll sort itself out.

Dear Cari I have made a resolution to go back to work. The children are nearly off our hands and I want to do something positive. I would describe myself as middle-aged. Am I too old to start something new? – UK wife.

Cari replies: I wonder how you define "middle age". There certainly is ageism in the workplace but you shouldn't let it put you off. There are many areas in which everyone, young or old, is having to learn new skills. Have you considered training in IT? This is a real growth industry and employers are desperate to find people who are conversant with the latest developments. Check out local colleges for part-time courses and look in your local newspaper for training opportunities. A word of warning: check to see how fees are charged and if your agency will deduct a commission.

Cari comments

EVERY year at this time I hear from people who have got themselves into financial trouble. There's no doubt that it is easily done and it's nothing to feel ashamed about.

Many of us, inexperienced with money matters, suddenly find that we have over-estimated our ability to pay off a rapidly mounting debt. The key is to recognise that there is a problem and not to panic.

If you've got yourself into a muddle, take professional advice from your bank (it'll be free) and be prepared for a long, slow haul out of trouble. The Army Families Advice Bureau has many factsheets on money management. They should be available in your local advice centre.

● If you would like to share a problem or offer some advice, write to Cari c/o Soldier.



IN BRIEF

● Troops deployed in snowed-up Kosovo enjoyed 10,000 cans of lager and bitter and a feast of cakes thanks to an international operation mounted by Naafi. As the weather gave no signs of abating, Naafi asked its commercial partners – Bass, Spar and Bulmers Cider – to donate cans and cakes. The goodies were delivered by the Eddie Stobart haulage firm in a 5½-day journey over 1,870 miles to Pristina. Warrior Group, which provides financial services to the Army, met the cost of fuel.

● If you haven't already done so, it is not too late to make a contribution to **Children's Promise**, the millennium appeal for an hour's salary to help youngsters facing abuse or living in poverty. Many soldiers have already pledged an hour's pay, which for someone earning £10,000 a year or £200 a week would be £5. Cheques or postal orders made out to the appeal should be sent to Children's Promise, Bristol BS38 7ER. Credit card or debit card donations may be made by phone to 0870 607 1999.

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 0171 591 2000
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569

Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 0181 590 1124

Confidential support lines:

UK 0800 731 4880
Germany 0800 1827 395
Cyprus 080 91065
Bosnia 0800 731 4880

Others UK 1980 630854

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society (Combat Stress) 0181 543 6333
Family Escort Service UK 0171 463 9249; Germany JHQ Mil 2272 or 02161 472272
Gulf Families Association 0121 711 3028
Gulf Veterans Association 0191 230 1065
Joint Service Housing Advice Office 01722 436575
National Gulf Veterans and Families Association 01482 833812

Lee's on line at Larkhill

Gnr Lee Tyrell, of 14 Regiment RA, shows off his Internet skills to Maj Gen Anthony Palmer, left, Director General Army Training and Recruiting, in the new Cyber Café at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Looking on, right, is Lee's commanding officer, Lt Col Kevin Harvey.

The Cyber Café is part of a new welfare initiative called the Oasis @ the Gun Club which, in addition to the six-station con-

nection to the World Wide Web, provides home-baked food, a shop, an activities room and a TV lounge. Shop and café are open to all on camp, although the Cyber Café is aimed at single soldiers on Phase 2 training.

The Oasis project was funded by grants from the Army Central Fund (Millennium Grants) and Missions to Military Garisons.

War widow pilgrimages to run for another year

THE Government has extended the MoD's war widow grant-in-aid scheme through to 2001, which means this could be its last full year.

Run by the Royal British Legion for the Government since 1985, the scheme enables war widows to visit their husbands' graves once at an eighth of the normal cost. Most travellers in the past few years have been visiting a grave in a foreign cemetery for the first time.

Groups are escorted by a member of

the Legion's Pilgrimage Department and supported by a member of the National Council and a standard bearer. Medical staff are normally provided by Regular and volunteer forces.

Separate "Remember Them" tours are available from those more interested in the military aspects of campaigns.

For a brochure, contact Remembrance Travel, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX or ring 01622 716182.

Pre-1979 names sought to update radiation database

THE MoD wants to include anyone employed on radiation work before 1980 on a national register used to determine rates of cancer and other causes of death.

Since 1980 the MoD has been a major contributor to the National Register for Radiation Workers (NRRW), a database run by the National Radiological Protection Board.

Data correlated from the NRRW and Office for National Statistics on causes of death and cancer registrations allows the board to determine workers listed on the database who have died of different causes or developed cancer. Rates of cancer and other causes of death can then be compared with those within the UK

for each disease and tested against the level of radiation exposure to see if any relationship exists.

Pre-1979 data is held on paper records, which the MoD, in partnership with the Department of Health and the Health Safety Executive, now wants to computerise.

Specific data will include the dosimetry service identity number, family name, forename, sex, name of employer, service or pay number, national insurance number, National Health Service number, entry date, birth date, job code, rank or title and accumulated annual radiation exposure. Personal medical history will not be included.

Any effect of radiation exposure, if one exists, is more likely to be identified by the inclusion of this older group of workers in the study population, says the MoD.

Anyone employed on radiation work before 1980 who does not wish to have their data transferred may opt out by writing to the Dosimetry Manager, Approved Dosimetry Service, DERA Radiation Protection Services, Institute of Naval Medicine, Crescent Road, Alverstoke, Gosport, Hants PO12 2DL requesting that their name be excluded.

Home truths Sue Bonney



Introducing a regular column by the Editor of the *Army Families Journal*, quarterly magazine of the Army Families Federation

My friend's new kitchen was state-of-the-Ark

THREE friends of mine recently moved – not an unusual occurrence in the Army. But did they move from one reasonably modern family house to another? Were the houses of similar size and standard? Did the estate warden produce a bunch of flowers with the keys?

What do you think? One inherited a kitchen Mrs Noah probably thought was state-of-the-Ark. A large kitchen, true – but if she wants more than four units, it's a trip to MFI to spend what's left of the Disturbance Allowance, and a quick course in DIY as her husband will not be around to put them up.

Her kitchen is due for upgrade, as is every other house on the patch – but that won't happen this year because the Defence Housing Executive is currently short of funds. So it's make-the-best-of-things time... again.

The Army Families Federation has just published a list of concerns raised by Army families worldwide over eight months of 1999, catchily entitled *Families' Concerns*. It will come as no surprise to married readers of *Soldier* that the subject taking up half the list is housing.

LACK OF MAINTENANCE

You've contacted us about the standard of quarters, ancient kitchens and bathrooms, damp, inadequate heating, lack of maintenance or choice, delays in repairs, march-out procedures, allocation and entitlement policy, rent arrears, upgrades and downgrades.

A quarter may be an SFA – Service Families Accommodation – to the MoD, but to you it's your home for the next few years (hopefully)... and it MATTERS.

As one wife told us at a recent CGS Briefing Team families' session: "If the Army could provide an assured decent standard of housing across the board, it would go a long way towards improving retention".

BEST OF SHAMBLES

Is it too much for soldiers and their families to expect a good, consistent standard of housing (and let's not forget single living accommodation) wherever they go, rather than making the best of whatever shambles they are presented with?

It would be nice to think that, amid the concern about lack of budget for equipment, thought is also given to the lack of funding for welfare, especially housing. A Policy for People sounds good – but where is the money to turn it into practical results on the patch?

● *Families' Concerns* – issues raised with the Army Families Federation April to December 1999 is available from AFF Central Office, Trenchard Lines, Upavon, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 6BE.



Millennium challenge

Sappers win their race against time

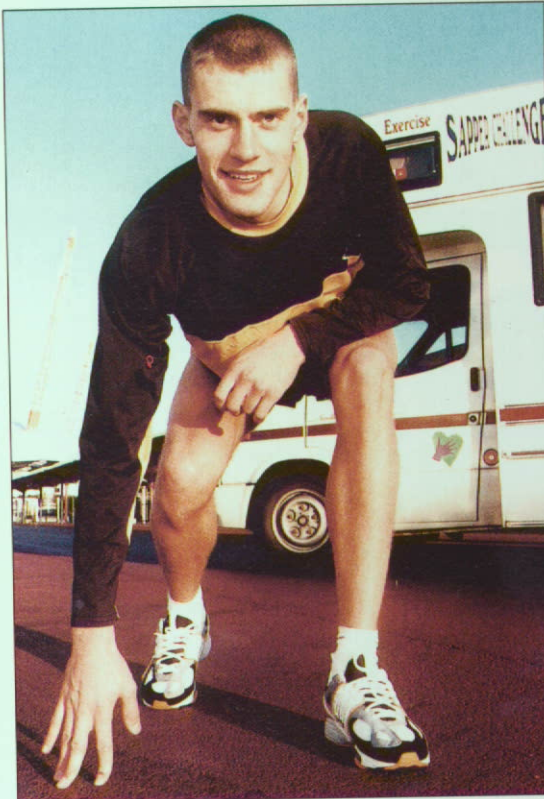
Start and finish: Spr Darren Farrington was one of 11 Royal Engineers who celebrated the arrival of the new millennium by completing a 22-day non-stop race around the four "corners" of Britain – John o'Groat's, Cape Wrath, Land's End and Dover – for charity.

The speedy sappers gave up Christmas with their families to take part in the 2,400-mile race against time. Starting at the Millennium Dome on December 9, their deadline was to be back at the Greenwich landmark by New Year's Eve.

Running in continuous relays, each member of the team completed the equivalent of a half-marathon every day. Maj Paul Pendlebury, one of the runners, said: "It was hard work, but the thought of helping people less fortunate than ourselves kept us going."

All the money raised by the Sapper Challenge – one of several ambitious projects backed by the Army to mark the turn of the century – will be split between the Army Benevolent Fund and Children's Promise.

Other members of the team were Maj David Southall, SSgt Tony Neild, Sgt Des Murney, Cpl John Varadinet-Skelton, LCpl Matt Maddock, LCpl Mac McLaren, LCpl Paul Newton, LCpl Matt Arlow and LCpl Johnathan Waller.



Picture: Sgt Ian Lipitrot

Record-holder Ken dies at 81

FORMER advertisement manager Ken Pemberton Wood, whose 33-year record as *Soldier's* longest-serving staff member has never been surpassed, has died at the age of 81.

As a Royal Artillery captain promoted in the field from staff sergeant, Ken was an Army public relations officer with Fd Marshal Montgomery at Luneberg Heath when the Germans surrendered in 1945.

He joined *Soldier* later that year and served in various commercial capacities until retiring in 1978.

Reg worked on war-time *Soldier*

FORMER Fleet Street journalist Reg Foster, who as a Second World War lieutenant worked for the unit which produced Army journals including *Soldier*, has died aged 95.

In the 1960s, working for the *Daily Sketch*, he was one of two reporters sent to prison for refusing to reveal sources in the Vassall security scandal.

Swiss Army tool (Nov issue):

K A Barnes, Penarth, South Glamorgan.

Answer: 23 functions.

Three copies of Tim Riley's *Operation Deliberate Force* (Nov):

H J Williams, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire; C A Stone, RAO, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley, Norfolk; Maj C M Süß-Francksen, JIC, HQ KFOR Main, BFPO 561. Answer: Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose (1994).

Millennium military moments quiz (Dec):

SSgt M Kelly, Trg Wg, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham Airfield, Ipswich. Answer: *Soldier*; slogan: British Army – trained for war, working for peace.

Answers to the 100 millennium quiz questions:

1. Kukri
2. Noel Coward
3. Lee Enfield
4. Rommel
5. Apache
6. The Channel Islands
7. *Amazing Grace*
8. Kosovo
9. Crimean War

December prize-winners

10. Sedgemoor in 1685
11. *Henry V*
12. Self-loading rifle
13. A football
14. Motor cycle
15. The Royal Anglian Regiment
16. Congressional Medal of Honour
17. Montgomery
18. Rex Hunt
19. 19
20. Islander
21. Acorn
22. White Helmets
23. *Bravo Two Zero*
24. Sgt Ian McKay and Lt Col H Jones
25. *From Here to Eternity*
26. René Artois
27. Group Captain
28. The Adjutant's
29. *A Few Good Men*
30. Spion Kop
31. Tipperary
32. A knot
33. Omdurman
34. He drowned
35. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait
36. Cyprus
37. Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland
38. Or Glory
39. Gen Norman Schwarzkopf
40. Capt Laurence Oates
41. Mau Mau
42. Guy Crouchback
43. Chindits
44. East Timor
45. Nuremberg
46. Marlon Brando
47. Robert Duvall
48. The Maquis
49. *GI Blues*
50. A sniper rifle
51. *Exeter, Ajax and Achilles*
52. The tank
53. *All Quiet on the Western Front*
54. Lord Haw Haw
55. Operation Desert Storm
56. Yomp
57. Penicillin
58. Vienna
59. Stanley Kubrick
60. Arnhem
61. Sarajevo
62. AK47
63. Gen Sir Peter de la Billière
64. The Iron Duke
65. *The Longest Day*
66. 1857
67. Egypt
68. *The Bridge on the River Kwai*
69. Tom Hanks
70. Gen Moshe Dayan
71. 1967
72. My Lai
73. *Kelly's Heroes*
74. De-mountable Rack Off-load and Pick-up System
75. Peter O'Toole
76. Stabilisation Force
77. Gen Sir Roger Wheeler
78. Lieutenant Colonel
79. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria
80. *General Belgrano*
81. Turkey
82. Prince Philip and Prince Andrew
83. Ho Chi Minh
84. Michael Caine
85. Douglas MacArthur
86. A member of the RAF
87. Utah, Gold and Omaha
88. Bernard Cornwell
89. The Rhine (or Lower Rhine)
90. *Where Eagles Dare*
91. Germany
92. Dame Vera Lynn
93. 1941
94. Baden-Powell
95. Vickers
96. A packed lunch
97. Britain declared war on Germany
98. Anthony Quinn
99. The Tet Offensive
100. Empty tomb

World of wheels

Bulldog and Toad

Experience the wind in your willows with a Morgan

THE air was smooth and cool. With a strange and thrilling sibilance the wind curled over the little windscreen, flowing coldly on my face and stinging my eyes, writes Syd Taylor.

As the engine droned on, my thoughts ebbed and flowed with the off-beat burble of the V8: here at last was affinity with nature and harmony with the open road. The shackles of modern motoring had gone; this was an unfettered drive in a real car – a Morgan.

It would be a difficult task to explain the existence of the Morgan to a visitor from space – for this is a car which breaks almost every rule in the book.

According to evolutionary logic it simply should not exist. In a market-place where smooth styling, aerodynamic efficiency and sound ergonomics are the norm, it is difficult in the extreme to justify the premium attached to an ergonomically questionable two-seater with a body built on an ash frame and whose origins go back more than 50 years.

WARPED LOGIC

Add to this anachronistic formula a bold disregard for basic motoring practicality and you begin to approach the warped logic of a Morgan. With most of these cars destined for real enthusiasts, the shortcomings hardly matter and sales are healthy indeed, with a three-year waiting list for a new one.

In a Morgan you can see, feel and hear England in all her glory, but behind that minimalist nature lies a sports-car of true quality and capability. Inside there's no sign of gimmicky distractions like satellite navigation, trip computer or digital instruments: naturally in a hand-built car the emphasis is on the quality of construction rather than an array of goodies. The car has obviously been designed by a person rather than a computer.

You sit on leather seats facing traditional-looking instruments and a polished wood dash, but the modern steering-wheel is thick-rimmed and rather small – a bigger one would be better. Offset to the left are four gauges relaying information



Road test: Morgan Plus 8

from the engine. Either side of the steering-column are the rev counter and speedo, but you can hardly read them because the small wheel obscures them!

Standard of fit and finish inside the Morgan is excellent, just as you would expect from a car which has been hand-built.

Stowage-space in the cockpit is limited to a glove-box and door pockets and there's not much room behind the seats with the hood lowered – as it should nearly always be.

For the driver it's easy to achieve a happy position as you get comfortable on a seat offering good lateral support. There isn't much room around the pedals, which are fairly closely spaced, but you can just squeeze your left foot between the

clutch and transmission tunnel once up to cruising speed.

Of course, in an open car visibility is fine, with all four corners easily sighted so it's simple to place it accurately on the road. Everything inside the cockpit is within reach and the only exception is the slightly-awkward "fly-off" type hand-brake under the dash. A short drop from the wheel and your hand is around the fairly short gear-stick, which functions well as you snick through the five gears transmitting power to the back wheels.

And with such a powerful unit there might be some cause for concern in piloting the Plus 8 – however, it is free of handling vices. It is, of course, heavier in feel than the modern sports cars you might be used to, but it is sure-footed, safe and solid in motion. Heavy-footed use of throttle brings squeals of delight from tyres and you can bring the tail out – even on a dry road. In today's sanitised world of motoring, a Plus 8 shines like a beacon.

The suspension means the ride is hard by modern standards, but you never feel uncomfortable even on bumpy surfaces.

Once into the stride, the V8's guttural snarl stirs the emotions, evoking a world of Bulldog Drummond or maybe even Mr Toad as it recreates the joys of sports-car motoring in its heyday. The car has no major faults and is without doubt a great success.

PRICE SHOCK

First reaction on hearing of the Plus 8's near-£40,000 price tag was one of sheer incredulity that there could be a market for such a car when better-performing sports cars are available for far less.

But if you are prepared to pay out you will find yourself growing to love it, for it gives you a style of motoring that is no longer easily available.

How it will survive in a world of electronically-enforced speed limits and automatic monitoring of every vehicle remains to be seen. In the meantime, the open road calls.

Tech Spec

ENGINE 4.6-litre V8, 195 bhp

STEERING Rack-and-pinion

BRAKES Front, discs; rear, drums

SUSPENSION Front, independent sliding pillars with coil springs; rear, semi-elliptical leaf springs

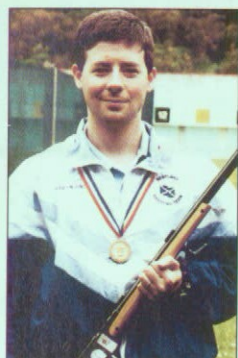
PRICE £40,000 (app)



SHORTS

Sinclair's golden shot

MAJ Martin Sinclair, pictured, had gold in his sights when he represented Scotland at the Commonwealth Shooting Federation championships in Auckland, New Zealand.



The TA officer, serving with the 52nd Lowland Regiment, took top prize in the 50m three-position pairs event and finished fifth in both the individual 50m prone and the individual 50m three-position events. Last year he secured fourth place at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia.

Runners are hot to trot

A TEAM of six instructors from the Army's School of Close Combat Infantry Training Centre, Wales will tackle the toughest foot-race on earth, the Sahara Marathon, to raise cash for Ty-Hafen Children's Hospice. The race covers 143 miles over six days in temperatures reaching 50C and competitors must carry everything they need apart from a tent and water.

The hospice opened last year and takes children from all over the United Kingdom. Donations should be made payable to Ty-Hafen Children's Hospice (Registered charity 1047912).

Take the challenge

SOLDIERS can help grant wishes to terminally ill children next month by taking part in a major charity event in Northern Ireland. The event, Take The Challenge, in support of the Starlight Children Foundation, consists of three activities, a five-a-side football competition, a quadrathlon and a paintball knockout competition.

If you would like to take part, or if you can sponsor someone, contact SSgt Marc Corner (APTC) at HQ 3 Inf Bde, BFPO 809 (Mil (9)491 47594 or civ 01762 360595).

Winning end to century

FINISHING the century as they meant to begin the next one, the Army football team beat the officers' side, The Crusaders, 2-0 at Bordon.

■ HAMPSHIRE gained revenge for last season's six-goal thrashing at Eastleigh by beating the Army 1-0 at the Military Stadium, Aldershot. This was the Army's opening fixture in defence of the South West Counties championship which they won last season.

WHITE-WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pictures: Graeme Main

Shaking the Serpent's Tail

Knuckles turned as white as the water during the annual racing championships, but the best Army slalom paddlers were shaken not stirred

THERE wasn't a dry eye in the house at the Army white-water racing championships on the River Dee at Llangollen, Wales.

Fierce competition ensured there wasn't a dry anything else either as the Service's top talents battled for honours over the 4km time-trial course of quick-moving water.

"Basically, the fastest paddler from start to finish in as straight a line as the river will let you go, who is still in the canoe - and upright - at the finish line is the winner," said Maj Colin Calderwood, RA.

IDEAL CONDITIONS

On the first day of the two-day competition, paddlers took advantage of the ideal water conditions for a training session followed by the team event in the afternoon.

The Serpent's Tail, very appropriately named for the "bite" it gives the unwary, was big and bouncy, but with an obvious line to take. However, it required a great deal of skill and guts to negotiate successfully the Town Falls feature.

Demanding conditions meant team runs proved eventful, with many of the

top paddlers and whole teams taking early baths.

Final winners were 12 Regiment RA who, led by LBdr Andy McCullough, deservedly took the title with the fastest time of the day and no swimmers.

Overnight the water level fell slightly, making the course less bouncy but actually more technically difficult, as the obvious lines of the previous day disappeared.

"The difficulty of the course was shown by the number of paddlers doing under-water races at various stages," said Maj Calderwood.

SSgt Andy Dunne (ITC Catterick) won the Blue Ribbon event, the men's K1, while Cpl Lisa Dunn (ATR Pirbright) took the women's K1.

The Canadian event was a clean sweep for 5 Regiment RA, with Sgt Tony Harris and Bdr Daz Hall winning the C2 and Gnr Flash Cutter the C1.

■ International canoeist Capt Pete Francis (Para) is fighting his way back to fitness after undergoing surgery on the collarbone injury which forced him to miss this year's racing championships. He is one of six Great Britain internationals in the Army team and is hoping to win a place at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.



Splash it all over: LBdr John Dunne joins forces with 32 Regt RA team-mate Bdr John Rider in the swirling waters of the River Dee



Deep end: Winning the battle to stay upright is Cpl Mike Thorp (ITC Catterick)



Uphill struggle: SSgt Phil Perrin (ITC Catterick)



Balancing act: Maj Alan Thomas (16 CS Med Regt) keeps his head above water

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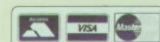
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SAILING

Back home

Army finish second as exhausted *Broadsword* limps across line

EXERCISE Transglobe, the Services' most ambitious-ever sailing race, ended with the millennium, writes **Graham Bound**. More than 314 men and women from the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force helped to take the three Nicholson 55 yachts 31,173 miles around the world.

When the protest hearings had been heard (it was sometimes a bitterly fought race), it emerged that *Racer's* 21 points had brought victory to the RAF.

In points terms, at least, the other boats were close behind with 22 each. Thanks to her larger tally of leg victories, *Broadsword* was awarded second place.

For *Broadsword*, the leg back home across the Atlantic from Antigua was by

far the toughest. Lagging two weeks behind the others, the Army's brave old boat struggled across the Gosport finishing line in mid-December.

Her tardy finish was due to an alarming series of problems.

With one crew-member injured, the boat experienced two fires, an explosion, a near collision with a large ship, a force ten storm and a broken fresh-water maker. There was, however, no shortage of sea water in the boat. *Broadsword* had long suffered from leaks, but as the Atlantic conditions became worse the crew manned the pumps almost constantly. No one was surprised when the skipper decided to divert to the Azores.

"She looked like she'd been around the world," said one of the race organisers who watched and applauded as *Broadsword* limped heroically back into Gosport.

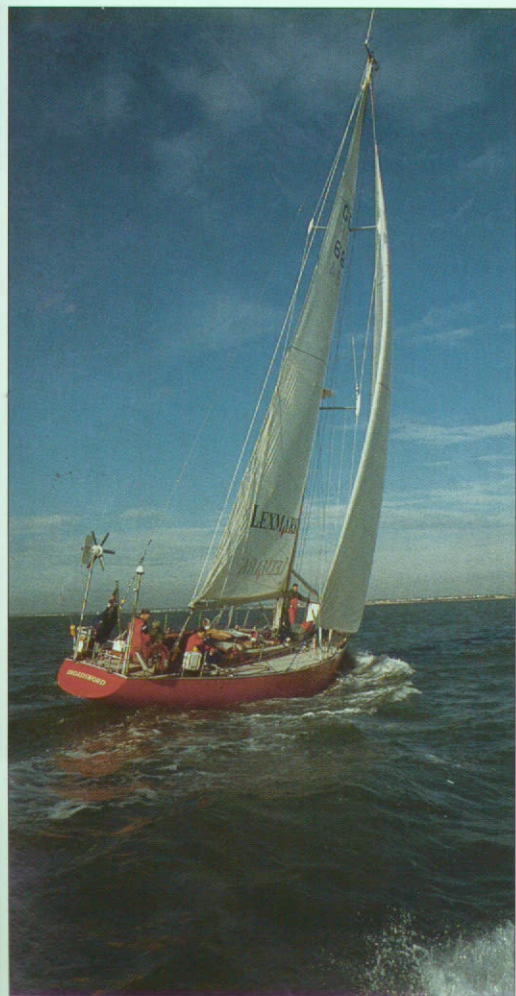
Prizes were being presented at a special reception in Greenwich on January 22, with the major trophies being handed over to the winning skippers by the Princess Royal.

All Transglobe sailors will receive a medal as a permanent reminder of their adventure. Rumours of submariners' dolphin insignia being awarded to *Broadsword* crews are unfounded.

■ ARMY sailors may not have won the Transglobe, but in other respects it was a good year for soldiers under sail.

Two of the Army's best-known boats, *Longbow* and *Redcoat*, were worked hard from March to November, participating in, among other events, the Fastnet.

And the smaller boats maintained a high profile. Led by Maj Ben Archer RA, the Sigma 38 boats made clean sweep of their class inshore and offshore championships. The Sigma crews have been nominated for the 1999 Combined Services Sports Board Team Award.



Homeward bound: *Broadsword* hit by problems

SHORTS

Awards inspire talent

SEVENTEEN of the Army's most promising sportsmen and women have received new sports scholarships. The £15,000 scheme, initiated by British Aerospace, is a three-year programme aimed at young soldiers with sporting talent who aspire to national honours. The awards were presented by the Adjutant General, Gen Sir Alex Harley, with the military adviser to BA Systems, Maj Gen Mike Tennant (Retd).

The 17 chosen individuals cover a wide range of sports and their performances will be closely monitored. The Army already has schemes in place to assist its national and Olympic competitors but the attraction of this new initiative is that it will help athletes to break through to national recognition.



Top talent: Sportsmen with Gen Harley, right

Scania sponsor rugby

SCANIA Defence Services, the specialist-arm of the truck manufacturer Scania dedicated to military vehicle sales and support, is to become the Year 2000 main-sponsor of the Army Rugby Union's senior XV. The sponsorship, which will see the team's shirts bearing the name of Scania, extends into the provision of playing kit, equipment and transportation for the squad.

Marathon effort

FOUR members, including SSgt Dave Marsh from 47 AD Sqn RLC, completed the New York City Marathon in a bid to raise money for the charity Cancer and Leukaemia in Children (CLIC).

CLIC was the chosen charity because SSgt Marsh's son was diagnosed with cancer when he was two. He is now 11 and leads a normal life thanks to the charity, who were there to provide for him during his long illness.

Gunners take title

THE Royal Artillery has won the Inter Corps water-polo championships for the first time, beating the Royal Marines 4-2 in the final.

EQUESTRIANISM

Faulkner takes Services prizes

A FIRST-class course at Knighton Down, Larkhill, brought out the best from riders competing in the Army and Royal Artillery hunter trials.

Civilians took on riders from the Services in four classes run over three courses. A good novice entry of 144, including

54 from the Services, had to contend with 21 jumps under 3ft. The class was again sponsored by Wilsons Hogg Robinson, the financial advisers who have supported the event for more than 50 years. First Serviceman, and second in the class, was Gnr Jeremy Faulkner of The King's Troop RHA on Hamilton.

He won the Poett and Gillman Cups. Capt Hugh Jelly, also King's Troop, won the Subalterns' Prize on Abel Snoreham.

Maj Gen Evelyn Webb-Carter, GOC London District, riding Herman, won the Alderson Bowl.

The leading Servicemen and sixth in the class for pairs were Capt Hugh Jelly and Capt Tony Brumwell (King's Troop), riding Abel Snoreham and Bartholomew Badger. They won the 7th Queen's Own Hussars Cup and the Christopher Mallock Trophy. The class was sponsored by EDS Defence Ltd.

Another member of King's Troop, Bdr Graham Innes on Herzagova, was the first Serviceman home in the intermediate class sponsored by Alenia Marconi Systems Ltd. He won the Hamilton and Woolwich Cups.

OPEN CLASS

Fourth home in the open class, sponsored by Land Rover Ltd, were Capt Will Lynch (14 Regt RA) and John, who won the King's Royal Irish Hussars Cup and the D'Arcy Cup.

■ An impressive silver gilt trophy has been made available by the Royal Artillery for this year's Coronation Cup race at the United Services Point-to-Point at Larkhill on Saturday, February 19.

The first race is at 1230. Entry is £12 a car or £6 on production of an Armed Forces ID card.



Up for it: Capt Grant Chanter (The King's Troop RHA) takes off on Rocket in the novice class

BOXING

Fighting fit for Tyson

For a short time last month the spotlight of the professional boxing world fell on Maida Gym, Aldershot

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures Graeme Main

MAIDA Gym, home to the Army boxing squad, had never seen anything like it. For three weeks, the lenses of the world's media focused on British heavyweight champ Julius Francis as he prepared to go up against the most feared man in boxing: a fighter so unhinged he has been known to mistake the opening bell for the dinner gong.

The Tyson-Francis match was hyped into the boxing contest in Britain for years and the Army were quick off the mark to play a trump PR card. In the run-up to the fight the 35-year-old Londoner was invited to live and train with the Army.

Francis, who has never served in the Army, slept at the physical training instructors' barracks in Queens Avenue and ate in the sergeants' mess.

CREATURE COMFORTS

There was no TV in his room and few creature comforts. "There are no distractions," Francis told *Soldier* before the fight. "It helps to concentrate the mind. The facilities here are second to none; there is nothing like it."

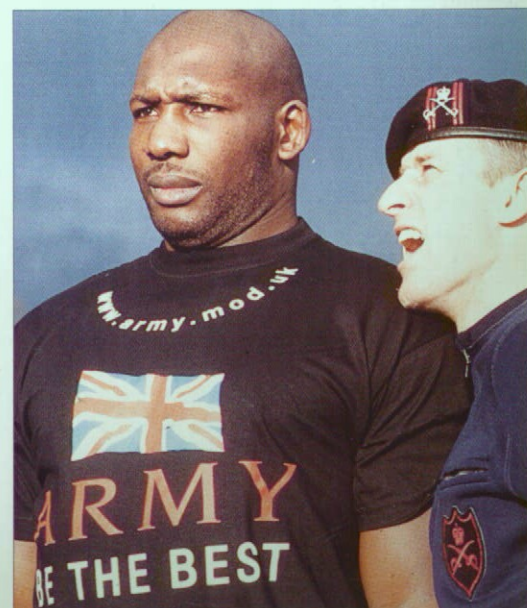
Every morning Francis was up early for a training run before tucking in to breakfast in the mess. That was followed by gym work.

It was in stark contrast to Tyson's preparations: he and his travelling circus took over an entire floor in a top London hotel at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

For the Army boxers it was business as usual in the gym as they pushed on with their own training programme. SSgt Neil McCallum, Army boxing coach, boomed out encouragement to his squad as they



Logging on: Francis works out with the Paras for the benefit of photographers. Away from the cameras, the heavyweight stayed well clear of the assault course for fear of injury



Be the best: SSgt Neil McCallum (APTC) gives some gentle encouragement to a terrified Julius Francis

went through their workouts, sparring and working with pads and bags.

In the centre of the gym, Francis concentrated on his own routine, picking up on the vibes of the soldiers around him.

"I feel all this positive energy that is coming off these people," he said, looking at the dozens of Army boxers working up a sweat around him. "They are all looking at me expectantly."

Francis's manager, Frank Maloney, was impressed with the way the Army does things. "The most important thing is the discipline that runs through the soldiers here and that is something Julius has picked up on."

"The facilities here are terrific," said Maloney who has extensive experience of boxing set-ups all over the world.

FIGHTING CHANCE

Francis knew the script of what was supposed to happen when he climbed through the ropes in Manchester, but he had given himself a fighting chance.

The British Army can't work miracles, but it does have the best man-motivators in the world... the officers and NCOs who make it their business to ensure the men they lead achieve more than they ever thought possible.

That belief was the most valuable thing Francis, a very long-odds underdog, took with him into the ring against Mad Mike.

■ THE Army boxing squad has been busy taking on the best of British, with 12 contests against opponents from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Police, and London and the Western Counties. The Army secured team victories at all but one match, the most emphatic victory being an 8-1 win over London at Croydon.

The team's novices also started their bids to become national champions with ten winning their way through to the quarter-finals.

Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC) has also been busy at two Olympic-qualifying tournaments in Finland and Turkey, losing on both occasions to a Turkish opponent. Bessey has, however, secured qualification for the European Championships.

The first half of the season has been a great success for the team, which includes many new faces. Preparations are under way for the novice and senior ABA championships and tours to South Africa and Cyprus.

Boxing coach McCallum said: "I am very impressed with the team's performance so far but I still believe there is more and better things to come before the end of the season."

SHORTS

Oarsmen pull together

A COMBINED team of 18 men and women Army rowers took on the Argentine Olympic team in a regatta in Buenos Aires in a symbolic act of reconciliation.

The experienced master's four won and the eight (pictured) lost by a short distance over the 1,500m course.



Christmas sleighs Army

SGT Phil Payne, left, a member of the British Army (Germany) cricket team which toured Australia, chats to Queensland all-rounder Mike "Christmas" Day - so-called because he was born in the Christmas Islands - at Canberra. The tourists twice came up against Christmas, who turned out against them for the Capital Territories Cricket Academy in a two-day match and a limited-overs game.

The BA(G) team, led by WO1 Carl Saunders, suffered several heavy defeats during the nine-match tour, which included fixtures against Services sides and a match on the legendary Bradman Oval in Bowral.



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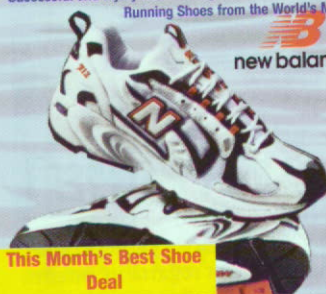
Gunners in Barbados

CRICKETERS selected from throughout the Royal Artillery played seven matches on a winter tour of Barbados, losing five and winning two. After defeats by the powerful Barbados Defence Force, Government Security CC (against whom Paul Bates hit a fine 88) and Conrad Hunte XI, the gunners played superbly to defeat the previously unbeaten Barbados Police. Thanks to Tim Osman hitting a magnificent 120, they also beat a tremendous Windward side led by Ian Bradshaw, the fearsomely quick Barbados opening bowler.

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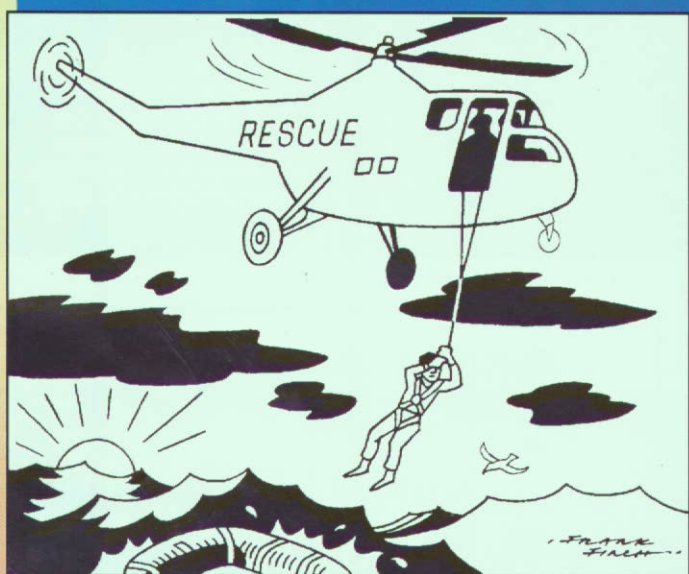
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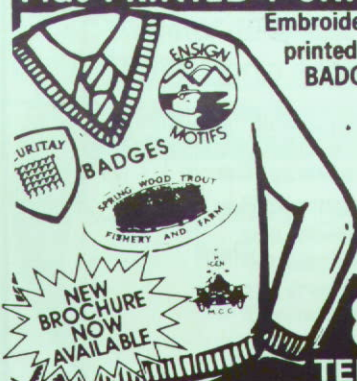
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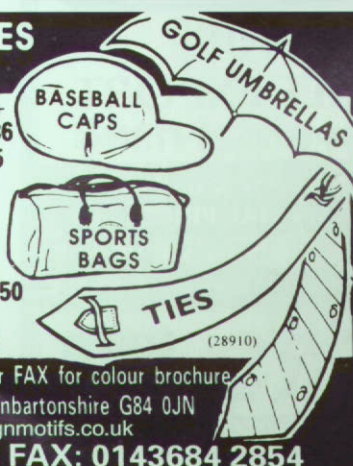
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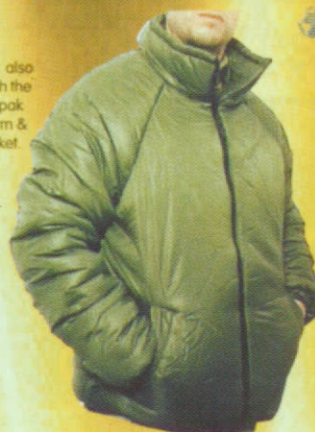
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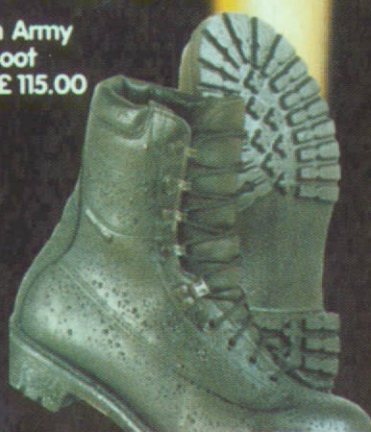
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TO ADVERTISE FOR A PEN PAL. Please send for details enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: *Soldier Magazine*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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Liz, 26, 5'4", brown hair and blue eyes. Loves music, films and pubs and would like to hear from pen pals, 20-35. All letters will get a reply and a photo would be appreciated. **P631**

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SERVICES

First World War soldiers' records and unit diaries researched. For further information send SAE to: Mark Offord, 80 Aysgarth Park, Maidenhead SL6 2HQ or e-mail offords@cwcom.net 02/00

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ARMY SPORTS LOTTERY RESULTS

December 18, 1999

First prize (22 goals, £4,100): Sgt DD Green, 6 Sup Regt RLC, Gütersloh.

10-way tie for second prize (21 goals, £690 each): LCpl CJ Beveridge, Army Foundation College, Harrogate; Sgt TP Binns, 1 KORBR, Catterick; Pte TM Fail, 22 Fd Hosp, Aldershot; WO2 GA Fitchett, Royal Defence Medical College, Gosport; Cpl RC Mayall, 2 R Anglian, Dhekelia; Pte C McCune, 7 R Irish; Sgt CD McQuillan, 47 Regt RA, Thorney Island; Cpl LD Mitchell, JSSU Digby; SSgt SR Morgan, 1 (UK) ADSR, Herford; WO2 AG Poulson, 4 Regt RA, Osnabrück.

December 25, 1999

First prize (24 goals, £4,100): Pte G Irwin, 7 R Irish.

Second prize (23 goals, £2,000): Cpl JA Savage, RMPTS, Chichester.

15-way tie for third prize (22 goals, £326.67): Capt KP Douglas, HQ 51 Highland Bde, Perth; Lt Col DJ Eadie, HQ 3 (UK) Div, Bulford; WO2 AJ Fray Smith, R Mon RE (M), Monmouth; Sgt R Lees, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; Capt DN Malone, 5 Regt AAC, Aldergrove; Capt MR Murphy, RMLY, Dudley; WO2 KR Pearson, Euronato Engr Trg Centre, Munich; Cpl D Pinkerton, 9 R Irish; LCpl NC Power, 2 RTR, Fallingbomel; SSgt S Pym, 9 Sup Regt RLC, Chippinham; Sgt AD Quinn, 2 Armd Fd Amb, Münster; Cpl AJ Simpson, 70 ac Wksp REME, Middle Wallop; WO2 NA Villiers, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln; SSgt NB Wilders, 13 Air Asslt Sp

Regt RLC, Colchester; Sgt SJ Williamson, ATR Pirbright.

JANUARY 1, 2000

22-way tie for first prize (20 goals, £500 each): Lt AG Biddulph, KRH, Münster; Lt Col MJ Boswell, JSCSC, Bracknell; Lt Col T Caithness, BATSU Wainwright; SSgt AJ Cowton, SEAE, Arborfield; WO1 AJ Handyside, 101 Pro Coy RMP, Rheindahlen; Cpl TR Hannah, 215 Signal Sqn, Tidworth; LCpl PM Ingham, LCV, Lancaster; Sgt LA Johns, Royal School of Signals, Blandford; CSgt ME Jones, 1 RRV, Paderborn; Lt Col JGO Lowe, 23 Pnr Regt RLC, Bicester; WO2 AE Mackiggan, Army Personnel Centre, Glasgow; WO2 G McIntyre, 21 Engr Regt, Osnabrück; Cpl DC Nesbitt, 5 Regt AAC, Aldergrove; Cpl JD Norris, 17 Port & Mar Regt, Marchwood; LCpl (name withheld), PATA, Hereford; Capt JIL Phipps, Trg Regt & Depot RLC, Deepcut; Maj LJ Read, LSSU RLC UKSC (G), Rheindahlen; Capt PD Sherrell, 19 Regt RA, Colchester; LCpl SJ Sowerby, 16 Tk Tptr Sqn RLC, Fallingbomel; Cpl VE Wainwright, KRH, Münster; WO2 D Winkler, Cambridge UOTC; Cpl MA Wright, 1 Staffords, Tern Hill.

JANUARY 8, 2000

Five-way tie for first prize (25 goals, £1,900 each): Sgt C Anderson, 14 Sup Regt RLC, Dülmen; Brig DR Burns, HQ RSME, Chatham; Sgt GA Gardner, MDHU Frimley Park; LCpl G Horner, 28 Engr Regt, Hameln; WO2 SA Knight, MOD, London.

10-way tie for sixth prize (24 goals, £150 each): Sgt PR Balcomb, 1 Regt AAC, Gütersloh; Col GJ Binns, HQ AFSOUTH, Naples; Sgt GA Bland, BATU Suffield; LCpl DL Curtis, CATC BG, Warminster; WO2 TJ Gray, RY, London; Cpl PR O'Kane, 22 Engr Regt, Perham Down; Maj RJ Orr, 36 Engr Regt, Maidstone; Sgt GJC Shirley, HQ AFCENT; WO2 MSJ Steventon, 1 KORBR, Catterick; Sgt MG Warn, 4 Regt AAC, Wattisham.

JANUARY 15, 2000

Two-way tie for first prize (26 goals, £3,135.71 each): SSgt SJ Brown, DM Kineton; Capt MC Small, 70 ac Wksp REME, Middle Wallop.

Five-way tie for second prize (25 goals, £945.71 each): LCpl FG Hogan, 4 Regt RA, Osnabrück; SSgt PJ Lane, AFCCO Newcastle upon Tyne; Sgt RE Oldham, 93 Veh Depot, Ashchurch; Maj CA Stone, 9/12 L, Swanton Morley; LCpl MJ Thomas, 218 Signal Sqn.

Note: Only seven prizes for the above week. Rule nine applies.

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Heavenly duties: Cpl David Sands, left, stands ready to protect Padre Charlie McCartney in Pristina. Picture: Cpl Gabriel Marino

London EOD unit in focus

First prize in the Greater London TAVRA's annual competition for unit publicity and information officers has been won for the fourth time in five years by 101 (London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) (V), whose press officer is **Capt David Poll**, pictured. It is the first time a trophy has been presented to the winners, the prize previously being a camera. But the judges decided 101 Regt had more than enough cameras to keep them in the picture.



Service artists on show

Four hundred paintings and sculptures are to go on show at the **Armed Forces Art Society's** 66th annual exhibition in The Painters' Hall, Little Trinity Lane, London EC4 on Feb 22 (10am-5pm) and 23 (10am-4pm). The society encourages art in the Services through shows which enable talented amateurs (and their wives) to exhibit and sell their work.

DATES

APRIL

29: British Model Soldier Society annual show, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London, 10.30-6.

MAY

7: Victorian Military Fair, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2.

JUNE

17: Oxon & Bucks Millennium Tattoo, Thame (01189 723717).

JULY

8-9: Parachute Spectacular, Southsea Common, Hants.

10-15: Royal Military Tattoo 2000, Horse Guards Parade, in aid of principal Service charities.

SEPTEMBER

5-10: Middle Wallop International Air Show.

● To include public events, contact the Editor.

David, 55, volunteers for service in Kosovo

WHAT makes a person in his mid-50s volunteer for service in a war zone? Cpl David Sands falls into that category and even he doesn't know the answer.

Yet he is not the "senior" soldier in Kosovo. David, 55, knows of at least one other Territorial Army member in theatre - Cpl Ron Goddard, whom he describes "as a bit older than me". One would think they were old enough to know better than to volunteer for duty on

the squalid, wintry and dangerous streets of Pristina.

A 16-year veteran of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, with whom he served in Aden and Northern Ireland, Cpl Sands joined the Territorial Army in 1986 and is currently with the newly-formed West Midlands Regiment's B (WFR) Company.

In Pristina, he has been attached to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets as driver and bodyguard to Padre Charlie McCartney.

"We drive around in a snatch vehicle with the number 101 emblazoned on it," he says with a smile. "It's our combined ages."

Cpl Sands has had a colourful career, including three youthful years as a jockey (he rode a second-placed horse at Kempton Park for Sussex-based trainer Towzer Godden).

But perhaps his most difficult task came at the end of 1999. "I had to tell Una, my wife, that I was returning to Pristina on Christmas Eve," he explained.

Older and wiser... judge for yourself.



Meet the Whelan brothers. From left are **Capt Danny Whelan** of 22 HQ Sqn (EOD), **Sgt Mick Whelan** of 131 Indep Cdo Sqn (V) and **Cpl Nick Whelan** of 58 Fd Sqn (EOD), who met up during 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD)'s annual field training exercise, Grand Slam, on Salisbury Plain and in the West Country. Danny, the exercise author, has been a bomb disposal officer with 33 Engr Regt since leaving Sandhurst in December 1994, and was joined by Nick last year. Mick, formerly of 36 Engr Regt and 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE, recently joined the Territorials to help establish its newly-formed diving team. Whelan family members have served in the Royal Navy, Army (including the RE, REME, Royal Signals and Irish Guards) and the Royal Air Force.

Exposed!

IT'S not usually our policy to decorate these pages with photos of our own staff, but we thought we would keep you in the picture, as it were, about recent changes in the *Soldier* photographic team.

Mike Weston (left) has been promoted to Chief Photographer following the departure of Terry Champion (centre) to take up the post of Media Ops Picture Editor at HQ Land Command, Salisbury, after 14 years' sterling service on the magazine.

Third member of the trio is Graeme Main, who has joined us from the Joint Service Command and Staff College at Bracknell. The trio lined up on the other side of the lens at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, while attending the Army Photographic Competition prizegiving.

Picture: David Bishop, DCCS Photography



Scottish history on line

If you are interested in Scotland and its regiments, you may care to subscribe to *Dispatch*, the A4 journal of the **Scottish Military Historical Society**. Published three times a year, it is available from Tom Moles, Membership Secretary SMHS, 4 Hillside Cottages, Glenboig, Lanarkshire ML5 2QY. Annual subscription is £12 (USA \$24, Canada \$35, Australia \$38). Airmail is £3 extra and cheques or postal orders should be made out to SMHS.

Members' interests range across collecting information, badges, head-dress, uniforms, model soldiers, medals, books, photographs, postcards, prints, watercolours and military equipment. Find out more at <http://subnet.virtual-pc.com/~mc546367/journal.htm>

Royal Ruby

MORE news of Ruby, the 10-month-old Highland heifer given as a leaving present to 19th Regiment RA (The Highland Gunners) by Majors Gary Donaldson and Paul Willcock. Protocol demands formal approval by the Army Board for all official animal mascots, so for the time being the pedigree calf will be kept as a pet by the regiment.

LBdr Glen Keyes, a member of the rear party while the Highland Gunners are in Bosnia and Kosovo, volunteered for the job of stockman and will take care of Ruby.

Ruby of Reeches, to give her full name, was bred by Jim Ayres of Northwold, near Thetford. Her father is Capladh of Balmoral, originally from the royal estate, and her mother is Haggis of Reeches.

Current restrictions on moving livestock in the UK meant Majs Donaldson and Willcock had to obtain an animal transportation



Cow hide: Maj Gary Donaldson, inset left, who "concealed" Ruby in his back garden in Colchester until just before the surprise presentation by him and Maj Paul Willcock, inset right, to the Highland Gunners. If the cap fits (main picture): Bdr David Johnston, 19 Regt's Pipe Major, is introduced to a suitably hatted Ruby. Picture: Chris Fletcher

certificate, as well as register Kirkee Barracks, Colchester with a holding number and herd mark from the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Poet Lee is the latest in a long line of RWF writers stretching back to the Western Front



Soldier poet **Cpl Lee Jones**, left, serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers at Ballykelly, Northern Ireland, is continuing a literary tradition in the regiment. Most famous of the line are Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon, who served on the Western Front.

Lee, who joined The Parachute Regiment in 1992 and transferred to the

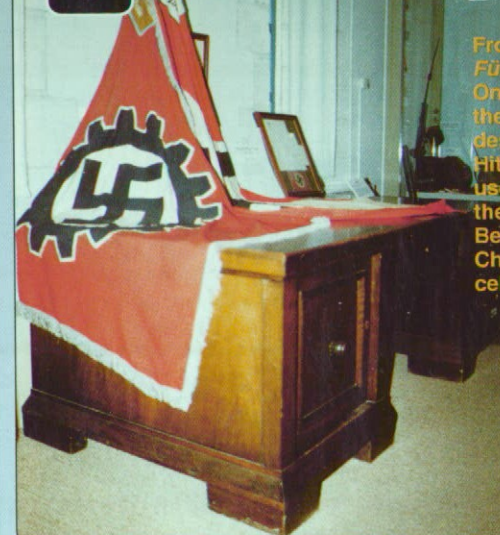
RWF in 1996, has written many poems since joining the Army, several of them influenced by his time in Belfast with 1 Para. His *The Men of Violence* is to be published in an anthology of contemporary poetry.

Lee's hobbies include powerlifting and swimming and he hopes to transfer to the Army Physical Training Corps.

Legends of the regiments and corps

8

Keep Military Museum, Dorchester



From the Führer: One of the desks Hitler used in the Berlin Chancellery

How Hitler desk came to Dorset

ONE of the two desks in Adolf Hitler's private office in the former German Chancellery in Berlin is in the proud possession of the Keep Military Museum in Dorchester, the regimental museum of The Devon and Dorset Regiment.

It was presented to the museum by Maj Gen Alex Bishop, formerly of the Dorset Regiment, who was Director of Intelligence with the Control Commission Germany after the end of the Second World War.

In September 1945 the Russian Army, which had taken Berlin, started to remove furniture from the Chancellery. The Russian officer responsible for the work offered the writing table to Gen Bishop.

GENERAL'S STUDY

The general, who later became the Commissioner for North-Rhine Westphalia area, used it in his study before presenting it to the Dorset Museum. It took ten men to lift it up the spiral staircase at The Keep when it was found the desk could not be taken to pieces.

With several other items from the Führer's possessions, including Christmas cards and his headed notepaper, the desk may be seen on the first floor of The Keep Museum at the top of the town.

The Keep Military Museum, Dorchester, is open Monday to Saturday from 0930 to 1700 and on Sundays during July and August.

Bulletin board

Noted ...

● Twelve members of **The Queen's Royal Lancers** boasting a combined service of 200 years between them received Long Service and Good Conduct Medals in a ceremony at their barracks in Osnabrück, Germany.



Picture: Gareth Griffiths

● **SSgt Roger Huckerby**, left, the Territorial Army's oldest chef, hung up his ladles on reaching the age of 62. Called up for National Service in 1959, he joined the TA in 1961 and has been cooking ever since. He is due to return to Nottingham-based 87 Signal Squadron later in the year to pick up a fourth bar to his TA Medal.

● The **Corps of Drums of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment** hit the big-time while the battalion was exercising in Jordan. Their services (when not required in their machine-gunner role) were offered by CO Lt Col Alasdair Wild to the British Embassy in Amman. First up was the high-profile Rolls Royce Club tour of Jordan function at the Ambassador's home in Amman. The audience of 150 included the Prince Regent, Prince Fazel. The drummers played at the launch of the new Rover 75, appeared at the opening of the HSBC Bank in Amman and ended their tour at the International Community School's fundraising fayre.

● The **Victoria Cross** awarded to Lt John Chard for his actions at Rorke's Drift was loaned to the South Wales Borderers Museum, Brecon for a book launch and reception in December. It was the first time the famous medal, which is owned privately, had been displayed in public. The book, *The Noble 24th* by the late Norman Holme, contains biographical notes of all soldiers from the 24th Regiment, later to become the South Wales Borderers, who took part in the campaign in South Africa.

● **SSgt Alan Platt**, right, from 5 Field Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, received the OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations) Recognising Achievement Award from the Duke of Edinburgh to mark outstanding achievement in education and training. He completed an NVQ Level 3 while posted to Bosnia.



Picture: Graeme Main

Wagons roll: The last truck leaves the Defence Storage and Distribution Centre, Thatcham watched by Lt Col Bill Tonkins and some of his civilian staff. The depot was closing its gates after more than 50 years supporting the Armed Forces. Customers will continue to be served from new locations at Bicester and Longmoor. Built originally as a tobacco store by W D & H O Wills, the depot was requisitioned in

1940 and became a sub depot of Central Ordnance Depot Didcot.

Between 1942-46 the depot was a storage facility for the US Army and stretched from Newbury race course to Greenham Common. It was returned to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1946, since when it has had several titles. But its role remained as a stores loan service for the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

REUNIONS

APTC SW Branch: Reunion at Gables Inn, Falfield, Bristol Road, Gloucester, Feb 4. Details from Bob Marshall on 01747 860207.

Transport Squadron Cdo Log Regt, Royal Marines: Past and present ranks and partners invited to decommissioning function at SNCOs' Mess, RMB Chivenor, Feb 26. Replies to SSM (WO2) Williams on 01271 857082. The squadron is to be reorganised as the Landing Force Support Party.

Queen's Regiment: Annual reunion on Mar 4 at Victory Services Club, London. Contact Association Secretary, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (tel 01227 818054/56).

Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment: Back Badge reunion weekend, March 25-26. AGM and reunion, Cheltenham Town Hall, 1800, Mar 25; service in Gloucester Cathedral followed by luncheon, Mar 26. Send sae for details to RHQ, Custom House, Gloucester GL1 2HE.

F Para Battery, 7 Para RHA: Ahmed Khel reunion weekend, April 7-8. Contact 2nd Lt Briffa or Sgt Tye on Aldershot Mil 2516 for reunion details.

1st, 4th, 7th Royal Tank Regiments: Annual reunion on April 28-30 at St John's Swallow Hotel, Solihull. For details, ring Roger Rathmell on 01752 893495 or Geoff Bourne on 01752 880527. All REME, RAPC, ACC and other attached personnel will be welcome.

6 Squad Junior Marines: Reunion at Home Club, Portsmouth, May 6. Contact Geof Haywood on 01202 888194.

50th Missile Club RA: Millennium reunion at the Lawn, Lincoln on May 13. For reunion or membership details contact secretary A J Todd on 01387 262378, write to him at 9 The Grove, Heathhall, Dumfries, Scotland DG1 1TN or e-mail TODD.A.J@ic24.net

Military Survey Branch, RE Association: Major reunion planned at Hermitage on Aug 26. Details from Alan Gordon, Hon Sec, Military Survey Branch REA, 1 Majorca Avenue, Andover, Hants SP10 1JW.

Red Devils: Reunion 2000 to be held at Airfield Camp, Netheravon, on Nov 25 for former team members and people associated with the team. Details on 01980 678211 or write to Red Devils' Reunion, Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Wilts SP4 9SF.

APPOINTMENTS

Major Generals: P Gilchrist to be Executive Director 2, Defence Procurement Agency, Jan; R V Brims to be Comd Multi-national Div (SW), Bosnia, Jan; F R Viggers to be Chief of Staff HQ Land Command, Feb; P C C Trousdell to be Dep Comd (Ops) SFOR, Mar; R V Searby to be Senior British Loan Service Officer, Oman, Mar.

Brigadiers (Dec): S R B Allen to be Comd 51 Highland Bde; A J Graham to be Comd 3

Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn; J N R Houghton to be Dir DMO; W E B Loudon to be Comd 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn; M F N Mans to be Comd Engrs HQ Land; M J Wharmby to be Dir Sp Systems DGES(A); R Rook to be Dir D Def Mat Pol.

Brigadiers (Jan): A N Bellamy to RCDS; R M Brunt to RCDS; T Cross to RCDS; A D A Duncan to RCDS; A R Freer to RCDS; C S Grant to be Dir Land Warfare DGD&D; M Kerley to RCDS; A D Leakey to RCDS; G P

Sheldon to be Cdr HQ BFFI; M D Wood to be Cdr HQ 101 Log Bde.

Colonels (Dec): D C Bradley to be Col Log Sp Svcs, Log Sup Branch, HQ Land; A Brown to be COS Engr-in-Chief, Int Mil Staff, Brussels; G Gillott to be Head Land Efficiency Dev Team, HQ Land; N B Josling to be DACOS G4 Estate, HQ Land; D G Lyon to be COS HQ DRA; N J Mangnall to be DCOS HQ Inf; R W H Purdy to be DACOS JF Stds



Sgt Bill's feat of clay

Chelsea In-Pensioner **Sgt Bill Moylon** imitates a new **Philip Jackson** statue which is to be unveiled on May 4 outside the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Bill was among a group of Pensioners who joined the benefactor, the **Duke of Westminster, Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie**, Governor of the Royal Hospital, and **Maj Gen Jonnie Hall**, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary, at a preview of the statue in clay at Philip Jackson's studios in Midhurst, West Sussex.

One-and-a-half times life-size, the finished bronze, entitled *The Chelsea Pensioner*, will stand at the North Front of the great Wren building where veterans have lived since Charles II founded the Royal Hospital more than 300 years ago.

Other military works by Mr Jackson include *The Yomper*, a memorial to soldiers of the Falklands War, outside the Royal Marines Museum in Southsea, and *The Gurkha Monument*, unveiled last year in Horse Guards Avenue, Whitehall.

SEARCHLINE

The **Joint Personnel Recovery Agency** is undertaking an oral history project and is interested in hearing from anyone with escape or evasion experience. Replies to **S Smith**, JPRA, Defence Intelligence and Security Centre, Chicksands, Shefford, Beds SG17 5PR (tel 01462 817399; fax 817405) or e-mail sasmith.jssa@dial.pipex.com

German football fan wishes to trace an English soldier called **Fry**, or **Frye**, who played for **Hannover 96** in 1946. Replies to Hans-Heinrich Kellner, 49356 Diepholz, Dr Wilhelm Kingh Str 11, Germany (tel 05441 1271).

John Squires wishes to contact or receive news of his father, **Peter Sydney Lemon**, who was in **27th Regiment RA** in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Replies to 133 West Street, Banbury, Oxon OX16 7HA.

All **Training Company (Boys)/Boys Company RASC, 1944-1948**, who wish to meet up in 2000 are invited to contact John (Chalky) White on 01279 834864, Eric (Taffy) Buckland on 01222 615405 or Ralph Forbes-Ritte on 01242 234914. They have already organised three successful reunions.

Independent documentary production company making a four-part series for the BBC on the **Special Operations Executive (SOE)** seeks first-hand advice and information. Call Dominic Sutherland on 0171 482 7027.

King's African Rifles, RWAFF, Rhodesian and South African **military manuals** on bush warfare, bushcraft and tracking sought for loan or purchase by Alan Steele to help with research. Contact him at 12 Fargo Road, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 8LW (tel 01980 653850).

Anyone wishing to find out more about the **Army Wargamers Association** (see Bulletin Board, Dec) may write to Tim Lewcock, Art Tels 9901, B Coy, SEAE, Arborfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9NL, e-mail AWA@bigfoot.com

or visit <http://www.bigfoot.com/~theAWA>

T D Barker is hoping a reader may identify the photograph from which this scrap, right, was torn. It shows his wife's maternal grandfather, **Robert Crouch**, back, whose wife was an Eastbourne midwife. The photo is believed to have been taken in the Ordinance Yard, Eastbourne, in the late 1800s. Replies to 1 Tabernacle Road, Wotton-Under-Edge, Glos GL12 7EF (tel 01453 842100).



Details or whereabouts of **Thomas Teasdale**, born about 1917 in or near Manchester, are sought on behalf of his daughter, **Monika Vogt**, who lives in Germany. Thomas Teasdale was a British soldier based at St Georgen am Langsee, Austria, in 1945. Replies to Ronnie Teasdale, The White House, 66 Broadway, Tynemouth, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 2LH, or e-mail ronnie@teasdale47.freeseerve.co.uk

Miss S Stanley, 44 Durley Cres, Ashurst Bridge, Totton, Southampton, Hants SO40 7QA, wishes to trace former soldiers who served with her grandfather, **Charles Alfred Parsons, East Surrey Regiment** during the Second World War. Also people he met in Netley Military Hospital while recovering from bomb blast injuries to his face. Charles is soon to celebrate his 80th birthday.

News of **Norman Sullivan**, who landed up in Stalag 8B, German PoW camp after being captured in Crete in 1941, sought by fellow PoW Victor J Hope, 43 Wade Avenue, Ilke-

ston, Derbyshire DE7 5DY. He also wishes to trace **Ivor Fricker** and **Donald Allsop**.

Ex-RQMS **J V Lewis, RE Depot Barton Stacey, 1956-59**, wishes to contact a member of his then staff, **Sgt A Rogers RE**, or members of his family. He has an engraved mess presentation, left in his care, which he wishes to hand over. Tel 01474 707598.

Mrs Jennifer M J Bentley seeks information about her late father, **Joseph Briggs**, born May 30, 1912, died April 4, 1966, who served in the REME during the Second World War. Also news of surviving family members. Replies to 16 Clematis Road, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2J 4X2.

Mrs J Loughran-Dickson (Irish Louise) wishes to contact her friend **Sharon Wigman**, formerly **Russell**, with whom she has lost touch. Last known to be with the **Devonshire and Dorset Regiment** in Warminster. Replies to Editor (01252 347356).

Richard White is trying to trace the history of his **1933 Aston Martin**, believed to have been owned at one time by a **Capt Daybell** (who died in 1944 or 1945 after a bicycle accident) stationed at Beachley Camp, Chepstow. Does anyone remember Capt Daybell or his Aston Martin during the period 1939-45? Replies to Richard White, Smeeton Westerby, Leicestershire LE8 0QJ (tel 01162404005) or e-mail richardwhite@netlineuk.net

Ivor Bush, 92nd Field Regiment RA (1940-45), Anzio, Sicily etc during the Second World War, was 80 last month and former comrades are asked to contact his daughter, Susan Graves, on 01179 677047.

Were you, or do you know of, an **Army Catering Corps sergeant** billeted next to the White Hart public house in Southgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk during the Second World War? He was believed to be originally from Somerset or Devon. If so please ring 01284 764044.

Hayley Billingham (tel 0121 689 1387) seeks old school friend **Rae Von-Breen**, who used to live in Greenoak Crescent, Stirchley, Birmingham, and is now in the Army.

Colin MacAulay, 19 Gracemere Court, Wattle Grove, NSW 2173, Australia, seeks information regarding a **51st (Highland) Division Association** and particularly wishes to contact anyone who served with **51st Anti-Tank Regiment** from Sept 1939 to June 1940.

DACOS G3 O&D HQ Land; T M Fitzalan Howard to Language Training; C R L Lomer to be Sec COS CTEE CDS; P C C Molyneux to be Head of Elec Business Delivery, HQ LISA; M J Von Bertele to RCDS.

Retirements

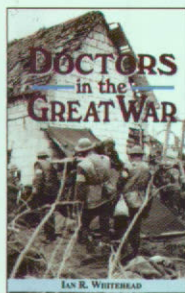
Colonels: N E L Gilbert, late RCT, Dec; R S P Tamlyn, late RAMC, Dec; D J P Griffiths, late RLC, Jan; J A Kneale, late RAVC, Dec; R W Ward, late RAEC, Dec.

PJHQ(UK); A J Rice to be Chief Production Branch SHAPE Staff (BAE); D J Rutherford-Jones to be COS 3 (UK) Div HQ and Sig Regt; P H J Smith to be Army Member JET(A); J K Tanner to be Comd CAFTC(G); F A Walthall to be Asst Dir Joint Def Centre Study Team; P G Williams to be Col SHAPE Staff (BAE).

Colonels (Jan): I W Abbott to RCDS; G W Berragan to be Col Indiv Trg, Dir Trg Pol (A); D J Clements to RCDS; G C W Dodds to be

Medical lessons of the Great War

IN 1918 more than half of Britain's 25,000 professional doctors were on active service with the British

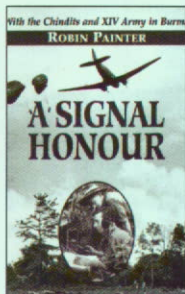


Army. But the sheer scale of the First World War meant that even the 13,000 in uniform were inadequate to cope with the appalling casualties, while the medical cover for civilians at home was inevitably spread very thinly. Those

faced with the similar challenges of today might find salutary food for thought in Dr Ian R Whitehead's profound, detailed and extremely well-documented study, **Doctors in the Great War** (Leo Cooper, £25).

Camaraderie led to extended career

AFTER a short time as a volunteer private in the Royal Scots, Robin Painter was commissioned



into the Royal Signals in India in the Second World War and went on to fight with the Chindits and at Imphal. His often horrific experiences of these times are related vividly in **A Signal Honour** (Leo Cooper, £19.95). The fighting and its aftermath are starkly

described but he also conveys a true sense of the extraordinary and enduring camaraderie he shared with his colleagues which persuaded him to stay on in the Army until retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1972.

Drummer Boy who went to the Lords

From drummer boy to major to Staff Superintendent at the House of Lords, Peter Horsfall describes



his life in **Hard To Believe - Too Old at Sixteen** (The Memoir Club, £16.95). In 1946 he was "too old" to join the Royal Marines, so he enlisted with the Coldstream Guards as a drummer boy. Through reminiscences and anecdotes,

he tells of his 34-year Army career and entertains us with amusing stories about the Lords. Illustrated by the ever-whimsical Bill Tidy, the book recounts the rise of an ordinary Yorkshireman to the palace of the mighty.

Laugh at this fund of tales

IMAGINE the scene: you have reached Army retirement age, have drafted your CV, applied for a job and are invited to an interview. What next?

You are, on balance, probably best advised not to follow the tips set out in this must-read compilation of some of Sustainer's funniest pieces, the second to be published in aid of the ABF (the first raised £6,000).

For the uninitiated, Sustainer is the pen-name of a former officer of the Army Catering Corps (motto, *We Sustain*) who for many years has brought a welcome smile to some of our more po-faced military publications.

Illustrated lovingly if idiosyncratically by Piscator (a nom-de-plume more akin to the artist's real name for those of you who have studied the classics), the puckish musings of this imaginative observer of the lighter side of Army life (yes, there is one) prove beyond doubt that not all khaki humour is black, if you follow.

But back to where we came in, and that questionable interview advice.

"First, please don't bother to spit and polish your shoes," Sustainer writes. "It doesn't impress your average bog-standard civilian who identifies such details of turn-out as a pathetic manifestation of a limited military

Spit & Polish and Other Stories by Sustainer, with illustrations by Piscator. Published in paperback in aid of Army Benevolent Fund and available from Spit & Polish (SLDR), Freepost, LON 15206, London SE1 7BR (tel orders, 07000 777789). Price £12.95 (inc p&p), cheques payable to ABF Scotland.

intellect. It also knackers a perfectly good pair of suede shoes."

And just when you think the author is showing his serious and reasonable side by urging yet more meticulous planning and research, he hits you over the head with his jester's balloon, encouraging you to research the background of the person chairing the interview panel, in this case male.

"Study his post-nominals. DSO, MC or TD will mean he speaks your language. BD means he speaks the Padre's language. BSc means he speaks computer language."

"KCMG is an indicator that he speaks a foreign language but has never called a spade a shovel in his life. KCVO means he hasn't a clue what a shovel is.

"MBE is very, very dangerous. The guy has been at the coalface with a shovel and dug a lot of coal. He knows approximately how many beans make five and has proved it. No post-nominals at all and you've got a tiger by the tail."

Okay, some of Sustainer's

commentaries - culled from what has been a fast-changing quarter of a century for the Army - are wickedly irreverent and not necessarily politically correct by today's shifting standards, but the more sensitive souls are urged not to let that spoil their enjoyment of a bit of harmless fun in aid of a good cause.

Moreover, you will be left in little doubt that some of the less complimentary pen-pictures are painted from real-life. You may even know some of the characters.

All this may or may not be true of the hilarious and still topical piece written in 1998 about a relaxation in the moral code and published in this book under the title "Cool Britannia". If you read nothing else in the collection, don't miss this. - CH

IN BRIEF

Red Berets and Red Crosses by N M G Cherry. Ex-RAMC man's account of the Medical Services in the 1st Airborne Div in the Second World War, with Arnhem and Oosterbeek told in special detail. All profits to Airborne charities. Available in hardback from N Cherry, 3 Church Road, Warton, Lancs PR4 1BD at £17.95 plus £4 p&p per copy.

Conqueror by Rob Griffin. Former Royal Armoured Corps soldier tells the story of the design, development and operational use of the Conqueror tank. Well researched and strong on technical detail. (The Crowood Press, £19.99.)

More reissues in the excellent Pan Grand Strategy paperback series: **The Korean War** by Max Hastings (£7.99); **The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad** by Harrison E Salisbury (£7.99); **1918: Year of Victory** by Malcolm Brown (£10); **Britain's Army in the 20th Century** by Fd Marshal Lord Carver (£12.99).

Win the book

● We have three copies of **Spit & Polish** to give away in a simple competition. Just answer the question:

What was the motto of the Army Catering Corps?

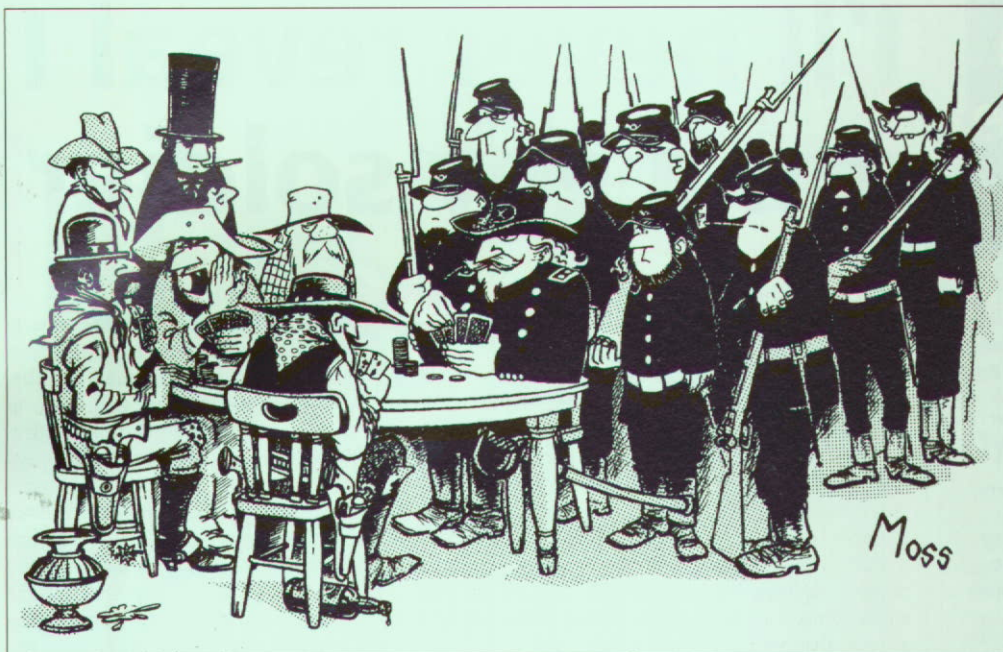
Answers on a postcard or sealed envelope containing your name and address to "Spit & Polish" Competition, *Soldier*, by February 29. First three correct entries drawn win a copy.

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. Postal address: Helion &

Company, 26 Willow Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1UE, UK (tel 0121 705 3393; fax 0121 711 1315).

E-mail: books@helion.co.uk
Website: http://www.helion.co.uk



"He hates playing poker with the General . . . he's such a damn bad loser"

This Moss cartoon, demonstrating a timeless humour which first made our readers laugh 37 years ago, is reproduced in *Soldiers of the Sixties*, Maj Bill Clarke's compilation of extracts from our archives – or, as he puts it, a "military chronicle of the decade as seen through the eyes of *Soldier Magazine*".

Almost 200 facsimile pages paint an evocative picture of

Sixties through eyes of Soldier

the campaigns and exercises, sports fields and married patches of that remarkable era and we are taken on a pictorial and verbal "tour" of some of the overseas stations in which our soldiers served.

Maj Clarke, who himself

joined the Army at the beginning of the Sixties, is the first to recognise the potential for a series in this magazine's 55 years of British Army coverage – but is not ready to take on another decade just yet.

Soldiers of the Sixties is available from W G Clarke (Military Books), 199 Bulford Road, Durrington, Wilts, SP4 8HB, for £9.99 plus £2.50 p&p (UK/BFPO only).

Warm memories of the Cold War

by Brig Sebastian Roberts,
Director of Corporate
Communications (Army)

GEN Akehurst subtitles his autobiography "Then hurrah for the life of a soldier".

His military career, so modestly described in these memoirs, stands for the lives of hundreds of thousands of British soldiers who served through the Cold War, in a myriad far-flung hot-spots.

For Gen Akehurst, these were Malaya and Dhofar. He describes both sparsely and anecdotally to great effect. A small criticism: maps would have been helpful.

The majority of the book is in this vein, anecdotal and full

of people; it will be enjoyed especially by the hundreds he names, and those who know them.

But as one reads on, the book becomes more than a series of affectionate and amusing memoirs. Out of it shines the humanity and wisdom that mark out a really exceptional soldier; hallmarks of a unique Army.

The final chapter, "Reflections", goes to the heart of the British Army, distilling the experience and modesty – as well as the humanity and wisdom – of the author.

Hurrah for the life of this soldier – and for the fact that he has written it down so readably.

IN MY BOOK Charles Messenger

An occasional series in which we talk to military authors about their life and work

Empathy is the key to success

ONE reason why Charles Messenger's books are so popular with the military is that he communicates the nuances of his subject with the authority that comes from having served for more than 20 years.

"Academic historians are very good but there are times when I feel there is something missing in what they write," he said.

"Occasionally it is a lack of understanding of what the fog of war means and what the stresses on individuals are, in particular higher commanders."

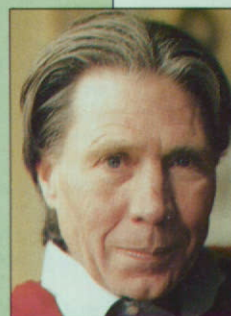
His writing output is prolific, having penned more than 30 books in as many years, including *The Second World War in the West*, published last year.

Following his father into the Army, the young Messenger was commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment and in 1962 was posted to Libya. "It was tremendous, my first experience of the desert and I loved it. As a young officer you have bags of opportunity to use your initiative and to learn from your mistakes. My soldiers were very patient with me."

He went up to Oxford to read modern history with military history as his special subject, then returned to the regiment. Subsequent postings included the US Armor School at Fort Knox, where his "boss" was Gen George Patton's son. It was after graduating from the British Army Staff College that he began writing.

"It was something I always wanted to do. It actually started in 1970 thanks to John Keegan, who taught military history at Sandhurst. When Purnell was doing its great part-work on the First World War he put my name forward. I wrote a couple of articles and out of that came my first book, on trench warfare, and thereafter I never looked back."

Taking early retirement in 1980, he turned to writing full-time and is now working on a book about the development of the Army as an organisation, 1914-18. – AS



The Great War Generals on the Western Front 1914-1918 by Robin Neillands. First World War myths exposed: the hardback edition sold out within weeks of publication. (Robinson Publishing, paperback, £12.99.)

And We Shall Rock Them by David Fraser. Reissue of eminent historian's classic 1983 account of the British Army in the Second World War. (Cassell Military Paperbacks, £6.99.)

The Contemporary Law of Armed Conflict by Leslie C Green. All you need to know about the legalities surrounding hostilities. Updated second edition includes Yugoslavia, mines and laser weapons. (Juris Publishing/ Manchester University Press, paperback, £25.)

Brassey's Defence Yearbook 1999 edited by The Centre for Defence Studies, King's College London. Authoritative overview of current events based on the centre's research programmes. (Brassey's, £45.)

How system fails to move us 'singlies'

I FEEL compelled to write about the MFO system for moving unaccompanied baggage from Germany to the UK.

I was informed my MFO would take from six to eight weeks. It took eight and, to my horror, for six of those it did not move an inch from where I left it with the unit in Germany. Paperwork went back and forwards before any effort was made to move it.

In the meantime, I am supposed to have with me enough personal possessions, clothing and uniform to survive for that time. To make matters worse, I am supposed to carry it all on the aircraft because I am given no allowance to bring a car back with me... and to cover the cost of the travel. I am sure people are getting tired of the same arguments, just as we singles are getting weary of having to foot the bill, both in inconvenience and money. — **Capt J Sheldon AGC (ETS), Officers' Mess, Worthy Down.**

● After spending a quarter of my adult life serving in Hohne, where I collected a lot of life's comforts in the shape of furniture and windsurfing equipment, my MFO has taken a full month to catch up with me at my new posting in Bovington and the system is refusing to transport my windsurfing kit.

There appears to be disparity between us "singlies" and the "pads" in financial recompense and services provided during movement. And my furniture? I was forced to sell it. Not at all retention positive, DPS(A). — **Maj Nigel Robinson, Bovington.**

● Two letters (Dec) highlight the problems which result from piecemeal budgetary control. Negative responses to comparable disturbance allowance for the single soldier and to the request for a more generous telephone allowance in the Falklands may indeed be dictated by financial limitations within the budget slice allocated for these purposes.

Unlike major civilian corporations, the Army does not seem to have an overall view of cost-balancing. The cost of recruiting and training highly-skilled soldiers who leave in the five-to-eight year range would pay for disturbance allowance and telephone calls many times over, even allowing for Mickey Mouse accounting which does not include the salary costs of the trainees. — **David Chown, RO2, 35 AEC, Osnabrück.**

JUST A THOUGHT: Why can't the Army be renamed the Royal Army, in line with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force? — **Dave Duxbury, ex-RE, Marlow on Thames.**

I'll never reveal I am a gay soldier

I THANK the stars that Maj (Retd) Goodwin (Homosexual ruling, Dec), is no longer

making decisions that affect people's lives. Gay male and female soldiers have served in the British Army proudly and honourably for many years and just because of the new ruling are not going to start wearing the "Yes, I was one all along" T-shirt.

People like Maj Goodwin need to realise that no gay soldier, especially male, would dream of becoming openly gay in the barrack block. Most gay soldiers keep themselves very much to themselves and would not change their lifestyle just because of the new ruling, which means they can no longer be discriminated against and lose job and livelihood.

I have served eight happy years as a gay soldier and have never offended anyone with so much as a so-called "gay gesture". I will remain "in the closet" because I know my sexual orientation offends a lot of people.

I would never be openly gay in the Army, and I speak for others. — **LCpl, Germany (name and address supplied).**

Prize letter

In reply to Maj Goodwin, as a single soldier living in barrack accommodation, I cannot see

how the ruling on homosexuals in the Army will incite activity in this area. I don't condone the activity but I cannot see individuals flaunting their sexuality. Given human rights, I can understand why the Armed Forces have made the decision to ignore sexuality. — **LCpl Brotherston, R Signals, Pristina.**

Being a regular reader of your magazine, I find it strange that there has been no mention anywhere in the past two issues on the homosexual ruling. I would have thought it would have made at least the headline in your monthly digest of what's being said in Parliament and the press.

I have no doubt it would make excellent reading on your Vox pop page to get the views of troops. Some critics might think there is a form of censorship going on in *Soldier*. Perish the thought. — **WO2 (TSM) S Armstrong, 12 CTT, Bovington, Dorset.**

● No censorship at work... and we are planning a Vox pop in the near future. — **Editor**

Why Army should add alcohol to CDT regime

I WAS interested to read (Special report, Dec) about Compulsory Drug Testing and the Army's desire to ensure that the work environment is free from substance abuse.

A young man quoted in Vox pop said he did not want to "stag on with someone who's stoned out of his head".

However, with one in ten adults in the UK and 60 per cent of work-related accidents thought to be attributable to alcohol, I am amazed the Army does not extend the testing to include this. I wonder how many soldiers who "stag on" carrying a loaded rifle, or drive large vehicles, would be over the legal alcohol limit if breathalysed.

I am in favour of a safe culture and have no wish to work with anyone under the

influence of alcohol and illegal substances, but perhaps the Army would do better to divert some of the money it spends on CDT into promoting a change of culture towards health. It could start by reviewing its policy on consumption of alcohol. — **Caroline Whittaker, Vale of Glamorgan.**

Give us credit for being in the Army

I AGREE with Sgt Southall about being treated like a second-class citizen (Jan). I am seething after trying to purchase a cooker from Tempo in Salisbury using their offer of 12 months' interest-free credit. We were refused because we have had a UK address for only 2½ years following a four-year posting in Hameln, Germany. My husband risks his life for this country and we get treated in this way. — **Mrs Melanie Craddock, School of P and RT, Bulford.**

Mail us!

SOLDIER welcomes your letters, whether you are an officer or other rank; serving or civvy; nine, 19 or 90. All we ask is that you keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, please put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the Soldier gift collection will be awarded each month if we judge that a letter, serious or humorous, merits it. Acceptance or rejection of letters is the decision of the Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, Feb 1950: A soldier from 36th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA mans a 3.7 gun near the ancient white walls of Mdina. The only British gunner unit of the wartime garrison still on Malta, it was known as the 68th (North Midland) Heavy AA Regt during the war.

THEN
AND
THEN



From *Soldier*, Feb 1975: A resumé of the defence review: reductions to cut Cyprus commitment; a reduced force to remain in Hong Kong; troops to stay in Malta until 1979 at least; out go forces stationed in South East Asia under the

25 YEARS AGO

Five Powers; out go Gurkhas from Brunei; Vixen reconnaissance vehicle and RS80 rocket artillery scrapped.

Replacing our freezing tents should be priority

I WOULD like to reply to SSgt Ann Ford's letter (Jan) concerning the MoD's £100 million civilian contract to build accommodation blocks for troops serving in Kosovo and the delay in opening her recruiting office in County Durham.

I totally agree with her that the United Nations should be meeting the cost of building accommodation in the Balkans. I would also like to remind SSgt Ford that the temperature north of Podujevo over the New Year period was minus 15C, and that proper accommodation is a real priority for those of us deployed here.

Some of my colleagues are still living in

poorly-heated tents and are having to use sandbags to stop the wind blowing them away.

Others have had to buy wood-burning stoves because the local electricity supply is too weak to power the heaters.

While I and my colleagues would like to sympathise with SSgt Ford over the delay in the refurbishment of her centrally-heated careers office, we hope that the delays for her do not last as long as the delay in building our accommodation here in Kosovo. — Pte Euan Baird, Recce Troop, 1 QDG Battle Group, Kosovo.

Pay gap with civilians drives me to despair

I THINK the root of poor retention is seated in the disparity in trade pay compared with our civilian counterparts.

A driver Class 1 Band 1 (Scale C) earns £37.35 a day (£261.45 a week) while a civilian equivalent who puts in his allowed 56 hours a week at an average rate of £7.50 an hour will earn £420.

Our wages are meant to be enhanced by

the X-factor for putting our lives on the line and so on, so why is the Army driver's pay worse than his civvy counterpart? I am a 12-year corporal on £351.75 a week, and am tired of hearing about X-factors and other allowances which don't make up for not earning a proper living wage. — Cpl AGC (SPS), Wilts (name and address supplied).

PS...

No beef with French

I WAS very interested to read (Jan, Page 11) that the Defence Secretary and his French counterpart had signed an agreement which allows each others' Armed Forces to use each others' assets. "Sharing fuel and food gives us greater staying power," said Mr Hoon. I suppose this is one way of getting the French to eat our beef. — SSgt David Nicholson, 101 (Northumberland) Regt RA(V), TA Centre, Gateshead.

On a jarring note

I WONDER if you are aware of what appear to be a number of deliberate errors in Gordon Turner's column (Jan, Page 65)? Many of the names of the composers have been changed by someone having fun after your Christmas party. — Colin Dean, Barking, Essex.

● Apologies to Gordon, who was blameless. An over-enthusiastic computerised spell-check did the damage. The review will be reprinted in the March issue. — Editor

Thin green line

I READ the appeal ("The thin black line", Jan) for funds to build a memorial in the heart of London to Indian, Caribbean and African soldiers. How about a memorial for the thousands of Irishmen who have served in the British Army over the past 250 years? — Edward Kelly, ex-sapper, Dover.

Loss to recruiting

I WAS shocked to read that the Army Careers and Information Office in Horden, Co Durham may close (Mailbag, Jan). I set up that office and in the 1970s and 1980s became known as the best employer in the area, finding work for more than 2,000 young men. On a different tack, on leaving the Army I worked as an usher at the local magistrates' courts and spoke to many first-time offenders about a career in the Army. I do hope ACIO Horden will not close. — P Fox, Peterlee, Co Durham.

Damp parade

RECENTLY my grandson (ex-RTR) completed a six-month tour in Kosovo with the Life Guards as a volunteer. His mother and sister attended his Kosovo parade at Windsor, where they had to use the men's toilet in the Naafi because no one could find the key to the ladies', then got soaked by heavy rain during the parade. They had a long drive home in wet clothes. — J Lightfoot MM, ext-RTR, Kirkcaldy, Fife.

RAF stood easy

THE new stand-easy position adopted by the Army for the SA80 rifle (report, Dec) has been used by the Queen's Colour Squadron, Royal Air Force for nine years. — Cpl Gary Morris, RAF Regiment.

Vox pop

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

Burning issue

National No Smoking Day is on March 8 and the Army is keen to promote its own version of the event. We asked staff and trainees at the Soldier Training Wing, AG Centre, Worthy Down whether they thought the Army was doing enough to discourage smoking, or even if they should, and what help should be provided for soldiers who want to give up.

Cpl Sally Amandini

(non-smoker)

The Army indirectly encourages smokers by offering cheap cigarettes on foreign tours. Added to that, we promote smoking by telling people they can have designated smoke breaks. I have known people take up smoking because of that. I don't think the medical people make individuals aware enough of the dangers.



Pte Zoe Murray

(non-smoker)

I think there should be an advertising campaign, similar to that for drink-driving, to show just what damage smoking does to the body. Most of the work buildings here

are non-smoking, but the Naafi is very smoky. The ultimate deterrent would be to ban smoking, but that would be like starting World War Three.

SSgt Debbie Uzolins

(former smoker)

I don't see that the Army has any right to tell people that they should or shouldn't smoke. However, I don't think it is fair that non-smokers have to work with smokers unless designated smoking areas are provided. A non-smoking day is an ideal opportunity for those who want to stop to make an effort and I am sure the medical centre would give help and advice if required.



Sgt Shawn Matthews

(smoker)



The Army doesn't encourage smoking. In fact, if I wish to smoke I have to go to a designated area. I think the Army should stay neutral on the subject. If I wish to smoke it should be my choice and not the Army's. It would be

wholly unfair if they were to ban smoking. I believe that if smokers want to give up they can get assistance through the medical centre.

Pte Paul Leightley, Field Int Unit

(smoker)

It is a lot easier to stop smoking if there is a group of you because you can encourage each other. And if the group of people I am with all decide to stop smoking on March 8, then I might, too. If they don't, I won't. I know it affects my fitness so if I have a basic fitness test (BFT), I don't smoke beforehand. I've stopped three or four times in the past.



Pte Martin Clarkson, AGC(SPS)

(non-smoker)

I haven't noticed the Army doing anything to discourage smoking except that there are some non-smoking areas. If there were an order stating that there would be no smoking between certain hours, people would go along with it but it would be bad for morale and some smokers would be put under stress.



Pte Kate Tuttle, 1 Hldrs

(non-smoker)

I don't think the Army really bothers about smokers. I think people would be encouraged to give up if they were given help with the issue of nicotine patches and counselling. Ultimately it is up to the individual.



Cpl Kevin Hunter

(smoker)

I think the Army could do a little more to help those who want to give up, providing them with patches and advice. We shouldn't smoke in an environment in

which non-smokers will be working.

Pte David Ham, 19 Regt RA

(non-smoker)

I don't think the Army does anything to discourage smoking. It could be more proactive and have a poster campaign to raise awareness of the dangers. I'm sure smokers could get help to quit from the medical centre.



Pte Howard Collins, 3 Regt AAC

(former smoker)

I hate going into the Naafi because of the smoke and I share a room with smokers. I have to cough every morning. Help to give up does not seem to be obviously available but I am sure if smokers asked for assistance they would get it. As for a No Smoking Day, they've had them in the past, but the smokers ignored them.



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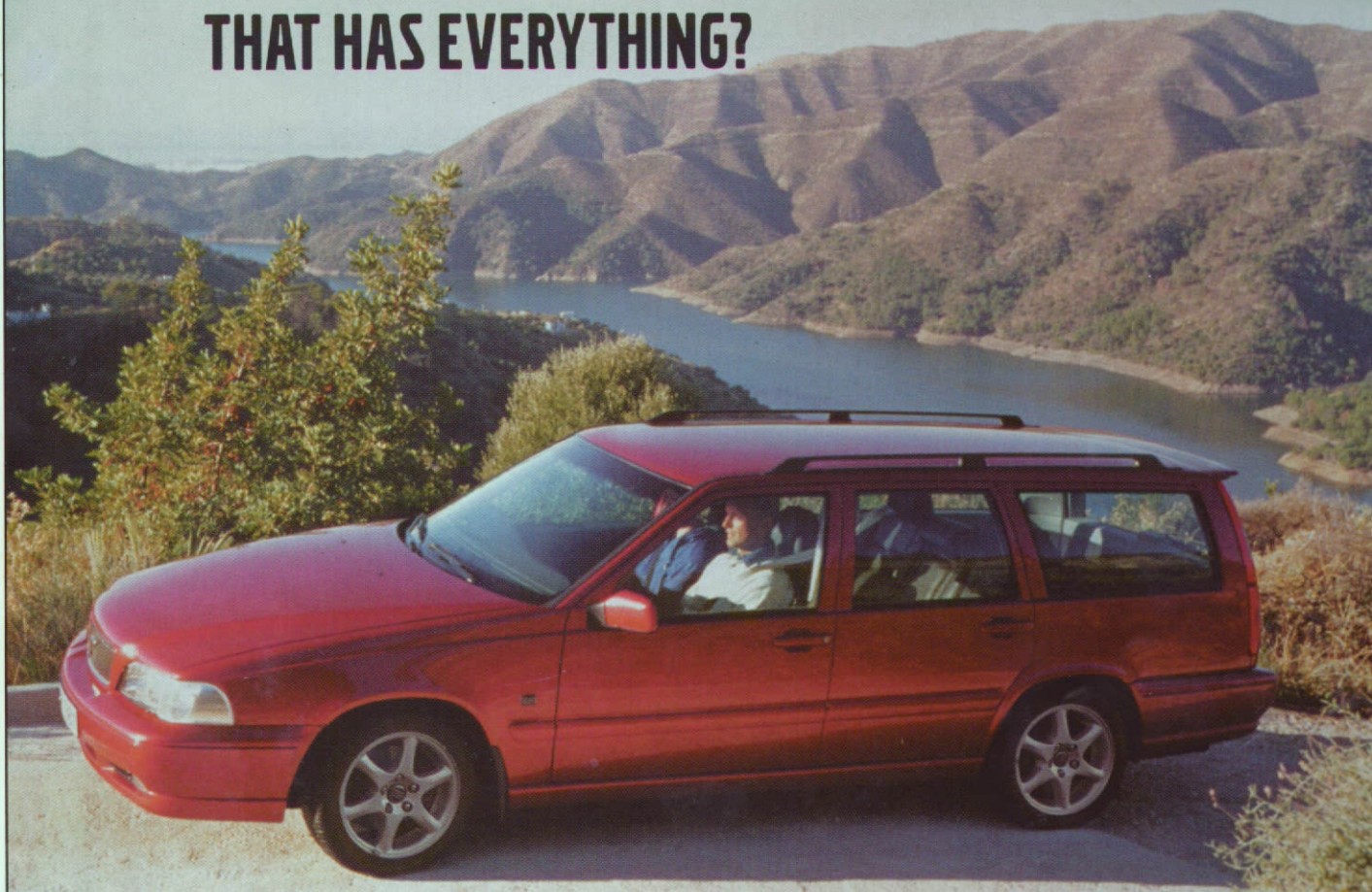
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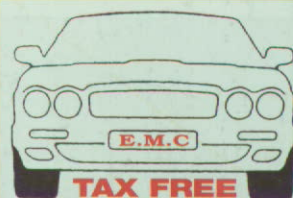
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