

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

March 2001 £2

SOLDIER

In this
88-page
issue

**YOUR
PAY
RATES
in full**

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snowboarding**

ALSO:

**Gen Guthrie on political correctness
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Contact list: Page 86



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In this issue

... of your award-winning magazine



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Taking it to the limit: LCpl David Laye, of 28 Engineer Regiment, flies through the air at the Army snowboarding championships on Stubai Glacier in Austria.

Picture: Graeme Main

What Whole Fleet Management means to you

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Soldiers in line for a Golden Jubilee Medal

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Air assault brigade on exercise in Malaysia

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6 I was one of the first public schoolboys to fail to get a commission in Her Majesty's Forces. A lot of SNCOs had been waiting most of their military lives to get their hands on someone like me 9

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Does the British Army need to modernise its image?

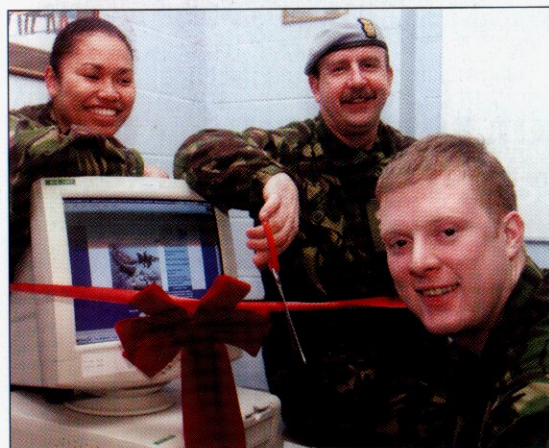
Sean's dream team



Eyes right: Four-year-old Sean Hope's dreams of becoming a real-life Action Man were granted by the recruiting team of **The Royal Highland Fusiliers** based at Walcheren Barracks, Glasgow. The Fusiliers were approached by the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the national charity which turns hopes into reality for children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Sean, who lives not far from the RHF base, has acute myeloid leukemia.

He was picked up in a Scimitar tracked recce vehicle, issued with a uniform and given a chance to fire a rifle in the laser and computer-operated small arms training simulator. Picture: Mark Owens

Open all hours



Café society: **Col Graham Hughes**, the Commandant of SEAE Arborfield, cuts the ribbon to formally open the REME school's cyber café. First to use the facility are **Cfn Kelera Helmoana**, left, and **Cfn Barry Gilbert**. Picture: Graeme Main

● Coin-operated internet kiosks – see Page 12

PAY 2001

It's 3.7% for everyone

Across-the-board pay rise recognises efforts of Armed Forces who 'who never fail to deliver'

THE long-awaited Pay 2000 structure for the Services finally fell into place last month when the Government formally approved the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB).

A more modern and flexible system, Pay 2000 extends to other ranks incremental pay ranges formerly only available to officers.

The transition to Pay 2000 will begin next month as all military ranks up to brigadier receive a 3.7 per cent rise. Individuals will see the impact of the award in their May pay statements, with the changes backdated to April 1.

The independent AFPRB also recommended increases in additional pay made to certain categories of personnel, including flying pay and parachute pay.

A feature of Pay 2000 is the removal of age-related pay for young entrants, which would impact most on the Army. As a first step, the MoD proposed that

the adult new-entrant rate for 2001-02 remain at £10,344, while a new rate of £8,001 be introduced for those under 17. The AFPRB has asked the MoD for an assessment of the impact of the new rate on recruiting.

In their report on the 2001 award, board members welcomed "non-pay" measures introduced by the MoD to aid retention. These included reducing commitments, improving support for troops on operations, a common leave allowance, post-operational tour leave, the Learning Forces initiative and the creation of the Service Families' Task Force.

Across the Services, weekly working hours rose, on average, from 48.3 to 49.5 between 1998-99 and 1999-2000. While Royal Navy personnel found themselves working up to three hours more a week, the working week of the Army and Royal Air Force lengthened by just over 30 minutes. Officers tended to

work, on average, nearly three hours a week longer than other ranks.

The longest duty hours were recorded in Northern Ireland, by the RAF in the Falklands and by the RN at sea.

Although there was an increase in leave days taken, surveys indicated that problems with taking the full entitlement remained. The MoD has been asked to consider how financial compensation for lost leave might work.

This pay increase is thoroughly deserved recognition of the work by members of all three Services. At home and abroad, from the Balkans to Sierra Leone, our Armed Forces never fail to deliver
– Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon

Assault brigade takes to air over the Plain

MORE than 1,500 soldiers, 100 wheeled vehicles, eight Lynx and six Gazelle helicopters hit Salisbury Plain as 16 Air Assault Brigade began Exercise Druid's Dance.

Involved in the exercise, which used laser simulation to represent direct-fire weapons, were the Household Cavalry, 7

Para RHA, 3 Para, 1 R Irish, 4 and 9 AAC, 13 Air Assault Support Regt RLC, 16 CS Regiment, 7 Air Assault Battalion REME and 156 Pro Coy.

RAF support was provided in the form of Chinook and Puma helicopters and Hercules and Tornado aircraft.

IN BRIEF

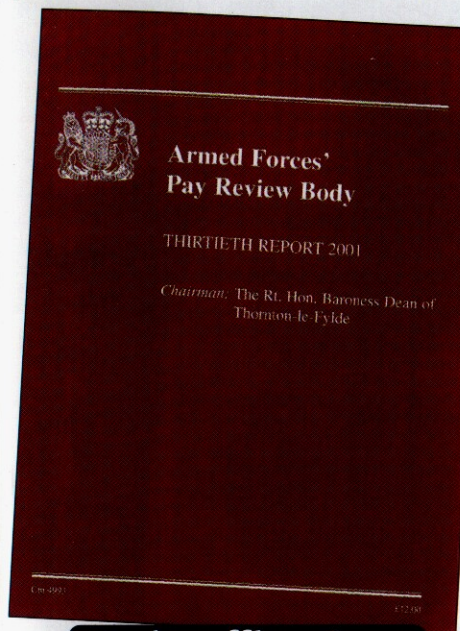
● The Duke of Wellington visited the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment in Osnabruck as the unit prepared to deploy to Kosovo. The Duke is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

● A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Edward Harrison (28), a former

Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps cadet, after he was apparently attacked by an elephant while accompanying an Army exercise in Kenya. He had left his compound in the Masai Mara game reserve to take photographs.

● While national drink-drive statistics over

Your detailed scales – Pages 54-58



Senior officers' pay

PERFORMANCE-related pay is to be introduced for senior military officers at two-star rank and above.

Main features are the introduction of an objective-setting regime, a revised assessment process and a performance-related incremental pay system. It is envisaged that the first pay awards under Performance Management and Pay System (PMPS) will be made on April 1 next year.

While PMPS will allow the award of additional increments as rewards for outstanding performances, good performance will earn a standard increment and unsatisfactory performance no increment.

At-a-glance guide to the AFPRB recommendations

● Military salary – Pay ranges represent an overall increase of 3.7 per cent.

● Pension abatement – To remain at 7 per cent.

● New entrants – New entrant salary (Army only) for those under 17 to be £8,001; new entrant salary for those over 17 to be £10,344.

● Special pay – Increase of 3.7 per cent for groups on special and other scales.

● Reserve bounties –

Volunteer Reserve Forces Training bounty	
Year 1	£330
Year 2	£725
Year 3	£1,115
Year 5	£1,290

Ex-Regular Officers and Other Ranks Training bounty £290

University Units bounty

Year 1	£110
Year 2	£135
Year 3	£160

High Readiness Reserve bounty £330

Sponsored Reserve bounty – based on the training bounty with rates varying between 50 per cent and 100 per cent, depending on training commitments

Call-out gratuity £395

● Flying pay – Enhanced rate for experienced pilots (major and below) to be increased to £4.22 a day; new enhanced rate for navigators/observers of £32.15 a day; top rate for officers to be £29.04 a day; top rate for airmen aircrew to be £15.56 a day.

● Parachute pay – To be increased by 3.7 per cent.

● Service family accommodation charges – To increase from 5.7 per cent for best-quality quarters to zero for the poorest.

Sierra Leone mission to be extended

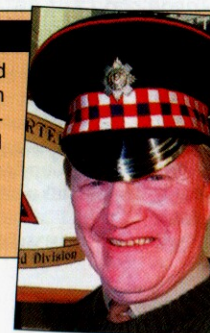
BRITISH military assistance to the Sierra Leone Army in the form of six-week training packages is to continue until September.

Announcing an extension of the short-term military training package, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said 1,500 more

Sierra Leone soldiers would be processed, on top of the 6,500 already trained. The extension will prepare the way for the International Military Advisory and Training Team to take over responsibility for long-term training.

● Sierra Leone feature – Pages 17-19

the Christmas period showed an increase in positive breath-tests, figures for Service personnel within the Aldershot-based 145 (Home Counties) Brigade reflected a drop of 29 per cent.



● Col Sgt Jim Gault, left, of the Scots Guards, has hung up his uniform after 37 years' service. After spending the past four years in Germany, he plans to retire to his home town of Beverley. Jim looked after ammunition and stores for battle-group HQ during the Falklands war.

CDS dines out

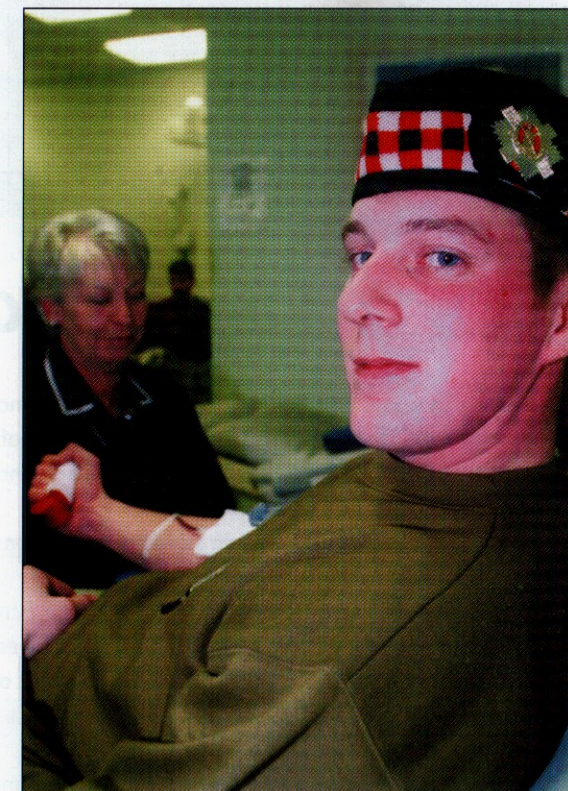


Farewell to arms: **Gen Sir Charles Guthrie**, Chief of the Defence Staff, is dined out by members of the WO's and Sergeants' Mess, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, at Aldershot. Gen Guthrie, centre, is flanked by **WO2 Kim Burnell**, left, and **WO2 Keith Lewis**. On the right is **Garrison Sergeant Major Joe Fairbairn**.

Gen Guthrie, who rose through the ranks of the Welsh Guards to command the 1st Battalion in 1977, later became C-in-C HQ British Army of the Rhine and Chief of the General Staff. He was succeeded last month as Chief of the Defence Staff by **Admiral Sir Michael Boyce**. Picture: Graeme Main

● Interview with Gen Guthrie – Page 23

Vein volunteer



Whole-hearted effort: **Pte Paul Carnochan**, from C Company, The Royal Scots, was one of the first soldiers to volunteer for a mass blood donation organised by the regiment in Edinburgh. Fifty soldiers turned up at the centre. Picture: Mark Owens

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Picture: Sgt Brian Gamble

Keeping the peace: Bdr Leon Richardson, centre, of the 3rd Regiment RHA, leads an Operation Harvest patrol in Sanski Most, Bosnia. Their mission is to encourage people to hand in illegally-held weapons and ammunition. A recent "collection day" resulted in five rocket-launchers, three anti-personnel mines and an anti-tank mine being surrendered.

C Battery, 3 RHA, commanded by Maj

Andy Brown, arrived in the Balkans in November and has taken on tasks ranging from deterring intimidation to helping local people with aid and assistance. It also provides an artillery reserve for the Nato force, keeping a troop of AS90s ready to move at any time.

Based at Kamengrad Camp, 10km from the predominantly Muslim town of Sanski Most, the troops patrol up to four times a day to reassure ethnic groups.

Pilot plucked man from car

AN Army pilot who saved a man from being swept away during floods has been presented with a special award.

WO Norman Collins, resident staff instructor on No 6 Flight AAC (V) at RAF Shawbury, was on a training sortie in a Gazelle helicopter with fellow pilot WO Al Gwilt in the Cressage area last November when he noticed a group of agitated people by the side of the swollen Severn.

He realised they were drawing attention to a Land Rover in danger of being swept away and alerted the emergency

services. But when the motor of the rescue boat failed to start, WO Collins took matters into his own hands.

He manoeuvred the Gazelle close enough to the vehicle for the driver to climb from the roof into the rear seat of the aircraft.

WO Collins (59), who has received a commendation from Air Vice-Marshal David Niven, Commander Joint Helicopter Command, retired from the Regulars in 1990 to serve in the TA. He enlisted in The Parachute Regiment in 1958 before training as a pilot in 1967.

Sgt Julie follows in Dad's flight path

Sgt Julie Wiles, right, has become the first female helicopter pilot to join the Army Air Corps' Blue Eagles display team. The team, which was

founded in 1968, performs in Gazelle and Lynx helicopters all over the UK and Europe. Sgt Wiles's father, Alan, also flew with the Blue Eagles.



Army bobs driver killed

ONE of the Army's top winter sportsmen was kicked to death by a group of assailants outside a ski resort nightclub.

Cpl Derek Osborne was in Austria representing his regiment, Catterick-based the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, at the annual Army bobsleigh championships.

The 31-year-old soldier, who was married and had a six-month-old son, was attacked by the group of five men as he waited for a taxi outside an Innsbruck nightclub.

A team-mate with him escaped with minor injuries. Both men were taken to the university clinic in Innsbruck, where Cpl Osborne later died.



Respected: Cpl Osborne

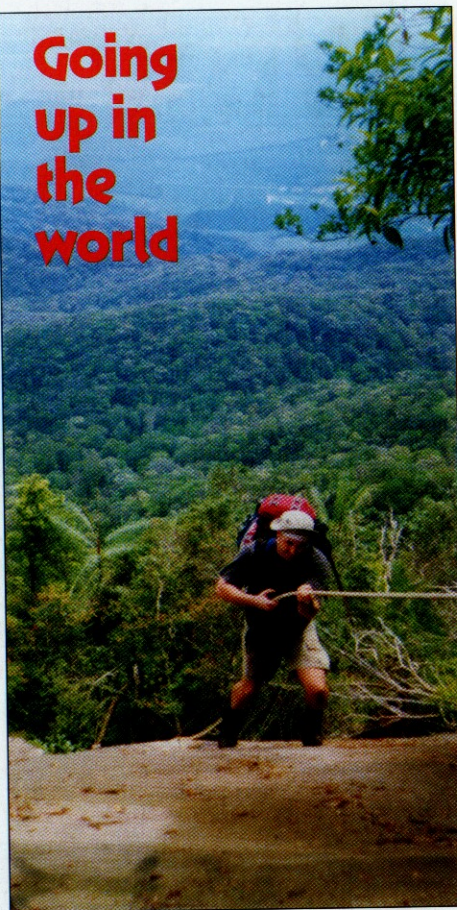
Cpl Osborne specialised in the two-man bobsleigh. Although he had not competed as a member of the Army bobsleigh team, he had taken part in the British and Europa Cup championships and was acknowledged to be a skilled driver.

Lt Col Mike Griffiths, CO 1 KORBR, said: "Corporal Osborne was a highly-professional soldier who was much respected by all ranks in the regiment. He had a wonderful sense of humour and was one of life's true characters.

"Ozzie was a devoted husband and father as well as a respected athlete in the world of bobsleigh. We are all shocked by this dreadful news and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, parents and family."

The Inter-Service bobsleigh championships, due to be held in Innsbruck, were cancelled as a mark of respect.

Going up in the world



Rope trick: Expedition medic **WO2 Richie Barrett** RAMC climbs Gunung Ledang. He and seven members of the Adjutant General's Corps, led by **Maj Simon Gorski**, were frustrated by swollen rivers in an attempt to scale Gunung Tahan, one of the highest mountains in Malaysia.

York's so grateful



Grateful city: Soldiers of the **2nd Signal Regiment** receive the Freedom of York for their work during the city's flood crisis just before Christmas.

Picture: Chris Barker

WHOLE FLEET MANAGEMENT TO REVOLUTIONISE CONTROL OF EQUIPMENT

Pooled resources

New system will keep vehicles and guns where they are most needed and mean units spending less time looking after them

UNITS would hold only the tanks, guns, vehicles and helicopters they need for their day-to-day training under major changes envisaged in the way the Army manages its equipment.

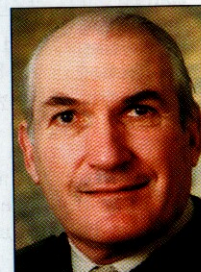
Whole Fleet Management, to be trialled over the next two or three years,

would allow central control of equipment, balancing the requirement for it to be ready for operations against the need for it to be available for training.

Operational pools of up to a brigade's worth of equipment would be stored in a high state of readiness in special hangars and stores offering controlled humidity environments.

Maj Gen Murray Wildman, Director General Whole Fleet Management,

said: "In the future units will only keep the equipment they need to use on a day-to-day basis to carry out individual training, such as gunnery and maintenance, and low-level and sub-unit training on their own area."



Exciting: Maj Gen Murray Wildman

"There will be training fleets at key training areas, such as Salisbury Plain, Catterick and Colchester in the UK and Sennelager in Germany. These will simply be pools of vehicles that will reinforce visiting units and formations to bring them up to the right strength for training at battle-group level or above."

Gen Wildman said there would be no cut in the equipment issued to units for operations. Under the new system, items used on a day-to-day basis would be put in the right place rather than kept parked up in barracks.

"Whole Fleet Management will apply to all the Army's key equipment, not just tanks, guns and armoured personnel carriers, but also Land Rovers,



four-tonners and other logistic vehicles. It includes helicopters, engineer plant and anything tracked or wheeled."

Gen Wildman said: "Whole Fleet Management is a really exciting and significant change in the way the Army looks after its equipment."

Going on exercise in the UK or Germany would be like going to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada, where units take over equipment from the training pool for the exercise and hand it back at the end.

"We're going to make the transaction process - handing over equipment from one user to the next - much more slick and effective to cut the time involved. It has to be as smooth as possible while still ensuring equipment is in good condition."

Every part of the process will be tri-

alled and tested during the next two or three years.

The WFM system is likely to impact on REME. Gen Wildman said that although units would continue to deploy on operations and for collective training with full REME light aid

detachments (LADs), it was likely that not all the tradesmen would be employed with the unit in barracks because there would not be the same level of equipment holding as in the past.

REME may be given responsibility for maintaining the equipment pools, both for training and operations.

Good news, according to the general, was the increased use of "white

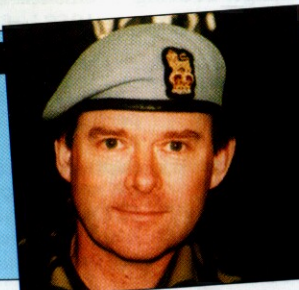
fleet" vehicles for unit administration and minor logistic tasks such as picking up stores, delivering post and hospital runs. It would be more economical and comfortable in civilian vehicles than in the Army's "green fleet" of Land Rovers and trucks.

Whole Fleet Management represents a major change in the way we manage our equipment and it has huge advantages for the Army. I believe its benefits will be considerable, but we must trial it properly first

- Gen Sir Michael Walker, Chief of the General Staff

IN BRIEF

● **Brig Richard Folkes**, pictured, Director Army Aviation, signed the Release to Service marking the moment when the Army took ownership of its first nine **Apache** attack helicopters and began the training of its pilots. He was joined at Middle



Wallop by representatives from GKN Westland Helicopters Ltd and the MoD.

● In a wide-ranging confidential survey, every member of

British Forces Germany has been invited to say how their lives could be improved. The initiative, one of the most ambitious welfare projects undertaken by BFG, will target every Service household and single soldier.

● Charities which help serving and ex-Service men and women throughout the

UK were given £5 million last year by the **Army Benevolent Fund**. SSAFA Forces Help received a recent grant of £308,345, some of which was earmarked for the Stepping Stone project to help Army wives who have separated from their husbands and have to move out of Army married accommodation.

We're feline great



Pack-a-bagpuss: **Mrs Trish Williams** was the first person from British Forces Cyprus to export her cats to the UK under the newly-extended Pets Passport scheme. **Fergie**, a 15-year-old tortoiseshell, and 11-year-old **Misty**, a Siamese, returned with Trish to Heathrow at the beginning of February.

Youngest recruit?




Tying the knot: **Ross Dodd**, centre, a patient at Birmingham Children's Hospital, found himself "recruited" to the cause when soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment called in to hand over a cheque for £300 to Ward 9. From left to right are **CSgt Shawn Turner**, **Pte Andrew Watt** and **Pte Paul Howard**, who ran 197km across Cyprus to raise the money. The battalion was then part of the UN's Op Tosca commitment.

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Picture: Cpl Wyn Rogers

Nearly there: Capt Matt Laverton, WO2 (AQMS) Simon Twigger, SSgt Andy Flint and Sgt Mick Tipp walked and ran their way from Paphos to Dhekelia in Cyprus to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis, Wireless for the Blind and Limassol Friends of the Disabled. The quartet, serving with the Force Workshop West, RAF Akrotiri, completed the 130-mile marathon in three days.

Civilian recruiters take on Scotland

IN a break with tradition, the Army is to team up with civilian consultants in Scotland to trial a new approach to recruiting.

Seen as a difficult area for recruiters, Scotland is being used for the year-long trial because it makes a sizeable and measurable contribution to manning the Army. For trial purposes, it has the advantages of being a self-contained area.

There is a pressing need to recruit for Scottish infantry regiments.

A warrant officer and ten senior NCOs from recruiting posts in Scotland will work closely with Search Consultancy Ltd, a

Glasgow-based company, to assist in the areas of response-handling and assessment of applicants.

Search staff will take on regional and local marketing, as well as handling responses and making initial selections, although the Army will continue to make final selection and medical examinations through its Recruitment Selection Centre.

The company has set itself a minimum target of 2,000 recruits but intends to find more than that.

If the trial is successful it is likely to be repeated across the UK.

Crash victim was in very good hands

A YOUNG motor cyclist who suffered life-threatening injuries when he was involved in a collision with a coach in the Orkneys found himself in safe hands.

Among the passengers on the coach was a party of medics on a rest day from an exercise near Inverness.

"He didn't know it," said Capt Jackie Evans of Sheffield-based 212 Field Hospital RAMC, "but he had two intensive care nurses, a theatre nurse and an accident and emergency nurse looking after him. He got the best of care."

The other skilled nurses in the team were Capt Anita Jackson, Lt Carol Crawford, Capt Joanne Thornelee, Capt Rachel Ashton and Maj Gill Richards.

Capt Evans has received a commendation from Maj Gen Robert Gordon, GOC Scotland, for her part in leading the medical team. The man, who had head injuries and several broken bones and was having trouble breathing, recovered after a period of intensive care at a hospital in Aberdeen.

Canterbury house provides family haven

A three-bedroom welfare house has opened in Canterbury.

It will provide a place for soldiers separated from their spouse or partner to take their children. Initiated by the Army Welfare Service, the house can be booked for a minimum of two nights. The AWS says the scheme has already generated many inquiries.

If the Canterbury scheme is a success, more houses could be opened in barracks at Maidstone and Chatham.

Deadly harvest

UNDER its Operation Harvest, the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina last year collected 5,081 weapons, including rifles and pistols; 2,809,432 rounds of ammunition; 2,642 land mines; 22,799 hand and rifle grenades; 4,633kg of explosives; and 18,498 mortar rounds and hand-made ordnance.

Anyone for Swiss raid?

SEVERAL places on the bi-annual Swiss Raid Commando international military skills competition for four-man patrols have been reserved for British Army teams. The gruelling three-day event takes place from September 27 to 30 at Chateau Colombier, near Neuchatel, and is regarded as Switzerland's premier military event. The British Army's best result so far, a third place, was achieved by The Black Watch.

Details of how to enter from Wg Cdr Eric Kohn on Salisbury Mil (94331) 2983.

Gulf veterans' appeal

THE National Gulf Veterans and Families Benevolent Association has launched its Gold Ribbon Appeal on the tenth anniversary of the conflict to help former soldiers seeking medical care and tests abroad.

Cheques and postal orders made payable to the HGVFA can be sent to 4 Maspin Close, Kingswood, Hull HU7 3EF. A registered charity, the group offers a 24-hour helpline (01482 833812 or 715438) for veterans and families.



Under Big Ben

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

Exercise troops may get free calls

FREE phone calls for Service personnel may be extended beyond operational deployments, MPs were told last month.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said consideration was being given to extending free welfare telephone facilities to those on exercise for two months or more outside the country in which they are based.

DU briefings: Although instructions are now in place for all troops in theatre to be briefed on the risks of depleted uranium, that has not always been the case, it was admitted in a written answer on February 7.

Armed Forces Minister John Spellar said that contrary to the impression given in an answer last November, his department was "now aware that not all troops had actually been briefed". In August last year the pre-deployment course briefing on medical issues, including DU, was dropped partly because of pressure on the course programme, but instructions to reinstate it were issued on January 12.

Bowman: The contract for the Bowman personal short-range tactical radio has been awarded to Marconi and first deliveries are expected before the end of the year.

Tour interval: The current average unit tour interval in the Army is about 28 months, according to a House of Lords written answer on February 13.

Malaria: Up to January 25 there had been 112 confirmed and three suspected cases of malaria among Service personnel who had served in Sierra Leone. They represent 1.5 per cent of the deployed forces.

Hospital closure: Defence Under-Secretary Dr Lewis Moonie assured MPs that the UK's only remaining military hospital, at Haslar, Gosport, will not close before the new MoD unit opens at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in neighbouring Portsmouth.

He was replying in a debate secured by Gosport MP Peter Viggers, who said the decision not to retain Haslar had damaged the Defence Medical Services as well as local medical care facilities.

Dial your own internet kiosk

COIN-operated internet kiosks which have been installed at nearly 50 unit locations are attracting huge interest and could be extended to many other locations.

The project, a joint initiative between the Directorate of Corporate Communication (Army), Naafi and Public Internet Services Ltd, has resulted in kiosks being placed in regimental restaurants, sergeants' messes, tailor-made cyber areas, accommodation blocks and junior ranks' clubs.

Troops away from home are finding it much cheaper to e-mail their families than rack up hefty phone bills.

If the service is used enough, Public Internet Services will provide the kiosk, put in the phone-line and pick up the call charges. At least ten per cent of income will be donated to the host unit.

The scheme may soon be extended to

many other locations, including Germany.

Units who want more information should contact Maj Peter Boxell at DCC(A) on 020 721 87908 or Jane Buswell, Business Development Manager, Public Internet Services Ltd, on 0771 293 0151, or send an e-mail to ibuswell@the.pubnet.net

● DCC(A) has two posts for senior NCOs to work on the Army internet site for a two-year posting. Anyone interested and suitably qualified should contact Maj Boxell.

● The service provided by Fotango, the Army's online photo-sharing service, has been amended. In future, photographs will be posted on the internet site only if a set of prints is purchased. Previously the service was free to Service personnel and families. To register with Fotango, click on the Army site, www.army.mod.uk, and use the links.

Back in business

AFTER eight years in the wilderness, 39 Armoured Engineer Squadron has re-formed at Hohne as part of 32 Armd Engr Regt. It will deploy to Kosovo in July.

Holiday specials from St Helena Guild

HOLIDAYS run by the Guild of St Helena and SSAFA-Forces Help for children with disabilities and special needs will be held at Kielder, Northumberland, from July 28 to Aug 4, and at Fairthorne Manor, near Southampton, from Aug 12 to 17. Bids and offers of help to Christine Pearce on 0207 4639234 or christine.p@ssafa.org.uk by May 18.

Spin-dryer horror led to rare censure on safety

FOLLOWING serious injury to a naval recruit whose arm was trapped in a spin-dryer, MoD units are being cautioned to check that laundry equipment is properly maintained.

The recruit, who was retrieving clothing from a Broadbent spin-dryer at his training establishment, suffered serious ligament and bone damage to the left arm and shoulder when his arm was caught in the rotating basket.

Examination of the dryer revealed that a significant contributory factor

was the failure of a safety lock in the lid, which allowed access to the basket before it came to a complete halt.

The incident led to a rare Crown censure by the Health and Safety Executive, issued only when it considers that, but for Crown immunity, the case merited prosecution.

Because it is believed the conditions for a similar accident might exist at other Service bases, the Army is seeking to circulate the lessons learnt from the incident as widely as possible.

IN BRIEF

● The MoD is seeking the views of experts on proposals for a screening programme for personnel with concerns about possible depleted uranium exposure. It intends to make firm proposals for an appropriate programme by March 24.

● The MoD has placed contracts worth

£6 million for a year-long competitive assessment of two off-the-shelf lightweight "fire-and-forget" anti-tank missile systems. The winner is expected to be chosen to equip the UK's rapid reaction forces with the Light Forces Anti-Tank Guided Weapon (LFATGW). The missile, which will be able to destroy hostile armour at ranges



Order of the boot: It didn't take long for REME to come up trumps when the mother of a 15-year-old cadet appealed through *Soldier* for a pair of size 15 boots, Army, for the use of Army-barmy Philip Childs, right, from Saxmundham, Suffolk, was missing out on parades and exercises with his local cadet detachment because he couldn't find footwear big enough. WO2 (AQMS) Shay Gilbert REME stepped in, invited the 6ft 3in teenager to the School of Electronic and Aeronautical

Engineering at Arborfield for a day, and found him TWO pairs of size 15s.

Philip is pictured trying on, with the help of WO2 (AQMS) Polly Parrott REME, the new boots presented to him by Col Graham Hughes, Commandant SEAE.

Footnote: If Philip continues to grow at his present rate – an extra shoe size every six months for the past two years – he will need specially-made size 18 boots by the time he is old enough to achieve his ambition of joining REME. Picture: Graeme Main

Troops in line for Accession medal

SOLDIERS with five years' service behind them by February next year will be in line for a medal to celebrate the Queen's 50-year reign.

Every member of the Armed Forces and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary who has completed five years' reckonable service by February 6 – the date of the actual anniversary – will be eligible for the Golden Jubilee Medal, although it is not known at present if there will be one for every Serviceman and woman.

Arrangements for the design and production is to be taken on by the MoD,

which will liaise closely with Buckingham Palace over the design.

Announcing the medal, Home Secretary Jack Straw said: "Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee will be a special and joyous occasion in the history of our nation. The medal will form an important part of the celebrations in 2002."

The medal follows a tradition set in 1887, when the nation marked Queen Victoria's Accession in a similar fashion. A commemorative medal was also distributed to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

Proud to be Irish



Lucky dog: Handler Cpl Brian Davidson presents Brian Boru VII, the Irish wolfhound mascot of The Royal Irish Regiment, with his sprig of shamrock to mark St Patrick's Day on March 17. The two were pictured in the mists in the shadow of Slemish, the mountain near Ballymena where the Ireland's patron saint is said to have preached.

Wearing shamrock on the national day is not merely a matter of pride for Irish soldiers... it is a royal command. Queen Victoria decreed in March 1900 that all ranks of her Irish regiments would wear it to commemorate the gallantry of Irish soldiers in battle in South Africa. Picture: Mike Weston

Mutual interests



Hooked up: The Territorial Army's 102 Battalion REME (V) has linked itself with the County Durham office of the North East Chamber of Commerce to promote the benefits of the TA to local business. Debra Deary, left, and David Malkin, from the Chamber of Commerce, are pictured with Lt Col John Saville, CO of the Newton Aycliffe-based unit, and Maj David Spence.

Lt Col Saville said: "What employers perhaps did not realise is the many additional skills and trades that their people can acquire, such as an NVQ in engineering, or learning to drive."

over 2km, could eventually replace Milan. It will be light enough to be carried by a two-man crew over distances of up to 20km.

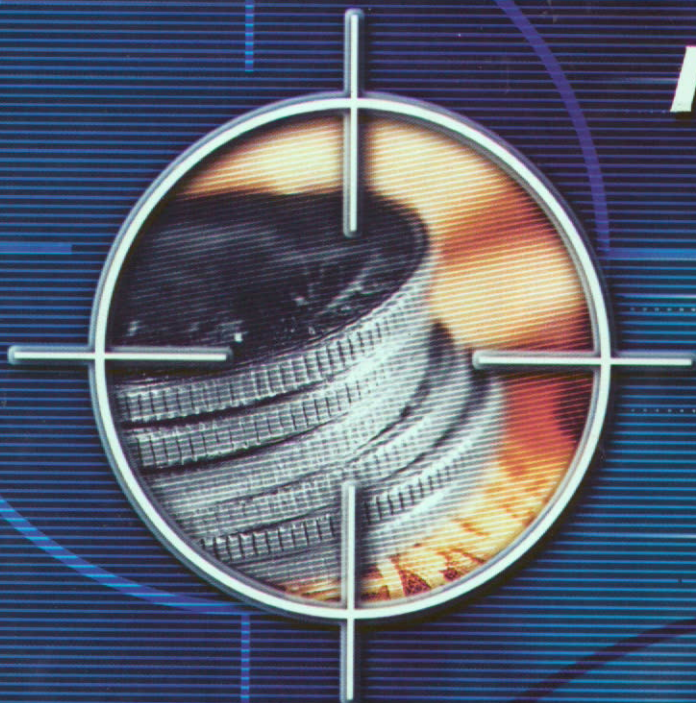
● The Netherlands has joined Germany and the UK in a programme to develop a family of armoured vehicles. Alvis Vehicles Ltd will be partners in a new tri-nation consortium,

ARTEC, to develop the Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle (MRAV) programme.

● A thousand soldiers and civilians based at Catterick Garrison were given personal target tuner radios pre-tuned to Forces Radio BFBS by Darlington Building Society. The give-away marked the opening of the society's

branch in the garrison town and the centenary of Marconi's first radio signal.

● The headquarters of the Defence Vetting Agency at Imphal Barracks, Fulford, York, were officially opened last month by Defence Under Secretary Michael Legge. The Army element will move in by the end of June.



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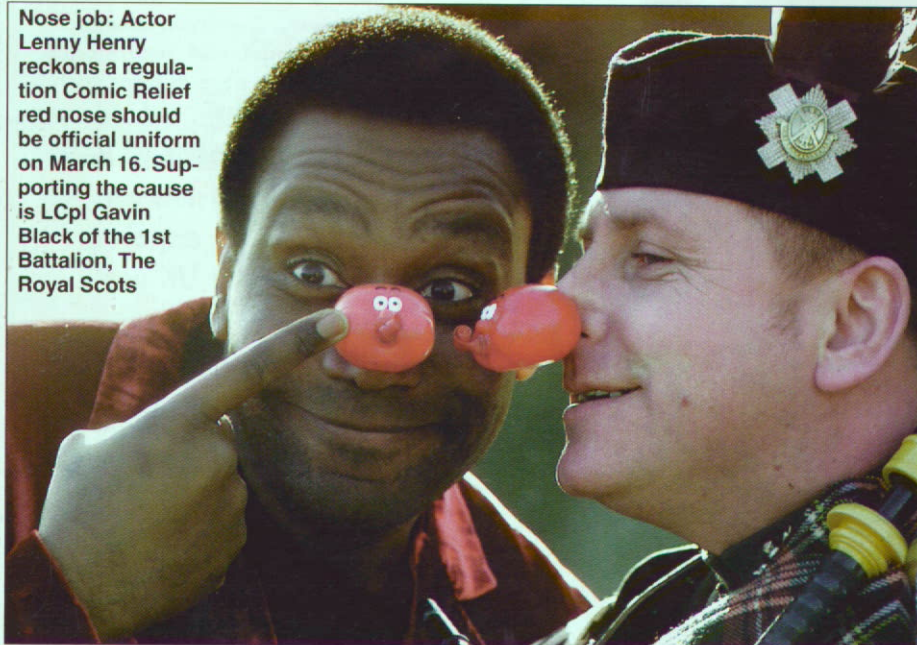


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Nose job: Actor Lenny Henry reckons a regulation Comic Relief red nose should be official uniform on March 16. Supporting the cause is LCpl Gavin Black of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots



Picture: Mark Owens

Tank transporter role for civilians

CONTRACTORS supplying the British Army with its next generation of tank transporters will also provide a third of the fleet's driver/operators from civilians with recent military experience.

They will be employed by the MoD as sponsored reserves (SRs) – a measure seen as a cost-effective way of supporting the military.

Under the £300 million private finance initiative, the Fasttrax consortia has been selected as the preferred bidder to supply the heavy equipment transporter (HET).

SRs will be civilians contracted through their employer to provide support to the Armed Forces on operations as a continuation of their peacetime work. HET SRs will be members of a volunteer reserve force, giving them a liability under the Reserve Forces Act 1996.

They will be recruited from a potential pool of up to 6,000 qualified heavy goods vehicle drivers who, at the time of recruitment, have left the military within the last three years.

In ranks ranging from private to lance corporal, they will be posted evenly across the Army's three tank transporter squadrons and wear uniform on operations, during exercises and whenever they are performing peacetime military tasks.

While on operations, exercises or training, sponsored reserves will integrate with their parent squadrons and be subject to military discipline. As such, they will be expected to share military duties such as guarding.

At other times, as civilian contractors, they will be used by Fasttrax to generate third-party revenue as drivers in the haulage industry. They will not then be subject to military discipline.

The Army will retain responsibility for operational control, while the contractor will be held responsible for ensuring full availability of the HET fleet.

Currently the Army has 120 manned tank transporters. Fasttrax will provide 92, of which 87 will be manned and the other five held in reserve or used for training. The reduction to 92 HET is seen as a risk, taken on the grounds of affordability.

The HET vehicle is a more powerful version of a well-proven design currently in service with the US Army.

Although the number of Regular tank transporter drivers will gradually reduce to make way for SRs, there will be no redundancies and promotion prospects for the remaining drivers will be improved across virtually all ranks.

● **What HET looks like** – Page 25

Gurkhas keep in touch via airwaves

THE Kent-based families of 400 soldiers serving with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles in Sierra Leone are

keeping in touch with their loved ones thanks to a twice-weekly special broadcast by BFBS Shorncliffe. The hour-

long shows are taped in Sierra Leone and put out locally in Folkestone on 1278Khz as well as by satellite around the world.

Paper talk

What the Press has been saying

● No screening test of Balkans or Gulf conflict veterans can rule out the possibility that they have been exposed to depleted uranium, a panel of government-appointed medical experts said. – *Financial Times*

● Defence chiefs are unanimously against women going into deadly front-line combat, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said in an interview. The thumbs-down is to be delivered to the Prime Minister in a wide-ranging assessment in the next few months. – *Mirror*

Soldier interview – Page 23

● Eighteen squaddies from The King's Regiment face being kicked out after testing positive for drugs. – *Mirror*

● LCpl Roberta Winterton, right, of 39 Supply Regiment RLC, is facing disciplinary action after she stripped off for Page 3. She's the first Servicewoman to do so. – *The Sun*

(Picture courtesy of The Sun)

● The MoD police force is to be transformed into a rapid response squad ready to intervene in strikes and protests across the country under the new Armed Forces Bill. – *Observer*

● Fifteen paratroopers have taken legal action to claim compensation from the MoD for contracting malaria in Sierra Leone. The MoD has accepted liability in one of the cases. – *The Times*

● Army bomb disposal experts dealt with a pipe bomb which was picked up by a four-year-old girl in Springfield Road, Belfast, and carried home. – *Express*

● EU leaders have held talks with the Ukraine about the new Euro army using transport aircraft from the former Soviet power's military arsenal. – *Daily Mail*

● A nine-year-old Albanian Kosovan girl has been given life-saving heart surgery in Britain after being rescued from a shack in the mountains above Podujevo by Sgt Simon Askew of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. – *Daily Telegraph*



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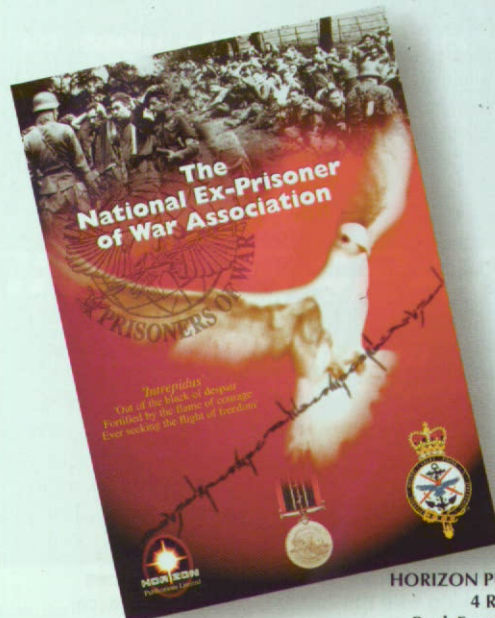
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Leaving footprints

Working in Freetown has presented unique challenges for the RLC. Three loggies share their experiences

Report: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Graeme Main

WO2 (SQMS) David Norton is an ammunition technician with the British-led military assistance and training team (IMATT), on a 12-month posting.

"When I arrived most of my work concentrated on making the Murray Town depot a safe place to work in.

"For the past ten years the storage and management of the stores had degraded to the point that it was a catastrophic accident waiting to happen.

"Realistically, if something had occurred it would have destroyed everything over a 5km radius."

The stores contained 1,000 tonnes of ammunition, some of it in an unstable

state. The task was to separate the good from the bad. The serviceable stuff was used by the Sierra Leone Army and the dangerous ammo disposed of.

With the depot transformed, the IMATT could pay more attention to training.

"We are inducting the Sierra Leone Army in stores management and accounting procedures, which will provide accountability, accuracy and transparency."

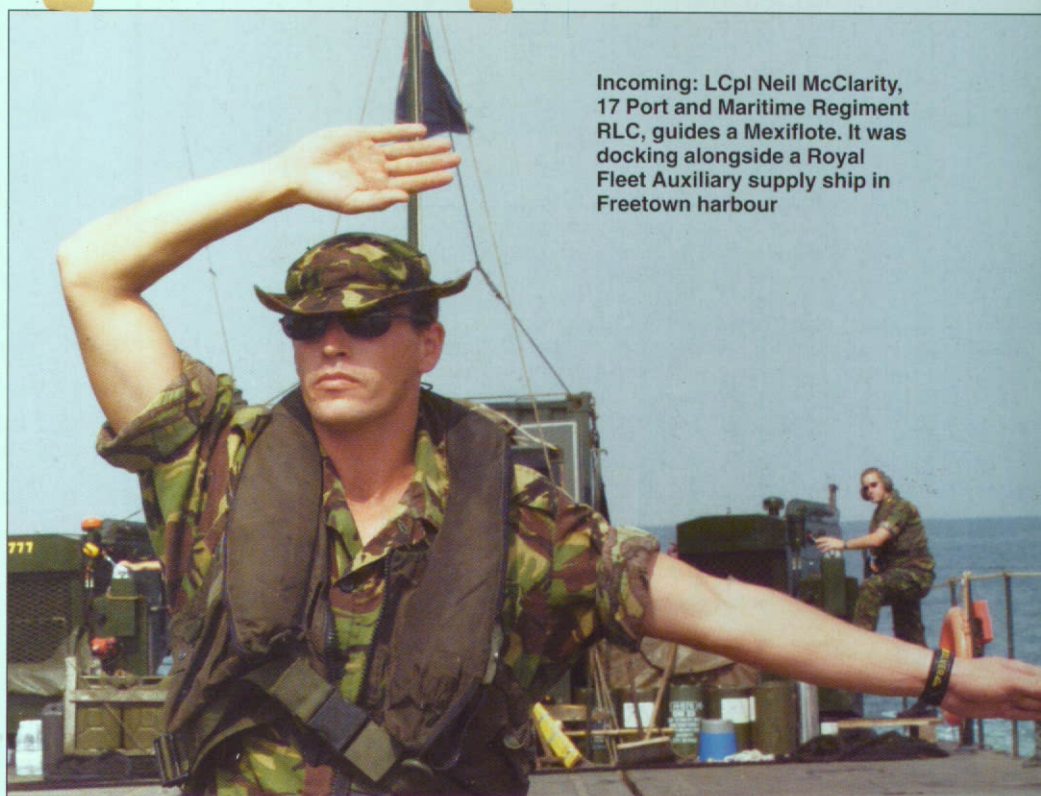


WO2 David Norton

"OUR principal role is to support Britfor and we have all the elements of the RLC cap badge you would expect.

"We can drive from Lungi airport to Freetown, but it is about five or six hours on fairly bad roads around the estuary, so we use a Mexiflote to transport supplies.

"If you need to get stuff out to the Balkans or Northern Ireland, even big stuff, you can throw it on the back of a truck and drive across Europe.



Incoming: LCpl Neil McClarity, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC, guides a Mexiflote. It was docking alongside a Royal Fleet Auxiliary supply ship in Freetown harbour

Maj Jackie Gavin, OC Supply Services Squadron

"THE fact that we don't have electricity for much of the day means that we can't sit around at a computer; we have to be up and out there. Every day is different.

"The work is hot and tiring and we have to repeat ourselves a lot. But on the positive side there are some good people who are very willing."

British military support for the democratically-elected government of Sierra Leone is making a measurable difference.

"The SLA was an army in which soldiers were issued a pair of boots if they were lucky," Maj Gavin said. "All of a sudden they have uniforms, webbing, boots that might even fit, socks, under-

wear, cooking pots, spoons and plates.

"But we still have soldiers in shorts, T-shirts and flip-flops. To give them a uniform is a big thing. You see them around town kitted out with every single thing we have given them."

● Procedures in place mean an audit trail stretches from the UK to the West African bush, giving a clear picture of what went where.



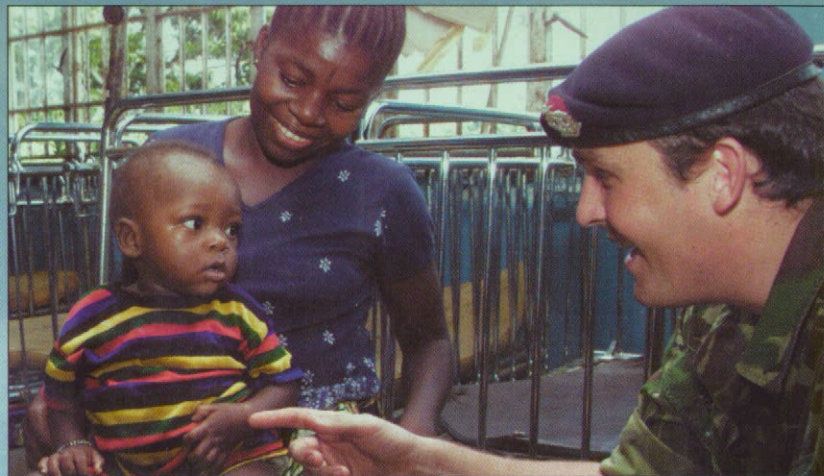
Capt Paul Smith, Force logistic officer

"Here we have one RAF aircraft a week that takes a maximum of five palettes and the sea line of communication. A Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship comes in every six or seven weeks on roulement for the short-term training teams and brings bulk items and consumables.

"We have to think at least four weeks in

advance, put the order in, containerize it, move it down to Marchwood and put it on a boat which takes 14 days to get here.

"Part of my job is try to get as much stuff as possible from the local economy. My local resources section are very busy boys. They are my eyes and ears. The only thing we don't buy is fresh food because it is of questionable quality. Anyway, if we started buying it up it would deny the local people."



Bedside manner: Cpl Tosh Graves, of 33 Fd Hosp RAMC, makes friends on the maternity ward at Freetown's military hospital. Together with colleagues from the Joint Medical Unit, he has been involved with teaching courses and demonstrating best practice.

WO1 Mark Cutler said the 200-bed hospital provided medical services for the Sierra Leone Army, Air Force and Navy, including surgery and maternity facilities. "They are stuck in 1950s practices and we are trying to bring them up to 2000," he said.



Fired up: Sgt Simon Cocker, 1 PWO, supervises Sierra Leone Army soldiers as they fire live mortars at Benguema training camp. Lt Aron Townend, the range conducting officer, was generally pleased with the results. But years of fighting in the bush in an undisciplined way had led to them picking up some bad habits. "The main bugbear is to get them to aim their rifles properly," he said.



Clear signal: Lt Col Bryan Giffether, above, a TA officer commanding the Joint Communication Unit, has been tasked with re-training and restructuring the Sierra Leone Signals Regiment. "There isn't a lot here, because the infrastructure has been

shattered over the years," he said. "But we've made tremendous progress since the team arrived. Because of the shortfall of equipment some stations don't have Morse keys so they do it by sound. I've never seen it before in my life, but their skills are fantastic."

Pulling together a land ripped apart

Gorilla warfare

UNFLAPPABLE CSgt Ian Smith, 1 PWO, had been sharing his knowledge of reconnaissance patrolling with the Sierra Leone Army when he was asked a question that almost stumped him.

"What happens if you are on a jungle patrol and a gorilla jumps out at you?"

He paused for a moment to reflect and then said: "Steal his bananas and run for it."

It was one of the lighter moments during six weeks' intensive training which is helping to transform the SLA into a more effective fighting force. The majority of the SLA soldiers trained by 1 PWO have seen action and many were returning to the front after the training was completed.

Pictures: Graeme Main



Uptown girls: The colourful heart of Freetown

Britain leads international aid package to help African lion to roar once more

NOT many people in Sierra Leone remember the days before independence in 1961. Relatively few people live past 40 in this country, which has one of the world's lowest life-expectancy rates.

But the folk memory of its colonial past lives on, and many citizens would welcome Britain back.

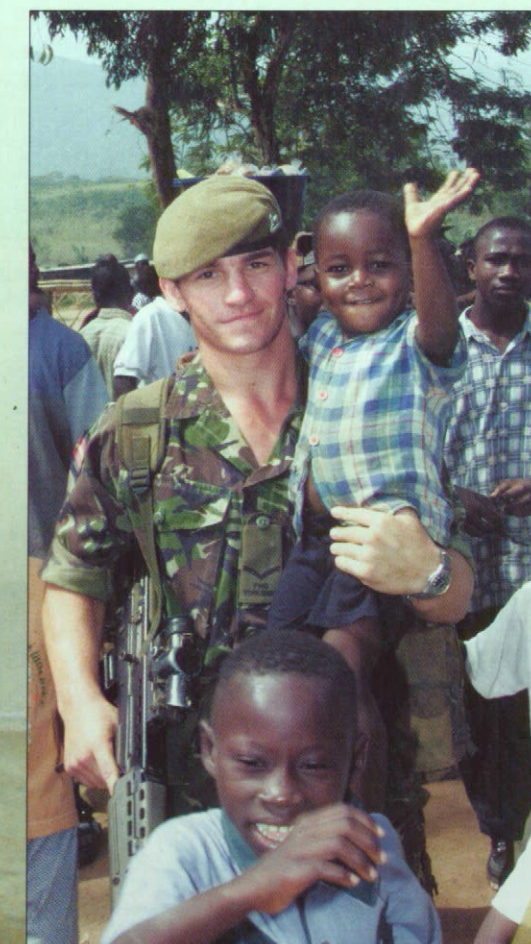
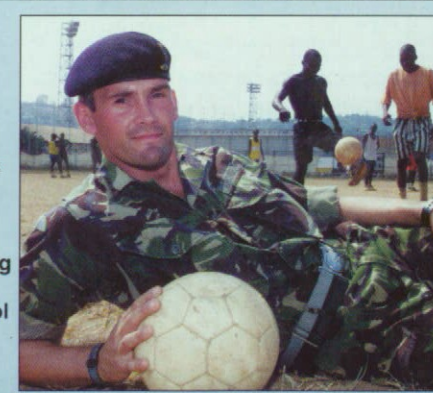
The tragedy of Sierra Leone is that it could be one of Africa's successes... rich in natural resources and blessed with a resilient people.

British military teams re-invigorating the army are only one of the initiatives supporting the democratically-elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Before 1961, Britain controlled her West African interests through Sierra Leone. The infrastructure of roads, railways, hospitals, health centres, schools, police and military gave the country a solid start to independence, but there is little left. The railway has long fallen into disrepair. Hundreds of kilometres of rusty track are the most visible sign of the country's neglect.

Portuguese sailors gave the name *Serra Lyoa* (Lion Mountain) – later corrupted to Sierra Leone – to the mountainous peninsula at the mouth of the Rokkell river. International aid, led by Britain, is helping the lion to roar again.

Premier player: In his spare time WO1 (RSM) Stuart Archer, right, coaches two football sides in Freetown – the Aberdeen Beach Boys Association and the Black Stars. To keep their image as sharp as their skills, WO1 Archer, who is part of the British-led International Military Advisory and Training Team, wrote to top British clubs asking for kit. Liverpool was the first to respond, followed by Celtic. They promised to send 200 shirts.



Nice to see you: LCpl Jase Brownlee, 1 PWO, strolls through a market with some delighted companions

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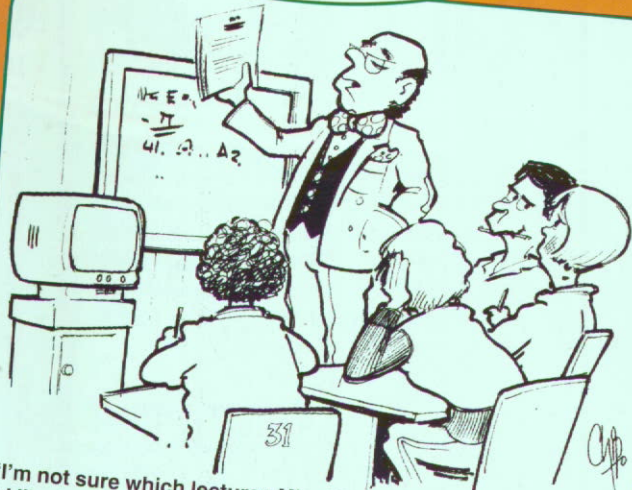
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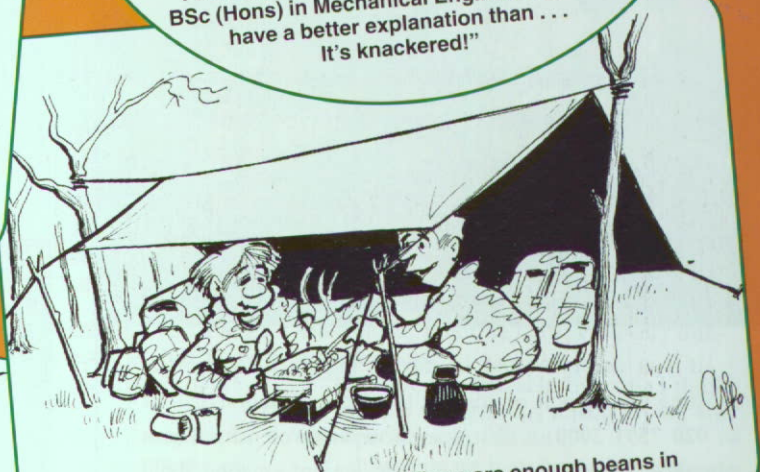
"Sadly, Sir, this year's inspection coincides with Rag Week!"



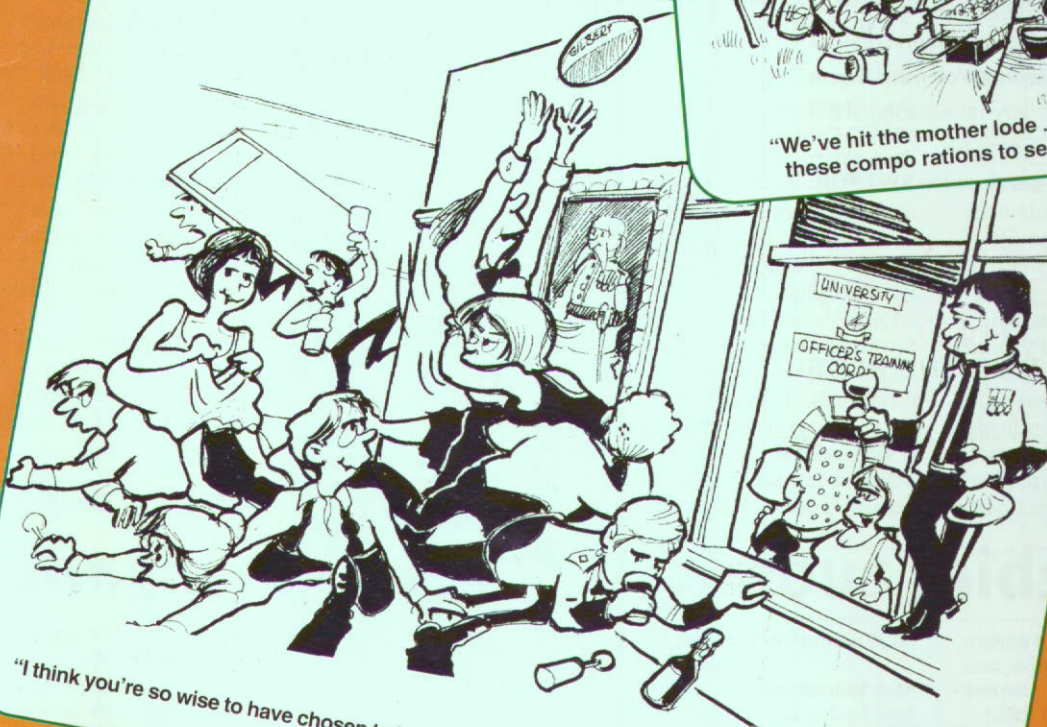
"I'm not sure which lectures Miss Ward has been attending but I'd like her to explain how the breakdown of complex molecular structures is achieved by 'Two up ... and bags of smoke' ...!"



"I'd thought that someone with very nearly a BSc (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering would have a better explanation than ... It's knackered!"



"We've hit the mother lode ... There are enough beans in these compo rations to see us through to graduation."



"I think you're so wise to have chosen to join the OTC dear ... rather than some of those rough clubs."

Students of war

(A wry look at life in the University Officers' Training Corps)

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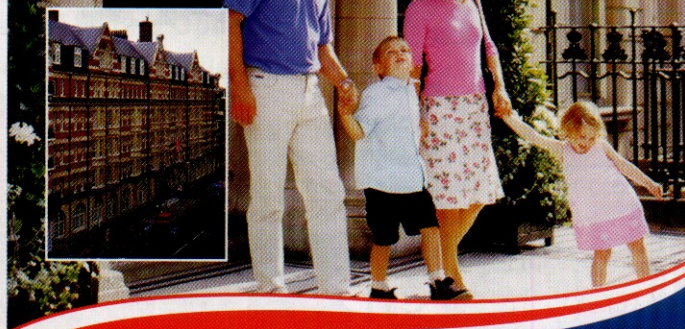
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Ready for battle

As he prepared to step down as Chief of the Defence Staff, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie shared his thoughts on overstretch, political correctness and Operation Barras

Report: Anthony Stone

FROM operations in Kosovo and Sierra Leone to dealing with gay rights and the disabled lobby, Gen Sir Charles Guthrie has been in the front line throughout his time as Chief of the Defence Staff.

"We have been very busy, that's for sure: 44 different operations in the past four years," he told *Soldier* at the National Army Museum, where he was opening a new exhibition.

"People are very stretched. There have been times when 47 per cent of the Army has been involved in operations. That is far too high. We can do it for a short time, but we have to drive those numbers down."

The figure had been reduced to 26 per cent, but Gen Guthrie said he would like to see it at just under 20 per cent.

Size, however, is not everything. "Our Army is large enough. It is very dangerous to have a hollow Army – one that is all about numbers – if it is not resourced properly. Our people must be fed properly, accommodated properly, equipped properly and trained properly."

Many of the challenges Gen Guthrie has faced have arisen from the impact of human rights legislation and the speed of social change. Some analysts fear operational effectiveness will be compromised by political correctness. "It has not hap-



Gen Guthrie: "Fighting battles is a very difficult business"

pened yet," said Gen Guthrie, "and I am not worried that anything that has happened so far has compromised operational effectiveness."

"That is what I am always going to put at the top of the list . . . operations are what we are about. We are about training people for when times are really bad, when there is battle. And if we ever lose sight of that we really are in some trouble."

That is why he feels the Army should not be forced to take quotas of disabled people. "The Ministers I deal with every day are very robust in representing that this is nonsense as far as the Army is concerned. It would not do the disabled any favours to get them into the Services."

If you have an 18-year-old with one leg and one arm, it just does not make sense.

"People say 'what about Nelson?' Let's remember Nelson's eye was damaged when he was already a captain in the Royal Navy, and he was an admiral when he lost an arm. He had been around a long time and knew his trade."

"If people get wounded and we can keep them, we still do."

Britain's Forces in the 21st century face a difficult balancing act.

"There are areas of legislation that worry me," Gen Guthrie said. "I am all for the individual having rights, but sometimes in the military we have to be less keen on the rights of the individual and more on

team spirit. Fighting battles is a very difficult business."

"If we are too liberal in this area I think we make a tremendous mistake – we are less operationally effective."

"I think that we have become a litigious nation and I think it would be terrible in the heat of battle if people make a mistake and then find themselves being sued by their subordinates."

"Everybody tries to do their best in a battle. I would hate to think that the military would become like the police in Hillsborough, where they were given money because they saw nasty sights."

"I don't underestimate the difficulties of post-traumatic stress, but let's be sensible about it. If I had been paid money for every nasty sight I had seen since I had been in the Army I would be a richer man than I am today."

Jungle rescue rivals famous raids of history

OPERATION Barras, the daring jungle raid which freed six Royal Irish Regiment hostages in Sierra Leone, earned special praise from Gen Guthrie.

Given the general's military background, it was an operation close to his heart. Commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1959, he served in the United Kingdom, Germany and Aden. In 1966 he became a troop commander with 22 Special Air Service Regi-

ment and served in Aden, the Persian Gulf, Malaysia and East Africa.

In 1968, as a squadron commander with 22 SAS, he served in the Persian Gulf and the UK.

"I don't think any other defence forces in the world could have achieved what was done in Sierra Leone when our hostages were rescued," Gen Guthrie said.

"It is the most remarkable story and

makes many of the famous raids of history, and some in recent history, seem quite simple."

LBdr Brad Tinnion, of 29 Commando RA, was fatally injured in the raid.

Gen Guthrie acknowledged the behind-the-scenes contribution of the sailors, soldiers and airmen who supported the rescue and said extraordinarily brave things had been done.

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Drinking system that won't give you the hump

No-hands backpack drinking system is attracting the attention of Army trials units... and we've got three of them to give away

DEHYDRATION can be seriously bad for your health. Heat stress is a proven killer. Medical advice for those involved in any prolonged physical activity, especially in hot climates, is loud and clear: **Drink water to replace body fluid lost through sweating.**

The easier it is to replenish, the more likely you are to do it, so a new hands-free system developed in the USA offers obvious advantages over the traditional canteen or water bottle, **writes John Elliott.**

The CamelBak personal hydration system, currently being looked at by the Infantry Trials and Development Unit at Warminster, is already an essential piece of equipment in many racing cars, and a variant is the standard drinking system used by NASA astronauts.

The US Marine Corps issues CamelBak to its soldiers, and the US Army is working with the company to develop the



Have water will travel: Two military versions of the CamelBak personal hydration system developed in the United States

hydration part of its futuristic Land Warrior soldier system.

Military backpack versions, made from rugged Cordura, are available in a variety of pack specifications and reservoir sizes tailored for different missions.

CamelBak consists of a tough (you can drive a car over it without bursting it) two- or three-litre polyurethane reservoir linked to a tube that stretches over the wearer's shoulder. To drink, he or she simply bites on a valve and sucks. Insulated linings keep the water cool for up to five hours. It means you can carry a lot more water than by conventional means, access it on the move and drink quietly.

Here's the really good news. *Soldier*, in association with CamelBak, is giving

Trials teams like what they see

CAMELBAK's system is attracting strong interest in several areas of the Army, not least at the Armoured Trials and Development Unit.

Built into a tank crewman's survival vest, it would give him instant access to a water supply without the need for him to remove his hands from the controls or otherwise divert his attention.

And should he have to vacate his tank in a hurry, he would automatically carry away his own water supply.

The Infantry Trials and Development Unit, which tested the system in Brunei, is aware that some soldiers think so highly of it that they have already bought their own.

Its use is not restricted to hot climates. Troops in the Arctic, for example, could benefit from not having to grapple with a bottle-top in temperatures well below freezing. In those circumstances there is always the possibility that water carried on the outside of cold-weather gear will have frozen solid when it is most needed.

Trials leaders have been impressed by its advantages over the familiar bottle and a strong case for its purchase by the MoD is being drawn up.

● More on CamelBak products from 01392 201614 or arktisld@aol.com

away two Thermobak drinking systems (worth £32 each) and one of the higher-specification Mule (£55) packs.

To have a chance of winning, tell us on a postcard, to reach us by March 30, what the chemical formula for water is:

a) R₂D₂; b) H₂O; c) C₂PO

One entry only, please, per individual. Usual competition rules apply and the Editor's decision is final. Good luck.

That's just boot-iful...

● There were massive entries for our **Sealskinz waterproof socks and gloves** and **Danner boots** competitions. First names out of the hat were:

Sealskinz (Dec): Sgt Chapman, 14 Pl, D Coy, 1 LI, Edinburgh. (Answer: Grip-dot).

Danner Olympic boots (Jan): Maj T Tayler, Andover. (Answer: Thinsulate).



FASTTRAX, a consortium led by Brown and Root Services, is the MoD's preferred bidder to provide the Army with a replacement for its ageing Scammell tank transporters. Under a £300 million

private finance initiative, Fasttrax is to supply 92 Oshkosh Truck Corporation HET M1070 purpose-built military tractors, pictured, coupled to a new generation of seven-axle trailers from King

Trailers of Market Harborough. It will also provide a third of the drivers and mechanics (in the form of about 80 "sponsored reserves") needed to maintain the new fleet and keep it on the road.

Putting young tankies on target

With Challenger 2 now in place as the Army's main battle tank, we look at how its crews are trained

Story: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

THE heavy crump of gunfire filtering across peaceful Dorset countryside signals that Lulworth's ranges are in use. It has been a familiar sound in these parts since 1916, when the rolling chalk downs became home to British Army tank training.

Little else has remained the same. Unlike their predecessors, today's generation of student tankies spend hours in simulators before they are allowed near the real thing.

The Armoured Fighting Vehicle Gunnery School at Lulworth has undergone many changes, both in what it does and

the way it does it. While the school began life as part of the Royal Armoured Corps, concentrating on tank warfare, its role has widened to embrace all armoured fighting vehicles.

"Anyone who fires a weapon from an armoured vehicle comes to us for direct live gunnery training," said commanding officer Lt Col Nick Grant-Thorold KRH. That includes armoured infantry.

Starting next month, phase two soldier-gunners who, until now, have trained within their regiments, will come under his wing. In recent years, operational commitments have steadily eroded units' time and resources for internal tuition.

Lulworth provides instructors

for the Field Army for all range live-firing, carried out increasingly in places such as Bosnia and Kosovo in addition to the more usual sites in Germany, the UK and Alberta, Canada.

The school's 80 permanent military staff, RAC and Infantry, are multi-skilled. An armoured instructor on Challenger 2 will also be proficient with the 30mm Rarden L21 gun on the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked)

(CVR(T)), while infantry instructors receive training on Warrior's 30mm Rarden cannon as well as the CVR(T) 30mm.

About 150 civilian contractors work at the school, some of them instructing the thousands of students who pass through each year on courses varying from a week to several months.

"Challenger 2 is a great improvement on Challenger 1 and our training equipment reflects that," said Lt Col Grant-Thorold.

Much of the initial training is computer-based, allowing students to become familiar with vehicles and weapons at their own pace.

Because no whole-turret simulator is available, left and right sides are done separately. There is a simulator for loader drills and the vehicle commander has his own independent station and moveable sights to train on.

The turret gunnery trainer, for example, is a faithful reconstruction of the right-hand side of the turret and contains excellent graphics simulating real environments. Use of simulators greatly reduces training costs.

But in the end there is no substitute for the real thing. Simulators are not smelly or noisy and instructors need to be confident that soldiers will make the transition.

Lt Col Grant-Thorold's staff can monitor students in real vehicles over audio and visual links relayed from the tank to a trailer at the back of the range.

While this hi-tech equipment is available for Challenger 2, there is nothing similar so far available for Warrior-training.

To compensate, the Warrior boys get more ammunition so they can do it for real for longer



Sightings: Cpl Alan McGinn gives a lesson on the L30 Charm gun

Yanks at home on the range

LT COL Steve Shuster, the 2iC at Lulworth, isn't actually in the British Army. He is an American.

He arrived at Lulworth in 1999, bringing with him 17 years of experience in the US Armoured Corps, including active service on Operation Desert Storm.

He has been joined at Lulworth by two specialist US Army instructors.

"This is an exchange position going back several years," he explained. "The British Army and US Army has a very good relationship. My exchange opposite number is at Fort Hood in Texas."

Lt Col Shuster spoke highly of soldiers passing through the

school. "The British Army is the most professional I have ever worked with - outside the US Army," he said. "Your warrant officers and sergeants are expected to do a lot more than in the US Army and I am amazed at the amount of responsibility they take on. It is refreshing to work with people and not have to watch over every move they make."

He also rated Challenger 2 highly. "I am an M1 man but the Challenger 2 is a great tank and the fact that so many

people show an interest in buying it illustrates that."

"There are differences in the two systems in the way the crew is made up. You tend to use your senior person, other than the commander, in the loader's role; we put our junior person there."

"I have fired Challenger 2 and enjoyed it and I use the simulators to keep my own skills up. You have top-notch simulation here."

"My boys are enjoying Lulworth it's a great place to be."



Cavalry: Lt Col Steve Shuster



Safety first at Lulworth

SAFETY is paramount for Lulworth's range controllers. Unusually, since it is on the coast, the adjacent sea area has to be kept clear of shipping.

The range, an environmental heritage site, is opened to the public on about 130 days a year. It is fenced and patrolled by eight wardens to ensure no one wanders into a danger area.

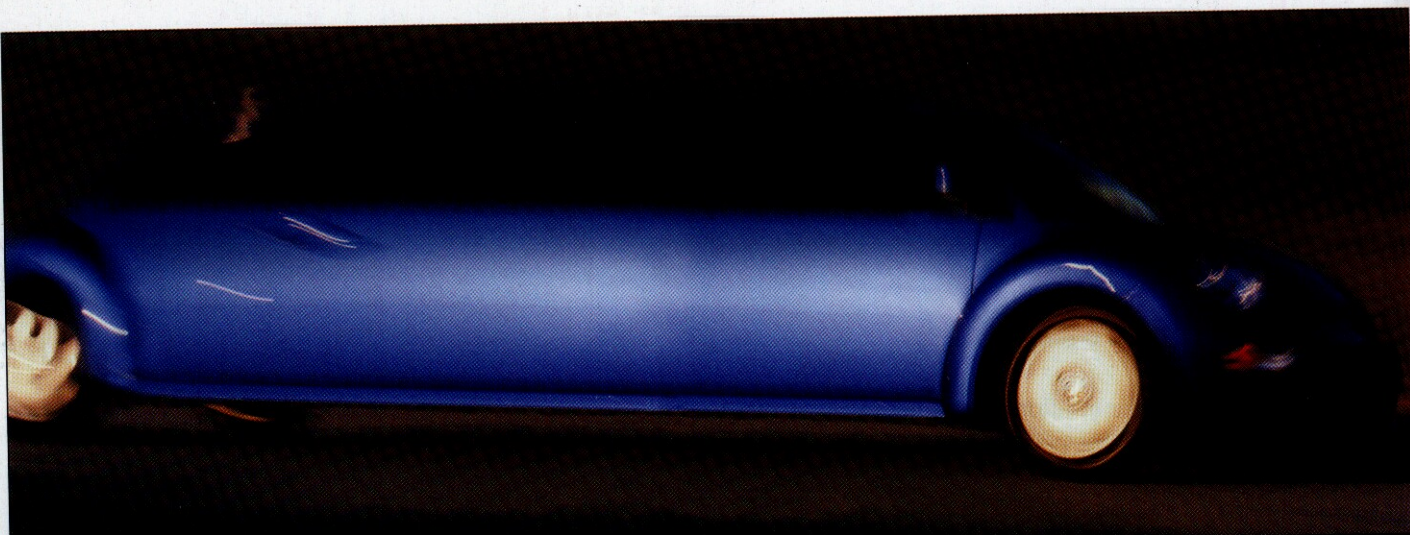
Although headed by a retired Army officer, Maj Nick Burgess, the 7,500-acre range is largely controlled by Hunting Contract.

"We don't fire at the sea," said Maj Burgess. "We fire at targets using mostly kinetic energy rounds, which travel a long way and can ricochet. We are smack-bang in the middle of two busy marine centres - Poole and Weymouth - and ships, boats and yachts cross this area. We have three safety boats permanently moored in Weymouth to liaise with our radar staff and pick up any incursions into the danger area."

The Army takes conservation on the range seriously. While the local authority has applied for the Lulworth coastline to be declared a world heritage site, three areas on the range have been given Special Scientific Interest status.



Range controller: WO2 Pete Jones monitors shipping around the range danger area



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You're at the scene of a major accident. Would you know which casualty to treat first?

Story: Ray Routledge
Pictures: Steve Dock

A TRAIN has derailed, leaving passenger carriages buckled and twisted. Casualties, in shock and covered in blood, stagger and crawl from the wreckage. Doctors, nurses and paramedics move in . . . but who do they treat first?

Two Land Rovers collide on a mountain road in Bosnia, spilling casualties on to the road. Who gets priority attention?

In fact, the decision-making principles for both incidents are the same – crossing civilian, military and even international boundaries.

Yet, until recently, there was no standard guidance on how to react in a medical emergency. There is now, thanks to an Army doctor and his team.

Lt Col Tim Hodgetts, based at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey, is the specialist adviser on emergency medicine to the Defence Medical Services (DMS) and Professor of Emergency Medicine and Trauma at the University of Surrey. He knows what he is talking about.

When he and a civilian colleague set up a three-day course in major incident medical management and support for doctors, nurses and ambulance officers in 1994, people took notice.

Seven years on, the course is run throughout the UK and has become the DMS training standard. A recent tri-Service course at the Royal Defence Medical

● METHANE could save lives. Not the gas, but the mnemonic. Communication is a major factor in incident management and Lt Col Hodgetts's students are taught the drill so that in an emergency everyone passes vital information in a consistent manner. METHANE stands for:

- Major incident declared or stand-by
- Exact location
- Type of incident
- Hazards present and potential
- Access and egress
- Number and severity of casualties
- Emergency services present and required

Capt Jan Fuller

24 Engr Regt, Northern Ireland

"The course teaches a lot of the skills required for major incident management. It is good to get the tri-Service approach because we work so closely in-theatre these days it is important we all work to the same template."

Capt Annette Schmidt

Medical officer, 9/12th L, Germany

"There is some prep work to do in advance and a lot is covered in a short period. Anyone can get the theory from reading a book, but to practise it and be supervised by experienced people is what you need to prove you are competent."

College at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport, attracted military observers from Italy and the Netherlands. It has been exported to Australia and Sweden and Nato has expressed an interest.

Table top drama: Using models, members of the tri-Service course at Gosport plan how to deal with a major medical incident

So what's it all about?

"We've been running courses three times a year since 1996 and our students are mostly uniformed people and civilian medics working for the military," said Lt Col Hodgetts.

"We use the same principles we would for a road traffic accident with two people, then extrapolate them to larger incidents."

The Gosport course was attended by 24 people, although double that number applied. There is rigorous quality assurance and civilian and military instructors have to go through a programme to ensure that teaching is consistent in the UK and abroad.

The course is 70 per cent practical. At Gosport, a management exercise involved local emergency services, including Le-on-Solent Coastguard. There was also an exercise in triage, or setting priorities of urgency.

"The simplest triage has now been generated throughout the British Army," said Lt Col Hodgetts. "Every soldier is taught the system and it is in their battlefield first-aid notes." It has proved so successful it can now be found in police pocket-books and is being incorporated into fire service training.

"It gives users a priority to assign. An appropriately coloured label is attached to each casualty in turn. Medical staff sweep behind them and treat the highest priority patient first."

Still such a long way to go

Bosnia's struggle to come to terms with the legacy of its civil war is hampered by a lack of co-ordination. British soldiers are doing their bit to help

Report and pictures: Ken Johnston

STATISTICS collated by British soldiers patrolling in Bosnia-Herzegovina reveal little breakthrough in the nation's social crisis, despite millions of pounds of aid being poured into the war-ravaged region over the past decade.

Troops praise the efforts of local people and international agencies but say unless the aid package and infrastructure rebuild are co-ordinated, Bosnia's problems will remain.

In one of the worst areas – the town of Bos Gradiska, sitting on Bosnia's border with Croatia – up to 12,000 people are still trying to return to the homes they fled during the civil war. Families who took over the houses during the ethnic cleansing cannot be forced to move unless they have another home to go to... or their income meets a threshold wage level.

But with little housing stock available and the economy at crisis-point, optimism for a short-term fix is decidedly thin.

Despite millions of pounds of international aid there is a serious shortage of alternative homes, and few people have incomes. Many police and nursing staff haven't received a wage for months.

The British battle-group responsible for providing a safe environment as part of the international Stabilisation Force (SFOR) patrols a huge tract of Bosnia-Herzegovina stretching from Bos Gradiska in the north to Sipovo in the south.

Lt Col Simon Deakin, CO of the 2nd Battalion, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment based at Mrkonjic Grad, explained that the peacekeeping troops are the only international body with a 24-hour "footprint" across the region.

"While we are concerned with security,



Check it out: Soldiers from 2 PWRR, above, keep an eye on tank-firing procedures by members of the VSR army in Bosnia. The battle-group is responsible for the Manjaca live-firing range

it is obvious that all sorts of other things impinge on this," he said. "This includes levels of criminal activity, the strengths or weaknesses of the legitimate economy, the civil infrastructure and the social and ethnic balance.

"As soldiers we do not have direct responsibility for issues such as economics, aid, housing and industry; however, these issues have a direct link to the level of threat to our task of providing a safe and secure environment."

While on daily patrols, his soldiers gather an enormous amount of low-level intelligence about the movement of returning families and displaced people, as well as housing re-builds and employment.

At Bos Gradiska, where the issue of returning families is acute, 20 soldiers of C Squadron, The Queen's Dragoon Guards cover almost 800 square kilometres with regular foot and Scimitar patrols.

Troop commander Lt Matt Hurley said the housing problem was causing major anxiety. "We have excellent co-operation from both the Muslim and Serb communities here," he explained. "Because we are on the ground 24 hours a day with our patrols, we do pick up a lot of information about the concerns and fears of the communities.

"At the moment, for example, there are more than 3,000 disputed cases involving returning families. As it stands today



Warning order: Soldiers from C Squadron, The Queen's Dragoon Guards, above, on a foot patrol in a market at Prnjavor, Bosnia, distribute magazines and posters highlighting the dangers of unexploded mines

Reassuring presence: A soldier of the RHA talks to a family, left, during a foot patrol near Sanski Most

there is potential to resolve ten of them."

The confidence that communities have in the British soldiers has led to a steady increase in the number of weapons and ammunition uncovered and destroyed.

A haul at Prnjavor by the QDG included a T55 tank parked in a farmer's barn, a field gun concealed in another farmyard, hundreds of rifles and pistols and thousands of rounds of ammunition concealed in homes and sheds around the region.

"There is a huge arsenal hidden across the countryside," said troop commander Lt Justin Stenhouse. "Every gun, mine and bullet that we recover and destroy helps to reduce the threat to life and limb.

"People are frightened we will test the weapons to find out if they are linked to past crimes. We don't, we destroy them."

British soldiers are also doing all they can to encourage local people to help themselves.

At Orohavo, a village near Bos Gradis-



Warning order: Soldiers from C Squadron, The Queen's Dragoon Guards, above, on a foot patrol in a market at Prnjavor, Bosnia, distribute magazines and posters highlighting the dangers of unexploded mines

Reassuring presence: A soldier of the RHA talks to a family, left, during a foot patrol near Sanski Most

ki, 3,000 families are living in squalor ten years after almost 4,000 shells rained down on them one afternoon.

Muslim families in the town had earlier been forced from their homes and a Serbian military force had dug in.

Some Muslims stayed put throughout the strife and still live without basic facilities. Other families who fled abroad have returned with substantial grants. There is angst among those who suffered during the past decade and who are still suffering. Community tension is compounded by the handful of Serb families who remain in homes they took over.

A factory is still empty, attempts to

start small businesses have floundered, petrol is delivered erratically to the one pump in the town square and much of the nearby agricultural land is mined.

Cpl Mark Faux, QDG, is helping spearhead a drive to get the town back on its feet. "There is so much to do here yet little has happened," he said.

"For example, there is no refuse collection and over the years a 5km stretch of refuse has been abandoned on the edge of the town. There are 100 wells in and around the village but they are so contaminated people travel several kilometres to get fresh supplies.

"We helped them identify a landfill site and they have now got organised among themselves to tidy up the refuse. We have also helped them so they can start cleaning up the wells."

Orohavo could also relieve the housing burden at nearby Bos Gradiska. Aid money has helped finance a number of nearly finished new homes. "The only thing some of them need are windows," said Cpl Faux. "I know it sounds simple, but in Bosnia nothing is straightforward. The crux of the whole problem seems to be co-ordination and co-

operation. "People here are willing to co-operate. We just need someone to grip the co-ordination."

I wanna tell you a story

In the second in our occasional series about life after the Army, we meet former Para Chip Walker, policeman and author

NEXT time you visit Farnborough in north Hampshire, look out for an amiable policeman with a flashing smile and a friendly word.

PC Chip Walker, a former sergeant in The Parachute Regiment, is also an author. His children's story, *The Terrible Battle for Billy Watson*, has sold several thousand copies, writes Ray Routledge.

A writing career was the last thing on his mind when he enlisted in 1974 at the Army Apprentice College to become a chef. Onwards and upwards, literally, Chip joined 7th (Parachute) Royal Horse Artillery and finished his 11 years' service with 2 Para as a weapons instructor as well as a cook. When he left to join the Police he also enlisted in the TA.

When not keeping crime off Farnborough's streets he is a schools' liaison officer for the constabulary. That was the springboard to his writing career.

"My work is like being a teacher in a police uniform and I frequently take classes," he explained. "Lessons centre on drugs education, crime prevention and personal safety."

On one occasion at a school in Hook, he was asked to take a lesson on drugs education.

"I gave the talk as it was given to me in a lesson plan but it was awful. An idea came to me and the next time I made up a story as I went along.

"I likened the body to a castle in which the skin is the castle walls, the door is the mouth and the windows are the eyes. Patrolling the walls are antibodies whose job is to defend the castle from germs and viruses from the land of bacteria."

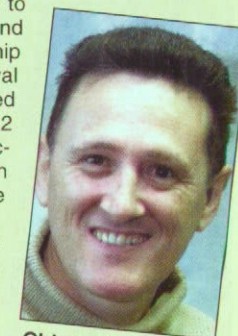
The seven-to-nine-year-olds loved it, so much so that their teacher encouraged Chip to write it all down. He used the story again and again, improving it each time.

Teachers and colleagues asked for copies and encouraged him to turn it into a book. Nine rejections later the story was published by Cromwell. It sells at £2.99.

Chip has more in the pipeline.

As well as writing, he takes to the boards every year as part of a police-based pantomime, again aimed at children. The panto tours Hampshire, Dorset, the Isle of Wight and Guernsey, playing to more than 20,000 people. For 2001, the panto is called *Greenbeard the Pirate*. Guess who wrote it?

● Are you ex-Army with a second career that would be inspiring to those about to leave? If so, drop us a line or send an e-mail to rroutledge@soldiermagazine.co.uk

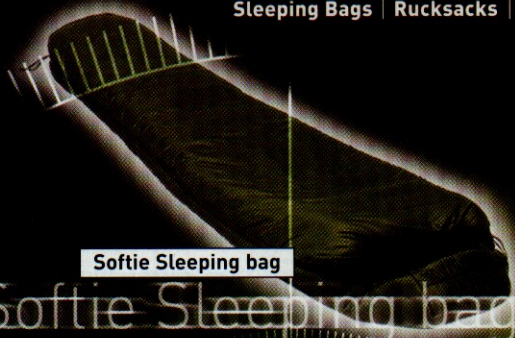


Chip Walker



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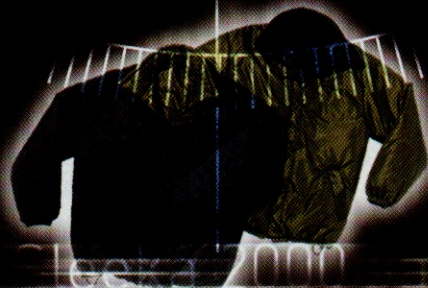
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Wet, wet, wet: Cpl Ian Dickson, centre, is shown how to keep clean on a jungle familiarisation course during Exercise Suman Warrior

Five's company

Air assault brigade ensures international exercise in Malaysia goes smoothly

YOUR mission, should you chose to accept it, is to run a defensive exercise for 450 soldiers from five countries . . . in Malaysia.

That was the task facing a 200-strong contingent from Colchester-based HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade and 216 Signal Squadron.

The soldiers deployed to Ipoh, Malaysia to head-up the annual five-nation Exercise Suman Warrior, which takes its name from the first initials of the countries taking part – Singapore, the UK, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

Suman Warrior involves signatories to the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA), a mechanism put in place in 1971 to enhance the defence of Malaysia and Singapore. Every time

the UK's turn to run the exercise comes round, it is hosted in Malaysia, courtesy of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

Knowledge about each other's organisation, equipment, unit capabilities and procedures is swapped, culminating in a command post exercise during which the headquarters and force elements work together on the planning and execution.

Brigade commander Brig Peter Wall dedicated a bench and laid a wreath in the small Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Sayed Putra Bar-

racks, where Suman Warrior was based. British Army Gurkhas killed in action during the Second World War and the Malaysian Emergency are buried there. Maj Neil Fraser, OC 216 Sqn, laid a wreath honouring Cpl Rambahadur Gurung, a Royal Corps of Signals Gurkha soldier killed in July 1950.

Maj Steve Clark, 216 Squadron's quartermaster, and his team made sure the participants were fed and watered, liaising closely with the Malaysian civilian and military authorities. Maj Mike Jones, of 16 Air Assault's logistic support troop, helped smooth the wheels.

The squadron also ran the background activities, PTI Sgt Mick Wiloughby organising rugby matches and a sports day.

During jungle familiarisation training, soldiers learned to catch and eat python, set traps and go about the business of tracking. An adrenalin rush was provided by abseiling sessions from a Bell 212 helicopter of 7 Flight AAC from Brunei. The airmen kept on flying in damp, drizzle and downpour.



Going down: Sig Mick White, left, and LBdr Simon Horn try their hands at abseiling from a Bell helicopter

Has Jez got what it takes?*

So, you want to join the Army, do you? The Recruit Selection Centre at Lichfield is keen to help you make the grade...

Pictures: Graeme Main

IT is a gentle culture shock, but a shock nevertheless. Pass through the gates of the Recruit Selection Centre five miles from Lichfield town centre and you become a civvy in Army-land, writes **John Elliott**.

One such innocent was 22-year-old Jez Brookes, who allowed himself to be shadowed by a *Soldier* photographer.

People tell you what to do (in the nicest possible way), put you through two days of physical and mental tests... then tell you if you are made of the right stuff.

If you are not – and not everyone passes – they will let you know where you need to improve and how to go about it. It will usually be because they don't think you are strong enough in the right places, or fit enough, or in sufficiently robust health. In that case you will be invited back when you've had time to make the improvements suggested to you.

For as well as confirming your eligibility to enlist (a process which began when you were accepted by your local recruiting officer) staff at RSC Lichfield have a mission to enthuse you about all things military. They want your two days with them to be as positive an experience as possible so that you go away – successful or otherwise – buzzing with the opportunities offered by the Army.

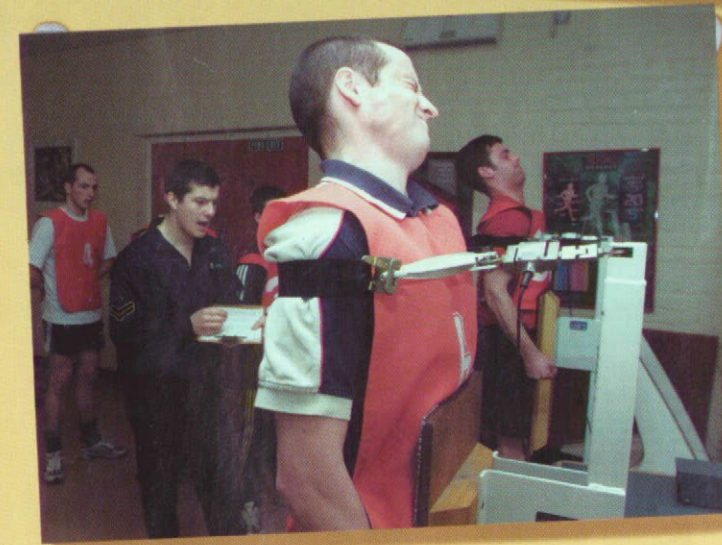
Jez Brookes, from Birmingham, did have the right stuff. "The course was well organised and quite demanding. But I had been training and was fit for it," he said.

Jez comes from an Army "family". His stepfather served six years in the Royal Artillery, an uncle did nine years with the gunners, and another uncle completed 22 in the REME.

*** Yes. Jez passed his Recruit Selection Centre at the first time of asking and reported to the Army Training Regiment Winchester at the end of February. He has his sights set on joining The Royal Green Jackets. Mark also passed.**



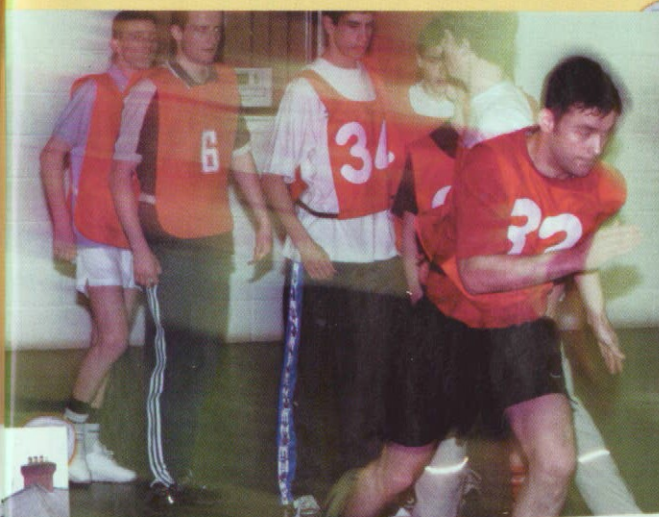
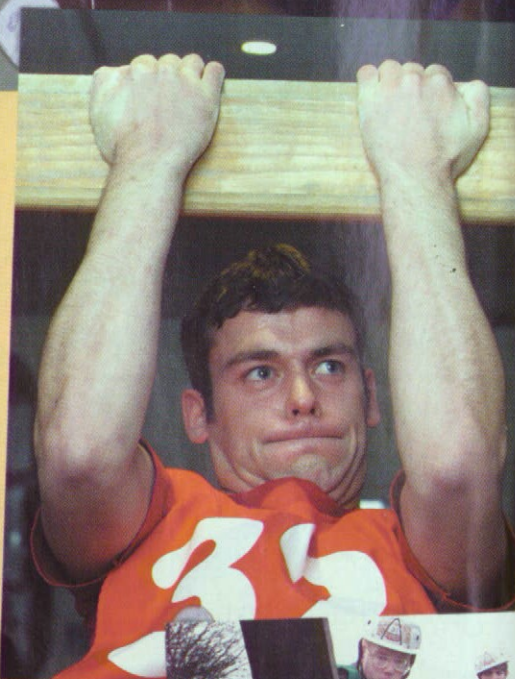
That's blown it: Candidate No 32, Jez Brookes completes one of his medicals



Above, left to right: Running against the clock in the dreaded "bleep" test; concentration during the arm strength test, with Mark Ledward (No 6) in the background; Mark, foreground and Jez, far right, complete a lower back strength test, with encouragement from Cpl Adds Addis, RGJ



Legging it: Another strength test for Jez and Mark, above. Heave-ho: Jez, right, makes a big effort during the heave test



This is a grenade: Cpl Wayne Kennan, QHR, above, briefs candidates before their grenade test (note to Mums... not the real thing). Jez, left, sprints during a team activity session in the gymnasium



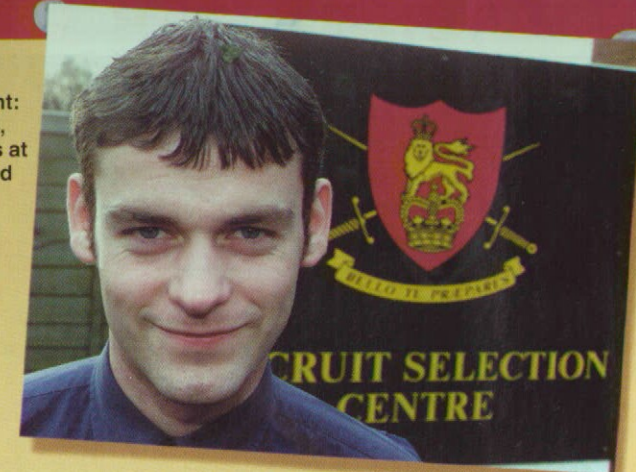
It's all go: Jez, above left, grimaces during the 1.5-mile "best effort" run; throws a dummy grenade, above right; and, right, joins Steve Murphy and James Percival for a team command activity



That's it: All tasks completed, right, the lads off to base



Decision time: Personnel selection officer Maj Clive Mason, R Signals, above, tells Jez he has been recommended for enlistment to his chosen cap badge, The Royal Green Jackets



Starting point: Jez Brookes, right, arrives at RSC Lichfield

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Kiss it goodbye!

Last year's Army NSD was reckoned to be a success, and it is hoped this month's event will persuade even more soldiers to kick the habit

UNITS as far afield as South Georgia and Kosovo took part last year in the Army's first official No Smoking Day.

Now they are being encouraged to use PTIs, chefs, medical and dental staff and others to provide the necessary support, advice and encouragement to help the estimated two in three soldiers who want to stop.

Anyone who can offer their services is asked to contact Lt Col Ricky Bhabutta on Aldershot mil 8239.

To help you stop, he's drawn up a special *Soldier* ten-point guide to giving up:

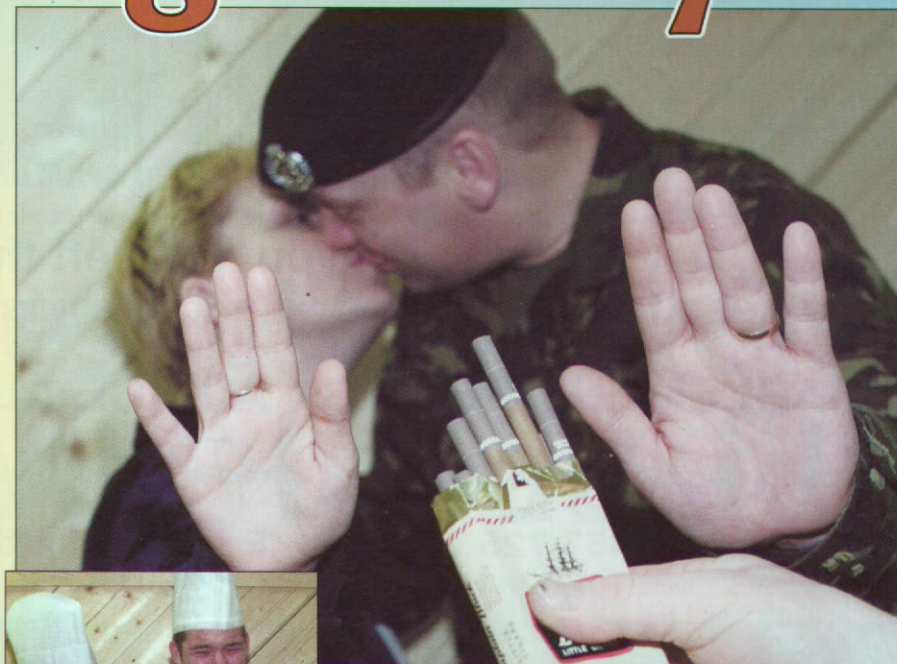
1 – Planning and preparation increases your chance of success. Commit yourself to stop smoking on March 14 ... cutting down doesn't work. Make lists of why you enjoy smoking and your reasons for giving up. Remember your reasons for stopping.

2 – Quit with a friend or partner. It helps to share the problem.

3 – Save the money you no longer spend on ciggies and reward yourself ... with a holiday or new DVD player.

4 – Destroy those last few cigarettes and get rid of lighters and ash trays.

5 – Take it a day at a time so you are not scared off by the idea of never smoking again. Get used to the idea of being a non-smoker.



Kissing it goodbye: LCpl Taff Williams and wife Bev find better things to do than smoking. Taff is serving with 50 Squadron RE, part of 36 Engineer Regiment based at Invicta Barracks, Maidstone, and has joined the unit's RLC chefs, including Sgt Trev Humphreys, left, and Pte David Wood, in giving ciggies the boot. Pictures: Steve Dock



6 – Think about your weight. Many people pile on the pounds when they stop smoking because they rediscover a sense of taste and smell and use food as a tobacco substitute. Use your decision as a wider get-fit campaign. Eat fruit, carrot sticks ... or chew sugar-free gum.

7 – Keep busy. This means keeping your hands occupied.

8 – Deal with cravings sensibly. They only last a few seconds and don't hurt. Distract yourself with an elastic band, drink a glass of water or take five deep breaths. Remember, your body has to get used to not having nicotine around.

9 – Proven aids:

✱ Use your medical or dental centre for support. In the UK you can ring the NHS Stop Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169.

✱ Nicotine replacement therapy (gum, patches, spray, lozenges, inhaler) roughly double your chances of success.

✱ Zyban is a new, albeit very expensive drug with many side effects, but it does help some people to stop smoking.

✱ Although there is no proof that other treatments (acupuncture, hypnotherapy and so on) actually work, many people have stopped while using them. If they appeal, give them a try.

(It is hoped some positive news on the availability of stop-smoking products through the MoD will be announced in the coming months).

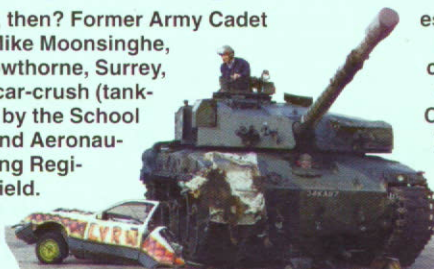
10 – If at first you don't succeed, use the experience to plan for the next attempt. Try and try and try again.

PS: Smoking kills half of all smokers prematurely. Stopping is the single most important thing you can do to improve your health.

Kiss it goodbye (Mark 2 version)

Is it a write-off, then? Former Army Cadet Force officer Mike Moonsinghe, right, from Crowthorne, Surrey, won a charity car-crash (tank-style) donated by the School of Electronic and Aeronautical Engineering Regiment at Arborfield.

He was given a guided tour of the



establishment and lunch in the officers' mess before commanding the Challenger 1 main battle tank which did the business. Mike was driven home, by a chauffeur.

Pictures: Graeme Main





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Houses of horror: Rotting sills, cracked walls and shoddy, streaming bathrooms

Pictures: Kirsty Dudin/AFF

Family estate 'hovels' attract AFF broadside

Crumbling quarters occupied by 36 Engr Regt families in Kent are in the firing line

INVICTA Park, a 1960s-built married quarters estate at Maidstone in Kent currently occupied by the families of Royal Engineers, has come in for some heavy criticism in the current edition of *Families Journal*, the magazine of the Army Families Federation, **writes John Elliott.**

After a letter to the *Journal* described the quarters as "dilapidated hovels", AFF housing specialist Kirsty Dudin went to Maidstone to see for herself.

Writing in the winter edition of the magazine, she said the issue had exposed a tale of years of "housing mismanagement" in Invicta Park.

"Design faults, military indecision, financial impediments, restrictions imposed by the sale of the estate and planning constraints have all contributed to the sorry state today where 151 houses, built in the 1960s as 'cheap and cheerful'



Toxic analysis: Some of the 151 family quarters in Invicta Park

with an expected lifespan of only 25 years, are still being used over 35 years later," she reported. "These houses are the worst quarters I have ever visited, even worse than those at Middle Wallop, Catterick, Aldershot and Tidworth which have been condemned to demolition."

Since a recommendation to demolish and rebuild the Invicta Park houses was made in 1993, minimum maintenance had been carried out, she wrote. The result was houses that had become damp and mouldy, with disintegrating fittings

and fixtures, overflowing or underflushing toilet cisterns, rotting floors barely concealed by worn carpets, buckled and leaking metal-framed windows, cracked walls – interior and exterior – and falling plaster and brickwork.

Damp courses throughout the estate had ceased to be effective.

"Fungus growing on the damp sitting room floors has been sent away for toxic analysis," she noted.

She concluded: "No excuse can justify why these houses are still being used for Army families – families of soldiers serving in the largest Royal Engineers regiment, with squadrons on operational tours in Belize, Kosovo, Kenya and Northern Ireland."

Mrs Dudin told *Soldier*: "It made me angry to see the conditions in which those brave families are living. But I was so impressed by how they have tried to make the best of the situation."

Complete demolition, rebuild on the cards for Kent estate, says DHE

From Wendy Jarvis, DHE Director of Housing

KIRSTY Dudin painted a very bleak picture of the state of housing in Invicta Park. There is no doubt that the condition of a lot of these houses is very poor and they do represent some of the worst examples of properties on the entire DHE estate.

Considerable expenditure is needed to produce accommodation which families will

be glad to live in and which DHE will be pleased to allocate to them. It has been decided that Invicta Park should be given a much higher priority for resources and much-needed work will get under way almost immediately.

The first stage in the programme will be to fully refurbish 20 structurally sound 1950s terraced houses. At the time of writing plans

for the remainder of the estate have to be finalised, but it is looking increasingly probable that nothing short of a full demolition and rebuild will suffice. I acknowledge that redevelopment of this site in the past has been dogged by impediments and restrictions.

Action is long overdue and we are committed to making substantial progress very quickly.

Muddy Waters kept me cool

For years John Peel was forced to wear a uniform, made to follow orders and frequently beaten. And that was just at school. National Service seemed easy by comparison

Interview: Anthony Stone
Pictures: Mike Weston

FROM an early age John Peel aspired to be a failure. Born into a wealthy family, he went to one of the country's top public schools, Shrewsbury, the first step on life's treadmill.

"There seemed to be no options open to you," he said, recalling the days in 1950s Britain when class was a social straightjacket, dictating everything from the way you spoke to how you dressed. Public schoolboys of a certain type were on a conveyor-belt that took them from the nursery to university, followed by a lifetime in harness working for the family business.

"The only way you could exercise some

control over your own fate was by not passing the exams," he said. This was something he became rather good at. He had no intention of studying for a degree.

"I imagined university involved having to stand on a 400-year-old oak refectory table, singing *There's a Tavern in the Town*

'I was one of the first public schoolboys to fail to get a commission'

in Latin, while being pelted with bread-rolls."

At 17, Peel, whose real name is John Ravenscroft, flunked the War Office Selection Board ("I was hopelessly inept") and began National Service as a

gunner. "I was one of the first public schoolboys to fail to get a commission in Her Majesty's Forces," he said. "A lot of senior non-commissioned officers had been waiting most of their military lives to get their hands on someone like me. They really did give me a bad time."

His accent gave him away. "I used to speak like a minor member of the royal family – a high pitched nasal kind of voice – and of course, you would get the p*** taken out of you a lot."

Despite this, he did well. At school he had been in the Cadet Corps, which was associated with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, or "King's Silly Little Idiots" as they were known by some.

"You got to fire a rifle once or twice a year, throw thunderflashes and crawl around in the mud," he said. "It was quite entertaining and a useful kind of preparation." But his National Service did not get off to a good start.

"Unfortunately, the junior officer who was in charge was going out with my stepsister at the time. I was the only person in the troop whose name he knew, so whenever we were on the parade ground he used to shout at me.

"He was such a twerp that, when I met him at my father's and stepmother's house, he still expected me to call him sir. He was only a year older than me.

"From there I was posted to Salisbury Plain and a Regular regiment but I can't remember what it was. It was much harder and there was a very violent sub-culture. The barrack rooms were quite scary at night. I did not like it at all."

Posted to Anglesey, Peel worked on secret experimental radar systems and ended up as a B2 radio operator. "In a Regular regiment that would have made me a bombardier, possibly even a sergeant, but because it was a place that specialised in radar and rocketry it was not like a Regular regiment. It was much



On track: Peel, the original spin doctor, is still mixing up the magic on his late-night show

less formal and there was far less bullshit and hostility.

"The secret of survival when you were doing National Service was petty theft and evasion. I wish I could rediscover some of the mates I was with at Ty Croes camp at the Anglesey Trials Establishment Guided Weapons (Royal Artillery). We had quite a good time by military standards. I did my basic training at Oswestry. That was fairly awful but our little troop was good at drill.

"I was on Anglesey during the summer of 1959, which was one of those great, glorious, unending sunshine summers,"

he remembered. "In the evening you could go swimming and watch the sun go down and the waves crashing on the rocks."

He organised gramophone recitals in the billet and played Muddy Waters and Lightning Hopkins records for his mates.

To earn a bit of extra cash, and because he was good at it, he would take in ironing from other soldiers.

At that stage the young gunner had no idea what direction his career would take when he left the Army. Things would become clearer the following year when Peel went to Texas, changed his name and

For the record

JOHN Peel OBE was born at Heswall near Liverpool and, after completing his National Service, went to Texas to work for the WRR radio station in Dallas.

He spent three years at various radio stations in the United States before moving back to the United Kingdom to join Radio 1 at its inception in 1967. He has been on national radio ever since.

Peel was one of the first DJs to give exposure to punk, reggae, hip-hop and rap, long before any of them crossed into mainstream. Almost anyone who is anyone in the rock world has recorded a session for his show.

Apart from regularly topping the music "Best DJ" polls, John won the 1993 Sony Award for Broadcaster of the Year and in 1994 was named Godlike Genius by the New Musical Express for his outstanding contribution to music.

As well as his regular 10pm slots on Radio 1, he can be heard on Radio 4 on Saturday mornings, hosting *Home Truths*, a celebration of the eccentricities of ordinary family life.

He has been awarded a degree by the University of East Anglia and is a lifelong fan of *The Archers*. He lives in Suffolk with his wife Sheila and their four children. His other great love in life is Liverpool Football Club.

voice, and got a job on a local radio station. Beatlemania was taking off and the Sixties were about to swing.

"I was very pleased to get out," he said. "I thought I had beaten the system. I was never even slightly tempted to sign up. But the one thing I thought that was genuinely useful to me, and a lot of other people, was that it taught you there was a community interest in maintaining certain standards of hygiene and tidiness, because if you did not, you got everyone else in trouble.

"It was a useful couple of years, more useful, I suspect, than if I had gone to university. I don't think I would have learned as much as I did from National Service.

"And as my faculties gradually wind down and I become senile, the last thing I will remember is my military number: "23558538 Gunner Ravenscroft J, Sir!"



The way they were: The cool young dudes who launched Radio One in 1967. Peel is seated front right



- 1, Tony Blackburn; 2, Jimmy Young; 3, Kenny Everett; 4, Duncan Johnson; 5, Robin Scott (Controller); 6, David Rider; 7, Dave Cash; 8, Pete Brady; 9, David Symonds; 10, Bob Holness; 11, Terry Wogan; 12, Barry Alldis; 13, Mike Lennox; 14, Keith Skues; 15, Chris Denning; 16, Johnny Moran; 17, Pete Myers; 18, Pete Murray; 19, Ed Stewart; 20, Pete Drummond; 21, Mike Raven; 22, Mike A'Hearn; 23, John Peel

‘I’d be lying if I said that I never got scared, but when you are standing at the top of a mountain the adrenalin takes over’

Lord of the board

Top REME boarder takes a walk on the wild side in Austria

Interview: Andy Simms
Pictures: Graeme Main

RECLINING in a wicker chair inside the bustling Dorf Pub in Neustift, Austria, LCpl John Craig (REME) had the demeanour of any other holiday-maker enjoying the après-ski.

Only our conversation and the graze above his left eye – a painful reminder of a day snowboarding off-piste – suggested otherwise.

“I remember a Swedish guy once told me ‘push the limits but know your boundaries’ – I know it sounds corny but I have stuck to that principle ever since,” he said.

Sound advice, but having spent the day with John I doubt very much that the anonymous Swede realised how hard the 29-year-old soldier would push those limits.

Six years after first stepping on to a board John, who is serving with 70 Aircraft Workshop at Middle Wallop, has acquired a taste for off-piste riding and there are few obstacles, natural or man-made, that he will not attempt to navigate or jump.

“Off-piste riding is what snowboarding is all about.

Black and red runs do not even come into a snowboarders’ vocabulary – if I’m on-piste it is usually to get somewhere off it.

“There is nothing like the rush you get from snowboarding where no one else has been. Cutting your own tracks is the best feeling in the world.”

Earlier that day he had attempted to launch himself from a rocky ledge sandwiched precariously between two trees.

His friends warned that it could not be done – and they were right.

Missing the narrow path between the trees, he had crashed through the branches before coming to rest face-down in the snow. The gri-

mace of pain quickly subsided into a characteristic grin: “I think I’ll try that one again.”

It is this “I’ll-give-it-a-go” attitude that has earned the REME snowboarding team captain a daredevil tag among his peers.

“Everyone thinks I’m nuts and that I will throw myself off anything,” he conceded.

“But I think that’s a bit unfair. I don’t usually do anything unless I am 99 per cent sure that I can actually do it. Likewise, if I’m tired or something does not feel right inside, then I know when to back down.”

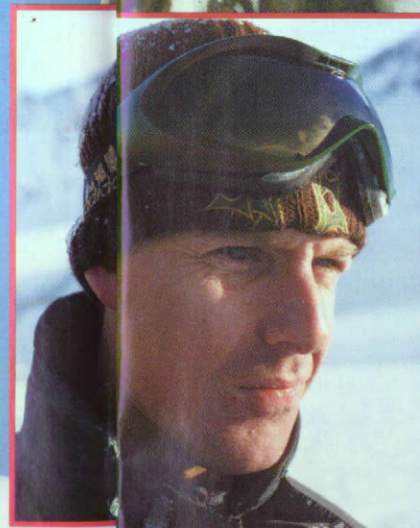
However, backing down does not happen very often and John’s list of conquests reads like the CV of an accomplished stuntman. Boarding down near vertical slopes, tree-runs, 30ft rock-drops and even jumps off hut roofs are all considered to be “fair game” by the former skier.

Although six years of tumbling down glaciers have gone by without serious injury John has no illusions of invincibility. “I’d be lying if I said that I never got scared, but when you are standing at the top of a mountain the adrenalin takes over. Touch wood, I have never broken any bones but I have had my share of bruises.

“My sister is constantly telling me to ease up; she thinks I am absolutely crazy. But for some reason – and it might have something to do with my insurance policy – my wife does not seem to have a problem with me throwing myself off a mountain on a snowboard.

“I am getting old now – I’m 30 this year and getting to a point where I know I will have to give up at some point. My injuries last that bit longer than they did when I was 18 so I’m determined to push myself while I still can.

“I’m not happy unless I’m doing something bigger and better than I have done before.”



Snowboarding

The new cool sport is building on small beginnings

Report by Andy Simms
Pictures by Graeme Main

SNOWBOARDERS are all the same. They bleach their hair peroxide blonde; grow goatee beards (females included); wear ridiculously baggy trousers; and use "dude" at the end of every sentence.

Those who believe in stereotypes would have been sorely disappointed with the turn-out at the 2001 Army snowboarding championships.

More than 90 soldiers contested the tournament held at the Stubai Glacier, Austria, and there was not a single "totally radical" to be heard.

On the slopes of America, winter's answer to surfing rivals Alpine skiing in popularity and snowboarding is now recognised as one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK.

But despite its world-wide evolution, boarding is only just beginning to flourish in the ranks of the British Army.

"There is the whole 'baggy trousers scene' but that is not what snowboarding is all about," said Cpl Peter Hale (5 Regiment AAC Workshop, REME) in defence of a sport that made its long-overdue debut at the 1998 Winter Olympics in

Nagano, Japan. A member of the Army snowboarding team, Cpl Hale added: "Snowboarding is an easy sport to learn. It is great exercise, very rewarding and a great way to make new friends."

"Unfortunately, as far as the Army is concerned, I think that snowboarding is still regarded as skiing's little brother."

But Army winter sport's youngest sibling is growing up fast. Boarding was first introduced to the Army in 1999 by Sgt Ted Land, now serving with 61 Squadron RE.

During his posting with 28 Engineer Regiment Workshop at Hameln, Germany, Sgt Land set up the Hameln Snowboard Club. Things snowballed from there and in the space of a year he had organised the inaugural Army championships.

Now in its third year, the competition features three of boarding's disciplines – the slalom, grand slalom and boarder cross – and is open to riders of all levels.

"The Army snowboarding championships are quite unique in that complete novices can come along and try their luck," said deputy captain of the Army team, Cpl Gareth

Reid (RMP). "With skiing and any other major sport in the Army you have to qualify to compete."

"I think certain sections of the Army still do not take us seriously but any opposition is light-hearted as opposed to outright discrimination."

"On the whole the sport is being taken more and more seriously, especially now boarding is an Inter-Services competition."

But the major problem that has slowed snowboarding's emergence as an Army sport is funding. Trips to the mountains, lift passes, and equipment do not come cheap.

"Basically we are self-funded. Soldiers have to get whatever money they can from their own regiment," said Cpl Reid.

"For the first time this year the Army team will get some funding from the Army Winter Sports Association but that only really covers the cost of lift passes."

"We have to look after ourselves because, although we are recognised, we have to fund ourselves for three years and prove our viability as a sport before we qualify for full funding."

Snowboarding's outlook for 2002 ... totally awesome, dude.

● See sports pages for championship results

Dressed for success

Clothed from head-to-toe in brand names, snowboarders are dedicated followers of fashion. Cpl Chris Watson (ATR Winchester) explained that there is more to a boarders' attire than appearances ...

HAT – "There are all sorts of hats available. Most boarders prefer a beanie-type hat which is primarily designed to keep the wind and the cold off your head – vital for when you are on-piste."

GOGGLES – "Another essential bit of kit. You need a good set of goggles to protect your eyes from UV rays and the glare off the piste. They will also protect your face if you fall."

GLOVES – "You can't do without a good set of gloves. The better gloves or mitts have a thermal lining with a water-proof outer."

THERMAL CLOTHING – "Because of the extreme temperatures you need around three layers beneath your main jacket."

BOARDS – "The type of board you have depends on the type of riding you want to do. Small, thin boards are used by free-style riders in the ice parks; longer, fatter boards tend to be used for free-riding; and carving boards with their hard edges are used predominantly for racing."

SHOES – "Comfort is the main criterion for a boarder's boots. They differ from skiing boots in that you can wear them on and off your board."

JACKET – "A jacket needs to be waterproof, windproof, breathable and not restrict movement. Most are made from Gore-Tex and have elastic cuffs and a snow-skirt inside to stop snow getting in if you fall."

TROUSERS – "Usually a similar material to the jacket. They need to be tough in case you fall on ice or on rocks."

And the outlook for 2002
is totally awesome, dude

SHINTY

Army's Celtic warriors

Highlanders battle to raise the profile of one of Scotland's national games

ALTHOUGH never professing to be an expert, I had always assumed that I had a sound knowledge of the world of sport, writes **Andy Simms**.

That was until I had a telephone call from CSgt Robert Stoddart of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders, inviting me to write a match report on the biggest game in Army shinty history. Write about it? I had never even heard of it.

Swallowing my professional pride I confessed my ignorance to the coach of the Highlanders – the Army's only shinty team – and asked what on earth he was talking about.

"Well, the best way to describe shinty is that it is a bit like a cross between hockey and golf," he said. "But with very few rules." This I had to see.

Ignoring the uneasy feeling that I was part of some sort of elaborate wind-up by my colleagues, I packed my bags and headed with photographer Steve Dock to Musselburgh, just outside Edinburgh.

We joined the team at the Highlanders' clubhouse – the Levehall Arms – an hour before the "throw-up" (start) of their quarter-final Sutherland Cup clash with shinty high-flyers Inverary.

The Highlanders, currently based at Catterick, 150 miles from their adopted "home" ground in Musselburgh, have been playing organised shinty as members of the Camanachd Association for four years.

"We were the worst team in Scotland for two years but we shook that title off last year when we won a couple of games," explained Stoddart.

"It was great to tell one of the teams we beat that they were now officially the worst team in the country.

"Today is our greatest success – to reach the quarter-final of a national cup is some achievement. You have to remember that we only play in the cup competitions and that we have not got the facilities at Catterick, or the time, to train properly. We've got the will but not the facilities."

The sport itself has to be seen to be believed. Shinty is dubbed the game of warriors and from the first throw-up I realised why.

Using camans – sticks with triangular

heads – shinty, at first glance, appeared to be a crude version of hockey. Basically, the two games are similar but if you add the aggression of rugby to the fast-flowing nature of hockey you are beginning to paint a clearer picture of shinty.

With the players using their camans – made out of laminated hickory or ash – like golf clubs it came as no surprise to me when I was joined on the sidelines by a number of injured Highlanders.

Missing their regular goalkeeper and leading goalscorer, Highlanders' dreams of a place in the semi-final were shattered, Inverary finishing the match 7-0 winners.

At least when the team repeat their cup-run next season *Soldier's* sports editor will have an understanding of the rules of the game... albeit a very basic one.

■ **Anyone interested in playing shinty should call CSgt Stoddart on 94422 3264.**

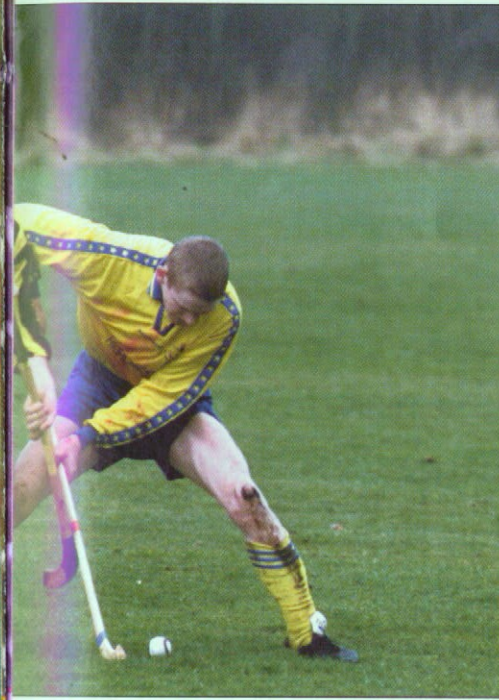
Shinty's rules of engagement



Game over: Hldr Darren McIver (1 Hldrs) retires nursing a suspected broken thumb



Star man: Scottish youth international Hldr Andrew Fraser (1 Hldrs), right, holds off the opposition



UNDER the current rules, shinty is played by two teams of 12 players over a period of 90 minutes, on a pitch 140-170 yards long by 70-80 yards wide.

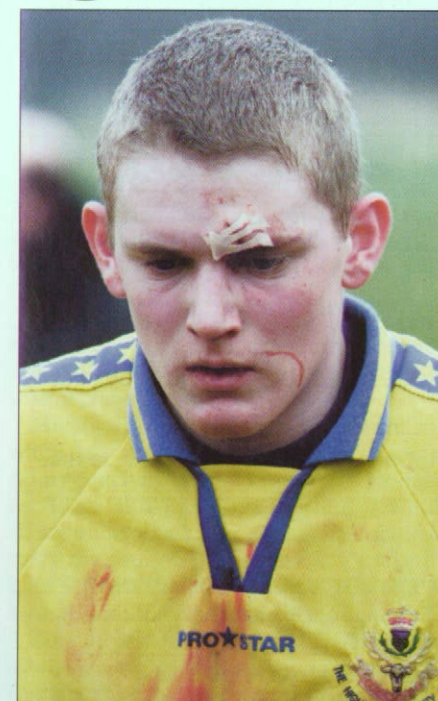
The referee begins a match, and re-starts after a goal, by throwing the ball more than 12ft into the air above the opposing centre players, who have their camans crossed above their heads ready to play the ball as it falls.

Only the goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball, by slapping or stopping it with his open hand.

The ball cannot be kicked by any player, nor indeed may an opponent. A strike can be blocked or "cleeked" within normal swinging distance and there is no restriction in the height or direction of hitting with the caman – apart from striking an opponent.

An attacking player who enters the penalty area before the ball is deemed to be offside and a defending player who commits an infringement in the area concedes a penalty.

For more information on shinty visit www.shinty.com



Walking wounded: Hldr Andrew Fraser (1 Hldrs) is shinty's answer to Colin Hendry

BOXING

Byes save blushes

Walkovers prevent Navy whitewash

ONLY a series of walkovers saved the Army boxing team from a humiliating defeat at the Combined Services boxing championships at Royal Air Force Uxbridge.

A combination of controversial scoring and a string of uncharacteristic lacklustre performances resulted in just a single victory for the Army team.

Fortunately the outcome of the Combined Services championship, which doubles as a qualifying round for the national Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) championships, was beyond doubt before the first pair of boxers entered the ring.

Eight of the Army team were gifted Combined Services Boxing Association (CSBA) titles when the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force both failed to field suitable opponents – presenting the Army with an unattainable lead.

Among the lucky few to receive a walkover into the quarter-finals of the ABAs was Commonwealth gold medallist



Sole victor: Pte Steve Briggs (1 PWO), left, stopped LCpl Graham Alderson (Royal Navy)

Cpl Chris Bessey (RLC), who will now have his sights set firmly on winning the seventh ABA title of his career.

The run of good fortune did not extend into the ring and it was the much-improved Navy who emerged as the dominant force. England international Pte Steve Briggs (1 PWO) was the only member of the Army team to win a bout.

Seconds out... round two

Your chance to win a pair of fight tickets

ONCE again *Soldier* has teamed up with Sports Network to offer fight fans the chance to see world championship boxing.

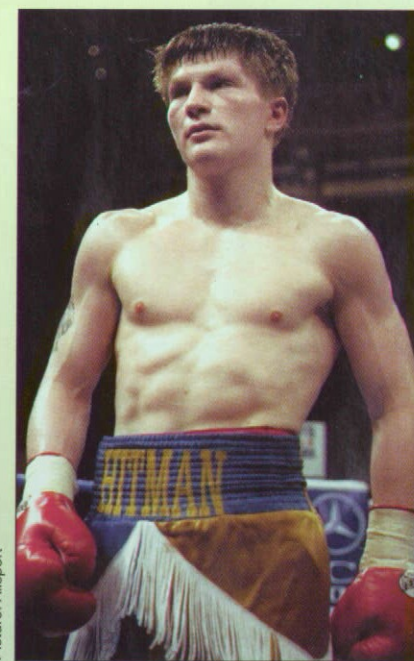
On Monday, March 26 one of boxing's brightest prospects, Ricky "Hitman" Hatton, right, will fight West Ham hard-man Jason Rowland for the WBU light welterweight championship of the world at Wembley Conference Centre.

For your chance to see the action, simply answer the following question:

Who is the current WBU light welterweight champion?

You need to act fast, so send us your answers by e-mail to asimms@soldiermagazine.co.uk or by contacting the sports desk on 01252 347362 (Mil 94222 2362) by midday on March 16. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct answers received.

■ **Tickets for the world title showdown are available from the box office on 01992 550888 and are**



priced at £30, £50 and £100. When ordering tickets, Army personnel quoting Solmag0326 will be given a ten per cent discount.

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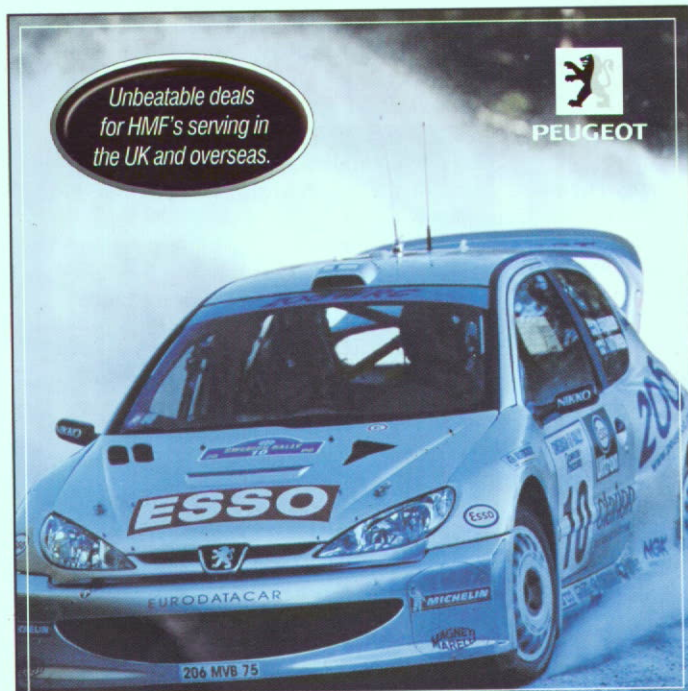
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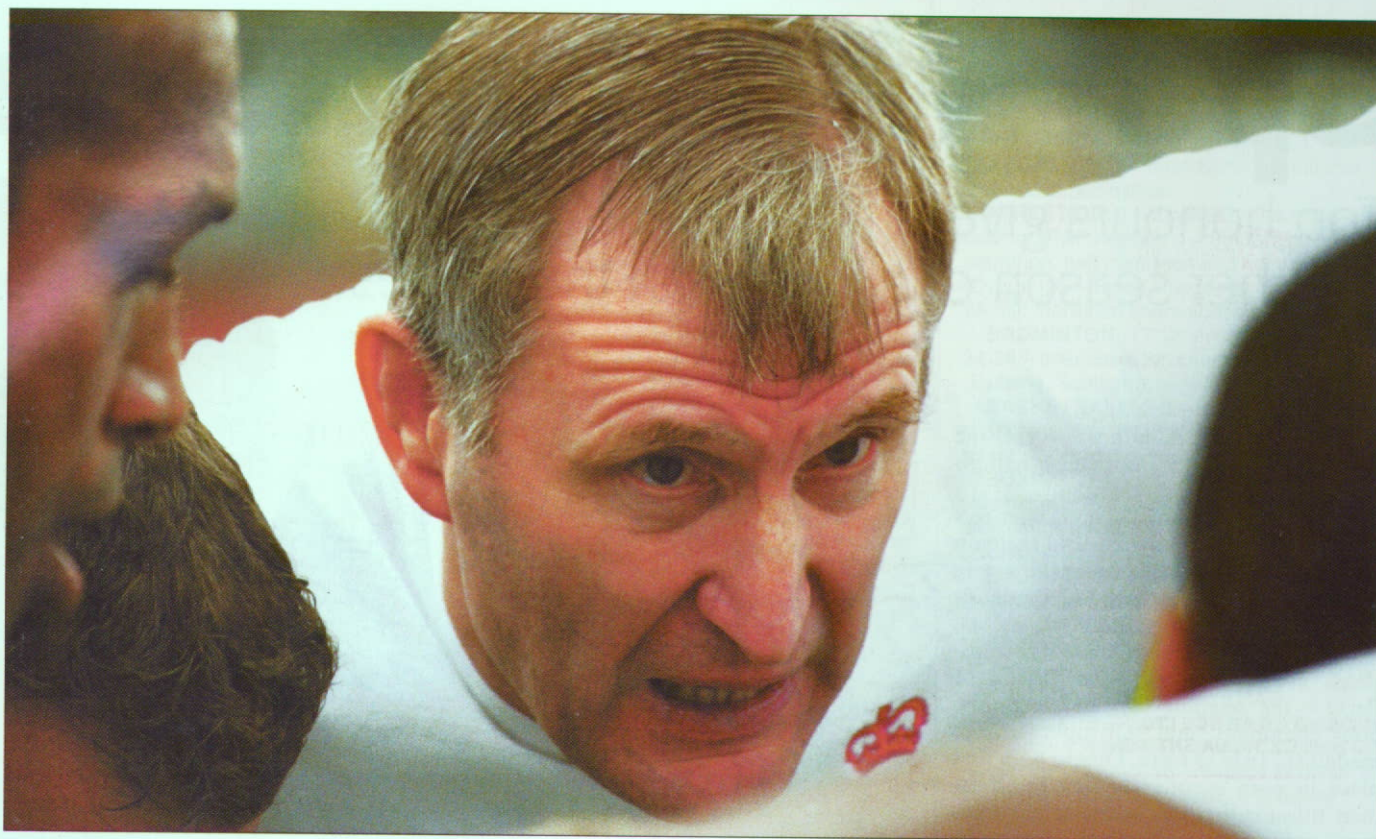
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Picture: Roger Thompson

Leader of the pack

Big match puts rugby boss in the spotlight

THE expectancy of a fifth successive victory over the Royal Navy in the Willis Inter-Services championship on May 5 is a lot for one man to shoulder but when Maj Andy Hickling (SO2 Military Estates at Horse Guards and Windsor Castle) leads his team out at Twickenham he will do just that.

Players may snatch the headlines on the biggest day in the Services sporting calendar but, win or lose, the buck must stop with the coach.

Hickling took on that responsibility when he was appointed the Army's senior rugby coach in 1999. "I put my personality, ideas and ideals on the line. I wear Army on my back," he said. "The players carry my soul on to the park at Twickenham – when they run out it's bare and I have to wait to be proved right or wrong."

Fortunately for the Army, Hickling is rarely wrong – unsurprising when you consider his track record. A 30-year playing career has helped him to develop an acute sense of "rugby leadership" and

"tactical know-how", skills he put to good use as coach of his former regiment.

As RSM of 7 Signal Regiment, Hickling had few problems in winning the respect of his players – and three Army Cup wins also persuaded the powers-that-be that he was the right man to guide the Army team into the new millennium.

His approach to the Army job is simple and, delivered with a Rotherham twang, drummed into his squad at the team's training headquarters in Aldershot.

"Forget Robbie Williams, I am not here to entertain you – my job is all about winning," is how he puts it.

Driven by boundless motivation, Hickling is convinced that his vision of abandoning the modern tendency towards defence in favour of expansive, free-flowing rugby will reap rewards.

"Modern defences are hard and layered – the defensive coach sees to that. It is, with the connivance of referees and the modern laws, the scourge of the handling game.

"There is a desperate need for more 50-50 ball situations so that teams can

launch surprise attacks. However, this Maginot-mentality should play into the hands of the coach with inspiration and players with flair."

The final ingredient in his recipe for success is time. "Outstanding performances require time, which is probably the most difficult imperative for the non-professional.

"Time to think, time to observe players, time for video analysis and after that even more time to think.

"It is also essential to take time to talk to players, their military commanders and sometimes their wives.

"Coaching and player management are indivisible and a blend of regimental

and family priorities with rugby is essential."

As for his own future, Hickling concedes that a chance to take up the post of director of rugby at a professional club would be hard to turn down.

"It is a big step but in the modern game ambition for club, players and even the coach himself is vital. Without ambition it's easy to accept second best, which is a pointless exercise."

‘Forget Robbie Williams – I’m not here to entertain you’

WINTER SPORTS ROUND-UP

Sporting in a winter wonderland

Top honours give Army cause to celebrate another season of success on the slopes

Bobsleigh

ARMY competitors almost swept the field at the British bobsleigh championships in Winterberg, Germany.

Featuring both men's and women's races in two-man, four-man and skeleton bobsleigh events, the championships were run in conjunction with the Netherlands national championships.

Man-of-the-match in the team bobsleigh events was Sgt Sean Olsson (1 Para) – the reigning two and four-man bob champion and Olympic bronze medallist. True to form, Olsson took first place in each event, retaining the four-man title for the fifth year and the two-man gold for the seventh year. His two-man team-mate was London fireman Phil Goedluck.

In the men's skeleton bob, SSgt Steve Anson (35 Engr Regt) won the British title and was joined on the podium by Cpl Adrian Collins (12 Regt RA) who took silver.

SSgt Daphne Clash and Sgt Donna Nevens (1 GS Regt RLC) took third and fourth place respectively in the women's skeleton bob.

Snowboarding

VICTORY on the final day of competition in the boarder cross event secured Bdr Peter Couch (29 Cdo Regt RA) the title of Army snowboard champion.

Couch was chased all the way to the silverware by LCpl Graeme Antrobus (HQNI) and LCpl John Craig (70 AC Wkps), who finished second and third respectively.

Lt Katie Unsworth (35 Engr Regt) won the women's competition, beating Lt Alex Benn (21 Engr Regt) and Pte Sara Langgaard (4 GS Med Regt) to the top honours.

In the novice category Spr Bryan Tullett (9 Para Sqn RE) stormed to the men's title and Pte Daniella Telfer (4 GS Med Regt) finished as overall women's champion.

The race for the corps trophy – decided by the best four results of each six-man team – was a close-run affair with RE just beating off the challenge of REME.

Hit duo: Sgt Sean Olsson, left, and Phil Goedluck celebrate victory in the two-man bob at the British Bobsleigh Championships



Picture: Cpl Nige Green (RAF)

Picture: Cpl Nige Green (RAF)



Picture: Graeme Main

Out in front: Capt Tim Holmes (28 Engr Regt), left, takes the lead during a qualifying round of the boarder cross

Hot shot: Lt Kate Loveridge (16 Regt RA), right, takes aim during the patrol race



MALE soldiers are not used to being beaten on the ski slopes by a woman but at this year's Exercise Spartan Hike it was a slight loss from Aberdeen who left them standing at the gate.

OCdt Shona Robertson, of Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps (UOTC), came away from the French Alpine resort of Serre Chevalier with a clean sweep of gold medals and trophies, including a special award for her great level of sportsmanship throughout.

Being in the UOTC for the past two years has enabled

the former member of the British Alpine ski team to compete in Exercise Spartan Hike – the Land Command (UK), Northern Ireland and Territorial Army ski championships.

The 24-year-old began skiing at the age of eight and later became one of Britain's top women competitors, gaining 24th place in the grand slalom event at the 1997 World Alpine ski championships.

University commitments have so far prevented Robertson from competing in the Army championships.



Leading by example: LCpl Mac McGill (1 GS Regt RLC) tackles the giant slalom

Alpine championships

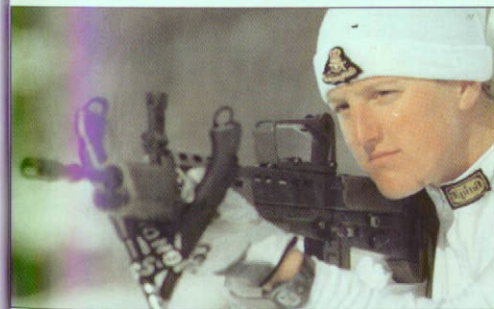
EVENTUAL Inter-Unit champions 1 General Support Regiment RLC dominated the Army Alpine championships at Serre Chevalier, France, from day one.

The tournament, sponsored by Wilson Hogg Robinson, began with the individual grand slalom and a victory for Cpl Mac McGill (1 GS Regt RLC), who narrowly beat Army team captain Capt Sacha Zvegintzov (2 Regt AAC) for the gold.

Spurred on by McGill's success, the loggies went on to record a string of victories, including first place in the team grand slalom.

Despite missing out on team victory, Zvegintzov was rarely off the winner's podium. Victories in the individual slalom and super G ensured he retained the men's individual title. Capt Ian Large (AGC (SPS)) finished second and newcomer Cfn Mike Atkinson (2 Regt AAC) third.

Lt Emily Keats (4 Regt RA) collected the women's trophy.



Picture: Maj Jim Gallagher

Spartan Hike

AFTER watching Lt Kate Loveridge (16 Regt RA) bring her team across the finishing line of this year's Spartan Hike military patrol race in France, it was difficult to believe that just two months before she had never been on a pair of Nordic skis.

The largely novice and all-female team from 16 Regiment RA completed the 20km course, which involved taking skis off and climbing along mountain ridges, carrying a rifle and 40kg rucksack, firing on two ranges and completing physical and mental command tasks.

The team won a clutch of gold and silver medals and were the Regular Army women's Nordic champions.

FIXTURES

Your sporting guide to March...

ANGLING: 5 – Army match (TBC).

ARCHERY: 11 – Inter-Services national indoor championships.

ATHLETICS: 2 – Inter-Services cross-country (RAF Halton); 4 – Spidernet Pafos marathon, half marathon and fun run (Cyprus); 6 – Tsada village run (Cyprus); 18 – TA half marathon championships (Fleet).

BADMINTON: 17-18 – Army v Army past; 24-28 – Inter-Services championships (Faslane, Scotland).

BASKETBALL: 2-3 – Inter-Services championships (HMS Nelson); 23 – Army minor, major and women's finals (Grantham).

BOXING: 8 – Army Minor Units finals (Aldershot); 16-17 – ABA senior quarter and semi-finals (Liverpool); 30 – ABA senior finals (Barnsley).

EQUITATION: 4 – Staff college and RMAS drag hunt point-to-point (Larkhill); 9 – Grand Military Gold Cup (Sandown Park).

FOOTBALL: 6 – TA v Cambridge University (Cambridge); 7 – I/S Army v RAF (Aldershot); 8 – I/S Women v RAF (Aldershot); 10 – Youth v Wiltshire (Away); 14 – I/S Army v Royal Navy (Away), Women v Royal Navy (Away); 18 – Youth v Scottish Youth (Aldershot); 20 – Army v Wiltshire (Aldershot); 24 – Youth v Gloucester (Aldershot); 25 – Youth v Hampshire (Aldershot).

JUDO: 3 – Inter-Services championships (HMS Nelson).

LAWN TENNIS: 10 – Inter-Services B championships (Aldershot); 17 – Army v Somerset B (Aldershot); 18 – Army v Bourne Club (Farnham).

MARTIAL ARTS: 17 – Army Open championships (Fox Gymnasium, Aldershot).

MODERN PENTATHLON: 10-11 – Army tetrathlon championships (RMAS).

NETBALL: 8-9 – Inter-Services championships (TBC).

ORIENTEERING: 22 – Army Inter-Unit night orienteering championships.

ROWING: 3 – Women's head (London); 10 – Kingston head (London); 17 – Head of the river race (London); 18 – Veterans head of the river race (London); 31 – Sculler's head (Cyprus).

RUGBY LEAGUE: 3 – Inter-Unit nines (Chatham).

RUGBY UNION: 1-2 – Army v Northampton (Northampton); 13 – Army v Bristol (Clifton); 21 – Army v Wasps (Aldershot); 26 – Army v Harlequins (Aldershot).

SQUASH: 8 – Army v Aldermaston 1 (Away); 12 – Vets v Runnymede (Aldershot); 22 – Army v Reflex Fitness 2 (Aldershot); 26 – Vets v Greenacre 1 (Away).

TARGET SHOOTING: 24 – Inter-Division final (Bordon); 25 – Inter-Unit final (Bordon).

TENNIS & RACKETS: 11 – Army v Hardwick (Home), Army v Prested Hall (Away); 24 – Army v Newmarket (Away).

WINTER SPORTS: 1-3 – Alpine Army Scottish championships (Cairngorm).

Got a date for the diary? E-mail your fixtures to fixtures@soldiermagazine.co.uk

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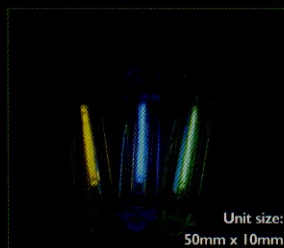
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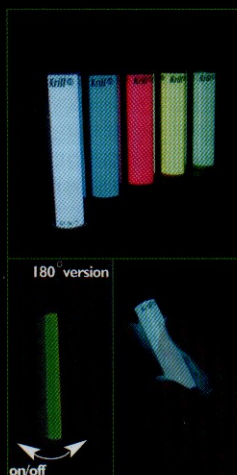


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TUG OF WAR

Picture: Graeme Main



Golden age: Maj Keith Layton (16 CS Med Regt), left, and Capt David Wynn (RAMC)

Duo eye world honours

Pullers prove age is no barrier to success

DESPITE having a combined age of 86, Capt David Wynn (RAMC) and Maj Keith Layton (16 CS Med Regt) could teach young soldiers a thing or two about going "on the pull".

Their knowledge of local night clubs and chat-up lines may be lacking but their expertise in the finer points of tug of war is second-to-none.

At the national indoor tug of war championships, both men finished on the winners' podium.

Pulling for Sandhurst TOW Club in the final of the 640kg class, Wynn became

the first military person to win a gold medal at a national championship.

Competing with the British Aerospace Corporation team, Layton picked up two medals – a bronze in the catchweight class and silver at 720kg.

The pair are now hoping to emulate their success at next year's indoor world championships.

Wynn told *Soldier*: "It has taken me many years to achieve this standard of fitness and competence and I still believe that despite my age I have a lot to offer."

"I am proud to be the first soldier to win gold at national level but it is my ambition to achieve gold in any of the indoor or outdoor world championships."

RESULTS SERVICE

BOXING: Fighters from HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade and 216 Signal Squadron beat 7 Company, Coldstream Guards 5-2 in the semi-finals of the Army boxing championships.

The Colchester-based team now face 9 Parachute Squadron RE in the final.

FOOTBALL: The Army's fixture against Dorset Women fell foul of bad weather and was stopped on the hour with the scores tied at one apiece. Gnr Hazel Savage scored the Army's goal.

SQUASH: For the eighth successive year WO2 Gary Clarke (REME) won the Army squash championships. Other winners

included: Women's Open – Capt Karen Banks (RLC); Men's over 45 – Barry Featherstone (retired AGC); Men's over 40 – Lt Col Robbie Robinson (RLC); Men's over 35 – Capt Chris Wilson (AAC); Men's under 25 – Pte Michael Grehan (RLC).

TUG OF WAR: The Army recorded a clean-sweep at the Inter-Services indoor tug of war championships, with 4 R Irish winning both the 600 and 640 kilo categories.

Irish dominance continued in the Army championships, with 4 R Irish winning the 600, 640 and 680kg events. Other winners included 26 Regt RA (560kg) and DMSTC (women's 560kg).

SHORTS

Going the whole Hogg

FUNDING from sponsors Wilsons Hogg Robinson has helped the Army Winter Sports Association to again prove itself as a force in the top European sporting events.

Winter sports secretary Maj Paul Ford said: "The support we receive from Wilsons Hogg Robinson enables us to run a range of winter sports competitions and support our top athletes at Olympic and international level."

"The sponsorship enables soldiers and officers to develop their personal qualities while taking part in challenging winter sports."

Tall order for sailors

VOLUNTEERS are required to crew the Army entry in the 2001 Cutty Sark Tallships Race. The Joint Services Adventure Sail Training Centre is entering a Nicholson 55ft yacht and requires soldiers of all levels of sailing ability to take part. For further information contact Capt Charlie Roberts on 01526 323553.

Terriers savage rivals

FOR the second successive year the Territorial Army's top marksmen proved that they are a match for anyone when they took top honours at the international Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms Meeting (AFSAM) at Little Rock in Kansas.

British forces completed a clean sweep in the competition – contested by 13 countries – with the Regular Army finishing second and the Royal Navy in third place.

Irish eyes are smiling

BOXERS from the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards had to complete an impressive comeback against 35 Engineer Regiment to win the title of Army Boxing Champions (Germany).

Despite losing the first three bouts of the evening the Irish Guards ran out eventual 6-3 winners.

CONTACT US

WITH Hull City facing liquidation and Manchester United forming an alliance with the New York Yankees, do you think that English football is neglecting its grass roots?

Soldier's sports desk welcomes your sports stories, results and opinions.

Write to: Andy Simms, Sports Editor, *Soldier*, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

Acceptance or rejection of copy is the decision of the Sports Editor, who reserves the right to amend for length, clarity or style.

At-a-glance guide to the 2001 award

IN this special section we print a complete guide to the 2001 pay award, including updated allowances and charges.

To help people understand what they are getting under the new Pay 2000 arrangements, transitional daily and annual rates are printed on the right. These are based on the old system so you can compare them with what you have received during the past year. On the following pages you will find your 2001 scales, which you will receive on May 1, backdated to April 1.

Length of service increments (LSIs): LSIs are being absorbed in Pay 2000 and so will not be paid to those transferring to the new structure from April 1. LSIs will, however, continue to be paid to other ranks personnel who are not transferring to Pay 2000 this year. Those rates will increase by 3.7 per cent.

New entrant rates: The daily rates of the new entrant salary (Army only) for those under 17 years will be £21.92 and the new entrant salary (Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and those aged 17 years and over in the Army) will be £28.34.

Medical and dental officers: As in the past, the AFPRB will submit separate recommendations for the pay of medical and dental officers, taking account of the recommendations of the Doctors and Dentists Review Body. The AFPRB supplementary report is expected within two to three months.

● Turn to Page 56

How it affects you . . .

LCpl Sally Keene, AGC(SPS)
Job - clerk.

Under the current arrangements, she is classified as Scale A, Band 1, Class 1, giving her a daily rate of pay of £44.38.

She lives in Grade 4 accommodation, for which she pays 60p a day. Her food charge comes to £3.23 a day.

Pay 2000 transition: From April 1 Sally will be classed as Level 7 (L7), lower range, and receive £44.38 a day.

From May 1 she will receive £46.03 (backdated to April 1). Her accommodation charge will reduce to 58p and her food charge increase by 4p to £3.27.

Sally was promoted lance corporal on Oct 4, 1999 (her seniority date), and will move to Level 8 (L8) on Oct 4, 2002, when she will become due for a further increment.



THE rates in this table are for personnel who will be transferring to Pay 2000. Non-Pay 2000 scales have been increased by 3.7 per cent.

PAY RATES FOR OFFICERS

(In lieu of the rates shown on the Pay Warrant 1964, Article 176)

RANK	LEVEL	£ DAILY	£ ANNUAL
Brig +4	Level 5	195.86	71488.90
Brig +3	Level 4	193.86	70758.90
Brig +2	Level 3	191.86	70028.90
Brig +1	Level 2	189.86	69298.90
Brig OA	Level 1	187.86	68568.90
Col +8	Level 9	173.11	63185.15
Col +7	Level 8	171.04	62429.60
Col +6	Level 7	168.98	61677.70
Col +5	Level 6	166.92	60925.80
Col +4	Level 5	164.86	60173.90
Col +3	Level 4	162.80	59422.00
Col +2	Level 3	160.74	58670.10
Col +1	Level 2	158.68	57918.20
Col OA	Level 1	156.62	57166.30
Lt Col +8	Level 9	149.50	54567.50
Lt Col +7	Level 8	147.71	53914.15
Lt Col +6	Level 7	145.93	53264.45
Lt Col +5	Level 6	144.15	52614.75
Lt Col +4	Level 5	142.37	51965.05
Lt Col +3	Level 4	140.59	51315.35
Lt Col +2	Level 3	138.81	50665.65
Lt Col +1	Level 2	137.03	50015.95
Lt Col OA	Level 1	135.25	49366.25
Maj +8	Level 9	114.85	41920.25
Maj +7	Level 8	112.48	41055.20
Maj +6	Level 7	110.11	40190.15
Maj +5	Level 6	107.74	39325.10
Maj +4	Level 5	105.37	38460.05
Maj +3	Level 4	103.00	37595.00
Maj +2	Level 3	100.63	36729.95
Maj +1	Level 2	98.26	35864.90
Maj OA	Level 1	95.89	34999.85
Capt +8	Level 9	90.54	33047.10
Capt +7	Level 8	89.51	32671.15
Capt +6	Level 7	88.48	32295.20
Capt +5	Level 6	86.42	31543.30
Capt +4	Level 5	84.36	30791.40
Capt +3	Level 4	82.30	30039.50
Capt +2	Level 3	80.24	29287.60
Capt +1	Level 2	78.18	28535.70
Capt OA	Level 1	76.12	27783.80
Lt +4	Level 10	65.98	24082.70
Lt +3	Level 9	64.41	23509.65
Lt +2	Level 8	62.84	22936.60
Lt +1	Level 7	61.27	22363.55
Lt OA	Level 6	59.70	21790.50
2Lt	Level 5	49.66	18125.90
N/A to Army	Level 4	44.00	16060.00
SSLC +1	Level 3	37.47	13676.55
SSLC OA	Level 2	34.33	12530.45
Off Cdt**	Level 1	31.41	11464.65
U Cad +3*	Level 4	36.11	13180.15
U Cad +2*	Level 3	33.08	12074.20
U Cad +1*	Level 2	29.46	10752.90
U Cad OA	Level 1	25.67	9369.55

WELBEXIAN OFFICER CADETS

	£ DAILY	£ ANNUAL
YEAR 3***	36.11	13180.15
YEAR 2	33.08	12074.20
YEAR 1	25.67	9369.55

* These rates include an educational grant of £6.21 a day, in accordance with Article 630 of the Pay Warrant 1964.

** Off Cdt will remain on Level 1 rates of pay until commissioning.

*** Current Welbexian Year 3 Officer Cadets transferring to Pay 2000 on April 1, 2001 will receive a specially determined rate of pay of £36.71 per day.

PAY RATES FOR OTHER RANKS

HIGHER RANGE

RANK	RANGE 5	£ DAILY	£ ANNUAL
WO1	Level 7	93.58	34156.70
	Level 6	92.07	33605.55
	Level 5	90.56	33054.40
	Level 4	89.05	32503.25
	Level 3	87.55	31955.75
	Level 2	86.14	31441.10
	Level 1	84.56	30864.40
WO2 (levels 5-9 only)	RANGE 4		
	Level 9	87.26	31849.90
	Level 8	86.05	31408.25
	Level 7	84.83	30962.95
	Level 6	83.61	30517.65
	Level 5	81.81	29860.65
SSgt (levels 1-7 only)	Level 4	79.99	29196.35
	Level 3	78.18	28535.70
	Level 2	76.36	27871.40
	Level 1	74.55	27210.75
Sgt	RANGE 3		
	Level 7	74.51	27196.15
	Level 6	73.14	26696.10
	Level 5	71.77	26196.05
	Level 4	70.40	25696.00
	Level 3	69.52	25374.80
	Level 2	67.81	24750.65
	Level 1	66.09	24122.85
Cpl	RANGE 2		
	Level 7	66.96	24440.40
	Level 6	65.53	23918.45
	Level 5	64.20	23433.00
	Level 4	62.67	22874.55
	Level 3	61.24	22352.60
	Level 2	57.81	21100.65
	Level 1	54.36	19841.40
LCpl (levels 5-9 only)	RANGE 1		
	Level 9	58.39	21312.35
	Level 8	55.66	20315.90
	Level 7	53.27	19443.55
	Level 6	50.94	18593.10
	Level 5	48.58	17731.70
	Level 4	43.92	16030.80
Pte (levels 1-7 only)	Level 3	40.85	14910.25
	Level 2	37.01	13508.65
	Level 1	31.89	11639.85

These are your transitional rates, based on your pay scales under the Pay 2000 system. You will receive them until May 1, when the new 2001 AFPRB pay award kicks in and is backdated to April 1.

PAY RATES FOR OTHER RANKS

LOWER RANGE

RANK	RANGE 5	£ DAILY	£ ANNUAL
WO1	Level 7	86.14	31441.10
	Level 6	84.56	30864.40
	Level 5	83.13	30342.45
	Level 4	81.62	29791.30
	Level 3	80.11	29240.15
	Level 2	78.60	28689.00
	Level 1	77.09	28137.85
WO2 (levels 5-9 only)	RANGE 4		
	Level 9	79.95	29181.75
	Level 8	78.18	28535.70
	Level 7	76.37	27875.05
	Level 6	74.55	27210.75
	Level 5	72.73	26546.45
SSgt (levels 1-7 only)	Level 4	71.75	26188.75
	Level 3	70.12	25593.80
	Level 2	67.91	24787.15
	Level 1	66.84	24396.60
Sgt	RANGE 3		
	Level 7	68.40	24966.00
	Level 6	66.84	24396.60
	Level 5	65.51	23911.15
	Level 4	64.35	23487.75
	Level 3	63.71	23254.15
	Level 2	62.14	22681.10
	Level 1	60.57	22108.05
Cpl	RANGE 2		
	Level 7	59.81	21830.65
	Level 6	59.00	21535.00
	Level 5	58.30	21279.50
	Level 4	57.43	20961.95
	Level 3	55.74	20345.10
	Level 2	54.78	19994.70
	Level 1	52.34	19104.10
LCpl (levels 5-9 only)	RANGE 1		
	Level 9	48.10	17556.50
	Level 8	46.41	16939.65
	Level 7	44.38	16198.70
	Level 6	42.55	15530.75
	Level 5	40.85	14910.25
	Level 4	38.77	14151.05
Pte (levels 1-7 only)	Level 3	35.64	13008.60
	Level 2	33.77	12326.05
	Level 1	31.89	11639.85

NEW ENTRANT RATE OF PAY

	£ DAILY	£ ANNUAL
Level 2 - Aged 17 or over	28.34	10344.10
Level 1 - Aged under 17	21.92	8000.80

New incentives will aim to keep pilots, aircrew in Army



THE AFPRB considered pay measures to address aircrew retention in two stages and its recommendations for increases in flying pay and the introduction of certain financial retention incentives were accepted in full by the Government.

Flying pay

The enhanced rate of flying pay for experienced pilots will be increased to £34.22 a day and there will also be an enhanced rate of flying pay for experienced navigators-observers (that is, officers at the rank of major and below who have received the top rate of flying pay for four years,

of £32.15 a day).

The top rate of flying pay will be increased to £29.04 a day and the equivalent rate for airmen aircrew will increase to £15.56 a day.

Tapered rates for lieutenant colonels will be £30.07 a day on appointment and up to six years. After six years it will be £28 a day and after eight years £25.93 a day. All other rates of flying pay should be increased by 3.7 per cent

Financial retention incentives

Financial retention incentives (FRI) to be introduced will be paid on top of flying pay.

AN incentive scheme for pilots and aircrew is being introduced for two years, with effect from April 1. It offers two annual payments – on April 1, 2001 and April 1, 2002 – to eligible personnel in all three Services who, on April 1, still have a minimum of two years to serve before their normal retirement date.

The financial retention incentive will be paid as a holding measure until the outcome of a comprehensive review of aircrew retention measures is announced.

Payment of each annual bonus will be subject to personnel not having applied

for early or optional retirement that would result in their leaving before April 1, 2003. The levels of the increments are (all figures are gross):

- £10,000 for major and captain pilots and navigators at and beyond their immediate pension point (IPP) and other rank pilots after 16 years' reckonable service or age 37, whichever is later.

- A graduated bonus scheme for specialist aircrew pilots and navigators of £10,000 at age 38-40, £7,500 for age 41-49 and £5,000 for age 50-53rd birthday.

- £5,000 for rear-crew officers at

major and captain level at and beyond their IPP.

- A graduated bonus scheme for SA rear-crew officers of £5,000 at age 38-40, £3,750 for age 41-49 and £2,500 for age 50-53rd birthday.

- £5,000 for airmen aircrew at the IPP (22 years' reckonable service) and over.

- £5,000 for lieutenant colonel at or beyond their IPP.

- £4,000 for colonels on appointment and up to and including the fifth year in rank. For Army and RAF officers only, thereafter a sum of £2,000.

● From Page 54

Reserves: Rates of basic pay for members of the Reserve Forces will also increase by 3.7 per cent. Bounties for reserves will be:

Volunteer Reserve Forces training bounty

Year 1	£330
Year 2	£725
Year 3	£1,115
Year 5	£1,290

Ex-Regular officers and other ranks training bounty £290

University units bounty

Year 1	£110
Year 2	£135
Year 3	£160

High readiness reserve bounty £330

● Turn to Page 58

How Pay 2000 affects you . . .



LCpl Lee Staniforth, Royal Signals

Job – Tele tech (systems).

Under the current arrangements, he is classified as Scale A, Band 3, Class 3, giving him a daily rate of pay of £49.59.

He lives in Grade 1 accommodation, for which he pays 1.62p a day. His food charge comes to £3.23 a day.

Pay 2000 transition: From April 1 he will be classed as Level 6 (L6), higher range, and receive £50.94 a day.

From May 1 he will receive £52.83 (backdated to April 1). His accommodation charge will rise 2p to £1.64 and his food charge increase by 4p to £3.27.

Lee was promoted lance corporal on Jan 28, 2001 (his seniority date), and will move to Level 7 (L7) on Jan 28, 2003, when he will become due for a further increment.

2001 SCALES

OFFICERS

Brig	Level 5	203.11
	Level 4	201.03
	Level 3	198.96
	Level 2	196.89
	Level 1	194.81
Col	Level 9	179.51
	Level 8	177.37
	Level 7	175.23
	Level 6	173.10
	Level 5	170.96
	Level 4	168.82
	Level 3	166.69
	Level 2	164.55
Lt Col	Level 9	155.03
	Level 8	153.17
	Level 7	151.33
	Level 6	149.48
	Level 5	147.64
	Level 4	145.79
	Level 3	143.95
	Level 2	142.10
Maj	Level 9	119.10
	Level 8	116.64
	Level 7	114.18
	Level 6	111.73
	Level 5	109.27
	Level 4	106.81
	Level 3	104.35
	Level 2	101.90
Capt	Level 9	93.89
	Level 8	92.82
	Level 7	91.75
	Level 6	89.62
	Level 5	87.48
	Level 4	85.35
	Level 3	83.21
	Level 2	81.07
Lt	Level 10	68.42
	Level 9	66.79
	Level 8	65.17
	Level 7	63.54
	Level 6	61.91
	Level 5	51.50
	Level 4	45.63
	Level 3	38.86
2Lt	Level 2	35.60
	Level 1	32.57
Off Cdt	Level 4	37.45
	Level 3	34.30
	Level 2	30.55
U Cad	Level 1	26.62

WELBEXIAN OFFICER CADETS

Year 3	37.45
Year 2	34.30
Year 1	26.62

Current Welbexian Year 3 Officer Cadets will receive a specially determined rate of £38.07 a day.

How Pay 2000 affects you . . .

Cpl Mark Ballantyne, RLC

Job – Photographer.

Under the current arrangements, he is classified as Scale C, Band 1, Class 1 (plus nine years' Length of Service increment), giving him a daily rate of pay of £52.72.

He lives in Grade 2, Type B, part-furnished married quarters, for which he pays 4.55p a day.

Pay 2000 transition: From April 1 Mark will be classed as Level 2 (L2), lower range, and receive £54.78 a day.

From May 1 he will receive £56.81 (backdated to April 1). His married quarter charge will rise 4p to £4.59.

Mark was promoted corporal on March 1, 1998 (his seniority date), and will move to Level 3 (L3) on March 1, 2002, when he will become due for a further increment (taking his daily rate of pay to £57.80).



2001 SCALES

OTHER RANKS

HIGHER RANGE

Range 5		
WO1	Level 7	97.04
	Level 6	95.48
	Level 5	93.91
	Level 4	92.35
	Level 3	90.78
	Level 2	89.33
	Level 1	87.69
Range 4		
WO2 (levels 5-9)	Level 9	90.49
	Level 8	89.23
	Level 7	87.97
	Level 6	86.71
	Level 5	84.84
	Level 4	82.95
	Level 3	81.07
SSgt (levels 1-7)	Level 2	79.19
	Level 1	77.31
Range 3		
Sgt	Level 7	77.26
	Level 6	75.84
	Level 5	74.42
	Level 4	73.00
	Level 3	72.09
	Level 2	70.31
	Level 1	68.54
Range 2		
Cpl	Level 7	69.43
	Level 6	67.95
	Level 5	66.57
	Level 4	64.99
	Level 3	63.51
	Level 2	59.95
Pte (levels 1-7)	Level 1	56.37
Range 1		
LCpl (levels 5-9)	Level 9	60.55
	Level 8	57.72
	Level 7	55.25
	Level 6	52.83
	Level 5	50.38
	Level 4	45.55
	Level 3	42.36
Pte (levels 1-7)	Level 2	38.38
	Level 1	33.07

LOWER RANGE

Range 5		
WO1	Level 7	89.33
	Level 6	87.69
	Level 5	86.20
	Level 4	84.64
	Level 3	83.07
	Level 2	81.51
	Level 1	79.95
Range 4		
WO2 (levels 5-9)	Level 9	82.91
	Level 8	81.07
	Level 7	79.19
	Level 6	77.31
	Level 5	75.43
	Level 4	74.41
	Level 3	72.71
SSgt (levels 1-7)	Level 2	70.42
	Level 1	69.31
Range 3		
Sgt	Level 7	70.93
	Level 6	69.31
	Level 5	67.93
	Level 4	66.73
	Level 3	66.06
	Level 2	64.44
	Level 1	62.81
Range 2		
Cpl	Level 7	62.02
	Level 6	61.19
	Level 5	60.46
	Level 4	59.56
	Level 3	57.80
	Level 2	56.81
Pte (levels 1-7)	Level 1	54.28
Range 1		
LCpl (levels 5-9)	Level 9	49.88
	Level 8	48.13
	Level 7	46.03
	Level 6	44.13
	Level 5	42.36
	Level 4	40.20
	Level 3	36.96
Pte (levels 1-7)	Level 2	35.02
	Level 1	33.07

HOUSING CHARGES

Service family accommodation (SFA) charges: Increases in SFA will range from 5.7 per cent to zero, with the higher increases in basic rent for the largest and best-quality accommodation and proportionately lower increases for poorer quality accommodation.

Single living accommodation (SLA) charges: Increases in charges for SLA will range from 3 per cent on the basic rent for the highest grade to zero in the basic rent for Grade 4 accommodation.

Water and sewerage charges: Water and sewerage charges for all SFA will be reduced from between £234 and £263 to between £212 and £241 a year and the water charge for SLA will be reduced to £73 a year.

The net effect of these reductions is that variations in overall charges for SFA will range from an increase of £4.90 a week for the best quality accommodation to a decrease of 42p a week for the poorest quality quarters.

Variations in overall SLA charges will range from an increase of 70p a week for the best quality accommodation to a decrease of 14p a week for that of the poorest quality.

Garage rent: The charge for garage rent will increase to £193.45 a year.

Food charges: To increase to £22.89 a week for single personnel and £16.73 for married unaccompanied personnel.

How Pay 2000 affects you . . .

Capt Debbie Farleigh, RLC

Her current daily rate of pay is £88.48.

She lives in Grade 3 accommodation, for which she pays £2.27 a day. Her food charge comes to £3.23 a day.

Pay 2000 transition: From April 1 Debbie will be classed as Level 7 (L7) and receive £88.48 a day.

From May 1 she will receive £91.75 (backdated to April 1). Her accommodation charge will stay the same at £2.27 and her food charge increase by 4p to £3.27.

Debbie was promoted captain on Dec 10, 1994 (her seniority date), and will move to Level 8 (L8) on Dec 10, 2001, when she will become due for a further increment (taking her daily rate of pay to £92.82).



● From Page 56

The **Sponsored Reserve Bounty** is based on the training bounty, with rates varying between 50 per cent and 100 per cent depending on training commitment.

Call-out gratuity £395

All other reserves bounties not specifically mentioned above will be increased on a commensurate basis.

R Irish (HS)(PT) bounty:

Year 1	£460
Year 2	£860
Year 3	£1,260
Year 5 and subsequent years	£1,450

Para pay up 3.7 per cent

Other specialist pay

Diving pay: All rates of diving pay (including reserve band rates) have been increased by 3.7 per cent. Army compressed-air divers will get the category

two rate of diving pay and unit diving supervisors the category three rate.

Parachute pay: All rates of parachute pay (including reserve band rates) increase by 3.7 per cent.

All other rates of specialist pay (including reserve bands) will increase by 3.7 per cent.

Non-specialist pay: To increase by 3.7 percent.

Payment for work in unpleasant conditions (PWUC) and payment for work of an objectionable nature (PWON): PWUC to increase from 71p to £1 a day; PWON rates to increase by 3.7 per cent.

Longer separated service allowance (LSSA) and longer service at sea bonus (LSSB): Basic, middle and upper rates of LSSA and LSSB to increase by 3.7 per cent.

Northern Ireland resident supplement (NIRS): To increase by 3.7 per cent.

Other compensatory allowances: All other rates for compensatory allowances will increase by 3.7 per cent.

How Pay 2000 affects you . . .



Local Sgt Tommy Lord, Para

Under the current arrangements, he is classified as Scale C, Band 2, Class 1 (plus 12 years' Length of Service increment), giving him a daily rate of pay of £57.81. He also receives £3.98 parachute pay.

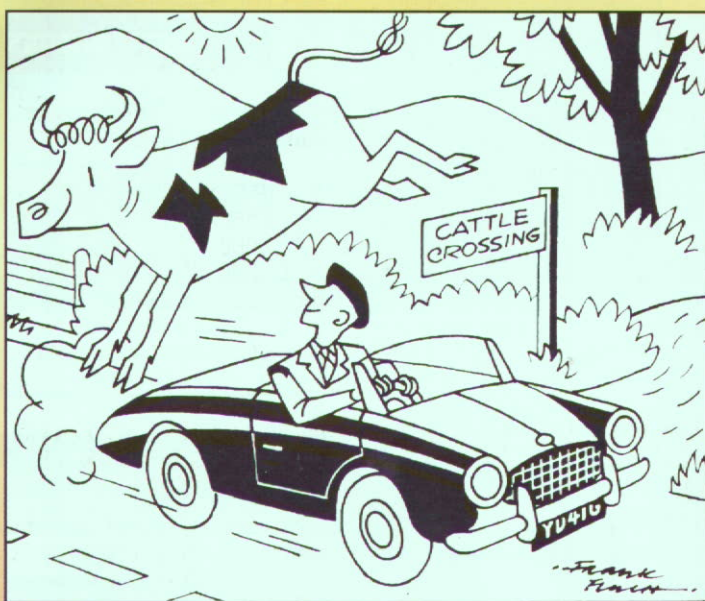
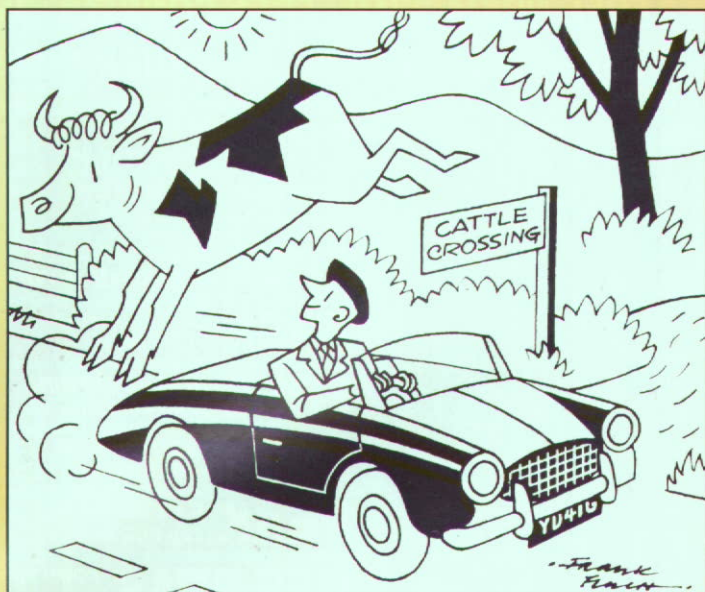
He is married but unaccompanied and receives the Over-37 package. His food charge (married unaccompanied) comes to £2.36 a day.

Pay 2000 transition: From April 1 Tommy will be classed as Level 2 (L2), higher range, and receive £57.81 a day.

From May 1 he will receive £59.95 (backdated to April 1). His para pay will rise to £4.13 and his food charge to £2.39.

Tommy was promoted corporal on March 1, 1998 (his seniority date), and will move to Level 3 (L3) on March 1, 2002, when he will become due for a further increment (taking his daily rate of pay to £63.51).

No 712



How observant are you?

WIN £100!

Frank Finch has made ten changes in detail to one of his drawings taken from our archive. Circle the differences in the lower image, cut out the whole panel, add your name and address and send to HOAY 712, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, GU11 2DU by April 2.

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

Do not include anything else in your envelope.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will

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

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

Name : (Give initials and rank or title)

Address :

January competition (No 710): First correct entry drawn was from Mrs J Hopegood, 80 PC Sqn, 29 Regt RLC, Duke of Gloucester Barracks, Cirencester, who wins £100. Runners-up Miss H Morris, of Cramlington, Northumberland and Maj J F Knopp, BATSUB, Price Barracks, BFPO 12 each receive a £10 gift voucher. The ten differences were: tent flag; shape of hill slope, centre; shouting soldier's cane; shape of rocks; shape of centre bush, right; paddle; water drops; pattern of water below "Maverick"; rock below canoe; shape of canoe, right.



Freeze frame

"The platoon didn't usually enter *Soldier* contests, but this month you could win a night out with Britney Spears"

Write your own funny caption for the photograph, right, first published in *Soldier* in May 1950. The best, in the opinion of the Editor, will win a prize from our silver logo collection. Usual rules apply and entries should reach us by March 30.

Our January winner is WO2 (AQMS) S Bennett, 2 Div ECIT(E), York, with "No amount of clever disguises convinced the Handlebar Moustache Society to grant membership".

We also liked "I'm starting to get the hang of these chin-ups, Sarge" (Sgt R N Hall, ACIO Luton); "In cold weather, soldiers on parade would go to any length



to stop a dribbling nose" (Pte Waters, Minden Coy, East and West Riding Regt, Wakefield (TA) LI); "Very funny! Who's the joker with the super-glue?" (Sgt A J Blenkhorn RLC, RAF Gibraltar); and SSgt Mills's "The problem with these new gas masks is women find it difficult to keep their mouths shut". He's with J Bty, 3 RHA in Bosnia, which is probably just as well.



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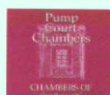
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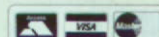
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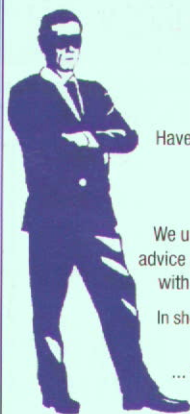
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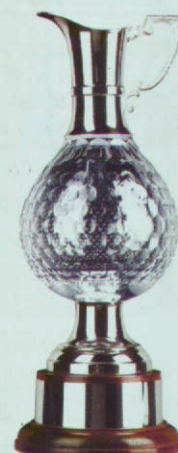
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3 FEBRUARY 2001

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The auction will close at midday on April 2.

SEARCHLINE

Radio Tp, 76 Sqn, 4 ADTR RCT: Reunion planned for former or current radio operators and RSIs. Contact Steve Muhammed at 16 CS Medical Regiment, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester or tel 01206 78 2763 or e-mail steve@airbornersi.fsnet.co.uk

38 Squadron RCT, Mulheim: Reunion planned. Details from Dave England, 19 Westfield Ave, Eggborough, N Yorks DN14 0TH or e-mail Don Revie Stand@aol.com

Joe Glover, ex-RAOC, who spent part of his National Service in **Malaya 1957-59** at 28th Commonwealth Bde, Taiping, (Old Convent) would like to hear from old colleagues. E-mail glover@joe56.fsnet.co.uk, tel 01922 458717.

Calling **Robert Cobb**, R Signals, **ex-56 Sqn ATC, Woolwich 1960s**. Former colleagues who take part in reunions, produce newsletter, keen for news of Bob or any other past 56ers. Contact Marten Bowtle, 107 St Williams Way, Norwich NR7 0AN, tel 01603 701779, e-mail 56phoenix@mbowtle.fsnet.co.uk

Susan in Canada is trying to locate an old friend she knew in Edinburgh. **Robert F Stonier** was stationed in Catterick in 1992 and Susan thinks he may now be living in Durham/Yorkshire. E-mail sma457@aol.com

Mike and Amanda Gauntlett are asked to contact Julia, who has lost touch and is about to move again. Contact **J Carter-Meadows**, 42 Queens Rd, Ryde, IoW PO33 3BQ, tel 01983 611285.

Calling **Cpl Pete Rhodes** and anyone who



Picture: Steve Dock

Going nowhere fast: Lt Nigel Anderson, left, and SSgt Kerry Gospel, both of the RLC, spent up to four hours a day for 20 days on a pair of indoor rowing machines. Their mission was to clock up a million metres for BLISS, the national charity for sick and premature babies.

The two, serving with 9 Supply Regiment, RLC at Chippenham in Wilts, completed the row and reckon they will be able

to hand over up to £5,000 in sponsorship.

Their challenge took the form of a road show which visited 20 locations, mostly Army units, around the country. At each venue they set themselves a target of 50km. Nigel and Kerry also used the event to raise the profile of rowing as a sport within their corps.

If you want to send a donation to the charity, contact BLISS on 0207 8209471.

served with **Jeff Midghall** (15 Sqn RCT, Colchester 1993-95). Jeff's wife plans a party for him and reunion with old friends. Tel 0151 3558122, e-mail louise@epcoatings.co.uk

John W Archer seeks locations of **Second World War searchlight** sites in Norfolk and Suffolk, plus any other information. Replies to 22 Station Road, Earsham, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 2TS.

1 Royal Gloucestershire Hussars soldiers (led by Capt Charles Risby) who took part in the **Vienna Tattoo 1946-47** are asked to contact Anthony G Hayes, 18330 Hummingbird Drive, Penn Valley, California, 95946 USA or e-mail aghayes@lakewww.net

Joseph Patrick Wynn, **1 RNF (1954-57)** seeks old chum **Albert Bagley**, last known address in Newcastle-under-Lyme. Tel 0191 2634807.

If you were in the **Outer Hebrides 1980-81**,

please contact Sarah Morrison (née Harris) e-mail sarah_m_morrison@hotmail.co.uk

St Pancras Regiment Old Comrades Association would like to hear from anyone (or relatives of) who served with 19 (County of London) Bn, The London Regt (St Pancras) (1908-35); 33 (St Pancras) Anti-Aircraft Bn RE (1935-40); 33 (St Pancras) Searchlight Regt RA (1940-45); 632 Regt RA (1945-47); 568 (St Pancras) Searchlight Regt RA (1947-55); 512 Light Anti-Aircraft Regt RA (1955-61). Contact C Crane, 14 Chichester Road, Horns Cross, Greenhithe, Kent DA9 9JT.

Military and family history sought on First World War brothers-in-arms. **Francis (Frank) Diggle**, WR31438, late RE (IW&D), married Hannah MacDonald Oct 13, 1917, discharged Dec 17, 1918. Re-enlisted with Welsh Regt Sept 10, 1919. Also **Pte James Henry Diggle**, 4490, served with 7 Bn, The King's (Liverpool Regt), fell Dec 23, 1916, buried at

Useful numbers

Army Benevolent Fund 020 7591 2000
Army Families Advice Bureau 01722 436569
Army Welfare Service 01722 436565
Army Families Federation 01980 615525
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association 020 8590 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) 020 8543 6333
Family Escort Service UK 020 7463 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
Regular Forces Employment Association 0207 321 2011
RBL's Legionline 0345 725 725

Challenge Nepal

BLISS, the national charity for the newborn, has organised a fund-raising adventure challenge. Its Trek Nepal event will be held from Oct 25 to Nov 5.

Trekkers need to raise a minimum of £1,200 for the charity. Details from Jackie Glazebrook on 020 7820 9471 as soon as possible.

... and Borneo

A fund-raising Borneo 4x4 challenge is being run by **British Blind Sport** from Oct 17-27. Details from Joan Wade on 01926 424247.

THE **University of Birmingham** is offering a weekend residential course entitled **War in the desert and on horseback**. It will look at the role of cavalry in the First World War and Allenby's Palestine campaign of June 1917 to October 1918.

The course, at the Bishop Mascall Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow, Shropshire, runs over the weekend August 3-5 and will be led by Dr Robert Bushaway.

Closing date for applications is March 30, and the cost is £145. Forms, which must be accompanied by a £25 deposit, are available from Mrs Heather Down, School for Professional and Continuing Education, University of Birmingham, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LL or fax 0121 414 5619.

Vlamertinghe Mil Cemetery, Ypres. Parents were James W Diggle and Sarah E Butler from Chadderton, Oldham. Contact Gabrielle Tsiprou, 11 Midland Terr, Cricklewood NW2 6QH or e-mail gabrielle.t@virgin.net

18 Fd Amb RAMC (Tai Po) and 81 Tp RASC Pack Transport (Sek Kong) 1949: Eddie Orbell arranges reunions and connects old comrades. Queries or details to E R Orbell, 1 Macrae Cres, Kincraig, Kingussie, Inverness-Shire PH21 1NN or tel 01540 651379.

Mark Anthony Stones, ex-sergeant, King's Regt 1993-94, asked to contact A Simpson, 5 Umfrville Dene, Prudhoe, Northumberland NE42 5JF, e-mail sim5boxer@aol.com

Mk 2/3 Ferret 05 CC 29 owned by Robin Craig in Canada. If you have any tales, pictures taken during service, contact him at 825 Cahill Drive, West Unit 171, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 9N7 or e-mail therobincraig@hotmail.com

Samaritans 08457 90 90 90
Service Children's Education 01980 618244
Services Cotswold Centre 01225 810358
SSAFA Forces Help 020 7403 8783
SSAFA Forces Help housing advisory service 01722 436400
Veterans' Advice Unit 08456 020302
Victim Support Western Europe (SSAFA Forces Help) inside Germany 02161 47 2272; from outside Germany 0049 2161 47 2272.
War Pensions Agency 01253 858 858
WRVS 01235 442940



Pride of the Argylls

PTE Iain Pittman, left, and Pte Mark Fenton of the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are among the first soldiers to achieve Scottish Vocational Qualifications (Level 2) in a newly-launched programme to gain civilian recognition for skills and qualifications gained as a soldier.

They were presented with their certificates by Brig Hugh Monro, Com-

mander 52 Lowland Brigade, at Edinburgh Castle.

They, and Pte William Rankin, undertook training and assessment in skills ranging from the maintenance, storage, security and operation of equipment, to effective teamwork and communication.

The week-long course was conducted at Redford Barracks by two Argyll SNCOs.

REUNIONS

REME metalsmiths: Reunion on Mar 10 at SEME Sergeants' Mess. All SNCOs, past and present, invited. Contact SSgt Carl Jones on (civ) 01420 485626 or (mil) 94291 5626.

Regimental Assn Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt (PWRR): London Branch meets every quarter, AGM Mar 30, Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London. Information from Veronica Joel Newton on 020 888 89739.

Queen's Own Yeomanry: 30th anniversary Apr 1. All ranks past and present dinner night, D Sqn (Northumberland Hussars) Mar 31 at RHQ, Fenham Bks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Contact WO2 (SSMV) Len Harbottle on 0191 2342294 (pm), or harbottle@tinyworld.co.uk, or at the TAC Tuesday evenings and most weekends on 0191 2393127.

Korean veterans: Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment celebrating battles of **Alexandria** and **Imjin** with service, parade, lunch in Gloucester on April 7. Former members of the regiment and other Korean veterans and families invited to contact local RGBW association or RHQ on 01452 522682.

Huntleys Platoon Kent ACF: Reunion on April 20, at The Bull Inn, Frant Rd, Tunbridge Wells, 1900. Former members, or anyone associated with the platoon, welcome. Details from Clinton Riley on tel/fax 01892 543150.

56 Squadron ATC Woolwich: Reunion April 28, Pilot's Pals, Biggin Hill. Contact Marten Bowtle, 107 St Williams Way, Norwich NR7 0AN, tel 01603 701779 or e-mail him at 56phoenix@mbowtle.fsnet.co.uk

1, 4 and 7 Royal Tank Regts: Annual reunion at St John's Swallow Hotel, Solihull May 4-6. Former RTR, REME or attached personnel welcome. Contact Roger Rathmell on 01752 893495 or Geoff Bourne on 01752 880527.

RAMC/RADC WO's and Sgts' (Past and Present) Dinner Club: Reunion on May 5 at RMAS, Camberley. Contact Corps RSM, P&P Dinner Club, DMSTC, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot GU12 5RQ or 01252 340252

Combined Services Assn (Crewe): Reunion on May 11 for Service and ex-Service organisations, Crosville Social Club, Crewe. Details from Jim Davies on 01270 257092.

201 RCZ Wkshop (V): 30th joint mess

reunion, May 11-12. Former officers, SNCOs and families welcome. Usually held in the Coventry area. Information from R F Smith, 6 St John's Place, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NP.

12/15/18 Air Formation Signal Regts Assn: Reunion May 12 at Stoke-on-Trent. Past members of these and sister AFS units and CASFO staff who served in UK, Europe or Middle East welcome. Membership and other details from Colin Morgan on 01554 774638.

Queen's Royal Regiment: Annual reunion dinner May 26, Farnham Drill Hall, to include associated regiments, National Service, TA and Regular. Details from Stuart Browning, 8 Littleford Lane, Shamley Green, Guildford GU5 0RH or tel 01483 892474.

Combined Ex-Services Association: 20th reunion weekend, June 15-17, in Bridlington. Ring 01262 673101. Standards welcome.

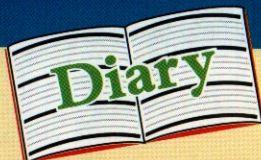
43 Battery (Lloyds Company) RA: Ex-members invited to reunion weekend, June 15-17 at Thorney Island, near Portsmouth. Contact WO2 (BSM) Tim Mayers on 01243 38 8227 or Sgt Fred Perry on 079 804 37649.

RE, F Troop, AAC RAF Gatow (mid-1980s to 90s): Reunion planned for July. Contact Gordon Stillie on 01923 843851 or Fiona Wigglesworth on 01779 838566.

Infantry Boys/Junior Leaders' Battalion: 7th annual reunion, Oct 13, at Royal Rifle Volunteers Trg Centre, Milton Keynes. Former boys/junior leaders at **Tuxford, Harrogate, Plymouth, Oswestry Shorncliffe** early 1950s to late 1970s. Contact Howard Johnson, 35 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentyrch, Cardiff CF15 (with sae) or tel 029 20 891274.

P Battery (The Dragon Troop) RA: Past, present, serving, retired members invited to forward contact details for membership database for future reunions, events. Details to Sgt Kevin Tomlin, P Battery RA, Marne Barracks, Catterick, North Yorks DL10 7NP (tel 01748 875630).

Parachute Regiment WO's and Sergeants' (Past and Present) Dinner Club: 43rd annual dinner to be held on Nov 17 at Dering Lines, Brecon. Contact WO2 Nobby Clarke, RHQ 38 Signal Regiment(V), Manor Top TAC, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN or send an e-mail to nobbyclarke@derbycounty.co.uk



No Slovak dictionary? No problem . . . I'll sit down and write one

WHAT do you do if you need a book of useful Slovak/English-English/Slovak military phrases – as you do – but there isn't one on the shelves? Give up, probably, and resort to sign language. But not if you are **Brig Gen Witek Nowosielski**, late RLC, who took the bull by the horns and wrote his own dictionary.

The author, until recently advisor to the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces, spoke Czech, Polish and Serb when he arrived in

Slovakia in September 1999, but decided to learn Slovak so he could give advice informed by a good knowledge of the country and its armed forces. He discovered that although about 1,000 Slovak military personnel study English each year, there was no dictionary suitable for military use. With the country's quest for Nato membership high on its agenda, there was clearly a need.

So, in just three months, he selected and delivered to a publisher 3,500 words for each-way translation. Five thousand copies of the pocket-sized book, *Vojensky Vreckovy Slovník* (Magnet Press Slovakia), were printed in December. It includes a much-needed section on military abbreviations. A copy was given the traditional Slovakian champagne "christening" in January by **Gen Frantisek Butko**.

Demand, it seems, was underestimated, with teachers, civil servants, translators and politicians joining the military in finding a use for Brig Gen (it's a local rank) Nowosielski's work.

The author, who was born in Dundee, has been involved in military diplomacy since being appointed assistant attaché in Poland in 1987. He is a former Defence Attaché in Prague.

John's medal from the Pope



SSGT John Riley, left, receives the papal Bene merenti Medal from **Monsignor Kevin Vasey**, the Principal Catholic Chaplain to the Army and Vicar General. John, who served 22 years in the Army before leaving last year as a staff sergeant with 26th Regiment RA in Germany, was given the medal, which is in the gift of the Pope, for service to others. He ran a boys' football team in his spare time, gave guidance to young soldiers and encouraging many colleagues to attend the annual military pilgrimage to Lourdes.

A parishioner of Our Lady of Compassion and St Jerome's, Formby, John received the medal during a mass presided over by Mon Vasey. They were joined by **Father Steve Alker**, senior Catholic chaplain to 2nd Division, and **Fathers Martin Cad-dell** (Shrewsbury) and **Tom Butler** (Gutersloh), who have looked after the Riley family in the past.

Picture: Tom Murphy/Catholic Pictorial

Tam the Scribe

SSGT Tam McKay has been asked the same question so many times by tourists visiting Edinburgh Castle that he has written a book about it.

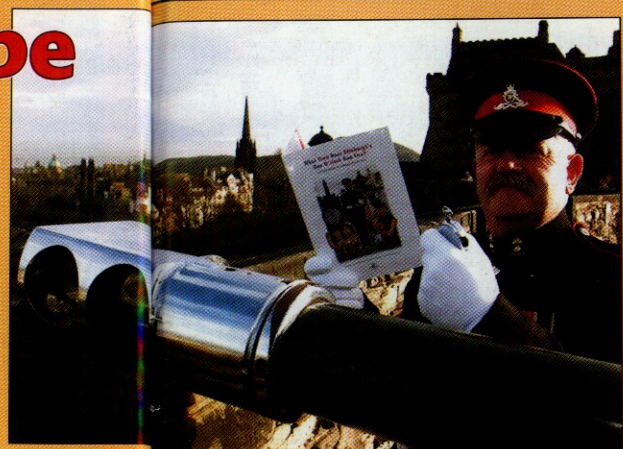
What Time Does Edinburgh's One O'Clock Gun Fire is the catchy title to the memories of the castle's most famous resident.

A walking piece of Scottish history, Tam the

Gun – as he is widely known – has exchanged pleasantries with tens of thousands of tourists from all over the world since he started firing the One O'Clock gun in 1978.

The ABF benefits from every book sold.

What Time Does Edinburgh's One O'Clock Gun Fire is published by Cadies and Witchery Tours (price £3.99). Further details: www.witcherytours.com



Hardship in Bondsteel

ACCORDING to *Stars and Stripes*, the US Army's newspaper, American troops serving in Kosovo, Bosnia, Macedonia and Albania will not receive new hardship pay announced by the Pentagon.

The monthly entitlement, which ranges from \$50 to \$150 (about £34 to £104), is designed to recognise troops serving under "extraordinarily arduous quality-of-life conditions". To be eligible, troops have to spend 30 consecutive days on permanent or temporary duty in a designated hardship area.

While service in South Korea, including Seoul, will attract the pay, Kosovo and other Balkan hotspots don't qualify. The Pentagon, reports S&S, couldn't immediately say why. US troops in Kosovo already receive "imminent danger pay", which would not disqualify them from hardship pay, according to a spokeswoman. She added that the total monthly bonus could not exceed \$300 (£208).

A private in Camp Bondsteel, the US Army compound in Kosovo, commented: "I don't think I need it. I'm taking college classes, I go to the gym every night, and the barracks aren't bad either."

Video take on training lands

ENVIRONMENTAL groups are the target of a new video from the Army Training Estate explaining why the military needs so much land. The eight-minute production, *Delivering Sustainable Training*, emphasises how carefully the estate is managed. "It also touches on the sensitive subject of public access and conservation," said Maj David Cummings QRL, from ATE HQ at Wilton.

Livery company pays tribute

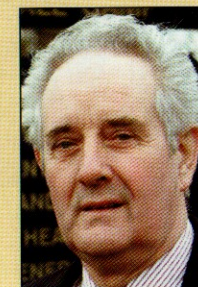
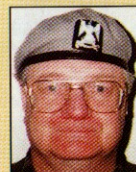
LT COL Mick Marshall, right, has been awarded a unique citation by the Worshipful Company of Cooks to mark his outstanding contribution to military catering. As the project leader for the MoD Food Supply Contract, he helped revolutionise the process of supplying food to the Armed Forces through the use of open competition. So far the measures have saved £5 million a year.



See Naples and expand

TWO new classrooms have been opened at the British School in Naples to accommodate a recent rise in the station's contingent of Service children. The influx follows the arrival of British personnel to fill appointments vacated by the Americans, who have pulled some staff out of jobs in Naples. The school is run by Services' Children's Schools.

WO1 Jim Sherville, right, has been presented with a certificate by his regiment, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, to mark 40 years in the British Army. Jim enlisted in the Scots Greys in 1960 and is now RQMS (Tech) at DLO Chertsey.



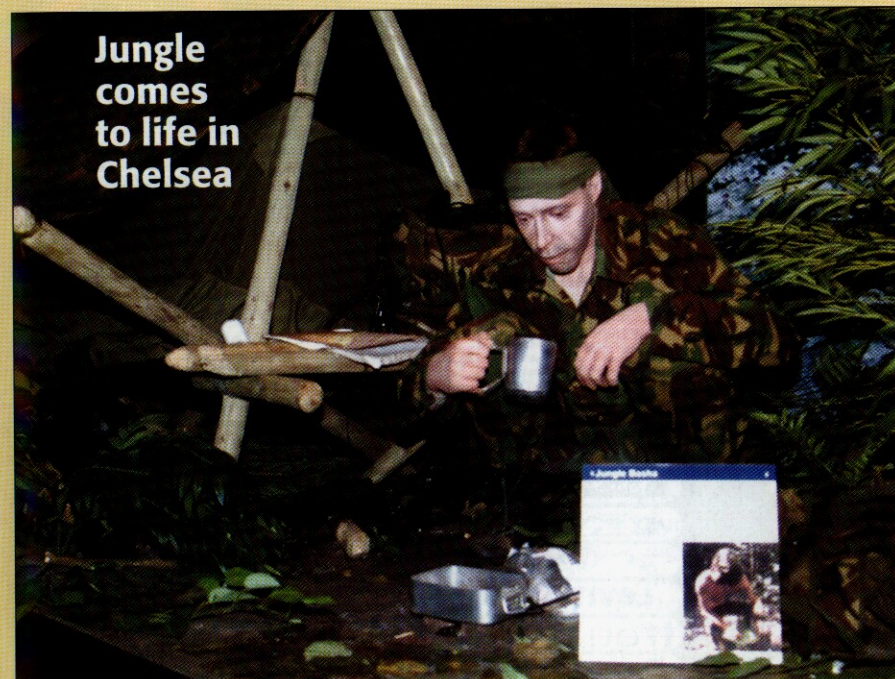
MEANWHILE, **Peter Andrews**, left, whose military career stretches back 47 years, has retired as a civilian welfare officer at the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester. He rose through the ranks of the Military Provost Staff Corps before retiring in 1993 as a lieutenant colonel. He returned to the MCTC as a civilian. Peter, an Essex FA referee, is a vice-president of Colchester United and an active worker for charities in the town.

FORMER **LSgt Dick Moreland** has been given his Territorial Efficiency Medal and clasp . . . 55 years after completing his service with The Northumberland Hussars. Dick, now 89, joined the Hussars in 1932.

LUCKY, left, adopted spaniel of The Royal Irish Regiment, has been accorded celebrity status after winning a pet-of-the-year competition run by a Sunday newspaper. Lucky, plucked from an animal rescue shelter, is kennel mate to the regiment's mascot, Irish Wolfhound, **Brian Boru VII**.



Jungle comes to life in Chelsea



Picture: Steve Dock

Leeches to lasers

IF you've ever wanted to see how military medics go about their business, get yourself to the **Army Medical Services Museum** at Keogh Barracks over the weekend of March 24-25.

In a joint production with the Education Department of the National Army Museum, the staff will be hosting a display of military medicine and nursing through the ages, from 1660 to the present day. Experts in their field and "living history" performers will show how illness and wounds were once treated, and a Regular field hospital with a full surgical team will be on show. The fun lasts from 1000 to 1500. More details on 01252 340212.

A NEW gallery at the **National Army Museum in Chelsea** brings coverage of British military history bang up to date.

The exhibition gives an overview of the Army's activities since 1968 and features displays about the Falklands, the Gulf, Northern Ireland and the Balkans.

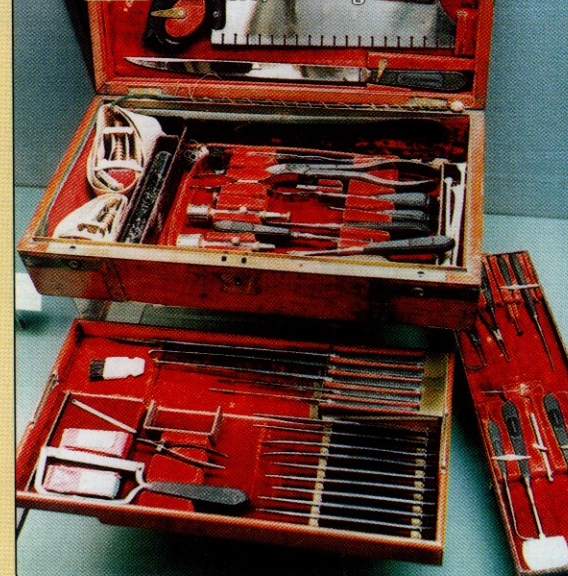
Displays focus on some of the skills soldiers need to survive and fight in different environments, and the

training they undergo. Reconstructions include a jungle encampment (pictured above), an SAS soldier abseiling into the gallery and a model depicting an armoured battle-group in action.

Visitors have the chance to test their map-reading skills, while computer challenges give them the chance to try their hand at assembling weapons, recognising ranks and surviving in the jungle.

Legends of the regiments and corps

21 Museum of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Stirling Castle



Surgical war chest was in constant use

SURGEON William Munro of the 93rd Highlanders spent five of his 36 years in the Army fighting wars . . . or rather, patching up his soldiers wounded in action.

He graduated at Glasgow in 1844, served as assistant surgeon to the 91st Regiment throughout the Kaffir Wars of 1846-47, and later as surgeon to the 93rd in the Crimea before taking part in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny and the relief of Lucknow and the battle of Cawnpore.

WELL USED

We can take it that his fine surgical instruments, kept in a brass-bound, velvet-lined mahogany box, were put to good use. They are on permanent loan in Stirling Castle.

Made by Weiss of Oxford Street, London, the set includes knives, scalpels (still very sharp), saws, artery and bone forceps, field tourniquets, trephines, needles, ligature and suture silk, amputating saws and an amputating knife. It cost him about £29 in 1843.

Munro was a surgeon general when he retired. He wrote a two-volume autobiography entitled *Records of Service and Campaigning in Many Lands* and died, aged 73, in 1896.

The museum in Stirling Castle is open Easter to Sept, Mon-Sat 1000-1745; Sun 1100-1645; and Oct to Easter seven days 1000-1615. Tel 01786 475165 or email museum@argylls.co.uk



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NELLY	COUNTRY GRAM...	913126
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White Knight of the Road

But there's a darker side – making this cool Jag the classic cops-and-robbers car

JAGUAR'S legendary models of the Fifties and Sixties symbolise some of the finest cars ever produced by the British motor industry. Even today, the lasting influence of the "Golden Era" is strongly echoed in the company's current and projected versions, **writes Syd Taylor.**

Launched at the 1959 Motor Show, the Jaguar Mk II quickly found a very special place in motoring history. In America it was hailed as the first true "sports sedan", twice winning the coveted Best Imported Car Award – and on the Australian race tracks it ended the reign of the mighty Galaxies and Mustangs.

In Europe it beat the best: Mercedes and BMW had no answer. It won the classic Tour de France four times and it became a favourite of the Golden Boys of racing – Stirling Moss, Graham Hill, Bruce McClaren and Roy Salvadori.

"Let me declare now in front of witnesses, m'lud, that the – no, THE police car of all time, just has to be the Jaguar Mk II."

It was big enough for all the kit, but compact enough to handle all conditions – and incredibly well-engineered, too. For villains and law-breakers of those distant days a rear-view mirror filled with the distinctive fluted radiator grille of a Mk II Jaguar was a depressingly regular signal that "their collars were about to be felt".

The Mk II differs from a modern car in practically every detail. The line – derived from the XK – was designed by Sir William Lyons, not on a computer or in a wind tunnel, but in his back room.

The view from behind the wood-rim steering wheel is unique – the bonnet curves away to the lithe, chrome back of the leaping Jaguar; the sidelight "tell-tales" glow red at night and the bonnet shimmers from the heat-soak of that big double overhead camshaft engine.

The instruments are impressive, too, laid out in what Jaguar called "aircraft

FOR all its smooth elegance of design the Mk II Jaguar saloon retains something of a shady reputation. Notorious for being the getaway car par excellence, beloved by bank robbers and assorted mobsters, it was inescapably – even for the law-abiding – redolent of the spiv, the tout, the flash harry – but place the criminal fraternity's favourite feline in the hands of their enemy, the Police Force, and rather than degrading this automobile's appeal, every racy, sleek and purposeful attribute is accentuated.

style" – minor dials to the left and two large dials in front of the driver, white on black, a speedometer, marked to 140 mph and an electric rev-counter reading to 6,000 rpm. Everything's marked in English – no international symbols here – and there's an old-fashioned quality to everything. The woodwork glows with a warmth endowed by loving craftsmen. You sense the ghosts of the men who created these cars. Passengers feel it, too. The smell of leather when you open the doors; the satisfying "clunk" when they close; four interior lights, separate heating for the rear-seat passengers and polished walnut everywhere.

In some ways though, the car is surprisingly modern. There are servo-assisted brakes on all four wheels, power windscreen washers, two-speed wipers, heated rear window, headlamp flasher and much more – all standard equipment, of course.

The real difference with the Mk II is on the road. By today's standards it's a heavy vehicle and it has that steady motorway or main-road ride found only in a big car. The engine was designed for performance – a refined version of the XK unit which so successfully powered the racing Jaguars of the 1950s up to 1957 – their

It's inaudible at idle and will pull in fourth gear at 15 mph without snatch?

Watch out baddies: Jaguar Mk II in uniform

last year of competition – where they took the first few places at Le Mans. The 3.8-litre straight six-cylinder engine delivers 220 bhp smoothly and progressively in an endless surge, but is so refined that it's inaudible at idle and will pull in fourth gear from 15 mph without snatch.

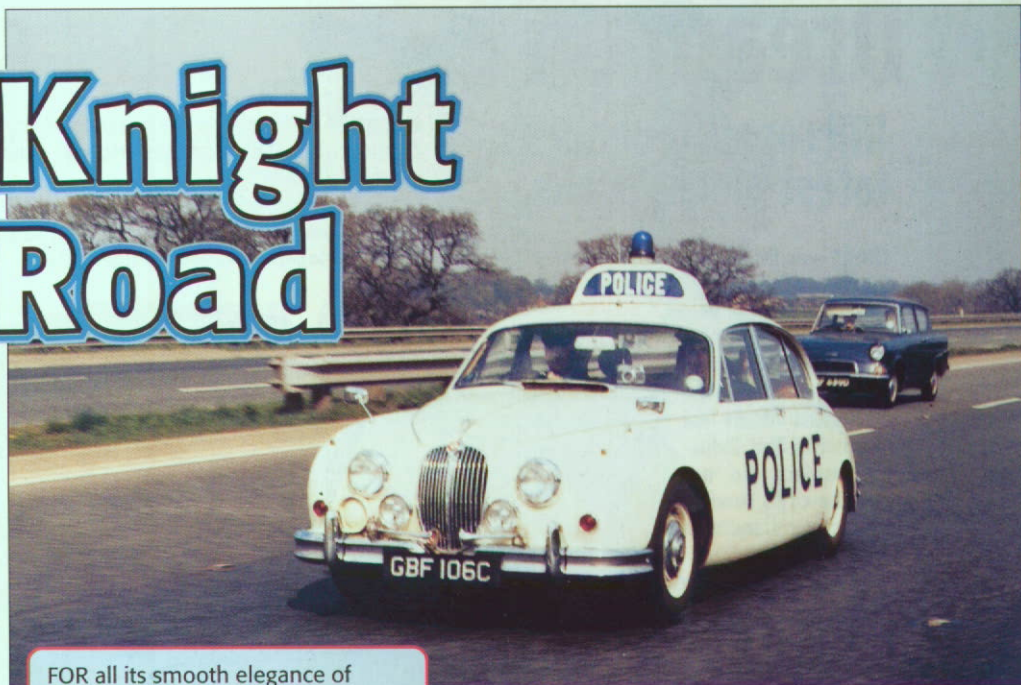
It's the Mk II's torque, however, at any speed, in any gear, that distinguishes it from today's small, high revving engines – this is a car for the experienced driver: after all, the 3.8-litre model was the fastest four-door car of its day.

Manual versions have a four-speed all-synchromesh gearbox – and a fifth ratio is provided by an electrically-operated overdrive which is so delightful to operate by a mere flick of the lever on the column. The 3.8, the largest-engined version (there were also 2.4-litre and 3.4-litre models), also had a limited slip differential and as a high-performance saloon it had few, if any, rivals. Its acceleration in third in the wet could easily cause wheelspin.

My recent introduction to an outstanding example of this specialised motor car was preceded by a coincidence that made me think. Pausing to buy a punnet of English strawberries from a roadside vendor, I turned my head sharply on hearing a police siren. A young man was being "pulled" for speeding.

The police car which drew up behind the silver Toyota was an unmarked grey Volvo saloon. "How depressing," I thought. "Back in the Sixties the police would have been driving a far more glamorous-looking pursuit vehicle than that."

MK II Jaguars were chosen by several police forces and they proved particularly popular – especially for patrolling the newly-opened motorways. These saloons provided the police with just what they required: reliability and performance at a sensible price.



Dream on . . .

Microsoft reveals its latest box of tricks

THERE was little doubt what was the star of the 2001 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas.

Gathered in the extravagant surroundings of the gambling city, the assembled mass of journalists and industry insiders did not give the city's rows of one-armed bandits a second glance.

All eyes were fixed firmly on Microsoft's eagerly anticipated video game console, Xbox.

Bill Gates, Microsoft's chairman and chief software architect, unveiled the machine he believes represents the "future of video gaming".

"With its breakthrough technology and incredible graphics capabilities, Xbox will set the standard in gaming for years to come," he said.

"It enables game designers to create a whole new world of game-playing experi-

ences that will captivate the imagination and competitive spirit of gamers like no other console."

The design of the console is based on the input of more than 5,000 gamers and software developers from around the world.



The console's main features include:

◆ Four game controller ports that allow easy multi-player gaming and enable other

peripherals, ranging from game pads to voice-activated head-sets.

◆ A front-loading DVD tray.

◆ A multi-signal audio-video connector that allows for easy hook-up to televisions and home theatre systems.

◆ An ethernet port for rich, fast-action online gaming via a broadband connection.

◆ NVIDIA Graphics Processing Unit (GPU), delivering more than three times the graphics performance of other consoles.

◆ Intel 733 MHz processor.

◆ 8GB hard drive for massive storage of game information – a first in the console gaming industry.

◆ The Xbox game controller features an eight-way directional pad; left and right analogue sticks; left and right shoulder triggers; six pressure-sensitive analogue buttons; dual slots for memory cards; and a built-in "rumble" feature.

① The Xbox's European launch is scheduled for early 2002. There are already more than 200 game companies creating titles for the launch and beyond.

WATCH THIS SPACE

POWERED by the motion of the wearer's arm, this kinetic auto relay watch will put itself into suspended animation if it senses inactivity for three days.

When picked up again, the right time is relayed to the hands, which reset themselves. The watch can stay asleep for up to four years, all the while keeping track of the correct time.

① £395, Seiko



THE perpetual calendar watch has an independent hour hand so that the second and minute hands continue to keep perfect time – accurate to 20 seconds a year – even while you are adjusting the watch for a new time zone.

It also takes into account the different number of days in each month, even leap years, for the next 100 years – meaning that it is date-accurate until AD 2100.

① £395, Seiko

OR if you're looking for something more traditional . . . how about this quartz watch?

① £89.95, Seiko



MATCH OF THE DAY

ENJOY the trials and tribulations of the beautiful game without having to leave the mess.

This full-sized table football game has a glass pitch which makes for ultra-fast championship play.

① £649, from presentsdirect.com, (tel: 0870 7274366).

Switched on . . .

Rolodisc – This clever holder has an electronically-operated foot switch that allows you to peruse your music collection with ease. Each Rolodisc holds up to 100 CDs and they are designed to lock together to grow with your collection.

① £99.95, from gadgetshop.com



Eye Trek – These glasses connect to games consoles, DVD and video players to create a personal viewing experience with full stereo surround.

Developed by Olympus, the glasses contain two mini colour screens with integrated headphones. A special prism system and a revolutionary new optical filter ensure true colours and stunning picture clarity.

① £299.95, from gadgetshop.com



For instants – Polaroid's Joycam produces instant pictures at an affordable price.
① £17.99.



Talking Soft Clock – This spongy clock tells you the time without having to open your eyes – just reach out, squash . . . and a voice will answer.

① £19, frompresentsdirect.com, (tel: 0870 7274366).

Game on . . .



CALL TO POWER II, PC

EVER wondered what you'd do if you ruled the world? *Call to Power II* gives you the opportunity to do exactly that.

Activision's follow-up to the successful *Civilisation: Call to Power* offers players history's greatest challenge – to build the world's most powerful empire over a 6,300-year time span.

From primitive history to the

distant future, players must lead their people through aeons of war, economic upheaval, and technological advances.

Call to Power's built-in scenarios allow gamers to relive some of the world's greatest battles and the chance to rewrite history.

VERDICT: Absolute power corrupts – but it does make for very entertaining game-play.

OUT NOW

PROJECT IGI, PC

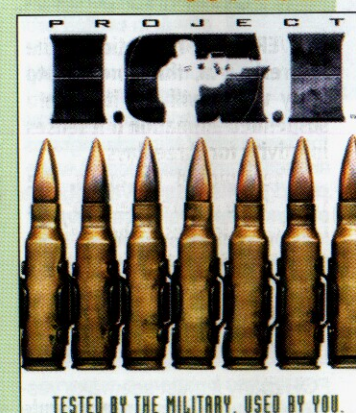
SET in one of the largest gaming environments ever seen, Eidos Interactive's *Project I.G.I.* is a captivating strategic shoot-em-up.

Assuming the role of Llewelyn Jones – a freelance British agent hired by US intelligence to free a man held in military prison – gamers are thrown into the world of counter-terrorism.

Accurate weaponry, equipment and real word physics make for a winning combination.

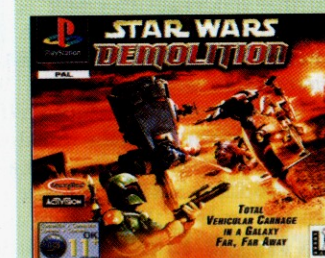
VERDICT: Designed with military precision. A must-have.

8/10



STAR WARS DEMOLITION, PSX

OUT NOW



VERDICT: A case of one movie spin-off too many. Even the most ardent of Star Wars fans will struggle to defend *Demolition*. More of a straight-to-video release than a box-office hit.

2/10

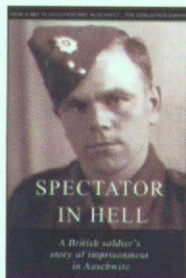
IF you lived in a galaxy far, far away and had nothing better to do than clean your X-wing fighter then you might just persevere with *Demolition* for longer than the five minutes it deserves.

The idea behind the game is that players take control of a Star Wars vehicle of their choice as they contest a series of last-man-standing battles.

Sounds like fun but oversensitive controls, unconvincing in-game physics and disappointing graphics prove hard to ignore.

Auschwitz: the squaddie's story

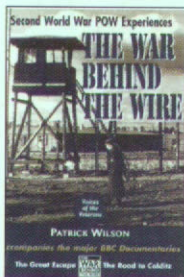
EVEN after *Spectator in Hell*, Colin Rushton's masterly account of Arthur Dodd's nightmarish



experiences in Auschwitz, was first published three years ago, many people still found it hard to believe a British RASC driver could have been held there by the Germans. Since then, others from Britain and the Commonwealth have come forward with their experiences and more than 180 names are listed in the paperback edition (Summersdale, £7.99). The BBC has taken Dodds back to the death-camp site in Poland for a documentary. The book is a harrowing addition to public knowledge of the Holocaust.

More tales of life in captivity

THOUGH somewhat similar in theme to *Spectator in Hell*, the documentary-style hardback *The*

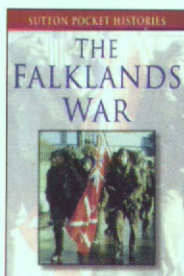


War Behind the Wire (Leo Cooper, £16.95) describes, in their own words, the more familiar – though in some cases no less painful – experiences of British prisoners-of-war in camps such as Colditz. In the book accompanying the BBC TV docu-

mentary Patrick Wilson, aided by the research of Miranda Ingrams as well as many black-and-white photographs, has woven together stories of escape and survival, loss of comrades, freedom, and links with home.

Pocket history of Falklands War

FOR many it must seem like yesterday, but next year is the 20th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and Sutton have stepped in early with a useful 118-page summary by Michael Parsons, *The Falk-*



lands War, as part of their 21-volume Pocket Histories paperback series edited by Prof Asa Briggs. Another in the set, Priscilla Roberts's *The Cold War*, runs to 108 pages. Both are priced at £5.99. Others cover the *The Boer War*, *The Civil Wars 1637-1653*, *The Russian Revolution*, *The Norman Conquest* and *The Crusades*.

On a crusade – to educate

ACCORDING to a recent newspaper report, some schoolchildren believe that Hitler was an Allied commander and the other day a woman of around 40 asked which side the Dutch were on in the Second World War.

Such ignorance is sad, especially when the period concerned is still within living memory. Furthermore, it is a poor reflection on the way history is taught and it is too much to expect understanding of earlier conflicts and their effects.

Osprey must be congratulated on their latest series, *Essential Histories*, edited by Robert O'Neill, Chichele Professor of War History at All Souls, University of Oxford.

As with Sutton's Pocket Histories (also reviewed, below left) the aim is to present concise accounts of specific conflicts, each written by an acknowledged authority on the subject.

Osprey's format is simple and uniform: 96 pages with about 50 illustrations in both colour and black-and-white, a chronology glossary and a list of recommended books for further reading. The text is enhanced by an index which makes each book an excellent first reference.

Twelve titles are due for publication in 2001, the initial releases being *The Crusades*, *The Napoleonic Wars: The Rise*

Fringe Benefits

Winners of the book *Fringe Benefits* by Donough O'Brien (January issue) were Mr T F Duke, of Nottingham, and Mr M Ward, of Coventry. Answer: Grenadier Guards.

The Crimean War by John Sweetman; *The Crusades* by David Nicolle (Osprey Essential Histories series, £10.99 each).

Review: Brian Jewell

of the Emperor 1805-1807 (further titles to follow), *The Crimean War* and *The American Civil War: The War in the East 1861 – May 1863* (with another three periods to be covered this year). This review covers the first two received.

The Crusades tells of nearly 200 years of bloodshed in the name of religion, how and why the military Orders of Knighthood, the Templars and the Hospitallers were founded and how Eastern art, architecture and learning were brought back by the Crusaders to benefit most of Europe.

Nicolle goes further in describing the frictions that have survived over the centuries, following a clear description of the background to war in the 11th Century and the crusading campaigns of 1095 to 1271, with word portraits of some of the leading characters such as Richard the Lionheart, Saladin and St Francis of Assisi. Even those who feel they know all they need to know about the Crusades will find much of interest in this volume.

The Crusades covered a period of centuries and, by comparison, the mid-19th century war involving Britain, France and Turkey against Russia was but a drop in the ocean of time. However, John Sweetman's *The Crimean War* is equally authoritative and perceptive, as might be expected in a work by the Head of Department of Mili-

tary History and International Affairs at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

The history begins with Alexander Sergeyevich Menkshikov's mission to Constantinople in 1853, with demands for recognition of Russia's guardianship over Turkey's Christian subjects, and ends in 1856, when an armistice was signed in Paris and the last British troops left Crimea.

The war was a catalyst for change, particularly for the British Army, in the system of acquisition and transport of supplies, in engineering and not least in the organisation of hospital and medical services.

All this, in addition to the expected coverage of battles and campaigning, makes a comprehensive study which does not neglect the personalities remembered from the war such as Lord Raglan, Omar Pasha, Admiral Sir Charles Napier, William Russell of The Times, photographer Roger Fenton, Lord Cardigan, Lord Lucan and of course the women of the Crimea – Florence Nightingale, Fanny Düberly and Ellen Butler.

This series should be included on the bookshelves of all who are interested in history, both military and political, and should certainly be seen in every school resource library.

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>

Save cash: scrap MQs!



A HOUSING commandant recommending the abolition of married quarters is like an arms dealer suing for world peace.

But Maj (Retd) Donald Walker, who retired in 1993 as the man in charge of military housing in Northern Ireland, is serious when he suggests MQs should be scrapped.

He argues that even though MQs in England and Wales have been sold off, the Defence budget still forks out "enormous" annual support costs.

"I agree with the view that our families deserve the finest housing, but add the rider 'if they want it', he writes.

"One only has to look into the average officers' and sergeants' mess in recent times to note the vast numbers of married unaccompanied living-in.

"More and more wives have their own careers and have no desire to move every so often with their soldier husbands."

Maj Walker advocates a scheme where on marriage a Serviceman or Service-woman would be given a generous lump-sum to buy a house, with a built-in system of refund depending on years of service not completed in a committed full career.

The MoD would no doubt

Soldiering by Numbers by Maj D G Walker (Minerva Press, paperback, £16.99. From Unity Distribution, tel 01536 747 628 or e-mail: distribution@unity-print.com).

Review: Chris Horrocks

view his radical and controversial vision as too hot a potato to handle, and some would certainly raise their eyebrows on reading: "Without MQs we would not need the welfare backing, but it is my experience that we do not really need it anyway. Servicemen are also citizens and there is nothing wrong with the social services in this country."

Maj Walker says phasing-out MQs would end the need for established unit families officers, thus releasing for other duties one officer and at least three soldiers in each major unit.

There would also be a saving of chefs and house sergeants, corporals and other military staff now employed in official service residences and MQs.

As ever, housing is a hot topic in today's Army and the author reminds us that married quarters were introduced

to regularise the practice of soldiers being allowed to have "camp followers" living in barracks.

He adds, perhaps prophetically: "Common-law wives were recognised for a time but not in today's Army (for how long, I wonder!)."

It should be emphasised that housing takes up only a fraction of this lively, entertaining and well-written book.



"New writer": The author in the 1960s

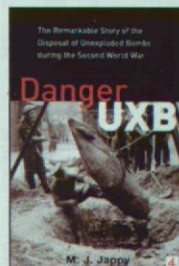
For the most part it is a vivid account of almost 50 years of worldwide service to the Crown in the RAOC with some trenchant comments about cap badges, bands, and women soldiers with children.

The publisher's blurb, without a vestige of hype, describes *Soldiering by Numbers* as "a particularly strong first work... we are eager to find some recognition for a valuable new writer".

Not bad for a 72-year-old youngster. It is also no exaggeration to describe this provocative, 420-page, anecdote-filled paperback as – even if unintentionally – one of the better social histories of British Army life over the past half-century.

Day after day they risked their lives

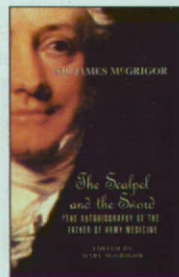
IN September 1940, after just a fortnight of the Blitz by German bombers, more than 3,700 unexploded bombs (UXBs) were waiting to be dealt with in homes and factories and on roads and railways. **Danger UXB** by M J Jappy (Channel 4 Books, £14.99) tells of the disposal teams who, with an average life expectancy of ten weeks at one point, risked their lives daily to defuse them. Many veterans interviewed for this book and the TV series of the same name had never spoken of their experiences before.



How Mac the knife created the RAMC

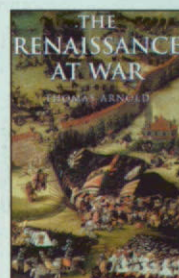
TODAY, Sir James McGrigor is remembered as the father of the Royal Army Medical Corps. His

greatest achievement, however, was that he transformed surgeons, then thought of as little more than butchers, into a profession accorded great respect. **The Scalpel and the Sword: The Autobiography of the Father of Army Medicine**, edited by Mary McGrigor (Scottish Cultural Press, £14.99), tells the story of how he rose from comparatively humble origins in Aberdeen to revolutionise military medicine in the British Army, surviving battle, typhoid and shipwreck along the way.



Treasures to add to the bookshelf

WITH their sumptuous illustrations, computer-generated cartography, large-format presentation, and clear, flowing text, the volumes in Cassell's **History of Warfare** series, edited by Sir John Keegan, really are to savour and treasure. Collectors who have not already added them to their shelves or coffee-tables may like to know that among those recently published are **Wars of Empire**, in which Douglas Porch chronicles the rise and fall of the 19th century empires, and **The Renaissance at War**, by Thomas Arnold. The two hard-back volumes are priced at £20.





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SOLDIER to soldier

Common Sense 1, Python 0

TALKING to *Soldier* (Page 23), Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, the retiring CDS, makes some typically robust comments about human rights legislation and the risks of taking political correctness too far in the military.

The bottom line of his message comes from the University of Common Sense: we must *never* compromise operational effectiveness.

In another interview he was quoted as saying what many of us think – that political correctness plus feminism can equal absurdity.

◆ ◆ ◆

"Some of it is absolutely ridiculous," he said. "I discovered the other day that somebody was advocating that an unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicle, a UAV, should be called an *uninhabited* aerial vehicle."

We need a few more strikes for common sense against the guerrillas of Monty Python's Surrealist Army.

Recently, for example, a Government minister, Baroness Symons, denied rumours noised abroad that NCOs had been told to reduce their decibel levels when instructing recruits on the parade ground.

◆ ◆ ◆

She also kicked into touch misinformed tittle-tattle suggesting that, soccer-fashion, recruits would be able to produce disciplinary cards – a yellow for "too loud" and red for "terribly loud", when the NCO would be sent off to receive a dressing-down from his superior.

The cards, she said, were in fact perfectly sensible temporary ID cards issued at Glencorse and Lichfield to tell the Naafi whether the holder was old enough to be sold alcohol.

Even this arrangement had a touch of the Pythons, however. At Glencorse, the baroness said, the over-18s had the yellow cards and the under-18s the red ones. At Lichfield the exact opposite was the case.

Home truths

Sue Bonney

When your 18+ ceases to exist

POSTBAG – the letters page in the *AFF Families Journal* – is our most popular feature. Readers love seeing their own thoughts and concerns in print – and reading any official response.

The letters often highlight a general concern or become the start of something, like the Invicta Park story (see Page 39). It began as a letter to Postbag and may result in something being done to improve the lot of families living there – thanks to the hard work of *AFF* staff and unsung heroes at HQ Land and the DHE.

Sadly, as the money pot is unlikely to get any larger, Invicta Park's success may spell delay and disappointment to a patch elsewhere.

Another letter to Postbag raised the topic of Army children who have reached the dizzy age of 18-plus, and that, too, seems to have found echoes with other families.

As far as entitlement to housing is concerned, 18-plus Service children who are not in full-time further education don't exist. Because they are adults.

So, as one of our correspondents discovered, your 18-plus six-footer plays no part in bedroom allocation. After 21 years of marriage, with three children,



Sue Bonney is Editor of the *AFF Families Journal*

and just getting a commission, this family's entitlement goes down from a four-bed to a three-bed house because their 18-plus is not going to university.

The father's rank does not entitle him to a four-bedroom quarter. They have two options: throw the 18-year-old out on the street or make their 16- and 13-year-olds share a (small) room.

Ironically, if their 18-plus had been on a gap year before university, he would have been entitled

to share the house, even though he wouldn't have been there to enjoy it!

DHE does its best to help in such circumstances, and has offered the family a surplus four-bed house – which they will have to vacate at 28 days' notice if a higher-ranking officer (with or without children) needs the house.

Our correspondent suggests raising the maximum age of entitlement for children living with their parents in Service quarters. She points out that not many families are in their position, as most Regular officers with 18-plus children are of

a high enough rank to be entitled to a large enough house, and most soldiers will be reaching the end of their service when their children reach this age. So the implied cost would be small.

'Father's rank does not entitle him to a four-bedroom quarter'

It worries me that provision of large enough housing is still dependent on rank entitlement. Most children do not now leave home much before the age of 23, let alone 18.

Are civilian landlords able to dictate the size of your house according to the age of your children?

Many 18-plus Service children are at university or college, living away from home during term. But they generally come back for the holidays three times a year. This is not unusually expensive if the family is based in the UK, but overseas it is a different story.

There's the additional cost of two flights or journeys a year not covered in allowances. There's the kit – excess baggage with a vengeance – which they cannot leave in their accommodation. They could stay in the UK – but where, if you have no home base or family that can help?

And anyway, they are your kids, and where you are is their family home.

I can hear someone in the MoD saying "civilian families bear the same costs", and of course UK-based Service families have to fork out the necessary train or bus fares.

But getting home to Germany or Cyprus is surely a different matter. The family home is there because that's where the soldier has been posted. Is there no way to assist families in this situation?

Rather than forcing DHE or the Army to do what they can within the rules, it seems to me it is time the rules were reviewed in the light of modern-day realities.

Service parents have the same responsibilities and concerns as civilian parents and they want to give their children a home for as long as is necessary.



Insurance premiums took biscuit

WHEN soldiers are posted overseas the company contracted to carry out families' removals (M & S Shipping) invites the family to take out insurance cover for their effects for the duration of the move.

Having just seen the list of the premiums for the policies available, I was shocked. In my case cover would cost me £920 for the same level as my existing new-for-old house contents policy (which covers me in transit) and costs £120.

If you consider that a normal contents policy lasts for a year (rather than the few weeks taken to deliver the furniture to the new house) and may also include third party liability and legal cover, the exorbitant cost of this product becomes clear.

While it is not unusual for companies to promote their in-house, slightly-more-expensive schemes, this one takes the biscuit. Shop around. The Forces Discount brochure would be a good place to start. — WO1 (SSM) K White, Log Sp Ops, HQ 4 Div, Aldershot.

Give women a chance

IF women are serious about soldiering in the front line in infantry battalions they should be given the opportunity. It should be natural for them to want to command a section or platoon, so they would have to pass the intensive courses undertaken by their male counterparts. If they pass they will be respected and treated as equals. If they fail, they might realise that actions speak louder than words. Rear echelon is a dangerous place to give opinions on something you have never tried... nor are likely to try. — Cpl C Clift, 1 D and D, Northern Ireland.

For the sake of a TV set, my bunk becomes a home

I HAVE no problem with the fact that if you have a television in a dwelling you are required by law to have a licence, but I do question the agreement made between the MoD and the Television Licensing Authority (TVLA) and the definition of what exactly is a dwelling.

A letter sent to all single soldiers in my unit states:

For television equipment used in Single Living Accommodation (SLA), i.e. SLA within the Officers' Mess, Warrant Officers' Mess and Other Ranks' Accommodation blocks, one licence is required for each room regardless of the number of personnel occupying the room.

One licence is required per dwelling for television equipment used in Service Families Accommodation (SFA) or other private accommodation on barracks. The Mottishead Road quarters, used as over-spill SLA, are included in this category.

My definition of a dwelling is a quarter or house with a bathroom/toilet, kitchen and washing machine area. Being a single NCO living in a bunk, I don't have all of that. I share those facilities with another NCO who also lives in a bunk as well as with four people from a four-man room. Surely a flat with, effectively, three rooms, a kitchen and ablution area should be

classed as our dwelling, and as such be subject to one licence... not three?

The TVLA is exploiting single soldiers. If a quarter with up to four or five rooms can have that many televisions and only pay for one licence, why do officers, SNCOs and NCOs in single rooms have to pay for one each? According to subparagraph b of the regulations, two single NCOs living in a quarter classed as SLA overspill need pay for only one licence.

On the equal rights front, if the MoD can class my bunk as my home, why can't I have my girlfriend to stay, drink beer and treat it like my home? I think it's about time old-fashioned rules regarding single soldiers were reviewed.

I can't have my girlfriend in my room because she is female but if I booked a gay partner in for the night as a friend he could stay in my room because he's male. I feel the Army is becoming an army for married people, not singles. If it doesn't want to keep losing them, it should start listening to what the singles have to say.

The future of the Army is young, single soldiers... and I'd feel exactly the same way if I was a "pad". — LCpl David Cook, RLC chef, attached to 55 MC Squadron, 29 Regt RLC, South Cerney.

Prize letter

Our MQ faults 'celebrate' first year

ONE associates a happy anniversary with a birthday, wedding or other such memorable occasion. Sadly, this is not the case here, where we are celebrating (if that's the right word) the fact that our married quarter has a number of outstanding faults, some of which are now one year old.

For a year now I have been unable to close my gate. I have had to resort to piling things in front of it to stop the dogs leaving the garden. For a year now I have been waiting to have my gutters cleared; to have the paving stones re-laid because they have lifted and become dangerous; to have the yard re-laid because the concrete has broken and it has become dangerous; to have the fence mended because it is literally falling down.

It is only four months that I have been waiting to have the tiles fixed in the bath-

room because they are falling off the wall, and only three months to have a dripping tap fixed. Actually, it's not dripping any more. It has been left so long that it is now a steady stream. Having checked it carefully, I believe it is losing 240 gallons a day, give or take a pint or two. At least we do not have a water shortage at the moment.

So what about the Defence Housing Executive, I hear you ask? My thoughts entirely. I call my estate warden every two weeks, rehearse the same list of outstanding jobs and hear the same old claptrap about the contractors. I even spoke with the DHE area manager and got the same.

What really gets my goat is that I am a house-owner, but, being a good soldier, I have followed the flag. When my tenant comes on the phone with a problem, I get it fixed pretty much right away. I guess

that's what you call a conscience, and I guess that's exactly what DHE does not have. This shabby service is indicative of an organisation that doesn't care. Happy anniversary. — SD Rowland-Jones, Netheravon, Wilts.

▲ Wendy Jarvis, Director of Housing, Defence Housing Executive, told Soldier that a number of repairs to the home of Lt Col and Mrs Rowland-Jones had not been completed within the timescales published by the DHE.

Meetings have been held, at very senior level, between the DHE and the contractors to emphasise the need for better performance and timeliness. "In this case we have clearly not provided a satisfactory service and apologise for the frustration and inconvenience caused," she said.

The DHE is currently investigating alternative ways of procuring repairs so it can provide a more effective service. — Editor

PISCATOR



"Why can't you treat me like one of your mates?"

Question time: Where is the Queen's Medal contested each year?

A) Catterick Garrison; B) Bulford Ranges; C) Bisley.

Answers on a postcard please to ABF Soldier Competition, 41 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HR. First ten correct entries picked out of the hat will win a Piscator Bugler Boy keyring and a Tommy Atkins fridge magnet (no name and address, no prize). All entries will be placed in the ABF Grand Prize Draw.



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Single soldier's sick daughter didn't count

I AM on a two-year posting in Northern Ireland and write in response to Sgt Ross ("Compassion cell pulled out stops", Jan).

I received a phone call from my fiancée of three years informing me that our daughter was very ill and finding it difficult to breathe. She also had a virus which was impeding the situation.

I went by the book through the chain of command and had no problems from my platoon staff, but as soon as it got higher up I was told that as she wasn't immediate family I wasn't entitled to compassionate leave. I had to use leave entitlement so I could get home.

I agree that single soldiers shouldn't have the right to married accommodation, but after three years of being with my girlfriend (which makes her my common-law wife), I would have thought I would be entitled to compassionate leave to see my daughter, who is my own flesh-and-blood and effectively my next-of-kin.

Yet a married soldier was allowed to go home because his wife was having trouble with her son (his stepson). In the light of human rights legislation, this seems like a form of discrimination against single soldiers. — **LCpl Jowett, 1 R Anglian, Northern Ireland.**

OFFICER or other rank; serving or civvy... *Soldier* welcomes your letters. Please keep them brief and to the point. We'd prefer them to be typed but if they are handwritten, put names, addresses and in block capitals (not necessarily for publication). A prize from the our 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.

**Mail
us!**

PS...

Going full circle?

I READ the article on the new combat infantryman's course (Feb) with interest. I agree that integrated training is better for both retention and quality of training than the current system.

However, am I wrong in thinking that this was what we had before the much-criticised move to the Army Training Regiment system in 1993?

It seems to me that there is a long-standing tradition in the Army of making major decisions on flimsy economic grounds or fashionable modernising principles, then reversing them a few years later when the predicted consequences become obvious.

For example, does anyone remember how, in the 1960s, the brigade level of command was abolished as unnecessary? My own corps, having merged its specialised intelligence and security sections into "all-purpose" MI sections in the mid-90s, now seems to be surreptitiously bringing them back.

Undaunted, though, they are planning to merge the two trades into one. As one involves five months' training and the other more than one year, I await the details with interest. — Cpl (name supplied), Int Corps, London.

More Mail: Pages 84-85

RCT led the way

WITH reference to your article "Recalling the storm" (Feb) on the tenth anniversary of the Gulf War, we were both serving there at the time and were surprised to read that the "supporting logistical exercise was remarkable, with RLC troops leading the way".

Your article should have paid tribute to the Royal Corps of Transport because the Royal Logistic Corps wasn't formed until April 1993, two years after the war. — Cpl Richardson and LCpl Williams, both ex-RCT, 13 Air Assault Sp Regt RLC, Colchester.

Good work, fellas

I AM a Canadian soldier who had the pleasure of working with members of your Army's medical services for four months last summer in Sipovo, Bosnia. I had the opportunity to read a couple of issues of the magazine and was impressed with the excellent work. I met some great people during my stay and now I have found your website will check in on a regular basis. — MCpl Wayne Woodland, Canadian Forces Hospital, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Oscar Tango Yankee

FRIENDS try to convince me the "Able, Baker, Charlie..." phonetic alphabet had switched to "Alpha, Bravo, Charlie..." before I left the Army in March 1957. I think they are wrong. Can anyone help? — Jim Jacobs, Fareham, Hants.

My condemned quarters aren't the worst

FURTHER to the correspondence about single living accommodation (SLA), I am a 28-year-old, single NCO with 12 years' service behind me. During the past two years I have been accommodated in sub-standard and condemned quarters in Northern Ireland.

The sum total of our protection against

fire is battery-operated fire alarms on our first-floor corridor and one water hose. No other equipment is available to fight a fire.

However, I consider my quarters fairly reasonable compared with that of some single soldiers in the Province.

We can't help noticing that although

our single living accommodation has been condemned, the garrison is having a new church built, although the old one seems adequate.

The garages of some married quarters are being converted into studies, and new garages built. — Cpl D C D Best, 6 RMP, Northern Ireland.

My divorced status piles on the agony when it comes to allowances

I FIND myself in a similar predicament to Sgt Armitage ("Fuel allowance discriminates against me", Dec). I am divorced, with a nine-year-old daughter who lives in St Helens on Merseyside.

I was due to retire last June so found myself a place to live in my home town of Coventry, ready to make a permanent and stable home environment in which to see my daughter.

Because of my marital status, I could not take advantage of the Over-37 or Final Tour of Duty packages, even though I still had to find a home to retire to. I therefore had the expense of moving and commuting during my final months at JATEU Brize Norton, albeit that I was not living-in and had no food or accommodation to pay while at Brize.

In August I was selected for Long Service List duties and posted to Netheravon, two hours away so not a commutable distance. I had to move into a room in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess at Netheravon, which added to my financial burden.

I am no different to a married person in wishing to find a permanent home base to settle with my long-term partner, and while I now have to fund two places of residence I have the added burden of:

- Paying for food I do not eat in the mess over the weekend while I'm at home (to reclaim the food charge for the weekend would mean I lose a day of leave every week because food is only refunded for absences over 48 hours);
- Fuel costs to commute to and from my place of duty;
- Food and accommodation charges at my place of duty;
- CLOCT charges at my place of duty.

This adds to the stress and strain we all find ourselves in, whether we are married or in a long-term relationship. It is not good considering the high level of divorce within the Services and the pressure the Services put on us to get married. — WO2 (SQMS) S A Woolley, Chief Clerk, 2 Mil Int Battalion, Netheravon.

Debt we owe to National Service

MY letter (Oct 2000) compared service required for the VRSM (270 days) with National Service (730 days), for which no medal was issued. In a rather provocative way I questioned whether this was the latest insult to National Servicemen.

Replies have included suggestions that such comparisons cannot be made and that I am narrow-minded. Others have been in broad agreement. Others have just protested that they deserve their VRSM. At no time did I suggest otherwise.

Just for the record, I hold the TEM — TD and Bar — and the VRSM (40 years' service to date).

I have no doubt this nation owes a debt of honour to those who undertook National Service (two million-plus), and those who served in the Canal Zone 1951-54 (60,000-plus). Recognition of such service is most appropriate by issue of a medal to each group.

I accept that in our egalitarian society the removal of the TEM and TD — which gave post-nominals to officers but not

other ranks — was correct. Far better to have replaced them with a Territorial Medal with post-nominals for all ranks, than the VRSM and the QVRM, since only about 15 people a year out of 40,000 serving will now publicly show their TA service with post-nominal letters.

The BEM was a mistake since many deserving people will not receive the alternative MBE.

Medal comparison will always be made where soldiers gather: 30 days' service for Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo, 90 days' service for UN tours; the Accumulated Service Medal and what does or doesn't count towards it. Perhaps even more to the point, whether such service was at the time of actual conflict.

Incidentally, I did do National Service, for which I volunteered. — Lt Col A J Hamilton TD RAMC(V), HQ AMS TA, York.

▲ This topic has now run its course, with conflicting points of view eloquently made. We'll leave the last word to Lt Col Hamilton. — Editor

Home savings outweigh cost of move on posting

THE Services have worked hard to encourage serving personnel to buy their own homes to free-up married quarters, which is very commendable. But there is a flaw, I believe, which needs correcting.

According to the regulations for Army allowances and charges, if I was due to be posted to a new unit and purchased a house before the posting, the Army would move me from my old quarter to my new house (as a postings move).

And if there was a problem with my quarter or I had been asked by the Defence Housing Estate to move to another quarter on the same estate, I would be given a free

move. So why is it that Service personnel who still have some time to go in their current post, and who have just bought a house, are not given the same free move and have to spend several hundred pounds on removals?

The money saved in the long term to the Services by people who buy their own homes outweighs the cost of a final removal because there will be no more disturbance allowance or removals to be taken into account. All we want is a free move to our new home. Is it too much to ask? — Cpl P V Graham, 206 Sqn, 23 Pioneer Regiment RLC, Bicester.

THEN AND THEN



50 YEARS AGO

From *Soldier*, March 1951: Who needs snow? The basic arts of skiing can be picked up as easily on the slope of pine needles at Pirbright as on the snows of St Moritz. The soldier, pictured, has learned one fundamental lesson at Pirbright... to lean forward.

From *Soldier*, March 1976: Lord Tranmire asked in the House of Lords what compensation had been offered to The Green Howards for the destruction of band equipment and personal effects as a result of a terrorist attack on Strensall Camp while the bat-

25 YEARS AGO

alion was serving in Northern Ireland. Lord Winterbottom, for the Government, said it had paid £2,484 to the bandsmen and £1,900 had been received by the band from its insurers. In addition, the Army Central (Non-Public) Fund had given the band an interest-free loan of £7,500.

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Army makes world better place

I SPENT most of last autumn in Free-town on a personal humanitarian mission, having shipped out some 41 tonnes of educational and medical supplies.

The business of unloading and distributing the goods was a challenge — logistics, corruption and theft being some of the problems I faced.

But I knew I had a trump card when The Royal Irish Regiment agreed to help with security at the docks. Their calm professionalism was inspirational. To

watch them at work was an object lesson in soldiery of the highest order — something that I know continued with the deployment of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire in November.

Sadly, all too often such excellence is not acknowledged or celebrated. I for one want to express my admiration and thanks for the assistance and the example of the British Army. The world is a better place for it. — Mark Jones, Feed the Minds, Guildford.

PS...

Injured reserves

MR HOUSTON ("Pressure group", Jan) stated that unless there has been negligence on the part of the MoD, an injured reservist would not be compensated for that injury and would only receive a pension. In fact, there are two aspects of pensions (and/or gratuities): the DSS War Pensions Scheme and the MoD service-attributable award.

Equally important, these awards are compensation for injury, the level of the award being dependent on the degree of incapacity caused by the injury.

The awards to reservists are based on those paid to Regular soldiers, but recognise other sources of benefit attributable to the injury that the reservist may receive that are not available to a Regular. As I write, the MoD has yet to receive any proposals for suggested changes from Mr Houston or the Injured Reserve Soldiers Action Group. — Mary Sinfield, Directorate of Reserve Forces and Cadets, Ministry of Defence.

Don't get fired up

I READ with interest your article regarding firemen joining the TA (Diary, Dec). I applaud the Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Wiltshire for allowing firefighters to join the TA; unfortunately it is not a Fire Brigade policy which stops firefighters from joining the TA, but the MoD.

TA regulations state that one of the categories of employment ineligible to join the TA includes "5.036 sub par i — Persons employed either whole or part-time on paid rescue work or in fire-fighting duties by the Home Office or a local authority".

I do not seek to pour water on Mr Appleby's idea (excuse the pun), but to save any potential TA recruit from being disappointed. Top mag, by the way. — WO2 P A D Senter, AGC (SPS), RAOWO, Scottish Transport Regiment RLC (V).

Privates at risk

ONCE again I read in the national press of soldiers being dismissed for drug abuse and find it difficult to believe that only privates indulge in this practice. Does this mean all soldiers above the rank of private are whiter than white? — R J Blackie, ex-7 KOSB, Sidcup, Kent.

▲ No, it merely reflects the fact that drug use is most prevalent, across society, among the 17 to 25 age group. Only one officer has failed since compulsory drug testing was introduced by the Army five years ago. — Editor

Palestine forgotten

SOLDIER (Dec) referred to a national memorial for post-1945 dead. I was saddened not to read about all those who fell while serving in Palestine from 1945 to 1948. I hope you can rectify this error and show they have not been forgotten. — A J Thorne, ex-6th AB Div, Stirlingshire.

Vox pop

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

Identity crisis?

With a reported shortfall in the number of new recruits, we asked troops competing at the Army snowboarding championships in Austria whether the British Army needs to modernise its image

Capt Tim Holmes, 28 Engineer Regt

There is a case to modernise the Army's image but I also think we are doing a very good job of doing just that. There are a lot of things changing at the moment. The Army has to modernise to attract single young guys but I think it is happening, it just can't change overnight. From my experience, if you tell people that you are in the Army you get quite a lot of respect. As a whole I think the public has a very good opinion of the Army and soldiers.



Cpl Neil Collins, RMP

The public has a view of the Army based on what they have been told by past generations and what they see on television soaps like *Soldiers To Be*. The Army needs to put a more accurate picture of us in the public eye and show a more civilian face, show soldiers doing stuff that civvies do. Being a soldier is not all about square-bashing and being shouted at.

Cpl Bob Candy, 21 Engineer Regiment

Things like snowboarding are great for attracting new recruits and for retention. You get young lads coming in but you need something to keep them there, you need something new and fresh that they can do in the Army. More chances for sol-



diers to enjoy sport between operational tours would be a good thing.

Pte Sara Langgaard, 4 (GS) Medical Regiment

Pushing the different sports available to soldiers would encourage more young people to join the Army. Some people have a bad perception of what being in the Army is all about because of television programmes like *Soldiers To Be*.



Cpl Wayne Hutchinson, ATR Winchester

You've got to move with the times but I do not feel the Army needs to change too much. Sport and adventure training is definitely the way forward in attracting people to join up.



LCpl David Laye, 28 Engineer Regiment

The old school-discipline where you get treated like a child when there is no need for it and curfews that stop you from going out need to be changed.

Cpl Calum Bannerman, ATR Winchester

I think people see the Army as a waste of the taxpayers money even though we pay our own taxes and work very hard to do



so. We work hard and play hard and as long as we keep to that philosophy the Army will not have a problem retaining or recruiting soldiers.

Pte Trisha Gleave, 4 (GS) Medical Regiment

A lot of people in civvy street think the Army is all work and no play; they don't really see the whole picture. I thought the same when I joined up – I didn't really know about the sports and adventurous training. I joined up because I knew there were good career prospects.



Cpl Nige Hope, REME

The British Army is too dated, everything is run in an old-fashioned way.

There are a lot of people who frowned at us snowboarding but young people are looking to do what they see on MTV and the extreme sports channels.

Capt Olly Dodd, RAMC

There is definitely a case for the Army to modernise its image. From my own experience as a doctor, I feel the Army needs to educate people at medical school in what Army life is like and what they can offer people in terms of courses and academic positions. A lot of civilians think the Army is a racist and fascist organisation but I have not experienced anything like that.



Interviews: Andy Simms Pictures: Graeme Main



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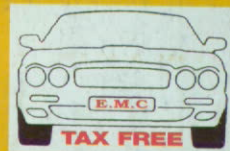
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